

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 11 to 17)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 23, 2004/Pausa, 2, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, namely, Shri K.M. Koushik.

Shri K.M. Koushik was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970, representing the erstwhile Chanda Parliamentary constituency of Maharashtra.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Koushik was a Member of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions during 1967-68 and 1969-70 and Committee on Subordinate Legislation from 1970 to 1971.

An advocate by profession, Shri Koushik served as the Public Prosecutor and Government Pleader in Maharashtra.

He took keen interest in cultural activities, like music and dance, and was an office bearer of several institutions furthering the cause of classical music.

Shri Koushik was deeply devoted to the welfare of downtrodden and tribal sections of the society. He also did a close study of the Adivasis in Chanda, Maharashtra.

Shri K.M. Koushik passed away on 27 November, 2004 at Pune, Maharashtra at the age of 98.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has appeared in the newspaper today. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please give me a minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me for one minute to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bansal, take your seat, please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is not correct. I understand that all of you want to raise important issues.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Adhir Chowdhury, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Harin Pathak, do not do this.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Adhir Chowdhury, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Parliament of India. Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am quite conscious of the fact that many hon. Members feel that there are important issues to be raised. I respect their sentiments. I am not minimising their importance. But there is a system. After the Question Hour, I will allow them to raise these issues. Please allow the Question Hour to be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have given notice for suspension of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No notice has come to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been demanding from the beginning to give a special package for Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions) Uttar Pradesh is being discriminated against. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Prime Minister should tender his resignation. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. Your leader has sat down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Your grease Jahira's Palm. ...(Interruptions) Intimidate her in the Court. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chowdhury, please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: We have also a very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have said that I accept your sentiments. But there are important issues which hon. Members want to raise. I am not denying their right to raise these. I am only saying, you raise them at the proper time. Hon. Member, Prof. Malhotra, you have given a notice for raising it after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not for suspension of Question Hour. This is Zero Hour notice. This is what you have given. Kindly see it.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur): Please, put all these things aside, and talk about giving a package to Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: There is an issue to give a package to Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Even then, I am going to allow you to raise it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. We are so intolerant. Do not be so intolerant. Naturally, I find both the sides are agitated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very peculiar thing. I have said that I agreed to it already. Let the Question Hour be over. I will allow the hon. Members on both the sides - not only on both the sides but also any hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: You are saying both sides. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not said that I would not allow you. Why are you saying this? Members on all the sides would be allowed. Thank you for correcting me. I would allow Members on all sides - Right, Left, Centre, tangentially and everything.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This is for suspension of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all the hon. Members that you may raise your issues as forcefully as you can one by one. I will call you. I will give you full opportunity. Let the Question Hour be over.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is for suspension of Question Hour. I have asked for it. It is within the rules. I gave the notice for it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received any notice for suspension of Question Hour. Therefore, the question does not arise. Prof. Malhotra, no notice has been given to me. I have been informed that there is no notice for suspension of Question Hour. I have already assured you that I would call you after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is your House. If the hon. Members do not want the House to continue, you may carry it on.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am appealing.

[English]

I understand the sentiments of Members from all sides of the House. Mr. Mohan Singh, you are right in correcting me. Therefore, I am not minimising the importance of your sentiments. I pay respect to them. But I have to carry on the business of the House.

Mr. Malhotra, you may have thought there is a notice

for suspension of the Question Hour. But I am not standing on that technical ground. I am only saying that you have raised the issues sufficiently from all sides.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Narendra Modi should tender his resignation on moral grounds. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, I will now call you to come and sit here.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you to allow me to speak for a minute to say as to why I have given the notice for suspension of the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us try to be tolerant of each other. Let us hear him. We have got eminent people from all sides to respond. I will give you full opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, you are not taking up our notices. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not have any notice to suspend Question Hour, even then I am ready to listen you.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, Joint Secretary of Prime Minister's office has written a letter to Secretary, Ministry of Personnel wherein it has been stated that CBI should be asked to see whether revision petition being heard against Mr. Advani can be expedited or not and whether this case can be reopened or not against him. It is misuse of CBI. It is against constitutional propriety. It is violation of the judgement of the Supreme Court and it is morally wrong. For this Prime Minister should resign. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, issue of package for Uttar Pradesh is most important and we have been giving notices from the very beginning of the Session of the Parliament. Our request about providing a package for Rs. 18200 crore for Uttar Pradesh should be heard. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): They have been given an opportunity to put their views; when will we be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you also.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: They have been allowed to speak: we have not been allowed. A sum of Rs. 18/- lakh has been given to change the statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. Please raise your matter later on.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Arrest Mr. Modi and dismiss him.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Lakhs of rupees are being given to change the statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. Mr. Raghunath ji, I will allow you to speak. Now please take your seat. You will be heard after question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Why are you becoming so impatient? There will be holidays from tomorrow. Let us do some work today.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar ji, I call you daily to speak, but today I will not call you.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, if you will not call me I will have no option except to stand up as I have to say something about the special economic package of Rs. 18,230 crore which has been demanded by U.P.*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 323. Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Question Hour has started. I will allow you after the Question Hour is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is an important hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A lot of time is there for you to raise this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. If you all behave like irresponsible persons, what can we do?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to all of you to see that we can work much better. You can raise your issues in a much better manner if there is peace.

11.15 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sino-Indian Cooperation in Oil Sector

323. + SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has mooted a Sino-Indian Cooperation in Oil sector;

(b) if so, whether China has also shown keen interest in Oil Cooperation with India;

(c) if so, whether both the Governments have signed agreement for Oil Cooperation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the details of refining capacity as compared to demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Currently, Indian and Chinese public sector oil companies are partners in the following producing/exploration projects:

- (i) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) is a joint partner with China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) in Greater Nile Oil Project in Sudan; and
- (ii) OVL and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) are associated with Sinopec, another Chinese National Oil Company, in an exploration block in Ivory Coast.

Looking to the vast possibilities in forging alliance with

Chinese oil companies in seeking acreages in third countries and bilateral cooperation in other areas of hydrocarbon sector, the national oil companies of India and China keep working on collaborative ventures on a case to case basis. However, no agreement has been signed between India and China.

The refining capacity in India as of 1.4.2004 was 127.37 million metric tonnes per annum and the demand for petroleum products in the country during the year 2003-04 was 107.75 million metric tonnes.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply to parts (a) and (b) to the main Question that Indian and Chinese public sector oil companies are partners in many of the exploration projects, like ONGC Videsh Ltd., though there is no agreement signed between the two countries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that because of these joint ventures and partnerships, to what extent it will help to reduce the dependence on the imported crude oil.

Sir, the hon. Minister is a very dynamic Minister. I would further like to know from the hon. Minister what is the strategy and plan he is considering to improve the production of crude oil and petroleum products in the country itself to reduce the dependence on imported crude oil.

MR. SPEAKER: Only the first one should be answered. There must be some relation to the Question.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, obviously, cooperation between the two countries in third countries will not directly contribute to reducing the import dependency of either country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No talks here please.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: But it will contribute to increasing the assuredness of supplies that become available because in effect when India finds oil abroad, then it becomes Indian oil that has been found abroad as indeed when China finds oil abroad, it becomes Chinese oil that has been found abroad. When India and China find oil together abroad, as they have in the Greater Nile Oil Project, then both China and India have a share in the oil that comes out of that project.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, the hon. Minister took up the issue of Asian premium at the OPEC meeting in Vienna and stressed that Asian consumers paid about half a dollar per barrel more than US buyers and nearly two dollars per barrel more than that of European consumers.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Where it has gone from China?

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I would like to know to what extent the proposal of India was considered and whether this proposal was also supported by China, Japan and Korea, and to what extent our proposal was accepted by OPEC.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond to this?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am happy to inform the hon. Member and the House that all the countries whom we have invited to a meeting of Asian Oil Ministers in New Delhi on the 6th of January 2005 have accepted to come. Those include the principal buyers, and among the principal buyers are Japan, Korea, China and India, the principal West Asian suppliers and the South-East Asian suppliers, the West Asian suppliers represented being Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, who is co-hosting the meeting, and others. From South-East Asia, we have confirmation from Malaysia and we are awaiting it from Indonesia.

On this occasion we will have the opportunity of discussing the necessity for an Asian oil products market that is really well prepared. At the moment, West Asian crude is sold in the United States of America at a discount against Western Texas Intermediate and in Europe at a discount against Dated Brent. But this is an out of date situation because WTI, Western Texas Intermediate Production has fallen by approximately 75 per cent in the last 20 years. North Sea oil has collapsed by nearly 55 per cent in the last 10 years. Yet - because these old indices exist - when sales take place there, they are at discount prices. If we had a properly prepared Asian oil products market, then, perhaps, we can organise the system better in our area. I think we should do it because the whole oil economy has so dramatically changed that today nearly two-thirds of West Asian production is purchased by Asian buyers. So, we are attempting to create a sense of Asian identity with the distant goal of an Asian oil community. But this is a historic first step in bringing together the principal Asian buyers and the principal Asian sellers, and this is a direct outcome of the initiative that was taken by me at the OPEC International Seminar in September in Vienna.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in view of the total demand of oil of India, whether both these India and China Agreements will be in a position to help India in achieving the target, and overcoming shortage of crude oil in India.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: At the moment, there is no agreement between India and China. In fact, energy sector cooperation has been lagging behind the other forms of cooperation between India and the Peoples Republic of

China. But the subject has now been flagged and I am hoping that in a bilateral meeting with my Chinese counterpart on the sidelines of the forthcoming Asian Oil Economy Meet in New Delhi, we will be able to start the process of, perhaps, formalizing our relationship in this sector. I am glad to inform the House that both in Sudan and in the Ivory Coast, we are already cooperating. In Sudan, in fact, the cooperation extends beyond exploration and production. It is we who are building the pipeline which will evacuate oil products from the refinery which the Chinese are building at Khartoum. So, the prospects are enormous, and I am certain that although there must be an element of healthy competition between Indian companies and Chinese companies, we should also look into and fully exploit the potential for cooperation.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is aware of the Chinese oil exploration activities in the Bay of Bengal, and whether they have been successful in locating oil in the Bay of Bengal. If so, I would like to know whether the Government is aware where exactly they are drilling and how much crude is expected from these drillings, and what the Government of India proposes to do in this matter.

Sir, the Chinese have an unquenchable thirst for oil now. After the US, they are becoming the second largest consumer. I would like to know whether the Government of India has any proposals to protect its interests, at least, in the Bay of Bengal.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is doubtless aware that the geography of the Bay of Bengal is different to the political geography of the Bay of Bengal. The Bay of Bengal has several littoral countries. These include Bangladesh and Myanmar, in addition to India. In an extended sense, you can even go further south and say that Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and even, perhaps, Indonesia and Sri Lanka also are in a sense littoral countries of the Bay of Bengal. So, as far as the territorial waters of India are concerned, I am not saying here that we do not want the Chinese in, what I am saying is that in blocks that have been put out under the New Exploration Licensing Policy or earlier, there is no Chinese presence. There is a Chinese presence in one or two of the blocks on the eastern littoral of the Bay of Bengal in Myanmar. We ourselves are present in A1 and A3. We could have bid for Block A4 in Myanmar, but we decided that that did not appear to have much potential. We believe that we have a better presence in Myanmar than the Chinese have, but this would be a wasteful kind of comparison to say that you have got a better block, and I have got a worse one. I think what we need to do is to see whether there are any possibilities of India and China cooperating in Myanmar in the way in

which we are doing in other countries. I think our energy requirements in India can be in a very significant sense met from our own territorial waters. I But, when it comes to import dependency, which both China and we now share - which the Chinese have started sharing with us only since about 1995 - I think there is the prospect of an element of competition among us but there is also the prospect of a certain amount of cooperative endeavour in this regard.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, one of the biggest challenges in oil exploration activity is the availability of the state-of-art technology. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Co-operation Agreement between India and China covers exchange of technology and supplementing of available technology between the two countries? I also want to know whether this agreement also covers to make the technology available to either of these countries from a third country.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, as I have already said, there is no agreement between India and China. But, I think, the suggestions made by the hon. Member are most useful, and I shall certainly take them into consideration when I talk to my Chinese counterpart in Delhi around the 6th of January, 2005.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vanakkam. In my constituency, Ramanathapuram, out of natural gas, one power project, under the concern of TNEB, is producing 100 MW per day. ONGC gets abundant natural gas in my constituency. Sir, I would like to ask the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, through you, why not we start a mega project with foreign collaboration to produce 500 MW per day at the estimate of Rs. 2,000 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: You want gas to come via China! Very well. You try to help.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am afraid, I have to inform the hon. Member that the actual availability of gas in Ramanathapuram compared to what was projected somewhat fancifully earlier, has declined. However, we are stepping up efforts. I have even had a word with the hon. President of Sri Lanka as to whether they have been able to spot any oil finds or possible gas finds on their side of the Palk Straits, and it appears as if they have had preliminary indications of availability. So, we are going to intensify our efforts in the region. I do hope that we will be able to substantially increase gas availability if not oil availability in that region. But, I am afraid, the present scenario is that as compared to the earlier projections with respect to discovered gas wells in Ramanathapuram district, the actual availability is substantially lower. But if we do find very much more gas, then we will certainly find ways of exploiting it,

and if that involves foreign collaboration, that would certainly be looked into.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get disheartened.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has done any analysis on the risks, such as political and commercial in nature, involved in obtaining equity oil abroad. What are the benefits and achievements so far by OVL in acquiring of such oil equity abroad?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I would not compel you to reply. If you want, you can reply.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am happy to inform you and the House that India now has a presence all the way from the Sakhalin Island in North-East Russia on the Pacific coast right across most of the globe to Colombia on the Pacific coast in South America. We have actually secured contracts and are operating in at least 10 countries of the world, the most recent of which is the contract signed in the Ivory Coast, and that is in collaboration with the Chinese. But our efforts are relentless. They involve both equity oil as well as the acquisition of acreage and properties abroad. I make the distinction because many countries are not now allowing us to secure equity oil. There are other forms in which this co-operation takes place. We will continue to ensure the energy security of India by maintaining truly a global presence that extends right across the globe all the way at least from the Pacific coast on the western side to the Pacific coast on the eastern side.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Rewati Raman Singh. You please put a supplementary to the main Question.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister as to how much oil deficit India is and whether there is any cooperation with foreign countries, as he has cited, whether in India. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rewati Raman Singh, it does not arise from the Question.

[Translation]

Performance of Railway Employees

324. + SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to improve efficiency and performance of railway employees;

(b) whether success has been achieved by these steps;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has implemented VR scheme in order to generate more employment for youths; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Efforts are essentially directed towards continuous updation of knowledge and skills of the Railway employees through the process of training at regular intervals to meet the increasing customers' expectations in providing the necessary services and absorb the rapid changes in technology and working practices all around.

(b) and (c) Though not fully quantifiable, significant improvement has taken place.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Hon. Sir, the reason for my asking the question is to improve the efficiency and performance of railway employees but it has been observed that there is a good deal of delay in works of railways, delay in taking decision and works are often held up. I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps the Government have taken to enhance the efficiency of employees and improve their performance and how much success Government have achieved as a result thereof?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, Railways, as we are all aware, is a model employer. It wants to update the knowledge of the employees and upgrade their skills and performances so that we are able to run this biggest organisation efficiently, which, for that matter, has got about 15 lakh employees in its hold. We have got about 300 training institutions in the country. They have a capacity to train 2.5 lakh workers in a

year. The specific question raised was, what are we doing to increase the efficiency? We have got different courses for the technical and non-technical staff so that their performance level is increased. It cannot be quantified in terms of anything. However, the performance is reflected in the matter of increase in the passenger traffic by a growth of five per cent, growth of freight traffic by eight per cent and also the reduction in the accident level which is only 0.39 per million train kilometre, which is well comparable to the world rail standard or 0.3 to 1.1. It speaks of the efficiency level which is on the increase. It reflects on the performance in terms of increase in freight as well as passenger traffics and at the same time decrease in the level of accidents.

[Translation]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Railways is conducting a special drive for recruitment from 23 July, 2004 which is likely to be closed on 30th June next year. I would like to know from the Minister for Railways the target fixed by the Railways to provide employment to unemployed youths and the progress made so far and the reaction of the Government thereto.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, we do not have any specific target. On the other hand, we have got about 80,000 vacancies in different categories. They are being filled up through our Railway Recruitment Board. Plus, about 10,000 vacancies have arisen in the Railway Protection Force, which also we are in the process of filling up. We will be able to fill up all the vacancies by the end of next year. We are not only doing that, but also we are assessing periodically the vacancies and trying to take all steps to see that the vacancies are filled up.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, there are lakhs of temporary employees in the Railways. When their very future is in question mark, what will be the motivation level of those employees? What is the hon. Minister doing about making them confirmed and then updating their skills for a better service?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the hon. Member has asked about temporary employees. We do not have temporary (i.e. casual) employees on our rolls as such.

As I mentioned earlier, we have only 15 lakh employees on our rolls. Earlier, there used to be contract labourers when steam engines were in operation. Now, they have been phased out since the time diesel and electrical engines have come into play. If at all there are temporary employees, they are being employed by the contractors, who are in turn answerable to the temporary employees. We do not have temporary employees as such.

The other question was about how we are going about updating the knowledge and skills of our employees to which I have already answered. We have a continuous training process for non-technical people once in every five years and for technical people once in every three years. Also, to improve customer relationship, customer care centres have been opened up. There are two centres in the Railways so that the performance levels go up. The RDSO is now doing research on how to motivate employees, how to relieve them from fatigue and how to make them alert in the performance of their duties. They are now having psychological tests. All scientific methods are being adopted to improve their skills.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, employment is provided, e.g. to persons whose land, property have been acquired. ...*(Interruptions)* I am quoting from Part 'd' of reply of hon'ble Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* He has talked of voluntary retirement in this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He said, 'No'. After that, what can you ask about it? This is a very valuable time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: It will be relevant if you listen and if not, how it will be relevant. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak.

[English]

Do not argue with the Speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: There is a scheme to provide employment to those whose lands, properties etc. have been acquired by the Railways. I would like to know whether they do not have any claim on whose land rail lines have been laid? What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It requires a separate notice. It does not arise out of this Question.

Mr. Minister, are you in a position to answer?

SHRI R. VELU: No.

MR. SPEAKER: You want a fresh notice.

Shri Lal Singh, you have to give a fresh notice.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees, who constitute about 96 per cent of the total employees, have been given training and upgradation of knowledge in the areas of running the railways, railway safety, customer satisfaction, etc. If so, I would like to know the details thereof and whether the Department has made any performance appraisal of these employees.

SHRI R. VELU: As I mentioned earlier, we have got sufficient training facilities. I also mentioned that these Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees are given training once in five years to update their knowledge and performance levels. We also conduct appraisals on the same. During the training process itself, we see that they have to score 60 per cent marks. Their promotion, etc., are linked to it. We are also running refresher courses in between. We have courses for promotion also in between. We also have special courses for updating their knowledge. There are three kinds of training imparted for people who are working in the Railways. This way, we are doing a yeoman service. As I mentioned, we are very much dependent on the performance of the employees. The trade unions are also very much co-operating to see that the employees are also getting their knowledge updated through the training process.

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: I would like to put a question to hon. Minister as to whether the employees of Railways from the booking clerk to ticket-checker and catering personnel have been imparted training regarding their behaviour with passengers. I am not talking about the facilities for MPs, I am talking only about their behaviour with the public.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is very popular question.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I also join the concern of the hon. Member in raising this question. Having understood the problem, today about inter-personnel relationship and customer relationship, as I mentioned, we have now created training institutes namely Customer Care Institutes in which we teach them how to move about, how to respond and how to behave, etc. We are teaching the behavioural aspects to them. We are teaching about the behavioural science to such people as to how to behave and how to conduct themselves. I am assuring the hon. Member that much more advancement will be made in that direction in future.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good; best wishes from everybody.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, this question is related to the expectations of passengers. On one hand, hon. Minister is talking of training. I would like to say to the Minister that he employs Government staff through the contractors, who undertakes the work allotted to group 'D' staff, like cleaning the train or catering arrangements in train etc. Does he accept that his training has not been successful? Does he hire the services of contractors because of this or because of the shortage of the employees? I would also like to know as to whether he proposes to do away with the tradition of employing employees through the contractors by imparting training to Railway employees?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I have already answered the question when this was raised on the catering aspect of it. Catering, which was part of the Railways, is to be now passed over to a catering corporation. It is an extended arm of the Ministry of Railways. The point raised was why not train those people. Yes, we definitely train those people; not only that, in catering we are now taking people who are business managers. The input of training is already in them. Anyhow, we are trying to see that those staff also get trained if necessary, if there is any gap found in their performance.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, my question has not been replied. I have asked a question and the reply given by the Minister is quite different. I raised a question regarding putting an end to the practice of employing cleaning or catering staff through the contractors. The Minister has replied about imparting training to catering staff. I request the hon. Minister to reply my question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about Safai Karamcharis.

SHRI R. VELU: He has said about private contractors. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I said that there will not be any private contractors. There will only be sub-contracts, if need be, in the Catering Corporation. ... (Interruptions) The question is whether training for those employees of the private contractors will be given. That does not arise because it is a relationship between the contractor and the corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned that also.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Sir, I am very happy to know from the hon. Minister that few thousand vacancies are likely to be filled in by next year. The Railways has got a tradition to recruit sportsmen and sportswomen and keep the standards and efficiency up.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope their performance will be better.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: I want to know whether the hon. Minister of Railways would take note of my suggestion that persons from sports field, especially those who are Shiv Chhatrapati Award winners from Maharashtra, which is honoured by Government of Maharashtra, would be given certain preference while employing the persons in the Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not answer; it is a suggestion for action.

[English]

Proposal to Increase Freight

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325. SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the railways has announced hike in their freight rates recently;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same;
- (c) the details of items which have been affected by this increase;
- (d) whether the prices are likely to increase after hike in freight rates;
- (e) if so, the total revenue likely to be earned by the Government as a result of this hike;
- (f) whether the Government propose to review the above hike;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Freight rates of certain commodities namely Coal, Iron Ore, Limestone & Dolomite, Gypsum, Bauxite, Manganese Ore, Cement and Clinker have been increased recently to partially offset the increase in working expenses of Indian Railways due to increase in Diesel and Steel prices.

(d) The impact of increase in freight rates on prices is likely to be negligible.

(e) . Around Rs. 400 crore of additional revenue is likely to be generated due to freight increase of these commodities during the current financial year.

(f) to (h) No, Sir. In view of the increase in working expenses of Indian Railways, it is not feasible to reduce the freight rates.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Railways that it was attributed that on account of hike in diesel price, the freight charges are enhanced and freight charges were hiked at 3.77 per cent from 27th November, 2004. Now, this is affecting the entire common men and the attribution is that it is only on account of hike in diesel price. Now that the Government of India have reduced the diesel price, I want to know whether there is any proposal to slash down or bring down the freight charges.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, first of all, let me answer that this hike in freight charges is not at all going to affect the common man. Why is it so? We are now transporting the essential commodities at below the cost of our operations.

Secondly, we have not increased the passenger fares. So, on these two counts, it is not going to affect the common man. The freight charges we have increased now are only going to affect steel prices by 0.5 per cent, maybe Rs. 120 per tonne. In the power sector, it is going to result in an increase of only three paise per kilowatt-hour of electricity. That being the case, I do not see the reason for how it is going to affect the common man.

Secondly, we have not at all increased freight rates for the last three years. This is for the kind information of the House. The prices of diesel have been increased three times, having an impact of Rs 550 crore; and the prices of steel have also gone up, having an impact of Rs. 400 crore. That being the case, in order to see that it is compensated, the hike has been made. We will be compensated only partly, Rs. 400 crore. That being the case, hon. Members also may kindly understand how to run the administration without, at least, proposing a small hike in freight rates.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, at present the speed of the goods trains is around 70 to 75 kilometres per hour. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Railways is contemplating to increase the speed of goods trains for the purpose of speedy traffic so that freight charges can be reconsidered. I would also like to know whether there can be fast tracks for that purpose.

SHRI R. VELU: We are seriously contemplating it and

are identifying the routes to increase the speed to at least 100 kilometres per hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

SHRI. ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, this is a technical question. We have just passed the Budget in the month of July, 2004 for the year 2004-05. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how the decision is taken by the Government within three months after that to hike the prices.

SHRI R. VELU: No. That is why, I answered that this is only to partly compensate the diesel prices which have been revised thrice and also, the steel prices which have gone up. On both these counts, the impact it has had on the Railways has forced us to increase marginally the freight rates. Also, this is not going to affect the common man, as was raised by one of the hon. Members. So, I request the hon. Member also to see that this is the position in which we have raised it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the hike in freight rates, the expenditure of the Railways has increased. Due to the hike in steel prices this increase in prices has been made. Whether hon'ble Minister would curtail the non plan-expenditure of the Railways so that freight charges may not be increased and by curtailing non plan expenditure will he try to cut down the expenditure?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: No. We are taking all measures to minimise the unnecessary expenditure. In that way, we are showing the cost being brought down in running the administration. I assure the Member that his point is well taken so that we improve our performance level.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it was a very good question.

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, mango farmers in Andhra Pradesh are already in distress because of the vagaries of nature. This increase in freight charges for perishable items is crippling them much more. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider that this freight increase is not applied to the perishable fruits and vegetables which are being produced in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, already a delegation has also met us in this regard. Mango is a two-months business, and being transported to various directions. This is a perishable commodity. We will definitely look into this and do what best could be done.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, freight charges have

been increased due to the hike in diesel and steel prices. Hon. Petroleum Minister is present in the House. The diesel rate has been reduced. Whether he is going to reduce the steel rates? My another question is that lorries are transported by Railways from Mumbai to Goa and if freight is to be brought from Kolkatta to Mumbai, can it be transported by loading it on trucks? Whether he is going to implement this scheme? This scheme will be fruitful for him also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Can any matter relating to Railways be asked?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, Shri Athawale has the expertise to decide.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you in a position to answer?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the first part of the question asked by the hon. Member was to whether we will decrease the freight rates if the diesel price come down. We will reexamine it as and when it comes down.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has stated that he will consider about the freight charges if diesel price come down. You have got the answer.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the enhancement in the freight charges would not affect the common man. In a State like Kerala, which is very far away from everywhere, and if the price of cement, steel, etc. goes up, then it has a cascading effect on everything. The people, who are working in the construction industry, have already become jobless. Will you consider the aspect of bringing down the freight charges of cement, clinker, iron ore, etc. in the light of this fact?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the hon. Member is very well aware that the percentage increase, which we have proposed for cement, is hardly 3.7 per cent, and for clinker it is 7.7 per cent. I have also mentioned that this increase is after three years of waiting, and after taking into consideration the cross-subsidy aspect for the passenger fares. As a result of the enhancement in the diesel cost, etc., this was done. I think, this is only a marginal increase, and it need not be reviewed again.

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say to hon. Minister that he is repeatedly saying that the hike in freight charge will not affect the common man, while he has accepted in his reply that rates are likely to be increased. I would like to know from hon.

Minister that when freight charges of coal, iron dolomite and cement have been increased, then how the common man will remain unaffected from it. I want to know how it is possible that this price increase will have no effect on common man?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Can you prove the negative?

SHRI R. VELU: As I have already mentioned, the increase is only 0.5 per cent, that is, Rs. 120 per tonne. Secondly, I have also mentioned that the increase in the cement freight is only 3.7 per cent, and it is very very negligible, that is, in terms of the ultimate price. Hence, it is not going to affect the common man.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from hon. Minister that even before the recent freight hike, Railways has incurred losses because entrepreneurs used to manage over load the goods and due to that the railways has incurred losses. Whether he would take any effective measures to check this loss or take any action against those manipulators?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can repeat what you have said earlier.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a number of irregularities have been noticed in freight carriage system of Railways. The Minister of Railways himself detected them. Whether the hon. Minister would take any effective steps to check these irregularities so that railways earn profit?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: No, Sir. The hon. Member knows about it. We have now started a scheme of checking for overloading of freight in the trains with the result that there is a lot of saving, and the loss is also being minimised.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: The hon. Minister has stated that freight hike has not affected the common people. In my constituency, there are millions of betel growers. Recently, the freight rates for transportation of betel leaves have been increased. Not only that, earlier, there was facility for direct booking. Recently, re-booking has been introduced for transportation of betel leaves.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will

reduce the freight hike in transportation of betel leaves and whether direct booking will be introduced again?

SHRI R. VELU: As I mentioned, we will have a re-look at it. Since betel leaves are a perishable commodity, we will have a re-look at it. So far as freight hike is concerned, which he has mentioned, the matter will be examined.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you have done very well, hon. Minister.

Pricing Policy

*326. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to have differential pricing policy based on the cost of transportation of the fuel from the nearest port to the sale point;

(b) if so, whether Government has worked out the pricing policy for the different regions for the coastal and non-coastal areas;

(c) if so, the details of the same;

(d) whether the revised pricing policy has been introduced; and

(e) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) At present, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) pay to the domestic refineries the prices of petroleum products based on their international prices. In terms of the concept of import parity pricing in all its dimensions, product prices would vary depending upon the location, with the prices at inland locations being higher than the coastal locations on account of inland transportation charges. However, with a view to containing the impact of transportation charges in the consumer selling prices of petrol and diesel at inland locations, under the present pricing mechanism adopted by OMCs, they equalize the prices of these products at all ex-storage point locations in the country.

There is no proposal under consideration to revise the aforesaid pricing mechanism at present.

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Mr. Speaker,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 14.12.2004, there was a Head-on-collision between 9112 Dn Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad Express and 1 JMP (DMU) Jalandhar City - Pathankot Passenger trains between Bhangala and Mirthal stations on Jalandhar - Pathankot Section resulting in death of 38 persons and injury to 53 persons.

Compensation to accident victims is paid only after a claim for compensation filed by or on behalf of the victims in Railway Claims Tribunal is decreed. So far, no compensation has been paid in case of this accident. However, ex-gratia relief amounting to Rs.44.00 lakhs has been disbursed to relatives of 34 deceased and 38 injured. Disbursement of ex-gratia to remaining victims is under process.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Prima facie the cause of this accident appears to be human failure i.e. non-observation of rules for train operation on Paper Line Clear between the two stations during failure of communication through block instruments.

Staff considered prima-facie responsible in this accident have been placed under suspension. A country wide safety drive has also been launched for ensuring observance of laid down precautions during failure of Signalling and Interlocking system and to streamline maintenance of equipment so as to minimize incidence of failure.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Justice Khanna Committee made 278 recommendations of which 240 have been accepted/partially accepted. 114 of these have been implemented and the remaining are under various stages of implementation.

(g) Safety is the prime concern on Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken to prevent accidents. These measures include adoption of suitable and modern technologies for interlocking and signalling system, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of overaged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators, checks on observance of safety precaution and provision of Anti Collision Device. A Corporate Safety Plan (2003-2013) has also been prepared and is followed.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, on 14th December, 2004, there was a head-on-collision between Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad Express and Jalandhar City, - Pathankot Passenger trains. The prima facie cause of this accident, as per the statement of the Minister, appears to be human failure. Sixty-five per cent of train accidents are attributed to human error. There is an imperative need to impart special training programme to the railway staff as Indian Railways is a labour-intensive organisation. In the year 2001, a non-lapsable Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crore has been created to replace over-aged assets among other things.

May I know from the hon. Minister how many kilometres of track has been renewed and how much amount has been spent out of this Railway Safety Fund? I would also like to know whether the number of consequential train accidents has been reduced from the time the Railway Safety Fund has been constituted.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put more than one supplementary.

SHRI R. VELU: I will answer the pointed question as to how much money has been spent from this Railway Safety Fund.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, that will be sufficient.

SHRI R. VELU: A Fund of about Rs. 17,000 crore has been created, out of which Rs. 12,000 crore was contributed by the Government and the remaining Rs. 5,000 crore was through internal resource generation. We have already spent Rs. 6504 crore from this Fund upto 31.3.04 and Rs. 3833 crore are estimated to be spend during the current year.

Another point that was raised was about track renewal. We have planned about 16,000 kilometres of track renewal, of which, so far, the track renewal work on nearly 12,000 kilometres is proceeding on the expected lines. We are going to utilise this amount of Rs. 17,000 crore in a matter of six years.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your second supplementary. The Minister is very specific in giving his replies and you will get all the replies.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: It was reported that both the ill-fated trains were given the green signal. We know that much hype and hoopla were created in regard to anti-collision devices. How many route kilometres have been covered, so far as the provision of anti-collision devices is concerned? In his reply, the Minister has mentioned about 'Corporate Safety Plan', which is going to be initiated in the aftermath of this accident.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister cannot give you the

Sir, there is a big distance between storage houses and consumer sale points that is why it takes a lot of time for goods to reach there through tankers.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question quickly as there is no time.

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: I would like to know whether the Government have any plans regarding opening of maximum depots near the consumer point itself.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The supplementary does not arise out of the Question. I can assure the hon. Member that we are constantly looking at the requirements of the consumer, and we shall certainly attempt to meet any lacuna in supplies that might be noticed.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your second supplementary on your own Question.

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: In this connection I had asked as to whether the Government would consider increasing the number of storage depots from where goods are supplied to the consumers points through tankers.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have said that we will make efforts to overcome deficiencies if any, but according to our information whatever we have made available is sufficient. I request hon'ble Member to let me know if that is not sufficient? We will definitely take steps in that direction.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Hon'ble Minister had written to the Chief Ministers of all the States regarding an approach to reduce the sales tax for price mechanism, whether a positive reply has been received from any state Government?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Many Chief Ministers have sent their acknowledgment to our letter but there nothing has been mentioned the steps to be taken to reduce the sales tax. Only Orissa Government has made efforts in this regard. Other state Governments have not taken any step in this regard. The Orissa Government also has not stated that it has reduced it after receiving our letter or it had already decided in this matter and it was a coincidence that our letter also reached at the same time. But it is important that the State Governments should cooperate with us and reduce the Sales tax.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not even under consideration.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry is proposing to increase the profit margins of the retail dealers by two to three times. If so, will it be at the cost of the customers or will the Government cut down its own margins to give it to the retail dealers?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, dealers' commissions are determined through contracts between the marketing companies and their dealers. The rates are negotiated from time to time, and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas facilitates such negotiations. However, we cannot encourage the breaking of contracts during a period that the dealers' commission has been fixed. I think, it should be respected. But any considerations in this regard brought to our attention will be looked at and are being looked at.

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Rail Accident in Punjab

2. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was a head-on-collision of two trains in Punjab on December 14, 2004;
- (b) if so, details thereof alongwith the number of persons killed/injured and compensation/relief provided to kith and kin of the deceased and injured;
- (c) whether the inquiry into the said train accident has been ordered;
- (d) if so, the facts revealed during the preliminary inquiry alongwith the cause of the accident and the action taken on the basis of preliminary inquiry;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any action on 'Justice Khanna Committee Report' which made elaborate recommendations on Railway Safety;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the action being taken/proposed to be taken to make Railway journey more safe and secure in the country?

details of this Plan, but he can give you information about what is going to be followed all over India.

SHRI R. VELU: Coming to his pointed question, we have already covered about 1,800 kilometres in the North-East Frontier Railway. We are planning to cover another 1,750 kilometres in Southern Railway, South-Western Railway, South-Central Railway and Northern Railway. We will proceed on the contemplated lines, which is based on the Safety Review Committee's recommendations.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that due to frequent accidents it has become absolutely necessary to overhaul many old rail bridges and decades old track, and retire aged coaches and wagons. Is it a fact that Railways has not achieved 100 per cent electronic track signalling system covering all major railway sectors in the country? If so, what is the extent of sector covered by electronic track signalling system, and by what time the rest would be completed?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not one question but three.

SHRI R. VELU: We identified 2,700 bridges which are old and which require repairs, of which we have already completed work on 1,300 bridges. We are proceeding further on this because bridges are on top priority on our safety plan, next to track renewal. We have completed work on 1,300 and the balance also we will do in the course of time.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has accepted in his reply that the Khanna Committee had made 278 recommendations out of which 240 recommendations have been accepted partially by the Government. I would like to know the names of officials who are responsible for not implementing the Khanna Committee recommendations and thus increasing such accidents and killing people. Such officials should be punished.

My second supplementary is that the number of injured in this accident has been said to be 53. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are entitled to one supplementary. This is becoming a fashion. Do not mention any name. You want to know the name of the officer, this is very unfortunate!

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I would like to know from the Government as to when it is going to punish the officials who did not implement the recommendations of Khanna Committee on time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you taking action against those officers who are delinquent? How can one ask for names here?

SHRI R. VELU: There are 278 recommendations made by the Khanna Committee, of which 38 could not be implemented because they are not at all workable. So, 240 recommendations are set to be taken up for implementation. Out of them, 170 are fully accepted and the balance 70 are partially accepted. We are in the process of implementation.

On the other question, we are not sparing the employees who are responsible for accidents, whatever be the cause. Even in the cases of criminal negligence we are taking action.

The hon. Member wanted the details of the officers etc. As the hon. Speaker said, we would not be able to give the names. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No more. Nothing will be recorded. This system will have to be stopped.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, this very unfortunate accident happens to have occurred in my Constituency. I must have reached there about two hours after the Minister of Railways left my Constituency. I was absolutely shocked to see the rescue and relief work that had happened over there. There was no railway official present in the hospital. Dead bodies were lying on the floor of the hospitals. There were no railway officials present at the site. There was no information counter that was set up for the relatives and friends of the people who were injured. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, deaths have occurred in his Constituency. He has a right to put a question.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is why he reached two hours late!

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: I had even requested the hon. Minister to take me on his plane with him to my Constituency, but my request was declined for reasons best known to him.

I managed to reach there, like I said, two hours after he had left my Constituency and this is what I saw over there. There were no rescue and relief operations in place and no railway officials present, which brings me to my question.

Looking at the frequent rail disasters, is there any plan

of the Government to set up an emergency disaster management agency? It is there in most of the countries of the world where they give training to volunteers who volunteer and take training for rescue and emergency management. This is something I would request you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to press upon the Government to form an agency like this and make budget allocation. We are not talking of just railway disasters.

MR. SPEAKER: I think everybody agrees with you, Mr. Khanna.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: We are talking about national disasters. I happened to be in Gujarat when the earthquake occurred. There was nothing in place over there also.

MR. SPEAKER: A very good question.

SHRI R. VELU: I want to submit that the Railway Minister and I both rushed to the spot only to find that the relief operations were in full swing and all the injured had been removed to the hospitals. *...(Interruptions)* Let me complete. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he is doing very well. Give him the opportunity. It is his first effort. Let us give an opportunity to the hon. Minister to conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. VELU: We also met the entire village community and thanked them profusely for the immediate relief work they had undertaken. For the kind information of the hon. Member, as he was talking of the disaster management, it is not the Railways or the Government which will come to the picture immediately but the local people, local NGOs. *...(Interruptions)* Kindly listen to me. I am going to answer your point. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: I am grateful to you. *...(Interruptions)* You should reward and honour them. You forget about them conveniently. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khanna, I gave you full opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He is misleading the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are enough methods of correcting it. This is not the way to conduct. Kindly keep quiet. This is a very important matter. We have allowed a Short Notice Question and hon. Members have no patience to hear.

SHRI R. VELU: The other point is, the GM, DRM and other officers of the Northern Railways and Ferozepur Division were all there. When we went there, they were all there. After that, we visited the hospital. We called all the doctors and requested, appealed and instructed them to see that the necessary medical facilities were given. We asked them not to charge anything for the medical treatment. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Officials are to inform. What is wrong in it, Vinodji? If you are not satisfied with the answer, there are other methods. You can adopt them. I shall never refuse.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. VELU: The accident took place at 1200 noon and the Medical Relief Van reached there by 1300 hours. We also saw that the bodies of dead were sent to their native places. We made full arrangements.

The other point regarding disaster management. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Great human tragedy takes place when accident occurs. Therefore, the whole country is concerned. All of us are concerned. We cannot have a running commentary here. We all know there are slippages, gaps in this. We should try to fill them. I agree with him, we must express our gratitude to the common people of the area. Anywhere, when such accidents take place, they come forward to the help. Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. VELU: We have now started a Disaster Management Institute in Bangalore to train people on how to go about it in the event of such disasters. Your suggestion is already taken note of.

MR. SPEAKER: Md. Salim, please be brief and pointed. There should be no preface.

MD. SALIM: Sir, I welcome the disaster management system, since ours is an accident-prone zone. But, prevention is always better. You may forget about the natural calamity because that cannot be prevented. When such accidents take place and responsibility is to be fixed on the top officials, it is always said that it was a system failure, but when the responsibility lies at the bottom, it is said that it is a human error. We hear such arguments whenever such accidents take place. The question is, is it not a fact that for the last one or more decade, we were engaged in gauge conversion, inaugurating new projects, announcing new trains and forgetting about track renewal, modernisation and maintenance of signals which resulted in increased

frequency of such accidents. Though the Minister has already replied to it, my question is, when is the Government going to clear the backlog. What is the timeframe fixed for track renewal, modernisation and maintenance of signals?

SHRI R. VELU: As I have mentioned, six years period has been contemplated. We have already said that about Rs.6504 crore has been spent on this upto 31.3.2004, Rs. 3833 crore estimated to be spent during the current year and there is a balance of about Rs. 7,000 crore. We have envisaged an integrated plan for a period of ten years from 2003-2013 to take care of all the modernisation needs, which you have mentioned.

The other point which you have talked about is regarding signal failure and human failure. We are now trying to improve. Yesterday, I visited the Delhi Cantonment station to get myself acquainted with the information how the system can fail and how the human error can occur. In this case, the system had failed and the human error also complemented it. The alternative system, paperline-clearing system, was not properly executed which has resulted in this accident. We take note of your suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: All steps will be taken.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this accident has taken place as two trains were coming on the same track from opposite directions. An Anti Collision Device was developed by the Konkan Railway to avoid such accidents and it was successfully tested during the tenure of previous Railway Minister Shri Nitish Kumar. Incidentally the test was done in the same zone where this accident took place. Through you, I would like to know from the Government that in how many zones the Anti Collision Device has been used till now. It has not been used what are their plans in this regard. Whether the Government intend to put this device in all zones of the country?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good suggestion.

SHRI R. VELU: I have already mentioned it in my written reply. 1750 kms. of Northern Railway, Southern Railway, South-Western Railway and South-Central Railway, these are the areas which will be covered. As you have rightly put it, it is a very successful scheme as such. We are trying to cover the entire country in the course of time.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Geeteji has asked my question just now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may then take your seat. Thank you for your cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into the chronology of incident because it was related to the Ahmedabad-Jammu Tawi Incident. I would like to have some more information in this regard from the Government. When an accident takes place some passengers die on the spot and some are saved. Due to the lack of sophisticated equipments and modern communication system with the Government large number of people have to suffer loss of life and property. I would like to say that it is not justified to make arrangements for the Konkan Railways only when such incidents take place in the entire country. Junction Station of each division in the country should have modern telecommunication system as well as modern equipments to reach the accident site immediately. We can save many lives if Doctors and modern equipments are sent over there by aeroplanes instead of Ministers and officials who reach their first. Whether the Government have any such scheme? If so, by when such schemes would be implemented?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: In this case the Railway Hospital doctors were the first persons to reach at the spot. They also mobilised the support of the civil hospital doctors. The point raised was, whether we could have such a facility to transfer such equipment by air to save the people. The hon. Member is well aware that in such a situation, best medical facility should be made available within what we call as the golden hour - one hour from the time the accident takes place. Your suggestion is well taken. We will examine what best can be done in such an emergency situation to transport by air or other means such equipment so as to save the life of the people.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Piracy of Films and Music

327. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to enact a comprehensive law with stringent penal provisions to act as a specific deterrent against growing menace of piracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the film piracy has severely affected the film industry and the music industry;

(d) if so, details thereof including the losses suffered during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government propose to involve all the key players of these industries, while making necessary provisions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (f) The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development contains inter alia the legal provisions regarding copyright in cinematograph films and music. The responsibility for dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Copyright Enforcement cells have been set up in most States/UT Administrations headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences. The Copyright Act is amended from time to time to keep it in consonance with International Copyright Law.

According to the Ministry of HRD, a Core Group has been set up with representatives of Copyright Societies, experts, various Ministries/Department/Organizations, industry representatives to consider amendments to the Copyright Act 1957.

According to the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) there is a loss of Rs.400 crores annually on account of piracy.

Education to Disabled Children

328. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:

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

(a) the total number of disabled children in the country;

(b) the total number of disabled out of them who have got education;

(c) whether the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 is not being implemented to achieve its goal; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Union

and State Governments to ensure effective implementation of the Act to benefit the disabled children?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) According to the National Sample Survey Report No. 485 entitled "Disabled Persons in India" based on the 58th Round survey conducted during July to December 2002, estimated number of children with disabilities in the age group of 05-18 years is 44.5 lakhs.

(b) According to the survey report, estimated number of children who are literate, educated upto primary, middle, secondary, higher secondary and diploma is 25.50 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 casts obligations on the appropriate Government and local authorities to provide children with disabilities composite free educational services.

The following steps are being taken for education of children with disabilities:

(a) The Constitution was amended in December, 2002 for making free and compulsory education, a Fundamental Right for all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Accordingly, a national programme for Universal Elementary Education viz. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched by the M/o Human Resource Development. It has the goal of eight years of elementary schooling for all children including children With disabilities in the age-group of 6-14 years by 2010. Under the scheme, a shelf of education options, learning aid and tool, mobility assistance, support services etc. are available for children with disabilities. Likewise augmentation of teaching skills and capabilities of teachers are also made available under the scheme.

(b) The Department of Education undertakes a Scheme for the Integrated Education of the Disabled Children (IEDC) through Education Departments of the State Governments, Autonomous Bodies and Voluntary Organisations. Under the scheme of IEDC 100% financial assistance is provided for transport facility, books and stationery, uniform, instructional material, assistive equipments, readers facility for the visually handicapped, attendant facility for the children with locomotor disability, special teacher facilities, hostel facility for disabled children in the school

- campus, removal of architectural barriers in schools etc.
- (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment supports 657 institutions for running early intervention programmes, special education programmes, vocational training programmes, teachers training programmes in special education, etc.
- (d) National Trust for the welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities provides training to care-givers for imparting home-based life-skill training to the children with severe and profound disabilities.
- (e) Rehabilitation Council of India has recognized training programmes for the training of master trainers for teachers in primary schools as a part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). It has also recognized B.Ed. (Special Education) for training of teachers in special schools. This programme is implemented through National Institutes, private institutions and through distance learning.
- (f) Scholarship is provided to the children with mental retardation and Cerebral Palsy under the Scheme of National Welfare Fund.
- (g) Funds are provided for fitment of Aids and Appliances to the children with disabilities covered under SSA.
- (h) All the textbooks prescribed by NCERT have been printed in Braille for children with visual disabilities.
- (i) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in pursuance of the provisions of Section 30 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 has notified guidelines on 4.11.2004 for the preparation of education scheme for persons with disabilities for implementation by the Central Ministries, organizations and autonomous bodies under their control. These guidelines have also been circulated to the State Governments for suitable adoption keeping in view their local requirements.

Community Radio

329. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Authority of India in a consultation paper on community radio, which was issued in the month of August 2004, points out that 20 months after the community radio policy was announced, there's just one licensee in the country;

(b) if so, whether complex licensing procedure is a hurdle to several potential players from at least six Ministries/Departments;

(c) whether this policy was announced in December 2002 and only 55 applications were made and only 12 have been issued letters of intent, till date;

(d) if so, the other points mentioned in the consultation paper on community radio circulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India; and

(e) the steps the Government proposes to take to simplify the community radio license process so that the scheme can be implemented in all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) The policy & procedure for the grant of licenses for Community Radio Stations were approved by the Union Cabinet on 18th December 2002 and the notice inviting applications was published in the leading News Papers of the country in the first week of February 2003. Till date, 60 applications have been received, 28 Letters of Intent have been issued and 15 institutions have signed License Agreements with us after allocation of frequency by Ministry of Communication.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had raised several issues in its consultation paper in August 2004. TRAI has since finalized its report and submitted this to the Ministry.

Clearances from the Ministries of External Affairs and Defence have been dispensed with and now the clearances are required from three Ministries viz. Home Affairs, Human Resource Development and Communication. Efforts are being made to get the process of SACFA clearance and issue of Wireless Operating License expedited from the Ministry of Communication, so that who have signed License Agreements with Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, could commission their service at the earliest.

Feeder Air Services

330. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce feeder air services connecting a large number of cities by air;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether air service between Delhi-Ahmedabad, Delhi-Vadodara-Delhi is inadequate;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to introduce more flights on these sectors;
- (e) whether the Government is planning to introduce direct service between Delhi and Bhubaneswar; and
- (f) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a), (b), (e) and (f) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-Eastern region. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

(c) and (d) Domestic scheduled operators are operating 37 flights per week on Delhi-Ahmedabad sector and 14 flights per week on Delhi-Vadodara sector.

ISO Certified Trains

331. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the ISO certified trains in the country, zone-wise;
- (b) the different ratings of the quality of services provided in trains followed in India and abroad;
- (c) whether the quality of services provided in the AC compartments of ISO certified trains is much below the specified standards; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and the steps being contemplated to improve them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Zone wise list of International Standards Organization (ISO) certified trains is as under:

S.No.	Railway	Name of the trains having ISO certificate
1	Central Railway	2123/24 Deccan Queen Express 2051/52 Janashatabdi Express 2137/38 Punjab Mail
2	Northern Railway	2003/04 New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express 2403/04 Delhi-Jammu Tawi Superfast Express 2055/56, Dehradun-New Delhi Jan Shatabdi Express 2057/58 Chandigarh- New Delhi Jan Shatabdi Express 4229/30 Lucknow-New Delhi-Lucknow Mail
3	North Central Railway	2417/18, Prayag Raj Express/Allahabad (ALD) 2179/80, Taj Express/Jhansi (JHS) 1523/24, Jhansi (JHS)-Banda Passenger/Jhansi (JHS)
4	West Central Railway	2155/56 Bhopal-Nizamuddin Express 1265/66 Rewanchal Express

(b) Railways are providing services in trains as per specified norms. No ratings of quality of services are laid down by the Railways.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Bio-Diesel and Ethanol

332. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to promote the production of bio-diesel and ethanol in order to cut oil import bill;
- (b) the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result thereof;
- (c) the quantum of bio-diesel and ethanol produced during the last two years;

(d) the provision of financial assistance in the production of bio-diesel and ethanol;

(e) whether Union Government is also considering to allow duty free import of edible oil exclusively for bio-diesel manufacturing for the time bound period so that more industry can start producing bio-diesel through farm product "Jatropha"; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government is taking steps to part-substitute fossil fuels like motor spirit and diesel by bio-fuels such as ethanol and bio-diesel, to the extent feasible.

The Government of India had set up three pilot projects to examine operational, financial, environmental and other related aspects of 5% ethanol-blended petrol during the year 2001. Based on the success of the pilot projects, a decision was notified by the Government of India on 12.9.2002 to sell only 5% ethanol-blended petrol in select States and Union Territories w.e.f. 1.1.2003. However, due to the complex and differential tax structures of State Governments and the inconsistent availability of ethanol, the programme could be implemented only in a phased manner. Since late 2003 and in 2004, the availability of ethanol has been scarce and erratic in the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The price of ethanol also rose significantly at all locations. After discussions with State Governments, the Government notified vide Gazette Notification no. 705 (E) dated 27.10.2004 that 5% ethanol-blended petrol, as per Bureau of Indian Standards specifications, shall be sold if the price of sourcing indigenous ethanol for the supply of ethanol-blended petrol is comparable to the price of indigenous ethanol for alternative uses, and if the delivery price of ethanol at the location is comparable to the import parity price of petrol at that location, and the indigenous ethanol industry is able to maintain the availability of ethanol for the ethanol-blended petrol programme at such prices in the notified States and Union Territories. The areas which have been notified are the States of Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh (all districts except Chittoor and Nellore), Tamil Nadu (only the districts of Coimbatore, Dindigul, Erode, Kanyakumari, Nilgiri, Ramanathpuram, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, and Virudhunagar), and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

The Oil Marketing Companies have decided to issue tenders for procuring ethanol in terms of the Gazette Notification dated 27.10.2004.

Studies have been undertaken to explore the possibility of producing bio-diesel from non-edible oils like *Jatropha curcas*, *Pongamia*, etc. The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel under the chairmanship of Dr. D.N. Tewari, former Member, Planning Commission which recommended launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on plantation of *Jatropha curcas*. The Ministry of Rural Development has been made the nodal Ministry to implement the National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has intimated the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the implementation of the Mission on Bio-diesel has been recently prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for the purpose.

At present, under instructions from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the Oil Marketing Companies in the public sector, field trials using bio-diesel and diesel blend on buses are in progress in collaboration with Haryana Roadways and with Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST), Mumbai. Field trials and engine tests on locomotives are also in progress. For the purpose, bio-diesel has been procured through global tender.

(c) Bio-diesel is being produced mainly on a pilot scale, and molasses, a derivative of sugar used for manufacture of ethanol, is a decontrolled item. No data regarding production of either ethanol or bio-diesel are maintained.

(d) No direct financial assistance is being given for production of bio-diesel. However, for ethanol, the Government decided to grant fiscal incentives by way of reduction in the additional excise duty on petrol meant for blending with ethanol in 2002-2003. Accordingly, the additional excise duty of Rs. 6 per litre leviable on petrol was reduced by the Government by 30 paise per litre in the case of petrol intended for use in ethanol-blended petrol. The exemption was valid till 30.6.2004. The Ministry of Food & Public Distribution have informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that the Sugar Development Fund Act 1982 and Sugar Development Fund (SDF) Rules, 1983, as amended from time to time, provide for extending loans to any sugar factory, or any unit thereof, for the production of anhydrous alcohol (ethanol) with a view to improving viability.

(e) At present no proposal is under consideration of the Government for the import of edible oil exclusively for production of bio-diesel.

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

[English]

Import of Crude Oil

333. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been alarming increase in the import of crude oil over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of crude oil imported during 2004-05 from various Organisations of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC);
- (d) whether Government has taken any initiative to compensate the crude oil import by utilizing refining capacity export and energy conservation mechanism;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether India has emerged on the world energy map, as indicated in recent meeting of OPEC in Vienna; and
- (g) if so, the details of the discussion held at Vienna with Indian delegation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The quantities of crude oil imported into the country during the last three years are as under:

Years	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Quantity in Million Metric Tonne (MMT)	78.7	82.0	90.4

(c) During April-September 2004, 50.0 MMT of crude oil was imported. Out of this, 40.9 MMT was imported from OPEC countries.

(d) and (e) The present refining capacity in the country is in excess of domestic demand of petroleum products on an overall basis and, as a result, we are a net exporter of petroleum products. The quantities of petroleum products exported during the last 3 years are as under:

Years	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Quantity in Million Metric Tonne (MMT)	10.1	10.3	14.6

As regards, energy conservation measures, in addition to the inhouse conservation efforts of oil companies, the Petroleum Conservation Research Association, under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,

coordinates the promotion and propagation of petroleum conservation, including energy studies, research & development, awareness creation and educating the public on the importance, methods and benefits of conservation.

(f) and (g) The Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj was invited to deliver a keynote address at the OPEC International Seminar on "Petroleum in an Interdependent World" held in Vienna on the 16th and 17th September, 2004. In his address, he inter alia touched upon the issues of sustainable development, growing oil demand in Asian countries including India, the practice of the National Oil Companies of some countries in West Asia of having different pricing formulae for their sale of crude oil for different regions in the world, etc. On the sidelines of this seminar, the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj also had separate bilateral meetings with his counterparts from fourteen countries for furthering mutual cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. A copy of his statement is annexed.

Statement

I am honoured that in recognition of the signal contribution my country has made to sustainable development, you have kindly invited me to deliver this Keynote Address.

Indira Gandhi was the only Prime Minister from a guest country to attend the first UN Environment Conference in Sweden in 1972. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi journeyed specially to New York to welcome the Brundtland Commission report. And India, under Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, was a leading player at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Ours was, perhaps, the first developing country to set up, as far back as 1982, an entire Ministry of Environment and Forests. It remains the most feared Ministry in the Government of India!

In India, environmental clearance is the first pre-requisite of licensing on-shore and off-shore blocks for exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas. Our upstream undertakings are reducing gas flaring by re-injecting gas to underground reservoirs; installing waste heat recovery systems; using dual fuel engines to substitute diesel with low pressure associated gas; pressing into service solar power cathodic protection systems; and using self-loading skids for mounting rig equipment. Downstream, at the instance of the internationally benchmarked emission and effluent standards set by our Central Pollution Control Board, India is investing seven billion dollars in upgrading its refineries to meet the exacting requirements of the Indian equivalent of Euro-IV standards by the end of the decade. In rupee terms, this investment in upgrading refineries in the first decade of this century is about equal to the entire profits of

the oil sector in the decade of the Nineties! Blending ethanol with diesel and encouraging the cultivation of crops for bio-fuel is another area of concentration. We are also massively engaged in spreading the consumption of heavily subsidised liquid petroleum gas for domestic cooking, particularly to the periphery of forest areas, to conserve fuel wood. And our public sector Oil Marketing Companies are engaged in setting up 100,000 community kitchens so that the poor can access safe and environment-friendly cooking facilities. Our Petroleum Conservation Research Association is a top-ranking technological centre of excellence.

I say all this not in a spirit of boastfulness but only to underline India's pioneering role in, and abiding commitment to, sustainable development. We have learned to our cost that development which is not sustainable eventually undermines development itself. For, as Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said at the Eleventh Nonaligned Summit in 1989:

"We recognise that sustainable development begins at home, that the costs of development must integrally include the costs of conservation, which, if not paid now, will be extracted from the development process later or elsewhere."

Thus, years before the Earth Summit at Rio, we had accepted and acted upon the Rio principle which states:

"In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it."

Sir, the challenge of sustainable development in our Forum here is to see how access to fossil fuels is prioritised so that sustainable development is encouraged and environmentally-damaging, wasteful consumption avoided. Tragically, the fact is that the present system of oil pricing encourages uneconomic consumption and discourages sustainable development.

Let me attempt to set out the rationale for this serious allegation.

Our calculations show - and do correct me if I am wrong - that approximately two-thirds of all West Asian OPEC production is exported to fellow-Asian countries. Only one of these - Japan - is a developed country. The rest are developing. Indeed, Asia includes the fastest-growing developing countries in the world. Two of these, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India, are the largest and most rapidly growing importers of crude in the world. Yet, all of Asia, including developed and developing Asia, pays higher FOB prices to fellow-Asian producers than more distant consumers. I trust you will agree with me that any

measure that erodes the advantage of geography for Asian countries and promotes the accelerated depletion of oil resources through a policy of subsidising oil traffic to distant destinations is not, and cannot be, in the interests of sustainable development.

During 2003, Asian consumers paid about half a dollar per barrel more than US buyers and nearly two dollars per barrel more than European consumers. In the quarter April-July 2004, Asian countries paid 36 cents per barrel more than the US and close to three dollars per barrel more than European customers. In India, we estimate the additional burden of the Asian premium at...per annum. In Asia as a whole, Prof. Yoshiki Ogawa of the The Institute of Energy Economics in Japan has calculated the annual average transfer of income from Asian oil consumers to Asian oil producers on account of the Asian premium at US dollars 5 billion to 10 billion per year, depending on the year, and worsening refinery margins in almost all Asian countries. This is on top of soaring international prices in 2004 which, unless sharply moderated in coming months, is likely to lead to a doubling of India's annual oil import bill.

Notwithstanding the heavy burden of escalating international prices, and the premium that we as Asians have to pay, our demand keeps rising because oil is indispensable to development. In the prosperous West, oil is indispensable to consumption. Thus, India's demand for oil is likely to grow at 4 per cent per annum over the next two decades as compared to world demand, which is projected to rise at under 2 per cent. That is where the shoe pinches. Our per capita consumption of oil is just 0.7 barrels per day. In the United States, it is 24.6 barrels a day. As we underlined at the 2002 Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, the poor are not in fact the biggest consumers of the world's depletable resources; the rich are. The US and Europe, including Russia, account for half the world consumption of oil, but Asia, the largest and most populous continent of them all, accounts for only half that level. At the same time, as against carbon dioxide emissions in India of about 1.1 metric tonnes per year, emissions in the US are of the order of 20.6 metric tonnes. These are the precise indicators incorporated in the Millennium Goals relating to ensuring environmental sustainability. The consequence of this disparity in consumption and emissions, as between developing and developed nations, has been detailed in the paper on 'Sustainable Development and OPEC' presented by Prof. Herman Daly of the University of Maryland to this conference three years ago, where he said:

"Low entropy resources are taken from the environment and eventually returned to the environment as high entropy wastes."

He went on to suggest an OPEC surcharge on what

he termed "uneconomic growth", that is, growth beyond the optimal scale relative to environment. Yet, it is India that is a signatory to the Kyoto protocol, while the most important beneficiary of the differential in West Asian oil prices is not. What I am drawing attention to is the West Asian OPEC surcharge on sustainable development in the economies of its largest consumers - the Asian premium on Asian importers.

As sovereign nations, ensuring that development is sustainable is in our hands - but ensuring development at all means access to reasonably-priced oil. However much we look at alternative technologies - and we are looking at battery-powered vehicles and hydrogen- and fuel-cell vehicles - or alternative sources of energy - be it coal with which we are abundantly endowed or coal bed methane which we have just started exploiting, or hydro-electricity and nuclear energy, or non-conventional energy sources - the fact is that notwithstanding the substitution of natural gas for oil in several uses, our oil self-sufficiency ratio is set to precipitately decline from the present level of about 30% to barely 15% within the next twenty years. The only way we can arrest this decline is by arresting the growth of GDP. And far from arresting growth, it is our national resolve to sustain annual GDP growth at 7-8 per cent to break the back of poverty. We take heart from the statement of the OPEC Secretary-General at the Johannesburg Summit, where he quite correctly asserted:

"While renewables will be an increasing part of the energy mix in future, the continued development of fossil fuels will be, in most cases, more feasible than costly alternatives. Clean fossil fuels will provide a clear and easy path for the world's poorest countries to take on their road to growth."

The challenge before OPEC is to reconcile its present system of oil pricing with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" spelt out by OPEC's representatives at both the 2002 Johannesburg Summit and the New Delhi Conference on Climate Change that followed soon thereafter. In both forums, the OPEC representative held that:

"Industrialised countries, whose activities over decades - and even centuries - have been responsible for the lion's share of adverse impacts on the environment, should recognise and honour their obligation to provide the lion's share of the response measures."

We entirely agree. But charging developing Asia a premium while offering a discount to the developed West is a conundrum that calls for rectification in the vital area of international trade in fossil fuels.

The Asian premium derives from world market prices. But there is a certain old-fashioned look about the traditional markers. The Western Texas Index belongs to an age when US output was high and rising and a substantial proportion of US production was internationally traded. Now, US output has fallen by a massive one million barrels per day from 1.36 million in 1985 to a mere 0.35 million in 2003, a collapse in output of the order of 74 per cent. Moreover, this output is almost entirely domestically consumed. Brent was a key index when North Sea oil was on a sharply rising trajectory. Now, the trajectory is downward-sliding, output having been more than halved from 0.8 million barrels per day in 1993 to just 0.33 million in 2003, a drop of 59% in a decade. Dubai/Oman too is from an era when several million barrels a day emerged from these sources. Now, output there is lower than at Bombay High.

What we need is a uniform official selling price and significant spot trading of West Asian crude to increase liquidity and establish a genuine and representative marker crude oil for the fast-growing Asian market. There is at present no properly prepared oil product market in the major consuming centres of Asia - India, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. These four countries have taken the initiative to consult with each other and their principal suppliers on how they can secure equitable access to West Asian OPEC oil. To this end, India is organising later this year, in association with the International Energy Forum, a round table discussion in New Delhi between the four principal Asian buyers of crude oil and the six principal Asian exporters.

We will eventually have to come to you to secure justice in the interests of sustainable development. Should we not be re-conceiving the whole basis of international market prices to think in terms of encouraging sustainable development and discouraging uneconomic consumption? I am inviting you to dare to think because I am persuaded that OPEC is entirely committed to sustainable development. OPEC members are party to numerous international commitments in this regard - including the Earth Summit and follow-up resolutions, as well as in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP, UNCTAD and the UN General Assembly, in the Movement of the Nonaligned Countries and the Group of 77 and, in-house, in OPEC itself. OPEC has been a source of comfort and reassurance to all of us who believe in sustainable development.

This encourages me to revive in this Forum a proposal put forward 15 years ago by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He called for a Planet Protection Fund which would finance a bank of environment-friendly technologies to which developing and developed countries alike would have free access. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to quote his argument for a Planet Protection Fund at some length. He said:

"We need a global effort to bring within the reach of all, developing and developed, the technologies that exist and are yet to be developed to combat pollution and environmental degradation. We cannot leave these matters to the mere play of market forces. Those with inadequate capacity to pay for environmentally-sound technologies would then be left with no alternative but to let development proceed without due regard for the environment. Equally, those who are denied access to such technologies would have no option but to fall in the same trap. It is not only these countries that will pay the price of environmental neglect, it is a price that will have to be paid by the world as a whole and by future generations. The international community has a common stake in sustainable development. We need a global effort to ensure access to environment-friendly technologies and the funding of research and development into such technologies."

Sir, in the interests of sustainable development, we need energy efficient devices and a reduction in the energy elasticity of demand. In India, it takes nearly three times as much oil to produce one unit of economic output as in the OECD countries: the estimated ratio is 2.88:1. This is because conservation technologies are difficult and expensive to access. If the OPEC Fund for International Development could consider putting in the seed money, perhaps the Rajiv Gandhi proposal could be revived at the international level.

We in the oil importing developing world need the cooperation of the oil exporting developing world. Already, China, which has taken a head-start over India in the development stakes, is driving incremental global demand for oil. India is not far behind. A larger, much larger, rather than a smaller share of Asian oil is set to be consumed in Asia. This could yet be the Asian century. For in this twenty-first century, Asia is about to resume the traditional place it has held over millennia in the vanguard of the advancement of human civilization. At this historic juncture in the resurgence of Asia, I urge Asian solidarity. We have stood by you in your hour of need. We need you to stand by us in ours. The new challenges demand a new paradigm for the international oil economy. The time to act is now. The place to act is here.

Thank you.

CNG Piped Gas to House Holds in Metro Cities

334. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CNG Gas is cheaper than LPG Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts envisaged to supply more CNG piped gas to house holds in metro cities?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The price of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for domestic households is cheaper than the price of domestic LPG. The details of the relative prices of PNG and LPG in Delhi and Mumbai are as under:

Metro	Domestic PNG Oct. 2004 (Rs./Kg.)	Domestic LPG w.e.f.5.11.04 (Rs./Kg.)
Delhi	16.45	19.83
Mumbai	16.37	20.55

As on the 1st December, 2004, Piped Natural Gas is supplied to 2,08,543 households in Mumbai by Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) and 19,356 households in Delhi by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL).

(c) MGL and IGL are expanding their networks to increase penetration of PNG supplies to the domestic sector. Setting up such projects in other metro cities is dependent on the availability of natural gas, which is a constraint at present in covering the other metros with PNG for domestic households.

Merging of AI and IA

335. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge Air India and Indian Airlines to take on foreign global giants like British Airways and Singapore Airlines;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out therefor;

(c) the time by which the merger is likely to be completed; and

(d) the commercial gains likely to accrue as a result of merger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Performing Art

336. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS
SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides financial assistance to professional groups and individuals for special performing arts projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided during the last three years, till date, year-wise and programme-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any plan for promotion of Fine Arts and Performing Arts at school level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which it is helpful to the students?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Culture is administering a Scheme of Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals for Specified

Performing Art Projects. Details of number of organizations and Individuals receiving assistance are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Culture has established the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training in 1979 as an autonomous organization for the promotion of Culture and Arts at School level. Its main thrust is to make students aware of the importance of culture in all development Programmes by conducting a variety of training programmes for inservice teachers, teacher educators, educational administrators and students throughout the country. It also organizes special training programmes for physically and mentally challenged children.

The Centre also implements a cultural talent search scholarship scheme for providing facilities to young talented children in the 10-14 age group to study one or the other art form. A total of 300 scholarships are given every year to encourage and enabling talented children to pursue their interests in this field.

Statement

Year	No. of Organisations getting Salary Grant	No. of Organisations/ Individuals getting Production Grant	Total number of Organisations/ Individuals	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
2002-03	253	315	568	870.00
2003-04	296	391	687	900.00
2004-05 till date	319	505	824	900.00

Dr. Ambedkar National Scholarship Schemes for SC/ST Students

337. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main components of the Dr. Ambedkar National Scholarship Scheme for meritorious Students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the provision made and help extended to SC/ST students year-wise, since the inception of the Scheme;

(c) whether any evaluation has been made about the extent to which the scheme has helped the poorer students in pursuing higher education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(separately to SC and ST students) as per the following norms:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (i) Students securing highest marks | Rs.60,000/- |
| (ii) Students securing second highest marks | Rs.50,000/- |
| (iii) Students securing third highest marks | Rs.40,000/- |
| (iv) Girl students securing highest mark in case she is not in the above three categories | Rs.40,000/- |

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) The Scheme provides for one time grant to students of each of the 26 State/UT/Centre Board of Secondary Education

Separately 250 students are awarded the special merit scholarships @ Rs.10,000/- each which are given to SC/ST students securing next highest marks after 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions keeping in view the SC and ST population of the

country as per 1991 census. The details of the Scheme are available on the Website ambedkarfoundation.nic.in.

(b) Since the inception of the scheme i.e. 2001-2002, the Foundation has given assistance for an amount of Rs. 68,30,000/- for the year 2001-02 which was distributed among 283 students from 19 States/UTs. In addition, Scholarships amounting to Rs. 7.6 lakhs are being sent to 28 students for the year 2001-02. For the year 2002-03, the Foundation has decided to distribute an amount of Rs. 26,20,000/- among 85 students from 08 States from where the information has already reached.

There is a budget provision of Rs. 130 lakhs per annum to meet the expenditure on running the said Scheme.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Oil Refining Capacity

338. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of oil refined by different oil companies during the last three years till date, refinery-wise;

(b) whether the oil companies have utilized their optimum refining capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure optimum utilisation of refining capacity?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The details of the quantum of oil refined by the oil companies during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The overall capacity utilization of domestic refineries during the last three years and the current year is as follows:-

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (April-September)
93%	95%	99%	97%

The North East refineries have relatively lower capacity utilization on account of lower availability of crude, lower demand and difficulties in product evacuation in the North East.

Therefore, with a view to improving the capacity utilization of North East Refineries, from the year 2003-04 onwards, the Government have allotted 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of Ravva crude oil to them in addition to North East crude. Besides, 50% excise duty concession on products of North East refineries has been given in order to improve their viability. In order to facilitate product evacuation, Oil India Limited proposes to lay a product pipeline from Numaligarh to Siliguri.

Statement

Crude Throughput

Qty. in Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)

Company	Refinery	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 Apr.-Sep.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	Mathura	8.03	8.21	8.25	2.23
	Koyali	11.70	12.43	12.76	7.06
	Haldia	4.02	4.51	4.52	2.79
	Barauni	2.88	2.99	4.30	2.49
	Guwahati	0.66	0.46	0.89	0.48

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Digboi	0.65	0.58	0.60	0.33
	Panipat	5.82	6.10	6.34	3.43
IOCL-Total		33.76	35.29	37.66	18.81
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	Mumbai	5.63	6.08	6.11	3.18
	Visakh	6.71	6.85	7.59	3.75
HPCL-Total		12.34	12.93	13.70	6.93
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	Mumbai	8.74	8.74	8.70	4.51
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)	Chennai	6.12	6.18	6.09	3.53
	Narimanam	0.57	0.64	0.65	0.36
CPCL-Total		6.69	6.82	6.74	3.89
Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL)	Kochi	6.80	7.58	7.85	4.03
Bongaigaon Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL)	Bongaigaon	1.48	1.46	2.13	1.15
Numligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)	Numligarh	2.31	1.88	2.20	0.91
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	Tatipaka	0.01	0.09	0.08	0.05
Mangalore Refineries & Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL)	Mangalore	5.49	7.25	10.07	5.68
Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)	Jamnagar	28.94	28.55	29.54	15.94
Total		106.54	110.58	118.68	61.89

[English]

Import of Newsprint

339. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newsprint is being imported by various small & medium newspapers;

(b) if so, the quantity imported by Small & Medium newspapers during the last three years;

(c) whether the production of newsprint, in the country is less than the demand of the small & medium scale newspapers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to increase production of newsprint in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) does not maintain details of import of newsprint on the basis of categorization of newspapers into small, medium and big. However, on the basis of annual statements filed by the newspapers, which include Small & Medium Newspapers, the details of the total quantity of newsprint imported are as under:

Year	(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)		
	Standard	Glazed	Total
2001-02	3,67,955	34,940	4,02,895
2002-03	4,69,125	57,353	5,26,478
2003-04	5,36,431	40,241	5,76,672*

(* Annual Statements received by RNI till November 2004)

(c) The production of newsprint paper during the last four years is as under:-

(In Lakh Tonnes)			
Year	Installed Capacity	Production	Import
2001-2002	12.04	6.20	4.44
2002-2003	12.25	6.27	5.20
2003-2004	12.69	6.88	7.39
2004-2005	12.70	3.99 (upto October, 2004)	1.93 (upto July, 2004)

(d) Steps taken by the Government to increase newsprint production in the country include:

- (i) delicensing of newsprint industry;
- (ii) duty free import of pulp for manufacture of newsprint; and
- (iii) excise duty exemption of the newsprint manufactured by the mills included in Schedule-I to the Newsprint Control Order, 2004.

[Translation]

Development of I.T. by AAI

340. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme has been implemented by Airport Authority of India for the development and better use of information technology in civil aviation sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the schemes initiated for the modernisation and promotion of IT in civil aviation during the last three years and the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of schemes for development and better use of information technology and for the modernisation and promotion of Information Technology (IT) implemented by Airports Authority of India (AAI) particularly during the last three years are as under:

Launching of AAI web site LAN/WAN Project connecting all AAI locations in Delhi; LAN projects at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati; Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System on the software of National Informatics Centre (NIC) as per the guidelines of the Cabinet Secretariat; Enterprise level Inventory & Maintenance

Management Application Package System in Delhi; Airport Information Management System at Hyderabad airport; On-line Project Monitoring System covering all major project in AAI; Air Traffic Billing System at 46 airports and Up-gradation of Auto CAD software and implementation of 3D MAX Studio and Revit Software for Architecture Department of AAI.

IT Directorate of AAI has already been accredited with ISO 9001-2000 Certification from 10.9.2004. Besides, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) has been implemented for Cargo Management at selected airports. Implementation of Bar Code System for cargo terminals is in progress at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai airports. Computer based Flight Information Display System is also operational at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Trivandrum airports.

Future plans of AAI in this regard include implementation of IT Security Policy, Storage Network System for Common Storage and Mechanism for auto data storage & recovery, Disaster Recovery Site, Content Management System, Integration of various applications using, common log-in plan, Introduction of Common User Terminal Equipment system (CUTE) at 16 major airports and introduction of on-line baggage screening system at International Airports.

Difference in Criteria for Inclusion of Castes in State and Central List

341. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Backward Commissions and National Commission for Backward Classes have different criteria for inclusion of castes in OBC list;
- (b) if so, details thereof and the conditions therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for non-inclusion of castes of State List of OBCs in the Central List?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per Article 15(4) of the Constitution, social and educational backwardness are the criteria for determining the backward status of a particular caste/community. Both the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and the State Commission for Backward Classes are expected to follow this criteria for identification of particular caste/community as a backward class. The NCBC follows exhaustive guidelines for identifying backward castes and communities. The main parameters include profile of caste, professions level of literacy, representation in services etc. The State Commissions follow their own procedure. In the first phase,

the castes and communities, which were common to both the lists of the report of the Mandal Commission and the State Government's lists, were included in the Central List. As such some of the castes/communities which appeared in the State List and did not appear in the Mandal List did not find place in the Central List. The Govt. of India subsequently, issued on 10th September, 1993, Central List of OBCs in respect of 14 States/UTs, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh which came out with their respective State lists after the Mandal judgement. Thereafter, as more States/UTs came up with their respective OBC list and the Govt. of India notified it on the same principle. Hence in a few cases, there are variations between the Central and the State Lists.

[English]

Performance of Indian Airlines

342. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has shown a significant improvement in its overall financial performance in this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the target fixed in regard to passenger traffic for 2004-05; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has improved its financial performance in the first half of fiscal year 2004-05. The Operating Loss of Rs.48.90 crores and Net Loss of Rs.66.40 crores in the first half of fiscal year 2004-05 is lower than the Operating Loss of Rs.63.95 crores and Net Loss of Rs.103.50 crores in the corresponding period of previous year. This represents an improvement of 23.5% and 35.8%, respectively.

(c) Indian Airlines has budgeted carriage of 6519 thousand passengers during the Year 2004-05.

(d) The following steps are being taken to achieve the target.

1. Fleet augmentation/renewal to increase capacity.
2. New marketing initiatives to attract more customers.
3. Improving product appeal by inflight initiatives, service upgrades on ground and improvements in cabin ambience

[English]

Use of Special Trains for Travelling

3654. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the General Managers of Railways quite frequently use special trains for their travelling;

(b) if so, the details and number of such special trains used during the last two years and additional expenditure incurred by Railways in this connection;

(c) whether the Government is considering to do away with this system to avoid unnecessary financial burden on Railways; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Special trains are used by General Managers in special circumstances to discharge official duties like inspections, accidents etc.

(b) Such data is not maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Lalkoti Silica Works of BSCL

3655. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether ex-employees of Lalkoti Silica works of BSCL at Raniganj in West Bengal had formed a Cooperative Society and on registration approached the Government through the State Government to run the Lalkoti Silica works on co-operative basis;

(b) whether the State Government sought for the approval from DHI at the Centre;

(c) whether DHI is still to consider the State Government's approach; and

(d) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has sought reconciliation of status of the land through the records relating to Lalkoti Works from the Government of West Bengal to facilitate decision in the matter.

Payment of Salary to Homoeopathic Doctors of Agra and Jhansi

3656. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Homoeopathic doctors of Agra and Jhansi railway divisions of North Central Railway have not been getting payment regularly for the last several months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the timely payment of salary to all the doctors and the staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The Homoeopathic doctors are not appointed by the Railways but by the Staff Benefit Fund Committees and are paid honorarium from the Staff Benefit Fund. The two Homoeopathic doctors in Agra division and the two Homoeopathic doctors in Jhansi division of North Central Railway have been paid honorarium upto November, 2004 from the Staff Benefit Fund.

Proposal for Establishment of I.E.C. in Jaipur

3657. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal to the Union Government to sanction Rs. 377.75 lac for establishment of "Information, Education and Communication Centre" in Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Gramin Vikas Sansthan Jaipur; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be sanctioned after due consideration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj have not received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan to sanction Rs. 377.75 lakh for the establishment of an "Information, Education and Communication Centre" in the Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Gramin Vikas

Sansthan, Jaipur. However, the Ministry of Rural Development have received such a proposal. The proposal was not agreed to by the Departmental Screening Committee of the Ministry in its meeting held on the 29th July, 2004.

Functioning of Lalkoti Works of Burns Standard

3658. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether one industrial cooperative has submitted proposal for the operation of Lalkoti Works, of Burns Standards, Raniganj, West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal has recommended such operation of Lalkoti Works of Burns Standard;

(c) if so, the steps the Government has taken for operation of Lalkoti Works for manufacturing the higher quality of refractories materials; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Department has sought reconciliation of the status of the land from the records relating to Lalkoti works from the Government of West Bengal to facilitate decision in the matter.

Etawah-Guna Railway Line

3659. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action being taken by the Union Government on the proposal of Etawah-Guna railway line sent by Madhya Pradesh Government;

(b) whether the proposal of land acquisition at Jabalpur-Balaghat for gauge conversion on Jabalpur-Gondia railway line is under consideration; and

(c) if so, the time by which the proposal of land acquisition will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Guna-Etawah new line is already a sanctioned project. Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior-Bhind sections have already been completed and

commissioned. The work on last phase of this project from Bhind to Etawah is in progress.

(b) and (c) The land acquisition on Jabalpur-Balaghat section has been processed. The applications for part length have been filed with the State Government and the funds have also been deposited with them.

Closure of Special Monitoring Cell

3660. SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Special Monitoring Cell started in the office of Minister of Railways has been closed down permanently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints/ suggestions received from the common people during the period of the above centre existed; and

(d) the follow-up action taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The complaints/suggestions are examined and remedial measures are taken wherever considered necessary. Action is also taken against the staff found guilty.

Renovation of Railway Stations in Bihar

3661. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway stations situated in Bihar where expansion and renovation works had been started during the last financial year;

(b) if so, the amount spent as on date, station-wise;

(c) the names of the stations where this type of work has either been started or to be started in this financial year;

(d) whether the renovation work has since been completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Names of railway stations in Bihar where expansion and renovation works have been started during the last financial year are - Kishanganj,

Bettiah, Motihari, Gaya, Anugrahanarayan Road, Dehri-on-Sone, Begusarai, Naugachia, Sathajagat, Hathidah, Parsabazar, Shivnar Halt, Hardasbigha, Bankaghat, Kachhania Halt, Gulzarbagh, More, Bela, Makdampur, Dumraon, Athrnaigola, Deepnagar Halt, Baktiarpur, Patna, Patna Saheb, Deedarganj, Dumara Halt, Punpunghat, Punarak, Barh, Karauta, Salimpur, Bihar Bihta, Gidhaur, Chaure, Papapuri, Sheikhpura, Nwada, Rajendra Nagar, Jamui, Nalanda, Chapra, Siwan, Thawe, Daudpur, Kopa Samhota, Gautamsthan, Dighwa Dubauli, Mairwa, Gopalganj, Ekma, Marhaura, Ratansarai, Hathua, Sidhwalia, Masrakh, Abhaipur, Jamalpur, Bhagalpur, Malda Town & Nathnagar.

(b) Expenditure on renovation/expansion works is not maintained station-wise. Total amount spent on these railway stations during the last financial year on renovation/expansion works is Rs. 925.80 lakh.

(c) Names of the stations in Bihar where expansion/renovation works have either been started or to be started in this financial year are - Dugawati, Shivsagar Road, Khudiram Bose Pusa, Hajipur, Darbhanga, Katihar, Chapra, Siwan, Ratansarai, Manjagarh, Hathua, Marhaura, Paterhi, Khairach, Ekchari, Bhagalpur, Malda Town, Pirpainti, Jamalpur, Bikramshila, Abhaipur & Kahalgaon.

(d) and (e) Sanctioned renovation works have been completed at some stations and are at various stages of progress at other stations.

[English]

Foreign Debt with ONGC

3662. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign debts with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) as on date;

(b) the purpose for which ONGC has taken such loan and under what terms and conditions, and

(c) the steps taken by ONGC to refund the loan taken for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The total foreign debt of ONGC as on 17.12.2004 is about Japanese Yen (JPY) 2367 Million, equivalent to Rs. 99.75 crores.

(b) This loan was taken by ONGC from State Bank of India, New York in February, 2000 at an interest rate of 2.60% per annum for refinancing the outstanding amount of

loan aggregating to JPY 4218.60 Million from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (formerly known as Export-Import Bank of Japan) for reducing the cost of debt. The earlier loan availed at an interest rate of 3.04% per annum, was for financing the foreign currency expenditure for expansion of Hazira Gas Terminal, a component of gas flaring reduction Project.

The above loan taken from the SBI, New York is repayable in 20 semi-annual installments of JPY 205.78 Million each, and one final installment of JPY 102.97 Million.

(c) All repayment installments, including the interest thereon are being repaid by ONGC on due dates.

Guarding of Closed Units

3663. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the closure of R/c units of Raniganj and Durgapur on October 31, 2003 Security Service Syndicate, Kolkata was engaged to guard the properties of closed units;

(b) if so, whether the company neither extended the contract to the old security agency nor engaged a new agency from November 01, 2003 and on January 19, 2004;

(c) whether it placed a work order on 'Exservice resettlement society' but the new security agency refused to accept the work order on February 23, 2003 on various grounds;

(d) whether the old security agency are still guarding the properties of the company without any remuneration; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) On 31 st October 2000 all employees of Raniganj Works were separated and to guard the properties of these units from 1st November 2000 M/s. Security and Service Syndicate, Kolkata were engaged by the company.

(b) The contract with M/s. Security & Service Syndicate came to an end on 31st October, 2003. On 19.01.2004 company placed order on M/s. Ex-Servicemen Resettlement Society for providing security from 01.-2.2004.

(c) This agency could not deploy security guards

due to the resistance from the local people and ex-employees of Raniganj group of works.

(d) No Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, question of payment of remuneration does not arise.

[Translation]

Helpful Bacteria in Extracting Oil

3664. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) whether the scientists of Energy and Resource Institute and Oil and Natural Gas Commission have found or developed such bacteria which helps in extracting oil from sick oil wells;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the new technique has been helpful in revival of the sick oil wells;

(e) the existing number of sick oil wells; and

(f) the number out of them which have been benefited by this technique?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi have jointly developed microbes which help in improving the productivity from low producing oil wells. This technique is known as Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR).

ONGC has tried the MEOR technique on an experimental basis in 26 low producing oil wells of Kalol, Limbodra, Sobhasan, North Kadi, Padra, Kosamba oilfields in Gujarat and Badarpur oilfield in Assam.

(d) MEOR technique is applicable for enhanced oil recovery from depleted oil wells and is not applied for revival of sick oil wells.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

**Rail Line Projects in North
Eastern States**

3665. SHRI M. K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to the North East including Assam, a number of rail-line projects were inaugurated, launched or announced; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects and cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On 20.11.2004, Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for Jiribam-Imphal (Tupul) New line project. The anticipated cost of this 97.9 Kms. new line project is Rs. 727.56 crore. An outlay of Rs. 3.00 crore has been provided for the project during the current financial year. Tender for final location survey of the project has been processed. The work will be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Agreement with Pakistan on Fishermen

3666. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with Pakistan on fishermen issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a similar agreement is likely to be signed with Sri Lanka;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of fishermen from Pakistan and Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Navy and Coast Guard carry out regular

surveillance and patrolling along the provisional International Maritime Boundary Line with Pakistan and International Maritime Boundary Line with Sri Lanka to ensure no harassment to our fishermen within Indian waters. A programme aimed at raising awareness amongst Indian fishermen about the implications of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line is also being conducted.

Modification of Gun

3667. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3692, dated August 21, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Bi-Modular Charge System supplied by M/s. Somchem of South Africa has been tested and found technically acceptable for the existing 155 mm FH 77B guns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hi-Modular Charge System supplied by Somchem could be used with the existing fleet of 155 mm FH77B guns without any modifications;

(d) if not, whether the required modifications to these guns have been carried out;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is aware that the UK Government has already cancelled the contract with M/s. Somchem for Bi-Modular Charge System, as it was found defective and unsuitable for their Filed Howitzers; and

(g) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (g) User Trials of Bi-Modular Charge System (BMCS) supplied by M/s Somchem of South Africa were carried out from June-August, 1998 and the BMCS was found technically acceptable for the existing 155 mm / 39 calibre FH 77B guns, after carrying out a minor modification to the loading tray of the gun. For carrying out the modification, a modification kit is required. Modification kits have been received and Joint Receipt Inspection is to be carried out. The Government is not aware whether the UK Government has cancelled a contract with M/s Somchem for the same system.

Concession to Senior Citizens

3668. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended concession facility to senior citizens while travelling in airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the guidelines laid down in this regard;

(c) whether a Senior Citizen is entitled to have concession after showing his Identity Card issued by his parent Office on which his date of birth is also written;

(d) if so, whether the Government would also like to sympathetically consider to give more concessions to senior citizens who are going for pilgrim purposes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Both the public sector airlines are offering special discounts on the basic fare on its domestic routes to senior citizens ranging from 50% to 55% Subject to certain conditions relating to minimum length of stay, advance booking etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The concessional fares offered by both Airlines to senior citizens can be used for pilgrimage purposes also.

Proposal of Airport at Ahmednagar in Maharashtra

3669. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some years back a proposal for setting up an Airport at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra was considered and later on it was kept in abeyance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware that famous Sirdi Sai Baba Mandir, Sani Singnapur Mandir and other world famous religious places are situated in this area and thousands of foreigners every year visit these places;

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to develop an Airport at Ahmednagar to attract more and more foreigners to these religious places; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) had carried out a feasibility study of the proposed site at Ahmednagar. State Government of Maharashtra was requested to provide details of land and other relevant information. Till date availability of land has not been confirmed by the State Government. There is no

request/commitment by any scheduled airline to operate their services through Ahmednagar.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) AAI is exploring the availability of suitable site in the near vicinity of Shirdi for developing an airport.

(e) Does not arise.

Redeployment of Surplus Staff

3670. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in its report No.8 of 2004 (Railways) - para 5.1 has brought out the fact of unproductive expenditure of Rs.3.74 crore due to delay in redeployment of surplus staff;

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. This is in reference to redeployment of surplus staff of Diesel Loco Shed, Mughalsarai.

(b) and (c) The staff of Diesel Shed Mughalsarai have been spared and asked to report at their new places of posting. As on 31.10.2004 no staff has been left for redeployment at Mughalsarai.

[Translation]

Reservation Quota in PSUs

3671. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' employees in Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur, Engineering Projects (India) Limited, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, H.M.T. Bearing Limited and H.M.T. Limited, category-wise;

(b) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in all these undertakings;

(c) whether the vacancies against reservation quota in the above undertakings are filled up fully;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) One of the six Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), namely, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited has since been closed. The information in respect of the remaining five PSEs is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) the time by which the vacancies against reservation quota will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

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Statement

Category-wise position on SC/ST/OBC employees as on 30th September, 2004

S. No.	Subsidiary	Group	Total No. of Employees	SC	ST	OBC	Reasons for not filling/ time by which vacancies to be filled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	A	11157	1394	438	696	There is no backlog in group A and B. However, there is a backlog of 4 SCs, 11 STs in Group C and 1 ST in group D. The company has not been able to fill up these vacancies on account of non-availability of suitable/eligible candidates. The on-going process of such recruitment would continue.
		B	11496	1615	328	212	
		C	18358	4188	870	1487	
		D	2549	825	82	340	
2.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	A	363	57	12	17	The company had been making losses for more than a decade. However, due to financial restructuring of the company has started making marginal net profit from 2000-01. The company had undertaken a manpower rationalization programme in the year 2002 when about 25% of the employees were given VRS and no fresh recruitment has since been undertaken.
		B	45	09	-	01	
		C	40	06	01	01	
		D	15	05	-	01	
3.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	A	659	47	41	79	Vacancies have not been filled up as the company is sick and is in the process of manpower rationalization. BIFR have recommended in July 2004 for winding up of the company.
		B	1027	26	147	109	
		C	1521	164	94	629	
		D	464	73	374	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	HMT (Bearings) Ltd.	A	53	6	-	-	Vacancies have not been filled up as the company is making losses and therefore fresh recruitment is not planned at present.
		B	52	4	-	-	
		C	265	35	-	-	
		D	2	1	-	-	
5.	HMT Ltd. (Holding Company)	A	283	35	1	5	-do-
		B	188	40	4	5	
		C	2036	490	103	18	
		D	5	1	-	-	
Grand Total			50578	9021	2495	3600	

Development of Railway Stations				1	2	3
3672. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:				Enquiry and Computer based announcement	Provided	Provided
(a) whether the Government has decided to develop the Surat and Ajmer Railway stations as a model railway station;				National Train Enquiry System	March 2006	March 2005
(b) if so, the details thereof;				Interactive Voice Response System	Provided	Provided
(c) the details of development work done so far as on date;				Public Address System	Provided	Provided
(d) the details of facilities that would be provided to the Surat and Ajmer Railway stations as a model railway station; and				Book Stalls and other stalls of essential goods	Provided	Provided
(e) the time by which the work of the said model railway stations are likely to be completed?				Refreshment Rooms	Provided	Provided
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to develop these stations as Model Stations.				Parking/circulating area	Provided	Provided
				Provision of washable apron with jet cleaning	Provided	Provided
(c) to (e) A statement is enclosed.				Train Indication Board	Provided	Provided
				Public Telephone and internet	Provided	Provided
Statement				Touch screen National Train Enquiry System	March 2006	March 2005
Details of facilities to be provided at Surat and Ajmer railway stations and the status thereof are as under:				Water Vending Machines	Provided	March 2005
Provision of Amenities				Water Coolers	Provided	Provided
	Surat	Ajmer		Standard Signages	Provided	Provided
	1	2	3	Modular Stalls	October 2005	Provided
Retiring Room	Provided	Provided				
Waiting Rooms	Provided	Provided				
Cloak Room	Provided	Provided				

1	2	3
Automatic Vending Machines	Provided	Provided
Provision of Pay & Use toilets	Provided	Provided
Self Printing Ticket Machines/Unreserved Ticketing	Provided	Provided
Computerisation of complaints	Provided	Provided
Circulating area lights	Provided	Provided

National Gallery of Modern Art

3673. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for constitution of purchasing committee by the National Gallery of Modern Art;

(b) the amount released for purchase of works of

art by the National Gallery of Modern Art for 2003-04 and for 2004-05; and

(c) the works of which artists have been bought and at what price?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Art Purchase Committee is constituted keeping in view that it represents eminent artists from the fields of painting, sculpture, design, photography etc. Joint Secretary concerned in the Ministry and Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi are its ex officio Members.

(b) Year wise budget allocation and expenditure incurred on purchase of art works are as follows:

(Rs. In lacs)		
Year	Budget Allocation	Expenditure incurred
2003-04	65.00	61.89
2004-05	65.00	45.49
		(up to 10.12.04)

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

2003-04

S.No.	Artist's Name	Title/Year	Price (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1	Aruptha Rani Sengupta	Eagle Fly Cycle	35,000.00
2	Aruptha Rani Sengupta	Growing-Passion, 2003	35,000.00
3	Aruptha Rani Sengupta	India Unlimited, 2003	35,000.00
4	Roy Thomas	Anonymous Game-I	35,000.00
5	Jayant Gajera	Unpercivable-V, 2003	15,000.00
6	Jayant Gajera	Unpercivable-VI, 2003	15,000.00
7	Jagdish Chander	Visage, 2004	80,000.00
8	Sumedh Rajendran	House of anceser 2003	80,000.00
9	Sumedh Rajendran	The Bridge: An open text to third reality, 2003	40,000.00
10	Latika katt	Landscape, Field, 1997	300,000.00
11	Shobha Broota	Homage to Solitude-1, 2003	55,000.00
12	Ebenezer Sunder Singh	Senses, 2003	29,376.00

1	2	3	4
13	Ebenezer Sunder Singh	Untitled, 2004	18,360.00
14	Ebenezer Sunder Singh	Untitled, 2004	18,360.00
15	Pratul Dash	Untitled, 2003	5,508.00
16	Pratul Dash	Untitled, 2003	5,508.00
17	John Tun Sein	Untitled, 2003	34,000.00
18	Arindam Chatterjee	Trans Space-3, 2003	21,250.00
19	Rajendra Dhawan	Untitled, 1998	137,700.00
20	Rajendra Dhawan	Untitled, 1986	100,980.00
21	K Jayapala Paniker	Scare Crow, 1995	18,000.00
22	Jayashree Chakravarty	Untitled VIII 2004	216,372.00
23	Hema Upadhyay	The Red End, 2003	79,560.00
24	Hema Upadhyay	Bleeding Hearts	79,560.00
25	Vasudevan Akkitham	Untitled	76,908.00
26	P.G. Dinesh	Untitled	9,715.00
27	P.G. Dinesh	Untitled	9,715.00
28	P.G. Dinesh	Untitled	9,715.00
29	P.G. Dinesh	Untitled	9,715.00
30	P G. Dinesh	Untitled	9,715.00
31	P.G Dinesh	Untitled	9,715.00
32	P.G. Dinesh	Untitled	17,371.00
33	Douglas	Broken Mirror	75,370.00
34	Sajitha R. Shankar	Arche type-I A search through self, 2003	27,000.00
35	Sajitha R. Shankar	Arche type-II A search through self, 2003	27,000.00
36	Sajitha R. Shankar	Arche type-III, 2003	18,000.00
37	Jogen Chowdhury	Untitled	42,500.00
38	Somnath Hore	Untitled, 1983	51,000.00
39	Paritosh Sen	Untitled, 1994	63,750.00
40	Pankaj Panwar	Chess Player, 2001	187,000.00
41	Chintan Upadhaya	Untitled	80,750.00

1	2	3	4
42	Chintan Upadhaya	Untitled	80,750.00
43	KP. Reji	When the house is burning, 2003	63,703.00
44	Riyas Komu	Dog in the Bush-Exclusive, 2003	93,105.00
45	K.P. Reji	Untitled, 2004	58,803.00
46	Prajakta Potnis	Flower Pot, 2004	16,661.00
47	Rekha Rodwittiya	Old Tables New Myths, 2003	161,421.00
48	Reena Saini Kallat	Night Watch, 2003	17,641.00
49	Reena Saini Kallat	Night Watch, 2003	17,641.00
50	Ranbir Singh Kaleka	Untitled, 2000	83,304.00
51	Ranbir Singh Kaleka	Untitled, 2000	83,304.00
52	Sachin Karne	Multiple Night Watch, 2003	115,300.00
53	Sachin Karne	Multiple Night Watch, 2003	115,300.00
54	Amit Ambalal	Gopi Bhaav, 2002	83,304.00
55	Amit Ambalal	Birds of a feather flock together	83,304.00
56	N.S. Harsha	Untitled, 2003	93,105.00
57	Nalini Malani	Untitled, 2004	605,325.00
58	C. Douglas	Key, 2002	75,000.00
59	Devnath Basu	Public Transport Defence Device, 2002	35,000.00
60	Kanchan Dasgupta	Untitled, 2004	110,000.00
61	Amina Ahmed Kar	Untitled	60,000.00
62	Rima Kundu	Family Politics, 2003	5,000.00
63	Rima Kundu	Something behind it, 2003	5,000.00
64	Rima Kundu	Memoories of a Book, 2000	10,000.00
65	Alexander D	Untitled	73,503.00
66	Shankar B. Palsikar	Three graces	8,00,000.00
67	K. G. Subramaniyan	Blue Studio	2,00,000.00
68	Badri Narayan	Untitled	1,44,125.00
69	Laxma Gaud	Untitled	1,61,420.00
70	Vinod Sharma	Untitled	1,61,420.00

1	2	3	4
71	Sudarshan Shetty	Tiger Lily	3,50,000.00
72	Rajashree Karkera	Untitled	12,000.00

2004-05

S.No.	Artist's Name	Title/Year	Price (in Rs.)
1	Samir Aich	The Grey World, 2003	126,225.00
2	Jaya Ganguly	Guarded Joy of Expectation, 1998	121,550.00
3	Anju Dodiya	Ring-II, 2002	210,375.00
4	Atul Dodiya	Desert Halt, 2001	313,225.00
5	Prasanta Sahu	I have heard, people say things exist like bubbles do, 2001	70,125.00
6	Shreyasi Chatterjee	Crossroad-I, 2003	32,725.00
7	Shreyasi Chatterjee	Crossroad-4, 2004	32,725.00
8	Prabhakar Kolte	Untitled	259,424.00
9	Achuttam Kudallur	Untitled	25,943.00
10	Achuttam Kudallur	Untitled	25,943.00
11	Achuttam Kudallur	Untitled	25,943.00
12	Walter Emielio D. Souza	Untitled	12,452.00
13	Walter Emielio D. Souza	Untitled	12,452.00
14	Dilip Dey	The King Maker, 2000	5,000.00
15	Dilip Day	A conversation under the Black Sun, 2000	5,000.00
16	Jeram Patel	Untitled, 2004	216,000.00
17	Jeram Patel	Untitled, 2004	43,200.00
18	Jeram Patel	Untitled, 2004	43,200.00
19	Nasreen Mohamedi	Untitled	23,760.00
20	Nasreen Mohamedi	Untitled	23,760.00
21	Nasreen Mohamedi	Untitled	23,760.00
22	Nagji Patel	Sickle, 2001	43,200.00
23	Kalam Patua	Bosom Friends, 2003	29,160.00
24	Kalam Patua	Photo Studio-I, 2003	24,300.00

1	2	3	4
25	Zarina Hashmi	Cities, 2003	97,200.00
26	Karlo Antao	Frozen Porcupine and the Smirking Donkey, 2003	129,600.00
27	Ambadas Khobragade	Untitled	9,720.00
28	Ambadas Khobragade	Untitled	9,720.00
29	Ambadas Khobragade	Untitled	9,720.00
30	Ambadas Khobragade	Untitled	9,720.00
31	Gobardhan Ash	Under a Tree, 1984	34,560.00
32	Gobardhan Ash	Face, 1995	32,400.00
33	Prabhakar Barwe	Sonali's moon	334,800.00
34	Nikhil Biswas	Untitled, 1961	19,440.00
35	Nikhil Biswas	Untitled, 1964	19,440.00
36	Nikhil Biswas	Untitled, 1963	19,440.00
37	Chitta Prosad	Untitled	9,720.00
38	Chitta Prosad	Untitled	14,580.00
39	Chitta Prosad	Untitled	9,720.00
40	D.P. Roy Chowdhury	Untitled	243,000.00
41	Somnath Hore	Untitled	27,000.00
42	Somnath Hore	Untitled, 1983	16,200.00
43	B.B. Mukherjee	Untitled	48,600.00
44	Kartick Pyne	Monkey, 2003	18,360.00
45	Kartick Pyne	Untitled, 1998	18,360.00
46	Kartick Pyne	Untitled, 1997	18,360.00
47	Kartick Pyne	Untitled, 1998	18,360.00
48	Kartick Pyne	Untitled, 1998	18,360.00
49	Himmat Shah	Untitled	22,950.00
50	Himmat Shah	Untitled	18,360.00
51	Himmat Shah	Untitled	18,360.00
52	Himmat Shah	Untitled	22,950.00
53	Sunayani Devi	Untitled	68,850.00
54	Rabin Mondal	Untitled, 1970	18,360.00

1	2	3	4
55	Rabin Mondal	Untitled, 1970	18,360.00
56	Gopal Sanyal	Pig, 1973	28,350.00
57	Probir Gupta	Phallic Freenzies	224,000.00
58	Mrinalini Mukherjee	From the series "Natural History No. 6" 2000	256,000.00
59	Sudarshan Shatty	Untitled (Gramophone from the series for here or to go)	240,000.00
60	Dayaneta Singh	Masterji series - 1994	340,000.00
61	Subodh Gupta	Three Cows	240,000.00
62	Anil Naik	Portrait of M.F. Hussain	40,000.00
63	Devdatta D. Padekar	Drawing I	6,000.00
64	Rahul T. Vajale	Untitled	6,000.00
65	Sanjay Sawant	Untitled	20,000.00
66	Vaibhav Jain	Man & Woman in bathroom	10,000.00
67	Vanita Gupta	Untitled	15,000.00

Replacement of GRP Personnel by RPF in Trains

3674. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to deploy RPF personnel for the security of trains by replacing GRP;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The deployment of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel for the security of trains is done to supplement efforts of the Government Railway Police in controlling the crime on the Railways.

(c) The increasing trend of crime on the Railways has been a matter of concern. The Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 were suitably amended so that added responsibilities of Security of passengers and passengers area can be handled by the Railway Protection Force also, to complement the efforts of the State Government and the Government Railway Police. Some minor offences under the Railways Act, 1989 were brought within the purview of the Railway Protection Force. These measures

were taken to supplement, not supplant, the Government Railway Police or the Constitutional responsibilities of the State Governments to maintain Law & Order in the Railways. The additional deployment of Railway Protection Force on the trains and strengthening of security in the passenger areas by added presence of Railway Protection Force will enable the Government Railway Police to focus more on serious crimes under the Indian Penal Code and sabotage-related crimes under the Railways Act. An average of 1288 Trains escorting parties is deployed by the Railway Protection Force by diverting the staff from other scheduled duties.

Railway Link Between India and Nepal

3675. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.4996 on April 24, 2003 regarding Rail Link between India and Nepal and state:

- (a) whether the finalisation of Rail Services Agreement to introduce freight train services between India and Nepal is over; and
- (b) if so, the present status of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rail Services Agreement to introduce freight train services between India and Nepal has been executed on 21.5.2004.

The Freight Train Services have also been started w.e.f. 16.7.2004 between India and Nepal on the newly constructed Raxaul-Birgunj section.

Increase in Dealer's Commission

3676. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some requests/representations from HPDA (Haryana Petroleum Dealers Association) for the increase in dealer's commission to make it economically viable;

(b) if so, whether the same has been forwarded to the committee for consideration and comments;

(c) whether the dealer's commission of Reliance Dealer's is higher than the dealer's of oil PSUs; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision on the issue of dealer's commission shall be taken by the Government to enable the PSUs to compete with the private oil marketing companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation has been forwarded to the Committee of Directors (Marketing) of public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) for consideration.

(c) As informed by M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), the Dealer's commission offered by them varies depending upon investments made by the Dealers.

(d) The Committee of Directors (Marketing) of OMCs is looking into the issue of computation of Dealer's commission on petrol and diesel, taking into account issues raised by various Petrol Dealers' Associations, including the Haryana Petroleum Dealers' Association (HPDA). The first preliminary report of the committee is expected by January 2005.

[English]

Transfer of Land

3677. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Orissa to transfer certain defence land in Berhampur, Orissa for construction of a Sports Complex;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 17.63 acres of defence land at Berhampur (Orissa) known as Barrack Ground, 8.50 acres was transferred to the State Government of Orissa on 28.7.1986 for the construction of a stadium etc. The State Government also requested for transfer of the remaining 9.13 acres of defence land for completion of Berhampur Stadium.

(c) The request was examined in the Ministry and they were informed that the Ministry of Defence had no objection to the transfer of the remaining 9.13 acres of land, provided the State Government gave alternative land of equal value within the municipal limits of Berhampur to the defence in exchange, and also agreed to pay the cost of assets built on the said land. A request has now been received from the State Government for transfer of the land in question free of cost.

[Translation]

Complaints against Backward Class Division

3678. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints against the Backward Class Division of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has enquired into these complaints;

(d) if so, the finding of enquiry; and

(e) the action taken/to be taken by the Government to set things right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. One complaint has been received.

(b) The complaint is against the functioning of Minorities and Backward Classes Division especially the Sections dealing with Wakfs and Maulana Azad Education Foundation.

(c) to (e) Yes. The allegations could not be substantiated.

Meeting of National Development Council

3679. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Planning Commission in pursuance of the decisions taken in the National Development Council meeting held on December, 21, 2002 to set up an empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council on finance and administrative empowerment of PRIs with Minister of Rural Development as its Chairperson;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of sittings of the said Committee have been held so far in the State of West Bengal;

(d) the decisions/recommendations/observations made in the aforesaid sittings particularly for the State of West Bengal; and

(e) the follow up action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) On 31st March, 2003, an Empowered Sub-Committee on Financial and Administrative Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions was set up by Planning Commission in pursuance to the decision taken in the National Development Council, with the Minister of Rural Development as the Chairperson and the Minister of Finance and Company Affairs, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Minister of Tribal Affairs and Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan as its members.

The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee include, inter alia:

- (i) to review the action taken by State Governments for empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as per 73rd Constitution Amendment Act so that they can function as effective institutions of local self-governments;
- (ii) to work out modalities for strengthening the financial domain of the PRIs through transfer of resources from the Centre and State Governments;
- (iii) to assess the capacity of the PRIs to raise

revenues and other resources and to develop an action plan in this regard;

- (iv) to analyse the capability of PRIs at different levels to absorb the financial allocation made to the PRIs under different schemes and to develop a framework to ensure fiscal discipline and financial accountability at different levels of PRIs;
- (v) to indicate measures needed to be taken to ensure administrative control of the PRIs over the State Government functionaries dealing with subjects listed in the XIth Schedule of the Constitution;
- (vi) to evolve a framework for preparation and projectisation of local plans that reflect the felt needs and aspirations of the people so that development process becomes a people's movement;
- (vii) to assess the training requirements and work out training models/pattern for elected PRI functionaries and Government officials including the PRIs staff; and
- (viii) to work out a mechanism for linking the Central assistance to State with progress on empowerment of PRIs.

Two meetings of the Committee have already been held under the Chairmanship of Minister (RD) at New Delhi on 26th June, 2003 and 7th August, 2003.

(c) No meeting of the Empowered Sub Committee has been held in the State of West Bengal.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Issue of Caste Certificate to SCs

3680. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms laid down for issuance of caste certificate to the SCs and the name of issuing authority;
- (b) the norms for issuing caste certificate to the person of a caste included in the Central list residing anywhere in India; and
- (c) the original order, instruction and direction therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) In accordance with Article 341 (1) of the Constitution of India, the communities have been specified as Scheduled Castes in respect of a State/Union Territory in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, as amended from time to time. As such, there is no central list specifying a community as a Scheduled Caste throughout the country.

Statement

The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued instructions to the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations vide their letter No. 35/1/72-RU (SCT-V) dated 02.05.1975, letter No. BC 12025/2/76-SCT-I dated 22.03.1977 and Letter No. BC. 16014/1/82-SC&BCD-I dated 06.08.1984 on the subject matter of issue of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe certificates according to which, where a person claims to belong to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe it should be verified:-

- (i) that the person and his parents actually belong to the community claimed;
- (ii) that the community is included in the Presidential Orders specifying the Scheduled Castes in relation to the concerned State;
- (iii) that the person belongs to that State and to the area within that State in respect of which the community has been scheduled;
- (iv) if the person claims to be a Scheduled Caste, he should profess either the Hindu or the Sikh or the Buddhist religion;
- (v) if the person claims to be a Scheduled Tribe he may profess any religion;
- (vi) that he should be permanent resident on the date of notification of the Presidential Order applicable in his case.

Following Authorities have been empowered to issue Scheduled Castes certificates:-

1. District Magistrate/Additional District Magistrate/Collector/Deputy Commissioner/Additional Deputy Commissioner/Deputy Collector/1st Class Stipendiary Magistrate/City Magistrate/Sub-Divisional Magistrate/Taluka Magistrate/Executive Magistrate/Extra Assistant Commissioner.

(* not below the rank of 1st Class Stipendiary Magistrate)

2. Chief Presidency magistrate/ Additional Chief Presidency Magistrate/ Presidency magistrate.
3. Revenue Officers not below the rank of Tehsildar.
4. Sub-Divisional Officer of the area where the candidate and/or his family normally resides.
5. Administrator/Secretary to Administrators/ Development Officer (Lakshadweep Islands).

Encroachment of Land of Satna Airport

3681. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the encroachment on the land of Satna airport in Madhya Pradesh and non-existence of its boundary;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government for the protection of the airport; and

(c) the category of the Satna airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The airport at Satna belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and is a non-operational airport. Fencing was provided but broken at most of the places and is being repaired. There are twelve cases of encroachment involving 150 acres of land at Satna airport for which AAI has filed civil suits in Courts. AAI is undertaking necessary action for protection of the airport by repairing, fencing and deploying necessary watch and ward staff.

Gaya-Delhi Flight

3682. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is consider to start Gaya-Delhi flight to help national and International Tourists:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air

transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-Eastern region. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines.

FM Station at Darjeeling (W.B.)

3683. SHRI D. NARBULA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Frequency Modulated All India Radio Station for Darjeeling was sanctioned in 1993;
- (b) whether project has not been implemented so far;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The project could not be implemented due to non-availability of the site.

(d) The site for the FM station has since been acquired. The FM Station at Darjeeling is expected to be completed during the 10th Plan period.

Connecting Manugur and Kirandele Broad Gauge Line

3684. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to connect the Manugur in Andhra Pradesh and Kirandele (Chhattisgarh) the 147 Km. Broad gauge line, to minimise the cost of transportation of the key raw material coal and Iron ore, to enhance the Industrial growth;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken so far in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No survey has yet been done for the proposed line to assess the technical feasibility, its cost and viability.

Repair of Rail Track

3685. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.443 on December 02, 2004 and state:

- (a) the amount spent on the repair work of Jhansi-Banda-Manikpur and Banda to Kanpur rail track during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the speed of trains (per KM per hour) running on this track at present;
- (c) whether the rail track of Jhansi-Banda-Manikpur and Banda-Kanpur is considered to the worst rail track in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government are contemplating any plan to develop Bundelkhand rail track;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The maximum permissible speed of the section is 100 km per hour as per the route classification.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Repair and maintenance of railway track in all section, is an on-going activity. For ensuring safety of traffic, track is inspected regularly and corrective maintenance action taken promptly wherever required. Track renewals are also undertaken depending upon the need subject to availability of funds.

Control on Schools by Panchayati Raj Institutions

3686. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide more teeth to Panchayati Raj institutions to control the administrative machinery including schools and village level Government employees; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) All the States and Union

Territories where the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act is applicable, except Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chandigarh and Pondicherry, have devolved a number of functions to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) but in varying degrees. A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Rural development and Panchayati Raj on Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj was organized at New Delhi on 29-30 June, 2004 jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Conference decided to hold seven Round Table Conference to formulate a draft action plan towards achieving the objective of the strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to become true institutions of self-government for the planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution. The first Round Table Conference was held at Kolkata on 24-25 July, 2004 on the subject of "Panchayati Raj: Effective Devolution" relating to measures to be taken towards the effective devolution of Functions (which includes schools), Functionaries (which includes village level Government employees) and Finances to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj System, as well as the effective empowerment of Gram Sabhas. It was agreed that effective devolution is predicated on Activity Mapping of Institutions to each of the three tiers and that, to this end, efforts would be made to complete Activity Mapping within the current fiscal year, with technical assistance where required from the Centre. The conclusions arrived at by consensus at the first Round Table Conference, which the Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj agreed to recommend to their respective Governments for joint acceptance by the Centre and States, is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

First Round Table of Ministers-in-charge of Panchayati Raj - Kolkata

24-25th July, 2004

Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj, and their representatives, bearing in mind the spirit of cooperative federalism which must inform the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj as set out in Para IX of the Constitution of India and related provisions, including in particular, Article 243ZD (District Planning Committees), agreed to recommend to their respective Governments, for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, the following points of action:-

Effective Devolution of Functions:

- (i) The Constitution (Article 243G) provides for "devolution", that is, the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to function as institutions of self-government for the twin

purposes of (i) making plans for economic development and social justice for their respective areas, and (ii) implementing programmes of economic development and social justice in their respective areas, for subjects devolved to the PRIs, including those listed in the Eleventh Schedule, and subject to such conditions as the State may, by law, specify. Therefore, the key objective is to ensure that Panchayati Raj Institutions function as institutions of Self-government rather than as mere implementing agencies for other authorities in respect of such functions as may be devolved on them;

- (ii) While devolution must eventually comprise the entire range of subjects provided for in the State legislation in a time-bound manner, States/UTs may prioritize their devolution programme to ensure that for such functions as are prioritized, there is full and effective devolution in empowering PRIs as institutions of self-government in respect of these functions;
- (iii) To this end, the essential step is the identification of activities related to the devolved functions with a view to attributing each of these activities to the appropriate tier of the 3-tier system. To the extent possible, there should be no overlapping between tiers in respect of any given activity;
- (iv) In determining the tier of the Panchayati Raj System to which any given activity is to be attributed the principle of subsidiarity must, to the extent possible, be followed. The principle of subsidiarity states that any activity which can be undertaken at a lower level must be undertaken at that level in preference to being undertaken at any higher level;
- (v) On the basis of the identification of activities relating to devolved functions, and through the application of the principle of the subsidiarity, States/UTs may review/undertake time bound activity mapping with a view to completing this exercise within the fiscal year 2004-05;
- (vi) The activity mapping model as evolved in the Ministry of Rural Development in the Report of the Task Force on Devolution of Powers and Functions upon Panchayati Raj Institutions, and the information provided about existing State-wise activity mapping in

the Fact Sheets presented to the Round Table, might be drawn upon by State Governments/UT Administrations for preparing their respective activity mapping exercises;

- (VII) The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj could, on request, furnish technical assistance and expertise to State Govts./UT Administrations to accomplish activity mapping within the time-frame indicated;
- (VIII) With a view to promoting a measure of irrevocability of devolved functions, devolution may be effected through legislative measures or, alternatively, by providing a strong legislative framework for devolution through executive orders.

Effective Devolution of Functionaries:

- (I) The devolution of functionaries to the Panchayati Raj Institutions should be patterned on the activity mapping of activities related to devolved functions;
- (II) Where the devolved activity requires the deputation of State Government officials to assist the elected PRI in planning or implementing the devolved activity, the officials concerned must be primarily responsible to, and under the disciplinary supervision and control of, the elected authority;
- (III) With a view to building a cadre of officials and technocrats specialized in the devolved functions of the PRIs, State Governments/UT Administrations may consider instituting a Panchayati Raj Administrative and Technical Service, with the State Government discontinuing further recruitment of staff to State services for such devolved functions;
- (IV) (i) Reconceiving the role of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) as an important instrument for Panchayati Raj development through the progressive merger of DRDAs with the District Panchayats. The technical expertise and other facilities of the DRDAs should become available to all tiers of the PRIs under the overall responsibility and disciplinary control of the elected authority in the PRIs at the appropriate level;

- (ii) The activities of the reconceived DRDAs with respect to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system should be patterned on the activity map for the devolution of functions, functionaries and funds so that all the three tiers of PRIs have equitable access to the resources, expertise, facilities and manpower of the DRDAs.

Effective Devolution of Finances:

- (I) The "sound finances" of the Panchayats is a Constitutional obligation enjoined on the States by Article 243-I. In pursuance of this Constitutional obligation, the States and the Centre, in a true spirit of fiscal federalism, should work together to strengthen the finances of the elected local bodies;
- (II) To this end, the devolution of finances to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj System should be patterned on activity mapping for the devolution of functions and functionaries, thus securing effective devolution of powers to the PRIs through the linking of the devolution of finances to the devolution of functions and functionaries;
- (III) On the basis of the principles adumbrated above, the State Governments might attempt to prepare a road map, to be made effective as soon as possible, and, in any case, by the end of the next fiscal year 2005-06, which might include the following components:
- (i) Devolution, tier-wise and based on activity mapping, of:
- (a) Planning;
- (b) Budgeting;
- (c) Provisioning of finances.
- (ii) Inclusion of a PRI component in the budget of each State/Central Government department based on activity mapping;
- (iii) Provision of progressively larger untied funds, tier-wise, to the Panchayats by State/Central governments;
- (iv) Provision of untied grants from the Planning Commission to the PRIs, tier-wise, based on activity mapping;

- (v) Tier-wise allocations, based on activity mapping of the PRIs, of hitherto unallocated grants, if any, made by previous Finance Commissions, and a pre-determined pattern for the tier-wise allocation within a time bound framework of grants from the 12th and future Finance Commissions;
- (vi) A schedule, to be determined by each State Government/UT Administration, of the time-frames within which State Finance Commissions should prepare their reports; for the submission of State Finance Commission recommendations, along with Action Taken Reports (ATRs), to the Legislature; and for the executive to act on recommendations/ATRs endorsed by the State Legislature;
- (vii) Steps to encourage PRIs to raise their own resources, especially through the provision to "appropriate" revenues raised by them for their own purposes (Article 243-H).
- as also holding the elected Ward representative responsible to the adult population in each Ward;
- (ii) The periodicity of meetings of Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas;
- (iii) Provision for full and satisfactory consultation with special or disadvantaged categories of the population, such as women, SC/ST, landless labourer etc.;
- (iv) Provision for Mahila Sabha meetings, comprising all the adult women of a Ward/Gram Panchayat area, to deliberate upon, and decide the modalities of, expressing their views in the Gram/Ward Sabhas;
- (v) Endowing the Gram/Ward Sabha with meaningful empowerment through such measures as:
- (a) Right/entitlement to all the information required for the Gram/Ward Sabhas to contribute to transparent and good governance, as well as to make the elected Panchayat truly answerable to the Gram/Ward Sabha;

Gram Sabhas:

- (I) Article 243-A of Part IX of the Constitution provides for the establishment of Gram Sabhas to "exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide";
- (II) A strong system of Gram Sabhas is the indispensable foundation of good governance through Panchayati Raj;
- (III) Based on the two principles stated above, State Governments may review the extant legislation to determine the legislative and other steps which remain to be taken to ensure that the "powers" and "functions" mentioned in Article 243A of the Constitution are adequately incorporated in the State legislation. In particular, the following points may be examined:-
- (i) The need for constituting Sabhas below the Gram level (such as Gram Sansad, Upa-Gram Sabha or Ward Sabha, by whatever name called) with the aim of ensuring that the adult population in each ward is given the opportunity of conveying to the Gram Sabha their views on issues coming up for consideration
- (b) Approve before implementation commences, plans and programmes (including budgets) for economic development and social justice prepared by the Gram Panchayat;
- (c) Authorize the issuance of utilization certificates of funds allocated for the plans, projects or programmes of the Panchayat;
- (d) Identification of beneficiaries.
- (vi) Such social audit measures may also be appropriately institutionalized at the Block and District level.

Construction of Bridge in MP

3687. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding construction of rail overbridge near Sihor town in Madhya Pradesh from the State Government; and
- (b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Over-Bridge at Rangpur Road in Kota

3688. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with regard to construction of overbridge being constructed at Rangpur road in Kota (Rajasthan);

(b) the details of works being taken up by the Railways and the State Government of Rajasthan separately in relation to construction of the said bridge and the expenditure already incurred on this; and

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of the work and time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work of Road Over Bridge at Kota in lieu of Level Crossing No.109 on Rangpur Road was sanctioned during 1996-97 on cost sharing basis with Railway's share of cost as Rs. 565 lakh and State Government's share as Rs. 590 lakh. Railway is executing the bridge proper (bridge over the Railway line), and approach work by State Government. Sub structure of the bridge proper on Railway portion has already been completed and casting work of girder is in progress. Progress of Railway portion is 60% and progress of approaches is 90%. Total expenditure on Railway portion of work upto 31.5.2004 is approximately Rs. 250.75 lakh. Progress of bridge proper was affected due to some contractual problems during execution, which is now resolved. All efforts shall be made by Railway to complete its portion of work alongwith approaches by State Govt.

Cyber Cafes and Telecom Centres at Railway Stations

3689. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide cyber cafe and telecom centres at railway stations particularly at all Railway stations of Western Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith name of stations selected for providing such facilities; and

(c) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided at all the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. All stations are not planned for providing cyber cafe and telecom centres. Ministry of Railways have authorized RailTel to set up cyber cafes, having telecom facilities such as Internet, Email, Audio/ Video chatting, Internet, telephony etc., on franchise basis at important stations only in phased manner. RailTel plans to provide 51 such cafes in phase-I out of total 279 cafes planned on Indian Railways which include 7 cyber cafes in phase-I out of 22 cyber cafes planned on Western Railway.

(b) These cafes will be provided on franchisee basis and on an average, a cyber cafe will cost around Rs. 6 to 7 lakh. However, the expenditure on this account will be met by the franchisee. Railway would provide space/land area only at Railway Stations with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Connectivity. Names of the stations of Western Railway which are under consideration in phase-I are: Churchgate, Vadodara, Mumbai Central, Ahmedbad, Dadar, Borivili and Bandra.

(c) Phase-I is likely to be completed in this financial year and phase-II will follow thereafter.

[English]

Timely Payment to Suppliers

3690. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI P. S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) does not pay on time for the supplies made to them despite availing of significant discounts to the market prices and extension of negotiated credit from suppliers;

(b) whether the CSD does not pay any interest to suppliers for overdue payments delayed beyond agreed period of credit;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) settles dues of suppliers not on basis of date of supply plus agreed period of credit but on discretionary basis leading to favouritism and corruption for out of turn payments;

(e) if so, the reasons for not considering an IT enable system of payments to check/control abuse of power at lower level of CSD organization;

(f) the steps the Government intends to take to remedy the situation and to make the payment system more accountable and transparent;

(g) the current overdue payments of CSD in the aggregate as on October 1, 2004; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to clear the overdues?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (h) The payment system in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) is transparent. The mode of payment in the CSD is clearly laid out in the terms & conditions of the supply order entered into with the suppliers. The payment is released after 30 working days, from the date of delivery of goods, subject to budgetary allocation and availability of funds. The suppliers are by and large satisfied with the time and mode of payment. The discounts to the market prices and extension of negotiated credit given by the suppliers is as per the norms of the trade. It is also keeping in view the basic aim of the CSD, that is, to make goods available to the jawans, at prices less than the market.

The CSD does not pay any interest to the suppliers for overdue payments. No case has come to notice of the Government, in the recent past, of suppliers seeking interest on overdue payments.

Payments to the suppliers are not made on discretionary basis but is by and large as per the date of delivery of goods by the supplier.

CSD has taken up a Computerization Programme in which all branches of its Head Office at Mumbai, have been computerized. In the second phase, all the 35 depots of the CSD will be on line. This will enable faster linking and clearing of the bills submitted to the various depots, thereby bringing in more accountability and transparency.

The overdue payment of CSD, in the aggregate, as on 1st October 2004, was Rs. 298.81 Crores. Continuous efforts are made to obtain full budgetary allocation to clear the outstanding dues.

[Translation]

Payment System in CSD

3691. SHRI V. K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment system in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) is not transparent and does not protect the interests of the industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to consider a comprehensive CAG audit of the CSD system in general and payment systems in particular to eliminate risks of favouritism and corruption from an arm of the defence forces; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The payments system in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) is transparent. It is not proposed to consider comprehensive CAG audit as the office of CAG, already carries out regular Audit of CSD through a Resident Audit Cell. The CSD is also internally audited by the office of the Controller General of Defence Accounts which helps further in transparent functioning of the CSD.

Science and Technology Channel

3692. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to start a channel exclusively for science and technology using the EDUSAT Satellite launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the aim and area likely to be covered by the said channel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that they have no plans for starting an exclusive science & technology channel.

Excavation in Chechar

3693. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASI has excavated a site situated in village Chechar in Vaishali District and cultures of Chalcolithic/Neolithic period and onwards have been brought to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ASI had conceived an idea to protect this site but due to continuous erosion of bank of river Ganga it is facing difficulties;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to protect this important site; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not protecting this site?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken excavations at Chechar, District

Vaishali, Bihar. Excavations yielded cultural sequence from the Neolithic (circa third millennium B.C.) to the Kushan and Gupta periods (circa sixth century B.C.), with occasional gaps. Medieval glazed ware was also located on the surface of the site.

(c) to (e) The matter is under consideration for protection of the site by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Construction of Subways under All the Platforms of Ghaziabad

3694. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a lot of rush of passengers at Ghaziabad Railway Station and the width of the main overbridge from Railway Reservation side to Vijay Nagar side of overbridge is very narrow for passengers using all the sides platforms at the station;

(b) whether as a result of congestion, passengers generally cross railway lines to reach different platforms;

(c) whether the Government is considering construction of subways under all the platforms of Ghaziabad Railway Station;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the work will be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Two Foot-over-Bridges 4.00 m and 6.10 m wide are existing at Ghaziabad which are sufficient to cater to the present level of traffic.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing two Foot-over-Bridges at Ghaziabad are sufficient to cater to the present level of traffic at this station.

Petro-Chemical Units

3695. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public oil companies while supplying feed stock to various petrochemical units follow import parity pricing mechanism;

(b) if so, any new duties/Special Additional Duty

(SAD) imposed/introduced by the Union Government on certain products is passed on to the customers by the oil companies;

(c) whether the Government are aware that if any new duties/Special Additional Duty (SAD) is withdrawn/reduced through notification on certain instances is not passed on by the oil companies to the industry (petrochemical industry) finally it is passed on the customers by the industry;

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government against the oil companies for not implementing the Notification No.6/2004-Customs dated 8.1.2004 properly;

(e) whether there is any proposal to give compensation to the industry;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are supplying various petroleum products as feedstocks to petrochemical units. OMCs are following a import parity pricing mechanism for supply of Naptha and polypropylene feedstocks (PPFS) to petrochemical units, For Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB), the pricing is as per the mutually agreed commercial terms based on products specifications. The price of Natural Gas supplied by GAIL India Limited, a PSU, as feedstock to petrochemicals units is a floating price linked to an international basket of fuel oils that is fixed quarterly as per the methodology laid down in a Gas Pricing Order dated the 18th September, 1997. The price of C2-C3 mix supplied by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited is based on the monthly Saudi Aramco contract price for propane on FOB basis. Oil India Limited (OIL) is supplying natural gas at a concessional gas price plus applicable royalty and sales tax.

(b) The duties and levies have been passed on to the customers by the OMCs as per the Government notification.

(c) All the reduction in the duties as applicable have been passed on to the customers by OMCs as per the Government notification.

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

(e) to (g) The PSU oil companies have informed the Ministry that they are extending all the concession/reduction applicable as per Government notifications/orders and as provided by mutual contractual agreements. If any specific

contravention is brought to the attention of the Government, it shall be investigated.

Survey of Gunupur to Rayagada

3696. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had conducted preliminary survey from Gunupur to Rayagada missing link railway line under East Coast Zone;

(b) if so, the funds provided for above survey of B.G. line and techno-economic survey to be undertaken and the time fixed for completion of the survey; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not accorded to this proposed B.G. line for survey and extension of line from Gunupur Railway Station to Rayagada junction railway station to link the missing link of this B.G. line thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey had been done during 1997-98 for extension of Naupada-Gunupur line from Gunupur to Theruvali (on Rayagada-Tittlagarh section), as per which the cost of this extension was assessed as Rs. 124.16 crore at the then price level. The proposal could not be considered due to acute constraint of resources and heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects.

Flight from Chennai

3697. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to increase international flights from Chennai International Airport to various countries;

(b) if so, the details of international flights going/coming to the above-mentioned airport from various countries; and

(c) the number of Air India flights from Chennai to Colombo, Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Under the Air Services Agreements entered into by India, designated airlines of 19 countries are having traffic rights for operations to Chennai. Presently 12 foreign airlines are operating a total of 67 international flights per week from their respective countries to Chennai. Indian Airlines is connecting Chennai to Bangkok, Colombo, Dubai, Fujairah, Kuala Lumpur, Kuwait, Muscat, Ras-Al-Khaimah, Sharjah and Singapore. Air India is also operating to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Kuwait to/from Chennai.

(c) Air India is not operating from Chennai to Colombo. However Indian Airlines is operating a daily flight between Chennai and Colombo. Sri Lankan Airlines is also operating 15 flights per week between these two destinations.

Direct Train between New Delhi-Pondicherry

3698. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is no direct train from Delhi to Pondicherry;

(b) whether the Government is aware that there is no Express fast train from Chennai to the neighbouring Union Territory of Pondicherry; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, 2651/2652 Nizamuddin-Madurai Tamil Nadu Sampark Kranti Express (bi-weekly) and 2641/2642 Nizamuddin-Kanniyakumari Tirukkural Express (weekly) have been provided with stoppage at Villupuram which is 38 kms, away from Pondicherry. 103/104 Passenger is providing direct convenient service between Chennai Egmore and Pondicherry. The proposal for introduction of slip coach service between Chennai Egmore and Pondicherry by Express train is under examination and action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

[English]

Purchase of Stationery

3699. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 415 dated 02-12-2004 regarding uniform policy to scrap all other purchase procedure and state:

(a) whether the Government has relaxed the provisions of GFRs in the matter of purchase of stationery and other items and has made it incumbent on all the Government offices, corporations and institutions financed and controlled by the Government to purchase stationery and other items from NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar only;

(b) if so, the reasons for the railways making small value local purchases of stationery and other items from NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar and the steps taken to ensure strict observance of the Government orders on the subject of local purchases of stationery and other items; and

(c) the details of the small value local purchases of stationery and other items made from NCCF during each of the last 12 months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Employees of AIR and Doordarshan

3700. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:

SHRI SURESH KURUP:

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA:

SHRI SURVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the employees of All India Radio and Doordarshan are being denied the benefits of Government employees though they continue as employees of the Government;

(b) if so, specify the status of the employees of both these organizations;

(c) whether the employees of All India Radio and Doordarshan are agitating over the issues they face due to the ambiguities prevailing after the commencement of Prasar Bharati; and

(d) if so, the action the Government intends to do to address the issues?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The services of all the government servants of Akashwani and Doordarshan have been placed on deemed deputation basis to Prasar Bharati without deputation allowance on existing terms and conditions with effect from 1.4.2000. All employees of Akashwani and Doordarshan continue to be Govt. servants till their formal absorption in Prasar Bharati. However, recently Directorate of Estates has discontinued fresh allotment of quarters to Prasar Bharati employees.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The issues raised are receiving the attention of the Government. Prasar Bharati is in the process of finalising Recruitment Rules & service conditions for different categories of staff.

Advertisement Industry

3701. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the advertisement industry showed a dismal performance during the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total share of the Union Government in advertisements out of total advertisement business at present; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase its share in the growth of advertisement industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The advertising industry is mainly in private hands and is overseen by the Advertising Standards Council of India, a self-regulatory body of the advertising industry and Advertising Agencies Association of India. The Ministry of I&B does not monitor the growth and performance of the advertising industry. The primary objective of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), a Government media organisation, is to secure the widest possible coverage of the Government's schemes, programmes, policies and achievements on various social issues. During the period 2003-04, DAVP issued advertisements worth Rs.159.15 crores as compared to Rs. 100.14 crores in the year 2002-03.

Ticket Availability in Konkan Kanya Train

3702. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the passengers in Konkan Kanya train running between Goa and Mumbai are from Maharashtra (upto Ratnagiri sector) and people of Goa cannot avail of this train for lack of available ticket; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Adequate number of tickets for Konkan Kanya Express are available all over India through computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and passengers are availing the services including Goans without any regional distinctions on first come first served basis.

**Rules for Posting of Army
Officers to MES**

3703. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Army Officers are posted to MES on tenure basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not framing/guidelines for posting of Army Officers in MES; and
- (d) the time by which the such comprehensive rules/guidelines are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Army Officers are posted to Military Engineer Service (MES) in accordance with provisions of Statutory Rules and Orders (SRO) 19E which provides that "The Military Engineer Services comprise of officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and other Ranks of the Corps of Engineers and Civilian personnel". No tenure is prescribed for posting them.

(b) The SRO 19E specifies number of posts and proportion or percentage of posts of Army Officers in the MES.

(c) In view of the provisions of SRO 19E, there is no need to frame guidelines for posting of army officers in MES.

(d) In view of answer to part (c) above, the question does not arise.

Extension of Railway Network

3704. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any letter from the rail users or Member of Parliament regarding extension of Railway network, change of time table of some trains and change of name of some trains in respect of some freedom fighters etc., in Jharkhand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of each and every demand received is not maintained. However, some of the recent requests received regarding extension of railway network, change of time table of some train and change of name of some trains in respect of some freedom fighters along with their status in Jharkhand are as under:-

Demand	Status
1	2
Construction of Korba-Lohardaga new line.	A survey for Korba-Lohardaga new line was conducted in 2001-02. As per results of the survey, cost of the 326 kms long line had been assessed as Rs.621.67 crore with a rate of return of 7.25%. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, proposal could not be taken up for consideration.
Construction of new rail line between Barwadih and Chirimiri	Chirimiri-Bishrampur is already an existing Broad Gauge line. Bishrampur-Ambikapur new BG line is an approved work which is in Progress. As per results of the survey conducted in 2001-02, cost of 182 kms long line had been assessed as Rs.406.86 crore with a rate of return of 4.85%, In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, proposal could not be taken up for consideration.
Construction of rail line from Tata Nagar to Ranchi via Chandil-Namkom	Survey for new line from Ranchi to Kandra is in progress. Survey for a new Broad Gauge line from Kandra to Namkom has been included in Budget 2004-05. Further consideration of the proposals would be possible once the results of surveys become available.
Construction of Chatra-Gaya line	A survey has been included in Budget 2004-05. Further consideration of the proposal would be feasible once results of survey become available.
Daily running and change in the timing of Vananchal Express	Examined and not found feasible due to operational constraints.

1

2

Extension of Vikramshila
Express to Sahebgani

Examined and not found feasible due to operational constraints.

Renaming of Vananchal
Express as Siddu Kanhu
Express

As a matter of policy, Railways do not name trains after personalities.

Financial Losses to Railway

3705. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to Para 3.1.5 of C&AG Report No.9 of 2001 (Railways) - page 121-123 regarding "non-realisation of 'to pay' surcharge on coal consignment" and state:

- (a) the details of the action taken thereon;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to apportion the blame and to fix the accountability and responsibility of the officials concerned for causing financial loss to the Railways; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Comptroller and Auditor General vide Audit Para No.3.1.5 of its report No.9 of 2001 (Railways) had reported regarding non-recovery of To-Pay surcharge of Rs.8.97 crore levied on coal consignments booked to Power Houses of Gujarat Electricity Board, as Gujarat Electricity Board had refused to pay the surcharge amount. The amount has since been recovered by Western Railway and Action Taken Note duly vetted by Audit has since been furnished to the Public Accounts Committee.

(b) and (c) As no loss has occurred to the Railways, responsibility has not been fixed.

Subsidy on Petrol to Disabled Persons using Motorised Vehicles

3706. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a scheme regarding claims/payments to subsidies on purchase of petrol/diesel by disabled persons who are owning motorised vehicles;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme and how it is implemented;
- (c) the beneficiaries of this scheme for the last three years with State-wise breakup and the amount spent under this scheme;

(d) whether the Government has received complaints that the State Governments are not implementing the scheme in a manner that benefits the disabled;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) There is no central scheme in operation for providing subsidies to disabled persons for the purchase of petrol/diesel.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Training Institute for MES Officials

3707. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no training institute for officers and subordinate staff of MES;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to establish training institute for officers and subordinate staff of MES, separately; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A training institute, namely College of Military Engineering exists at Pune which imparts training to MES officers and subordinate staff. In addition, training facilities for MES officers and staff are available at three training centers at Bangalore, Roorkee and Kirkee, and at the five Chief Engineer Commands.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Submarine Imbalance

3708. SHRI MILIND DEORA:

SHRI S. D. MANDLIK:

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Navy Chief has expressed concern over submarine imbalance as a result of acquisition of capabilities to manufacture the most modern French Agosta-90B submarines by Pakistan;

(b) whether recent American billion-dollar arms bonanza for Pakistan including 8 more P-3C Orion Aircraft and over 2000 TOW-2A missiles has further created imbalance in the area;

(c) whether the Navy Chief has also briefed the Defence Minister of his fears; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to meet the challenge in case of escalation of hostilities and upgrade and manufacture submarines/under water fleet?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Chief of Naval Staff in his press conference on 1st December 2004 stated that restoration of our submarine building capability is a top priority. The reported sale of P-3C Orion aircraft to Pakistan is expected to increase the strength of their Navy substantially.

Adequate steps are being taken by the Government for enhancing the capabilities of Indian Navy keeping in view the threat perception and the external strategic environment by upgrading our capabilities through planned induction of ships, aircraft and equipment.

Search for American Fliers

3709. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has made any request to seek Indian Air force assistance to search American fliers missing over the Indian side of the Himalaya during World War-II;

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

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request relates to seeking Indian assistance to search for American fliers missing over Indian territory during World War-II.

(c) We are awaiting certain details from the US Embassy. No decision has therefore, been taken, as yet.

Recruitment of Militants

3710. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has recruited several militants who had surrendered;

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

(c) whether these surrendered militants have been recruited on the basis of competitive examinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Militants have not been recruited in the regular Army. However, some militants who volunteered or surrendered have been recruited in one Battalion of Territorial Army which is not a regular Army unit.

(c) and (d) The recruitment was through competitive examinations including physical tests and medical examinations.

**Recognition of SC Castes
in States**

3711. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Namasudra, Poundra and Mato, Bengali Scheduled Castes have still not been recognized by the Government as Scheduled Castes in their respective States of migration and resettlement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) As per provisions of Article 341 of the

Constitution, lists of Scheduled Castes are notified for a State/Union Territory.

As regard inclusion of Namasudia, Poundra and Majhi (not Mato) communities in the list of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttaranchal, the concerned States Governments had been requested to furnish the ethnographic details. No time frame can however, be assigned in the matter, as the proposals require consultation with various agencies and that any amendment in the list of Scheduled Castes can be done only by an Act of Parliament in view of provision of Article 341(2) of the Constitution of India.

Upgradation Plan

3712. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways has mooted Rs.24,000 crore upgradation plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to adhere to the time schedule for completion of such works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, the Railways has formulated an Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan (IRMP) involving expenditure of Rs.24,000 crore.

(b) and (c) Integrated Railways Modernisation Plan (IRMP) has been formulated for 2005-2010 identifying activities with definite time frame for implementation. It has got 3 segments, the details of which are as under:

Passenger Business Segment: It envisages running of 150 kilometre per Hour speed (KMPH) trains on New Delhi-Chennai and New Delhi-Howrah route, increased induction of latest technology coaches in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains, expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) across the country, Environment Friendly toilets in coaches, Improved Safety features in coaches in terms of its crashworthiness and fire retarding features.

Freight Business Segment: It envisages running of freight trains at 100 Kmph on Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals, Introduction of Higher Axle Load, Double Stack Containers and Roll-on-Roll-Off wagons on the identified routes, Introduction of light weight and corrosion resistant steel and aluminum wagons, Extension of Freight

Operations Management System to cover Terminal, Rake and Crew Management System, Completion of works identified under National Rail Vikas Yojana along with some other Throughput Enhancement works etc.

Other Modernisation Initiatives: This includes Track Modernisation and its maintenance practices, Modernisation of Bridge Management System, Signalling and Telecommunication System, Mechanical and Electrical System and the Disaster Management System.

Total Expenditure envisaged for execution of the identified items in the IRMP is about Rs.24,000 Crore. Allocation of resources, out of total availability of funds every year, will be made to the works already identified in the Modernisation Plan.

[Translation]

Special Recruitment Drive

3713. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether special drives are being run to recruit tribals by the Ministry of Defence;
- (b) if so, the places where they are being organised alongwith the areas in Madhya Pradesh where such special drives are proposed;
- (c) whether workers are being hired on contractual basis in the Ministry of Defence;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not recruiting personnel by the Ministry on the basis of availability of work; and
- (e) whether employing personnel on contractual basis in an important Ministry like Defence is endangering the secrecy of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the civilian cadre of various offices under the Ministry of Defence, special recruitment drive to fill up backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been launched throughout the country, including Madhya Pradesh, where such vacancies exist, in accordance with Department of Personnel & Training order dated 5th August 2004.

Appointment and selection to Armed Forces are made strictly on merit and no reservation on the basis of caste, community, area or class is provided. However, for recruitment in Army, wide publicity is being done in the remotest areas to attract tribals. Recruitment rallies in this regard have been held at Jabalpur, Mhow, Vidisha, Gwalior, Bhopal in 2004

and other such rallies are scheduled to be held in Betul, Ujjain, Shivpuri and Seoni to cover areas in Madhya Pradesh in 2005.

The Coast Guard is also conducting Special Recruitment Drive for Scheduled Tribes. The state of Madhya Pradesh is covered by Coast Guard Regional Headquarters (West) situated at Mumbai.

(c) to (e) Workers are being hired on contractual basis in various offices under the Ministry of Defence for carrying out certain works, which are not of perennial and critical nature. All security precautions are taken before any such worker is engaged against a job.

[English]

Promotion of Art and Culture

3714. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by the Government towards promotion and expansion of Arts and Culture;

(b) the achievements made and the activities undertaken by the Cultural Centres during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has set up Cultural Resources and Training Centres for foreign teachers;

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

(e) the functions and objectives and the achievements made by them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL

REDDY): (a) Ministry of Culture has a number of schemes for promotion of art and culture viz. i) Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals for Specified Performing Art Projects, ii) Financial Assistance to Cultural Organisations for Construction of Building/Purchase of Equipments, iii) Financial Assistance for Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal/Folk Arts and Culture, iv) Scholarship to Young Artists, v) Senior/Junior Fellowship to Outstanding Artists.

Besides the above, various Institutions, Academies and Zonal Cultural Centres are contributing towards promotion of art and culture.

Under the above Schemes and through the Institutions, large number of individuals and organisations are assisted every year to pursue action in the field of art and culture.

(b) There are 7 Zonal Cultural Centres which were set up with the objectives of protecting and promoting folk arts in India. To achieve this objective, Zonal Cultural Centres implement the following Schemes:

(i) National Cultural Exchange Programme, (ii) Documentation, (iii) Guru Shishya Parampara, (iv) Theatre Rejuvenation (v) Young Talented Artists

Since the expenditure is incurred by the Centres for the Zone as a whole aimed at protecting and promoting art forms, a statement showing activities and expenditure incurred for each programme organized by the Zonal Cultural Centres during the last three years and up to November, 2004 is enclosed.

(c) Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Documentation of Vanishing Arts Form	Expenditure incurred			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala	10.00	10.00	Nil	10.00
South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	10.00	10.00	Nil	10.00
North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad	10.00	Nil	Nil	10.00
South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur	07.00	Nil	Nil	10.00
Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata	06.90	10.00	Nil	10.00

1	2	3	4	5
West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur	08.69	08.58	Nil	10.00
North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
National Cultural Exchange Programme				
	Expenditure incurred			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala	25.00	35.00	35.00	30.00
South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	25.00	25.00	35.00	30.00
North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad	25.00	35.00	35.00	30.00
South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur	25.00	35.00	29.33	30.00
Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata	25.00	35.00	29.34	30.00
West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur	20.00	35.00	29.33	30.00
North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur	25.00	25.00	35.00	50.00
Guru Shishya Parampara				
	Expenditure incurred			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala	Nil	Nil	23.52	Yet to be released
South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	Nil	Nil	23.52	Yet to be released
North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad	Nil	Nil	23.52	Yet to be released
South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur	Nil	Nil	23.52	Yet to be released
Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata	Nil	Nil	23.52	Yet to be released
West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur	Nil	Nil	23.52	Yet to be released
North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur	Nil	Nil	23.52	Yet to be released
Theatre Rejuvenation				
	Expenditure incurred			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala	Nil	Nil	11.00	5.50
South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	Nil	Nil	11.00	Yet to be released
North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad	Nil	Nil	11.00	5.50
South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur	Nil	Nil	11.00	Yet to be released
Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata	Nil	Nil	11.00	Yet to be released
West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur	Nil	Nil	11.00	Yet to be released

1	2	3	4	5
North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur	Nil	Nil	11.00	Yet to be released
Young Talented Folk Artists	Expenditure incurred			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.30
South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.30
North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.30
South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.30
Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.30
West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.30
North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.30

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps Installed by HPCL

3715. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain Public Oil Companies particularly HPCL are installing petrol pumps by spending huge funds on such lands on National Highways which are not meeting the guidelines of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways;

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

(c) whether the officers of these Oil Companies are duty bound to confirm that the site should not be in violation of the guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for installation of petrol pumps on National Highways;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility is likely to be fixed on the officers of Oil Companies in case such sites of Petrol Pumps are not cleared by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways;

(e) whether the guidelines would not hamper the interests of the existing Petrol Pumps and already approved proposals; and

(f) if so, the time by which the directions shall be issued to accept the existing Petrol Pumps and approved proposal form the ambit of latest guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) issued their guidelines in October, 2003 regarding norms for access for fuel stations, service stations and rest areas along National Highways (NHs). The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited have reported that they set up petrol pumps on National Highways in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the MORTH. However, if any deviation/violation is brought to the notice of the Government, it will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

(e) and (f) The Guidelines have been issued by the MORTH in larger public interest to ensure safety of the Highway users and free flow of traffic. Interests of the existing petrol pumps are not affected in any manner, as they are exempted from these guidelines.

[English]

Manpower Contract in Greater NOIDA

3716. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for SC/ST has received notice by "All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped People Upliftment" on "manpower contract for different categories" in Greater New Okhla Industrial Development Authority between June 28, 2004 to till date;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken by the Commission on the issue alongwith the direction given to the Authority and Government of Uttar Pradesh by the Commission; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting the demand of Association by the concerned authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes informed that the "All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped People Upliftment" approached them to direct the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority to notify the reserved vacancies. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes asked the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority to furnish detailed facts and action taken in the matter of notification of reserved vacancies. The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority has communicated that as per the requirement the employees in different categories are sought from the Contractors for one year through inviting tenders.

The Commission has issued no directions to the Authority.

However, Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority follow reservation orders for direct recruitment against the regular vacancies.

[Translation]

Backwards Amongst Minorities

3717. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backward class people among minorities indicating the reasons for their backwardness;

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government for removal of their backwardness;

(c) whether the Government would keep in mind both of these points while providing reservation to the minorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) The socially and educationally backward sections among the minorities have

been included in the Central list of Other Backward Classes as per recommendations of National Commission for Backward Classes. No data regarding number of backward class people among minorities is available, as no separate enumeration for backward classes has yet been conducted.

(b) to (d) The Government is implementing various schemes for the educational and economic development of minorities. Details are available on the website of the Ministry: www.socialjustice.nic.in. Besides, National Commission to recommend measures for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections among the religious and linguistic Minorities, including reservation in education and Government employment has been constituted. The Commission will lay down the criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities.

[English]

Indian Kabaddi Team

3718. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Kabaddi Team has won the world cup recently defeating Iran;

(b) if so, whether this important tournament was not televised on Delhi Doordarshan or any other channel;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take steps to see that Indian Sports like Kabaddi and Kho-Kho get priority in their coverage by DD in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doordarshan Sports Channel telecasted this event.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Kabaddi and Kho-Kho matches are already being telecast by Prasar Bharati.

Enhancement of Scholarship Amount for OBCs

3719. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand made by some States to enhance the scholarship amount for OBCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allocation of Gas from Tapti Gas Field

3720. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the additional development plan for allocation of gas from Tapti Gas Field has been finalised;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the Union Government's stand on State Government of Gujarat's request for allocation of 3.65 MMSCMD gas for the Pipavav Power project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The additional development plan for mid-Tapti field (called New Revised Plan of Development or NRPOD) is yet to be submitted by the contractor to the Management Committee (MC) for requisite approval.

(c) An "in principle" allocation of 2.25 Million Standard Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD) of gas was made for the Pipavav power project once additional gas from Tapti Field becomes available. However, the project developers have to tie-up the gas requirement with the joint venture concerned/GAIL at market related prices.

Unauthorised Occupation of Unreserved Coaches/Compartments

3721. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two or three coaches/compartments are made unreserved for general passengers in each Express and Super-fast trains;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that these coaches/compartments are occupied forcibly by the

unscrupulous persons without having any reservation authority and do not allow general passengers to enter in that compartment/coach;

(c) whether some cases of misbehaviour by such unscrupulous persons with general passengers in different trains have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in the matter and add more unreserved coaches/compartments in trains for avoiding the inconvenience caused to the general passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A minimum of two general class coaches besides two luggage-cum-general class coaches are available in all Mail/Express trains except Rajdhani/Shatabdi Expresses.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) In order to avoid inconvenience to passengers, Indian Railways augment trains, which is an ongoing process, including with general class coaches subject to traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources. However, following steps are taken to prevent inconvenience to the unreserved passengers.

(1) The queues to board the unreserved compartments are regulated by the Commercial and Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff with the assistance of the Government Railway Police (GRP) where necessary.

(2) The unreserved compartments are locked in the yard and brought to the platforms. The doors are opened on the platforms and the entry of unreserved passengers, who are already waiting in queue, is regulated into the unreserved coaches.

(3) These measures are monitored by during holiday and other busy seasons particularly.

[Translation]

National Social Help Programme

3722. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

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

(a) the criteria adopted for sanctioning central share under National Social Help Programme;

(b) the details of the funds given as central share to Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan under the National Social Help Programme during the last two years;

(c) whether these States have sought additional funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said funds are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) There is no such scheme being implemented by the Central Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

**ROB Over River Brahmaputra
at Dibrugarh**

3723. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

SHRI M. K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned during each of the last three years to expedite the construction work of rail-cum-road (Bogibeel) bridge over river Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, the present status of the above project;

(c) whether the progress of the work is going on at slow speed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any programme for the upgradation of railway network in Assam and North East; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The budget outlay during the last three years, i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 for the work of Rail-cum-Road bridge at Bogibeel over river Brahmaputra had been Rs.14.89 crore, Rs. 40 crore and Rs.60 crore respectively.

(b) to (d) The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. Out of the total cost of Rs. 1767 crore, Railway's share is Rs. 1109 crore and Ministry of Road

Transport and Highways (MORTH) share is Rs.658.4 crore. MORTH is yet to provide any funds towards their share of the cost. Presently, land acquisition, earthwork, bridgeworks and boulder collection are in progress. Construction of service approach road to bridge site on north bank is in progress but is affected due to normal bank dykes damaged in floods. Tenders for construction of substructure of the main bridge including guide bunds have been processed.

(e) and (f) In order to upgrade the rail network in Assam & North East Region at present, there are 11 ongoing projects of new line and gauge conversion which on completion would add about 1724 kms of broad gauge. Necessary funds are being earmarked by Railways for these projects in line with the extant policy of the government. Recently, Kumarghat-Agartala new line and Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam gauge conversion projects have been declared as National projects and it has been decided that additional funds over and above the normal budgetary support shall be provided to complete these projects by March'07 and Mar'09 respectively.

[Translation]

**Pending Proposals of New
Rail Services**

3724. SHRI DHANSINGH RAWAT:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals relating to introduction of new rail services lying pending with the Government;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has also submitted some proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the norms laid down for introduction of new rail service and the ground on which the proposals received from the Government of Rajasthan have not been approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 19 pairs of the proposed trains are yet to be introduced during 2004-2005.

(b) and (c) Government of Rajasthan has requested for Broad Gauge Jaipur-Udaipur Lake City Express after conversion of Chittaurgarh-Udaipur section into Broad Gauge.

(d) New trains are introduced on the basis of traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Introduction of Broad Gauge Jaipur-Udaipur Lake City Express can be examined only after the Gauge conversion work is completed.

Oil and Gas Reserves in Assam

3725. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has explored some other areas having oil and gas reserves in Assam;

(b) if so, the area-wise quantum of petroleum products likely to be available there; and

(c) the time by which extraction is likely to be commenced and the extent of increase in our oil and gas reserves as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has a 27% stake in a field in Assam - Arunachal Pradesh area, where Premier Oil is the operator. IOC has also signed an agreement with the same firm for participation with 35% stake, in exploration activity in another field in Cachar, in Lower Assam. This is, however, subject to the approval of the Government for assignment of the Participating Interest to IOCL. Both these blocks are in the exploration phase and the availability of petroleum will be known only after the drilling of the exploratory wells.

(c) The production from these fields, as well as the extent of increase, if any, in the oil and gas reserves of the country, will depend on the results of exploration, and, in case of successful discovery, on the development of the field for commercial production.

[English]

Air Transmitter in Aizwal

3726. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints that the transmitters of AIR Aizwal in Mizoram is of low power, and the public living in the far-off and remote areas are unable to listen to the bulletin/programmes transmitted by AIR;

(b) whether it has also been complained that the public living in the far-off and remote areas have no alternative but to listen to Radio Rangoon/DACCA, because of non-audibility of AIR;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that 59.56% of area and 73.27% of population in Mizoram is presently technically covered by MW and FM radio signals. However, short wave signals of the 10 KW Short Wave transmitter at AIR Aizwal are technically available in the entire state.

(d) In order to further strengthen the radio, coverage in Mizoram, three new radio stations are proposed to be set-up under the North-East Special package (Phase-II) in the 10th Five Year Plan, which is yet to be approved by the Competent Authority. These stations are at:

Champhai - 1/5 KW FM

Tuipang - 1/5 KW FM

Kolasib - 1/5 KW FM

10 low power FM transmitters in Mizoram are also proposed to be installed under the above mentioned North East Special Package (Phase-II).

Besides, a 6 KW FM transmitter with stereo facilities at AIR Aizwal is technically ready, and awaiting sanction of Operation & Maintenance Staff for commissioning.

[Translation]

Educational Programmes on Doordarshan

3727. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to telecast the educational programmes on Doordarshan from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in order to disseminate education through Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also contemplating to include programmes related to technical education;

(c) the prevailing time and duration of telecasting of educational programmes on Doordarshan; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the telecast time of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL

REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that DD-Gyan Darshan Channel is already telecasting educational programmes 24 hours a day.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that DD-Gyan Darshan imparts technical education through one of its channel named 'EKLAVYA'. This channel is a 24-hour satellite channel and carries lectures delivered by IIT faculties of Engineering and Sciences for 8 hours duration and is repeated twice during the day to enable interested persons to watch these programmes as per their convenience.

(c) The list of educational programmes telecast on Doordarshan is as under:

On DD-I (National):

- 05.30 AM to 06.00 AM : (Daily) UGC Programmes.
 06.00 AM to 06.30 AM : (Daily) IGNOU Programmes.
 09.30 AM to 10.00 AM : (Monday to Friday) Adult Education Programmes.
 10.30 AM to 11.00 AM : (Monday to Friday) Educational TV Programmes.

On Regional Service:

Regional Kendras telecast programmes produced by State's Central Institute of Education and Training.

On DD-Bharati:

- 07.00 AM to 08.00 AM : Healthline - Monday & Tuesday.
 08.00 AM to 09.00 AM : Healthline - Wednesday to Sunday.

Above programmes are produced by Consortium for Education Communications and University Grants Commission.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that increase in telecast time is not envisaged at this stage.

[English]

Ticket Reservation Centres in Himachal Pradesh

3728. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
 PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:
 Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise all the railway ticket booking centres of Kangra and Kullu district headquarter in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the extant Passenger Reservation Policy, Computerised Reservation Facility will be provided at all District Headquarters, railhead and non-railhead in a phased manner. In case of non-railhead District Headquarter, the accommodation is required to be provided by the District Authority/State Government free of cost.

Computerised reservation facility has already been provided at Dharamshala, the District Headquarter of Kangra District. Computerised reservation facility at Kullu, District Headquarter of Kullu District, has been sanctioned and is awaiting provision of accommodation by the District Authority/State Government of Himachal Pradesh. The reservation facility at Kullu will be provided soon after the State Government provides the suitable accommodation free of cost.

Construction of Rail Over Bridge in Kerala

3729. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has considered a proposal for constructing a new Railway over bridge at Aveneewaram near Aveneewaram Railway Station in Kollam Schencottah (Virudunagar) line and whether the Kerala Government has submitted a representation for the same; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Searching of Suspicious Ships

3730. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
 Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy propose to formulate

a strategy to search suspicious ships which are on their way to Indian ports, as reported in the Statesman, dated December 1, 2004;

- (b) if so, the details and facts thereof; and
(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Port Connectivity Projects

3731. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any port connectivity projects and broad gauge railway connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise and the funds made available so far for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of port/hinterland connectivity projects including new broadgauge lines alongwith their outlay for current year are given in the table below:

S.No.	Name of the project	Plan Head	States concerned	Kms	Anticipated Cost	Exp. upto Mar'04	Outlay 2004-05 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Panvel-JNPT	Doubling	Maharashtra	28.5	53.25	3.63	25.00
2	Panvel-Karjat	New Line	Maharashtra	28	137.44	113.82	5.00
3	Rajatgarh-Nargundi	Doubling	Orissa	28	82.87	81.6	1.00
4	Nargundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur	Doubling	Orissa	43	160	131.35	15.00
5	Rahama-Paradeep	Doubling	Orissa	23	63.47	57.68	11.90
6	Haridaspur-Paradeep	New Line	Orissa	82	301.64	24.1	6.00
7	Banspani-Daitari	New Line	Orissa	155	590.60	446.52	83.00
8	Hassan-Mangalore	Gauge Conversion	Karnataka	236	357.11	271.67	0.01
9	Surendranagar-Pipavav	Gauge Conversion	Gujarat	385	527.4	165.38	10.27
10	Salem-Cuddalore	Gauge Conversion	Tamil Nadu	191	261	40.7	25.00
11	Thanjavur-Villupuram via Cuddalore	Gauge Conversion	Tamil Nadu	192	231.00	49.89	15.00
12	Gandhidham-Palanpur	Gauge Conversion	Gujarat	313	344.63	80.52	13.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	Panskura-Haldia: Phase-1 (Panskura- Rajgoda)	Doubling	West Bengal	16	26.02	0.91	10.00
14	Hospet-Guntakal	Doubling	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka	115	154.14	82.21	65.00
15	Barauni-Tilrath	Doubling	Bihar	14	15.37	0	12.00
16	Bhildi-Samdari	Gauge Conversion	Rajasthan, Gujarat	223	244.74	2.86	20.00
17	Mansi-Saharsa-Purnea	Gauge Conversion	Bihar	142	210.51	80.02	20.00
18	Delhi-Rewari (Material Modification of Phulera-Marwar- Ahmedabad)	Gauge Conversion	Delhi, Haryana	83	621.86	493.79	7.74

(c) The above mentioned projects are part of National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) which was launched in 2002-03 and planned to be completed in time frame of 5 years.

[Translation]

Sonepur-Digha Rail Bridge

3732. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given sanction to the construction of the Sonepur-Digha rail Bridge on the Ganga river near Patna and a rail bridge at Munger on the Ganga and also one rail bridge at Nirmali-Bhaptihai on the Koshi river;

(b) if so, the position in regard to the estimates, budgetary provision, allocation made and expenditure incurred on the above projects; separately;

(c) the progress of construction work till date; and

(d) the time by which the above projects are likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) The details regarding budgetary allocation made during 2004-05, expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2004, current status and likely target date of completion in respect of the projects are given as under:

Name of the Project	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in crores)	Approximate expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2001 (Rs. in crore)	Outlay provided during 2004-05 (Rs. in crore)	Current status including position of estimate and target date for completion wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
1. Patna-Ganga bridge with linking lines (19 kms)	624.47	116.26	50.00	The detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Land acquisition, earthworks and foundation works are in progress. Road over bridge at Bailey Road in progress. Targeted for completion by 2007-2008. The work is under National Rail Vikas Yojana.

1	2	3	4	5
2. Munger-rail-cum Road Bridge on river Ganga (14 kms)	921.00	22.52	30.00	Final location survey including detailed investigations completed. The detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Sub-structure works in progress. The project is under National Rail Vikas Yojana.
3. Kosi Bridge (21.85 kms)	323.41	0.71	10.00	Part detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges in approaches have been finalized. Single tender for geo-technical investigation, detailed design of bridge and preparation of tender documents has been awarded to M/s. RITES. Work of soil exploration for Tiljuga bridge completed. The work is under National Rail Vikas Yojana.

Landing Facilities for Air-Buses at Jodhpur Airport

3733. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether landing facilities for Air-Buses is available at Jodhpur Airport in Rajasthan;

(b) if not, whether the Government is considering to provide such facilities;

(c) if so, the time by when it is likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Jodhpur airport belongs to IAF (Ministry of Defence) and Airport Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave consisting of a passenger Terminal Building, apron, link taxiway, car park, etc. For operation of Airbus type of aircraft, existing parallel taxiway and two link taxiways are to be widened and a new link taxiways are to be constructed. Ministry of Defence had issued an NOC in August, 2004 for these works. Detailed engineering and tendering actions are being taken up by AAI. The work is likely to start in the first quarter of next financial year i.e., 2005-06 and likely to be completed within 12 months from the date of award of work. Navigation aids like DVOR/DME have been provided by AAI for operation of Airbus.

(d) Does not arise.

Advisory Committee in Chhattisgarh

3734. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Plant Unit Advisory Committee" has been constituted in all the public enterprises of the Central Government functioning in Chhattisgarh for development of ancillary units;

(b) the dates on which meetings of the Plant Unit Advisory Committee of the public enterprise I.B.P. Company Limited have taken place after the inception of the Chhattisgarh State; and

(c) the number of ancillary units of I.B.P. Company Limited set up and the names of such units and the year-wise amount of purchase-order given to them after the inception of the Chhattisgarh State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) After the formation of Chhattisgarh State, no Plant Advisory Committee has been constituted.

(b) I.B.P. has proposed meeting with pre-existing PAC during the month of January, 2005.

(c) In recent years, no ancillary unit has been set up.

[English]

Cargo Services in Domestic Sector

3735. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has also decided to introduce cargo service in domestic sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the latest private entrant in the aviation sector Kingfisher Airlines is planning to start domestic services; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airlines are free to introduce cargo service in the domestic sector subject to their commercial judgment and availability of infrastructure.

(c) and (d) Government has granted permission to M/s. Kingfisher Airlines to operate scheduled Air Transport Services on 23.11.2004 subject to the conditions.

[Translation]

Prices of Spare parts

3736. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Russia has increased the prices of spares of Tanks, Warships and aircrafts as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated December 1, 2004;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the excess amount likely to be paid by the Government on this account;
- (d) whether the tenders were invited to procure defence spares; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated December 1, 2004.

(b) to (e) The prices of military equipment are finalized after negotiation by a duly constituted price negotiation committee after the request for proposal has been issued.

[English]

Adequate Kerosene for Fishing Boats

3737. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to sanction adequate quantity of Kerosene to the poor fisherman for using their fishing boats; and
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government to assist the poor fisherman to provide them Kerosene at reduced rate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India allocates Kerosene to the States/Union Territories (UTs) under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. There is no separate allocation for the fisheries sector to any State/UT. The State/UT concerned has to adjust the requirements of the fisheries sector within the overall allocation of kerosene. However, non-PDS kerosene is freely available at market price.

Welfare Facilities to Ex-servicemen

3738. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of the ex-servicemen registered as on date State-wise;
- (b) the number of Sainik Welfare Boards existed in each State and the functioning thereof;
- (c) the number of movable and immovable canteens functioning in each State;
- (d) the number of States in which such facilities are not available; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) The number of ex-servicemen registered with Rajya Sainik Boards as on 30th September, 2004 is 18,94,962/- State-wise list is enclosed act Statement-I.

(b) Each State has got a Rajya Sainik Board/ Department of Sainik Welfare responsible for welfare and resettlement of ex-servicemen/dependents. These Rajya Sainik Boards have got Zila Sainik Boards under them at the district level. There are a total of 32 Rajya Sainik Boards and 340 Zila Sainik Boards.

The functions of Rajya Sainik Boards are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The details of mobile and immobile canteens state-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

From time to time, improvement is done to cover any left out areas. Places which are far flung are covered by mobile canteens.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State/UTs	No. of Ex-servicemen
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67022
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	284
3.	Assam	26755
4.	Bihar	55890
5.	Chhattisgarh	3951
6.	Goa	1772
7.	Gujarat	18131
8.	Himachal Pradesh	91502
9.	Haryana	198716
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	61663
11.	Jharkhand	15983
12.	Karnataka	57435
13.	Kerala	144440
14.	Madhya Pradesh	33695
15.	Maharashtra	157996
16.	Manipur	4312
17.	Meghalaya	2043
18.	Mizoram	4376
19.	Nagaland	2246
20.	Orissa	22904
21.	Punjab	245763
22.	Rajasthan	128978

1	2	3
23.	Sikkim	1144
24.	Tamil Nadu	114895
25.	Tripura	1981
26.	Uttar Pradesh	221619
27.	Uttaranchal	114496
28.	West Bengal	51775
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	591
30.	Chandigarh	7429
31.	Delhi	33772
32.	Pondicherry	1403
Total		1894962

Note: Figures for the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Island are provisional.

Statement-II

Functions of Rajya Sainik Boards (RSBs):

1. The Departments of Sainik Welfare/Rajya Sainik Boards in the States/UTs are responsible for the following functions:-

- (a) Co-ordinate the work of Zila Sainik Welfare Offices in the State.
- (b) Maintain liaison with State Undertakings and enterprises and banks to seek vacancies for ESM and widows as per reservation policy of the State and as per recruitment rules, monitor such vacancies and ensure these are filled up by ex-servicemen or widows.
- (c) Promoting measures for the welfare and resettlement of ex-servicemen and families of serving/deceased personnel of the Armed Forces.
- (d) Disseminating information to the general public regarding the Armed Forces in the country and for taking measures to enhance interest in Armed Forces amongst general public.
- (e) Administering the Zila Sainik Welfare Offices

- (ZSWOs) in the State in accordance with the rules and instructions prescribed by the Central and State Governments.
- (f) Carry out any duties assigned by Director General Resettlement/Secretary, Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB).
- (g) Submit to KSB report for claiming the 50 percent charges for establishment expenditure of RSB and ZSBs of the State.
- (h) Maintain upto date status of ESM, disabled ESM, widows and dependents.
- (i) Ensure timely submission of reports and returns to DGR/KSB.
- (j) Organise RSB meeting under Chairmanship of Chief Minister and Armed Forces Flag Day Fund meeting under chairmanship, of Governor of the State.
- (k) Seek and monitor employment opportunities for ESM and widows in the private sector.
- (l) Assist ex-servicemen and widows in planning and funding of self-employment ventures.
- (m) Organise Armed Forces Flag Day Fund collection drive throughout the year.
- (n) Create additional welfare measures for ESM and widows.

1	2	3
Gujarat	88	01
Haryana	209	
Himachal Pradesh	05	32
Jammu and Kashmir	684	24
Jharkhand	55	
Karnataka	85	1
Kerala	27	
Madhya Pradesh	108	09
Maharashtra	209	16
Manipur	32	
Mizoram	08	
Nagaland	132	1
Orissa	05	
Punjab	426	
Rajasthan	261	2
Tamil Nadu	73	
Tripura	10	4
Uttaranchal	09	08
Uttar Pradesh	474	22
West Bengal	206	

Statement-III*Details of Mobile and Immobile Canteen Statewise*

(as on 1.7.2003)

States / UTs	Static canteens	Mobile canteens
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	140	
Andaman and Nicobar	17	
Arunachal Pradesh	27	
Assam	245	6
Bihar	08	
Chhattisgarh	01	05
Delhi	120	
Goa	04	

Cost Escalation in Railway Projects

3739. YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several projects executed by the Ministry of Railways are running behind their schedule due to which the cost of these projects has increased;

(b) if so, the number of such projects alongwith the extent of time by which these are running behind schedule;

(c) whether any strategy have been formulated to ensure implementation of such projects in a time bound period without any cost escalation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Ongoing railway projects are progressing as per the availability of funds on year to year basis. Ongoing railway projects may undergo cost escalation on account of various reasons like change in the standards of construction & technology, scope of work inflation etc. Due to heavy throwforward and limited availability of funds, most of the projects which remain incomplete, have undergone escalation in cost with time. In the absence of assured matching funds at the time of taking up of a project, time and cost overrun are not feasible to be evaluated.

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made to generate non-budgetary resources to expedite completion of the ongoing projects. A number of initiatives have been taken for getting additional resources through Public/Private Partnership, cost sharing with State Governments funding through Ministry of Defence. National Rail Vikas Yojana and National Project of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line to be funded as an additionality to the normal railway's plan. Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has also, been announced in the interim Budget 2004-05 which envisages investment of Rs.20,000 crore in five years on new line and gauge conversion projects taken up primarily on socio-economic considerations. Funds for the Yojna are however, yet to be tied up. With all these initiatives, the ongoing projects are expected to be completed within a period of about five years.

[Translation]

New Scheme for Providing Help from Natural Calamities

3740. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start a new Scheme namely Emergency Support Function scheme to provide immediate help to the people suffered from Natural Calamities and accidents due to human errors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Stake to Virgin Atlantic Airline

3741. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI K. S. RAO:

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:

SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private British airline Virgin Atlantic has shown interest to pickup stake in the existing Indian carriers or invest in launching new ones;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has not received any proposal from private British airline - Virgin Atlantic to pick up stake in the existing Indian carriers or invest in launching new ones.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Risk Insurance Cover for I.A.

3742. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent risk insurance cover for Indian Airlines was obtained at a modest discount of 12% on the premium paid last year;

(b) if so, whether Taiwan's China Airlines which also got its risk cover at the same time as IA did, managed to extract a 30% discount on the premium paid earlier;

(c) whether the IA had an incident-free clean record for the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the reasons for which a large discount could not be negotiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Indian Airlines has got a reduction of 18.67% in the premium outgo for the year 2004-2005.

(b) No such information is maintained by the Government.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines had, no major accident/claim

for the last two insurance years. Insurance premium rates depend on various factors such as market capacity, overall market claim, experience etc., in addition to record of accidents.

Skirmishes on Border/LoC

3743. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of skirmishes took place with Pakistani soldiers during the last six months;
- (b) the number of soldiers of both sides killed/injured as a result thereof;
- (c) the number of militants infiltrated during the said period; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to bring peace on border/LoC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the last six months no skirmishes have taken place with Pakistani soldiers.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) More than 200 terrorists are assessed to have successfully infiltrated into Jammu & Kashmir during the last six months.
- (d) The cease-fire on the border with Pakistan is holding. All possible measures including Confidence Building Measures under the Composite Dialogue have been taken to ensure that peace on the border continues.

[Translation]

Use of Soft Stone Instead of Hard Stone in Jabalpur Zone

3744. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether soft stone concrete is being supplied and used in place of hard stone concrete at Beena-Katni section under Jabalpur zone in West Central Railway;
- (b) if so, whether a manually crushed concrete is being used in place of machine crushed concrete in violation of the rules regarding concrete manufacturing;
- (c) the reasons for not recovering 'dead rent' from the contractors whose stocks were rejected;
- (d) whether the rail specification No. 101 is being followed;

(e) if so, whether the quality of rail line concrete has been checked at Beena-Katni rail section; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Soft stone ballast is not being used in Bina-Katni section of West Central Railway.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As per the records, no ballast stack was rejected; therefore the question of recovering 'dead rent' from the contractors, does not arise.

(d) to (f) The latest specification for track ballast is followed. The quality of track ballast is tested accordingly and action is taken as per the results of various parameters specified in the specification.

[English]

Deal with Nepal Oil Corporation

3745. SHRI S. D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with Nepal Oil Corporation for laying a pipeline to carry Petroleum products; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) on 9th September, 2004 for laying a pipeline from IOC's Raxaul Depot to NOC's Amlekhganj Depot. IOC and NOC have constituted a joint co-ordination committee for setting up a Joint Venture Company to undertake this project. It is proposed that this pipeline, with a designed capacity of 1.1 MMTPA, would transport petrol, diesel and kerosene. Action for carrying out a Feasibility Study for the project has been initiated.

Landscape Railway Stations

3746. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to landscape of railway stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue from the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Railway has no proposal for landscape Railway Stations. However, Railways have selected 319 stations to be developed as Model Stations. Following additional works are envisaged under the scheme:-

- * Guidance of passengers by way of improved signages and provision of national train enquiry system.
- * Provision of train indication boards.
- * Provision of self printing ticket machines.
- * Improvement in waiting rooms/booking office by providing adequate furniture, better counters with adequate space for queuing.
- * Provision of modular catering stalls.
- * Improved circulating area with adequate space for parking of various types of vehicles with better illumination.
- * Provision of "Pay & Use toilets".
- * Provision of public telephone and internet.

Works on 61 stations have been completed.

(c) There has been a sea change in the attitude of the people over the years. The present day passengers want almost the same level of comforts in travelling as they would have in their homes/work places. Provision of additional facilities at Model stations will enhance the comfort level of travelling passengers by way of quantitative and qualitative improvements in passenger amenities items.

Recruitment of Women Doctors

3747. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has need more women doctors because of a growing number of women aspirants in Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken a decision to recruit more women doctors in the Army; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Keeping in view of the requirement the required number of lady Medical officers in the Army Medical Corps are recruited regularly.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Rail Projects in Maharashtra

3748. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the on-going/new railway projects and surveys in Maharashtra and the progress achieved so far regarding completion of these projects;

(b) the funds allocated and the expenditure incurred on these projects so far, project-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government for special package to complete the ongoing railway projects;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a), (b) and (e) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a request has been received from Govt. of Maharashtra to enhance the allocation of funds on ongoing projects.

The allocation of funds to a particular State is based on a transparent formula. Accordingly, based on the overall availability of the funds and the formula, allocation has been made to various projects in the State. The requirement of additional funds are projected by the Railways in the budgetary reviews and additional funds are provided as per availability of resources.

Statement

The projects are being progressed as per availability of resources. The details of ongoing projects alongwith expenditure incurred, present position and targets wherever fixed are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Details of the ongoing projects	Km	Anticipated cost	Expenditure up to March 2004	Outlay during 2004-05	Present position of the project and likely date of completion wherever fixed.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Lines						
1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajjnath	250	353.08	11.75	20	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition completed in 15 km length (Ahmednagar- Narayandoh section) where Earthwork, bridge work are in progress.
2.	Amravati-Narkher	138	284.27	107.17	16.49	Land acquisition, earthwork, minor and major bridges are in progress. Section from Amravati to Chandur Bazar (44 kms) is targeted for completion during 2004-05.
3.	Baramati-Lonand	54	138.48	6.62	4	Final Location Survey completed. Land papers for Lonand- Phalton (27 Km) submitted to State Government. Tender for earth work could not be finalized as land is not available. Bridge works are in progress.
4.	Panvel-Karjat	28	137.96	113.82	5	Work completed. It is yet to be commissioned to traffic.
5.	Puntamba-Shirdi	16.6	48.78	13.15	8.92	Final Location survey has been completed. Land acquisitions is in progress. 7 minor bridges out of 9 have been completed.
Gauge conversion						
1.	Akola-Purna	210	245.5	19.39	20	Earthwork, bridge work are in progress.
2.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat Katangi	285	511.86	96.44	38.06	On Gondia-Balaghat (42 km) section, all preliminary works have been completed. Mega block has been taken up. Earthwork and bridges are in progress. Gondia-Balaghat (41 km) section is targeted for completion during 2004-05.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Miraj-Latur	374	515.57	192.78	25	The work, is being progressed in phases. Kurduwadi to Pandharpur (52 km) and Latur-Latur Road (33 km) have been completed. Earthwork and bridges are in progress in Kurduwadi-Latur section. Ballast in this stretch is being provided by State Government under "Employment Guarantee Scheme" but the progress is extremely slow. Work has also been taken up between Miraj-Pandharpur.
4.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	167	199.06	59.85	30	Works are in various stages of progress. Adilabad-Kinwat (45 Km.) has recently been completed.
5.	Secunderabad-Mudkhed & Jankhampet-Bodhan	269	287.83	206.38	25	Mudkhed -Dharmabad-Nizamabad, Bolarum-Manoharabad and Jankhampet to Bodhan have already been converted and opened to traffic. The gauge conversion work between Manoharabad-Nizamabad (118 kms) is targeted for completion during 2004-05.
6.	Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag	300	276	200.38	15	Solapur to Bijapur (110 km) section has been completed. Bijapur- Bagalkot (93 kms) is targeted for completion in 2004- 05. However, only Bijapur-Basavana Bagewadi (45 kms) is likely to be completed during 2004-05 as State Govt. has not paid their share of cost to Railways.
Doubling						
1.	Diva-Kalyan	11	48.06	28.37	9	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridgework, ballasting are in progress.
2.	Pakni-Mohol	17	42.73	15.00	10	The Detailed estimate has been prepared. The work is being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Pakni-Solapur	16.28	38.52	6.09	25	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
4.	Panvel-Jasai-JNPT	28.5	53.23	20.50	25	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
Metropolitan Transport Projects						
1.	Belapur-Panvel-doubling of commuter double line as part of East-West Corridor	10.9	92.50	85.88	0.50	Double line has been commissioned and opened for commuter traffic on 14-04-2000. Balance works to be executed by City & Industrial Development Corporation, Maharashtra are in progress.
2.	Belapur-Seawood-Uran electrified double line	22.3	163.49	44.39	8	Works are in progress. CIDCO is giving low priority to this project due to constraint of resources.
3.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP)	108.8	3125.2	646.78	232.97	The various sub works are in progress.
4.	Thane Turbhe Nerul/Vashi part of corridor No.1 in New Mumbai	22.5	131.47	95.14	3	Phase-I, Thane-Turbhe-Vashi (18.50 kms) has been commissioned on 09.11.04. Remaining work of Phase-II is in progress.
5.	Thane-Mumbra-Diva 5th and 6th line	9.42	86.87	1.20	5.01	Recently approved by competent authorities.

The projects which have been completed but appearing in the Budget for residual work and financial adjustments have not been shown above.

The details of ongoing surveys in Maharashtra are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Project	Kms
1	Shirpur-Mhow New Line	185
2	Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad New Line	60
3	Chinchwad-Roha New Line	95
4	Achalpur-Murtjapur-Yavatmal, Pulgaon-Arvi Gauge Conversion	225
5	Latur Road-Mudkhed New Line	120
6	Updating Survey for Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur Doubling	326

[English]

Smaller Aircraft for Andhra Pradesh

3749. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has reduced Sales Tax on Aviation Turbines to encourage development of civil aviation;

(b) if so, the details of the development work taken up by the Union Government in that State;

(c) whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to introduce smaller aircraft in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Details of development works undertaken by Airports Authority of India at airports in Andhra Pradesh are as under:

1. Hyderabad:- Strengthening & expansion of runway from 9080 ft. to 10600 ft.
2. Visakhapatnam:- New runway of length 10000 ft. and associated facilities for operation of wide bodied aircraft constructed.
3. Tirupathi:- Infrastructure upgraded in 1998.
4. Vijayawada:- The runway strengthened for the operation of B-737-200 type of aircraft and new apron of size 350 ft.x250 ft. with a link taxiway of dimension 450 ft. x 75 ft. was constructed.
5. Rajahmundry:- The runway was strengthened and construction of taxi track and apron for the operation of ATR- 72 type of aircraft was completed in April, 2002.

(c) and (d) Requests have been received from A.P. Government for introduction of smaller aircraft to Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam & Tirupathi. Indian Airlines provides air services to/from Visakhapatnam and Tirupathi whereas Air Deccan has introduced flights on Hyderabad-Vijayawada, Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad-Tirupathi sectors.

Further, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

[Translation]

Policy for Utilisation of Property of AAI

3750. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Airport Authority of India to provide the use of its property (Hanger, Land, etc.) to the Government for official purposes;

(b) the procedure of assessment of rent for the Barrack and Hanger of Airport Authority of India and whether there is any difficulty in granting permission for their free of cost use for non-commercial activities;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal requesting to waive the rent of Condemned Barracks and Hanger of Directorate of Aviation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Land for hangar is allotted subject to availability on first come first serve basis to various agencies giving priority to scheduled operators, other operators and approved maintenance agencies including new agencies.

(b) Based on construction cost and other infrastructure facilities to be provided/associated with such hangar and barracks, rent is fixed and is revised periodically. As per AAI Act, AAI has to act on commercial principle. Moreover as per Government Granting Code any facility/service has to be charged upon. Therefore there is difficulty in granting permission for providing these facilities free of cost.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal for waiving of hangar charges for aircraft and glider at Bhopal and Indore airports. The matter is being processed.

Modernisation of Railway Stations

3751. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been formulated for modernization of dilapidated railway stations in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of main railway stations and small junctions in these areas; and

(c) the funds spent on modernization and maintenance of railway stations in this area especially in 'Dhana Bhavan' railway station during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no dilapidated railway station in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) There are 834 stations including the main railway stations and small junction stations in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Funds spent on modernisation and maintenance of railway stations during 2003-04 are Rs. 1496.10 lakh. There is no railway station named "Dhana Bhawan". However, station named "Thana Bhawan" exists on Delhi Division of Northern Railway. During 2003-04, Rs. 0.25 lakh have been spent on maintenance of "Thana Bhawan" railway station.

[English]

Doubling of Railway Lines

3752. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for doubling of some Railway lines were under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received by the Government from the State Government of Orissa;

(c) whether funds has been sanctioned for doubling of any of those lines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Doubling of a section is taken up when the line capacity is saturated subject to operational requirement and availability of resources. The requirement of doubling of some lines/sections is, therefore, an ongoing process.

(b) No proposal for doubling has been received from State Government of Orissa in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Supply of Piped Natural Gas

3753. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indraprastha Gas Limited has introduced supply of piped natural gas in some parts of the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NDMC areas and Lutyen's zone have not been covered by the IGL;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the residents of NDMC areas Lutyen's zone are likely to get piped natural gas facility?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The areas where IGL is presently, supplying Piped Natural Gas (PNG) are as under:

Golf Links, Sujan Singh Park, Sunder Nagar, Kaka Nagar, Bapa Nagar, Pandara Park, Pandara Road, Lodhi Complex, Lodhi Colony, Sarojini Nagar, Naroji Nagar, Pragati Vihar, Mohammadpur, Bharat Nagar, Friends Colony, New Friends Colony, Ishwar Nagar, Kalindi Colony, Khan Market, Maharani Bagh, Jor Bagh, Asiad Village, Sukhdev Vihar, Sarita Vihar, Zakir Bagh, Pant Nagar, Nizamuddin East & West, Jangpura Extn. Jangpura, Diplomatic Enclave, Indraprastha Estate, Indraprastha Estate Extn., Neeti Bagh, Gulmohar Park, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Rohini Sectors 9,13 &14, R.K. Puram Sectors 1 to 5 & 7, Vasant Kunj Pocket c-6/7 & 9.

(c) No, Sir. Areas falling under New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) are also covered.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Expansion of PNG network in different parts of Delhi, including NDMC areas, is being carried out in a phased manner and is dependent on the permission for laying the pipelines etc. from land owning agencies, technical feasibility, advice of CPWD (for Government colonies), and demand/response from prospective customers. Expansion of the PNG network is a continuous process.

Reply of Letters by Ministry

3754. SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) the number of letters received from the Members of Parliament by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas during the last one year till date;

(b) the number of letters out of them replied by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(c) whether the Government is aware that number of letters have not been replied even after a lapse of six months; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG), received 2232 letters from Members of Parliament and sent replies to 1688 letters during the period 01.11.2003 to 30.11.2004. This Ministry gives the highest priority to letters received from Hon'ble MPs/VIPs. For a substantive reply to such letters, sometimes, detailed information is required to be collected from other organizations. However, 47 such letters could not be replied to even after lapse of six months. The Minister has reviewed arrangements for replying such letters and the system has not only been revamped but placed on an e-mail basis to expedite substantive responses.

C & AG Report

3755. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to C&AG report No.9 of 2001 (Railways) pages 37 to 58 and state:

(a) whether 44 marshalling yards declared closed were still found operating and if so, the circumstances under which they were found operating;

(b) whether 15 marshalling yards contributed a loss of Rs. 1686.03 crore out of the total loss of Rs. 3621.84 crore in 53 yards; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not reviewing the working of marshalling yards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) With the advent of block rake basis of movement of freight traffic and gradual phasing out of vacuum brake stock, the pattern of movement of freight traffic has undergone changes. As a consequence, there has been a reduction in the quantum of primary activity of marshalling required to be carried out in the Marshalling Yards and which might not have been anticipated for specific yards due to uncertainties and dynamism of freight operations. However, several other activities, which are still required to be carried out at the Marshalling Yards, have not come to an end. Such other activities are enumerated below:

- (i) To receive through trains.
- (ii) To enable change of engine and crew.
- (iii) Noting of numbers of Carriage and Wagon in the rakes.
- (iv) Carriage and Wagon (C&W) Examination.
- (v) Brake power re-validation.
- (vi) Removal/Repair of sick wagons.
- (vii) Adjustment of loads where necessary.

(viii) Provision of empty wagons as and when required.

(ix) To place and withdraw wagons from various points in the local area.

This explains as to why only 36 yards out of an identified number of 80 yards could be closed and balance 44 numbers of Marshalling Yards have continued to function.

(b) The "Loss" figures have been arrived at by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) considering a target time for wagon detention prescribed by Railway Administration. Wherever, target times were not available, the target times of adjoining yards have been taken into consideration. Any detention to wagons in Marshalling Yards beyond the target time has been converted into loss accruing to Railways.

Freight operations are a dynamic phenomenon where the infrastructure assets and manpower have to cater to the demand of traffic. The demand and pattern of traffic is highly non-uniform in nature. There will be frequent situations wherein the infrastructure will idle on account of paucity of demand for traffic, while on other hand, the situation will get completely reversed. Thus the environment of freight operations is far from ideal where the infrastructure meets the demand for traffic in an exact, ideal manner.

The targets are generally fixed at a stiff level by Railway Administration with a view to maximize productivity through intensive involvement of the entire administration. Actual performance falling short of target performance does not tantamount to loss. If the targets are soft, than deemed losses as pointed out in C&AG report will get minimized or may even come to zero. But this will negate the very objective of enhancing efficiency & productivity levels in the system. Detention beyond target can be due to factors like shortage of locomotives, non availability of path due to route - congestion, accidents, or other dislocations. Detentions on such accounts are unavoidable and cannot be termed as a loss.

(c) As already stated in reply to part (a) the performance review of Marshalling Yards is a continuous process and as a consequence Indian Railways could close down 36 yards over a period of time and also bring down wagon detentions.

Expenditure of India Shinning Campaign

3756. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:

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

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on India Shinning campaign through various media and the percentage of the total expenditure on Government advertisement did it constitute during January-February, 2004;

(b) whether advertisements were given through other agency apart from D.A.V.P.;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount involved therein;

(d) whether the Government has received any representation from various quarters on the expenditure incurred on India Shinning campaign; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Subsidy and Incentives to Alliance Air for NER

3757. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy and incentives granted to Alliance Air towards running of ATR aircraft in the NER including the sources of subsidy;

(b) whether it is mandatory for this to make airline, Guwahati a regional hub of NER and for providing proportionate share of employment to North Eastern youths as well as for concessional fare;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the objective of granting such subsidies and conditions laid therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Department for

Development of North East (DONER) has agreed to provide a budgetary grant of Rs.35 crores per annum to Alliance Air for operating services with leased ATR aircraft exclusively in the North East.

(b) to (d) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Alliance Air and DONER envisages that Guwahati shall be made primary operational base for improving connectivity to airports in the North Eastern region by Alliance Air. Accordingly one ATR aircraft has been based at Guwahati with effect from 28th July, 2004 which has led to improved connectivity to/from and within North East. There is no specific provision in the MOU for employment/concessional fare for any specific region. The objective of granting subsidy is to improve connectivity in the North East region. After the deployment of ATR aircraft, Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air have added 1954 seats/week on the north-east routes. Further, the Indian Airlines/ Alliance Air fares on these routes are in any case lower than the fares on comparable sectors in rest of the country.

Pending Railway Projects

3758. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pending railway projects in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the extent of delay occurred in completion of such projects as against the target date; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite completion of the railway projects in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Pending projects are those projects which have been included in the budget without obtaining requisite prior clearances. There are no such pending projects in Jammu and Kashmir. However, perhaps Hon'ble Member of Parliament is referring to ongoing projects in Jammu and Kashmir. The details of ongoing projects falling partly/fully in the State of Jammu and Kashmir are as under:

S.No.	Name of Project	Length in Kms.	Anticipated cost	Expenditure upto March, 04	Outlay 2004-05	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi doubling	202	Rs..408.69 crore	Rs.95.42 crore	Rs.33.97 crore	The work is in progress and three sections viz. Suchipind-Bhogpur-Sirwal (26 Kms.), Mukerian-Mirthal (18 Kms.) and Bharoli-Madhampur Punjab (13 Kms.) are targeted for completion during 2004-05.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line	287	Rs. 5000.00 crore	Rs. 1286.43 crore	Rs. 700.00 crore	<p>The work has been taken up in phases and the progress is given as under:</p> <p>i) Udhampur-Katra (km. 0-25): Earthwork tunneling and major/minor bridge works are in progress.</p> <p>ii) Katra-Qazigund (km. 25-167): For km. 25-30, land acquisition has been completed and tunnelling work is in progress. For Km. 30-167, land acquisition, detailed construction survey is in progress. Tunnelling work is in progress between km. 30-50, where land is made available.</p> <p>iii) Qazigund-Baramulla (km. 167-287): Earthwork, bridge works, etc. are in progress.</p>

(b) Doubling of Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi is likely to be completed by 2007-08 as per the target fixed. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line is likely to be delayed by a year or so.

(c) The necessary funds are being provided for Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line project. The matter is regularly being pursued with the State Government to resolve land disputes and hand over the land to Railway free of all encumbrances. Efforts have also been taken to step up security arrangements on the project alignment.

[Translation]

Employment to NCC 'C' Certificate Holders

3759. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give priority to the NCC 'C' certificate holders in the other Government services and Non-Government Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the scheme formulated by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is considering to

induct 'C' certificate holders in the internal security forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government provides, reservation for recruitment in the Armed Forces, and weightage of marks in the para-military organisations to NCC 'C' Certificate holders. However, there is no proposal with Ministry of Defence to accord priority in other Government Services and non-Government institutions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Auction of Scrap Material

3760. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approach way to the Railway bridge over Gangadhar river near Golakganj was blown away by flood;

(b) if so, whether the Railway Department has disposed of scrap materials of the bridge by auction sale;

(c) if so, whether the Government is aware of the fact that the auction sale was declared as illegal and void by the Civil Court of Dhubri;

(d) whether the court directed to restore and develop the bridge with both Railway and road service; and

(e) if so, whether the Government would abide by the Court's orders and re-construct the same bridge in course of the on-going construction of the new Moinaguri-Gogighupa railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railway bridge over river Gangadhar was in existence on railway line connecting Golakganj and Bamanhat prior to Independence. After Independence, this link via East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was abandoned. The Railway Bridge over the river Gangadhar was washed away by floods subsequently.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) On this subject matter copy of court's judgment of Civil Court, Dhubri has been received by this Ministry recently. Old alignment of railway line over which bridge in question existed has been abandoned as explained in reply to part (a) above. However, a bridge over river Gangadhar is to be built on new line connecting New Maynaguri with Jogighopa station which is in progress. This bridge will be purely a Railway bridge. Regarding construction of Road Bridge, the matter pertains to the State Government.

Re-Employment in Railway PSUs

3781. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Railway Public Sector Undertakings have been permitted to re-employ/re-engage retired officers and staff upto the age of 65 years;

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

(c) the details of staff re-employed/re-engaged as consultant/advisor in Railway Public Sector Undertakings; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide jobs to unemployed youths instead of giving jobs to retired employees?

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

(b) As per the guidelines, reemployment of superannuated officials is permitted in exceptional cases where specific expertise and experience are not readily or adequately available. Non-technical/non-professional employees are not permitted to be re-employed. Re-employment is permitted in cases where a project is in midstream and withdrawal of the expert who is retiring will adversely affect the completion of the project. Care is also taken by Public Sector Units (PSUs) that only officers having sufficient time before retirement are posted on new projects so that necessity for re-employment for completion of the project does not arise. Re-employment by PSUs can be with the approval of Board of the Directors of Public Sector Units (PSUs).

Retired personnel can be engaged only on specific assignment as consultant/advisors. Engagement of consultant should be need based for specific assignment and for specific duration. Consultants are not allowed to take regular work of the Companies. Consultant cannot undertake any work which involves entering into financial commitments for exercising powers or matter which are likely to bind the Company. Consultant is to be drawn from a panel approved by Board of Directors of the Company. Only persons who are clear from vigilance angle can be engaged as consultants/advisors.

(c) There are nine Public Sector Units (PSUs) namely Rail India Technical Economic Services (RITES), IRCON International Limited (IRCON), Container Corporation Limited (CONCOR), Mumbai Rail Vikas Limited (MRVC), Railtel Corporation Limited (RCIL), Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) and Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC) under the Ministry of Railways. The details of staff re-employed/re-engaged as consultant/advisor in these Public Sector Units is as under.

Name of PSUs	Re-Employed	Re-Engaged	Total
1	2	3	4
RITES	24	167	191
IRCON	1	7	8
CONCOR	-	119	119
MRVC	-	15	15
RCIL	-	28	28

1	2	3	4
IRCTC	-	43	43
RVNL	-	7	7
KRCL	-	20	20
IRFC	-	-	Nil

(d) Retired employees are being engaged in exceptional cases where the job requirement demands so and these employments are for a short duration. These requirements can not be met with by giving jobs to unemployed youths.

[*Translation*]

Prasar Bharati Journalists in Foreign Countries

3762. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to recall correspondents working in foreign countries for Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the countries where correspondents are still working; and

(d) the total amount of money spent on them during the last three years?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The names of the countries where AIR Journalists are presently working are Afghanistan, Nepal, Srilanka, Bangladesh & U.A.E.

(d) The total amount of money spent on them during the last three years is Rs. 4,65,72,716/-.

[*English*]

Source of Funding and Investment of Star and Tata Sons

3763. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is examining the source of funding and investment of Star and Tata Sons joint venture of DTH application after acceptance of fees of Rs.10 crore;

(b) whether same procedure was adopted in the case of Zee TV; and

(c) if not, the reasons for financial scrutiny and source of funding and other investment of Star and Tata Sons Joint Venture proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) M/s Space TV (Tata-Star Joint Venture) have been asked to provide certain clarifications about project financing and nature of management control, to ensure conformity to DTH guidelines.

(b) The Ministry granted DTH license to M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd. also after detailed examination of their application, in accordance with DTH Guidelines, including sources of funding, foreign investments, shareholders agreements, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Mixing of Ethanol in Petrol

3764. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mixing of ethanol in petrol is mandatory;

(b) if so, whether this practice is still followed;

(c) if not, whether the Government has changed the decision in regard to the mixing ethanol in petrol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, owing to continuous difficulties in sourcing ethanol consistently at reasonable prices, Gazette Notification No.705(E) dated 27.10.2004 was issued. In terms of the notification, as long as the prices of ethanol are competitive and reasonable, and supply of ethanol is adequate, the oil marketing companies are statutorily required to lift the same and supply the ethanol blended petrol in notified areas. The areas which have been notified are the States of Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh (all districts except Chittoor and Nellore),

Tamil Nadu (only districts Coimbatore, Dindigul, Erode, Kanyakumari, Nilgiri, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, and Virudhunagar), and the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

The Oil Marketing Companies have decided to invite tenders for procuring ethanol in terms of the Gazette notification dated 27.10.2004.

Terrorist Activities in J&K

3765. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists activities are on the rise consequent upon withdrawal of troops in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the number of incidents taking place thereafter;

(c) the number of terrorists killed/arrested after withdrawal of troops;

(d) whether the Government propose to re-consider its decision;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 58 terrorist initiated incidents have taken place and 25 terrorists have been killed and 7 apprehended since troops started withdrawal from 17th November, 2004 till 15th December, 2004.

(d) to (f) The security situation is dynamic and is reviewed periodically. No compromise will be made on security related matters and plans are in place to cater for all possible operational contingencies.

[English]

Vacant Posts of G.M.

3766. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of General Managers in the Railways have fallen vacant for the past few months;

(b) if so, the number of posts of General Managers are lying vacant, zone-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up the posts of General Managers, in different zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Due to the superannuation/promotion of earlier incumbents, some posts of General Managers in the Railways had fallen vacant. However, all the vacant posts have since been filled up by appointing General Managers in these Railway zones.

Self Certification Status

3767. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the self-certification status is being granted by the Government to its own Ordnance Factories without applying the norms laid down for the public and private sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an anomaly;

(c) whether the Government propose to rectify the anomaly;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQU): (a) Keeping in view the principle that manufacturer should be responsible for the quality of the product manufactured by them, ordnance factories have been allowed to manufacture seven low technology clothing items under self certification. The decision has been taken after considering all aspects relating to Quality Assurance of the product.

(b) to (e) Not applicable.

Procurement of Gamma Ray Based Cargo Scanners

3768. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to purchase 5 Nos. Gamma Ray based Cargo Scanners from Rapiscan USA at a price of Rs. 8.22 crores each;

(b) if so, whether this equipment is available in USA at less than Rs.4 crores each;

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent this outflow of extra Government money of value Rs. 20 crores;

(d) whether Gamma Ray based Cargo scanners are not allowed in many European and Asian countries such as Belgium, Poland, Germany, Japan, Switzerland etc., as they use radioactive material which can be used by terrorists to unleash radiation attacks on the masses which can cause havoc; and

(e) if so, the reasons for using such risky technology at public places?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Ministry of Defence proposes to procure quantity 3 to 5 Gamma Ray based Mobile Cargo Search Systems. The contract negotiations with M/s Rapiscan Security Products Inc., USA, which quoted the lowest price, are going on with regard to the price, efficacy, safety, etc., as relevant to the equipment.

(d) and (e) Gamma Ray based Cargo Scanners are presently deployed in a number of countries. One Mobile Gamma Ray system is already in operation at Nhava Sheva Port, Navi Mumbai. Gamma Ray systems use Cobalt 60 as the radioactive source for generation of Gamma rays and need to comply with the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) recommendations in vogue and incorporate several safety features to technically qualify for procurement.

[Translation]

Indian Channels in Foreign Countries

3769. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the Government is telecasting Doordarshan channel in various foreign countries as reported in the Hindustan dated November 28, 2004;

(b) the total amount spent as well as income generated by the Government every year for telecasting these channels;

(c) whether the Government has also cleared the formalities to telecast the DD news/pay channels in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and amount proposed to be spent and income likely to be earned through this project;

(e) whether the above channel had been previously launched as DD India;

(f) if so, the reasons for discontinuation of this channel; and

(g) the other channels likely to be telecasted by Doordarshan in foreign countries, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the signal of Doordarshan's international channel, DD-India can be received in various foreign countries.

(b) The monthly hiring charge for transponders on the PAS-10 and PAS-9 satellites used for telecasting of the DD-India channel works out to US\$ 121875 + Income Tax @ 11.11%. Doordarshan earns US \$ 189,642 per year through the distribution of this channel in USA, Canada and the UAE.

(c) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati's proposal to broadcast DD News Channel to the U.K. audience through a DTH (BskyB) platform is yet to be approved by the competent authority.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

(g) Doordarshan has received bids for the distribution and marketing in USA and Canada of five regional language channels-Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Tamil.

Risk Allowance to Employees

3770. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for depriving the employees of the category 'Master Craftmen' from the benefits of risk allowances given to the industrial employees working in the hazardous zone of ordnance manufacturing;

(b) whether the Government propose to give risk allowance to the employees working in the hazardous zone of ordnance manufacturing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Government have already issued orders for grant of risk allowance to the categories of unskilled, semi-

skilled and skilled workers engaged in hazardous processes. Since the 'Master Craftsman' does not fall in any of the said categories, those occupying the said post are not entitled to risk allowance.

[English]

Revenue Losses to Railways

3771. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the slashing of air fares by the Airlines operating in the country, the Railways have been suffering substantial loss of revenue;

(b) if so, the details of the comparative loss suffered by the Railways in various zones after reduction in Air fares since September, 2004;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a new fare policy to bring the rail fares at a level reasonably competitive with the air fares; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Unauthorised Use of Gas Cylinders

3772. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of LPG cylinders are being used by Hoteliers, Halwais and Taxi-owners, particularly in Western U.P.;

(b) if so, the cost of each cylinder and the difference between sale price and cost price, i.e., subsidy on each cylinder;

(c) the action Government have proposed to take to prevent misuse of large volume of subsidy payable on account of unauthorised use of LPG cylinders;

(d) whether such misuse is encouraging burden of exchequer as well as shortage of availability of cylinders for domestic use due to which householders have to pay exorbitant prices; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to prevent unauthorised use of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Some incidents of diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes in various markets have come to the notice of Government.

(b) The import parity price of each domestic cylinder is Rs. 492/- per cylinder, based on the November, 2004 international prices. However, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are selling at the rate of Rs. 281/- per cylinder. Thus, subsidy on each cylinder is Rs. 211/- out of which Rs. 22.58 per domestic cylinder is provided from the Central Government budget during the year 2004-05, the rest being borne by OMCs.

(c) to (e) Following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

(i) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1995 has been promulgated. As per this Order, use of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes is prohibited. Such offence is punishable with imprisonment from 3 months to 7 years under the Essential Commodities Act.

(ii) State Governments and Oil Companies are empowered to take action under the provisions of the above Order.

(iii) Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for LPG distributors of OMCs have been laid down by the Government in April, 2001. According to these guidelines, if the distributor is found indulging in diversion of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, penalties are imposed as follows:-

(a) Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for the 1st offence.

(b) Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for the 2nd offence, and

(c) Termination of the distributorship for the 3rd offence,

(iv) OMCs carry out refill audits of distributors from time to time to prevent any unauthorised use of domestic cylinders.

- (v) Raids by OMCs, alongwith State Government officials, at commercial establishments are conducted periodically.

Report on Tehelka Exposure

3773. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Justice S.N. Phukan Commission has submitted its report on Tehelka expose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Phukan Commission set up to investigate the Tehelka episode has been wound up recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the services of the officers allegedly involved in Tehelka scam/exposure have been reinstated; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Part-I of the Report was submitted to the Government on 4.2.2004 by the Commission. The Commission in its order dated 5th February, 2004 mentioned that the report contains prologue and conclusions in respect of 15 past transactions with interim recommendations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Justice S.N. Phukan Commission has been wound up from 4.10.2004. After careful consideration of the entire matter, the Government has decided to have the matter investigated by the CBI.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Movement of Containers in Railways

3774. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding prescribing regular arrangement for the movement of containers in railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

**Closure of Retail Outlets of Petrol/
Diesel Pumps**

3775. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of petrol/diesel pumps lying closed in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of outlets, State-wise;

(c) the specific reasons for their closure; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for resumption of operation in each of these outlets?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) As on 31-10-2004, 224 retail outlets (petrol/diesel pumps) belonging to public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited, were lying closed in various parts of the country, The State/Union Territory-wise position of these outlets is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) These retail outlets were lying closed owing to a number of reasons like: widening of national highways,

deaths of dealers, disputes among legal heirs/partners, financial constraints and consequent non-upliftment of products, cancellation of 'no objection certificates' by the district authorities, suspension of explosives licences, sites acquired by the Government/Railway authorities for public works; land disputes; unviability of dealerships; mismanagement, dealers not taking an interest in running the outlet, punitive action against the dealers under Marketing Discipline Guidelines; court cases, etc.

(d) Steps being taken by the OMCs for the resumption of operations in these cases include action as per the court's direction in cases which are subjudice; resitement of the outlets which are lying closed owing to road diversion/ land disputes/road closure; reconstitution of dealerships in case of death of the dealer/partnership disputes/financial problem; follow-up with the State Government authorities for renewal/obtaining various licences/no objection certificates for revival of outlets which are lying closed owing to cancellation of licences, etc., by those authorities; and processing cases as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines where the outlet is lying closed because of punitive action taken by the OMCs under these Guidelines.

Statement

Number of retail outlets of the public sector oil marketing companies lying closed in the country as on 31.10.2004

S.No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Number of retail outlets lying closed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	19
4.	Chhattisgarh	2
5.	Gujarat	19
6.	Goa	1
7.	Haryana	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jharkhand	9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
11.	Kerala	5

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka	15
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9
14.	Maharashtra	17
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Nagaland	1
17.	Orissa	10
18.	Punjab	4
19.	Rajasthan	10
20.	Tamil Nadu	20
21.	Uttar Pradesh	25
22.	Uttaranchal	4
23.	West Bengal	24
24.	Delhi	3
Total		224

[Translation]

Implementation of PESA Act, 1996

3776. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is monitoring the implementation of the Provisions for the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details about various provisions of PESA Act, 1996 implemented in West Bengal;

(c) whether the implementation of PESA Act, 1996 has been diluted at the cost of tribals as stated in the agenda for Chief Ministers Conference; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken to ensure that the Act is implemented to fulfil the desired objectives?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 was passed by the Parliament

in 1996 and the provisions of the 73rd Amendment with some modifications have been extended to the tribal areas under Schedule V in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan. It is not extended to West Bengal.

(c) and (d) All States where PESA, 1996 is applicable have enacted legislation as provided for in the Central Act. Notwithstanding the legislation, it appears that implementation has been diluted at the cost of tribals. Critical issues such as access to natural resources, especially the definition and right over Minor Forest Product such as bamboo, remain unresolved. In general, the objectives of PESA have not been adequately realized in States with large tribal populations. The third Round Table of Minister in charge of Panchayati Raj was held at Raipur on 23-24 September, 2004 in which issues relating to the implementation of PESA were discussed. The Ministers of Panchayati Raj agreed to recommend to their respective governments, for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, action points arrived at during the meeting. A copy of the conclusions reached during the meeting is enclosed at the Statement.

Statement

Third Round Table of Ministers In-Charge of Panchayati Raj-Raipur, 23-24 September 2004

Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj, and their representatives, bearing in mind the spirit of cooperative federalism which must inform the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj as set out in Part IX of the Constitution of India and related provisions, agreed to recommend to their respective Governments, for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, the following points of action:

L The Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)

- (i) The need to consult the tribal communities and their elected representatives in evolving criteria for the constitution of Village Panchayats and Gram Sabhas in Schedule V Areas, to ensure that tribal communities, on the basis of ethnic identities, are constituted into different Gram Sabhas even within a Gram panchayat area.
- (ii) The need to take steps to implement in a time-bound framework the provisions of PESA in respect of the rights of the Gram Sabhas in Schedule V Areas:

to identify the beneficiaries of plans, programmes and projects undertaken for economic development and social justice;

- to grant approval to plans/programmes/projects for local development formulated by Village Panchayats;
- to authorize the issue of Certificates of Utilization of Funds for plans, programmes and projects undertaken by Village Panchayats.

(iii) The need to empower Gram Sabhas and Panchayats in Schedule V Areas:

- to safeguard community ownership of land and its resources and thus ensure that tribal land is not alienated;
- to ensure that they are necessarily consulted before any land is acquired for any purpose.
- to ensure that their right to ownership of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is assured; that they can plan and manage minor water-bodies; and control and regulate how minor minerals are extracted, used and marketed.

(iv) To undertake wider consultation with other Government departments in order that the provisions of other legislation not compatible with the provisions of PESA are harmonized with the aims and objectives of PESA.

M Reservations for Women

- (i) It is clear that women have been able to enlarge their representation beyond the minimum 33 1/3% prescribed by the Constitution. In Karnataka, 45% of the elected offices are occupied by women and in Uttar Pradesh, 54% of the Zilla Panchayats Presidents are women. Similarly, in Tamil Nadu, 36% seats of chairpersons of Gram Panchayats are occupied by women.
- (ii) In promoting larger social objectives through PRIs, States may be sensitized to issues of gender empowerment so that the unintended consequences of such policies is not to diminish the role of women in Panchayati Raj.
- (iii) The Constitution does provide for the rotation of seats reserved for women but does not prescribe the number of terms for which seats may be reserved before rotation. Seats may be reserved for one term or two terms or more depending upon the provisions made by the State Legislature

in the State Law. There are different practices being adopted in the different States and there are different practices under contemplation in several States. This being so, the option to reserve seats for more than one-term is open but it is for the State Legislature to decide the number of terms for which seats will remain reserved.

- (iv) The empowerment of women through reservations in the panchayats is a necessary first step but needs to be reinforced by a number of other measures such as:
- (a) the provision of Women Component Plans in the budgets of the PRIs;
 - (b) linkages with Self Help Groups (SHGs);
 - (c) adequate training and capacity building;
 - (d) encouragement to political parties to put up women candidates;
 - (e) the opportunity to women to serve a full term when they are elected to posts in the PR system;
 - (f) Mahila Sabhas (or equivalent) to facilitate women's concerns and priorities being raised in meetings of Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas (or equivalent sub-Gram Sabha forums);
 - (g) separate quorum for women's participation in Gram Sabhas and sub-Gram Sabha forums.
- (v) Reservations to the post of chairperson in the PR system has been challenged in the courts of law, calling for an appropriate defence of the provisions in the court and jurisprudential clarifications of the issues involved.

III. Reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Article 243D provides that seats for SC/ST be reserved on the basis of the SC/ST population in each Panchayat area. While by and large the States were faithfully following the provisions of Article 243D, problems arise where the percentage of SC/ST population is very low. The Round Table demonstrated that the cross-State experience of States dealing with this problem was very useful. Such cross-State exchange of practices and experience may be encouraged.

Development of Deep Water Port at Krishnapatnam

3777. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to consider the construction of railway line from Hastavarana Railway station near Cuddapah to Krishnapatnam port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said railway line is likely to be sanctioned to ease transportation of coal and iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request has been received recently from the Andhra Pradesh Government requesting for construction of new broad gauge rail line from Obulvaripalli in Kadapa District to Krishnapatnam Port.

(c) The work of providing rail link to Krishnapatnam Port is an identified work under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY). Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has already prepared a bankability report based on the Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey conducted by the Railway. RVNL has been directed to conduct final location survey with modified standards and to review the traffic considering the impact of up gradation of Ennore Port.

New Railway Line from Machlipatnam to Bapla

3778. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a new railway line from Machlipatnam to Bapla via Puligadda-Penumudi-Repalle in order to reduce the distance from Chennai to Kolkata;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, whether it has been found viable;

(d) if not, whether the Government consider this proposal in view of its importance that it will reduce the distance and benefit the farmers of this east coastal region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A survey for a new Broad Gauge rail line between Machlipatnam-Repalli has been included in the Budget 2004-05. Further consideration of the proposal would be feasible once the results of the survey become available.

Railway Police Station at Habibganj

3779. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway police stations have been sanctioned at Habibganj railway station, Bhopal and Rewa Railway Station, Rewa in Madhya Pradesh since 1997;

(b) if so, whether fifty percent expenditure incurred on these police stations is borne by the railway administration and the remaining fifty percent by the State Government as per a set policy;

(c) whether functioning of both these police stations is being stalled due to non-payment of its contribution for the purpose by the Railway administration;

(d) if so, the action being taken by the railway administration in this regard; and

(e) if not, the time by which action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The Police Stations are functional. However, the State of Madhya Pradesh has created posts for these Police Stations without concurrence of the Railway Board. Justification for these posts has been sought for from the State Government. Reply to which is still awaited. Further action will be taken after receipt of requisite justification and documents from the State Police.

Survey on Drug Abuse

3780. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has asked the States to conduct surveys on drug and alcohol abuse;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the State Governments thereon;

(c) whether the Government had introduced several measures to bring about greater transparency in release of funds to NGOs;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in coordination with State Governments to curb drug abuse and alcohol consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has introduced the following measures to bring about transparency in release of funds to NGOs:

- Selection of proposals for release of grant in aid under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse is carried out by a Screening Committee which includes experts in the field from the voluntary sector.
- Grant-in-aid is credited directly to the bank accounts of the Voluntary Organisations.
- Information about release of funds to each voluntary organization is available on the website of the Ministry of Justice & Empowerment at www.socialjustice.nic.in.

(e) In order to prevent youth drifting into substance abuse, awareness generation is carried out through the Departments of Social Welfare and Education in the States and Union Territories. Besides, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment supports 54 Counselling Centres and 364 Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation centers all over the country for carrying out awareness building, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of persons who are victims of substance abuse including alcohol.

Pending Railway Projects

3781. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of railway projects are pending in Southern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of pending railway projects of Tamil Nadu so far and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has requested the Union Government for speedy completion of railway projects in the State; and

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Pending projects are considered as those projects which have been included in the budget but clearances are awaited. No such project is pending in Tamil Nadu and Southern Railway. However, 04 new line, 07 gauge conversion, 14 doubling and 01 electrification projects are in progress in Southern Railway. In Tamil Nadu, 02 new line, 07 gauge conversion and 07 doubling projects are in progress falling partly/fully in the State. These projects are in various stages of progress. Work on gauge conversion of Madurai-Manamadurai (48 kms) and Thanjavur-Tiruvarur (55 kms) and 3rd line from Pattabiram to Tiruvallur (16 kms) falling in Tamil Nadu are targeted for completion during 2004-05. Projects are being progressed as per availability of resources and will be completed in the coming years.

(d) No such request has been received in the recent past.

- (e) Does not arise.

Kerosene to SKO Dealer

3782. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil PSUs and Government has finalized minimum 75 K.L. Volume of Kerosene for SKO/LDO dealers to make the dealership economically viable;

(b) the number of SKO/LDO dealers in Haryana are not released the volume of 75 KLS of SKO, during the last three years, dealer-wise and company-wise;

(c) the number of dealerships out of them are belonging to widows and SCs/STs;

(d) whether such dealerships would be permitted to resite to make them economically viable;

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which such dealership would be made economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) While making recommendations for the quantum of commission payable to the dealers of SKO-LDO, the public sector oil marketing companies considered a viability norm of 75 kilolitre per month of kerosene for SKO-LDO dealerships.

- (b) In the State of Haryana, there are 38 SKO-

LDO dealerships, the average monthly allocation of kerosene to whom over the period 1st April, 2001 to 31st March, 2004, has been less than 75 kilolitre per month. The oil company-wise position as under:-

Oil Company	No. of dealerships
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	12
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	17
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	3
IBP Co. Ltd.	6
Total	38

(c) Out of these 38 dealerships, two dealerships are under the Scheduled Castes category and one for a Defence widow.

(d) to (f) The oil company-wise allocation of kerosene for a district is made by the State Government concerned based on the total allocation of the product made to the State. Out of this allocation, the company makes further allocations to its dealers in the district, keeping in view the historical allocation data for each of the dealers. As and when a new dealer is appointed in the district, the allocation of the new dealer is made by reducing the allocation of the existing dealers in the district/adjoining districts having higher allocation. Further, distribution of kerosene, meant for the public distribution system, by the dealers in the district, wherein they are located (and also in the adjoining district) is under the purview of the State Government. The quota of the district remains unchanged if there is no revision in the quota of the State itself.

In view of this, the resitement of SKO-LDO dealerships from one location to another is not likely to serve the purpose.

In order to increase the viability of the SKO-LDO dealerships, the oil companies have allowed their dealers to market lubricants and also to market indigenously-produced 'non-public distribution system' kerosene to genuine small volume consumers. These measures give additional business opportunity to the SKO-LDO dealers.

Bhavnagar-Tarapore Railway Line

3783. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received survey report about Bhavnagar-Tarapore Rail line (Western Railways); and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Contract Army

3784. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal of contract army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this system will have major benefits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Civilianisation of MES

3785. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5741 dated May 2, 2002 regarding functioning of MES and state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended civilian Head for MES organization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 90% of top administration of MES is in the hands of Army Officers despite the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission;

(d) if so, whether the Government has already issued orders for gradual civilianisation of MES;

(e) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of

Fifth Central Pay Commission recommendations in toto as well as the Government orders in this regard; and

(f) the time by which such orders are likely to be implemented by the Military Engineering Services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In para 50.102 of their report the Vth Central Pay Commission has observed that "We have carefully perused the views of Engineer-in-Chief Branch on the memorandum of the IDSE Association and have examined the present organizational structure in MES. We find that there is tremendous resentment among civilian officers of MES due to disparities in equivalence between Army and Civilian Officers. Further, the senior-most civilian officer who is Additional Director General in the pay scale of Rs. 7300-7600 is reporting to the Director General who is a military officer of the rank of Major General in the pay scale of Rs. 5900-6700. This is obviously an anomaly. In the interests of the organization and fair play, we recommend that the head of this organization should be a civilian.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Orders have been issued for redesignating the post of Additional Director General (Systems and Control) held by the senior most civilian officer of Military Engineering Service (MES) as Director General (Personnel), who will report directly to Engineer-in-Chief. Orders have also been issued for maintaining proper mix of civilian and service officers by ensuring that in the hierarchy of the personnel management, the service and civilian officers at all level shall alternate.

(e) MES is an Inter-Service Organisation having a judicious mix of civil and Army Personnel to avail expertise of both Army and civilian nature of functions. Therefore, no decision for withdrawal of service personnel from MES has been taken.

(f) In view of answer to part (e) above, the question does not arise.

Files Required for Audit

3786. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in its report No.7 2004 (Air Force & Navy) has stated that Navy and Air Force failed to provide number of files requisitioned for audit during October 1995 and March 2003 where expenditure involved in each case was Rs. 10 crore or more;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to inquire into the matter and make those files available to Audit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government on each para of Report No.7 of 2004;

(f) the number of audit paras pending with the Ministry of Defence from 31.3.1996 onwards together with reasons for not replying them; and

(g) the time by which those audit paras is likely to be replied?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) C&AG in its Report No.7 of 2004 had stated that 5 files of Air Force and Navy requisitioned by Audit during the period between October 1995 and March 2003, where expenditure involved was Rs. 10 crore or more, were not made available to Audit.

(b) to (d) Four files out of five referred to above have since been sent to Audit. The fifth file pertains to Defence Research & Development Organisation's 'Top Secret' project. Therefore, the same has not been forwarded. However, the file can be perused by a representative of C&AG at the DRDO's Headquarters with the approval of the competent authority.

(e) The Audit Paragraphs contained in the C&AG's Report No.7 of 2004 (Air Force & Navy) are at various stages of processing in the Ministry of Defence for furnishing the Action Taken Notes.

(f) At present, a total number of 237 audit paragraphs are pending; including those from 31.3.1996 onwards. Delay in preparation of Action Taken Notes takes place due to the fact that the information/material to prepare the ATNs for Audit Paras are required to be collected from various agencies including those in the field area spread all over India.

(g) All out efforts are being made to reply the pending Audit Paras expeditiously.

[Translation]

Increase in Quota of Berth in Trains

3787. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the sleeper class berth quota in trains running through the Kurduvadi railway station in district Sholapur of Maharashtra particularly in Chennai Mail (Chennai-Mumbai) and to

establish a rail booking office there and construct one more platform to ease inconveniences of passengers caused by the halting of goods shuttle train there;

(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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A computerised passenger reservation system is already available at Kurduvadi station with access to reservation for all trains. As per extant policy, whenever a computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) is provided at a particular station no separate quota is allotted at that station. As regards construction of one more platform at Kurduvadi station, four platforms are available for reception/departure of passenger traffic at this station which is considered adequate for the present level of traffic. According to the norms, this station is having all the minimum essential passenger amenities including the rail booking office.

Crane Scam

3788. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any case of purchase of substandard crane worth about Rs. 800 crores from a foreign company names Kotwal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has investigated or is likely to investigate the case, by constituting a high level committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No substandard crane worth about Rs.800 crores have been procured from a foreign company named Kotwal.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Committees on Revival of Sick PSUs

3789. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the Committees set up by the Government regarding revival of sick Public Sector Undertakings units during last three years alongwith the composition thereof, Committee-wise;

(b) the suggestion made by these committees, committee-wise;

(c) whether the Government has implemented those recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) Department of Public Enterprises has not set up centrally any Committee on revival of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) during last three years. However, with a view to studying the problems of some PSEs in the administrative charge of certain Ministries/Departments some ad hoc committees could possibly have been set up. Details of such committees are not maintained centrally.

As announced in the Budget Speech of 2004, Government in DPE has recently set up a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) the composition of which include one part time Chairman, three part time Non-Official Members and three Official Members. It is premature to furnish any information on submission of any report or making any advice in the cases of revival/ restructuring of sick enterprises by the BRPSE as it has yet to make any such recommendations/advice.

[English]

Entry Fee for Taj Mahal

3790. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Full Moon viewing of Taj Mahal at Agra has been allowed for 5 days a month during this winter;

(b) if so, the details thereof with rate of entry fee;

(c) the reasons for fixing the entry beyond the reach of common man; and

(d) the steps taken for the security of Taj Mahal and viewers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Supreme Court of

India has permitted night viewing of Taj Mahal for five days in a month for three months during this winter. 648 visitors viewed the Taj during moonlit nights on 27th and 28th November, 2004.

The rate of entry fee for night viewing is as following:

Indian Citizens: Rs.510 (per head)

Others: Rs.750 (per head)

(c) The rate of entry fee for night viewing was fixed based on the additional cost for providing security, and for regulating the number of visitors as the Supreme Court's permission is for allowing only 400 visitors per night.

(d) Internal security of Taj Mahal is looked after by the Central Industrial Security Force and the external security is looked after by Uttar Pradesh Police personnel. Group of visitors are escorted by security personnel both outside and inside the Taj Mahal.

Saraswati Plan

3791. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has set up a panel to revive Saraswati Plan;

(b) if so, whether this project was launched 2 years ago to establish existence of indigenous Harappan civilization along the mythical river, which is stretched from Shivaliks to the Arabian Sea;

(c) if so, to what extent the panel has revived this plan; and

(d) the extent to which it has been accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Saraswati Heritage Project as such was not launched.

(c) and (d) No sanction order in regard to Saraswati Heritage Project was issued. Financial concurrence for the project was obtained on 1.3.2004 at a cost of Rs. 4.98 crores. This amount was to be met from regular budgetary provisions.

In anticipation of the sanction of the project, six sites were taken up for archaeological excavations in 2003-2004,

in addition to the three sites which had been taken up earlier. The excavations are in progress.

Allocation of Funds Under Various Schemes of Andhra Pradesh

3792. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes for the welfare of the destitute children, old age persons, widows, destitutes and physically disabled persons, have been sent by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for allocation of funds, to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made allocation under the schemes for the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Allocation of funds in various schemes is made on All India basis. Details of proposals for grant in aid relating to children, old age persons, widows, destitutes and physically disabled persons, received from Andhra Pradesh and sanctioned during 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto 22.12.2004) are given in the table below:-

S. No.	Name of Scheme	2003-04			2004-05 (upto 22.12.2004)		
		No. of Proposals received	No. of Proposals Sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	No. of Proposals received	No. of Proposals Sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in crore)
1.	Swadhar	4*	-	-	4**	1	0.05
2.	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme	196***	159	15.71	168****	153	8.03
3.	Scheme of assistance for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme)	22@	15	5.51	16@@	11	2.21
4.	An Integrated Programme for the Older Persons.	140\$	123	4.34	80\$\$	63	1.89
5.	Scheme regarding upgradation/ Establishment of Special Employment Exchange for Physically Handicapped.	1#	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Scheme of Assistance to Homes for Children (Shishu Greh)	1	1	0.39	-	-	-
7.	A Programme for Juvenile Justice	-	-	-	1#	-	-
8.	An Integrated Programme for Street Children	29&	28	1.25	32+	29	0.90
9.	General Grant in Aid programme for financial Assistance in the field of Social Defence	4++	1	0.008	1	1	1.59

* Proposals sent back to State Govt. by Women and Child Development Department, Ministry of Human Resource Development, since the same were not forwarded through the State Level Empowered Committee.

** 3 proposals were incomplete

*** 37 proposals not recommended by the Screening Committee of the Ministry

**** 15 proposals not recommended by the Screening Committee

@ 7 proposals were incomplete

@@ 5 proposals were incomplete

Incomplete proposal

\$ 17 proposals were incomplete

\$\$ 17 proposals were incomplete

& 1 proposal not approved

+ 3 proposals were incomplete

++ 3 proposals not recommended by the Screening Committee of the Ministry

Excel Awards by BHEL

3793. SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) announced "Excel Awards" for its employees for promoting excellence in the organization; and

(b) if so, the details and the criteria for this award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. "BHEL Excel Awards Scheme" was launched on 1st January, 2000 to promote excellence in the company. Work completed during a financial year is evaluated for award in ten different categories. Some of the major criteria for award are development of new technology, new records in operational efficiency, environment conservation and in-house Software development.

The nominated candidates are short listed by a Screening Committee and evaluated by a five-member jury and finally approved by CMD. Normally, in each category awards are given either to an individual or to a group of employees or both every year, all the awards include cash award, a medallion and scroll.

Bankura-Damodar River Rail Project

3794. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Bankura-Damodar river project from Bankura to Somamukhi 1st phase;

(b) whether a survey from Beliapore to Durgapur which connect B.D.R. to Eastern Railway, the gateway to South Corridor to East Corridor have been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The work of gauge conversion between Bankura and Somamukhi is in full swing and the section is targeted for completion by March 2005.

RVNL Projects being executed by Zonal Railways as deposit works

S.No.	Name of the project	Outlay 2003-04 (Rs. in crore)	Outlay 2004-05 (Rs. in crore)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Central Railway				
1	Pakni-Solapur Doubling	15	25	
2	Divya-Kalyan: 5&6 Line	10	9	

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey was conducted in July 1998 for construction of a new line from Beliapore to Durgapur. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 28-kms-long line was assessed as Rs. 90.64 crore at the then price level with a negative rate of return. The proposal could not be considered due to acute constraint of resources and heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects.

Selection of Projects/Schemes under Railway Vikas Fund

3795. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedures for selection of projects/schemes under Railway Vikas Fund;

(b) whether Zonal Railways are getting fund out of the Railway Vikas Fund;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) the number of projects/schemes approved under Railway Vikas Fund and allocations made to each project/scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) To remove capacity bottlenecks in the critical sections of the railway network National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) was announced on 15.08.02. NRVY comprises strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral connecting four metropolitan cities, providing port & hinterland connectivity and construction of four mega bridges over Ganga, Brahmaputra and Kosi rivers.

(b) to (d) There is no Railway Vikas Fund. Perhaps, Hon'ble MP is referring to the funds allocated to projects transferred to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) set up in 2003-04. Some of these works are executed by zonal Railways on behalf of RVNL. The funds for these projects are released by RVNL to Zonal Railways as per the progress of the works. The details of the sanctioned projects/schemes which have been transferred to RVNL and allocations made for each of the projects during the last year and current year are as follows:

1	2	3	4	5
3	Panvel-JNPT Doubling	20	25	
Eastern Railway				
4	Gurup-Shaktigarh: 3rd line	20	4	
Northern Railway				
5	New Delhi-Tilak Bridge: 5th and 6th line	10	15	
Southern Railway				
6	Attipattu-Korukkupettai: 3rd Line	30	6	Works except permanent way and S&T works are being executed by Railway
7	Pattabhiram-Thiruvallur: 4th Line and Thiruvallur-Arakkonnam: 3rd Line	35	6	Only Pattabhiram-Thiruvallur was to be executed by Railway and has been completed.
South Central Railway				
8	Gooty-Renigunta Sec: Doubling of Balapalle-Pullampet (Ph.-I)	40	5	
9	Gooty-Renigunta: Patch Doubling	40	37.5	Only Pullampet-Bakarapet section without track linking has been done by Railway and has been completed.
South Eastern Railway				
10	Tikiapara-Santragachi: 4th Line Doubling	10	20	
11	Panskura-Haldia Doubling: Phase-I (Panskura-Rajgoda)	20	10	
Western Railway				
12	Gandhidham-Palanpur Gauge Conversion	100	13	Special Purpose Vehicle named Kutch Rail Company has been formed for implementing the project.
Railway Electrification				
13	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep Railway Electrification	40	36	
14	Bhubaneswar- Kottavalasa Railway Electrification	15	36	
15	Guntakal-Reniguntal Railway Electrification	30	40	
East Coast Railway				
16	Talcher-Paradeep Doubling (Second bridge on Mahanadi & Birupa	20	10.99	Only work on 2nd bridge on Birupa river is being done by Railway.

1	2	3	4	5
17	Daitari-Banspani New Line	75	83	Except track and signaling work on Keonjhar-Daitari, all other works are being executed by the railway.
Southeast Central Railway				
18	Bilaspur-Urkura Doubling	40	72	Except for Bhatapara- Urkura section, works on remaining sections are being executed by the Railway.
Total		570	453.49	

Oil and Natural Gas in West Bengal

3796. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is conducting surveys to detect source of oil and natural gas in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exploration is extended to area of Sundarbans;

(d) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to know that whether habitat of Sundarbans will be disturbed or not; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is conducting exploration for hydrocarbons in West Bengal.

ONGC, presently, holds one onland Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) Block, i.e., Contai where it plans to carry out seismic surveys. During 2003-04 ONGC drilled one exploratory well in this block which proved to be deficient in commercial quantities of hydrocarbons. ONGC also holds an offshore block (NEC-26) south of the Sundarbans.

(c) ONGC's present exploration activities do not extend to the Sunderbans area. However, the offshore block where exploration is being carried out, NEC-26, is located south of the Sundarbans.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Production of Bio-Diesel From Jatropha

3797. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned, 'TN Farmers discover new crop of hope', as appeared in the Indian Express dated September 15, 2004; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter reported is about the extraction of oil from Jatropha, mixing it with diesel and using the mixture as auto fuel. It further speaks of extraction of ethanol from sweet sorghum and sugar beet stalks and mixing it with petrol for producing a cheaper eco-friendly fuel.

The Government is aware that bio-diesel is being produced in India in research & development and academic institutions on a pilot scale. Field trials using bio-diesel and diesel blend are being held at present. However, if field trials of bio-diesel blended diesel establish the efficacy of bio-diesel and diesel blend and indicate the possibility of economic pricing of these products, large scale oil seed plantation needs to be undertaken before commercial production of bio-diesel can begin.

Studies have been undertaken to explore the possibility of producing bio-diesel from non-edible oils like Jatropha curcas, Pongamia, etc. The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel under the chairmanship of Dr. D.N. Tewari, former Member, Planning Commission which recommended launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on

plantation of *Jatropha curcas*. The Ministry of Rural Development has been made the nodal Ministry to implement the National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has intimated the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the implementation of the Mission on Bio-diesel has been recently prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for the purpose.

Production of ethanol from various sources is already known to the Government. At present, ethanol produced from molasses, a derivative of sugarcane is being used for blending with petrol in notified States and Union Territories.

Survey of Rail Lines in Orissa

3798. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted survey for Talcher-Gopalpur via-Hindol Narasinghpur-Khandpara rail line in Orissa;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) An updating survey has been conducted in 2003-04 for the proposed Talcher-Gopalpur (293 Kms) new broad gauge line running via Khandapada but not passing via Hindol and Narasinghpur. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 293-kms-long new line has been assessed as Rs. 863.98 crore. In view of heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up the project.

Theft of LPG Cylinders from LPG Godowns

3799. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government owned oil companies about the theft of LPG cylinders from the godown of LPG agencies;

(b) whether these oil companies asked their dealers to get insured the stock of cylinders only at Government controlled prices;

(c) whether Government owned oil companies

are first claiming the value of the cylinders at market price and after proving the theft as genuine by the police/court the difference of market price and Government controlled price is returned to LPG Distributor and the Insurance company make the payment @ Government controlled price;

(d) whether Oil Companies are not following the above cited policy by not paying the difference between market price and Government rates;

(e) if so, the number of such cases are pending with Oil Companies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The policy adopted by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) regarding the theft of LPG cylinders from the godown of an LPG distributor is as under:-

(i) The LPG distributor is required to lodge an FIR with the police immediately after theft of cylinders and also to inform the OMC.

(ii) The Area office of the OMC raises a debit note for the cylinder shortage at penal rates after arriving at the number of cylinders, falling short at the distributors godown. (In case of HPCL, the distributor is required to pay at tariff rate immediately and also give an undertaking that he will pay at penal rate if, at a later stage, theft is proved to be otherwise).

(iii) The distributor is required to submit final report from police or competent authorities within six months from the date of theft, in order to conclusively prove that the shortage of equipment is on account of theft.

(iv) After verification of documents, if the theft is proved as genuine, the difference between the amount collected earlier at penal rates and the amount at tariff rates is refunded to the distributor.

(b) OMCs do not give any instruction to the LPG distributors with respect to insurance coverage for LPG cylinders. The distributors are free to get the cylinder stock insured in their own interest and it is strictly an agreement between the distributor and insurance company.

(c) OMCs decide the penalty on account of theft of cylinders as given in (a) above.

(d) to (g) OMCs have reported that they are following the policy in the matter as given above. However, if any specific case is brought to notice of Government, it shall be investigated.

[Translation]

**Cancellation of Allotment
of Bookstalls**

3800. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued orders to cancel the allotment of recently allotted book stalls and other stalls/shops at the railway stations;

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

(c) whether the Government has plan to remove the unauthorised vendor and shops from every railway Station of the country and allot the stalls/shops to the educated unemployed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, as per the Revised Bookstall and Catering Policies, the existing licences which have already expired or are due to expire will not be renewed and fresh tenders/applications will be invited.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Eviction of unauthorised vendors and shops from stations is a continuous process. New allotments are undertaken based on requirement. As per the Revised Bookstall Policy issued in October 2004, there is provision of allotment of bookstall to unemployed graduates, their associations, co-operatives etc. at 'B' to 'F' category of stations on expiry of existing contracts and at new locations.

[English]

Hostels for SC Students

3801. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Adivasi Rural Development Society for Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste, Koduman, Kerala has been applying for grant-in-aid for running a hostel for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for not considering the same;

(c) the details of other organizations applied for grant-in-aid for running hostels for SC students in Kerala;

(d) the number of applications out of them approved/rejected by the Union Government during the last three years, till date; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned/released in this regard during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No Sir. This Ministry has not received any such proposal through State Govt. of Kerala with recommendation. However, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received a proposal of the organization for grant in aid for setting up Scheduled Tribe Hostel under the Scheme of Grant in aid to voluntary organizations working for the Scheduled Tribes.

(b) The proposal of the organization was considered by the "Project Screening Committee to examine and recommend proposals of Non-Governmental organizations for sanction of new projects" in its meeting held on 13-14 November, 2002, and the said Committee did not recommend the proposal.

(c) This Ministry has not received any proposal from any other organization through the State Govt. of Kerala for setting up hostel for SC students in Kerala.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Manufacturing of Modern Coaches

3802. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether high speed modern coaches are built in Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Perambur, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether those coaches can withstand speed of 150 kms. per hour;

(c) if so, whether long distance trains will run with those coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(c) Indian Railways have adopted technology from German Company M/s Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) (now ALSTOM LHB) for manufacture of light weight, high speed coaches. These coaches have extra earning potential as they can carry more passengers per coach, give better ride comfort and have enhanced safety features. Presently these coaches are provided in Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express and Lucknow Shatabdi trains and would be provided in other trains depending upon traffic requirements and availability of coaches.

Revenue Earnings of DD/AIR

3803. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

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

(a) whether the revenue earnings of Doordarshan and AIR have increased specially by the telecast of advertisements during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total revenue earned by each Doordarshan and AIR Centre during the last three years and till date;

(c) the percentage of hike in rates of advertisement during the above period; and

(d) the steps being taken to attract more and more advertisements through Doordarshan and AIR and to improve the working of Doordarshan and AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the revenue earned by AIR has been increasing constantly. The details of commercial revenue earned by DD/AIR during last three years is as follows:-

(Rupees in crores)

Year	AIR	Doordarshan
2001-02	96.69	615.21
2002-03	102.25	553.81
2003-04	117.70	530.23

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that keeping in view the highly comparative market scenario, rates of telecast of advertisements over Doordarshan have been static during last three years. AIR has, however, rationalized its rates for advertisements in the year 2002 according to the changing market scenario, which has resulted in decreasing the rates of sponsored programmes on its primary channel by 40% and increasing the spot rates of all channels by approximately 10%.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that various steps have been taken by Doordarshan to attract the clients on Doordarshan Channel, which include volume discount schemes for direct booking of the advertisements on DD and bonuses for telecast of advertisements including for Government schemes/projects. Value additions are also being given to clients in the form of branded promos on DD channels, to promote the programmes free of cost. As regards AIR, rationalization of rate card and aggressive marketing of the medium are amongst the steps taken to attract more advertisements.

Joint Patrolling of Malacca Straits

3804. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Malaysia have agreed for joint patrolling of Malacca Straits;

(b) if so, whether two other prominent countries around Strait of Malacca, Singapore and Indonesia have already approached India to patrol sea and ensure safety of the vessels;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached with these countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Protection of Rajgarh Durg

3805. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to protect the famous historical fort 'Rajgarh Kalinjar Durg' situated in Panna District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government has sought assistance and guidelines from UNESCO in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute a committee comprising of local people organisations and people's representatives which would carry out the above mentioned work under the supervision of local people representatives; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to protect Rajgarh Kalinjar Durg.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. UNESCO is normally consulted in matters relating to sites which are inscribed on the World Heritage List.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Acquisition of Russian Oil Company

3806. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is considering acquisition of Russian oil company Yukos at an estimated cost of \$ 8.5 billion;

(b) whether because of huge investment involved, ONGC is exploring a tie-up with Gazprom of Russia to acquire Yukos;

(c) whether international bidders are not keen to bid for Yukos because of potential legal risks involved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir, but consideration is being given to the acquisition, if any, of some of the Yukos assets in case these become available.

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

(c) and (d) Details are not known.

Scholarship Linked with Price Index

3807. SHRI V. K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of scholarship presently given is linked with the price index changes;

(b) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebration Committee represented to link the amount of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships with price index; and

(c) if so, action taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Dr. Ambedkar Centenary Celebration Committee had recommended that the amount of scholarships under Post-Matric scholarship to Scheduled Caste students should be linked up with the cost of living index. The scholarship amount has not been linked with the price index but the rates of the scholarships have been revised upwards twice since then.

Joint Service Doctrine

3808. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI A. K. MOORTHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three armed services are planning to come out with the first ever joint services doctrine;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been felt by the Navy that there is much happening at sea; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the study of military history, principles of war, combat leadership and application of military power in the Indian scenario, a Joint armed services doctrine broadly covering strategic military aspects is being formulated by the Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), in consultation with the three Services, with a

view to synergize the capabilities of the three Services into an effective force.

(c) The Government monitors and analyses all developments at sea on a continuous basis and takes appropriate measures considered necessary to safeguard our national interest.

(d) It would not be in the national interest to divulge details in this regard.

Setting up Production Units in Gujarat

3809. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3765 dated August 21, 2003 regarding setting up of production units in Gujarat and state:

(a) whether the task force has so far, examined the issue of setting up of Defence Production units in Gujarat;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):

(a) The report of the task force has been received.

(b) and (c) The report is under examination.

Smuggling in Passenger Train

3810. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has confiscated 273 UP Bhikhna Thori-Narkatiaganj passenger train on February 20, 2004 along with contraband forest timber and other produce which were being smuggled abroad; and

(b) if so, the details of the seizure and since when this smuggling racket was in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. But Train No. 273 up Bhikhnathori - Narkatiaganj passenger was forcibly stopped near gate No.1/C-20 between Bhikhnathori - Narkatiaganj Railway Stations placing a red flag banner on track by Divisional Forest Officer/ Betiah for checking the train. Divisional Forest Officer/Betiah, further forcibly detained the train by disconnecting the Hose Pipes. A seizure memo

was prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer in which seizure of Engine and Coaches were shown and Guard and driver of the train were compelled to sign on the same. The Forest Department officials further compelled the Guard and Driver to sit in Forest Department vehicle but on the protest by the travelling passengers, the Guard and Driver were released. Due to this incident, the train suffered detention at the site for one hour.

(b) Divisional Forest Officer, Betiah has not made any seizure of forest products in the said train taking the signature of the Guard and Driver and no intimation regarding seizure of Forest Products in the said train was given to Railway Administration by Forest Department officials.

On the written statement of the Guard and Driver of the train, Government Railway Police (GRP)/Narkatiaganj has registered a case no. 05/04 dated 20.2.2004 under section 146/150/174 of the Railways Act, 1989 and section 342, 353 of the IPC against the Divisional Forest Officer/Betiah and others.

The Bhikhnathori-Narkatiaganj section is affected for unauthorized carrying of forest products by the local villagers. No report of smuggling aboard of forest products has been received by the Railways from Forest Department. However, in order to stop the unauthorized carrying of forest products, RPF conducts checks in the train from time to time and succeeded in recovery of forest products worth Rs. 1,82,000/-, during the current year 2004 till November which were handed over to the Forest Department for further legal action.

Third Track between Surat and Ahmedabad

3811. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay third track between Surat and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work has already been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A survey for construction of 3rd line between Virar and Ahmedabad had been

completed in 1998. As per the survey, the cost of construction of an additional track between Virar and Ahmedabad had been assessed as Rs. 1665.12 crore.

It has been decided to augment the line capacity of the existing route by adopting automatic signalling and other traffic facility works which would take care of smooth running of trains through this section.

The work of 3rd line from Surat to Kosamba has been sanctioned. Further, an updating survey for 3rd line from Virar to Ahmedabad has been included in the Budget 2004-05.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Opening of New Rail Museum in Maharashtra

3812. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding opening of a new rail museum in Maharashtra is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir, A Narrow Gauge Rail Museum at Nagpur to cater for preservation of all Narrow Gauge heritage of Indian Railways has been set up. A proposal for setting up a regional rail museum at Pune is also under consideration to cater to the rail heritage of the western region of the country.

(b) The museum at Nagpur was opened in December 2002. As the museum at Pune is in the planning stage at present, no time frame for its opening can be given at this stage.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Networking of Navy

3813. SHRI A. K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether networking of naval forces is underway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Navy has established various networks and can exchange information between the networked units/stations.

EMUs in Mumbai and Sub-urban

3814. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run EMUs with dual voltage in Mumbai sub-urban Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the coach factory where these units are being manufactured; and

(d) the time by which such coaches are likely to be inducted in Mumbai and other parts of the country where EMUs are in operation?

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

(b) It has been decided to replace existing Electrical Multiple Units (EMUs) of Mumbai sub-urban area with dual voltage EMUs in a phased manner subject to availability of funds.

(c) These EMU coaches are presently being manufactured at Integral Coach Factory/Chennai.

(d) These coaches are progressively being introduced in Mumbai area since 2001 as per the approved production programme. In other parts of country, the dual voltage EMUs are not required.

[Translation]

Oil Supply in Satna

3815. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil supply has been stopped at Satna Oil Depot;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time from which it has been stopped;

(c) whether employment was assured to those, whose lands were acquired to establish the oil depot; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil depots of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) at Satna are still in operation. Supplies were suspended at IOCL depot for two days on 15.12.2004 and 16.12.2004 on account of the break down of one fire engine. Supply disruptions have also taken place in the past few months due to non-availability of conventional rakes with Railways. However, both IOCL and HPCL have decided to close these depots as they do not meet the safety norms stipulated by the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD). The District Magistrate, Satna has also issued a notice for the closure of these depots.

(c) and (d) The location on the outskirts of Satna acquired by the IOCL was proposed for relocation of the Satna depots, but the oil companies have dropped the proposal for relocation to cut down on high operational costs. A review of this proposal is possible only if the land oustees do not press their claim for employment.

[English]

Railway Over-bridges in Tuticorin

3816. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway over-bridge work in Tuticorin third gate has been stopped;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay in execution of the work;
- (c) whether the Tamil Nadu State Government have paid their share for the project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Railway is executing work of Bridge proper (Bridge across the Railway track) of Road Over Bridge, and approach work is being done by State Government. Railway portion of work had got temporarily stalled after execution of certain portion of work due to certain contractual litigation and court's stay order on the progress of fresh tender. Now matter has been resolved and fresh tender is being finalised. The present physical progress on the bridge on date is 37%. The work has been taken up on cost sharing basis between Railways and the State Government of Tamil Nadu and apportionment of costs is done as per extant rules.

[Translation]

Rail Link between Beawar and Beena via Sironj

3817. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is rail link between Beawar to Beena via Sironj;
- (b) whether any proposal from the State Government has been received in this regard;
- (c) the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which facility is likely to be provided between Beawar and Beena via Sironj?

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

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, a survey for new broad gauge line from Biyawara Rajgarh-Sironj-Bina was conducted in 1999. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 147 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 224.75 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of acute constraint of resources and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects, it has not been feasible to consider the project.

[English]

Criteria for LPG Bottling Plants in the Country

3818. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

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

- (a) the details of criteria fixed for Installing LPG bottling plants in the country;
- (b) the details of LPG bottling plants functioning in West Bengal alongwith their capacity;
- (c) whether the present strength of LPG bottling plants available in West Bengal is enough to cater to the needs of LPG consumers in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) LPG bottling plants are set up by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on the basis of techno-economic feasibility after taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG of the area.

(b) to (e) The details of LPG bottling plants of OMCs, along with their capacity, functioning in the State of West Bengal, are given in the Statement enclosed. In addition to these bottling plants, HPCL has a skid mounted bottling facility at Falakata and is also taking assistance from two private bottlers located at Haldia and Burdwan for meeting the requirements of their customers. OMCs have reported that the available bottling capacity is adequate to meet the packed LPG demand of their customers in the State.

Statement

- *Details of LPG Bottling Plants alongwith their capacity, functioning in the State of West Bengal*

Location	Name of Oil Company	Bottling capacity in Thousand Metric Tons Per Annum (TMTPA)
Kalyani	IOCL	88
Durgapur	IOCL	88
Haldia	IOCL	20
Budge Budge	IOCL	64
Malda	IOCL	22
Siliguri	IOCL	22
Ulubaria	BPCL	44
Durgapur	BPCL	22
Raiganj	BPCL	22
Paharpur	HPCL	44
Total		436

Persons Killed by Landmine Blasts

3819. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the Indian Institute for Peace Disarmament and Environment Protection

(IIPDEP) shows that 58 civilians have been killed and 310 others injured by anti-personnel landmines between January, 2002 and March, 2004 in the three States bordering Pakistan;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these landmines were supposedly removed a year ago but casualties continue even today;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per the figures available with the Army Head Quarters the total number of civilians killed and injured in landmine blasts during the period 1st January, 2002 to 30th November, 2004 in the three States bordering Pakistan namely Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir are 48 and 236 respectively. Ministry of Defence is however not aware of the survey conducted by IIPDEP.

(c) and (d) De-mining operations commenced in November, 2002 and most of the work has been completed. Process of recovery of remaining mines is still underway. A small quantity of mines still remain unaccounted for due to prolonged deployment, mines drifting due to heavy rains, rodents shifting the mines and growth of dense vegetation obstructing recovery operations in the mine fields. The unrecovered mines remain potential risks.

(e) De-mining operations in areas suspected to have mines are still in progress. Trained soldiers and specialised equipment are being used. Even where all mines have been reasonably accounted for, the land has been handed over to the owner with precautionary advice to the users.

Mechanism of Censorship in Indian TV-Channels

3820. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

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

(a) whether any mechanism exists to examine the censorship in entertainment programmes telecasted on Television Channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that some

of the programmes appearing on Indian Television Channels as part of the global media is against the existing cultural, ethics and traditions of India;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to prevent such programmes in Indian Television Channels; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) There is no pre-censorship of television programmes in India. However, programmes of all TV channels, transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to the provisions of the "Programme Code" prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, inter alia, prescribes that no programme should be carried in the Cable Service, which offends against good taste or decency, contains anything obscene, denigrates women, or is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Action for violation of the Code can be taken by any authorised officer under Section 19 of the Act and by Central Government under Section 20 of the Act.

Doordarshan being the Public Service Broadcaster is governed by its own Broadcasting Code, which ensures that all programmes are suitable for family viewing. Doordarshan also telecasts programmes reflecting India's cultural diversity and heritage.

The Government is also contemplating a legislation to put in place a regulatory structure for broadcasting.

Hydrogen Blended CNG

3821. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Hydrogen blended CNG in the capital for vehicles;

(b) if so, to what extent Hydrogen blended CNG would be more powerful than ordinary CNG and economical for CNG vehicle owners;

(c) whether preliminary tests of hydrogen blended CNG have been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) So far, no preliminary tests of

Hydrogen blended CNG have been conducted in India, although available research reports indicate that mixture of hydrogen/CNG in any ratio will not be economical as compared to CNG alone, under current scenario. The Oil Marketing companies have plans of taking up demonstration projects using 10-30% Hydrogen-CNG Fuel in public vehicles. Therefore, till the demonstration projects establish viability, there are no plans to introduce Hydrogen blended CNG in the capital for vehicles.

Ramlila under UNESCO

3822. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is pitching for the inclusion of Ramlila under UNESCO's programme of preservation and promotion of culture and heritage;

(b) if so, whether the Government is trying for inclusion of Ramlila under UNESCO's programme;

(c) if so, whether the initial proposal for inclusion of Ramlila under UNESCO's programme has been accepted by UNESCO; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to get listed Ramlila with UNESCO?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The candidature file entitled "Ramlila - the traditional performance of the Ramayana" has been submitted for consideration of UNESCO under the 3rd Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

(c) and (d) The proposal would be considered by UNESCO in the year 2005.

Scrapping of Warehousing Facility

3823. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minister of Finance has scrapped warehousing facilities that allowed oil firms to move petro products from their refineries to storage terminals without paying excise duty;

(b) if so, whether due to said notification petro exports has suffered; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The warehousing facility of removal of petroleum products from the refineries to warehouses or from one warehouse to another warehouse without payment of duty has been withdrawn with effect from 06.09.2004. However, as an export facilitation measure, with effect from 08.09.2004, Ministry of Finance have extended the export warehousing facility to all exporters of petroleum products and without any restriction on places where the export warehouses can be established and registered. Exports of petroleum products to Nepal Oil Corporation Limited were affected during the three days, 06.09.2004 to 09.09.2004. However, steps have been taken to restore supplies thereafter.

Surveillance along Coasts

3824. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coast Guard has stepped up vigil along the coasts particularly in Kerala following a tip off about an unidentified vessel carrying arms from the Gulf;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the surveillance along entire coasts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Coast Guard has stepped up its vigil after receiving information on the possibility of a vessel landing arms on the Indian coast. Coast Guard ships and aircraft have been tasked to interdict the suspected vessel.

The Coast Guard has increased its surveillance along the entire west coast of India. The Navy has also been alerted.

Doordarshan Tower at Dibrugarh

3825. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the recently created NE Zonal office of Doordarshan including cadre control powers vested to Chief Engineers office;

(b) whether a plan for raising the height of Doordarshan Tower, Dibrugarh to ensure appropriate coverage of Upper Assam area was taken-up during Ninth Plan; and

(c) if so, implementation status thereof indicating year-wise allocation and progress made and target of completion?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) NE Zonal office of AIR & DD became operational in August 2003 after bifurcation of East Zone. Subordinate Engineering Staff of erstwhile East Zone has been bifurcated between East and NE Zone, and cadre control of subordinate Engg. Staff in NE Zone vests with the NE Zonal office.

(b) Yes, Sir. Scheme for extension of height of DD tower at Dibrugarh was sanctioned during the Ninth Plan period.

(c) The work for enhancement of height of RCC-cum-steel tower at Dibrugarh had been tendered with wide publicity, but no response was received. The feasibility of increasing the tower height in all steel frame was later examined in consultation with IIT, Chennai, which has confirmed the alternative proposal. Pre-qualification of agencies has been completed. Financial bids are to be invited from the pre-qualified agencies. It would take about two years to complete the work after it is awarded.

Change of Designation in MES

3826. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Defence has issued orders to change the designation of MES civilian officers similar to designations being followed in all Central Government Departments including MOD and AFHQ;

(b) if so, whether the orders have been implemented by E-in-C in all MES offices;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the said orders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The orders have been issued on the basis of designations of civilian officers of Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) and not those of all Central Government Departments including Ministry of Defence.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In view of the reply to parts (a) to (c) above, no further action is required to be taken.

Export of ALH Abroad

3827. SHRI S. D. MANDLIK:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of the Hindustan Aeronautic Limited (HAL) has visited Chile to demonstrate the Advanced Light Helicopter, Dhruv;

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

(c) whether HAL has received any purchase orders from abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to export Advanced Light Helicopter, Dhruv?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Flight demonstration of four Advanced light Helicopters was conducted by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) in Chile from 24th June 2004 to 7th July 2004.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) HAL has supplied two Advanced Light Helicopters to Royal Nepalese Army.

(e) For marketing purpose, the Advanced Light Helicopter is demonstrated at prominent air shows abroad. Further, business meetings are arranged for HAL to promote this Helicopter.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Platform

3828. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to upgrade the platform between Ratlam and Kota and Bhopal and Nagda; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to upgrade the level of platform of railway stations, falling

between Ratlam and Nagda railway stations. However, for stations falling between Nagda and Kota railway stations, there are two sanctioned works of upgradation of platforms. One at Chaumahi railway station for stone flooring at a cost of Rs. 20.63 lakh and another at Kota for kota stone surfacing on platform Nos. 1, 2 & 3 at a cost of Rs. 29.65 lakh.

Stations falling between Nagda and Bhopal railway stations have already been provided with required level of platforms as per laid down norms. Presently, there is no proposal to upgrade level of platforms between Nagda and Bhopal. However, platform extension/improvement works are undertaken/on hand at Sehore, Shujalpur and Bairagarh.

Protection and Promotion of Ancient Gond Culture

3829. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the protection and promotion of the ancient 'gond culture' by making the areas corresponding to ancient gond empire and its ancient capital "Ramnagar" District Mandla (Madhya Pradesh) the hub of activity for that purpose;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to organise the 'gond' festivals for propagation of the said culture;

(c) whether efforts are being made to get guidance and assistance from 'UNESCO' for propagation of the said culture at the international level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Anthropological Survey of India under the Ministry of Culture has documented the tribal culture of the Gond tribe. The Survey is also conducting the documentation of the dormitory system of the Maria Gond. The ethnographic artifacts of the Gond are on the display at Zonal Anthropological Museum as part of a protection and preservation of Gond culture.

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

[English]

Installation and Functioning of CAT 3 System

3830. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any firm time table for installation and functioning of Cat 3 system to ensure that the airlines do train their pilots in its use; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Cat-III A Instrument Landing System (ILS) is already operational at Delhi Airport since December 2001 to facilitate arrival and departure of flights in a visibility range of not less than 200 meters. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is also in the process of upgrading the system from Cat-III A to Cat-III B scheduled to be implemented by October, 2005 so as to enable landing/take-off of aircraft even when visibility is less than 200 meters. Airlines have also been impressed upon to step up training activities for pilots to use these advanced technical equipments.

[Translation]

Cars Illegally Fitted with LPG Kits

3831. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cars are illegally fitted with LPG kits in Rajasthan and various other States; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard in order to save the consumers interest from the shortage of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Some instances of people using unauthorised LPG kits in vehicles, which are being run on domestic LPG cylinders, in various States, including Rajasthan, have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they are adequately meeting the demand for LPG of their domestic consumers. To prevent the use of domestic LPG cylinders in vehicles for auto-fuel purpose, Government have taken following measures:

- (i) LPG (Regulation of Supply and distribution) Order, 2000 has been promulgated making it illegal to use domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorised purposes.
- (ii) LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001 permits only fixed LPG fuel tanks to be used in vehicles.

(iii) Under the provisions of these Orders, State Governments are empowered to take action against the erring users of domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorised purpose.

(iv) The officials of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) carry out random checks, at distributors' godown, delivery points, as well as enroute, to check diversion.

(v) Action against erring distributors is taken in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

(vi) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, as well as State Level Coordinators of OMCs, have written to the respective State Governments to conduct checks and organize raids so as to detect and prevent unauthorized use of domestic LPG for auto fuel purposes.

(vii) Refill supplies to distributors are being regulated based on historical consumption patterns.

(viii) A joint press advertisement has been released in October, 2004 in cities having Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) informing the public about the safety hazards associated with the use of domestic LPG cylinders as auto fuel and urging the customers to use auto LPG available at ALDS.

[English]

Concession for Disabled Persons for Travelling by Air

3832. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the foreign airlines have been granting concessions to disabled persons for travelling by air;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make substantial provisions to provide air tickets at concessional rates to the disabled persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government is not aware of concessions being provided by foreign airlines to disabled persons.

(b) to (d) Both Indian Airlines and Air India provide nearly 50% concession to blind persons on domestic sectors. Similar concessions are also provided by Indian Airlines to blind persons travelling between India and Nepal.

[Translation]

OB Van

3833. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether O.B. Van provided to the All India Radio, Mumbai is lying unused and is getting out of order;
- (b) the number of times the said O.B. Van has been used during the last three years;
- (c) the reasons for not using this Van; and
- (d) the measures likely to be taken to make its use?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that no O.B. Van has been given to AIR Mumbai.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Value of Import Bill

3834. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) the value of the oil import bill in terms of Dollar during the current year so far; and
- (b) the estimated per kilogram/litre price of cooking gas and petrol due to withdrawal of subsidy thereon by the year 2007?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The net oil import bill during period April-September, 2004 was US\$ 11.985 billion.

(b) Petrol is not a subsidized product, but is at present being marketed at a price different to the import parity price. Domestic LPG is subsidized by Government and through under-recoveries by oil PSUs. As per the extant policy, the Government subsidy on domestic LPG would be phased out by 31.3.2007. Whereas the retail selling prices (RSPs) of domestic LPG after the withdrawal of a subsidy

would depend upon the then prevalent international prices of LPG and duties & taxes on the product, based on November 2004 international prices of LPG, at the current rates of duties & taxes, in the absence of any subsidy either by the Government or by the oil PSUs, the RSP of domestic LPG at Delhi would have been Rs 517.50 per cylinder.

[English]

Non Availability of Rakes in Railways

3835. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the non-availability of rakes in the railways has resulted in diversion of freight traffic to the road sector;
- (b) if so, the reasons of non-availability of rakes; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railway to supply adequate rakes?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

E and RC Staff of Delhi

3836. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether restructuring orders have not been implemented in respect of E&RC staff of Delhi Division, Northern Railway even after the issuance of restructuring orders one year back on October 09, 2003;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the restructuring orders in respect of E&RC staff of Delhi Division, Northern Railway are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) As per guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance, entire scheme of restructuring is a self-financing and expenditure neutral proposition. As such in order to upgrade the posts as per the restructuring order issued in October, 2003, matching savings equivalent to the posts required to be upgraded would be required to be provided by the respective unit while undertaking the exercise of

restructuring. In Delhi Division of Northern Railway, restructuring orders in the Enquiry & Reservation Clerks cadre have not been implemented so far, as there is a shortfall in matching savings required for this cadre by the Division.

(c) As per instructions contained in Railway Board's order issued in October, 2003, if the requisite matching savings cannot be arranged, the particular category/cadre will not be restructured. In other words, restructuring of this cadre would be undertaken after availability of required matching savings.

[English]

Reduction in Production Cost of LPG

3837. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to reduce the production and distribution costs of LPG; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil refining is a continuous process and the cost of refining of individual petroleum products is not worked out separately because all products are produced together. The steps taken by the public sector refineries to control the production cost of petroleum products, including LPG, include technical audit for control of chemicals and catalysts consumption, thrust on energy conservation and reduction in hydrocarbon losses, adherence to preventive and predictive maintenance schedule to achieve the optimum maintenance costs, control of overhead expenditure, etc.

The efforts made to control the distribution costs of LPG include optimisation of bulk movement from source to bottling plant, optimisation of packed LPG movement i.e. from bottling plant to distributor, enhanced utilization of LPG tank wagons, etc.

Transfer of Quality Assurance Functions to Ordnance Factories

3838. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to transfer many of the Quality Assurance functions to the Ordnance Factories when such functions are already with them;

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

(c) the role of Quality Assurance agencies are likely to play in such an event; and

(d) the manner in which the Government proposes to ensure quality of defence equipments and stores required by the Armed Forces in terms of volume and technological levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) The defence stores procured from Ordnance Factories, Defence PSUs and Private Sector are quality assured by Quality Assurance agencies. Pre-despatch Inspection and Joint Receipt Inspections are carried out for stores imported to ensure that the product conforms to the specification.

Programme Generating Facilities in Maharashtra

3839. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned programme generation facilities to various Doordarshan Centres in Maharashtra State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Programme generation facilities are available in Doordarshan Kendras at Mumbai, Nagpur & Pune in Maharashtra. There is no scheme to set up any additional programme generation facility in the State.

Funds for Protection of Heritage Sites

3340. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provided 100 per cent EFC grant to the State Governments for protection of Heritage Sites;

(b) if so, the details of States which have been extended this EFC grant since its inception; State-wise, year-wise;

(c) the details of States which have not been able to utilise this Grant and the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government against such State Governments;

(e) the details of State Governments which have not been released the balance EFC grant inspite of their having submitted the utilisation certificate of the grant; and

(i) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Union Government does not provide grant to the State Governments in regard to Sites under State Governments. However, it takes full care of more than 3,000 sites, which are under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India,

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Setting of Wind Power Farm

3841. SHRI S. D. MANDLIK:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether ONGC propose to set up a Wind Power Farm in various parts of the country;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in such units?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) ONGC have initiated a study on renewable and non-renewable sources of energy including wind energy;

(b) As the study is at an initial stage, the expenditure on wind power units cannot be estimated, at present.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Sr. Citizens in Collaboration with Private Sector

3842. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any rehabilitation scheme for senior citizens in collaboration with the private sector as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated November 24, 2004;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the scheme;

(c) the age group of senior citizens which are likely to be covered under this scheme; and

(d) the total expenditure to be incurred on the said scheme, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Share of States from "Profit Petroleum"

3843. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government is getting "profit petroleum" from any river basin in the country particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, details thereof during the last three years state-wise;

(c) whether States concerned will be given a share out of that; and

(d) if so, the percentage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Profit petroleum is being received not from river basins as such but from blocks/fields awarded to companies. Under Production Sharing Contracts (PSC), Government of India is getting profit petroleum from fields/blocks in Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, Eastern Offshore and Western Offshore. No profit petroleum is being received from any field/block in the state of Rajasthan as there is no commercial production in these fields/blocks till date.

The statewide/areawise profit petroleum received by the Government of India during last three years is given below:-

(Rs. Crore)

State/Area	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Gujarat	56.59	73.039	134.517
Arunachal Pradesh	0.36	2.160	5.230
Eastern Offshore	393.04	633.880	1100.353
Western Offshore	174.26	242.020	222.750
Total	624.25	951.099	1462.850

(c) and (d) The matter regarding sharing of profit petroleum accruing to the Central Government under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) between the Center and the States in the ratio of 50:50 has been referred for consideration and recommendation to the Twelfth Finance Commission.

[Translation]

Construction of Platform

3844. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to introduce Gondwana Express, Mahakaushal Express, Kota Express, etc. trains from Madan Mahal Station to develop the said station in view of expansion of Jabalpur city;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the time by which an additional platform on Madan Mahal station is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present due to lack of maintenance/terminal facilities at Madan Mahal station.

(c) The additional platform at Madan Mahal station is likely to be completed by 31.3.2005.

Modern System of Ticket Purchasing

3845. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced modern systems of ticket purchasing for the benefit of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where the said modern systems have been introduced; and

(d) the extent to which the passengers are likely to be benefited from the said systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) and Internet Ticketing System (ITS) have been introduced.

(c) UTS has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal and West Bengal States.

ITS has been introduced in all States of the country.

(d) A large number of passengers have benefited from the system.

[English]

Group of Ministers on Modernisation of Airports

3846. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the empowered Group of Ministers (GoM) on modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai Airports approved the reduction of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from 74 to 49 percent;

(b) if so, whether this approval is going to set the ball rolling for the much delayed modernisation process of the two airports; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Nine consortia of bidders have been selected on the basis of invitation of "Expression of Interest" for participation in the next stage i.e Request for Proposal (RFP) stage. Discussions have been held with selected bidders. After finalisation of RFP documents, the selected bidders will be advised to submit their detailed proposals.

Setting up of Railway Hospitals

3847. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hospitals set up by the Government for Railway employees;

(b) the Zones where these Hospitals are set up;

(c) whether any new Hospital is proposed to be set up in the newly created zones where there is no such Railway Hospitals; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 121 Hospitals.

(b)	(1)	Central Railway	-	11
	(2)	Eastern Railway	-	9
	(3)	Northern Railway	-	12
	(4)	North Eastern Railway	-	7
	(5)	Northeast Frontier Railway	-	11
	(6)	Southern Railway	-	11
	(7)	South Central Railway	-	5
	(8)	South Eastern Railway	-	6
	(9)	East Central Railway	-	8
	(10)	East Coast Railway	-	4
	(11)	North Central Railway	-	4
	(12)	North Western Railway	-	8
	(13)	South East Central Railway	-	4
	(14)	South Western Railway	-	4
	(15)	West Central Railway	-	7
	(16)	Western Railway	-	10
Total				121

(c) Out of seven newly created zones, new Hospitals are proposed to be set up in the following Zones:-

1. North Central Railway- Divisional Hospital for newly created Agra Division;
2. South East Central Railway- Divisional Hospital for newly created Raipur Division.

(d) Both the proposals for the Railway Divisional Hospitals for newly created Divisions namely Agra in North Central Railway and Raipur in South East Central Railway have been received by this Ministry for inclusion in the Works Programme. Further action will follow depending upon their inclusion in the Works Programme.

Construction of Thanur-Guruvayour Rail Line

3848. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the construction of Thanur-Guruvayour Rail line project is not moving fast;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the proposal for speeding up the construction and completing it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) On this project, Final location survey has been completed upto 50 kms and further work stopped due to local agitation about alignment and land acquisition. The matter is being pursued with the State Government. Work will be taken up after the land is made available.

(d) No target date for completion of the project has yet been fixed.

Irregularities in Freight Billing

3849. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the surprise inspections/raids conducted by the Government a number of corruption cases and gross irregularities in freight billings causing substantial loss of revenue were detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss of revenue suffered and expenditure incurred by the Government due to the corrupt practices detected during the raids/surprise checks since the beginning of 2004 (till date);

(d) the loss of revenue suffered by the Government compare with the expenditure incurred on conducting surprise checks/raids; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the corrupt officials identified and also to contain the leakage of revenue?

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

(b) and (c) During January 2004 to October 2004,

preventive checks regarding weighment of goods rakes have led to detection of undercharges worth Rs. 33.58 crore. This is the amount of potential loss of revenue, had these checks not been undertaken.

(d) No separate expenditure is incurred on conducting surprise checks/raids other than the normal working expenditure

(e) Suitable disciplinary action is taken against the staff found responsible for irregularities. Preventive checks have been intensified to contain the leakage of revenue.

[Translation]

Railway Stations under North Central Railway

3850. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations under North Central Railway where the old signals system have been replaced by the modern one;

(b) if so, the number of railway stations under North Central Railway where old signal system is still working; and

(c) the time by which, all stations under North Central Railway are likely be equipped with modern signal system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Out of 292 interlocked stations on North Central Railway modern signalling system of Panel/ Route Relay/ Electronic Interlocking already exists at 78 stations. Further works are sanctioned at 132 stations, which are likely to be completed by March 2008. On balance stations the works will be proposed as soon as the stations become due for replacement as per codal life.

Audit of Panchayats

3851. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that audit of Panchayats accounts were either not conducted or pending in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the progress of audit of Panchayats accounts throughout the country;

(c) the time by when the audit work is likely to be completed in these States;

(d) whether the Government is thinking to hand over audit of Panchayats to C&AG in consultations with the State Governments as per the recommendation of Eleventh Finance Commission and Task-Force;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the status of entrusting the audit of Panchayats accounts to C&AG; and

(f) the views expressed by different State Governments in this regard particularly by the West Bengal Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Panchayati Raj is a State subject. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is responsible for the work of advocacy for and monitoring of, the implementation of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 to ensure that the State Panchayati Raj Acts adhere to the provisions of the Act and to endeavour to secure implementation in letter and spirit. As per Article 243J of the Constitution "he Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and the auditing of such accounts". Therefore, it is for State Governments to identify the agency to get the budget/funds of Panchayats audited. The Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance for the utilization of local bodies grants recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-01 to 2004-05) provide that the C&AG shall be responsible for exercising control and supervision over the proper maintenance of accounts and their audit for all the three tiers/levels of PRIs and ULBs.

(f) State Governments should send a request under section 20(1) of the CAG(DPC) Act, for this purpose. As per the Guidelines, the format for the preparation of budgets and for keeping accounts for local bodies shall be as prescribed by the C&AG. This subject has been discussed further in the Sixth Round Table of Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj at Guwahati on 27-28 November 2004, Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj of the States/UT Administration and their representatives, bearing in mind the spirit of cooperative federalism which must inform the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj, as set out in Part IX of the Constitution of India and related provisions, agreed to recommend to their respective Governments, for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, the conclusions reached at the meeting. A copy of the conclusions is enclosed as Statement.

Statement**Sixth Round Table Meeting of Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj-Guwahati, 27-28 November 2004**

Minister in-charge of Panchayati Raj, and their representatives, bearing in mind the spirit of cooperative federalism which must inform the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj as set out in Part IX of the Constitution of India and related provisions, agreed to recommend to their respective Governments, for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, the following points of action:

Elections

- (i) The Indian Voter is one and indivisible. The principle of parity between parliamentary and assembly elections, on the one hand and panchayat elections, on the other, must therefore be maintained, especially as it is noticed that people's Participation in panchayat elections is substantial and generally equal to or higher than in parliamentary/assembly elections. Thus, for example, even in States with difficult geographical terrain, 88% of the electorate has Participated in panchayat elections in Himachal Pradesh and 83.5% has participated in Sikkim.
- (ii) While all matters relating to panchayat elections have been vested by the Constitution in State legislatures/governments, there is a need to work towards commonality, if not uniformity, in election procedures and provisions. To this end, it would desirable to vest all responsibilities for the election process in State Election Commissions rather than splitting these up, including:
- (a) preparation of electoral rolls;
 - (b) delimitation of constituencies;
 - (c) reservations and rotations;
 - (d) qualifications of candidates;
 - (e) conduct of elections; and
 - (f) functioning as the first stage of adjudication in election disputes.
- (iii) The Union Government might consider the preparation of a model code relating to the supervision, direction and conduct of elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- (iv) With a view to evolving a common electoral roll for all levels of elections, consultations between the Chief

Election Commissioner (CEC) and the State Election Commissioners (SECs) might be encouraged with a view to resolving practical problems that might arise in the preparation, maintenance and updating of such electoral rolls for elections to be held at different times for different levels of Governments. The panchayat and nagarpalika wards should be regarded as the building blocks for electoral rolls for all levels of election.

- (v) Consideration may be given to incorporating in the laws pertaining to PR elections the same provisions of disclosure as apply to Parliament and State Assembly Elections.
- (vi) The Election Commission of India (ECI) might be approached for establishing a forum for institutional interaction between SECs and ECI on issues such as directives being issued by the State Election Commission; the use of radio broadcasting for disseminating election-related information; anomalies arising out of migration; linking delimitation with census operation; uniformity in service condition of SECs; and proposals like sealing the electronic chip in the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), and not the machine itself, for evidentiary purposes, thus leaving the machine free for use in panchayat elections.
- (vii) States may consider according the same salary and emoluments to State Election Commissioners as High Court Judges are entitled to.
- (viii) It is recommended that the Delimitation Commission be regularly in contact with the SEC's, who are members of the Commission, to sort out practical difficulties arising out of delimitation process.
- (ix) To facilitate the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in panchayat elections, the Union Government in consultation with Election Commission of India and the SECs, might consider issues relating to the funding of the purchase of EVMs for the use of State Election Commissions.
- (x) Elections to District Planning Committees provided for in Article 243ZD of the Constitution might also be brought within the purview of State Election Commissions to ensure full conformity with Constitutional provisions, which has not always been the case.

Audit

- (i) Since local bodies are now institutions of local self-government, it is necessary to upgrade the work of the Director of Local Fund Audit (DLFA) and other similar bodies to the level required by Constitutional imperatives and, to this end, for DLFA and other similar bodies to work in concert with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG).

- (ii) In recognition of PRIs being institutions of local self-government, PRIs themselves should be associated with the preparation of standards and norms and the emphasis should be on fund management and fund tracking, rather than simply on fund flow, to ensure greater accountability.
- (iii) In order to ensure that such audit contributes effectively to capping, reducing and eventually eliminating the scope for corruption in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), it is necessary that audit & accounting standards appropriate to the work of the Panchayats be established and observed. These standards should be elementary, simple and easily comprehensible to the elected representatives, and should focus on:
- when transactions should be looked into;
 - what should be monitored;
 - how the transactions should be documented; and
 - how they should be disclosed.
- (iv) There is need to establish an internal audit system at every tier of the Panchayati Raj system and to regard C&AG audit (or audit by bodies certified or technically guided by C&AG) as complementary external audit.
- (v) Audit, to be effective, might include the establishment of a National Accounting Standards Board (NASB) for local government accounts and be complemented by the establishment of audit commissions or similar such regulatory bodies at the State level.
- (vi) Besides, arrangements may be made in State Legislatures for the establishment of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) specifically for PRIs or for the accounts of PRIs to be submitted to PR Committees of the State Legislatures. State level committees, as in Andhra Pradesh, for the settlement of audit paras may also be considered.
- (vii) It may be useful to complement such institutional arrangements by legislating an appropriate Fiscal Responsibility Act for elected local authorities.
- (viii) Outsourcing of accounting by such measures as village panchayats being authorized to employ certified Chartered Accountants against standard contracts might be considered.
- (ix) The training of both officials and elected representatives in sound accounting and audit practices is a high priority. To this end, State Governments are invited to make full use of the Regional Training Institutes (RTIs) functioning under the aegis of the C&AG, in particular the RTI at Kolkata which has been declared a centre of excellence; as also of the Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI). Substantial additional funding from the Union Government to facilitate training is a high priority.
- (x) Those State Governments which have not as yet availed of the arrangements for bringing the C&AG into the exercise of accounting and audit, including the C&AG's Technical Guidance and Supervision (TGS) Scheme for the PRIs, are invited to do so and the attention of all concerned is drawn to the publications of the Indian and Audit Accounts Department, in particular
- (a) Auditing Standards for PRIs and Urban Local Bodies
 - (b) Guidelines for Certification or Audit of Accounts of PRIs
 - (c) Training module or Audit of Gram Panchayats
- (xi) Given the shortage of staff for undertaking formal accounts and audit work in the lakhs or Village Panchayats, thousands of Intermediate Panchayats and hundreds of Zilla Parishads around the country, it is essential that automation and computerization of accounts be undertaken with all deliberate speed and to this end software like the one being prepared by the Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar for the Orissa State, Government, for maintaining day-to-day accounts, which is expected to be ready by early 2004, be deployed as widely as possible everywhere.
- (xii) Social audit is an important complement to formal audit and for the sound and healthy development of Panchayati Raj, it is essential to establish a symbiotic relationship between social and formal audit.
- (xiii) Social audit must necessarily be undertaken at the level of the Gram Sabha but might also be undertaken at higher levels of the Panchayat Raj system, as in West Bengal.
- (xiv) For social audit to be effective and based on the best practices available in different States, consideration might be given to the preparation of Social Audit Policies for adoption by State Legislatures/Governments so as to provide a framework within which social audit is undertaken. Such Social Audit Policies may be targeted at facilitating popular participation in fighting corruption in Panchayats, as also complementing formal audit processes by quality assessment,

ascertainment of preferences and the provision of choices. At the same time, Social Audit Policies may provide for institutional measures to prevent needless harassment.

- (xv) To ensure appropriate follow-up to issues raised through social audit, legislative bodies and regulatory authorities might treat social audit resolutions on par with formal audit paras to ensure consideration and disposal within a time-bound framework.
- (xvi) Given the critical importance of total disclosure of information for effective social audit, States might consider passing Right to Information legislation, taking into account the legislation already on the books in such states as Rajasthan.

Indore-Dahod Railway Line

3852. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the date on which survey to lay Indore-Dahod railway line via Dhar Meghnagar was conducted;
- (b) the length of the said route and the cost likely to be incurred thereon;
- (c) the work done towards laying the above line so far; and
- (d) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Project for construction of new line from Godhra-Indore via Dahod, Jhabua, Sardarpur & Dhar and Dewas-Maksi (316 kms) is already included in the Budget. On this project, work on Dewas-Maksi (36 kms) section has already been completed and the line commissioned on 31.01.2003. However, necessary clearances are yet to be obtained to take up work on the balance project. Final Location survey on the same was completed in July 2004.

The anticipated cost of the project is about Rs. 900 crore.

- (d) No target date has yet been fixed for completion of balance project.

Electrification Projects

3853. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to undertake any new electrification projects in Southern Railway very soon;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the on-going electrification work in various parts of Tamil Nadu under Southern Railways and its progress so far; and

(d) the completion date of each project and amount spent so far on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No. Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no ongoing Railway Electrification work in Tamil Nadu under Southern Railway.

Permanent Construction on Indo-Pak Border

3854. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for permanent construction on Indo-Pak Border to check the menace of terrorism in Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for permanent construction on Indo-Pak Border. 734 kilo metres length of fence has been constructed by the Army along the Line of Control at a cost of approximately Rs. 315 crore.

[English]

Delay in DTH

3855. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati Corporation's Rs. 500 crore ambitious Direct to Home (DTH) project that was to be launched by Prime Minister has been delayed;

(b) whether the Ministry has raised objections on the proposed inclusion of private channels;

(c) whether the another reasons for delay in

clearance of the project is that the enterprise would not be financial viable for the first two years;

- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the time by which it is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The inclusion of private free-to-air channels in the DTH bouquet of Doordarshan had the approval of the competent authority. There has been no delay in the commissioning of the project. The project was completed within the target date of completion.

(c) and (d) Does not arise since the project has been commissioned within the stipulated period.

(e) The project has been launched on 16.12.2004.

Increase in Allocation of Rakes

3856. SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request regarding increase in allocation of rakes for export of soyabean cake to Bangladesh from Adilabad in South Central railways;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) Request has been made for the supply of minimum 10 rakes per month to Adilabad Railway Station, South Central Railway for export of Soya De-oiled Cake to Bangladesh.

(c) Due to limited acceptance of rakes by Bangladesh Railway, Indian Railways are constrained to regulate loading of traffic to Bangladesh under a quota scheme. The quota is proportionate to the last year's performance and pending demands over the Indian Railways system for Bangladesh. It is, therefore, not possible to allot 10 rakes per month to Adilabad Railway Station, South Central Railway or any other station. All indents are cleared as per turn and priority within the quota and this scheme is being followed strictly.

[Translation]

Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Ltd.

3857. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revive Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations in this regard;

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

(e) the other steps taken by the Government for development of industries in North Eastern Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited is a sick Public Sector Enterprise. Government has established a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) to make suitable recommendations on the future of sick/loss making Central Public Sector Enterprises on the proposal to be submitted in this regard by the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government will take appropriate action on the recommendations of BRPSE on the proposal of the Ministry taking into consideration various aspects including the ones put forth in representations.

(e) The details of industrial projects funded under the Non-Lapseable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) are as under:-

		(Rupees in crore)	
S.No.	Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	Power Line to Balipara Industrial Growth Centre, Sonitpur, Assam	8.73	3.05
2.	Construction of 132 KV D/C line from Sarusajai to Byrnihat, Meghalaya	9.78	9.78
3.	Bamboo Processing Industry, Mizoram	4.00	4.00

[English]

IOCL Proposal to Set up Power Plants

3858. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited propose to set up LNG plants in collaboration with other countries; and

(b) if so, time by which these power plants will be set up in various States, including Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have signed an MoU with Petropars Ltd. of Iran for submitting a composite offer to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), the national oil company of Iran, for the joint development of an integrated project consisting of upstream facilities and related downstream Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities to produce 9.0 Million Tonnes of LNG per year. Further development and investment would depend on the award of the job by NIOC, the signing of the necessary agreements by NIOC with IOCL and Petropars; and investment approvals by the respective companies.

IOCL also propose to set up an LNG import terminal at Ennore near Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The Petroleum Minister has broached with the Prime Minister of Malaysia the question of Malaysian cooperation in the project.

(b) LNG projects are not power plants.

Cultural Research and Development Centres

3859. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new cultural research and development centres in the country particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government provide financial assistance to various State Governments towards this; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up new cultural research and development centres.

(c) Under the existing scheme of setting up of multi purpose cultural complexes, State Governments are given financial assistance on a 50:50 basis. For North Eastern States, it is 90:10 basis.

(d) State-wise details are enclosed.

Statement

Amount Sanctioned for Multi Purpose Cultural Complexes

(Rupees in lacs)

State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sikkim	5.00	10.00	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	335.00	-
Nagaland	-	20.00	50.00	-	30.00	-	-	-	50.00	-	-	-
Manipur	-	10.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	25.00	-	-	25.00	-	-	25.00	50.00	-	35.62
Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.00	-	-	-	71.87
West Bengal	15.00	20.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	20.00	50.00	-	-	20.00	-	-	-	-	-	50.00
Orissa	-	-	-	-	25.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	75.00
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-	50.00	-	25.00	25.00	-	-	-	62.50
Karnataka	-	-	-	67.00 (Bellary)	40.00 (Hassan)	33.00 (Bellary)	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	15.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	25.00	-	-	25.00	-	-	-
Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	25.00	-	50.00	25.00	-	-	100.00
Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	25.00	-	-	-	20.00	-	55.00
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.00	25.00	25.00	-	25.00
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.00	100.00
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130.00	-

**Absorption of Retrenched Steam
Locomotive Workers**

3860. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to absorb the five thousand retrenched steam locomotive workers recently;

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

(c) the manner in which their service are likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No Steam Locomotive regular worker has been retrenched by the Ministry of Railways. With the era of steam traction coming to an end in the Indian Railways, the Steam Locomotive Workers have been re-deployed on the Indian Railways system. However, there were numerous contract labours who were engaged in coal and ash handling activities related to steam traction. These activities are no more there and therefore the contracts have been closed.

The issue of absorption/regularization of contract labours including those engaged in coal and ash handling have repeatedly been considered by the Hon'ble Courts and the Government.

Based on the various judicial pronouncements and decisions of the Government, it has been decided that such contract labours may be absorbed on the Railways subject to need and their meeting the minimum requirement of Recruitment Rules.

**Second Rail Line between Talcher
and Paradeep**

3861. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of work being done on the second rail line between Talcher and Paradeep;

(b) the total number of railway bridges to be constructed on the above mentioned line and the number of bridges already completed;

(c) whether any difficulty is being faced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the second rail-line is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Between Talcher and Paradeep, Talcher-Nergundi-Kendrapara Road (109 Kms) and Raghunathpur-Rahama-Paradeep (52 Kms) sections have been doubled. The work of doubling of the balance length, i.e., Kendrapara Road-Cuttack-Raghunathpur (33.107 Kms), is in progress.

(b) Out of 373 railway bridges required to be constructed on Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep route, 345 bridges have so far been completed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Between Talcher and Paradeep, Talcher-Nergundi-Kendrapara Road (109 Kms) and Raghunathpur-Rahama-Paradeep (52 Kms) double-line sections have been commissioned. Out of the balance length between Kendrapara Road and Raghunathpur, on Kendrapara-Cuttack (2.107 Kms) segment, the work of second bridge over River Birupa has been completed and the work of second bridge over River Mahanadi is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). On Cuttack-Raghunathpur (31 Kms) segment, the work of doubling is likely to be commissioned during 2005-06.

*[Translation]***Dacoity in Himgiri Express**

3862. SHR! HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of dacoity in Himgiri Express and other trains have recently occurred due to non-deployment of Railway Police Patrol party;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the period from 1st July to 31st October, 2004, 30 incidents of dacoity were reported in various trains including Himgiri Express over Indian Railways. On 06.10.2004, at about 0730 hrs. an incident of dacoity was reported in Himgiri Express between Lakhi Sarai and Hathidah Railway Stations. 02 miscreants were apprehended by the passengers with the help of local people and cash Rs. 500/-, one mobile phone and one gold chain was recovered from their possession. This train was not escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP)/Railway Protection Force (RPF). Railway Protection Force escorts are deployed in trains in co-ordination with Government Railway Police to supplement them.

(c) In order to improve safety and security of passengers travelling by trains, the RPF Act, 1957 has been amended to enable Railway Protection Force to effectively supplement the efforts of the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State Governments in controlling Crime. As such, RPF escort parties, as far as possible are deployed for escorting of important trains, withdrawing the staff from various scheduled duties to assist GRP in improving the law and order situation, actively w.e.f. from 1st July, 2004. Approximately 1288 train escort parties of RPF are deployed daily for this purpose in addition to strengthening security in Railway premises to supplement the efforts of the State Government Railway Police (GRP). Deployment of Railway Protection Force is done without interfering with the "Policing" responsibilities of the State Governments in maintaining law and order.

Recruitments to fill up the vacancies of the Railway Protection Force has been expedited.

*[English]***Transfer Policy**

3863. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Department has a transfer policy for staff and officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the officers who have completed their tenure of posting at a hard station are eligible to be posted to the station of their choice;

(d) if so, whether the said norms of transfer policy are being violated in some cases;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for strictly implementation of transfer policy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Defence Department comprises the three Armed forces, the Coast Guard and civilians, both at the officers' level and other ranks. The job description and the operational requirements of these groups are different and do not warrant a uniform transfer policy. Accordingly, the transfer policy for the various components of the Defence Department varies with the specific requirements of each unit, adhering to the principle of alternating tenures in difficult areas and stations with relatively less hardship, subject to service exigencies.

(c) to (f) On completion of a difficult tenure, posting to a choice station is normally considered, subject to operational and organizational requirements.

Setting up of Trans-Asian Rail Link from Vietnam

3864. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway representatives of Bimstec countries met in Delhi on September 20 and 21 to discuss the possibility of setting up a Trans-Asian rail link from Vietnam to India via Thailand, Cambodia and Burma;

(b) if so, whether the final decision in this regard has been taken;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Trans-Asian Railway was one of the agenda items discussed during the meeting.

- (b) No, Sir.
(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Violation of Aviation Security Provision

3865. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the transportation of a Tamil Nadu Police contingent by the state owned Cessna aircraft, equipped with arms and ammunitions, violated the aviation security provisions laid down by BCAS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the passenger manifest was furnished by the State Government prior to take-off the aircraft;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Airport Authority of India has sought any clarifications from the state Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and further action taken by AAI on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 11th November 2004, a Tamil Nadu State Government owned Cessna aircraft, carrying a contingent of Police Commandos, with 6 carbines and 1 pistol, took off from Chennai Airport. As per existing instructions, a non-scheduled flight is not to be allowed to carry arms, ammunitions, explosives and inflammable materials without prior permission from the competent authority.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.
(e) No, Sir.
(f) Does not arise.

Permission to ONGC Videsh to Increase Its Investments

3866. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed ONGC Videsh Ltd. to increase its investments in Sakhalin-1 Oil and Gas oilfield in Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the annual quantity of crude oil and gas likely to be made available to India and for how many years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Government have approved the proposal of ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) for an additional investment, that is, cash sink, of upto US \$ 1.07 Billion over the existing approval of US \$ 1.7 Billion for its participation in the Sakhalin-I Project in Russia.

The additional investment comprises OVL's own investment towards development cost of the project and the loan to be extended to the Russian parties for their share of costs. The loan would be repaid by the Russian parties with interest to OVL.

(c) The project is expected to produce about 12.5 million tones (MMT) of oil and 10 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) of gas in the year of peak production, out of which OVL's share would be 20%. The total production of the fields over the 40 years of the life period, is estimated to be 307 MMT of oil and 485 BCM of gas.

Pending Karur-Salem BG Line

3867. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the commissioning of Karur-Salem BG line is long pending demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the land required for the purpose has been acquired;

(d) if so, the estimated cost of the project and the cost escalation due to long delay of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of representations have been received for early completion of this line.

(c) 333.845 hectares out of 343.78 hectares of land has been acquired. However, litigations regarding land acquisition had affected the progress of the work.

(d) Original cost of this project was Rs. 136 crore and present estimated cost sanctioned for this project is Rs. 229.88 crore.

(e) The completion of the project would depend upon land being handed over to Railway by the State Government and availability of resources.

Petroleum Complex in Mangalore

3868. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to set up Petroleum Complex at Mangalore;

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

(c) whether the ONGC has examined the project report in regard to viability of the said complex; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), on behalf of the public sector oil companies, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Government of Karnataka that, inter alia, envisages setting up a Petrochemical Complex. The project proposal is at a conceptual stage.

Snag in Missile Weapons System

3869. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the acceptance trials, the Russian built Krivak-III class frigate, INS Talwar developed snag in the Shtil-1 surface-to-air missile weapons system;

(b) if so, whether Naval Commander refused to approve a faulty weapons system in Russia;

(c) if so, whether the delivery of warship was delayed over a year;

(d) if so, whether the Russia has paid the penalty for delays specified in the contract;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes. Sir.

(d) to (f) The delivery of the first frigate, INS Talwar, was delayed on account of unsatisfactory performance of surface-to-air missile weapon system. It was delivered 13 months after the original delivery date. Negotiations are in progress for assessing the Liquidated Damages as provided in the contract.

[Translation]

AIR/DD Coverage in Madhya Pradesh

3870. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

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

(a) the percentage of the people who have access to the programmes being telecast through Doordarshan Centre in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any scheme to expand the coverage area thereof;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that 77.1% of the population of Madhya Pradesh is technically covered by DD signals terrestrially. However, the entire state is covered by DD satellite mode.

(b) and (c) The population coverage of DD in the terrestrial mode, in Madhya Pradesh is expected to increase to 79.2%, consequent upon the completion of HPT's at Sagar and Chattarpur by 2006.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Contracts for Running Duty Free Shops at Airport

3871. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India have

awarded contracts for running duty free shops in the past few years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the AAI have been losing crores of rupees per year on the awarding of such contracts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) M/s India Tourism Development Corporation has been awarded contract for running duty free shops at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Trivandrum airports for a period of 5 years effective from 1.1.2001 (ii) M/s Flemingo International Limited, Dubai, UAE has been awarded contract for running duty free shops at Jaipur, Lucknow, Amritsar, Guwahati and additional duty free shops at Trivandrum airport for a period of 5 years with effect from 12.12.2002 and at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Calicut and Goa for a period of five years with effect from 30.1.2004.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

EMU Suburban Services

3872. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken by the Government on para 2.2 regarding EMU suburban of C&AG Report No.9 of 2001 (Railways);
- (b) the reasons for not achieving the envisaged growth rate of 6% per annum in the suburban traffic; and
- (c) the steps taken to provide an efficient public transport system to carry public speedily and comfortably at affordable cost to reduce congestion on roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The matter is under examination.

Renewal of Railway Tracks

3873. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the tracks became due for renewal in the Indian Railways during the last three years and total achievement made so far since 2003 along with expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the total tracks due for renewal during 2004-05 and achievements made so far;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any target for track renewal for the next three years and the plan chalked out to fulfil the target;

(d) whether track renewal in Indian Railways goes through at a very slow pace; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Track length totaling to 16538 Km, was due renewal as on 1.4.01 and was sanctioned under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03. Track becoming due for renewal in the period after 01.04.2001, is sanctioned under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF) and the position is as under:

Year	Track Renewal Sanctioned (in Km)
2002-03	1986
2003-04	2932

The total progress achieved and expenditure incurred since 2003 is as under:

Year	Progress (in Km)	Expenditure Rs. in crore (Gross)
2002-03	4776	3298
2003-04 (Prov.)	4986	3486

(b) The details are as under:

Year	Track renewal Sanctioned (in Kms)	Total Progress Achieved Up to Nov'04 (in Kms)
2004-05	2736	3006

(c) Railways have planned to do 23,000 Km of track renewal, during Tenth Five Year Plan i.e. from 2002-03 to 2006-07. Uptill now (upto Nov.'04) 12768 Km of track renewal has been done.

The yearly targets for track renewal are fixed keeping in view the likely availability of funds and the Plan Size for the Railways. Planning is accordingly made to achieve the targets.

(d) No, Sir, The track renewal progress was of the order of 3000 Km a year during 2000-2001, before setting

up of SRSF. This has now increased to nearly 5000 Km during the year 2003-04.

- (e) Does not arise.

**Expertise in Different Fields
of Oil Sector**

3874. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Oil companies to build core competence and synergies and expertise in different fields of oil sector;

(b) if so, the response of the public sector oil companies thereto;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to convert the public sector oil companies into real power house of the country's economy; and

(d) the number of blocks awarded to oil companies under the NLEP during the last one year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Evaluation of options for improving the core competence of public sector oil companies and to synergies their expertise is a continuous process. In this context, meetings with the Chief Executives of the public sector oil companies are also held regularly in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. While deliberating on the core competence of the public sector oil companies in the context of the liberalization of policy for oil industry in the country, Chief Executives of public sector oil companies have also discussed various options of developing an integrated approach to business growth and diversification. The endeavour, inter-alia, is that the Oil Companies utilize their resources optimally by remaining focused in their core business instead of competing amongst themselves, especially for projects abroad. While there is a proposal to set up a six member Committee to advise the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Synergy in Energy, including issues relating to oil sector PSUs, no formal decision in this regard has been taken so far.

(d) During 2003-04, 20 blocks have been awarded under NELP-IV to various Joint Ventures.

[Translation]

**Allotment of Stalls/Telephone
Booths at Stations**

3875. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some applications regarding allotment of stalls and telephone booths at railway stations are under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-Wise;

(c) the present status of the said proposals; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) to (d) Allotment, of stalls including Subscriber Trunk Dialling/International Subscriber Dialling/Public Call Office booths at railway stations is an ongoing process, in different railways, based on requirement. The process of selection is not synchronized over different railways/divisions. Zonal railways undertake selection process as per prescribed guidelines depending upon their requirement and the process is completed as early as possible.

[English]

Revival of HMT

3876. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HMT Revival Plan-2000, has improved the monitoring of (i) HMT Watch Factory Bangalore (ii) HMT Chinar Watch Factory Srinagar (iii) HMT Machine Tool Ltd., Bangalore;

(b) the profit and loss position of the above subsidiaries after the Revival Plan-2000, factory-wise;

(c) whether the Government is safeguarding the interest of employees of the above subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the interest of employees under the Revival Plan-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A profit and loss statement is given below:-

(Rupees in lakhs)

Unit/Division	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
HMT Watches Ltd.	-5918	-10629	-11291	-13481
HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	-795	-1016	-631	-2192
HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	-9617	-7065	-10205	-11908

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement giving steps taken to safeguard the interest of employees is enclosed.

Statement

The Revival Plan, 2000 for HMT and the subsidiaries (including the subsidiaries - HMT Watch Factory, Bangalore, HMT Chinar Watches Factory, Srinagar and HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore) also sought to safeguard the interests of employees. Besides, an infusion of Rs. 250 crores to make the net worth positive and a Government guarantee of Rs.40 crores to HMT Watches for working capital, all outstanding statutory dues of employees upto March, 2000 were cleared. HMT Chinar Watches, Srinagar was also given salary support for 3 years. Further the man power was also right sized by offering VRS to 6947 personnel for which Rs.469 crores was borrowed by HMT against Central Government guarantee. There was also rationalization of employees medical facilities, leave travel concession, earned leave encashment etc. Recently Government have also sanctioned an amount of Rs.29.39 crores for HMT Watches, Rs.4.87 crores for Chinar Watches and Rs.5.81 crores for HMT Machine Tools for meeting the shortage in payment of salary/wages and statutory dues for the period upto 31.7.2004.

Protection of Monuments in Rajasthan

3877. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government in respect of protection and conservation of monuments, and maintenance of museums;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of monuments and manuscripts of historical and cultural importance in Rajasthan and the total fund spent during the last three years on this scheme;

(c) whether the allotted fund has been utilized;

(d) if so, the purposes for which the said fund has been utilized;

(e) whether any proposal has been sent by the State Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Any building or site more than one hundred years old having archaeological, historical and architectural importance can be declared as protected monument as per the requirements of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958. For the protected monuments the conservation work is attended to on continuous basis. For archaeological site museums the maintenance and upgradation work is also attended to regularly.

(b) There are one hundred and fifty nine protected monuments of Archaeological Survey of India in Rajasthan. For the structural conservation and chemical preservation of these monuments, programmes are framed as per their actual acquirement on priority basis. The protection and conservation of manuscripts is being attended to under the National Mission for Manuscripts. The Manuscripts Conservation Centre and Manuscripts Resource Centre have been opened at Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur for Conservation of Manuscripts. The details of the funds spent during the last three years are as under.

Item	Year	Expenditure (Rs in Lakhs)
Conservation of Monuments	2001-02	249.25
	2002-03	196.94
	2003-04	372.47
Conservation of Manuscripts	Till date	10.68

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The allotted funds have been utilized for conservation of monuments and manuscripts.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Disability Day

3878. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Disability Day is celebrated on December 3, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is taking any special initiatives for the welfare and benefit of the disabled on this special day; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per United Nations General Assembly Resolution 03 December of every year is celebrated as International Day of Disabled Persons.

(c) and (d) Under the scheme of National Award for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India is giving National Awards to individuals and Institutions for their outstanding contributions on the rehabilitation for persons with disabilities. Details of the scheme and list of National Awardees, 2004 are available in the Ministry's web site www.socialjustice.nic.in.

Telecasting and Broadcasting from Kolkata Doordarshan/Radio Centre

3879. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of hours telecasting/broadcasting could not be made from Kolkata Doordarshan/AIR centers during each of the last three years alongwith the reasons for such disruption; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure uninterrupted telecasting/broadcasting of national/regional programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the details of disruptions of telecasting/broadcasting of programmes of Doordarshan and AIR centers at Kolkata are as follows:-

Year	Doordarshan*		AIR#	
	Hrs.	Mts.	Hrs.	Mts.
2001-02	09	09	255	29
2002-03	10	12	231	18
2003-04	10	02	160	48

* Figures of Doordarshan includes Satellite Channel DD Bangla, all Terrestrial transmissions of DD1, DD (News), and Regional HPT.

Figures of AIR include all transmitters of AIR, Kolkata.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the interruptions are generally due to failure of power supply/equipments. Doordarshan has provided diesel generators to Kendra to minimize the power failure. Concerned authorities have been approached by Prasar Bharati officials for uninterrupted supply of power. Failures of equipment are promptly attended to by officials of Prasar Bharati.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Castes in SC and OBC List

• 3880. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI MOHAN JENA:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI M. APPADURAI:

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

(a) the criteria/procedure adopted to include new castes in the list of Scheduled Castes and OBCs;

(b) whether the Union Government has received some proposals/requests from some State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations including Government of Gujarat and Union Territory of Pondicherry to include more castes in the list of SCs and OBCs;

(c) whether the Government of Haryana has also requested to include Hari (Nayak) and Pal Gatria castes in the list of SCs;

(d) if so, the details of requests/proposals received alongwith name of castes during the last one year till date, State/Union Territory-wise;

(e) the present status of each request/proposal including name of castes so far included in the list, State/UT-wise; and

(f) the details of pending proposal including name of Castes sent back to State Governments/Union Territory administrations alongwith their reasons, State/ Union Territory-wise and time by which the same will be included in list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Criteria followed for

inclusion of a community in the list of Scheduled Castes is extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practices of untouchability.

In regard to inclusion of communities in the list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) the National Commission for Backward Classes has adopted the criteria which includes various social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness.

(b) Yes, Sir. Proposals for inclusion of communities in the list of Scheduled Castes have been received. In regard to inclusion in the Central List of OBCs, no such requests have, however, been received.

(c) Government of Haryana has requested for inclusion of Heri (not Hari) and Nayak communities in the list of Scheduled Castes. However, the State Government has not made any recommendation in regard to inclusion of Pal Gadia community in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(d) to (f) Year-wise details of proposals are not maintained. The caste wise names are maintainable only in such cases where ethnographic information has been received, 328 such cases, which lacked ethnographic information have been referred back to the concerned State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and the State/ Union Territory-wise number of such cases are given in the Statement. No time frame for final disposal of proposals can, however, be given as it requires consultation with various agencies.

The names of communities, which are already included in the lists of Scheduled Castes, are available in the Manual of Election Law, published by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Statement

*Cases Referred back to State Governments/
Union Territory Administrations, which
lacked Ethnographic details*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of cases referred back
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	4
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
3	Assam	16
4	Bihar	37
5	Chandigarh	7

1	2	3
6	Chhattisgarh	10
7	NCT of Delhi	13
8	Goa	3
9	Gujarat	13
10	Haryana	6
11	Himachal Pradesh	25
12	Jammu and Kashmir	3
13	Jharkhand	1
14	Karnataka	13
15	Kerala	11
16	Madhya Pradesh	9
17	Maharashtra	18
18	Manipur	1
19	Meghalaya	8
20	Orissa	16
21	Pondicherry	6
22	Rajasthan	14
23	Sikkim	2
24	Tamil Nadu	46
25	Tripura	2
26	Uttar Pradesh	23
27	Uttaranchal	19
28	West Bengal	1
Total		328

[English]

Natural Gas Policy by States

3881. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to

give permission to State Governments to frame its own Natural Gas Policy;

- (b) if so, the details of the same;
- (c) whether any proposal in this regard has been received from the State Governments, especially from Karnataka Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Requests have been received from some of the State Governments for having State Regulators for regulating the gas sector in their States.

- (e) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Funds to Wakf Boards

3882. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to give financial help to the Wakf Boards to offer financial support to women in distress, widows and divorcees as per news item appearing in *The Hindu* dated November 26, 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received and the action taken by the Union Government thereon, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government and the Wakf Boards to protect the women in distress, widows and divorcees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) As per the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, the State Wakf Boards may be directed by Court to pay maintenance to such women as are unable to maintain themselves and have no relatives who can pay for their maintenance.

Joint Venture Project of Brahmos

3883. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint venture project of Brahmos cruise missile with Russia has been completed;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred by the both countries on the said project;

(c) the terms and conditions agreed by both countries;

(d) whether some countries are interested in acquiring it for their armed forces; and

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Development of anti-ship version of BrahMos has been completed with all eight tests being successful. Production is in progress for induction in Indian Navy from 2005 onwards for many ship platforms.

(b) The authorised capital of the joint venture for development was \$ 250 million.

(c) An Inter-Government Agreement has been signed between the two countries. The missile development is a joint effort from design to production and marketing to Indian and Russian Armed Forces and to mutually agreed friendly countries.

(d) Some countries have shown interest in BrahMos, since supersonic cruise missile is not available with any other country.

(e) It is not in public interest to disclose such details.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.20 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1441/04]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1442/04]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1443/04]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1444/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): On behalf of Shri Lalu Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1445/04]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1446/04]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1447/04]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rail Vikas

Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, **Sec No. LT 1448/04**]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 1449/04**]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Against vacancies reserved for them in Recruitment and Promotion categories on the Railways for the year ending the 31st March, 2003.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 1450/04**]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 199 of the Indian Railways Act 1989:-

- (i) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 47 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 1999.
- (ii) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 101 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1998.
- (iii) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 213 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1999.

- (iv) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Third Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 283 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 1999.

- (v) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 708 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2000.

- (vi) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 394 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2002.

- (vii) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 581 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2000, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 852 (E) dated the 8th November, 2000.

- (viii) The Railway (Notices of and Inquiries into Accidents) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 858 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2001.

- (ix) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 842 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2002.

- (x) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Third Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 893 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2000.

- (xi) The Indian Railways (Open Lines) General (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 913 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2000.

- (5) Twelve Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, **See No. LT 1451/04**]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the years 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1452/04]

- (2) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited for the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1453/04]

- (3) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited for the year 2003-2004, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the financial year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1454/04]

- (4) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited for the year 2003-2004, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the financial year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1455/04]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National

Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1456/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1457/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1458/04]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New

- Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1459/04]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2002-2003.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1460/04]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1461/04]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1462/04]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1463/04]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on Central Government Subsidies in India.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1464/04]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri Shankersinh Vaghela, I beg to lay on the Table-
- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1057 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2004 specifying mandatory packaging of certain commodities mentioned therein in Jute Packaging Materials under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1465/04]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and

English versions) by the Government of the working of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1466/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1467/04]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1468/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1469/04]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and

English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1470/04]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1471/04]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1472/04]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1473/04]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Powerloom

Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1474/04]

- (11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1475/04]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1476/04]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1477/04]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1478/04]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1479/04]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the GAIL (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the GAIL (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1480/04]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004. Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1484/04]
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. F.No. P-20012/5/99-PP/OR-II (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2004 regarding supplementary Guidelines for laying petroleum product pipelines.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1485/04]
- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003.-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (3) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1486/04]
- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the National Commission for Youth (Volumes I and II) along with the Executive Summary of the Report (Hindi and English versions).
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1487/04]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): On behalf of Shri K. Chandra Shekar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table-
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1483/04]
- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited
- (2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1488/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1489/04]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1490/04]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the HMT Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1491/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1492/04]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1493/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(1) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1494/04]

(2) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1495/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): On behalf of Shri Kantilal Bhuria, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1496/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1497/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1498/04]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1499/04]

- (5) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Corporation Limited for the years 1987-1988 to 1990-1991 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1500/04]

- (6) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited for the years 1998-1999 to 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1501/04]

- (7) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited for the years 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1502/04]

- (8) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Corporation Limited for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1503/04]

- (9) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Assam Agro Industries Corporation Limited for the years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1504/04]

- (10) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Andhra Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited for the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1505/04]

- (11) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited for the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective financial years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1506/04]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1507/04]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Insurance (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 623 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2004 under sub-section (3) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1508/04]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

(i) The Income-Tax (15th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1309 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) The Income-Tax (16th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1310 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) The Income-Tax (17th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1316 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) The Income-Tax (18th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1321 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(v) The Income-Tax (19th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1334 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1509/04]

- (3) A copy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Debenture Trustee) (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1314 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2004

under Section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1510/04]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-
- (i) The CENVAT Credit (Second Amendment) Rules, 2004, published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 767(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 768(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the requirement of filing of an Annual Declaration of monthly return, the assessee should manufactures the excisable goods under certain tariff headings should paid duty of excise less than one hundred lakhs in rupees from account current during the preceding financial year.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 769(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the form ER-5 of Annual Declaration of Principal Inputs for the purposes of rule 9 A of the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 770(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying form ER-6 of Monthly return of receipt and consumption of Principal Inputs for the purposes of rule 9 A of the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004.
 - (v) G.S.R. 733(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 38/2001-CE(N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.
 - (vi) The Central Excise (Fourth Amend-

ment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 645 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vii) The Central Excise Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 724 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1511/04]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sections 3, 12, 18, 19 and 37 of the Central Excise Rules 2002:-
- (i) G.S.R. 579(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/2001-CE(N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 725(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the requirement of filing an Annual Financial Information Statement, the assessee who paid duty of excise less than One Hundred Lakh Rupees from account current during the financial year to which the Annual Financial Information Statement relates.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 726(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the form ER-4 of Annual Financial Information Statement for the purposes of the Central Excise Rules, 2002.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 719(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 42/2001-CE(N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.
 - (v) G.S.R. 720(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2004

- together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 43/2001-CE(N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (vi) G.S.R. 572(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying rebate on inputs including NCCD and Education Cess.
- (vii) G.S.R. 695(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain in the Notification No. 19/2004-CE(NT) dated the 6th September, 2004.
- (viii) G.S.R. 696(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain in the Notification No. 20/2004-CE(NT) dated the 6th September, 2004.
- (ix) G.S.R. 697(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain in the Notification No. 21/2004-CE(NT) dated the 6th September, 2004.
- (x) G.S.R. 570(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum granting rebate on the whole of the duty paid on all excisable goods exported to any country other than Nepal and Bhutan, subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) G.S.R. 571(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide rebate of duty paid on export goods so far as exports to Nepal and to specify rebate of NCCD and Education Cess.
- (xii) G.S.R. 643(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying forms mentioned therein for the purposes of CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 644(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying forms mentioned therein for the purposes of CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1512/04]
- (6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1513/04]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1514/04]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1515/04]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004. English versions) of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1516/04] [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1520/04]
- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004. (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 55 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987:-
- (ii) Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. (i) The National Housing Bank General (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. File No. NHB/LD/Act-003 in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1517/04] (ii) The National Housing Bank General (Amendment) Regulation, 2004 published in Notification No. File No. NHB/LD/ Act-002 in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2004.
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) of item No. (10) above.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1521/04]
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1518/04] (12) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding the discontinuance of the Scheme of War Risks (Marine Hulls) Reinsurance Scheme, 1976.
- (8) A copy of the Notification No. F.No. 8(5)/2004-IF-I (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2004 appointing 30th September, 2004 as the date on which the books and accounts of the Fund relating to the financial year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2003 and ending on the 31st March, 2004 may be closed, issued under sub-section (2) of section 21 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1522/04]
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1519/04] THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): On behalf of Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jegadeesan, I beg to lay on the Table-
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Backward Classes Finance and

Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1523/04]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1524/04]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2001-2002 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (c) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1525/04]

- (3) A copy of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under Article 338 (6) of the Constitution:-

- (i) Sixth Report of the National Commi-

ssion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

- (ii) A copy of the Action Taken, Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) on the Sixth Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1526/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1527/04]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1528/04]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1529/04]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1530/04]

MR. SPEAKER: This is an exception. In future, you have to send a notice and take my permission. It is a default and it will not be tolerated in future.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003- 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1532/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the CAPEXIL (formally Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the CAPEXIL (formally Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1533/04]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1534/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1535/04]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1536/04]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Leather Exports, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Leather Exports, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1537/04]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 2003-2004 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1538/04]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, and Cosmetic & Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1539/04]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1540/04]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1541/04]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Overseas Construction Council of India (Project Exports Promotion Council of India) Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Overseas Construction Council of India (Project Exports Promotion Council of India), Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1542/04]
- (13) A copy of the Trade Marks (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 540(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2004 under sub-section (4) of section 157 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999, together with an explanatory note.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 1543/04]
- (15) A copy of the Agricultural and Processed Food

Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.NO. APEDA/SEC/GEN/30 in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2004, under section 34 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1544/04]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1545/04]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): On behalf of Shri Namo Narain Meena, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1546/04]

12.24 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2004, which was passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st December, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha

for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

[English]

12.24¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the First to Fifth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the second and third sessions.

12.24 ½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Second Report

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

[English]

12.25 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

(i) Second and Third Reports

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports:-

- (1) Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and

the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on "Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-fifth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) – Working of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)"; and

- (2) Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on "Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Twentieth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) – Working of the Tribal Co-operative Market Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)".

(ii) Study Tour Reports

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Study tour Reports (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Report of the Study Tour of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes on their visit to Chennai, Ooty, Mysore, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Mumbai during June, 2003; and
- (2) Report of the Study Tour of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on their visit to Guwahati, Shillong, Kolkata, Port Blair and Chennai during October, 2003.

[English]

12.25¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

Fourth and Fifth Reports

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2004-05) :-

- (1) Fourth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations

contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Fourteenth Lok Sabha); and

Fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Fourteenth Lok Sabha).

12.25 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

Second Report

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/observations contained in the First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.25¼ hrs.

[Translation]

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri D.S. Sikka, General Secretary, IDPL Officers' Association, IDPL Complex, Gurgaon and other requesting for payment of additional gratia to 196 employees of IDPL in Central Dearness Allowance (CDA) scale at par with other employees.

[English]

12.26 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 26, DATED 2ND DECEMBER, 2004 REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL AND GIVING REASONS FOR DELAY IN CORRECTING THE REPLY*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (Hindi and English versions) –

*Laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) correcting the reply given on 02.12.2004 to Starred Question No. 26 by Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram Shandil, M.P., regarding Construction of Tunnel and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

I gave the answer to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 26 relating to construction of tunnel asked by Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram Shandil on 02/12/2004.

It is informed that in reply to Para (a) to (e) of the above question, progress of works on the two approach roads to

South and North Portals of the proposed tunnel under Rohtang pass has been indicated. These are actually access roads to the portals for mobilization of resources and not approach roads. Further, progress of works at North Portal and South Portal has inadvertently been interchanged.

As soon as the error has come to notice, action is being taken to rectify the same so that it can be laid on the Table of the House during this session.

I hereby place on the Table of the House copies of the revised answer to Starred Question No. 26

Question	Answer already given	Revised answer
<p>DR. (COL.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:</p>	<p>It is proposed to construct a tunnel at Rohtang to provide an all weather road to Leh.</p>	<p>It is proposed to construct a tunnel at Rohtang to provide an all weather road to Leh.</p>
<p>(a) the present status of the construction of tunnel of Rohtang pass in Himachal Pradesh alongwith estimated cost thereof and amount spent thereon so far;</p>	<p>In May 2002 it was decided as a first step to construct approach roads to both the North and South Portals of the proposed tunnel at Rohtang at a cost of Rs. 30 crore. Two approach roads were to be constructed of 2.7 kms (South Portal) and the approach road to the North portal of 23.8 Kms. The approach road to the South portal of the tunnel has been completed and 23.46 kms of the approach road to the North portal has been completed.</p>	<p>In May 2002 it was decided as a first step to construct access roads to both the North and South Portals of the proposed tunnel at Rohtang at a cost of Rs. 30 crore. Two access roads were to be constructed of 2.7 kms (North Portal) and the access road to the South portal of 23.8 Kms. The access road to the North portal of the tunnel has almost been completed and 23.46 kms of the access road to the South portal has been completed.</p>
<p>(b) amount proposed to be spent during the current financial year;</p>	<p>A sum of Rs. 30 crore has been utilised till March 2004. The amount spent during the current financial year is Rs. 14.82 crore in addition. Because of limited working season no further expenditure is anticipated in this financial year.</p>	<p>A sum of Rs. 30 crore has been utilised till March 2004. The amount spent during the current financial year is Rs. 14.82 crore in addition. Because of limited working season no further expenditure is anticipated in this financial year.</p>
<p>(c) the target date for completion of project;</p>	<p>On the basis of Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by M/s Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) the estimated cost of Rohtang Tunnel and other related works is Rs. 1709.35 crore. The work relating to construction of approach roads and alternate route to Leh is already under progress by the Border Roads Organization and construction of tunnel will be taken up through a contractor for which global tenders would be invited.</p>	<p>On the basis of Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by M/s Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) the estimated cost of Rohtang Tunnel and other related works is Rs. 1709.35 crore. The work relating to construction of access roads and alternate route to Leh is already under progress by the Border Roads Organization and construction of tunnel will be taken up through a contractor for which global tenders would be invited.</p>
<p>(d) the benefits that will accrue with the construction of this tunnel; and</p>	<p>Construction of tunnel and other related works will provide strategic operational support to the Army and lead to economic development of the area. This will also reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 40 Km.</p>	<p>Construction of tunnel and other related works will provide strategic operational support to the Army and lead to economic development of the area. This will also reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 40 Km.</p>
<p>(e) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of said tunnel?</p>	<p>The work relating to construction of tunnel and other related works is proposed to be completed by 2011-2012.</p>	<p>The work relating to construction of tunnel and other related works is proposed to be completed by 2011-2012.</p>

[English]

12.27 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD
AMENDMENT) BILL 2004*

(Insertion of new article 340A)

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to
move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the
Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

12.28 hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
MINORITIES (REPEAL) BILL, 2004*

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPO-
WERMMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to move
for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the National
Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr.
Speaker, Sir, why Minorities Commission Act is being
repealed?

MR. SPEAKER: I will let you know, when it is taken up.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is extremely
wrong. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. Let me conduct
the House.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the
National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Pachouri - not present.

He is not present here for the second time.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, you call him. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him come before me.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB
MUKHERJEE): Sir, I regret his absence here.

12.30 hrs.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2004*

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT
AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to move for
leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Merchant
Shipping Act, 1958 and the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Indian
Ports Act, 1908."

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As usual, on Merchant Shipping
(Amendment) Bill, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has given a
notice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir,
now-a-days, it has become a practice for the Ministers to the
House for granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, you are absolutely
right.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Please do not
interrupt. Let me complete.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated
23.12.2004.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated
23.12.2004.

MR. SPEAKER: You have the right to admonish me. I accept it in good spirit. I know your point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, legislation is an important function of the House.

The House should not be taken by surprise. I am very sorry to say that nowadays some of the Bills are introduced by taking shelter under your prerogative in respect of Directions 19A and 19B to dispense with the required notice. That is why I submit that this House should not be taken by surprise. ...*(Interruptions)* Certainly, Shri Baalu's amendment is also very precarious. This has been brought forward on the last day of the Session.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go into the merits now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The hon. Minister Shri Baalu has moved for leave to introduce a new Bill. On which date has he brought it forward?

On the last day of the Session, he has brought it forward. We should realise that according to him it is an urgent matter. In the International Shipping Law, he wants some statutory backing. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a necessity to meet the situation in the International Shipping Law. For that purpose, he has come forward with this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, ordinariness, you are absolutely right. Now, please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The device is to by-pass the Legislature and bring an Ordinance immediately after the House is adjourned. This is very unfortunate. This should not be allowed. The hon. Speaker is aware of all these things better than I am aware of. Now, this is a question of by-passing the Legislature. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you have to take your seat. You have had your say. I am now interrupting you. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am very sorry. On the last day of this Session, the hon. Minister has brought it forward. He should have brought it forward much before.

MR. SPEAKER: You have realised that I have permitted it. You are challenging the decision of the Speaker. If you are dissatisfied, take proper action to get me out of this place. Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Knowing well that I have permitted,

you are raising this issue. I have said that this is not the normal thing. Because of a certain case made out, I have felt that it is proper to exercise my discretion.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Indian Ports Act, 1908."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I call Prof. Malhotra to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Sir, it is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me regulate it. I have promised it. I have already given an assurance that I would allow the hon. Members. I will allow the hon. Members to raise their issues. I am committed to it. I shall allow all of you. I have called Prof. Malhotra to speak. I will call the hon. Members on all sides of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, please stop him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): He has already spoken. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called him. What can I do? I am asking them to cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice. The entire country is talking of Tehalaka. ...*(Interruptions)* Let that Govt. & Narendra Modi be dismissed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till 12.45 p.m.

12.34 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock.**[English]*

12.45 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock.**(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)*REGARDING ALLEGED MISUSE OF
INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES AGAINST
POLITICAL OPPONENTS

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I will give opportunity to everybody. I will also request hon. Members and leaders to make their submissions as brief as possible so that all Members can get a chance. After all, today is the last day of this Session. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice to raise a matter regarding the misuse of investigative agencies against political opponents and unwarranted political interference by the Central Government.

[Translation]

I had asked for your leave on this subject. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Since the last seven months, when the Government came in power, all the investigating agencies as CBI, DRI and FEMA whether concerned with CBI or not, are enjoying autonomy. ...*(Interruptions)* Supreme Court has also directed not to interfere with these institutions, but unfortunately, they are being misused. It was decided to bring cases against opponents and save the skin of those in favour. The decision was taken to withhold permission to prosecute a Union Minister involved in petrol pump scam so that CBI may not proceed further against him. Bofors case was closed. Besides, numerous cases against ministers have also been withdrawn. When a letter from a JS in PMO was sent to Secretary (Personnel). ...*(Interruptions)** It crossed all limits. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The names will be deleted.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: A letter sent through him raises three points:- whether CBI can file a revision petition? Secondly, reasons for which CBI did not file cases, should be investigated. Third and most perilous thing was to examine the revision petition filed by two witnesses with the view to see whether it may be expedited or not. PMO stated "I have been asked by -asked by whom?" Who directed the JS to do such things as there is nobody, except PM himself above him. He may not be the person from UPA. If PM asked him to expedite matter, it is against the judgement of the Court, process of the Court, and is the misuse of the CBI and is against the spirit of the Constitution and is the misuse of the power of PMO.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be patient. Let me regulate. Let us have some discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, please conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No other person can do. If PM does such thing, other ministers will also follow him. It has been done to oppress opponents by fabricating false cases against them and misusing CBI by PMO. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to know whether it was done by PM or not? He violated the Constitution and the directions of the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call your name also. Those who have to speak will be given opportunity.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We ask the PM to tender his resignation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathi to associate with this matter.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we oppose the undemocratic action of the Government. The Government should not interfere in the independent functioning of the CBI. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, please sound your colleagues.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? They have concluded.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy has associated with Prof. Malhotra's observation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do all of you like to speak? What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Sir, I have different case. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should speak when the case comes before the House. Why are you speaking at this time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper way, please sit down:

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing will be recorded, except Shri Prabhunath Singh's submission.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, please help us. I am conducting the proceedings as per the decision taken.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the name of CBI used to create instill faith in people of the country. But it seems now that the CBI has become puppet in the hand of Government. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can continuously interrupt. All are elected Members of this House. People have expressed their confidence in you.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, CBI has become a puppet in the hand of Government. The letter which was mentioned by Shri Malhotra just now, has clear design that Government is compelling CBI to take action against Shri L.K. Advani. It is clearly a design and not for the first time. It has already figured in media, many time. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you bound by his observation? Why do you feel that you are bound by his observation?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can rebut it at your time. How can both of you speak together?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That applies to both sides, Madam.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It has already been figured in newspapers and media. ... (Interruptions) The fodder scam of Bihar, is also being misinterpreted by CBI. All the hon'ble leaders are in the House. ... (Interruptions) Through you, I would like to know why the PMO has been harassing the leaders of opposition and in reference to the letters written by an officer of PMO. ... (Interruptions) I would like to know why such an action is being taken? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the Leader of the House. It has been all decided.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prof. Malhotra and some other hon. Members of this House have raised an issue in regard to a letter issued from the Prime Minister's Office in respect of certain matters investigated and which are also under the scrutiny of the court.

I would like to clarify the position. The letter sent from

* Not recorded.

the Prime Minister's Office to the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training is in the context of a revision petition in the High Court against the discharge of Shri L.K. Advani filed by two witnesses. It may be noted that the reference from the Prime Minister's Office only requested clarification on the legal position about filing a revision petition and ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on interrupting like this.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am making it very carefully and I would respectfully submit. Kindly listen to me.

It may be noted that the reference from the Prime Minister's Office only requested clarification on the legal position about filing a revision petition and failure, if any, on the part of the prosecuting agency in taking timely action to move a higher court. The sum total of this correspondence is nothing more than eliciting information from the prosecuting/investigating agency. It is not a directive of any kind to any investigating agency and cannot be construed to amount to any manner of interfering in the working of the agency.

To seek legal opinion on any issue is a legitimate, official communication and falls within the purview of due process within the Governmental machinery. It would, therefore, be wrong to impute any political motive to the routine correspondence. It may also be stated that no instructions and directions were issued to CBI in this matter. In all such matters, this Government will respect the autonomy of investigating agency and following the dictates of the law and judicial decisions. In no way we have interfered. But, this is the legitimate right of a Government to ascertain the position of a case, and no impropriety has been indulged in issuing this letter. ...*(Interruptions)* So far as - what Shri Malhotra has raised - "directed by whom" is concerned, this is the normal practice of drafting in any official communication. Every Government order issued, you will find: "He is directed". Therefore, no impropriety has been indulged in it, and nothing has been done to interfere with the due process of law and normal functioning of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vajpayee wants to say something. Would you like to add something?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER. All will get chance.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the letter, mentioned just now, is very strange

and should not have been written. You will tell and it is natural to say that you are not exerting any pressure, but it is nothing except pressure. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be quiet. Let us listen to each other. Just now, I was told that there should be patience. You said it correctly. Both sides should observe patience.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I go through the text of the letter?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already read the letter.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Only a part of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give your comments.

[English]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I quote from the letter:

"...In this regard I have been asked to request that the Ministry of Law and Justice may kindly be consulted (a) to examine if there is any legal provisions and grounds for CBI...there is any negligence on the part of any investigating, prosecuting machinery, agency in filing a revision petition..."

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should have respect for each other also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have developed a very bad habit.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The letter at the end, also says to expedite the revision petition. To whom it has been written? Who will expedite? Is it not the proper way to say that it is being delayed, by being kept pending. The matter should be dealt promptly. Excuse me, it is not proper time for this newly formed Government one, to write such letters. Please, stop writing such letters. It may be misused and such correspondence should not be communicated in order to prevent their misuse.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us conduct in a manner that everybody gets an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I would not have responded but for, with my due respect and reverence to the former Prime Minister and the senior-most Parliamentarian of this country, most respectfully, I would like to submit that if hon. Vajpayee ji would have gone through the whole text of the letter, he would have known that it is not the initiative of the Government. Two witnesses have filed their writ petitions. The Government have not filed. Therefore two witnesses have filed writ petitions, the Prime Minister's Office wanted to ascertain the legal position.

13.00 hrs.

And for that legal position. ...(Interruptions) Please allow me to complete. I have not yet completed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: They have listened to Shri Vajpayee fully. Please show minimum courtesy to him.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, on a similar occasion, when an allegation was brought in by Shri P.R. Dasmunsi and many others, the then Prime Minister wanted to ascertain the fact in order to inform the House. In this matter, the information has been sought from the Legal Department as to what is the legal position. Except the Law Ministry, who else can give the legal interpretation? Therefore, if the Ministry of Personnel has been advised to consult the Law Ministry, what is wrong in it?

The second point, which I would like to submit most respectfully, is that if we start sharing the correspondences between the two Departments from the Prime Minister's Office to other Office, there will be no end to it, and no Government can function. Most respectfully I will like to remind Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that in 1977, the correspondences between the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, and the then Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Charan Singh, were never allowed to be debated and discussed on the floor of the House.

Therefore, this is an internal matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to each other.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Therefore, to raise this

issue by the former Prime Minister, most respectfully I would like to submit, is not fair. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you to discuss it. We have discussed it.

[Translation]

It is not the proper way. Mr. Harin, please be seated.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: CBI is being misused and it has been written that revision petition should be expedited. We strongly protest and stage walk out.

[English]

13.01 hrs.

(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members then left the House)

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. Now, Md. Salim.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That will be deleted.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Please give us a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: Chance can not be given to two persons wishing to speak simultaneously. You will also get opportunity.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta, North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, I will have to take action against you. I warn you. It has become your habit. You are a respected and a senior Member. You have been our colleague. This is not the way to behave. Show some respect to the Chair.

Md. Salim, please be very brief.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. We are thankful to Shri Vajpayee, ex PM for raising this matter. The country, society and politics have been facing serious difficulties on this issue for the last 12 years. They are obstructing the smooth functioning of the House. It seems, the opposition does not want to let the Government function smoothly. The Government asserts that the legal provisions be ascertained from the department of Law. Then, should this Government also follow the same line of action of ascertaining from Nagpur as was done by Ex. P.M. We will

* Not recorded.

welcome the acquittal of Advaniji, only if it is fair and legal. But, it is not right to say that pressure is being exerted on CBI for political motivation. We asked the Government to settle the case on the basis of legal action taken to expedite the revision petition and nobody, howsoever, influential he may be, should be acquitted casually.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): We are surprised, they have no issue, so they shall raise any petty issue and stage a walk-out. ...*(Interruptions)* Their leaders are inside but the rest have walked out...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, he cannot comment on our walk-out. It is none of his business to make a comment on our walk-out. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I have just started to speak, I took only 15 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have concluded. Your leader has already said.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, we had agreed to this arrangement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have called my name and allowed me to speak. This is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Sir, I have also something to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Presently Mr. Devendra Prasad is speaking, I will allow you later.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr., Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring a matter of urgent importance to the notice of the Government. Another sensational news has been brought out by the *Tahelka* today and yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about news. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper. I had already consulted you in this regard.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is written therein that Jaheera Sheikh changed her statement in exchange of Rs. 18 lacs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): No, that cannot be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, I will name you now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter? Please, sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right. You should learn from Mr. Vajpayee.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The matter is subjudice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am obliged to the hon. leaders. We just now have had some discussion. There were certain accepted positions. It was decided that I should call the Members one after another. As per the decision, I called Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. He did not take a long time. I am thankful to him. When Shri Tripathy wanted to associate, I allowed him to associate. Shri Prabhunath Singh wanted to make his submission. He had made his submission. Then, the reply was to be given. He had given his reply. I have allowed one or two hon. Members to continue. Then I asked Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav to speak. Now, he is speaking. You may make your submission later. Let him make his points.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I want to know whether the merits of the matter can be discussed here or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They have kept their agreement. You keep the agreement. I will allow you to make your comments later on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall see it. If he makes any comment on the merits of a pending matter, I shall see that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If he makes any comment on the merits of the pending matter, I shall deal with it.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: MR. Speaker, Sir, I shall not do anything amounting to contempt of the Court. I want to comply with your orders in toto and at the same time I seek your protection. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Stick to your subject.

[English]

Please be very brief, and do not cross the Lakshman rekha.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are many important matters which the hon. Members wish to raise apart from this. I should call them. Today is the last day of the Session. I am prepared to co-operate here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to show whatever has been published in the newspaper, "Tehelaka ka Dhamaka, Jaheera ne 18 lakh Rupaye Lekar Bayan Badla." ...(Interruptions) Sir, I am just reading out the headlines published in the newspapers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: An agreement should apply to all the sides. An understanding should apply to all the sides.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said it. I have given an undertaking. From the Chair, I have said that any comments on the merits of the pending matter will not be allowed. You cannot make any comment on the merits of a pending matter. Mere reference is enough.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right. Mr. Verma, please sit down.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: MR. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is viewing their conduct today. ...(Interruptions) I have just quoted the headlines published in the newspapers. I would not like to go in details. It reads: "Tehelka ka Dhamaka, Jaheera Ne 18 lakh rupaye Lekar Bayan Badla, Best Bakery Mamle mein Naya Mod, ...(Interruptions)* The eye witness of the Best Bakery Jaheera Sheikh was given Rs. 18 lacs by an MLA of the Bhartiya Janta Party. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take their names. Do not take any name. No names to be recorded.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speakers, Sir, all these things have been recorded by the camera. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take name of any person.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am referring to the newspaper and not speaking anything on my own. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seat. Otherwise, there would be a problem.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling the fact. Whatever have been recorded by the spy camera have confused millions of people who are watching the entire episode eagerly and they want to know as to what indeed is the fact behind it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 14 persons were killed in the Best Bakery Case but thousands of Muslims were slain. ...(Interruptions) I would

* Not recorded.

like to know why thousands of innocent Muslims were slain.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): What about Godhara where the Hindus were burnt to death. Where were the so called secular people at that time who remain a silent spectators. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. I shall ask Shri Harin Pathak to respond. Mr. Yadav, please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall conclude within two minutes. There is noise over there. Sir, the way this incident has taken place has put the Gujarat Government in the dock. This incident has created confusion among the common people. Through you I would like to ask the Union Government for a CBI inquiry into the entire episode so that the truth may come out. The other thing is that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had directed the Gujarat Government to exercise 'Rajdharma' when this incident happened in Gujarat. ...(Interruptions) Did the Tahelka reveal at that time that Jaheera Sheikh had changed her statement; was there any such revelation by Tahelka? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please get the entire episode investigated by CBI. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, your Deputy leader is on his legs.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the issue of Rs. 100 given to the poor for sweets, hon'ble Shri Vajpayeeji demanded the resignation of the Hon'ble Railway Minister and now I ask for the resignation of Hon'ble Vajpayeeji on the issue of giving Rs. 18 lacs to Jaheera. ...(Interruptions) I also ask for the dismissal of Narendra Modi's Government. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No more. I have no other notice.

Shri Raghunath Jha and Shri Rupchand Pal are associating themselves.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale and Shri Madhusudan Mistry are also associating with it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are really inviting trouble. I am warning you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever is said without my permission is not to be recorded. Only the statement of Shri Harin Pathak is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, you ignore him. Please start your statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir on the basis of a newspaper report, Jaheera Sheikh is being accused of taking money. Through you, I. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We can have a structured discussion peacefully in which all of you can present your points of view and leave it for the country to decide what is to be done.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have to regulate the proceedings of this House. Hon. Members on all sides are agitated. If all of you speak together, nobody's statement would be recorded and you would not get the reply for that.

When they were raising an issue and hon. friends were feeling very strongly about it. I have given an opportunity to the Leader of the House to reply. Now, you have raised an issue and I have called Shri Harin Pathak. Let his statement be recorded. I am asking you to listen to each other. I am appealing to all of you to please develop a habit of listening and then controverting in a manner which would do justice to your case also

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the way. Nobody is being heard. Please, be brief.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The newspaper being referred to and from which Shri Devendra Prasad Yadavij has read

* Not recorded.

out that Jaheeraji was given Rs. 18 lacs, has also published.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to him, everybody has to speak something or the other.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Jaheera declines before the court of law that she knows any Madhu Srivastava. I
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ignore it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Harin Pathak's statement will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I will name you today. You have to leave this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not permit you. There is an end to everything.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter? What is going on there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Jaheeraji has also said it in the court, you are referring to the newspaper. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please contribute briefly.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am telling about the Court of Law. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, are you

bound by his statement? Are you bound by it? He is not bound by your statement and you are not bound by his statement. Why do you show impatience while listening each others views?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: He is talking about the court of law, so we request. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, this is the trouble. I have already said that if any comment is made on the merits of any pending matter, I shall look into this. You give me this opportunity also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am referring to the newspapers not to the Court of Law. I read out whatever has been published in the newspaper. The some newspaper published that Jaheera has said that she does not know Madhu Shrivastava, she has taken no money from her. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Harin Pathak's statement will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Jaheera has also said that she was under the pressure of Teesta Seetalwad. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Alkesh Das, I take strong objection.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The photograph which is being shown is of the Congress President. ... (Interruptions) The photo is of the Corporator and the President of Congress.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, you have spoken.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The person in the photograph is the President of Congress. I just want to say that Jaheera said before the court of law that she had not taken any money from anybody and she was not under pressure of anybody. So, it is nothing but a conspiracy to topple Narendra Modi's Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I thank for everybody's cooperation. Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak and nobody else.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak on the issue on which he has given notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJMI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been submitting since the commencement of this session that there is a demand for a special economic package of Rs. 18,230 crore from Uttar Pradesh Government. Meanwhile, special economic packages that have been given to various states mainly include Rs. 250 crore to Orissa, Rs. 325 crore to Bihar, 24,000 crore to Jammu and Kashmir, Rs. 2770 crore to Manipur and Rs. 336 crore to Assam.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, please allow me. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mistry, recently you are developing a habit of disturbing. No, I will not permit it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: We have no grievances on the special economic package given by the Government to various States. We welcome the move of the Government of providing special economic packages to the neglected States. Had Uttar Pradesh been a separate country. It would have ranked seventh populous country of the world. Despite repeated requests no assistance has been given. We brought forth all the requisite facts and figures like the per capita income and the rate of literacy in our State on the basis of which we had sought for the special economic package.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Leader of Congress party and others visit Uttar Pradesh and say that development should take place in Uttar Pradesh. We want to develop Uttar Pradesh

but State Governments have their limited economical resource, due to which economical development of State is not taking place. Not once, I have repeatedly mentioned this thing. I want to make one more submission. The Government have announced that exemption of Income tax till 2007 will be given to those who will set up industries in Uttaranchal. We don't have grievances over that but all the industries of Western Uttar Pradesh are being shifted to Uttaranchal due to this reason. This is a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have said it. There are many hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suman, this is the trouble. When I am trying to accommodate every hon. Member who has given notice, even one is interrupting the other and unnecessarily time is being taken. I have to stand up and remind you that please allow me to run the House properly. A lot of time has been wasted. Why don't you finish? You have already made your point. I have allowed you although you are not entitled to. You have raised one issue earlier this week. In spite of that, because of the importance of the matter, I have allowed you. Please finish it quickly.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I want to associate myself with the views of member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete first and then, you associate. You want to associate from first sentence. Somebody is associating on second line. Somebody is associating on third line.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was starting that on the one hand we did not get any package and on the other hand, special incentive of exemption on Income Tax is being given to those who are setting up industries in Uttar Pradesh which is resulting into shifting of industries of Western Uttar Pradesh to Uttaranchal. We had submitted that such exemption should also be extended to the areas of Uttar Pradesh falling within the circumference of 100 k.m. from the border of Uttaranchal. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit that we should be apprised

as to why this Government is not providing assistance to us.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the need to submit through me when you do not pay attention to me.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Prime Minister should clarify as to why economic package is not being given to Uttar Pradesh despite repeated requests? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough. Do not spoil your case.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I associate myself with the views of hon'ble Speaker.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): I too associate myself with the views of hon'ble Speaker.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are also associating.

Shri Dushyant Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Sir, with your permission, I would like to mention a very important matter of my State. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Singh.

A young Member is speaking. Please allow him an opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have associated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, the UPA Government has mentioned. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate, Shri Ramjilal Suman, I can say. I have gone out of my way to help you, but you are now misusing it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

Only Shri Dushyant Singh will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, the UPA Government has mentioned a very important issue for Rajasthan regarding AIIMS-like hospital. It was discussed in the House.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Because of the importance of the matter, I have allowed you. What can I do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, the Minister has stated and also the Finance Minister has stated that Rajasthan Government has not given land for AIIMS-like hospital.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly ask the Minister to reply. The leader of the House is present here. He should clarify whether the Government would continue to do such injustice with Uttar Pradesh.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as no reply is coming from the Government so we walk out from the House.

13.23 hrs.

(Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, I must say at this stage that the officials of the Ministry of Health of Government of India had seen the land, but they did not find the land sufficient enough or good enough to have an AIIMS-like hospital there. So, they had seen another land, called kazari land, which belongs to the Agriculture Department of Government of India. Now, this is a matter to be taken up between Health Department and Agriculture Department. I would urge upon the Agriculture Department to give them the land. The State Government has taken all precautions and all measures to give the land and has also written to the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health in this regard. I would submit that in our State, we need an AIIMS-like hospital for our people in Rajasthan. I would urge upon the UPA Government to provide us an AIIMS-like hospital in Rajasthan.

At this stage, I would also like to mention that they have not given a special package for Rajasthan, especially when we have lot of gas reserves and petroleum reserves.
...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is on AIIMS-like hospital.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: I am also asking for other assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put it very well. You have a strong case.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, there was an assistance. ...*(Interruptions)* In Barmer and Sanchod basins. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take wrong suggestions from the senior. Go on speaking and stick to your subject. They will mislead you!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: No, Sir. In Rajasthan, though there are lot of oil reserves in Barmer and Sanchod basins, the Ministry of Petroleum has said that they would put up a refinery in Bhatinda but not in Rajasthan.

Sir, they have again made sure that they do not give us any package because the Government there is being run by BJP, and NDA. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, but your notice is on a different matter.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: This is the reason that they have not given us a package. Therefore, I urge them to look into the issue of providing AIIMS like Institute for Rajasthan, and also provide refinery for Rajasthan, so that we can produce petroleum products, and help the farmers out there.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I wish you all the best, and I also compliment you.

Shri S.K. Kharventhan - not present.

Shri Shishupal N. Patle - not present.

Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter relating to the Indo-Bangla border, and internal security of our country. Sir, the Government of India has decided to construct barbed-wire fencing along. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Give me the list. Now, I will name you. Do not think that it is funny. I am not amused.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Sir, the Government of India has decided to construct a barbed-wire fencing along 150 metres inside the Indian territory, that is, from zero-point of the border. If this boundary wall is constructed within 150 metres of the zero-point, then about 2,500 families in the Karimganj Municipality Area will be left outside the barbed-wire fencing, and half of the Karimganj wholesale market will be left outside the barbed-wire fencing. There is also an indo-Bangla Trade Centre, which will be affected by this.

In the first phase a boundary wall was constructed, and it has left about five villages outside the fencing, and these people were living outside it. These people have to come through a BSF gate between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. They can remain in the mainland of India for these 12 hours. During the rest 12 hours they live in no-man's-land, and without any security. So all Indian Citizens must be within the boundary wall.

I would say that this boundary wall is a necessity and it is welcomed by all, but it should be constructed along the river bank, which is about 50 metres from the Border. I am saying this because the boundary is mid-stream of the river. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri George Fernandes, on this subject you have given a notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Don't mention about Tehlka, otherwise, I would have to tell what happened in that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to accommodate everybody. There are, at least, 38 hon. Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Sir, I am requesting you to give me two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a method of making a request.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, what is he doing?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. George Fernandes, you have given a notice on the issue relating to the Press Trust of India. You kindly mention about your matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, why are they behaving like this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me control it. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting? I am talking on your behalf. Why are you getting up again and again?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. George Fernandes, you have given notice about the attack on the employees of the Press Trust of India. Please refer to it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I was to speak over that, since he mentioned about Tehika so I had to. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Garge Fernandes, leave it, please. You are a very Senior Member and you can ignore it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is related to Press Trust of India. The constitution of India guarantees the right to form an Association. I want to mention how the efforts are made to disintegrate the existing associations. When the employees raised the problem of their people before Chief officer of Press Trust of India, they ruined their career by removing them from service. 700 people who were working in PTI since last 10 years have been removed and the management is behaving like a dictator. I had not witnessed such type of dictatorship even during the period of emergency. There was certainly an effort to exercise some control over the some of the newspapers but presently whatever is happening in PTI, I have never seen such thing in the country before.

Every labour organization, Central organisation irrespective of their ideology, leadership have interfered in this matter but Chief Executive Officer of PTI is behaving in such a dictatorial way that he does not pay attention to anyone. I am mentioning about this today because people have died there by committing suicide due to various reasons. The families of many peoples have been ruined. Under such circumstances. I would like that Ministry of Labour may be directed to monitor this situation and extend its support in delivering justice wherever it is required.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly, it is an important matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shishupal N. Patle, when I called your name, you were absent.

[Translation]

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATEL (Bhandara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you called my name I had gone to have some water. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whenever you give notice you should be careful about it. This is a rare opportunity and whenever it is available you should utilize it. You have raised a debatable issue, you may speak.

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. India is predominantly an agricultural country. Hon'ble Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had given 'Jai Jawan - Jai Kisan' slogan. I am happy that nefty budgetary allocation has been made for the defence forces. On the one had funds are made available, and several schemes like pension schemes are in vogue, on the other hand we find that our farmers are compelled to commit suicide due to poverty and their miserable condition. Because of this our slogan 'Jai Jawan - Jai Kisan' has not been realized completely. India is predominantly an agricultural country but there are no proper irrigation facilities. Out farmers are far away from adopting modern agriculture technology.

Sir, small farmer who owns only two - four hectares of land, remains indebted throughout the year. He finds it difficult to feed his family, educate the children and lead worthy life and remain indebted. The number of farmers, committing suicide is increasing day by day. He lives a life full of struggle and is compelled to live a life of beggar in his old age.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are pensions schemes in vogue for soldiers, Government and Semi-Government employees, teachers, landless labour, workers and unorganised workers but there is no provision of Pension Scheme for farmer who produces food grain, gives life and is an integral part of the economy of the country. A farmer who feed all of us with his empty stomach leads a life of beggar in his old age.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a good issue. They have heard you.

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Farmer's Pension Scheme can give an opportunity to farmer to live their lives with self respect during their old age. So, I request and urge upon the Government that Farmer's Pension Scheme may be implemented for small farmers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S.P.Y. Reddy - not present.

[Translation]

LT. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, give me two minutes to speak. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah, you are not getting it certainly; I will not give a chance to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): I want your permission to raise an issue of urgent public importance in the House pertaining to Vindhya region in Madhya Pradesh. Since last few years Vindhya express train had been running New Delhi to Rewa for the passengers of Rewa, Satna, Seedhi and Panna district of Vindhya Pradesh.

As per a news published recently in news papers, it has been reported that the said train has been discontinued from 26th Dec. 2004 which is tantamount to committing injustice against the people of Vindhya Pradesh. All the far Distt. are directly connected to Allahabad, Kanpur, Ghaziabad and New Delhi because of the said train.

In spite of discontinuing the said train if the time schedule of train is changed, it would not only result in the increase in revenues but the long pending demand of the people of that area for stoppage of train at various stations will also be fulfilled. So keeping in view the public interest, the Rewa-New Delhi express may be reintroduced and provision be made for its stoppage at various stations by changing its time schedule. In addition to that there has been a long pending demand for construction of Railway overbridge near Maiher Railway Station. It may be constructed keeping in view the sentiment of the people.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): I also associate myself with the views of hon. Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, you can associate.

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI (Vishnupur): Sir, National Highway No. 60 passes through Bankura District which is in my constituency. NH-60 was sanctioned by the Government but it exists only in the name. Practically, it is a narrow road full of pits and potholes. It is in a wretched condition. No good repair work has been done on this road for a long time

barring some patchwork done occasionally. As a result of this, users of the road are facing hardship and transport vehicles are meeting with accidents everyday.

The Member of Parliament who represented the area in the last Lok Sabha wrote several letters to draw the attention of the Government towards the condition of NH-60 and to impress upon the Government to allocate funds necessary for making this into a proper National Highway. However, no proper action has so far been taken by the Government in this regard. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to allocate sufficient funds immediately and to take steps to turn NH-60 into a perfect National Highway. Then only the sufferings of the people of my area can be reduced and people can be saved from the accidents that are occurring every day.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar - Not Present. Shri Ajit Kumar Singh - Not Present. Members give notice but remain absent. Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha, please speak on the issue you have raised. Do you know, on what issue you have given notice?

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA (Mirzapur): The matter is related to Ashoka pillar. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that Ashoka pillar symbolises the glory of rural as well as Urban India. It represents the feeling and sentiments of countrymen and throw some light in this regard. During the period of previous NDA Government the depiction of the pillar at the center of the currency note was discontinued contrary to the practice of printing both Ashoka Pillar and Mahatma Gandhi at the center of the currency notes. However, in a politically motivated move, the practice of depicting the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi and the Ashoka pillar has been discontinued and now the depiction thereof is being done of the corner of the currency notes. It is an unjust step. Step has direct bearing on the sentiments of Kushawaha, Kacchi, Shakyas, Saini, Mehto, Gehlot and Mehta Communities, which constitute 12 percent of Indian population. They believe that this pillar belongs to king Ashoka and also that king Ashoka was born in their community and the sentiments of these communities which constitute 12 percent of population are being hurt in the country, I want that keeping in view the feeling of the people UPA Government should again place the Ashoka pillar in the middle of note. If this is not done it will be gross injustice. It is against the feelings of people and is matter related to 12 percent population of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Repetition will not be allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, people will come to street to oppose it. I expect the Government to take action in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Why don't you pay attention.

[English]

Shri Furkan Ansari-not present.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, my notice relates to conferring of B2 status on the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Union Territory of Pondicherry, an erstwhile French colony, merged with the Indian Union in 1954. Since then, in the last fifty years, the Union Territory has made remarkable strides in all spheres of economic and social activity. Urban population of the Union Territory has also increased. Therefore, in consonance with the growing urbanisation of the Union Territory of Pondicherry, it should be conferred the B2 status.

The Home Ministry has recommended the proposal to the Ministry of Finance and it is awaiting the clearance of the Finance Ministry for a long time. There is enough justification. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very well.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I request the Ministry of Finance to confer B2 status on the Union Territory of Pondicherry at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia, you should very briefly speak only about the IDBI.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the IDBI Act was repealed in 2001. An assurance was given that the service conditions, pay scale of the employees of the IDBI will not be changed. After converting a development bank into a commercial bank, they will continue to enjoy the same facilities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those Members, who are patiently waiting and are not creating trouble, will get a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: After the solemn assurance given by the then Finance Minister that the service conditions would not be changed, the IDBI management has taken a decision not to give parity of wages to the IDBI employees with the employees of RBI. Before it was

converted into a commercial bank, the employees used to enjoy the similar facilities as that of the employees of the RBI. Today, they are deprived of their democratic right, the right to form the trade union. They are being asked not to form Association. It is an attack on their democratic right. After converting it into a commercial bank, the management of the IDBI are attacking on their trade union right, the right to form Association, the right to bargain. All these rights are being taken away from them. I urge upon the Government that the assurance which was given on the floor of the House should be. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): I also associate myself with his views. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: First let the hon'ble Member conclude then you associate with him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The salaries of the employees of the IDBI should be a par with the employees of RBI.

MR. SPEAKER: Your views are very well known on this and you have rightly taken up this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Hon'ble Speaker, I also associate myself with his views.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you interrupt in between by rising to associate yourself with the issue raised, the issue is not being properly presented before the House.

Yes, your name will be associated.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise this serious issue concerning public safety. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be very brief.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': I will be very brief, Sir.

Through you, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the Missile explosion that took place on 21st December, 2004, just two days ago in SG Steel Factory in Kashipur town, where I live in Uttaranchal. Lethal explosives lying along with the metal scrap in SG Steel

Factory in Kashipur, Uttaranchal exploded causing immediate death of an innocent labour, who was trying to cut the scrap by use of a welding machine and seriously injuring one woman besides causing great damage to nearby property and residential units. ...*(Interruptions)* I will take only one minute. It is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Every matter is important.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': There are reports of at least one hundred more missiles which are lying undetected and need to be immediately defused. However, due to non-availability of experts, it is difficult to detect and defuse these explosives.

Sir, I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Home Minister to look personally into this issue pending completion of official formalities like payment of cost for removing and defusing these explosives and provide immediate help of the para military forces and other technical personnel so that these lethal explosives can be detected and defused without any further delay and the threat to innocent lives and valuable property may be avoided. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Such long statements cannot be read here. We have to give up this habit of reading. In future we would not allow the Members to read from the written text.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Sir, just give me one more minute. I am just on my last point.

I would just like to add that the District Magistrate of Udham Singh Nagar, Uttaranchal, has already requested the State Government for necessary help in this regard, and I am sure that the Uttaranchal State Government has sent their request to the Home Ministry, Government of India for prompt action.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cotton growers of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana are on the verge of starvation death. The price of one quintal cotton has come down to Rs. 1700/- while the price of cotton never came below Rs. 2000 per quintal during just ten years. The per acre production of cotton is about six quintal over which a farmer has to spend 12 thousand rupees. Presently, they are compelled to sell their cotton at the rate Rs. 10,200 per quintal. Consequently, they have been suffering a loss of around Rs. 2000/- per acre. Presently, this is the condition of Rajasthan. You are aware that entire Rajasthan has been affected by drought. The farmers of Rajasthan are compelled to set afire their standing Cotton crops in the field due to low rates.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of

Government to this matter as this is very serious matter. The Government should come forward in this matter so that the farmers may get appropriate price for their crops and they do not commit suicide.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by Shri Mahboob Zahedi.

Shri P.S. Gadhavi.

Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao Renge Patil.

13.46 hrs.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2004*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there is one Bill which is to be introduced. It is listed in the List of Business at Sl. No.33. When the hon. Minister was called on to introduce the Bill, he was not present and no other hon. Minister had presented the Bill on his behalf. He has written to me tendering his apology. But that must be on record.

Shri Pachauri, you were not present earlier. That is not right. You have to be extremely careful. Please do not take it as a precedent. I will not allow this in future. Therefore, proper amends will have to be made. I know the hon. Ministers are busy else where also, but I would request all the hon. Ministers that the House has to have priority.

Now, you may move.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): Sir, first of all, I am extremely sorry for not remaining present at that time. As I have requested, I was reacting in the other House in relation to some other issue. But as you have directed, I will positively keep it in mind.

MR. SPEAKER: You could have requested some other hon. member of the Cabinet to take it up.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for people to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary.-Part-II, Section-2 dated 23.12.2004.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for people to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, would you like to adjourn for the recess?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

13.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.36 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs would like to say something.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, the hon. Members of the House have decided to pass the Delegated Legislation Provisions (Amendment) Bill without discussion today. In any way, the full discussion on the Bill would take about 20 to 25 minutes only. So, this Bill may be passed without any discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. But it will be after the laying down of the Matters under rule 377 on the Table of the House.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: It may be done after the Matters under rule 377 are laid down on the Table of the House.

14.37 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House:

- (i) **Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for exempting raw materials imported for Micro Irrigation Projects from levy of Customs duty**

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP (Rajampet): The State Government of Andhra Pradesh propose to launch a Micro Irrigation Project to achieve sustainable growth in agriculture and for effective management of water with a project outlay of Rs. 1200 crores covering an area of 2.5 lakh Hectares in a period of two years. The aim of the project is to extend the benefits of micro-irrigation to the agriculture field of every farmer in the State. The State is giving a subsidy of 50% to every micro irrigation unit with a maximum limit of Rs. 50,000/- to each eligible farmer. To reduce the cost of Micro-Irrigation equipment, State Government has already exempted the sales-tax. To make the micro irrigation equipment more affordable, the prices can be further brought down by nearly 40%-50% to the farmers by exempting the custom duty to be levied on raw materials used in production of micro irrigation equipment. The Andhra Pradesh Government has already approached and requested the Central Government to consider their proposal for exempting customs duty on raw materials to be imported for Micro irrigation systems. The proposals may be approved and cleared at the earliest in the interest of farmers.

- (ii) **Need to lay the Aligarh-Palwal-Alwar rail line for the development of Mewat region**

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Mewat region in my constituency, Faridabad have been demanding for a long time to lay the Aligarh-Palwal-Alwar rail via Mewat, and to convert Palwal railway station into a junction and to construct an Under-bridge on old Faridabad crossing. About 25 years ago, on the occasion of inauguration of Rahimpur Bridge, our former Prime Minister Late Shri Morarji Desai, in 1989 Sh. Bansi Lal and during a visit to Nuh in Mewat in 1997 Shri Devegowda assured the public of laying this rail line. A survey of this line was also conducted about 13 years ago. I, myself raised the issue of laying this rail-line in the Parliament in 1991. But, this line could not be laid till now. Mewat region of Faridabad one of the most backward areas despite the fact that this area is very close to Delhi. There is

* Treated as laid on the Table.

not even a proper road in the area. The laying of this rail line would expedite the economic development of Mewat region.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to issue instructions to the Ministry to take action to fulfil all these demands of the people of Mewat region at the earliest.

(iii) Need to take up the matter of securing the release of Indian fishermen under custody in Pakistan

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the facts that the Pakistan Maritime Security Agencies take Indian fishermen in their custody in Indian territorial water near Okh/Jakhav in Arabian sea. The Indian coast-guards remain silent spectator during such action. One of the reasons for this is that the maritime boundary between India and Pakistan has not been clearly demarcated. It should be demarcated clearly by giving some signs. A procedure or mechanism must be developed between the two countries so that the fishermen crossing boundary by mistake may be released then and there after paying penalty and only the boats indulged in smuggling or other illegal activities should be seized.

In this regard I would like to inform the Government that at present, 842 fishermen and 148 boats belonging to Daman, Diu, Gujarat and Maharashtra are under the custody of Pakistan. The fishermen imprisoned in Pakistan are in a pitiable and critical condition. Two fishermen have already died in this condition. Due to this, 3000 families are facing the problem of their livelihood.

I, therefore, request the Government that this matter should be taken up immediately with the Government of Pakistan so that these fishermen with their boats may be released. It would be appropriate if a delegation of the Members of Parliament is allowed to visit Pakistan to impress upon the Government of Pakistan on this issue so that the problem of livelihood of these 3000 families could be solved.

(iv) Need to formulate and implement programmes for the welfare of the weaver community in the country

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI (Godda): Sir, approximately 3 lakhs weavers in Bihar have been rendered jobless. Similarly, about 2 lakhs weavers in Jharkhand, about 2 lakhs in Orissa about 2.5 lakhs in West Bengal, about 4 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh and about one lakh in Maharashtra have also been rendered jobless. The programme meant for economic and social development of weavers are not being implemented properly, and as a result of this the condition

of the weavers is deteriorating day by day. Thousands of weavers are on the verge of starvation. The Welfare Schemes are being implemented for weaver's education, health, financial assistance and life insurance but their full benefits are not reaching the weavers. A survey regarding the needs of weaver's education, housing, health services and life insurance should be conducted and welfare schemes may be implemented accordingly, so that economic, social and educational development of weavers could be ensured.

(v) Need to allocate adequate funds for enabling early completion of the newly declared national Highways in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI SURESH-CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Surface Transport and National Highways, towards the proposal of constructing four new national Highways three years ago in Himachal Pradesh and would like to say that the construction work on all these four National Highways is going at a very slow pace. Thousands of trucks loaded with cement pass daily through the National Highway No.21-Chandigarh-Swarghat-Manali. On the same highway, the Ghagas bridge is situated 11 kilometers away from Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh. This bridge is very old and in dilapidated condition. The entire road is in such a critical condition that it seems like a 'Kuchha' (unmetalled) road. This bridge is the only way which links Punjab to Himachal and also very important for the development of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh.

Sir, I would request that adequate funds for the completion of all these four National Highways may be allocated at the earliest and a time bound programme may be prepared so that the construction work may be completed within the time schedule fixed for the purpose.

(vi) Need to ensure that Rajasthan gets its due share of water in accordance with the agreement with the adjoining States.

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers of Rajasthan are facing a serious problem of water shortage as Rajasthan is not getting its due share of water in accordance with the agreement with riparian states. As per the agreement of 1981, 8.6 MMF water, allocated to Rajasthan, is not being provided and the control of headworks for distribution of water is still in the hands of Punjab, whereas there is a clear provision in the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1981 that the central control of Headworks would remain with the Bhakra Beas Management Board (B.B.M.B.). There must be a representative of Rajasthan too in BBMB as the representatives of Punjab and Haryana are already there.

Rajasthan has been facing drought situation for many years and now, shortage of water in canal is likely to create the law and order problem in the state. It is also the matter of security because main area of canal is adjoining to Indo-Pak border. The farmers of Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner, Churu districts are agitated due to shortage of water and if they do not get their due share of water any untoward incident may take place there. Water is a question of life and death in this area. All the Members of Parliament from Rajasthan under the leadership of Chief Minister met the hon. Prime Minister on 2.12.2004 and apprised him of the problem.

The Government is, therefore, requested to resolve the said problem and extend all possible help to the people of Rajasthan to get their due share of water.

(vii) Need to address the problem of shortage of water for wild animals in the forest of Yavatmal Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra due to drought

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency Yavatmal in Maharashtra consists of a large part of forest of Maharashtra area. A large number of Tigers, Elephants, Deers, Stags and others wild animals are found in these forests. There are rivers, nullahs and ponds in the forests but their water-level is going down. If there is no rain within one month, there will be a shortage of drinking water for animals in the forests and thousands of wild animals will die without water. This area has been severe sealing under the impact of such type of drought after a span of 100 years.

Through you, I would, therefore, request the Government to issue necessary instructions to make arrangements at war-footing level to release water in the ponds etc. for wild animals to drink in forest land of my parliamentary constituency, Yavatmal, Maharashtra.

(viii) Need to undertake suitable poverty eradication programmes in Satna and Katni districts of Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the number of poor people is increasing day by day in the country. On one hand while the poverty has affected the development of the country on the other it has resulted in the creation of India of haves and have not on the other. If the same steps to eradicate poverty are continued to be taken that have been taken since independence 1947, there will be a time when the number of poors would be more than two third population of the country.

Slogan of poverty alleviation was given after independence, but poverty could not be alleviated.

I would like to appeal to the Government that launching of Poverty Alleviation Programme in most of the rural areas is necessary because the number of poors is increasing mostly in the rural areas.

At present, a large numbers of poor people are not covered under the below poverty-line programmes. A fresh survey, therefore may be conducted so that the people who are actually poor could be covered. I would like to ask the names of the poverty-alleviation programmes which are being run by the Government. Satna and Katni districts of Madhya Pradesh may also be included under the Poverty Alleviation Programmes.

(ix) Need to set up a rubber based industry for manufacture of tyres, tubes and automobile spare parts in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Kanyakumari District is a highly literate district and unemployment is a burning problem there. The resources are more and are not utilized properly. The long cry of our people is to set up a rubber industry in the district. World class rubber cultivated on nearly 30 thousand hectare of land. The rubber latex produced here is of world class quality. If Heavy industries producing tyres, tubes and rubber spare parts for automobiles set up, it can fulfil the needs of public transport and Government vehicles. The waste rubber latex can also be used to make rubberized coir products, as coir is available in plenty in this district.

(x) Need to open branches of Allahabad Bank and other commercial banks in Deoria district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no branch of any Commercial Bank at certain commercially and educationally important places in Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh. These densely populated places namely are - Shivdhariya in Development Block Bhaluzani, Mehrauna in Development Block, Ithua in Salempur Development Block, Rampur Buzurg and Vankata Bazar in Chandauli and Vankatu Development Blocks. Many of these places have Sugar Mills in its vicinity. Teachers, Professionals and common people are facing many difficulties and inconvenience due to absence of a Bank. In this regard, I wrote to the officials of Allahabad Bank also

and the department concerned inspected the sites but no other positive action has been taken so far. I have also written a letter to the Minister of Finance in this regard. I demand that keeping in view the public interest, the Government should take necessary action to open the branches of Allahabad Bank at the said places at the earliest.

(xi) Need to take steps to revive the closed N.T.C. Mill and a sugar mill in Gaya district, Bihar

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is lack of industries in the area of my Parliamentary Constituency Gaya, Bihar and the industries which were running have been closed. One is Cotton Mill of NTC in Gaya city and another is Sugar Mill in the Guram of Gaya. Both these industries have been lying closed for many days. The labourers of these Mills have become jobless. The number of unemployed persons in Gaya is increasing too much. This is the reason that the youths are opting extremism in this area and as a result of this the Government is facing so many problems.

Through this august House, I demand that the Government should revive the NTC Cotton Mill at Gaya city and Sugar Mill at Guraru of Gaya district, at the earliest.

(xii) Need to issue instructions to ONGC to give a part of the royalty to the local administration for enabling proper maintenance of the Highways used by the company in Nagapattinam Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Oil exploration activities are being carried out by ONGC in my Nagapattinam constituency. There are nearly 52 oil wells in operation. The ONGC is transporting oil using tankers. Round the year the State highways are utilized by these transporters. Due to this, the Highways in my constituency, particularly Nadurkalappal-Athicapuram road and Nagoor-Sannanallur road have been badly damaged. If we take up this matter to the State highways department/local bodies to repair the damaged road, they are simply saying that this is the responsibility of the ONGC and vice versa. Moreover, this company is paying royalty to the State Government direct and not to the District Collector or local bodies. Further, they are also not giving any employment to the local people who are a deprived class due to poverty and unemployment. Even though ONGC is the biggest and leading profit making public sector organisation in India, its unit located in my Constituency have not contributed to the progress and development of the area and has neither improved the infrastructure nor provided employment.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to issue instructions to the ONGC to give part of the royalty to the concerned District Collector directly and to ensure employment opportunities to both skilled and unskilled workers. They may help the local administration to ensure proper maintenance of highways used by ONGC in our area.

(xiii) Need to review the Notification dated 19th March, 1983 relating to service regulations of the Indian Administrative Service, which makes the officers of State Civil Services ineligible for promotion on attaining the age of 54 years

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): The Indian Administrative Service (Appointment by Promotion) Regulations 1955 with its Rule 5 incorporated by a Notification dated 19th March, 1983 stipulates that the Selection Committee shall not consider for promotion the cases of the members of the State Civil Services who have attained the age of 54 years on the promotion, the officers of the State Civil Services when they cross 54 years. This is discriminatory in nature because in other services including defence, judiciary, the officers get promotion even three to six months before their retirement. Further, the officers belonging to SC/ST with their toil and moil enter into service at the age of 34 years and before they could complete 20 or 21 years, they are made ineligible for promotion. One has to wait even after completing 24 years of service in their respective Union Territory Civil Services, although they have passed the Combined Civil Services Examination (IAS/IPS) and other Allied Services conducted by the UPSC.

It is requested that this discriminatory Notification may be removed and the officers of the Union Territory State Civil Services Cadre are given the opportunity of promotion even before their retirement.

(xiv) Need for ensuring proper repair and maintenance of National Highway between Orissa border and Bohragoda in Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the parts of National Highway No. 6 and 33 between Orissa border and Bahragoda in my parliamentary constituency Jamshedpur are in critical condition and deep pitholes have developed on these roads which causes serious accidents on this Highway. There are many difficulties in vehicular movement and the problem of traffic jam is frequent there. Most of the commercial vehicles from West Bengal, North-Eastern states, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and other Southern States run on this highway.

Through this august House, I would request the Government to undertake the repair work of these National Highways on the priority basis so that heavy vehicles running on these Highways may not face any problem.

(xv) Need to release funds for enabling early completion of the gauge conversion work on Naupada-Gunupur railway line in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): There is a metre gauge line from Naupada to Gunupur in my Srikakulam Parliamentary constituency Andhra Pradesh to Gunupur in Orissa State under Waltair Division of East Coast Railways. An allocation of Rs. 30 crore has been released for the aforesaid conversion work out of sanctioned amount of Rs. 100 crore. But for early completion of the job, the amount released is not sufficient and more funds should be released by sanction of supplementary grants to execute the job early. I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to take action to sanction adequate funds for completion of the above conversion work by the provision in the next financial budget. Incidentally, I would like to mention that there is one important junction railway station named Rayagada in Orissa and if people from Gunupur area want to go to Rayagada or to other places, they face a lot of trouble due to lack of road or rail connection there. I also request you to arrange for undertaking a survey for laying railway line between Gunupur and Rayagada at an early date.

14.37½ hrs.

**DELEGATED LEGISLATION PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 36, namely, the Delegated Legislation Provisions (Amendment) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend certain Acts to implement the recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation regarding publication and laying of rules and other delegated legislation, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill is required because certain standards have to be adopted in respect of laying provisions in the Acts. The Committee on Subordinate Legislation have been emphasising upon the concerned administrative Ministries

or Departments to incorporate standard laying provisions in the Acts which do not contain them. In fact, there have been two earlier exercises. One was in 1983 wherein 50 Bills were included and another was in 1985 wherein 91 enactments were included to strengthen the procedure for laying the rules.

This Bill contains about 45 enactments which provide for laying the rules according to the recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation. This Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha without any discussion.

Sir, I commend that this Bill may be passed likewise in this House also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend certain Acts to implement the recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation regarding publication and laying of rules and other delegated legislation, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will it be done like this everyday? They get it done always like this. Will they get their bill passed without discussion? Please get it passed after a proper debate. They usually direct CBI on Telephone for unnecessary works.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

Clause 2 Amendment of certain enactments

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Class 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.41 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Problems Being Faced by Farmers--contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yesterday, Dr. Manda Jagannath was on his legs. I request him to continue.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the suicides by the farmers throughout the country, particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. No concrete measures have been taken by the Government in spite of our discussions on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to give an information to the House. Our former Prime Minister Sh. P.V. Narasimha Rao has passed away. I want to give information about it the House. Some action should be taken in this regard and we must express condolence on his passing away. I have got information just now. Therefore, the Government should clarify the factual position. Has he really passed away or it is just rumour?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Speaker is coming to the House. I have yet to get official confirmation in this regard. Hon'ble Speaker will be in a position to tell about it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact you know the practice. The practice is to announce it formally and officially. It will be better if we wait for the hon. Speaker to come. If the hon. Members have patience for a few minutes, then it could be done in the fitness of things. The news is confirmed. But it is to be announced formally and officially. That is why we have sent for the Speaker. Certain other things have to be done. Therefore, hon. Members, please have patience for a few minutes.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the issues of farmers. One of them is suicides by the farmers throughout the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Haryana. In Andhra Pradesh, more than 2,000 farmers have committed suicide within a period of 200 days.

Nearly 200 weavers have committed suicides. They have died due to starvation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. JAGANNATH: During the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to Andhra Pradesh, an announcement regarding ex gratia was made over and above the State Government's grant of Rs. 1,50,000. He also assured that every care will be taken of the farming community to see that there are no suicidal deaths. But it has not changed. Even now, nearly six to ten deaths occur daily in Andhra Pradesh, which goes on unchecked. The Government of India has not brought out any policy. The helpline scheme was announced by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with a good intention to help the farming community who are in distress. They were asked to come to the Collectors and others so that the Government could help them.

Sir, sometimes, there was no response from the Helpline. Rather, it has become a helpless line leading to the death line. In spite of this situation, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, which has to take so many measures to stop all these, is not caring for anything and also not taking any step.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Leader of the House wants to say something.

14.46 hrs.

REFERENCE RE: PASSING AWAY OF SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO, FORMER PRIME MINISTER

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, with profound sadness, I am to inform the House that the former Prime Minister and former Congress President, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has passed away. His cremation and other things are being organized. There will be a Cabinet Meeting at 3.30 p.m. to express condolence and in the fitness of things, I would request the hon. Deputy Speaker to adjourn the House. There would be certain ceremonials and other things. But, I think, in the given situation, we may have to give up formalities.

As today is the last day, you have to adjourn the House sine die. That is why, we have to give up the normal ceremonies which are associated with the normal adjournment of the House sine die. We can have Vande Mataram. Instead of giving any references of how many Bills and how much business we have transacted or instead of going through those rigmaroles, after Vande Mataram, the House can be declared as adjourned sine die.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I think, we should stand for Vande Mataram. After condolence, we will stand for two minutes.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Please wait for just a couple of minutes. The Speaker is just coming. I am waiting for him. The Rajya Sabha has been adjourned.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Pawarji, would you like to say something?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: There will be an expression of condolence by standing in silence. Formal resolution and other things would be done in the next Session, because it cannot be done right now. We are just waiting for the hon. Speaker to come. He has just left. That is why, though it looks a little odd, yet we are just waiting for the hon. Speaker to come. In the fitness of things, we thought that it would be better that he should adjourn the House sine die.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): After being informed of the passing away of the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Raoji, I think it will be better if we adjourn the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That we have agreed. The House has agreed. Now, we are waiting only for our hon. Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House should be adjourned for 15 minutes till the Speaker reaches.

14.50 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, first, I will inform you officially.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with profound sadness, I am to inform that the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has expired this afternoon. The Union Cabinet is meeting at 3.30 p.m. to pass the condolence resolution and also to make arrangements for the State funeral to the departed leader.

Sir, in a situation like this, my most respectful submission to you would be that we can adjourn the House. As today is the last day and normally we have some ceremonies like giving an account of the business, thanksgiving to each other, but, perhaps, in the fitness of things, those ceremonies could not be observed. If you permit, the hon. Members can express their condolence by standing in silence for two minutes. Thereafter, by singing Vande Mataram, we can adjourn the House as it has been done in the other House. This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we are extremely sad to hear of the demise of one of the distinguished statesmen of this country who was our former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. He was an outstanding statesman. He was a Member of the House.

We sincerely mourn his passing away. I wish to associate with the hon. Leader of the House in expressing our deepest condolence on his demise.

May I request all the hon. Members to stand in silence in memory of the departed leader?

14.52 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

14.53 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Vande Mataram will be played.

(The National Song was played.)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned sine die.

14.54 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

ANNEXURE-I

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