

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Second Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 1, 1996/Śravana 10, 1918 (Saka)
(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Supply of Foodgrains

*301. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of foodgrains and other essential commodities in the fair price shops in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and tribal areas of Bihar, people do not get rice, wheat, sugar and other essential commodities from the fair price shops for months together;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken to ensure adequate and regular supply of foodgrains to the above States, particularly hilly and tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). As per information received from the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, there is no complaint of any shortage of foodgrains and other essential commodities in any area in the fair price shops.

(e) As regards the remedial measures it may be mentioned that for the successful implementation of Public Distribution System, both the Central Government and State Governments are responsible. The Central Government is responsible for procuring the commodities and making them available to the States, who in turn are responsible for subsequent distribution of these commodities to the ultimate consumers through the network of fair price shops. In so far as the responsibility of Central Government is concerned Food Corporation of India has been advised to ensure adequate and regular supply of foodgrains particularly in hilly and tribal areas.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : We had hoped that the hon. Minister would do full justice to our question but he did not do so to our satisfaction. As you know, hill areas and particularly the northern region of Uttar Pradesh are surrounded by hills and dense forests with the result that the public distribution system cannot function properly and effectively in the entire Himalayan belt. Secondly, as stated by the hon. Minister, no complaint about the non-availability of food-grains has been received from the northern region but the people of that area have a very strong complaint. There all the workers of the Food Corporation of India went on strike from the 8th to 22nd June, 1996 due to which goods could not be loaded in trains and trucks at all the rail heads like Tanakpur, Haldwani, Ramnagar and Kotdwar rail-heads. As a result, all the godowns in our hill areas were emptied. Not a grain of food could be available at the fair price shops. Secondly, the Minister informed that no complaint had been received from the State Govt. in this respect but I myself sent a fax and a telegram to the Chief Secretary of U.P. and discussed the matter with the commissioner and District Magistrate. As you know, ours is a border district adjoining Nepal and Tibet but the post of District Supplies Officer has been lying vacant there for the last two years. All the goods there are not distributed through R.F.C. That is an exception there. The goods are distributed there through the District Supplies Officer and that post has been lying vacant for the last two years.

If the House is not informed of the full facts, how will justice be done to the hill areas? A uniform policy has been framed for the entire country but the topography of the hill areas is such that except trucks and jeeps, no other means of transport are available there for transportation of goods. If goods are not loaded in trucks and jeeps then there would be trouble because rail service or air service are already non-existent there.

The hon. Minister said that no complaint had been received. According to the figures of June, made available to me 2500 metric ton wheat had been allotted to Pithoragarh district, against which only 2096 metric ton wheat could be sent there.

Against the allotment of 2500 metric tonne of rice, only 1773 metric tonne of rice could be supplied. There per capita consumption of rice is 10 Kg. When the supply fell so short of the allotment, on what basis does the hon. Minister say that there is no shortage there.

MR. SPEAKER : If you ask a longer question you are not likely to get its reply.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The hon. Minister expressed his apprehension that there is shortage of food-grains. He also read out some figures. I do not know from where the Member is reading but I would like to tell you the real position. Fact is that in June, 1996, in our hill areas, the stock of wheat and rice was 40,900 ton and 35,000 ton, against which allotment 09 wheat and rice was 24,400 ton and 19,900 ton respectively. As for lifting, 23900 ton wheat and

17300 ton rice were lifted. The percentage of wheat and rice therefore was 98.0 and 86.9 respectively. This shows that there is sufficient stock in the hill areas of the districts mentioned by you and the lifting is also 98 percent. This being so, how do you say that there is shortage? We have informed you about the stock position, lifting and the allocation. In all respects, we have a stock of food-grains for 3 months. If you need more, I am prepared to send the same also.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : My second supplementary arises from this. I have given particular dates. During the strike period, the ration had not reached there you may look into it. My second supplementary is that at present, due to landslides, roads have been closed at several places. Food-grains are not reaching and there are no big godowns there. The godowns are situated in the Tarai area and there are no godowns in the interior of the hill areas. Therefore, will the hon. Minister take steps to have adequate number of godowns constructed there. During rainy season and snowfall, roads are closed. Will the hon. Minister assure us to have godowns constructed there so that a buffer stock of foodgrains could be built in all the hill areas.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the R.P.D.S. godown capacity, particularly in the hill areas of U.P. is 10,000 ton in Harewala, 2500 ton in Pithoragarh, 2500 ton in Yamuna Chat, which Ganga Ghat. These are fall in the Uttar Kashi district. Simla, which is in Chamoli district, has a capacity of 5000 ton. In the new R.P.D.S., we propose to provide godown capacity to the extent of 5000 ton in Mau, 35,000 ton in Dhamira, 30,000 ton in Roja, and 6500 ton in Etawah. These are non R.P.D.S. areas. We have proposals in some R.P.D.S. areas also. For instance, we propose to provide godown capacity of 2500 ton in Bhadohi and 2500 ton in Padrauna. We are considering new proposals also in this respect and soon we propose to accord sanction for provision for godown capacity.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, in the reply it has been stated that there is no complaint about the shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities. Even in the figures, there is no complaint. I would like to give an example of an area of Bihar here. The Food Corporation of India, which is situated at Chhapra, caters to the requirements of the entire Gopalganj and Sewan. The Government of India allotted to it the additional quota of sugar on the occasion of the Christmas Day last year. The wholesalers of Sewan and Gopalganj and also deposited the draft in December for the purpose. But still they did not get the quota in December. There are several irregularities in Food Corporation of India there. What has the hon. Minister to say in this respect? Hathua Sugar Mill is contiguous to Sewan but the wholesalers of Sewan are compelled to lift sugar from Sasaman, as a result of which they had to pay Rs.3.50 per bag extra in June, 1996. In July, sugar was brought from Sasamau to Chhapra and supplied to the wholesalers of Sewan. Due to which they had to pay more, while the stock was there in Parhathna Sugar

Mill, which is barely 15 Km. away. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to take certain steps against the Food Corporation of India, which is under his charge so as to check the additional burden being passed on to the consumers in the aforesaid manner.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked his question in two parts. One is that foodgrains are not made available in Sewan. But the Central Government, as a rule, supplies any to the main distribution centre after allocation. Thereafter, the State Government supplies from the base godown to the various areas as per their requirements through the State Civil Supplies Corporation. Thus, it is for the State Government and not the Central Government to arrange for the further supply from the main distribution centre.

As far the shortage, we have of late obtained latest information from the Bihar Government in this behalf, which I quote here for your information :-

[English]

"No shortage of foodgrains such as sugar and other essential commodities have so far been reported from any part of the State including tribal areas."

[Translation]

This information has been furnished to us by the Bihar State Civil Supplies Corporation.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about our national policy on the supply of essential commodities including kerosene oil, and the names of those States and Union Territories which have less than the national average allocation and what action the hon. Minister is going to take for increasing the allocation in such areas in such States including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has raised a very pertinent question, because as per the information received so far, the allocation made to various States, particularly to the union territories, is below the national average. In 8 states, viz., Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Haryana, allocation is below the national average allocation. When I looked at it, I myself felt the need for some positive initiative in this behalf.

The Government of India is giving it due priority and we propose to effect an increase of 3 per cent in the annual allocation for the entire country. Out of it, we propose to provide national average allocation to the states receiving less than 2 per cent and the per cent to those States which are above the national average allocation. But in view of the concern expressed by the Hon. Member, we propose to take a decision to provide

3 per cent allocation to the deficient States till such time they come at par with the national average.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the quantity of sugar and that of the kerosene oil provided to a person in Bihar.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question here is that what is provided per unit. From here, we supply to the State Government. From here, we make allocations for the State Governments. I can tell you the question of allocations of wheat, rice and other essential commodities made from here. The price of sugar that we have fixed for the entire country is Rs.9.05 per kg. The price of common, fine and superfine rice is Rs.5.37, Rs.6.17 and Rs. 6.48 respectively from the F.C.I. godown. But it varies from State to State. We fix a uniform standard rate on behalf of the F.C.I. The question asked by the hon. Member perhaps pertains to the State Government.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Mr. Speaker, I have not asked for the price. I want to know the quantity of kerosene oil, the litres, supplied per capita per month.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : In Bihar, 7.5 litres of kerosene oil is supplied per capita per month.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is very simple. Wheat and rice being supplied from the Fair Price Shop in the tribal areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are substandard and not fit for human consumption. I would like to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure supply of good quality wheat and rice there. My second question is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Only one question will be replied. Not the second one.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Kerosene oil is not at all supplied in tribal areas. Kerosene oil and sugar find their way in the black-market. We cannot leave the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes at the mercy of the State Government. Will the hon. Minister take steps to end consumption and ensure supply of kerosene oil and sugar to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and in hill areas?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, the State Government is free not to lift the substandard quantities from the godowns where the Central Government sends the allocations. The State Government need not lift the substandard quantities. There is a rule to take three samples of the foodgrains before lifting. This rule should be scrupulously followed and only good quality food articles should be lifted. For this the State Governments are at liberty. The U.P. Government should not lift the inferior quality of foodgrains. Our endeavour has all along been not to supply substandard goods in the entire country. For this, we have also issued instructions to the F.C.I.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr. Speaker, the hon'ble Minister is fully seized of the problems of the rural areas. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have the same

problems. I would like to know whether the U.P. is supplied food articles as per the 1991 census and whether the food articles and the kerosene oil are supplied in equal quantity in the rural and urban areas or there is some difference. If less quantity is supplied in the rural areas, what are the reasons. Therefore, particularly when the kerosene oil is needed more in the rural areas. With the hon. Minister take steps to remedy this situation and ensure that food articles are supplied in the U.P. as per the 1991 census?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very pertinent question. All the allocations made so far, particularly in the context of the kerosene oil have been urban based. We have started making rural-based allocations in Uttar Pradesh. We are trying to remove this imbalance wherever it is. As a result, 63 districts are now getting more kerosene oil than before. Secondly, it was pointed out that there is difference in availability in rural and urban areas. It is being removed and the U.P. Government have been issued necessary instructions in this behalf.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Mr. Speaker, I read a recent statement from the hon. Minister that he proposes to review the public distribution system and introduce some economic restriction in it. Sir, the poor people, who are daily wage earners, cannot afford to buy articles for a week or fortnight at one time. Will the Government consider as to how to benefit them? In Bihar - I don't know whether it is so in other states as well - per unit allocation is more in urban areas, than in rural areas whereas need is more in rural areas, was said about the kerosene oil. Today, in the rural areas of Bihar, kerosene oil is being sold at the rate of Rs. 12 per litre. It is indeed a cause for concern. I would request the hon. Minister to give his reply after due consideration.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised the question of review of the P.D.S. We are thinking in terms of its recognition. We shall soon take a final decision to revamp the P.D.S.

We shall also consider about the category of people referred to by the hon. Member. As for the question of economic criteria interview for the affluent people ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, you do not have to answer him.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Government have under consideration a proposal to revamp the P.D.S. lock, stock and barrel. This will, no doubt, benefit the poor people a lot. We shall provide foodgrains at the specially subsidized rates to the persons living below poverty-line.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, my question is related to the answer he has just now given.

There has been a Chief Ministers' Conference. Unfortunately, those papers are not laid on the Table of the House for our consumption. In that Conference, there was a controversy on this point that if there is a subsidy on the supply of foodgrains for the people below the poverty line, what would happen to the deficit States like Kerala, where only fourteen per cent of the local needs could be met from the local produce? Would such areas - there are many other areas also - be covered under the public distribution system? Otherwise, there would be a terrific rise in the market prices of foodgrains, etc. What is the approach of the Government?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : As for the P.D.S. as I said last time also, the State Governments also share the responsibility of controlling prices. We make allocations at the national level. About the concern expressed by the hon. Member about Kerala, I have to say that in the Chief Ministers' Conference on basic needs, held on July 4-5, I had cleared my position on P.D.S. The Chief Minister of Kerala had raised certain questions. Day before yesterday, he was here. I discussed the matter at length with him for about an hour. We are not distributing the subsidy being given by the Kerala Government on the basis of internal resources. But we shall positively provide goods at the specially subsidized rates to the persons living below poverty line....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : The hon. Minister has just now accepted in reply to a question that he proposes to revamp the P.D.S....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You ask your question please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I would like to know as to when you propose to implement your scheme to revamp the P.D.S. and how it will benefit the poor people living in the hill, tribal and backward areas of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : We shall take a final decision for the restructuring of the P.D.S. at all levels in the coming month. The tribal and hill areas of Bihar will be benefited immensely under the P.D.S. because most of the people there are living below poverty line. We shall provide foodgrains to them at the special subsidized rates.

[English]

Employees Pension Scheme

*302. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the changes suggested by the Labour Unions etc. in the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995;

(b) whether these suggestions have been examined;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the time by which necessary amendments are proposed to be made in the above scheme; and

(e) the number of employees opted for the pension scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government had received suggestions for making certain changes in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. The suggestions inter-alia relate to removal of discrimination between married sons and married daughters and between remarrying widows and remarrying widowers, extension of the scheme benefits to the employees drawing wages beyond Rs. 5000/- per month, provision for commutation, reduction in discounting rate for early payment of pension, Provision of ensuring pension payment in default cases, application of the scheme to the subscribers who did not join the Family Pension Scheme, 1971, refund of family pension - related withdrawal benefit in the case of exemption and coverage of piece-rated workers. These suggestions have since been examined and on 28.2.1996 a notification was issued for carrying out necessary amendments in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. Other suggestions like providing individual option, linking pension with the consumer's price index and giving pension as third benefit have not been found actuarially feasible for acceptance. As on 30.7.1996 pension under the new scheme has been distributed among 72,372 beneficiaries.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, everybody is espousing the cause of workers of the organised sector, especially Unions like CITU, AITUC etc. Then have become bank employees organisations. I can understand it. And only bank employees and other salaried class employees benefit out of it.

But only ten per cent of the workers are in the organised sector. The remaining ninety per cent of the workers, including the construction workers, are in the unorganised sector. Will the hon. Minister consider extending the benefits of this scheme to the construction workers also?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that ninety per cent of the workers are in the unorganised sector. As far as the Act is concerned, the Employees Provident Fund Act, it does not distinguish between the regular, contract and casual employees. Sir, any worker who is a member of the Provident Fund automatically becomes a member of the Pension Scheme. Nearly 19.5 million workers are members of Provident Fund scheme.

The Provident Fund Scheme includes number of employees from unorganised sector including agriculturists, workers of fish processing units, stone quarry workers, building and construction workers. Even

the coir workers of Kerala are included in this scheme. When the Act was introduced in 1952, there were only about six establishments which were covered at that time. But, now nearly 177 establishments have been covered.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Now, there is Rs.8,900 crore in the corpus fund which comes to Rs.9,000 crore. This money is put in different places. They are not getting proper interest. If they get proper interest, the pension could be increased. Even from this amount it could be increased. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would utilise - whether he would give instructions to properly utilise - this Rs.9,000 crore so that maximum yield is got from that money which can be in turn given to the workers.

Secondly, now the schemes envisages particular predicament that those who were not members of the Family Pension Scheme, 1971 cannot be the beneficiary of this scheme. If they want to be covered under this scheme, they have to pay a huge sum. But it is practically impossible. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would give one time exemption to those people who were not members of the Family Pension Scheme, 1971 so that they can get the benefit under this scheme.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, as you know, every provident fund scheme involves certain contributions and payments. The scale of benefits would depend upon the size of the corpus and the rate of return on the investments made. In the case of Employees Provident Fund, we have a good corpus and stable corpus. The pattern of investment on Provident Fund money is laid down by the Finance Ministry. The pattern is not a static one and it is improved from time to time. There are certain rules, Central and State Government securities, where the rate of return on investment is less. There are, however, other investments such as Special Deposit Scheme of Central and State public sector undertakings, the rate of return ranges between 11 to per cent. The average rate of return is 11.00 per cent. We are paying interest to the Provident Fund subscribers at the rate of 12 per cent. It will continue to be our endeavour to maximise the rate of return on investments by constantly and vigorously pursuing the matter with the Finance Minister.

Sir, I can assure you that I would take up the matter personally with the Minister of Finance.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, my second question has not been answered. Can the people who have not become members of the Family Pension Scheme, 1971 be given one time exemption?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as subscribers who are in 1971 Scheme, the option is available. I do not know whether the money to be paid is exempted or not. I have to go back and do some homework.

MR. SPEAKER : You can examine it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, in the statement, the hon. Minister states that linking pension with the price index has not been found feasible for acceptance. Why did the Government find it impossible to link pension with the consumer price index when it can be taken into account while paying Dearness Allowance?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, as I mentioned in the statement, it is not possible to link pensionary benefits with the consumer price index because the pension scheme is a contributory scheme and in such a contributory scheme, any open-ended indexation is not possible. Increase in pension from time to time would be possible only if the fund position so permits.

Sir, the scheme as initially notified had a provision for evaluation of pension fund at an interval of three years on the demand of the Central Trade Union Organisation. Now, the Government have already decided to have an evaluation of the Pension fund and review of all pensionary benefits on an annual basis. The fund position so permitting, the employees are expected to get some more increase in their pension every year.

[Translation]

DR SATYA NARAYAN JATIA : The hon. Minister stated that the pension scheme cannot be linked with the price-index. Giving pension means providing relief to the retired employees so that they may make both ends meet. If dearness is linked with the price-index, then the price-index will increase or decrease with the dearness. If pension scheme is not being linked with the price-index, then are some other relief measures being contemplated?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I have replied to it just now.

MR. SPEAKER : I want to inform the House that Pension Scheme Bill has been passed by Rajya Sabha last night. It is coming here today. So, this bill has to be passed by the Lok Sabha before the Ordinance lapses. So, either today late in the evening or definitely by tomorrow, this Bill is to be discussed. Therefore, the Members will have enough opportunity to express their views on this particular matter.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It has to be passed. It is neither here nor there. We may turn it down so that the Ordinance lapses.

MR. SPEAKER : You may turn it down but you can get whatever information you want from the Minister.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : But it has to be passed' cannot come from the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. I stand corrected.

[English]

Export of Wheat

*303. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has recently increased the prices of wheat for export purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the wheat export is likely to be affected as a result thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. The price of wheat sold by FCI for the purpose of export from Central Pool was last increased with effect from 1.7.1996.

(b) The price of wheat sold for the purpose of export was revised from Rs.4,410/- to Rs.4,900/- per MT with effect from 1.7.96 for sale ex-FCI godowns only in Punjab and Haryana from where the sale of wheat for the purpose of export is to be made.

(c) Against the authorisation given to the FCI during 1996-97 to export/sell for the purpose of export upto 5.0 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat against the carry-over commitment made in 1995-96, about 4.42 lakh tonnes have already been released as on 15.7.1996 leaving a balance of 0.58 lakh tonnes of wheat. Wheat exporters are free to purchase wheat for purposes of export from the open market. Potential for export of wheat from the country depends, inter alia, on the world market prices, which cannot be precisely predicted at present.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his statement that the price of wheat for export has been revised from Rs.4410 to Rs.4900, that is, Rs.490 is the increase per metric tonne from 1.7.1996. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the benefit of this increase in wheat export price has been given to the producers, that is, the farmers or not. When was the last procurement price fixed and at what rate was it fixed? According to my information, the procurement price is Rs.370 per quintal and the difference between the procurement price that is given to the farmers and the export price of wheat is Rs.120 per quintal. In that case, where is the difference or the profit going?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, only the export price of wheat has been increased. The

support price for the farmers is increased every year to give them benefit. On 1st April, 1995, the price of wheat was Rs.360 per quintal, which was increased to Rs.380 per quintal on 1st April, 1996 keeping in view the large interests of the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, second supplementary please

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : No, no, Sir. This is my first supplementary only. My first supplementary itself has not been answered properly.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, he has not given the right answer to the question asked by the questioner. I think, the Minister has not followed the question ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no please.

Sushmaji, I think, the hon. Member is capable of explaining the question.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, my question is very clear. Government has increased the export price of wheat from Rs.4,400 to Rs.4,900. The increase has been to the tune of Rs.490/- approximately per quintal. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this increase in the export price has developed on the producers also or not. The Government has increased the price from Rs.360/- to Rs.380/- only. So, there is a gap of Rs.110/- per quintal. Therefore, I would like to know whether the profit that is accruing is going to the farmers or not.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, the support price is increased only to give benefit to the farmers. The export price has been increased for times so far. The export sale price has so far been more and not less than our domestic open sale price.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He has not asked this.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, he has not answered my question. You should protect me.

Sir my question is very straightforward. There has been an increase of Rs.110 per quintal in the export price of wheat. What I would like to know is, how much, out of this increase of Rs.100/- per quintal, would go to the farmers and how much would go to the producers?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I think, the simple question is, when you are increasing the export price, are you corresponding increasing the procurement price also so that the benefit goes to the farmers?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : ...In the same proportion.

MR. SPEAKER : No, not necessarily in the same proportion.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The support price is increased only to give benefit to the farmers. The information given by the hon. Member is not correct. The export price has been increased to Rs.4900 per quintal. The hon. Member was saying that...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is there in the answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister answer.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, the export price was Rs.4410 per quintal which has been raised to Rs.4900 per quintal.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice that in his reply that has been tabled, in part (b) of the answer, it is said,

"The price of wheat sold for the purpose of export was revised from Rs.4,410 to Rs. 4,900 per metric tonne with effect from 1.7.1996.."

So, the revision of prices from Rs. 4,410/- to Rs.4,900/- means an increase of Rs.110 per quintal. He himself has said just now that the support price of wheat is Rs. 380. After having revised the export price of wheat, he should also correspondingly increase the support price of wheat. It is because that would benefit the farmers. If the Government does not do so then where is the surplus money going? Is it being spent to cover up smuggling, pilferage and leakages in the Food Corporation of India?

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point clear.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, the support price is increased every year to give remunerative price to the farmers. The fixation of the rate of export sale involves some expenditure. The export price is kept higher than the domestic price so as to give benefit to the farmers. You said that an increase of only Rs.20/- has been made. Prices are increased from time to time. A proposal to increase the support price for Kharif 1996 is still under the consideration of the Government.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware of heavy thefts, leakage, and smuggling from the godowns of the Food Corporation of India, if so, what steps are being contemplated by the Government to check them? What is the total amount of rotten wheat lying in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India? Is it a fact that this rotten wheat is being supplied through the Public Distribution System and the good wheat is being exported?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, my attention was drawn to the apprehension expressed by the hon. Member. I have just now had three godowns of a State realed. In Phulwati Sherief of Bihar, there are FCI godowns. I noticed some irregularities there. I called the local administration there and checked the entire record and the accounts registers, wherein some irregularities were found. The matter was referred to the vigilance. If the hon. Member furnishes some specific information about some specific place regarding supply of substandard articles, I shall positively look into it.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked a specific question and the hon. Minister has not answered that. My question was, "how many tonnes of rotten wheat are lying in the godown of the Food Corporation of India and what is happening to them?"

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you collect the information and give it to the Member.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, you should protect my rights.

MR. SPEAKER : I have protected you more than what I should have.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, instead of asking them to come to the House after doing their homework, you are protecting them...(Interruptions) Sir, my question is: will the price increase effected by you lead to increase in export and if so, to what extent? In reply it has been stated that the potential for export of wheat from the country depends, interalia, on the world market prices, which cannot be precisely predicted at present.

But, Sir, when we have to export wheat from the country, how is it that we have no specific agency to assess precisely how much loss we are likely to suffer? Secondly, as Shri Ananth Kumar also asked, in many godowns of our country, irregularities are being committed. In reply to a question asked on the 17th, it was disclosed that 5574 tons of wheat costing over Rs.3 crore has been damaged. Thus 123 tons of foodgrains has been damaged in Jammu. Will the Govt. conduct an enquiry into this matter? I would like to inform you that the foodgrains from there are sent to Pakistan in large quantities and the Government agency there declares the foodgrains so sent as rotten. Will the Government order an enquiry into this aspect also and when will we know the results of such enquiry?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : As the hon. Member has furnished specific information in the House, an enquiry will positively be conducted into the matter and the hon. Member will be informed of the result of that enquiry in due course of time.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that he does not know whether the price of wheat in the world market has increased or not. I would like to know whether the price of wheat has increased in the world market and if not, then why was the price of wheat meant for export from India increased? Does the Government agree that as a result of increasing the export price, the export of wheat will decline resulting in loss to the farmers? Will Government think in terms of exporting the wheat of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh like that of Haryana and Punjab?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The original question pertained to Punjab and Haryana only. But the hon. Member has asked whether the wheat of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh can also be considered for export. As per on stock position, we have, as on 1.7.1996, a stock of 143.4 lakh tonnes, out of which our consumption would be 131 lakh tonnes. We first assess the requirement of our country and then think of export. We can go in for export by after meeting the requirements in our country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sir, the price of wheat has gone up in the world market. Then why have the Government increased the export price of wheat? This question of mine has not been replied.

[English]

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government has any intention of increasing the quantity of wheat supplied through the Public Distribution System in the country. I would also like to know that in certain parts of the country like Southern Karnataka where wheat is not used, there are other millets like Ragi which are in common consumption whether the Government is thinking in terms of providing this popularly used millets through the Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, 1,60,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains used to be supplied every month to various states in open sale. Now we have increased this allocation to 3,50,000 tonnes per month. F.C.I. sells in all States. It will also distribute whatever allocations we have made in P.D.S. As for increasing the allocation of wheat, we make allocations to the States. If they want any increase in the allocations to them, they may send proposals.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, In the tribal areas of Rajasthan, wheat and rice are not made available. The Government of India made allocations for those areas but the allocation was not lifted in full. What is the reason therefor? The Government of India did not permit them to lift the foodgrains. When I ask them, they say that foodgrains do not reach them due to non-availability of wagons. We lift and bring the foodgrains.

Sir, it is a serious question. Foodgrains are not available in those areas. If foodgrains are not made available in those areas at the fair price shops, the people there are put to a lot of trouble. 50 per cent of the foodgrains are distributed there in the first month and the remaining 50 per cent in the second month. The distribution there is not done in a proper way. From the very beginning, they supply less to the people. Whether they get their ration in the first month or in the second month, they are always supplied less. I would like to know whether Governments would arrange to have adequate quantities of foodgrains lifted in Rajasthan.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, as for lifting of foodgrains, the state Governments lift foodgrains as per their capacity and resources. Offtake is the responsibility of the state Governments. The Centre Government makes allocations to the State Governments. For offtake, State Government are responsible. If they increase there offtake, we will consider to increase there allocation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I understand that. What can I do?

(Interruptions)

Levy Price of Sugar

*304. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the recovery and duration adopted in determination of levy price of sugar during 1995-96, zone-wise;

(b) the amount of purchase tax and the Cane Development Council Commission adopted during the aforesaid period, zone-wise;

(c) the cane cost and conservation cost in levy prices of sugarcane, zone-wise;

(d) the escalation cost provided in each month during the said sugar season, zone-wise; and

(e) the ex-factory levy sugar price during 1995-96 alongwith the retail price of sugar price of sugar for Public Distribution System during 1995-96, zone-wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATMENT

(a) to (d). The details are provided in Statement-I.

(e) The retail issue price of sugar distributed through

the Public Distribution System is uniform throughout the country. With effect from 1.2.94 it is Rs.9.05 per Kg. The

Ex-factory levy sugar price during 1995-96 is given in statement-II.

ANNEXURE - I

Statement showing zone-wise recovery, duration, purchase tax, commission, cane cost, conversion cost and escalation for the sugar season 1995-96

Zones	Recovery (%)	Duration (Days)	Purchase Tax, cost etc. (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar-cane)	Commission etc. (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar-cane)	Cane cost (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar)	Conv. cost (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar)	Escalation (Rupees per Quintal of Sugar)
Punjab	9.28	109	0.500	0.120	507.85	247.34	41.56
Haryana	9.56	136	1.500	0.360	512.84	234.27	40.16
Rajasthan	9.12	90	0.000	0.000	507.95	320.75	42.40
West U.P.	9.64	150	2.000	1.486	552.62	232.39	39.32
Central U.P.	9.49	135	2.000	1.476	557.74	211.64	37.36
East U.P.	9.27	133	2.000	1.454	531.26	258.31	44.64
North Bihar	9.24	108	2.540	0.150	547.69	271.27	47.44
South Bihar	8.50	90	2.370	0.150	529.65	374.36	56.40
South Gujarat	11.00	156	2.400	0.000	590.09	153.76	34.00
Saurashtra	8.99	90	2.400	0.000	554.95	268.45	43.24
Madhya Pradesh	9.59	90	1.706	0.000	529.07	329.72	48.28
Central Mah.	10.62	163	2.500	0.000	546.77	166.04	36.24
South Mah.	11.00	163	2.500	0.000	600.36	139.03	34.00
North Mah.	10.20	130	2.500	0.000	552.39	207.55	39.04
N.W. Karnataka	11	162	6.500	1.000	616.27	123.09	35.40
Rest of Karnataka	9.23	160	5.000	1.000	587.65	188.12	39.60
Andhra Pradesh	9.76	123	9.000	0.000	609.12	214.44	39.88
Tamil Nadu	8.93	180	7.560	0.500	634.04	195.33	33.72
Assam-WB-Orissa-Nagaland	8.50	90	0.000	0.000	522.17	385.06	58.36
Kerala-Goa-Co. Kar.	8.82	90	2.520	0.000	539.34	267.88	50.24

ANNEXURE-II

Statement showing Zone-wise levy Sugar Prices for the Year 1995-96

S.No.	Zone	Levy Sugar prices for all ISS grade of sugar into buyer's cart, lorries etc. at the factory gate/godown (Excluding Ed) upto 5 Km from the factory	Levy Sugar price for all ISS grade of sugar into railway wagons (Excluding Ed) upto 5 km from the factory
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra pradesh	937.73	939.30
2.	Assam, Nagaland, Orissa And West Bengal	1039.88	1041.45
3.	Bihar (North)@	940.69	942.26
4.	Bihar (South)	1034.70	1036.27
5.	Gujarat (South)	852.14	843.71
6.	Gujarat (Saurashtra)	940.93	942.50
7.	Haryana	861.56	863.13
8.	North-West Karnataka	851.05	852.62
9.	Rest of Karnataka	889.66	691.23
10.	Kerala, Goa And coastal Karnataka	931.75	933.32
11.	Madhya Pradesh	981.36	982.93
12.	Maharashtra (South)	847.68	849.25
13.	Maharashtra (North)	873.27	874.84
14.	Maharashtra (Central)	824.24	825.61
15.	Punjab	871.04	872.61
16.	Rajasthan	945.39	946.96

1	2	3	4
17.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	937.38	838.95
18.	Uttar Pradesh (Central)	881.03	882.60
19.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	938.60	940.07
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	896.62	900.19

@ The prices for North and South Bihar zone are subject to final orders of the Court in Respect of Purchase Tax etc. To case any amount is to be realised from the factorise in the aforesaid zone of Bihar, it would have to be refunded by the concerned factories to the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund.

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugar crisis keeps coming up every two or three years. My question I specifically to the Minister to elicit some information and draw the attention of the House to the issue of sugar price and the sugar policy of the Government. This sugar issue is coming up every two or three years as a controversial issue. The House will remember that only three years ago, this issue had rocked this House and there were investigations and all that. If you look back three or four years against, one more controversial issue had come up.

When I look at the sugar policy, the Government has all the keys in its hand. The Government will decide whether a new mill has to be licensed; the Government will decide whether they will sell it in free market or levy; the Government will decide as to what percentage of sugar will be sold as levy sugar and how much in the free market; the Government will decide what will be the amount of sugar to be released in the free market and the Government will decide what will be the cane price...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Every decision is in its hand. Will the Government admit that it has failed in monitoring the sugar policy in the last sugar crisis that we had? Unfortunately, rather ironically, three years ago we were thinking of importing sugar and today we are thinking of exporting sugar. Will the hon. Minister admit that the Government has not been successful in controlling the sugar policy and the sugar situation? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You ask a question where you will get a positive answer. Why are you asking a question where you will get a negative answer?

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : What is the thinking of the Government about the future sugar policy? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has not asked for any specific

question. He is only discussing the sugar policy of his time. Sugar policy is under constant watch. 40 percent sugar is under levy and the remaining 60 percent is selling in the open market. The Central Government of course fixes the minimum statutory price of sugar. But the State Governments are free to fix the price of sugarcane, as it suits them. The prices of sugarcane vary from State to State I would like to inform the hon. Member that a watch is being kept on the sugar policy. We are also contemplating to draw up a uniform policy.

[English]

SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Is the Government really very keen on the sugar policy and not taking sides with the farmers or the mill owners? Only recently the Government has given some relief to the mill owners thinking that the advantages would be carried over to the farmers. My specific supplementary question is this. The mill owners have been demanding certain things but the Government is giving other things. If there is surplus production today, why do you not think of having a buffer stock? Why do you not think of allowing exports? Why do you try to twist the ears of the bank to give them long term credit? Whereas, by breaking the law of the bank, you are trying to give relief in case of U.P. as the election is in the offing. You are more concerned about the U.P. election votes than the sugar policy. Are you thinking of creating a bigger buffer zone? Are you thinking of allowing exports?

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have asked you question.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, we are exporting 10 lakh tonnes of Sugar, as per the permission granted to us. As far the Sugar policy have we are contemplating to switch over from the canalisation system to decanalisation system. As far as the question of buffer stock is concerned, we keep a watch on it from time to time. We are trying to the arrears of the farmers cleared in there months in the entire country. These are the guidelines of the R.B.I. which have been issued for all the States of the country including the Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN : Sir, in Tamil Nadu, there are a number of sugar factories. The agriculturists entered into agreements with these sugar factories and raised the sugarcane crops on huge expanses of land. But even after thirteen months, the sugar factories are not giving orders for cutting the sugarcane due to non-release of sugar stock lying with the sugar factories.

I would like to know what action the Government proposes to take in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, we are not following any pick and choose policy. We are not allowing any particular sugar mill to sell sugar through discretionary quota. Last months we allowed all the Sugar mills in the country to sell sugar over and above their usual quota of 30 percent of free sale. We had granted this permission. At present we are not considering the demand of various mills for pick and choose.

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the farmers is going from bad to worse because they depend only on nature. If nature is kind to time, their condition improves. To ameliorate the lot of the farmers, we should give agriculture the status of an industry. We should fix the minimum price of sugar, as is done in the case of wheat and rice. Will agriculture be given the status of an industry?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : This question does not arise from the original question.

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugar policy is under discussion. In Maharashtra, one sugar mill pays to a farmer at the rate of Rs.450 Rs. metric tonne while the other pays at the rate of Rs.850 per metric tonne. Thus the price differs from place to place. Why is it so?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, I have already clarified that we have statutory minimum price. We have fixed the price of Sugar at the national level at Rs.9.05. They are the cooperative mills. In Maharashtra, there are 110 mills. Of them, 104 are cooperative mills... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : In Maharashtra, there are not 410 mills. The hon. Minister is giving wrong information.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the sugar policy of the Government is going to come and, I am sure, it will be a very sweet policy. We have a very sweet festival in Kerala, called 'Onam'. You know, Sir, that Kerala is lacking in sugar. My very short question is whether the hon. Minister can give some additional sugar to Kerala at a very low price during the 'Onam' Festival which is going to come shortly.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, we are not providing additional sugar to any state separately. But we shall certainly provide additional sugar to Kerala, keeping in view the importance of the festival.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Poor functioning of AIR/Doordarshan

*305. SHRI P. NAMGYAL :

SHRI SUKH RAM :

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding poor functioning and break-down of some of the AIR/Doordarshan centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and till date, State-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures adopted so far and proposed to be adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The functioning of the AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras has been generally satisfactory. However, there have been some complaints about short breakdowns of service in respect of a few studios and certain transmitters. These relate to disruption/failure of power supply; failure of certain components in the equipment; failure of telephone/microwave links, limited transmission due to shortage of staff, etc.

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

(c) Whenever any breakdown is noticed or a complaint is received about malfunctioning or non-functioning of any All India Radio Station/Doordarshan Kendra or transmitter, immediate remedial action is taken to rectify the defect. This is an ongoing process. Some of the remedial measures adopted include maintaining adequate inventory of spare parts, keeping constant liaison with state Electricity Boards, providing standby power supply equipment in a phased manner, setting up of maintenance centres to look after a group of LPTs/VLPTs etc. efforts are also being made to remove the shortage of staff.

Productivity Linked Wage Agreement

*306. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India has recently signed productivity linked wage agreement with its aircraft engineers;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether the Air India proposes to sign such agreements with some more categories of employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under the Agreement, payments are linked to despatch reliability and aircraft availability.

(c) and (d). A similar agreement has been signed with Air India Employees' Guild and a similar schemes made applicable to Air India Officers' Association. Negotiations are under way with other organisations.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Air Fares

*307. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the increase made in the air fare during the period from 1990 till date;

(b) whether the Government propose to further increase the air fare; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The range of fare increas from India effected by Air India and Indian Airlines in various international sectors from 01.09.90 onwards is indicated below :-

Period	Increase in Percentage	
01 January 90 - 30 March 90	5.0	- 17.7
01 April 90 - 30 June 90	4.0	- 19.0
01st July 90 - 30 Sept. 90	4.54	- 27.54
01 October 90 - 31 Dec. 90	2.0	- 10.0
01 January 91 - 30 March 91	7.0	- 7.0
01 April 91 - 30 June 91	3.0	- 20.0
01 October 91 - 31 Dec. 91	3.0	- 11.4
01 January 92 - 30 March 92	3.0	- 3.0
01 April 92 - 30 June 92	5.0	- 15.0
01 July 92 - 30 Sept.92	10.0	- 10.0
01 October 92 - 31 Dec. 92	15.0	- 15.0
01 January 93 - 30 March 93	8.5	- 8.5
01 April 93 - 30 June 93	15.0	- 26.5
01 July 93 - 30 Sept.93	15.0	- 15.0
01 Jaunary 94 - 30 March 94	4.6	- 6.5
01 April 94 - 30 June 94	3.0	- 20.0
01 July 94 - 30 Sept. 94	3.0	- 20.0
01 April 95 - 30 June 95	0.90	- 9.86
01 July 95 - 30 Sept 95	2.40	- 2.40
01 October 95 - 31 Dec. 95	10.00	- 15.40
01 January 96 - 30 March 96	3.40	- 20.00
01 April 96 - 30 June 96	10.00	- 15.00

Fare increase effected by Indian Airlines in domestic sectors is as under :-

Date	Increase in percentage
11.4.1990	15.7
26.9.1990	10.0
07.10.1991	20.0
02.10.1992	9.0
13.09.1993	15.0
25.7.1994	Average 15% (from 10% - 20%)
15.6.1995	Dollar fare revised Differential of INR fare and dollar fare fixed at 15% (dollar fare to be 15% more than the INR fare).
1.10.1995	Average 20% (from 12% - 23%)
1.1.1996	Dollar fare revised by 20%.

(b) and (c). Airlines are free to fix the fares on domestic sectors in their own commercial judgement keeping in view the increase in input costs and the impact on traffic. as regards international fares, the increases are initially discussed and agreed by the airlines at the Tariff Co-ordinating Conference of the International Air Transport Association (IATA and implemented with the approval of the respective Governments. Such review of international fares is undertaken by IATA for different sectors from time to time.

Import and Export of Sugar

*308. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the logic behind the import or export of sugar during 1994-95;

(b) the resultant loss/profit to the country due to the above imports/exports;

(c) whether the Government propose to cancel the import contracts keeping in view the losses suffered, if any;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether responsibility has been fixed for such losses;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : (a) to (g). The Import of sugar is the calendar year 1994 became necessary to meet the shortfall in the sugar production season 1st October, 93 - 30th September, 94 and the consequent reduced availability of supply under the Public Distribution System. A quantity of about 9.77 lakh tonnes was imported by STC & MMTC during the calendar year 1994. As firm production trends were not available in the early part of the sugar season beginning 1st October, 94 the Government directed STC & MMTC to enter into Forward Contracts for import of about 5 lakh tonnes of Sugar with a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar for Public Distribution System, in the event of sugar production not coming upto the expected level. Against this, STC & MMTC contracted for a quantity of about 4.09 lakh tonnes. However, as it became evident that a high level of production was likely to be achieved in 1994-95 season, the Government directed STC & MMTC to dispose off in the International Market as much of the contracted sugar as possible at the best possible price. Consequently, only a quantity of 1.99 lakh MT (approx.) was imported in 1995.

The imported sugar was meant for distribution through Public Distribution System and was accordingly issued to the consumers at the issue price of Rs.9.05 per kg. While accounts are yet to be finalised, amounts of Rs.591 crores and Rs.164 crores have been paid by way of subsidy during the financial years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively to cover the differential between the cost of imports and distribution on the one hand and price realisation through Public Distribution System on the other hand. As the import was undertaken to preclude the possibility of a break-down in the Public Distribution System, the question of fixation of responsibility for any loss does not arise.

As regards the export of sugar, in view of the higher level of production actually achieved in the Sugar season 1994-95 and still higher production in 1995-96 seasons, resulting in surplus availability of sugar, the Government decided to allow export of sugar from August'95 onwards so as to enable the sugar mills to liquidate their inventories and improve their financial position with a view to pay the cane growers their dues.

International Airport at NOIDA

*309. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an International Airport and modern cargo maintenance centre at NOIDA in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

AI and IA Pilots

*310. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT. : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilots who left the services of Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to call back all such pilots;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extra benefits proposed to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). While Air India has not experienced any large scale exodus of pilots, 97 pilots resigned from Indian Airlines during 1993 to 1995 and 12 pilots resigned from India Airlines during 1993 to 1995 and 12 pilots who had earlier resigned joined back. No pilot has left in 1996 so far. No reasons were given by the Pilots at the time of leaving the organisation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Cordless Telecommunication Technology

*311. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some European telecom companies have activated an international forum in India to promote digital enhanced cordless telecommunication technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its likely impact on Indian Telecom Companies; and

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom to the rural and backward areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Sir, it has been reported that five companies namely, Alcatel, Ericsson, Nokia, Philips and Siemens have formed a forum.

(c) and (d). Provides of basic telecom services can use this technology for wireless in local loop depending

upon their perception of the comparative advantages in different situations, including rural and backward areas.

Wakf Properties

*312. KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Wakf properties are being illegally sold and transferred throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save the Wakf properties?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Government have no information regarding illegal sale or transfer of Wakf properties except in respect of West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal have confirmed the receipt of complaints regarding mismanagement of Wakf properties and institution of a departmental enquiry to look into them. But the report of the departmental enquiry has not been received although there have been references in the Press about such a report and discussion of the matter in the State Legislative Assembly.

(b) Safeguards have been provided in the Wakf Act, 1995 to save Wakf properties from illegal sale/transfer, vide Sections 51 and 52 of the said Act.

Monitoring of Foreign Aircrafts

*313. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Civil Aviation had been asked to strictly monitor the country's air space to prevent entry of foreign aircraft, violating accepted international norms and threatening the country's security;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the fact that in June, 1996, two Pakistani Planes had entered in a very low range into Indian territory (Kargil area of Jammu and Kashmir) for the preparation of maps of Indian territory; and

(c) if so, the details of the protest made from Indian side and the response from Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Postal Services

*314. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of

the Government for privatisation of postal services as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated July 2, 1996:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of private agencies proposed to be licenced for the purpose; and

(d) which type of postal services are proposed to be assigned to these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : As mentioned briefly in the news items in Economic Times dated the 2nd July, 1996 the Department of Post, in order to provide basic postal facility like sale of stamps and stationery extensively, has been allowing licensed agents to operate under specified terms and conditions.

The following agency systems are presently in operation :

Licensed Postal Agency : This scheme, in operation since 1985, allows licensed agents to sell stamps and stationery and book registered articles. The agent is paid a percentage commission on the amount of stamps and stationery sold, and commission per registered article booked.

Keeping in view the staff opposition to the scheme, no new licence under this scheme is being issued since 1987. However, the agents given licences before the scheme was held in abeyance continue to operate.

Licensed Stamp Vendor : This scheme, introduced in 1969, was initially for headquarter towns of Heads of Postal Circles, and since 1983, is extended to all areas. The scheme permits any individual, firm or society to take an agency for sale of stamps and stationery. STD/ISD/PCO booth holders are also eligible for this scheme.

Licence under this scheme is issued by the Head of Postal Division, subject to fulfilment of prescribed conditions. No Target is set for this purpose.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana : This scheme, introduced in 1995, has been devised to provide basic postal services in areas not having such services and justifying opening of a post office. In this scheme, the Gram Panchayat of the Village where post office is justified is allowed to set up Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra to provide sale of stamps and stationery, booking of registered articles, delivery of unaccountable articles in the village, and facility for small savings schemes.

A target of 250 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras has been set for the year 1996-97.

Abolition of Child Labour

*315. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite constitutional provisions and fresh emphasis on abolition of child labour, they continue to be employed in hazardous industries of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of children employed in such industries has come down since then;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove child labour atleast from hazardous industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). According to 1981 census, the total child labour population in India was 13.06 million. This figure rose to 17.02 million on the basis of the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88. The bulk of child labour is engaged in agriculture, and allied employments including household occupations. Out of the total child labour population, around 2.00 million children are estimated to be employed in hazardous occupations and processes. There is no data available to indicate that the incidence of child labour in hazardous occupations has come down.

Government has taken several steps to tackle the problem of child labour. According to the National Child Labour Policy, 1987 the problem of child labour is being tackled through (i) legislation; (ii) general development programmes for the benefit of children; and (iii) implementation of the National Child Labour Projects.

A comprehensive law, namely, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 already exists to prohibit the employment of children in 7 occupations and 18 processes. In addition, for safeguarding the interests of children, there are protective provisions in various other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952 and Motor Transport (Workers) Act 1961 etc. The approach of the government is to implement all the child related provision of these laws in a harmonious fashion.

Government is presently engaged in the task of rehabilitation of about 2.00 million working children in hazardous occupations by the year 2002. So far 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned to cover over 1.5 lakh children through special schools where they are provided non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipend etc. Apart from this, a massive awareness generation campaign has also been launched against the evil of child labour at national, regional and district levels. Funds for district levels awareness generation have been released to 133 most child labour endemic districts in this country to sensitize people against the practice of child labour. These measures will be consolidated and expanded in the coming years.

Consumer Courts and Redressal Forum

*316. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Union Government at any stage into the

effectiveness and working of the Consumer Courts as the redressal forums for consumers grievances all over the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The monitoring/assessment of the functioning of the Consumer Courts is an on going process. According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the administrative control of the Consumer Courts lies with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations.

The Central Government also monitors the functioning of the Consumer Courts in the States and UTs from time to time. The Central Government had sponsored a sample survey on the "Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Implementation of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986" in five States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra, conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. The summary Report of the Survey submitted in December, 1994 made, inter-alia, certain suggestions for improving the functioning of Consumer Courts, Consumer education and awareness. Some of the recommendations included the provision of infrastructure facilities as well as uniform staffing pattern in the Consumer Courts, authorisation of the Presidents of the District Fora as Drawing & Disbursing Authority and bringing the expenditure of the consumer courts under Plan grant etc. Since these recommendations pertained to the administration and management of consumer courts, the Report was sent to the States and UTs for taking appropriate action.

With a view to enabling the States/UT Governments to strengthen the Consumer courts and also to reduce the pendency of cases in these courts, the Central Government has commenced a central scheme of one time grant to States/UTs under which Rs.61 crores will be made available during 1995-96 and 1996-97. A sum of Rs.29.98 crores has been released during 1995-96 and the release of the balance amount will depend on the extent of reduction in the pendency of cases in the consumer courts.

Over-Billing of Telephones

*317. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the complaints of over-billing of STD/ISD/PCOs have come to the notice of the Government during 1995 and 1996 (till date);

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number thereof, State-wise and particularly in district Coochbehar, West Bengal; and

(c) the action taken, by the Government thereon?

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

(b) The information has been called for the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

- (c)
1. Instructions have been issued to provide STD/ISD/ PCOs from electronic Exchanges only. In places which are served by electronic Exchanges only. In places which are served by electronmechanical exchanges, new 128-P C-DOT electronic exchanges are opened to cater to the needs of STD/ISD PCOs as far as possible.
 2. The Electronic exchange provides dynamic STD/ISD Control facility by which STD/ISD on the telephone can be opened or closed as a check against misuse. Moreover, bills with details of STD/ISD calls are issued through which franchisee can know the details of the calls made from the PCO.
 3. Indoor equipment and outdoor plants are checked to identify any technical fault.
 4. Entry to the exchanges has been restricted.
 5. Vigilance unit also conducts surprise checks against misuse or diversion of line.

[Translation]

Import of Sugar

*318. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sugar imported during 1994-95;

(b) whether it is a fact that the then Government had sold the imported sugar through the Government agencies at less than the cost price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the loss of foreign exchange as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). During the financial year 1st April, 1994-31st March, 1995, STC and MMTC together imported about 9.77 lakh tonnes of sugar. The value of this sugar worked out to about US \$ 37.93 crores.

This sugar was imported for meeting the demand of Public Distribution System and therefore, sold at an issue price of Rs.9.05 per kg. In view of this the question of loss does not arise.

[English]

Production of Minerals

*319. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the States where chromite, graphite, bauxite, dolomite and manganese ore are available;

(b) the approximate quantum of these minerals deposits in those States, State-wise;

(c) the annual production of these minerals during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of these minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) States where Chromite, Graphite, Bauxite, Dolomite and Manganese Ore available is given below :-

S.No.	Mineral	States where available
1.	Chromite	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharastra, Manipur, Orissa & Tamil Nadu.
2.	Graphite	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
3.	Bauxite	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
4.	Dolomite	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
5.	Manganese Ore	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

(b) State-wise deposits are mentioned in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) State-wise Annual production of the minerals during last three years is as per enclosed statement-II.

(d) The Govt. policies including the New Mineral Policy of 1993 encourage investments in the mineral sector. Also the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and Mineral Conservation & Development Rules, 1988 provide for proper exploitation of the minerals.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise Total Recoverable Reserves of Chromite, Graphite, Bauxite, Dolomite and Manganese Ore as on 1/4/1990.

(Unit in Million Tonnes)

S.No.	State	Mineral	Total Recoverable Reserves
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Bauxite	592
		Chromite	0.067
		Graphite	0.22
		Dolomite	129.99
		Manganese Ore	7.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dolomite	58.37
3.	Bihar	Bauxite	61.10
		Chromite	0.334
		Dolomite	47.25
		Graphite	0.53
		Manganese Ore	2.30
4.	Gujarat	Bauxite	107.74
		Dolomite	681.63
		Graphite	0.016
		Manganese Ore	1.8
5.	Goa	Bauxite	28.08
		Manganese Ore	27.56
6.	Haryana	Dolomite	7.25
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Bauxite	1.78
8.	Karnataka	Bauxite	27.41
		Chromite	0.85
		Dolomite	325.28
		Manganese Ore	64.55

1	2	3	4
9.	Kerala	Bauxite	7.92
		Graphite	0.52
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Bauxite	140.79
		Dolomite	1666.85
		Graphite	0.010
		Manganese Ore	16.54
11.	Maharashtra	Bauxite	87.25
		Chromite	0.47
		Dolomite	223.23
		Graphite	0.002
		Manganese Ore	19.17
12.	Manipur	Chromite	0.002
13.	Meghalaya	Bauxite	0.89
14.	Orissa	Bauxite	1442.27
		Chromite	183*
		Dolomite	1171.16
		Graphite	0.95
		Manganese Ore	40.84
15.	Rajasthan	Bauxite	0.32
		Dolomite	135.42
		Graphite	0.47
		Manganese Ore	0.41
16.	Sikkim	Dolomite	2.07
17.	Tamil Nadu	Bauxite	18.32
		Chromite	0.24
		Dolomite	1.63
		Graphite	0.39
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Bauxite	9.42
		Dolomite	224.33
19.	West Bengal	Dolomite	293.01
		Manganese Ore	0.10

* Total reserves.

STATEMENT-II

State-wise Annual Production of Chromite, Graphite, Bauxite, Dolomite and Manganese ore for the year 1993-94 to 1995-96.

-(Qty. in Tonnes)

Mineral	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96(P)
1	2	3	4	5
Chromite	India	1064684	1137886	1663969
	Andhra Pradesh	234	-	-
	Karnataka	33921	29062	59728
	Maharashtra	1726	1090	1190
	Manipur	642	784	470
	Orissa	1028161	1106950	1602581
Graphite	India	83956	103053	126371

1	2	3	4	5
	Andhra Pradesh	214	175	114
	Bihar	22168	20119	20300
	Kerala	-	173	304
	Orissa	61574	60722	79423
	Rajasthan	-	535	5149
	Tamil Nadu	-	21329	21081
Bauxite	India	5534913	4898674	5443854
	Bihar	916485	927566	1000215
	Goa	60323	69367	63871
	Gujarat	818330	637000	563546
	Karnataka	18860	19563	31760
	Madhya Pradesh	553878	497050	517592
	Maharashtra	685791	557273	719990
	Orissa	2446217	2146569	2419695
	Tamil Nadu	55029	44286	127275
Dolomite	India	3349526	3375558	3490836
	Andhra Pradesh	131753	222622	258312
	Bihar	284334	271493	349236
	Gujarat	290722	284349	406947
	Karnataka	23724	27409	42876
	Madhya Pradesh	842922	913807	913550
	Maharashtra	19253	29673	30398
	Orissa	1583444	1416169	1294275
	Rajasthan	3545	8939	7721
	Uttar Pradesh	64650	63949	46935
	West Bengal	105179	137148	140586
Manganese Ore	India	1696111	1680975	1797075
	Andhra Pradesh	64609	60987	53042
	Bihar	5568	4138	11867
	Goa	20932	20554	17880
	Karnataka	372451	383576	430786
	Madhya Pradesh	306953	341513	358559
	Maharashtra	281204	287465	314141
	Orissa	644394	582742	610800

P = Provisional

Financial Assistance to NGO's

*320. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance given to non-Governmental Organisation during the period from April 1, 1996 to June 30, 1996;

(b) whether any complaints regarding mis-utilisation of funds have been received against some of the above Organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) An amount of Rs.7.14 crores has been given to non-Governmental Organisations

during the period from 1st April, 1996 to 30th June, 1996.

(b) to (d). No complaint has been received in respect of the above organisations, but complaints have been received against some other Organisations. In respect of such complaints, enquiries are ordered and if the allegations are found correct, the grant is stopped and other appropriate action is initiated.

Price of Essential Commodities

2384. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the per kg. price of sugar, atta, maida, rice (varieties), wheat and other essential commodities being sold through the fair price shops under the public distribution system, specially in statutory rationing areas during 1994-95 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : The Central Government allocates rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil, kerosene and soft/CIL coke to States/UTs at fixed Central Issue Prices (CIP) for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS). The end retail prices of these commodities are fixed by the States/UTs themselves after taking into account various overheads like transportation/handling charges, local levies/taxes, dealers margin etc. except in the case of sugar where the uniform end retail price of Rs.9.05 per kg. all over the country is fixed by the Central Government. The Central Government does not maintain the details of fair price shop level prices in statutory rationing areas.

Colliery Accidents

2385. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1052 on July 29,1994 regarding colliery accidents and state:

(a) whether the Court of Enquiry appointed by his Ministry in respect of the mine accidents that occurred on 25 January, 1994 at New Kenda Colliery of E.C.L. has been completed the enquiry;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in completing the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The Court of Inquiry could not initiate proceedings for a considerable period due to a stay order granted by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court. The stay was vacated in Sept. 1995. Since then, the Court of Inquiry has started investigation. The report has not been submitted so far. The term of the Court of Inquiry is presently extended upto 24.10.96.

Satellite TV Network

2386. SHRI PRASARAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the districts in the country have been brought under satellite television relay net-work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be brought under this net-work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IRBAHIM) : (a) to (d). Satellite derived TV services are already available through out the country with the use of an appropriate dish antenna.

Branch Post Offices in Assam

2387. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branch Post Offices opened during each of the last three years in Assam, location wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more branch Post Offices in the State during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of Branch Post offices opened during the last three years in Assam, location-wise is given in the Statement attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 2 Branch Post Offices are proposed to be opened during 1996-97.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

STATEMENT

Branch Post Offices opened in Assam during the last three years location-wise.

S.No.	Year	Name of Branch post offices in Assam
1	2	3
1.	1993-94	1. Uzankuri 2. Chamatapathar 3. Bamunkata 4. Lafakuchi 5. Digorkhal Bazar 6. Alexanarpur 7. Bagbari 8. Manigipur 9. Borshijhora 10. Kakormary 11. Kachadal 12. Ambari 13. Padmeralaga Pt.-II, 14. Rangajuli 15. Barbil-Kachari 16. Telisal 17. Bajarchiga

1	2	3
		18. Danichapori
		19. Harkpathar
		20. Dighali-Debera
		21. Kharkati
		22. Rangalipathar
		23. Gellapukhuri
		24. Dilaji
		25. Burhachaporigaon
		26. Kachadhara-Nakhandra
2. 1994-95	:	Nil
3. 1995-96	:	Nil

Consumer Complaints and Redressal System

2388. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of the consumer organisations at their meeting with him had stressed the need to strengthen the consumer complaint and redressal system especially at the State level; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exploration of Granite

2389. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have undertaken any investigation into the granite wealth in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for exploration of granite as export product?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Granite being a minor mineral, the concerned State Governments are responsible for the exploitation of reserves besides, exploration activity. However, in view of the importance assured by this mineral, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has take up intensive resource survey of about 39,065 Sq.km. area of Granite deposits in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal since 1994. The detailed coverage in different states is as per *statement* enclosed.

(c) Govt. of India has constituted a body named 'Granite Development Council' which includes members from Central Govt. and its Organisations, State Governments, Industry associations as private entrepreneurs to address the issues relating to development of Granite industry.

STATEMENT

Geological Survey of India has taken up Intensive Resource Survey of Granite in the Country since 1994 as under :-

Name of State	Area covered in Sq.Km.
1. Andhra Pradesh	12,000
2. Assam	80
3. Bihar	645
4. Gujarat	750
5. Haryana	105
6. Karnataka	3,950
7. Kerala	1,000
8. Madhya Pradesh	1,350
9. Maharashtra	1,950
10. Meghalaya	205
11. Orissa	1,200
12. Rajasthan	11,000
13. Tamil Nadu	2,050
14. Uttar Pradesh	1,700
15. West Bengal	1,080
Total	39,065

Sugar Stock

2390. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of sugar exists surplus in the country at present;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity thereof;

(c) the quantity of sugar released for free sale recently, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the Government's present thinking about the export of this commodity?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The estimated stock of sugar with the factories as on 30.6.1996 was 113.20 lakh tonnes.

(c) A Statement giving Statewise release of freesale sugar for the month of August, 1996 is enclosed.

(d) In view of the higher level of sugar production, Government have so far notified a quantity of about 10.00 lakh tonnes of sugar for commercial export.

STATEMENT

Statement giving State-wise Releases of Freesale Sugar for the Month of August, 1996.

S.No.	States	August Quota (in M.T.)
1.	Punjab	35496.8
2.	Haryana	20441.1
3.	Rajasthan	1286.8
4.	U.P.	213235.2
5.	Madhya Pradesh	6077.2
6.	Gujarat	44952.5
7.	Maharashtra	236139.8
8.	Bihar	17282.4
9.	Assam	492.5
10.	Orissa	5043.4
11.	West Bengal	227.2
12.	Nagaland	47.5
13.	Andhra Pradesh	32933.7
14.	Karnataka	48150.0
15.	Tamil Nadu	59679.9
16.	Pondicherry	2365.6
17.	Kerala	407.4
18.	Goa	741.0
Total		725000.0

Construction of Five Star Hotels by I.T.D.C.

2391. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation has constructed some five star hotels in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) No, Sir. ITDC has not constructed any five star hotel in foreign countries.

(b) Does not arise.

Disabled Persons suffering from Contiguous Diseases

2392. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disabled persons and other suffering from polio, T.B., cancer, blindness and other

contiguous diseases in the country as on March, 31, 1996; State-wise;

(b) the amount of assistance given to each State for the welfare of such disabled and other persons during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any system to monitor the expenditure incurred by each State out of the above central assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government are aware that the above funds have been diverted by the States for some other purposes;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (g). Required information is being collected from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Types of Aircrafts

2393. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have acquired different type of aircraft during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The details of aircraft acquired by Air India and Indian Airlines are as under:

	Indian Airlines	Air India
1993	7-A320	3-B747-400
1994	5-A320	1-B747-400
1995	—	—
1996	—	—
(Upto July, 1996)		

FM AIR Station

2394. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of FM AIR stations at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of new FM stations proposed to be set up during the next two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to start stereophonic broadcast on the FM channels; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details of existing FM AIR Transmitters/Stations State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) It is proposed to set up 36 FM transmitters during the next two years in the country.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Stereophonic broadcast has already been started from some places and is being introduced at other places in phases.

STATEMENT

State	Number
Andhra Pradesh	8
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Assam	3
Bihar	6
Delhi	1
Goa	1
Gujarat	2
Haryana	1
Himachal Pradesh	3
Jammu and Kashmir	3
Karnataka	6
Kerala	4
Madhya Pradesh	12
Maharashtra	13
Manipur	-
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	1
Orissa	5
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	8
Sikkim	-
Tamil Nadu	1
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	5
West Bengal	2
UNION TERRITORIES	-
Karaikal (Pondicherry)	1
Daman	1
Total	94

[Translation]

Workers in Industrial Sector

2395. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of workers in industrial sector have increased or decreased during the last three years till date;

(b) the percentage of decline in the labour force of India after the implementation of new economic policy;

(c) whether the problem of unemployment has increased after the implementation of the new policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The number of workers in the organised sector (i.e. all public sector establishments and all non-agricultural establishments in private sector employing 10 or more workers) has not shown any decline during the last three years.

(b) to (d). Estimates of employment, unemployment and labour force are made on the basis of the quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The latest survey relates to the year 1993-94 and the estimates based on this are yet to be finalised.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Uttar Pradesh

2396. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Uttar-Pradesh during 1995-96 (till date), district-wise;

(b) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connection in the State, district-wise and particularly in Bareilly, upto June, 1996;

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared, district wise; and

(d) the number of additional telephone lines proposed to be provided during this year in order to meet the demand of the State, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of telephone connections provided in Uttar Pradesh during 1995-96 (till date), district-wise is given in Statement at Column (a).

(b) The number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections the State, district-wise is given in the enclosed Statement at Column (B) For Bareilly it is 2892.

(c) The time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared, district-wise is given in the Annexure at Column (c).

(d) The proposed number of additional telephone

lines to be provided during this year in order to meet the demand of the State, district-wise is given in the enclosed Statement at Column (d).

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of District	Telephone connections provided during 1995-1996 (April, 1995 to June, 1996)	Waiting List upto June, 96	Likely Date of Waiting List Clearance	Target for DEL for 1996-97
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
UTTAR PRADESH (WEST)					
1.	Ghaziabad including Bulandshahr	20,483	19,430	March, 1998	11,500
2.	Agra including Firozabad	11,225	9,139	March, 1998	6,800
3.	Meerut	14,412	3,216	March, 1997	7,500
4.	Dehradun	6,615	10,789	March, 1998	6,800
5.	Muzaffarnagar	5,081	6,206	March, 1998	4,100
6.	Saharanpur including Haridwar	9,958	7,816	March, 1998	6,200
7.	Moradabad	3,638	4,947	March, 1998	5,000
8.	Aligarh	3,143	3,310	March, 1997	5,000
9.	Nainital including Udham Singh Nagar	6,626	5,559	March, 1998	4,100
10.	Bareilly	2,751	2,892	March, 1997	4,000
11.	Mathura including Etah	4,033	4,528	March, 1998	4,000
12.	Rampur including Pilibhit and Budaun	2,737	2,668	March, 1998	2,500
13.	Srinagar (Garwal) including Chamoli, Pauri, Tehri and Uttarkashi	2,968	2,663	March, 1998	2,200
14.	Almora including Pithoragarh	1,072	1,098	March, 1997	2,200
15.	Bijnore	2,158	2,192	March, 1997	3,100
Total		96,900	86,453		75,000
UTTAR PRADESH (EAST)					
1.	Lucknow	12,260	15,273	March, 1998	11,191
2.	Kanpur	7,260	9,091	March, 1997	11,387
3.	Unnao	1,122	245	March, 1997	1,481
4.	Varanasi	7,276	5,822	March, 1997	8,561
5.	Bhadohi	406	1,036	March, 1997	1,525
6.	Allahabad	9,322	3,998	March, 1998	3,350
7.	Deoria	1,315	683	March, 1997	912
8.	Padrauna	895	788	March, 1998	265
9.	Mau	1,579	951	March, 1998	885
10.	Gorakhpur	4,900	3,974	March, 1997	6,805
11.	Maharajganj	725	-	-	709

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
12. Jhansi	3,680	1,253	March, 1997	2,975
13. Lalitpur	380	397	March, 1998	348
14. Faizabad	1,825	410	Dec. 1996	944
15. Barabanki	768	518	Dec. 1996	2,038
16. Ambedkarnagar	180	220	June, 1997	600
17. Sitapur	1,083	305	March, 1997	1,315
18. Lakhimpur	1,380	320	March, 1997	864
19. Shahjahanpur	1,358	973	March, 1997	1,728
20. Hardoi	527	410	June, 1997	971
21. Etawah	1,842	1,055	Feb, 1997	1,469
22. Mainpuri	521	605	June, 1997	1,142
23. Farukabad	2,326	1,330	March, 1998	936
24. Banda	698	710	March, 1997	1,540
25. Hamirpur	400	60	March, 1997	494
26. Orai (Jalaun)	1500	1280	March, 1998	948
27. Mohaba	122	116	March, 1997	565
28. Azamgarh	1109	2116	31.3.97	2353
29. Ballia	1014	548	31.3.97	1588
30. Gazipur	582	319	31.3.97	1086
31. Mirzapur	605	676	31.3.97	620
32. Jaunpur	1525	1164	31.3.97	1319
33. Sonbhadra	1464	547	31.3.98	502
34. Gonda	1477	969	31.3.98	250
35. Sultanpur	1631	1042	31.3.97	1369
36. Raibareilly	872	135	31.3.97	869
37. Fatehpur	530	423	31.3.97	514
38. Bahraich	467	740	31.3.97	1707
39. Siddharthnagar	199	85	31.3.97	616
40. Pratapgarh	500	492	31.3.97	660
41. Basti	621	624	31.3.98	599
Total	78,246	61,697		80,000

Cases Registered in Consumers' Forum

2397. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases registered in the consumers' forum during each of the last three years State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the total number of cases pending with different consumers' forum during the above period State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the number of cases settled during the above period State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) to (c). Based on the information available with Central Government, the State-wise position regarding number of complaints filed, disposed of and pending with the District Forums since inception is given in the Statement attached.

(d) The District Consumer Redressal Fora and State Commissions lies within the administrative jurisdiction

of respective State Governments. However, the matters relating to the disposal of cases, issuance of instructions regarding adoption of uniform procedure in the District Fora are guided by the State Commissions set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, in that State. To strengthen the infrastructural facilities of the State Commissions as well as the

District Fora so as to enable them to reduce the pendency of cases, Central Government has commenced a central scheme of providing one-time financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the State/UTs. to be disbursed in 1995-96 and 1996-97. In 1995-96 an amount of Rs. 2998.40 lakhs have already been released for the same.

STATEMENT

District Forums

States/UTs	Filed since Inception	Disposed since Inception	Pending Cases	Period Ending
Andhra Pradesh	74163	61296	12867	31/12/95
Arunacha Pradesh	77	68	9	31/12/95
Assam	3997	2515	1482	31/12/95
Bihar	23362	13059	10303	31/12/95
Goa	1406	791	619	30/9/95
Gujarat	38921	21068	17853	31/12/95
Haryana	34257	24884	9413	31/12/95
Himachal Pradesh	6225	5125	1100	31/12/95
Jammu and Kashmir	5019	4782	237	31/12/95
Karnataka	33545	23469	10076	30/9/95
Kerala	63105	56333	6772	31/12/95
Madhya Pradesh	34935	23425	11510	31/12/95
Maharashtra	57741	42212	15175	31/3/96
Manipur	611	601	10	30/9/95
Meghalaya	124	68	56	31/3/96
Mizoram	132	126	6	31/9/95
Nagaland	13	6	7	30/9/94
Orissa	15431	10183	5268	30/9/95
Punjab	10855	6996	3859	30/9/94
Rajasthan	72793	52023	20770	31/12/95
Sikkim	51	43	8	31/12/95
Tamil Nadu	32302	23819	8483	30/9/95
Tripura	436	370	66	31/12/95
Uttar Pradesh	91593	53159	38434	31/12/95
West Bengal	19165	4982	14183	31/12/95
Andaman and Nicobar	109	98	11	31/3/96
Chandigarh	6410	3498	2912	31/6/95
D and N Haveli	19	10	9	31/12/95
Daman and Diu	32	16	16	30/9/94
Delhi	34194	24831	9363	30/6/96
Lakshadweep	23	21	2	31/3/96
Pondicherry	997	820	177	31/12/95

[English]

GSI Survey in Assam

2398. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey in Assam during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of mineral reserves found there;

(c) whether the Government propose to intensify efforts for exploration mineral deposits in the state, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three years only one item of mineral investigation viz. Resource Survey for dimensional stones of Burapahar area, Karbi Anglong districts was taken up. Reserves are yet to be calculated.

(c) and (d). It is a continuous process of Geological Survey of India. The GSI undertakes the survey in the country including Assam as approved by Central Geological Programming Board. The proposal for 96-97 includes two investigations for gold and other possible mineralisation in Karbi Anglong, Goalpara and Kamrup Districts, Assam during the Field Season 1996-97.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rural Areas

2399. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a lack of Post Offices, in rural areas of Bihar.

(b) the number of Post-offices opened in the rural areas of the state during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open new Post Offices in the State during 1996-97;

(d) if so, the district-wise details thereof and by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Out of 11,771 Post Offices in Bihar, 11,047 Post Offices are functioning in the rural areas which constitute 93.8% of the total Post Offices in Bihar.

(b) The number of Post Offices opened in the rural areas of Bihar during the last three years, district-wise is given in the attached Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to open 10 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 11 Departmental Sub Post Offices under Annual Plan, 1996-97. District-wise targets are not being allocated as Post Offices are opened keeping in view the norms based justification and merits of each proposal.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

STATEMENT

Number of Post Offices Opened in the Rural Areas in Bihar Circle during the last three years (District-wise)

S. No.	Name of District	Nos. of Post Offices opened		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Munger	2	-	-
2.	Saran	3	-	-
3.	Nawada	2	-	-
4.	Gaya	4	-	-
5.	Jahanabad	1	-	-
6.	Nalanda	1	-	-
7.	Buxar	2	-	-
8.	Bhagalpur	1	-	-
9.	Patna	2	-	-
10.	Ranchi	4	-	-
11.	W. Singhbhum	4	-	-
12.	Palamau	3	-	-
13.	Bokaro	1	-	-
14.	Chapra	1	-	-
15.	Rohtas	1	-	-
16.	Banka	1	-	-
17.	Sitamarhi	2	-	-
18.	Dumka	3	-	-
19.	East Champaran	1	-	-
20.	West Champaran	1	-	-
21.	East Singhbhum	3	-	-
22.	Sahibgunj	2	-	-
23.	Lohardaga	8	-	-
24.	Vaishali	2	-	-
25.	Gumla	4	-	-
26.	Bhojpur	2	-	-
27.	Deoghar	1	-	-
28.	Madhepura	2	-	-
29.	Katihar	1	-	-
30.	Kishanganj	1	-	-
31.	Hazaribagh	1	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Muzaffarpur	5	-	-
33.	Siwan	2	-	-
34.	Godda	1	-	-
35.	Giridih	1	-	-
36.	Jamui	1	-	-
37.	Bhabhua	1	-	-
38.	Saharsa	2	-	-
39.	Supaul	1	-	-
40.	Araria	1	-	-
41.	Samastipur	3	-	-
42.	Darbhanga	1	-	-
43.	Purnea	1	-	-
44.	Madhubani	1	-	-
45.	Khagria	2	-	-
Total		90	-	-

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Assam

2400. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision was taken in the last annual report for setting up of telephone exchanges in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of telephone exchanges set up so far and the number of exchanges likely to be set up in the State during 1996-97, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present 285 telephone exchanges are functioning in the state of Assam. 10 New Telephone exchanges have been tentatively planned to be opened during 1996-97 at the following locations subject to availability of minimum required registered demand and infrastructure.

1. Kotamoni Bazar (Commissioned)
2. Rangachacua (Commissioned)
3. Singri
4. Deomornoigaon
5. Jhaklabanda
6. Bebejia
7. Jajuli
8. Ghilamara
9. Manikpur
10. Neepco Kathalguri

[Translation]

Allocation for Upliftment of Scheduled Tribes

2401. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the amount allocated for the implementation of welfare scheme for the upliftment of Scheduled Tribes in Bihar during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : The amount allocated by the Ministry of Welfare for the implementation of Welfare schemes for the upliftment of Scheduled Tribes in Bihar during each of the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount allocated
1993-94	4487.06
1994-95	2746.75
1995-96	4967.11

[English]

Time allotted to Nepali Programme

2402. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time allotted to each day to Nepali programmes on Calcutta Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Government have received representation for increase in time; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 10 minutes per day for four days in a week.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Electronic Exchanges in A.P.

2403. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic as well as electro-mechanical telephone exchanges functioning in Andhra Pradesh, as on date, district-wise; and

(b) the number of such new exchanges, proposed to be set up in the State, district-wise, during 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 1683 nos. of electronic

exchanges and 375 electro-mechanical exchanges in Andhra Pradesh Circle as per enclosed.

(b) Number of new exchanges proposed to be set up in the State, district-wise, during 1996-97 are furnished below :

S.No.	Name of District	No. of New exchanges proposed.
1.	Hyderabad	17
2.	Rangareddy	2
3.	Guntur	1
4.	Krishna	1
5.	Nellore	1
6.	Visakhapatnam	1
Total (in State)		23

The programme for 1997-98 is yet to be formulated.

STATEMENT

Andhra Pradesh Telecom.

Number of Telephone Exchanges Operating as on 30.6.1996.

S. No.	District Name	Number of Electronic Exchanges	Number of Electro-mechanical Exchanges
1	2	3	4
1.	Adilabad	49	0
2.	Ananthapur	81	51
3.	Chittoor	101	34
4.	Cuddapah	71	14
5.	East Godavari	107	6
6.	Guntur	113	5
7.	Hyderabad	43	6
8.	Karimnagar	62	40
9.	Khammam	77	0
10.	Krishna	114	10
11.	Kurnool	102	17
12.	Mahbubnagar	71	32
13.	Medak	60	29
14.	Nalgonda	65	10
15.	Nellore	69	24
16.	Nizamabad	45	31
17.	Prakasam	57	22
18.	Rangareddy	68	0
19.	Srikakulam	50	0
20.	Visakhapatnam	55	11

1	2	3	4
21.	Vizianagaram	44	1
22.	Warangal	45	28
23.	West Godavari	134	4
Total		1683	375

Recommendations made by the State Welfare Ministers

2404. SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the State Welfare Ministers for the welfare of minorities since January 1993 till date;

(b) the recommendations out of them implemented so far; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing the rest recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). As given in the statement attached.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Recommendations made by State Welfare Ministers who met on 2-3, Feb., 1996

Brief details of Recommendation	Action taken for implementation
1	2
1. Multi sectoral plans may be prepared for identified minorities concentration districts expeditiously.	1. The scheme of preparation of multi sectoral development plans for minorities concentration districts has been launched in March, 1996.
2. To ensure the speedy payment of ex-gratia to the victims of communal riots, Distt. Collectors may be authorised to draw money from treasury under TR 27 to be recouped by appropriate budgetary allocation.	2. Necessary guidelines have already been issued to States/UTs.
3. Steps may be taken for the effective	3. Steps are being taken to ensure the

1	2
monitoring of the accrual of benefits to Minorities under various educational, developmental and poverty alleviation programmes.	flow of data on this aspect from various Central Ministries/ Deptts. and States/ UTs to effectively monitor flow of benefits to minorities.
4. State/UTs have been asked to start special physical training programmes for eligible minority candidates to enable them to compete on equal terms with others in respect of recruitment of Police personnel in State/ UTs.	4. N e c e s s a r y instructions have already been issued to States/UTs in this regard.
5. Strengthening of State level Channelising Agencies of National level Development and Finance Corporation.	5. The matter is under considered of the Government.
6. The existing 15-Point Programme may be recast/updated quickly for effectively implementation.	6. The proposal is under consideration of the Govt. However, the emphasis is on the e f f e c t i v e implementation and monitoring of existing programme for the time being.

Import of Jelly Filled Cables

2405. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the department of telecommunications imported underground jelly-filled cables in 1989 for use by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether survey of the imported goods revealed that about 70 percent of the cable drums were damaged;

(d) if so, the value of the damaged goods;

(e) whether a claim has since been filed with the insurance company in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) A total of 930.5 km of Cable in different sizes was ordered for MTNL, Mumbai out of which 477.589 km was diverted to MTNL, Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

Out of total quantity 930.5 Kms, only quantity of 37.25 Km's was damaged i.e., about 4 percent.

(d), Rs. 6,38,24,578/-

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Claim has not been settled yet.

(g) M/s. Oriental Insurance Co. did not accept the liability against the loss.

(h) Since the claim was not accepted, the suit was filed by MTNL in High Court Mumbai vide High Court OOCJ Suit No. 3955 of 1990 and OOCJ Suit No. 3885 of 1990 against Shipping Corpn. of India and M/s. Oriental Insurance Co. to recover the cost of the damaged cables.

[Translation]

Vigilance Cases

2406. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officials involved in vigilance cases in the headquarters and Zonal officers of Food Corporation of India during each of the last two years and current year; and

(b) the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Statement - I showing number of vigilance cases against the officials of FCI Headquarters and its Zonal Offices during the last 2 years and the current year is attached.

(b) Details with regard to action taken against the officials found guilty are indicated in the attached Statement-II. Departmental enquiries against officials are initiated after allegations are prima facie established and disciplinary action is possible only after conclusion of the enquiries.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Vigilance cases against the Officials of FCI Headquarters and Zonal Offices during the last two years

	1994				1995				1996 (Up to March)			
	Opening Balance	Cases initiated	Cases Finalised	Closing Balance	Opening Balance	Cases initiated	Cases Finalised	Closing Balance	Opening Balance	Cases initiated	Cases Finalised	Closing Balance
Headquarters	33	14	24	23	23	18	21	20	20	15	7	28
North Zone	375	344	521	198	198	372	346	224	224	110	91	243
West Zone	132	119	146	105	105	105	144	66	66	29	47	48
East Zone	154	70	98	126	126	73	85	114	114	6	20	100
North East Zone	50	23	11	62	62	23	9	76	76	3	5	74
South Zone	29	45	43	31	31	50	42	39	39	28	14	53
Total	773	615	843	545	545	641	647	539	539	191	184	546

STATEMENT-II

Details of Penalty Imposed on the Guilty Offices/Officials during the last two years

Nature of Penalty		Zone						Total
		Hqrs.	North	West	East	North East	South	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1994								
i. Dismissal/Removal/Compulsorily retired.		-	6	1	1	-	-	8
ii. Reduction in rank		1	22	2	1	-	-	26
iii. Reduction in time scale of pay.		-	10	5	8	1	4	28
iv. With-holding of increment of pay/recovery from pay.		6	233	60	15	1	16	331
v. With-holding of promotion		-	16	-	-	1	1	18
vi. Censure		4	101	43	10	-	6	164
Total		11	388	111	35	3	27	575
1995								
Zone								
i. Dismissal/Removal/Compulsorily retired.		2	14	3	-	-	-	19
ii. Reduction in rank		-	12	2	5	-	-	19
iii. Reduction in time scale of pay.		2	26	2	18	1	1	50

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
iv	With-holding of increment of pay/ recovery from pay.	-	160	71	16	-	5	252
v	With-holding of promotion	-	16	7	-	-	-	23
vi	Censure	7	32	35	9	-	8	91
	Total	11	260	120	48	1	14	454

1996 (Upto March)

Zone

i	Dismissal/Removal/ Compulsorily retired.	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
ii	Reduction in rank	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
iii	Reduction in time scale of pay.	1	6	1	4	-	1	13
iv	With-holding of increment of pay/ recovery from pay.	-	50	7	4	2	-	63
v	With-holding of promotion	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
vi	Censure	3	10	6	4	-	6	29
	Total	4	78	14	12	2	7	117

Construction Labourers

2407. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of building construction labourers in Delhi as on date;

(b) the details of welfare scheme prepared for the welfare of labourers engaged in building construction in Delhi and other big cities during the last three years and till date;

(c) the allocation of funds for these schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the number of labourers benefited by these schemes during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) As per 1981 Census, 28,762 persons amongst main workers were engaged in Delhi as bricklayers and other construction workers. Figures of 1991 Census on occupational classification are still not available.

(b) The Central Government have promulgated two Ordinances, namely, (i) the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 1996 and (ii) the

Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Ordinance, 1996 on 20.6.96 which *inter alia* seek to provide for regulating the employment and service conditions of construction workers and to establish a welfare fund.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 3 crore is proposed during the remaining part of the year 1996-97 for the purposes of carrying out the purposes of the two ordinances referred to above.

(d) The Central legislation is expected to benefit about 8.5 million building and other construction workers in the country.

Setting up of Sugar Mills in Cooperative Sector

2408. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the policy of the Government in regard to setting up of sugar mills in cooperative sector;

(b) the present pending position of applications for setting up of cooperative sugar units, State-wise; and

(c) the incentives being provided or proposed to be provided for encouraging the weaker section for setting up of sugar units in cooperative sector?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) As per the Licensing Police Guidelines for sugar industry announced vide Press Note No. 16 dated 8.11.91 preference in licensing is to be given to proposals from the cooperative sector and the public sector in that order, as compared to the private sector.

(b) and (c). As on 30.6.96 state-wise position of applications pending examination by Screening Committee for grant of letters of intent for setting up of new sugar factories in cooperative sector is as under :

(Position as on 30.6.96)

S.No.	State	No. of pending proposals
1.	Karnataka	2
2.	Madhya Pradesh	3
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Tamil Nadu	2
Total		8

There is no special scheme for the weaker section to set up sugar units.

[English]

Incomplete schemes in Gujarat

2409. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether some schemes in Gujarat have remained incomplete though sanctioned by the Union Government for development of Tourism; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) and (b). During the Eighth Five Year Plan period, out of the fourteen sanctioned schemes, 10 have been completed and objects are at various stages of execution.

[Translation]

Accidents in Industrial Undertakings

2410. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents which have taken place in Industrial establishments of Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have issued instructions to Industrial establishments in the State to provide adequate safety as well as to check recurrence of such accidents therein; and

(c) if so, the number of industrial establishments which have adopted these safety measures and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the number of accidents in registered factories in the state during 1994 and 1995 was as under :

Year	No. of fatal accident	No. of Non-fatal accidents	Total No. of accidents
1994	85	2632	2717
1995	102	1967	2069

(b) Various provisions in the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh thereunder already provide for the action required to be taken by the managements in the matter of providing adequate safety and to check occurrence/recurrence of accidents. Instructions for providing adequate safety and for checking recurrence of such accidents therein were also issued to the managements of factories where accident investigations were carried out by State Factory Inspectorates.

(c) All occupiers/managers of the factories are required to comply with the necessary provisions in the factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed by the State Government thereunder. Accident investigation in respect of all fatal accidents are carried out by concerned regional factory inspector. In cases where fatal accidents had resulted from negligence of safety provisions by the managements, the relevant provisions in Factories Act, 1948 and UP Factory Rules are further brought to the notice of occupiers/managers of the factories by way of inspection reports. In case of non-compliance prosecutions are launched in the appropriate courts so as to ensure such safety measures as well as to check recurrence of such accidents. Prosecutions in case of 51 and 66 fatal accidents resulting from violation of safety provisions were launched in the courts during 1994 and 1995 respectively. The legal provisions and instructions regarding safety measures issued during investigation are complied with, which is also ensured in the course of subsequent investigation.

Sick Sugar Mills

2411. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of sick sugar mills in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any action plan to revive these sick sugar mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these sugar mills likely to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). These provisions have been extended to cover Government Companies also. 30 sick sugar mills were referred to

BIFR upto 30.6.1996. Of these references, 11 were dismissed as non-maintainable. A statement showing the State-wise list of remaining 19 sick sugar mills, as furnished by BIFR, is attached.

(b) to (d). Sugar Mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down. No time limit can be prescribed for their revival.

STATEMENT

Statewise List of Sick Sugar Companies with BIFR as on 30.6.1996.

S.No.	State/Company	
	Andhra Pradesh	
1.	Challapalli Sugar	Declared no longer sick
2.	Kirlampudi Sugar Mills	Declared no longer sick
	Bihar	
3.	Champaran Sugar	Winding up recommended
	Kerala	
4.	The Travancore Sugars & Chemicals Ltd.	Under enquiry
	Karnataka	
5.	Salarjung Sugar	Winding up recommended
6.	Gangavati Sugar	Winding up recommended
7.	Davangare Sugar Co.	Declared no longer sick
	Madhya Pradesh	
8.	Jiwaji Rao Sugar	Winding up recommended
	Maharashtra	
9.	Godavari Sugar Mills	Declared no longer sick
	Punjab	
10.	Bhagwanpura Sugar Mills	Rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned
	Rajasthan	
11.	Mewar Sugar	Rehabilitation scheme sanctioned
	Uttar Pradesh	
12.	Lakshmi Sugar Mills	Rehabilitation scheme sanctioned
13.	Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd.	Rehabilitation scheme sanctioned
14.	Servani Sugar Syndicate Ltd.	Rehabilitation scheme sanctioned
15.	Swadeshi Mining and Mfg. Co. Ltd.	Winding up notice
16.	Ghatampur Sugar Co. Ltd.	Under enquiry
17.	Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corpn. Ltd.	Under enquiry
18.	Nandgunj Sihori Sugar Company Ltd.	Under enquiry
	West Bengal	
19.	Ramnuger Cane (Khitani Agro Complex)	Rehabilitation scheme sanctioned

Setting up of Steel Plant

2412. SHRI MADHABA SARDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Nayagarh Steel Plant at Bileipada, Barsratpur in Orissa keeping in view the lot of iron ore mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). The Union Government do not have any proposal at present to set up any steel plant at Bileipada, Barsratpur in Orissa. However, according to information available from the State Government of Orissa, the following three companies have proposed to set up iron and steel plants at Bileipada and Nayagarh in District Keonjhar in Orissa :

Name of the Unit & Location	Capacity (Million TPA)
National Steel Industries Ltd.	Ph. I : 0.88 (Steel)
Nayagarh, District Keonjhar	Ph. II : 1.20 (-do-)
Mid West Iron and Steel Ltd.	Ph. I : 0.20 (Pig Iron)
Bileipada, District Keonjhar	Ph. II 0.50 (Steel)
Asian Alloys Limited	Ph. I : 0.50 (Pig Iron)
Bileipada, District Keonjhar.	Ph. II : 1.00 (-do-)

Funds to N.M.F.D.C.

2413. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds have been released to the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of amount released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). The Central Government have contributed Rs. 89 crores towards the equity of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has contributed Rs. 7 crores towards its equity and the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have contributed Rs. 1 crore each. The other State Governments have been requested to participate in the equity of the Corporation.

Recommendations by National Action Forum

2414. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that National Action Forum for social justice since worked out a series of recommendations for ensuring the economic self-

reliance, equality of opportunities for the population belonging to other backward classes;

(b) if so, the essential features of the recommendations; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Action Forum for Social Justice has recommended reservation in Educational Institutions for OBCs and introduction of Welfare scheme for OBCs like Post-Matric Scholarship, Residential Schools for OBC Boys and Girls, Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls, Overseas Scholarship, Leases, Licence and Permits for stone and sand quarries etc. where OBCs are engaged to be given to OBCs only, constitution of Expert Committee to work out meaningful and integrated models for the development of backward classes, setting up of Aarakshan Nyaya Adalats, constitutional amendment to introduce the words "development and welfare of backward classes" in the list-III of concurrent list, etc.

(c) The Government is examining the feasibility of implementation of these recommendations and their financial implications.

Development of Villages under Ambedkar Villages scheme

2415. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of villages particularly in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh identified for development under the Ambedkar Villages Scheme during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the financial allocation made in each of the last two years;

(c) whether the drinking water, school, electricity and health facilities have been provided in the villages under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Demand to Rename Sahar and Santacruz Airports

2416. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a public demand to rename Sahar Airport and Santacruz Airport as Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport and J.R.D. Tata Airport respectively; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra had

sent a request to rename the Santacruz after the name of late JRD Tata and the Sahar International airport after Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

(b) The Central Government has already decided in 1988 to rename Bombay Airport as Jawaharlal Nehru International Airport after bringing it to international standards.

[Translation]

Food Security Policy

2417. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to work out an appropriate Food Security Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). An appropriate policy on Food Security in the country is already under operation. The present policy provides for minimum support prices to the farmers for their produce, procurement by the public agencies of wheat, rice and coarse grains offered at the minimum support prices; and supply of adequate foodgrains to the States/UTs for distribution through the public distribution system. The policy also envisages maintenance of minimum buffer stocks of rice and wheat in the country on different dates in a year.

(c) In view of answer to (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

Telecommunication facilities in Manipur

2418. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any Plan to provide telephone facilities at District/Sub-Divisional Headquarters in Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of District and Sub-Divisional Headquarters which have been provided/not provided with this facility in the State, so far; and

(d) the time by which all the District/Sub-Divisional Headquarters are likely to be provided with such facility?

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

(b) to (d). Telephone facility has been provided at all the 8 District Headquarters and 14 out of 30 Sub-Divisional Headquarters of Manipur. All the remaining

16 Sub-Divisional Headquarters are planned to be provided with telephone facility during the current year 1996-97. These 16 Sub-Divisional Headquarters are :

Chapikarong, Chinghat, Henglep, Porompat, Kamjong, Kasemkhullen, Nungba, Paomata, Phungyar, Saikul, Thinghat, Tadubi, Tamei, Thanlon, Tipaimikh, Tousem.

Tourism Spots in Gujarat

2419. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the tourism spots in Gujarat especially in Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat which are not yet linked by air or rail; and

(b) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to link these places by air, rail or roads?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) There are several tourist spots identified by the State Government in Gujarat including Saurashtra-Kutch region. However, tourist spots which are presently airlined are Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Kandla, Keshod, Porbandar, Rajkot and Vadodra.

Modhera, where a sun Temple is situated does not have a rail line, but is connected by road and is served by Mehsana rail head. However, Dwarka, Porbandar, Veraval, Junagarh, Chorwad, Palitana, Kosad, DIU and Sasangir are major tourist centres in Saurashtra/Kutch region of Gujarat State and are linked by rail and road.

(b) The linkage of tourist places by air depends upon the commercial viability. Similarly, linkage of tourist places by rail is based on the availability of resources and inter-se priority as also specific requests from the State Governments.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

2420. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether locations have been identified for setting up the new iron and steel projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the targetted annual production of steel during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The "Guidelines for Entrepreneurs in Iron and Steel Industry" issued by the Government in October, 1992 identified 25 possible sites in the country for setting up new iron and steel projects and coke making plants. These include 2 in Andhra Pradesh, 2 in Bihar, 1 in Goa, 3 in Gujarat, 2 Karnataka, 3 in Maharashtra, 6 in Madhya Pradesh, 3 in Orissa, 1 Uttar Pradesh and 2 in West Bengal. No specific sites were indicated for steel

plants based on the Electric Arc Furnace route and using steel melting scrap/sponge iron as raw material. It has also been emphasised in the Guidelines that the list of possible sites is only indicative. The choice of location is left to the best commercial/economic judgement of the entrepreneur who would need to undertake detailed feasibility studies before taking a final decision.

(c) The anticipated production of finished steel during 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan is 23.504 million tonnes.

Loss suffered by FCI

2421. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has suffered losses worth crores of rupees during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State/ Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor in each case;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the causes of losses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such losses?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

2422. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections, as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to clear these applications expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The statewide number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections as on 30.6.96 is given in the Statement attached.

(b) It is proposed to provide 24.5 lakh new telephone connections during 1996-97. The remaining waiting list will be progressively cleared during 1997-98.

STATEMENT

Details regarding number of pending applications for grant of telephone connections as on 30.6.1996.

S.No.	Name of State	Waiting List as on 30.6.1996
1.	Andhra Pradesh	175379
2.	Assam	22590
3.	Bihar	48856
4.	Gujarat (including Dadra, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	254602
5.	Haryana	91888
6.	Himachal Pradesh	37696
7.	J and K	32288
8.	Karnataka	195300
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshadweep (U.T.))	505870
10.	Madhya Pradesh	48326
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa, excluding Bombay)	278507
12.	Bombay	41682
13.	North East (including Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	10510
14.	Orissa	22427
15.	Punjab (including Chandigarh (U.T.))	206872
16.	Rajasthan	161462
17.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry (U.T.))	394990
18.	Uttar Pradesh	152115
19.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	126050
20.	Delhi	51165
Total		2858583

National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation

2423. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons benefited ever since the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation came into existence;

(b) the extent to which the Corporation has achieved success in improving the economic conditions of the beneficiaries; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to make this Corporation successful and useful?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation has assisted 6924 persons between September, 1994 and 30.6.1996 under the schemes implemented through the State Channelising Agencies.

(b) The schemes assisted by the Corporation have been recently started and it is too early to determine the extent of improvement of the economic conditions of the beneficiaries.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to make the Corporation successful and useful :

- (i) Central Government and some State Governments have contributed to equity of the Corporation.
- (ii) Income tax exemption has been given to the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation by the Central Government.
- (iii) Publicity has been given through Mass Media regarding the activities of the Corporation.
- (iv) The performance of the Corporation is reviewed regularly on monthly basis by calling for progress reports.

TV Tower

2424. SHRI SUKH RAM :

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

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

(a) whether the Government have identified the places for installation of low power/high power TV transmitters in various States;

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

(c) whether the work on the said project has been started;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor in each case; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) This is an ongoing process and transmitters are coming up at a number of places. Some other places have been tentatively identified where project may taken up subject to availability of funds, infrastructural facilities and inter se priority.

(b) the details are given in the attached statement.

(c) to (f). While the project shown as under implementation in the Annexure are at various stages of implementation and expected to be completed during

1996-97 depending on availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities, the proposed schemes are yet to be sanctioned by the competent authority. The normal lead time for completion of these proposed schemes would vary between 2 to 4 years from date of sanction of the scheme.

STATEMENT

List of TV Transmitters under Implementation/ Envisaged to be set up State-wise and Location-wise in the Country

State/ Union Territory	Location Projects under Implementation	Projects Proposed to be set up
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	HPTs Kurnool Rajamundry Hyderabad(DD-II)	HPTs Warangal Ongole
	LPTs Kadiri Belampally Markapur Tamblapally Fasra Padanandipadu Tuni Rajampet Banswada Macharia Bhainsa Narsaraopet Achampet Jadcheria Darsi	LPTs Vinkonda Kondukur Kanigiri Duttalur Madipardu
	VLPs Seetampetta	
Auranchal Pradesh	LPT Miao	LPT Roing
	VLPTs Pipu Dipu/Nayapin Yomoha Tali/Tuting Ninyong/Yingkong Kalaktang Chayangtajo Lengding Khimyong Nampon Hawai Kronii Hunli Geku	

	1	2	3		1	2	3
		Boleng Mariyang Mechuka Keying Darak Liromoba Tirbin Gensi Taliha Barinjo Pain Sagaiee Seijosa Rupa Bukto Transposer Sankhiview				Rajula Khambalia Amod Mangrol (Surat) Jhagadia Dhavi VLPTs Sagwara LPTs Charkhi Dadri Rohtak	LPTs Lunavada Botad Jamjodhpur Raipipla Vyara Dharampur Umargaon Modasa HPT Hissar LPTs Mahandergarh Firozpur Jhinka/ Pinangwan Tohana HPT Dharamshala LPTs Ashapuri Mandi (DD-II) Naina Devi VLPTs Nehri Kandaghat Dalash
Assam			HPTs Teizpur Jorhat Bongaigaon/ Kokrajhar LPTs Bokakhat Silchar (DD-II) Dibrugarh(DD-II) Transposer Guwahati		Haryana		
					Himachal Pradesh	LPTs Sujanpur Sunder Nagar Rampur VLPTs Chaupal Kotkhai Jahaima Bharmour Dasni Holi Parwanoo Dalhausi Rohru Nichar Tissa Chauri Khas Pirbhayanu Jhatingri Kaja Udaipur Awah Devi Karsog Banjar Chunghai	
Bihar	LPTs Noamundy Kodarma Phoolparas Saraikela Lakhisarai Sikandra Mushabani VLPTs Simdaga Garhwa	HPTs Motihari Jamshedpur Deogarh LPTs Qasba Rosera Baudh Gaya Jhumri Talaya					
Goa	LPT Panji (DD-II)						
Gujarat	HPT Bhuj (pmt.) LPTs Morvi Dessa	HPTs Palitana Surat Vadora Radhanpur Junagarh			Jammu & Kashmir	LPTs Rajouri Poonch Udhampur Transposer Nagrota	HPTs Baushera Kathua VLPTs Darhal

1	2	3
		Tangste Ringdom Gompa Mulbekh/Shargol Bafliaz Khaisi Chushal Batalik Tutok Basecamp (Siachin)
Karnataka	HPTs Gulbarga Bangalore (DD-II)	HPTs Mangalore Mysore Raichur Hassan
	LPTs Gokak Kamkhandi Harpanhilli Basva Kalyan Sagar Arsikere Hattihal Puttur Tumkur	
	VLPTs Madhugiri Sulya Badami	
Kerala	HPT Calicut (pmt.)	HPT Cannanore
	LPTs Thodupuzha Adoor	LPTs Pala Cannanore (DD II)
	Attapaddi	
	VLPTs Munnar (Devikolam)	VLPTs Erattupetta Mundakayam
Madhya Pradesh	LPTs Gadervara Bada Malehra Kelas Sakti Nayryanpur Garot Sarangarh Bhanpura Sitamau Pipria	HPTs Ambikapur Guna Shahdol Sagar
		LPTs Kharod Patyhaigaon Multai

1	2	3
	VLPTs Singrauli Koylibeda Pendra Road Diamond Mining Project Modakpal Bijapur	
Maharashtra		HPTs Chandrapur Jalgaon Mahapatgarh Brahampuri
	LPTs Ambet Shripur Navapur Aheri Umarkhed Khopoli Mangaon Satana Sironoha Chandur Chikoli Mahad	LPTs Ravar Pandharkavada Mangalwedha Patna (Satara) Khanpur Chimur Akalkot Daryapur Dhagaon Arjuni Kurkheda Sindhvahi Phalton Karanja (Wardha) Pulgaon Tiwsa Sakili Tumsar Bhandara Pimpalner-Sakri
	VLPTs Malwan Malkapur Bhokar Transposer Badiapur	VLPTs Wai Koregaon Asthi
Manipur	HPT Churachandpur	
	VLPTs Moreh Kangpokpi	VLPT Jiribam
Meghalaya		Transposer Shillong
Mizoram	VLPT Champhai	LPTs Saiha Lungle (DD-II) Transposer Aizwal

	1	2	3
		Jodhpur	Bikaner Nathdwara
		LPTs	LPTs
		Bari Sadri	Navalgarh
		Hindaun	Sangwana
		Makrana	Kushalgarh
		Karauli	Pirawa
		Phalodi	Sikrai
		Rajgarh (Churu)	Nagar
		Mt. Abu	Kishangarh (Alwar)
		Partapgarh	Nashirabad
		Nohar	Bhinmal
		Shadpura	Sojat
		Nimaj	Bali
		Kesriaji	Snchor
		Tibi	Dariawad
			Bharatpur
			Surajgarh
			Kishnagarh (Ajmer)
			Vijaynagar
			Andhi
			Viratnagar
			Tara Nagar
		VLPTs	VLPTs
		Gangapur (Bhilwara)	Kotra
		Lalsot	
		Laxmangarh	
		Neem ka Thana	
Sikkim		VLPTs	
		Singtam	
		Rangpo	
		Zorethang	
Tamil Nadu			HPTs
			Dharmapuri
			Kumbakonam
			Tirunelveli
		LPTs	LPTs
		Pattukottai	Nattam
		Attur	Gingee
		Shankaran Kovil	Palani
		Krishnagiri	Ambasamudram
		Thiruvaiyaru	Denkanikotta
		Erode	Vandavasi
			Cheyyar
			Kallakurchi
			Chidambaram
		VLPTs	
		Mettupalayam	
		Valparai	

1	2	3
Tripura	LPTs Kailasahar Teliamura	LPTs Jolaibari Amarpur Ambassa Kailasahar (DD-II)
	VLPT Dharmanagar	
Uttar Pradesh	HPT Banda	HPTs Lakhimpur Jalaun
@@	LPTs Almora Auraiya Ganj Dundwara Haldwani Mahoba Mau Ranipur Naugarh New Tehri Ruduli Kasganj Karnprayag Nanpara Athdama Naini Danda Barakot Amroha	
	VLPTs Chamoli Chaukhatia Joshimath Devprayag Lansdown Pratapnagar Binsar Basot/Bikhiasen Gajja Fetehparbat Khaitparbat Rajgarhi Sirakota Vaikuntham Saahiya Tharali Ruderprayag Naugaonkhal Kedarnath Badrinath Guarikund Maneshwar Manikpur Dhausi Manila	VLPTs Nandprayad Pokhri

1	2	3
West Bengal		HPTs Balurghat Kharagpur Krishnanagar Shantiniketan
	LPTs Farakka Rayna Murshidabad (DD-II) Basanti Bishnupur	LPTs Garhbeta Bairampur Cooch Behar
		VLPT Baghmandir
Andaman & Nicobar Island	LPT Port Blair (DD-II)	
	VLPT Great Nicobar	
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	LPT Silvassa	
Daman & Diu	LPT Diu	
Lakshadwip Islands		LPTs Andrott Minicoy Amini
Pondicherry	LPT Pondicherry (DD-II)	HPT Pondicherry

ISD/STD/PCO Booth

2425. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ISD/STD/PCO Booths functioning in Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana, district-wise;

(b) whether the average number of such booths in these States are far less as compared to other states;

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

(d) the number of applications for allotment of booths received during the last three years, and till date, above State-wise;

(e) the number of booths allotted during the above period, above State-wise;

(f) the number of applications pending for allotment during the above period, above State-wise;

(g) the time by which these are likely to be cleared;

(h) whether most of these booths do not function properly and this cause very inconvenience to the people of the State; and

(i) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Doordarshan and Akashwani as Autonomous Corporation

2426. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make Doordarshan and Akashwani as autonomous corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaints have been received by the Government for not giving representation in telecasting programmes of parliamentary proceedings and political parties in accordance with the number of Members in Parliament of various political parties;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 provided for establishment of an autonomous corporation for Akashwani and Doordarshan. However, certain changes, inter-alia, in the Act may be required in the light of the rapidly changing broadcasting scenario. A three member Expert Group has been constituted on 28.12.95 to review the provision of the Prasar Bharati Act and to make recommendations. Further action would be taken on receipt of the recommendations of the Group.

(c) No specific complaints have been received in this regard.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Ban on East-West Airlines

2427. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have put a ban on the flights of East-West Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the ban on the flights of East-West Airlines is likely to be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Electronic Exchanges in M.P.

2428. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an electronic exchange has been set up at Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the work of laying cable wires in the district is in progress;

(c) if so, the names of places where the cable wire are being laid and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) whether group dialling facilities is being made available in all the areas of Bilaspur district;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The places where cable wires are being laid are Korba, Darri, Bilaspur, Takhatpur, Mumgoli, Jorhagaon, Pendra, Betalpur, and Balco and the work is likely to be completed during the year 1996-97.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. Out of 73 places, the group dialling has been made available at 50 places of Bilaspur District. In the remaining 23 places, the facility of group dialling is planned to be extended by March, 1997.

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

[English]

Doordarshan Kendras, Goa

2429. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the programme generating facility at Panaji, Gao to a fulfilled Doordarshan Kendra; and

(b) whether the Government also propose to increase the time slot of Marathi items for the benefit of Marathi artists in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Doordarshan Kendra

functioning at Panaji comprises a High Power (10 KW) TV transmitter and a Programme Generation Facility/Centre having a Studio of 50 Sq. Metres size, along with associated equipment. There is no approved scheme, at present, to augment the Studio facility at Doordarshan Kendra, Panaji in Goa.

(b) No decision in this regard has been taken.

[Translation]

Hospitals and Dispensaries in U.P.

2430. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of ESI hospitals/dispensaries set up till now in Uttar Pradesh and locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more ESI hospitals/dispensaries in the State during 1996-97 and 1997-88; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) and (c). The ESI Corporation has planned to set up two more dispensaries one each at NOIDA and Basti in Uttar Pradesh. However, there is no proposal to open a new ESI Hospital in UP.

STATEMENT

A. ESI Hospitals in U.P.

1. ESI (Genl.) Hospital, Kanpur.
2. ESI (Chest) Hospital, Kanpur.
3. ESI (Maternity) Hospital, Kanpur.
4. ESI Hospital, Modi Nagar.
5. ESI Hospital, Naini (Allahabad)
6. ESI Hospital, Lucknow
7. ESI Hospital, Sahibabad.
8. ESI Hospital, Agra.
9. ESI Hospital, Saharanpur.
10. ESI Hospital, Kidwai Nagar (Kanpur)
11. ESI Hospital, Bareilly.
12. ESI Hospital, Jajmau (Kanpur).
13. ESI Hospital, Noida.
14. ESI Hospital, Aligarh.
15. ESI Hospital, Pipri.
16. ESI Hospital, Varanasi.

B. ESI Dispensaries (Full Time)

1. ESI Dispensary, Dya Ka Parao, Kanpur.
2. -do- Riapurwa, Kanpur.
3. -do- Babupurwa, Kanpur.
4. -do- Benajhabar, Kanpur.

5. ESI Dispensary, Chamanganj, Kanpur.
6. -do- Nala Road, Kanpur.
7. -do- Humayunbagh, Kanpur.
8. -do- Gwaltoli/K.Lines, Kanpur.
9. -do- Ratanlal Nagar, Kanpur
10. -do- Sooterganj, Kanpur.
11. -do- Rambagh, Kanpur.
12. -do- Raniganj, Kanpur.
13. -do- Rali Bazar, Kanpur.
14. -do- Dalelpurwa, Kanpur.
15. -do- Nawabganj, Kanpur.
16. -do- Meerpur, Kanpur.
17. -do- Patkapur, Kanpur.
18. -do- Shastri Nagar, Kanpur.
19. -do- Govindnagar, Kanpur.
20. -do- Juhi Ist, Kanpur
21. -do- Juhi IInd, Kanpur.
22. -do- Juhi IIIrd, Kanpur.
23. -do- Kabari Market, Kanpur.
24. -do- Kabari Market, Kanpur
Ayurvedic
25. -do- 80 Ft. Road, Kanpur.
26. -do- Jajmau, Kanpur.
27. -do- Panki, Kanpur.
28. -do- Unnao
29. -do- Etawah
30. -do- Jhansi
31. -do- Farrukhabad
32. -do- Jiwani Mandi, Agra.
33. -do- Chippitola, Agra.
34. -do- Nanohi, Agra
35. -do- Hirangaon
36. -do- Firozabad
37. -do- Aligarh.
38. -do- Hathras Ist
39. -do- Hathras IInd
40. -do- Sasni.
41. -do- Mainpuri.
42. -do- Shikohabad
43. -do- Mathura
44. -do- Nehru Market, Saharanpur.
45. -do- Civil Lines, Saharanpur.
46. -do- Haridwar.
47. -do- Roorki
48. -do- Nazibabad
49. -do- Rest Camp, Dehradun.
50. -do- Prem Nagar, Dehradun

51.	ESI. Dispensary, Rishikesh
52.	-do- Kamlanagar
53.	-do- New Raj Nagar
54.	-do- Mohan Nagar
55.	-do- Pasaundra
56.	-do- Suryanagar
57.	-do- Hapur
58.	-do- Khurza
59.	-do- Sikandrabad
60.	-do- Bulandshar
61.	-do- Loni
62.	-do- Kiran Colony
63.	-do- Jindal Nagar
64.	-do- Izzat nagar, Bareilly.
65.	-do- C.B. Ganj, Bareilly.
66.	-do- Civil Lines, Bareilly.
67.	-do- Fort Area, Rampur.
68.	-do- Jwalanagar.
69.	-do- Muradabad (M)
70.	-do- Shahjahanpur
71.	-do- Kashipur
72.	-do- Lalkuan
73.	-do- Govindpuri
74.	-do- Oil Mill Gate
75.	-do- Santi Nagar, Meerut
76.	-do- Partapur
77.	-do- Muzaffarnagar
78.	-do- Aishbagh, Lucknow
79.	-do- Sarojni Nagar.
80.	-do- Golagani.
81.	-do- Mahanagar.
82.	-do- Akbarpur.
83.	-do- Barabanki.
84.	-do- Raibareilly.
85.	-do- Sandila
86.	-do- Sitapur.
87.	-do- Civil Lines, Allahabad.
88.	-do- Mumfordganj
89.	-do- Naini Ist
90.	-do- Naini IInd
91.	-do- Mirzapur (Sethua).
92.	-do- Churk
93.	-do- K.C.I. Renukot
94.	-do- Renukoot (S.Bhadra).
95.	-do- Lahurabir, Varanasi.
96.	-do- Town Hall.
97.	-do- Bhelupur.

98.	ESI. Dispensary, Industrial Estate.
99.	-do- Chandauli
100.	-do- Bhadohi.
101.	-do- Maunath Bhanjan
102.	-do- Gorakhpur.
103.	-do- Sahjanwan
104.	-do- Sardarnagar.
105.	-do- Muduadhi
106.	-do- Shivpuri.
107.	-do- Sector-12, Noida.
108.	-do- Sector-15, Noida.
109.	-do- Rania.
110.	ESI Ayurvedic Dispensary, Kabari Market, Kanpur.
111.	-do- Naini, Allahabad.
112.	-do- Lucknow.
113.	-do- Agra.
114.	-do- Modinagar.
115.	-do- Sahibabad.
116.	-do- Bareilly.
117.	-do- Saharanpur.
118.	-do- Jajmau, Kanpur.
119.	-do- Kidwainagar, Kanpur.
120.	-do- Pandunagar, Kanpur.
121.	ESI. Homoeopathic Dispensary, Govindnagar, Kanpur.
122.	-do- Jajmau, Kanpur.
123.	-do- Kidwainagar, Kanpur
124.	-do- Sarvodyanagar, Kanpur.
125.	-do- Naini, Allahabad.
126.	-do- Lucknow.
127.	-do- Agra.
128.	-do- Modinagar.
129.	-do- Shibabad.
130.	-do- Baeilly.
131.	-do- Saharanpur
132.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, 'A' Kanpur.
133.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, 'B' Kanpur.
134.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, 'A' Agra.
135.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, 'B' Agra.
136.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, New Agra.
137.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, Etmadpur.
138.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, Moradabad.
139.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, Bareilly.
140.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, Allahabad.
141.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, Varanasi.
142.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, 'A' Lucknow.
143.	ESI Mobile Dispensary, 'B' Locknow.

144. ESI Mobile Dispensary, Jhansi.
 145. ESI Mobile Dispensary, Rishikesh.
 146. ESI Mobile Dispensary, NEPZ, Noida, Phase-II.

Serials

2431. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :
 SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
 DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

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

(a) the serials which are being telecast on Doordarshan network and Metro-channel continuously for the last three years;

(b) the reasons for their continuance for such a long period;

(c) the norms fixed for allotting time for different serials;

(d) whether the Government propose to frame any policy regarding the telecast of different serials so that time could be allotted to new serials also;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the name and objectives of each serial being telecast during the last three months which aim at establishing social equality?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No serial being telecast at present has been on air at the same channel for more than three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The subject requirement, popularity ratings and commercial viability are the criteria for allotting time to different serials.

(d) and (e). Doordarshan decides the programme schedule on its different channels keeping in mind, inter-alia, its overall programme requirement from time to time ensuring in the process a judicious mix of old and new programmes on each channel.

(f) No serial having a storyline contrary to the concept of social equality is accepted for telecast on Doordarshan. However, it is difficult to quantify or name the serials establishing social equality as the message is always very subtle and shuns propagandist approach.

Welfare Schemes in Backward Areas of Maharashtra

2432. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes being

implemented by the Union Government in the backward areas of Maharashtra for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the time by which these schemes are being implemented;

(c) whether the Union Government are reviewing the said schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). The Welfare schemes being implemented for the upliftment of SC/ST in Maharashtra including its backward areas alongwith the time since when these are being implemented are given in the attached statement.

There are no separate schemes being implemented specifically in the backward areas of Maharashtra for the upliftment of SC/ST.

(c) and (d). The schemes are being reviewed periodically and before end of each Plan Period. The schemes are further reviewed in the periodical meetings with the State Government implementing agencies and target groups and steps are taken to modify the scheme as per the recommendations agreed upon on the meetings.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	The time by which these schemes is being implemented
1	2	3
1.	SCA to SCP	1980
2.	Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporation.	1978-79
3.	National Sch. Caste & Sch. Tribes Finance & Development Corporation.	1989-90
4.	Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers & their Dependents	1991-92
5.	Post-Matric Scholarships for SC/ST students.	1944-45
6.	Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children whose Parents are engaged in unclean occupations.	1977-78
7.	Book Banks for SC/ST students.	1978-79
8.	Girls Hostels for SCs.	1961-62
9.	Boys Hostels for SCs.	1989-90
10.	Coaching & Allied Scheme.	1961-62
11.	Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST students.	1987-88

1	2	3
12.	Implementation of PCR Atrocities Act.	1980-81
13.	Aid to Vol. Organisations. for SCs	1979-80
14.	Research & Training for SCs.	1950-51
15.	Dr. Ambedkar Centenary.	1990-91
16.	Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan.	1990-91
17.	Aid to Voluntary Organisations for STs.	1979-80
18.	Grant to aid to State Tribal Development Corp. for M.F.P. Operations.	1992-93
19.	Girls Hostels for STs.	1961-62
20.	Boys Hostels for STs.	1989-90
21.	Ashram schools in TSP Areas.	1990-91
22.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.	1992-93
23.	Educational Complex in Low literacy Pockets for the Development of ST Girls Literacy in Tribal Areas.	1993-94
24.	Research & Training :-	
(a)	Grants to Tribal Research institutes & Award to Research Fellowships.	1950-51
(b)	Supporting Projects of All India or Inter State Nature for STs.	1950-51
25.	Investment in TRIFED	1987-88
26.	Price Support to TRIFED	1987-88
27.	Grant-in-aid to TRIFED	1987-88
28.	Development of Oils & Oilseeds.	1987-88

Criteria for Sale of Wheat, Rice and Sugar to exporters

2433. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government for sale of wheat, rice and sugar to exporters;

(b) the number of applications received by the Government from the exporters for getting the above mentioned items for export during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the applications approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

Wheat and Rice :

(a) In order to reduce the surplus stocks during

1995-96, the Govt. authorised FCI to export/sell for export upto 30 lakh tonnes of Fine and Superfine rice and upto 25 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1995-96, subject to the condition that;

(i) Prices to be fixed for sale of wheat and rice should not be less than the prices fixed for domestic sale.

(ii) The High Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Govt. under the chairmanship of Chairman, FCI shall deal with the various matters connected with the export from Public stocks including fixation of prices from time to time.

(b) and (c). 107 applications had been received during 1995-96 for purchase of rice out of which 72 got release of rice from FCI. Similarly, 101 applications were received for purchase for wheat, out of which 17 got releases of wheat from FCI.

The Scheme for sale for export of wheat and rice from the Public stocks was introduced in 1995-96. FCI sold/delivered a quantity of 14.82 lakh tonnes of Fine and Superfine rice and 0.81 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1995-96 to the Exporters.

Sugar :

(a) to (c). Export of sugar is undertaken through Notified Export Agencies under the provisions of Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958(30) of 1958, and not by way of sale by the Government to Exporters. At present, Govt. has two notified export agencies viz. State Trading Corporation of India and M/s. Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. (ISGIEIC) As per the Administrative arrangement, M/s. ISGIEIC Ltd. handles commercial export of Sugar and export of Preferential quotas to EEC and USA; and, STC handles export of sugar to Nepal.

Government depending upon the production trends, requirement of sugar for internal consumption and surplus sugar available, notifies quantities of sugar to be exported from time to time through the export agency of M/s. ISGIEIC Ltd; and no other Agency, firm of individual is authorised to export sugar on its own.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Delhi

2434. SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants in Delhi and other metropolitan cities waiting for telephone connection as on 30th June, 1996;

(b) the time by which all these applicants likely to get connection;

(c) the steps taken to reduce the period between sanction and installation of phone;

(d) whether Government are aware of the delay by the telephone authorities in the shifting of phone from one place to another in Delhi; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to reduce the delay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of applicants waiting for telephone connections as on 30.6.96 in the metropolitan cities are given below.

Delhi	-	51,165
Mumbai	-	41,682
Calcutta	-	68,116
Madras	-	87,733

(b) All these applicants are likely to get connections by 1997.

(c) The steps taken to reduce the period between sanction and installation of phone is given in the attached statement-I.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Steps taken to reduce the delay in the shifting of phone from one place to another in Delhi are given in the attached statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Steps taken to reduce the period between sanctions and installation of phone.

- * Decentralisation of commercial work.
- * Simplification and streamlining of commercial procedures.
- * Further Computerisation of commercial work.
- * Prompt Issue and despatch of work orders (OBs) to field Units.
- * Advance planning and construction of external plant based on waiting list and anticipated demand.
- * Close monitoring of execution of work orders.

STATEMENT-II

Steps taken to reduce the delay in shifting of telephone from one place to another in Delhi

- * Decentralisation of commercial work pertaining to shift.
- * Simplification and streamlining of commercial policies and procedures.
- * Quick despatch of shift work orders (OBs) using Speedpost/Courier.
- * Extensive use of FAX for Inter-office communication between various field units involved.
- * Updation of records.

- * Close monitoring of execution of work order.
- * Expeditious action for laying of cables in technically nonfeasible areas to provide connection pertaining to shift cases.

Increase in Price of Post Card

2435. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the price of post card for various TV competitions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). In his Budget Speech, Finance Minister has proposed introduction of a new category of Post-card called Competition Post-card, to be used in response to competitions through television, Radio, Newspapers, magazines or other Media with a price of Rs.2/- each. The new service will become effective from a date to be notified by the Government after the Finance Bill is passed.

Kannada Programmes

2436. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total time allotted to Kannada programme being shown every day on Bangalore Doordarshan;

(b) whether Doordarshan Channel 9 is an exclusive channel for Kannada programme;

(c) whether this channel is accessible only to those who have cable facility; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to extend this channel to all the places in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Programmes in Kannada are telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore for four hours daily except on Wednesday and Saturday when the duration of such telecasts is 3 hours 20 minutes and one hour respectively. Besides this, programmes of a duration of 7 hours and 30 minutes daily are also telecast on the Regional Language Satellite Channel (DD-9) in Kannada language.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Whereas, Kannada programmes on Channel 9 (DD-9) are available throughout the country including Karnataka, via satellite, by using suitable dish antenna system, terrestrially the regional service programmes are relayed by various High Power and Low Power TV Transmitters function in the State which are linked to DDK, Bangalore via satellite.

Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices in Maharashtra

2437. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE:
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any plan for expansion/upgradation and setting up of new post offices/sub-post offices in urban and rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the target fixed and achievements made in this regard during the last three years and the current year, so far, district-wise; and the plan drawn up for the next year;

(c) the cities/towns covered under Speed Post Service in the State and the proposed expansion of this service to more areas; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for rendering effective/Speedy postal services in the State and harness huge revenue?

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

(b) The details of targets and achievements made for opening of Post offices during last three years and current year in Maharashtra Postal Circle as under :

Year	Targets		Achievement	
	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBO
1993-94	11	80	15	80
1994-95	8	9	4	-
1995-96	12	9	3	-
1996-97	12	9	3	-
(Till date)				

The district-wise details of targets and achievements are given in the attached Statement-I

No target has been fixed for the next financial year as the 9th Five Year Plan is yet to be formulated.

(c) and (d). Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, and Pune are the four cities/towns in Maharashtra which are covered under National Network of Speed Post Service.

The cities/towns of Maharashtra Circle covered under the Point to Point Speed Post Service are given at in the attached statement-II.

The expansion of Speed Post Network in a city is dependent on following conditions :

(a) There is sufficient traffic to make Speed Post financially viable in the city; and

(b) It is operationally feasible to provide a service standard in conformity with Speed Post norm.

At present, there is no proposal for further expansion of National Network of Speed Post in Maharashtra.

STATEMENT-I

Details of target fixed and Achievements in Maharashtra Postal circle, district-wise and Postal Region-wise for the last 3 years:

Year	S.No.	Name of Districts/ Postal Regions	Target fixed	Achievements made
1	2	3	4	5
		<i>District-wise</i>	<i>Extra</i>	<i>Departmental</i>
			<i>Branch</i>	<i>Post Office.</i>
1993-94	1.	Ahmednagar	8	6
	2.	Akola	2	1
	3.	Amravati	3	3
	4.	Aurangabad	1	-
	5.	Buldhana	1	1
	6.	Bhandara	1	1
	7.	Beed	1	1
	8.	Chandrapur	2	1
	9.	Dhule	5	7
	10.	Gadchiroli	5	7
	11.	Jalna	1	1
	12.	Kolhapur	1	1
	13.	Latur	1	-
	14.	Nagpur	-	1
	15.	Nanded	1	-
	16.	Nasik	4	5
	17.	Osmanabad	2	1
	18.	Pune	13	9
	19.	Raigad	4	4
	20.	Ratnagiri	1	2
	21.	Solapur	1	2
	22.	Satara	3	8
	23.	Sangli	1	1
	24.	Sindhudurg	1	-
	25.	Thane	9	9
	26.	Wardha	1	-
	27.	Yewatmal	2	3
	28.	Goa State	4	4
		Total	80	80

*Departmental Sub Post
Office sanctioned*

1.	Bombay	3
2.	Aurangabad	1
3.	Dhule	1
4.	Gadchiroli	1

1	2	3	4	5
	5. Kolhapur			1
	6. Latur			1
	7. Nasik			2

1	2	3	4	5
	8. Sangli			1
	9. Thane			4
	Total			15

Year	S.No.	Districts	Target		Achievements	
			EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs
1994-95	1.	Thane	1	1	-	1
	2.	Raigarh	1	-	-	-
	3.	Nasik	-	1	-	-
	4.	Dhule	1	-	-	-
	5.	Aurangabad	-	1	-	1
	6.	Amrawati	-	1	-	-
	7.	Kolhapur	-	1	-	-
	8.	Sindhudurg	-	1	-	1
	9.	Pune	1	-	-	1
	10.	Agangaon	-	1	-	-
	11.	Gadchiroli	1	-	-	-
	12.	Nagpur	2	-	-	-
	13.	Buldana	1	-	-	-
	14.	Goa State	1	1	-	-
Total			9	8	-	4

1995-96	DISTRICT-WISE					
	1.	Ahmednagar	-	-	1	1
	2.	Amravati	1	-	-	-
	3.	Aurangabad	-	-	1	-
	4.	Chandrapur	-	-	2	-
	5.	Dhule	1	-	-	-
	6.	Gadchiroli	1	-	-	-
	7.	Jalna	-	-	1	-
	8.	Kolhapur	1	-	-	1
	9.	Osmanabad	1	-	-	-
	10.	Pune	1	-	2	1
	11.	Parbhani	-	-	1	-
	12.	Raigad	1	-	-	-
	13.	Sangli	-	-	1	-
	14.	Thane	1	-	2	-
	Total		8	-	11	3
	Goa State		1	-	1	-
	Total		9	-	12	3

1996-97	1.	Thane	-	-	-	2
	2.	Satara	-	-	-	1
	Total		-	-	-	3

Note : District-wise target for opening of Post Office for the year 1996-97 has not yet been finalised.

STATEMENT-II**BOMBAY
REGION**

Name of point to point SP Centre *Linked to name of the centre* *Vice-versa or single*

Mumbai

Kandala

Lonawala

Mahabaleshwar

Malegaon

Panchgani

Konkan Bhavan

Thane

Alibag

Pen

Roha A V

Mahad

Vasai

Virar

Bhayander East

Bhayander West

Mira Road

Anand

Aurangabad

Latur

Karad

Osmanabad

Sangli

Satara

Solapur

Amravati

Akola

Belgaum

Bhusawal

Dhule

Ghandhidam

Culbarga

Ichalkaranji

Jalgaon

Kolhapur

Kopergaon

Miraj

Nanded

Panipat

Port Blair

Rajkot

Shantiniketan

Shirdi

Wardha

Yavatmal

Jamnagar

Pune Region

Name of point to point SP centre *Linked to name of the centre* *Vice-versa or single*

Karad

Ahmednagar

Pandharpur

Kolhapur

Sangli

Aurangabad

Thane

Vashi

Akola

Mapuca

Latur

Rajkot

Satara

Pune

Nanded

Single

Gulbarga

Osmanabad

Jalgaon

Amravati

Margaon

Lonawala

Pune

Single

Khandala

Pune

Single

Mahabaleshwar

Pune

Single

Sholapur

Hyderabad

Vice-versa

Pandharpur

Mumbai

-do-

GOA REGION

Panaji

Kolhapur

Vice-versa

Kolhapur

Pune

Kolhapur

Mumbai

Miraj

Pune

Miraj

Mumbai

Sangli

Mumbai

Sangli

Pune

Ratnagiri

Mumbai

Satara

Mumbai

Satara

Pune

Karad

Mumbai

Karad

Pune

Ichalkaranji

Mumbai

Kupwad MIDC

Mumbai/Pune

Chiplom

Mumbai

Lote

Mumbai

NAGPUR**REGION**

Nagpur

Akola

Vice-

Amravati, Yeotmal

versa

Wardha

Nanded

Jalgaon

Akola

Amravati

-do-

Nagpur

Wardha

Yeotmal

PUNE REGION

Pune

Solapur

Vice-versa

Panchagani

Name of point to point SP centre *Linked to name of the centre* *Vice-versa or single*

	Mumbai Pune	
Amravati	Akola Wardha Yeotmal Nagpur Mumbai Pune	Vice-Versa
Wardha	Mumbai Akola Amravati Yeotmal Nagpur	-do-
Yeotmal	Mumbai Amravati Wardha Nagpur	-do-
AURANGABAD REGION		
Aurangabad	Mumbai Pune Delhi Nasik Latur	Vice-versa
Latur	Mumbai Pune Aurangabad	-do-

Foreign Airlines on Domestic Routes

2438. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have not been able to cope up the rush of internal operation as number of passengers had to wait for travel; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made to increase the Indian Airlines operation to clear the rush in all the internal airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The capacity provided by Indian Airlines is adequate to meet the requirement of domestic passenger traffic. Besides, private airlines have also added capacity on a number of domestic routes.

Physically and Mentally Disabled Persons

2439. SHRI N. DENNIS :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

*Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of people having physical and mental disability in the country;

(b) the total number of people out of them covered under various rehabilitation schemes;

(c) the different schemes of concessions and assistance including the rehabilitation scheme launched by the Government for them since the beginning of the international year of disability;

(d) whether it is a fact that the financial outlays sanctioned for these schemes for disabled are yet to match their problem; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to enhance allocation under rehabilitation schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOOWALIA) : (a) As per Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991, about 16.15 million people with physical disability are estimated in the country. Certain studies conducted by some organisations suggest that about 2 - 2.5 % of estimated population suffer from mental retardation.

(b) No. of persons benefited during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 under the schemes under which the Central Government gives grant-in-aid for rehabilitation of disabled persons is given in the attached Statement-I.

(c) Another statement indicating the different schemes of concessions and assistance including rehabilitation launched for the disabled persons is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Under the provisions of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995, rehabilitation services have to be provided by the Central and the State agencies for the handicapped, for which necessary finances have to be found out by these agencies by making adequate provisions under their respective budgets.

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled	15,377	23,885
2.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy curried persons.	5,443	2,323

STATEMENT-II

(1) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled

Under this schemes, assistance is provided to voluntary organisations to run rehabilitation programmes

for the disabled. It is a comprehensive scheme covering different areas of rehabilitation physically, phyconlogical, social and economic. Financial support is given to the extent of 90% of the total project cost (upto 95% for one rural areas) for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for the projects such as vocational training centres, special schools, counselling centres, hostels, training centres for personnels, placement services etc.

(2) Establishment and Development of Special Schools

The schemes envisages assistance to the NGOs to the extent of 90% for establishment and upgradation of Special schools in four major disabilities -orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring is supported by the ministry.

(3) Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation for manpower development.

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation.

(4) Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons.

Under this scheme, assistance is given upto 90% to voluntary organisations in Developing programmes for rehabilitation of Leprosy cured persons.

(5) National Institutes

In order to effectively deal to the Multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following four National Institutes have been set up. These institutes are apex level organisations in the fields of training, vocational guidance, counselling, research rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules. These institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their area of disability :-

- (i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
- (ii) National Institute for the Ortopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta,
- (iii) Ali Yaver Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay.
- (iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secundrabad.

In addition to these the following two institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons:

- (i) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
- (ii) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Reseach, Olatpur, Orissa.

(6) Employment

- (i) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from :-

- (a) blindness or low vision;
- (b) hearing impairment and
- (c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the post identified for each disability. 3% reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' for handicapped persons had already been there even before the law came into force. Similar reservation have also been given by some State Govts. In addition, the handicapped are also given 'age concessions' in the upper age limit and relaxation in the 'medical standards' for entry into Government jobs.

- (ii) 47 Special Employment Exchanges and 41 Special Cells in the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.
- (iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.
- (iv) Self employment is promoted through the following :-
 - (a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Governments/ UTs;
 - (b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional Rates of Interest;
 - (c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone Booths;
 - (d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol Pumps, Kerosene Depots etc.

(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the companies, registered under Companies Act, registered societies, trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both Governmental and non-governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs.3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs.1200/- and at 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs.1201 to Rs.2500/-.

(8) Government of India have recently enacted "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participations) Act, 1995". The Act provides prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment non-discrimination etc. for disabled persons including mentally handicapped persons.

(9) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corpn. is being set up to provide in additional channel of finance at concessional rates to enable the handicapped persons to take up self-employment project.

[Translation]

Child Labour

2440. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the data pertaining to child labour have not been released according to census in 1991 so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the manner in which child labour welfare is attended to in the absence of said data at present; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) and (b). The Office of Registrar General of India has informed that data pertaining to child labour as per 1991 census is under processing.

(c) and (d). In order to implement the programme for elimination of child labour working in hazardous occupations, child labour endemic districts were identified on the basis of 1981 census. Based on initial identification of child labour working in hazardous occupations, 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned so far to cover over 1.5 lakh children through special schools where they are provided with basic

welfare inputs like non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend etc. In addition, funds have been released to 123 districts for conducting comprehensive survey on child labour.

Supply of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

2441. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in comparison to other States the Union Government provide less quantity of wheat, rice and sugar to Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that supply of these commodities is made arbitrarily and not on the basis of census of 1991; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

I. Wheat and Rice

(a) to (d). Wheat and rice are allocated to the States/UTs. including Bihar on month to month basis according to the local availability, production, relative need, offtake trend and other related matters. The quantity of wheat and rice allotted to States/UTs. is supplemental in nature and is not meant for meeting the entire need of any State/UT. In respect of Bihar, the quantity of wheat and rice lifted by the State Government has been much less than the quantity allotted.

II. Sugar

(a) to (d). Under the present policy of partial control, the monthly allocation of levy sugar to States/UTs. is being made on a uniform norm of ensuring 425 gms per capita monthly availability as per 1991 census effective from 1.1.1996. Based on this, the monthly levy sugar quota of Bihar is 36,707 tonnes.

[English]

New Telephone Exchanges in Coochbehar

2442. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges and telephone exchanges with STD facility set up so far in West Bengal, location-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any requests for opening of new telephone exchanges and telephone exchanges with STD facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of exchanges likely to be set up during 1996-97, category-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The new Telephone Exchange set up so far are 556. Out of which 358 are with STD facility. The details are given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c). Requests have been received from various Agencies in West Bengal for opening of new Telephone Exchanges and Telephone Exchanges with STD facility at different places. The details are given in the attached statement-II.

(d) 64 New Telephone Exchanges are likely to be set up during 1996-97. The details are given in the attached statement-III.

STATEMENT-I

N=Stands for NSD facility.

O=Stands for ordinary without NSD facility.

Electronic Exchanges Set Up So Far in West Bengal Telecom Circle

Exchange Name	STD Status
1	2
<i>** Name of Telecom. Distt. 24 PN</i>	
1. Arbelia	N
2. Ashok Nagar	N
3. Badaghat	O
4. Baduria	N
5. Bagdah	O
6. Basirhat	N
7. Beliaghata BRUG	O
8. Berachampa	N
9. Bhebia	O
10. Bongaon	N
11. Chandpara DZR	N
12. Charghat	N
13. Gaighata	N
14. Garapota	O
15. Gopalnagar	N
16. Gopalpur	O
17. Govardanga	N
18. Guma	O
19. Habra	N
20. Haroa	N
21. Heloncha	O
22. Hingalgañj	O
23. Iswariqachha	N
24. Itirda	N
25. Katiahal	O

1	2
26. Nahata	O
27. Nazat	O
28. Rajarhat	O
29. Swarupnagar	O
30. Taki	N
31. Thakurnagar	N
32. Zeerat Gadamura	N
<i>** Name of Telecom. Distt-24 PS.</i>	
33. Basanti	N
34. Canning	N
35. Champahati	N
36. Diamond Harbour	N
37. Falta FTZ	N
38. Fatehpur	N
39. Gangasagar	N
40. Gocharan	N
41. Gosaha	N
42. Jaynagar	N
43. Kakdwip	N
44. Kashinagar	O
45. Kulpi	N
46. Laxmikantapur	O
47. Mathurapur	N
48. Mograhat	O
49. Namkhana	N
50. Noorpur	N
51. Patharpratima	N
52. Raydighi	O
53. Rudranagar	N
54. Sarisha	N
55. Taldi	O
56. Usthi	N
<i>** Name of Telecom. Distt-BAN.</i>	
57. Balsi	N
58. Bankura-II	N
59. Barjora	N
60. Bellatore	N
61. Bishnupur	N
62. Chhatna	N
63. Gangajalghati	N
64. Garraipur	N
65. Gelia	N
66. Indpur	N
67. Indus	N

1	2
68. Jhantipahari	N
69. Joypur	N
70. Joyrambati	N
71. Kamapur	O
72. Khatra	N
73. Kotulpur	N
74. Kuchadwip	N
75. Maliara	N
76. Mezhia	N
77. Mukutmanipur	N
78. Onda	N
79. Panchmura	N
80. Patrasayan	N
81. Radhanagar	O
82. Ranibandh	N
83. Rasulpur	N
84. Saldiha	N
85. Saltora	O
86. Sarenga	N
87. Simlapal	N
88. Sonamukhi	N
89. Taldangra	N
** Name of Telecom. Distt-BIRB.	
90. Ahmedpur	O
91. BTPP (Muthabere)	N
92. Basapara	O
93. Bishnupara	O
94. Bolpur	N
95. Chatra	O
96. Dubrajpur	N
97. Illumbazar	N
98. Khairasol	O
99. Kirnahar	N
100. Lahpur	N
101. Lohapoo	O
102. Mahamad Bazar	O
103. Margram	O
104. Mayureswar	O
105. Mollarpoo	N
106. Murarni	N
107. Nalhati	N
108. Narayanpur	O
109. Ponchami	O
110. Purandarpur	O

1	2
111. Rajnagar	O
112. Rampurhat	N
113. Sainthia	N
114. Suri	N
115. Tantipara	O
116. Tarapith	N
** Name of Telecom. Dist-BUR	
117. Andal	N
118. Anguno	N
119. Asansol	N
120. Badla	N
121. Bagura	O
122. Bahula	N
123. Bailyapur	N
124. Barakar	N
125. Bardighi	N
126. Bhatar	O
127. Dhedia	N
128. Bidhannagar (DAP)	N
129. Bonpas	N
130. Budbud	O
131. Dulbulitala	N
132. Burdwan	N
133. Burnpur	N
134. Chakdighi	N
135. Chandrapur	O
136. Chichuria	N
137. Chitranjan	N
138. Churpuni	N
139. Daighat	N
140. Davipur	N
141. Dhatrigram	N
142. Dignagar (1)	N
143. Domghani	N
144. Durgapur (CC)	N
145. Durgapur (I)	N
146. Durgapur (S)	N
147. Galsi	N
148. Gangatikuri	O
149. Guskara	N
150. Hatgubindapur	N
151. Jamalpur	N
152. Jamuriahat	N
153. Jaugram	O

1	2
154. Kaichai	N
155. Kajora	N
156. Kalna	N
157. Kamarpara	O
158. Kandra	O
159. Karalaghat	N
160. Kasomnagar	N
161. Katwa	N
162. Ketogram	O
163. Khudrun	N
164. Kuchut	N
165. Kurnun	N
166. Mantoswar	N
167. Mondalgram	O
168. Nabagram (i)	O
169. Nadanghat	O
170. Neamatpur	N
171. Nutandanga	N
172. Nutanhat	O
173. Palsit	N
174. Panagarh Bazar	N
175. Panchananbala	O
176. Pandavaswar	N
177. Panuria	N
178. Parad	N
179. Parulia	N
180. Patuli	O
181. Ramgopalpur	O
182. Raniganj	N
183. Rasulpur-II	N
184. Sahebganj	O
185. Saktigarh	N
186. Samudragarh	N
187. Satyachia	N
188. Sehrabazar	N
189. Syamsundar	O
190. Simlon	N
191. Srikhanda	N
192. Ukhra	N
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-COOM.</i>	
193. Baxirhat	N
194. Chengrabhandha	N
195. Chowdhurihat	N
196. Coochbehar	N

1	2
197. Dewanhat	O
198. Dinhata	N
199. Haldibari	N
200. Mathabhanga	N
201. Mekhliganj	N
202. Nishigunj	O
203. Pundibari	N
205. Sithaihat	O
206. Tufanganj	N
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-DARJ</i>	
207. Algarah	N
208. Bagdogra	N
209. Bidhannagar	N
210. Bijanhari	O
211. Darjeeling	N
212. gorubathan	O
213. Kalimpong	N
214. Kharibari	O
215. Kurseong	N
216. Lavabazar	N
217. Mehong	O
218. Mirik	N
219. Mungpo	N
220. Nagricpur	O
221. Naxalhari	N
222. Phansidewa	N
223. Saktigarh	N
224. Siliguri	N
225. Siliguri II	N
226. Sonada	N
227. Souronibazar	O
228. Sukhiapokhra	N
229. Takdah	O
230. Tindnarla	O
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-HAOR.</i>	
231. Ajodhya	N
232. Amta	N
233. Begnan	N
234. Chitrasenpur	O
235. Eksara	N
236. Gangadharapur	O
237. Jagatbaliavpur	N
238. Kanpurpuras	O
239. Panchla	O

1	2
240. Shyampur	O
241. Udaynarayanpur	O
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-HGLY.</i>	
242. Arambagh	N
243. Balipur	N
244. Bhagabatipur	N
245. Bhandarhati	O
246. Boinchee	N
247. Champadanga	N
248. Chanditala	N
249. Dasghara	N
250. Dhaniakhali	N
251. Dihibadpur	O
252. Gourhati	O
253. Guptipara	O
254. Gurup	N
255. Harinkhglā	O
256. Haripal	N
257. Helan	O
258. Jangipara	O
259. Jirat	N
260. Kamarpukar	O
261. Khanakul	O
262. Khatul	O
263. Kuliapara	O
264. Mahanad	O
265. Masat	N
266. Moloypur	O
267. Mulhadanga	N
268. Naisaroi	N
269. Pandua	N
270. Pulnan	O
271. Rajbalhat	O
272. Rameswarpar	N
273. Sastipur	O
274. Tanakeswadi	N
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-MSD</i>	
275. Amtala	O
276. Andi	O
277. Aurangabad	N
278. Azimganj	O
279. Beldanga	N
280. Berhampora-II	N
281. Bhagabangola	O

1	2
282. Dhuliyan	N
283. Domkal	O
284. Farakka Barrange	N
285. Farakka NTPC	N
286. Gankar	O
287. Hariharpara	O
288. Islampur (i)	N
289. Jalangi	O
290. Jangipur	N
291. Jiaganj	N
292. Kandi	N
293. Laigola	N
294. Murshidabad	N
295. Nabagram (2)	O
296. Nagar	O
297. Nasipurhalagarhi	O
298. Panchgram	O
299. Panchthupi	O
300. Patikabari	O
301. Raghunathganj	N
302. Raninagar	N
303. Sagardighi	O
304. Sagarpara	O
305. Saktipur	O
306. Salar	O
307. Sargachhi	N
308. Satui	O
309. Trimchlni (2)	O
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-MNP</i>	
310. Alangiri	O
311. Amarshi	O
312. Amlagora	N
313. Balychak	N
314. Dasantia	N
315. Baakul	O
316. Belda	N
317. Bhagabanpur	O
318. Dhupatinagar	O
319. Binpur	O
320. Brajalalchak	N
321. Chaitanyapur	N
322. Chandrakona	N
323. Chanserpur	N
324. Contai	N

1	2	1	2
325. Dadhika	N	368. Midnapur	N
326. Danton	O	369. Mirzapur	O
327. Dasagram	N	370. Mohanpur	O
328. Daspur	N	371. Monglamaro	N
329. Debra	O	372. Nachinda	N
330. Digha	N	373. Nandakumar	N
331. Durgachak	N	374. Naradul	O
332. Fgra	N	375. Narayangarh	O
333. Geonkhali	O	376. Nimpura	N
334. Ghatal	N	377. Nonakuribazar	N
335. Goaltora	N	378. Panchetgarh	O
336. Gomunda	O	379. Panchkuri	O
337. Gopiballavpur	O	380. Paniparul	N
338. Goura	O	381. Panskura	N
339. Halida (I)	N	382. Paramanandapur	O
340. Haldia (T)	N	383. Pataspur	O
341. Haur	O	384. Pratapdighi	O
342. Horia	O	385. Radhamohanpur	N
343. Hijli	N	386. Rajnagar (2)	O
344. Hoomgarh	N	387. Ramnagar	N
345. Jahalda	O	388. Raskundu	N
346. Jhargram	N	389. Reapara	N
347. Kakgachhia	N	390. Rupnarayanpur	O
348. Kalindi	O	391. Sabong	N
349. Keslary	O	392. Salboni	N
350. Keshpur	N	393. Satbankura	N
351. Khakurda	O	394. Satmilw	N
352. Khalsuli	O	395. Snymondpr. Patna	N
353. Kharagpur	N	396. Silda	O
354. Kharar	O	397. Srinagar	O
355. Khirpai	O	398. Tamluk	N
356. Khorai Bazar	O	399. Temathani	N
357. Kolaghat	N	** Name of Telecom. Dist-MLD	
** Name of Telecom. Dist-MNH		400. Alanpur	O
358. Kultikri	N	401. Araidanga	O
359. Lowaua	O	402. Bodemayna	O
360. Madpur	O	403. Bulhulchandi	N
361. Mohishadal	N	404. Chanchal	N
362. Mallgram	O	405. Chandipur	O
363. Manikpara	U	406. Dharampur	N
364. Marhtala	O	407. Gazole	N
365. Mathchandipur	N	408. Harishchandrapur	N
366. Mayna	N	409. Kakiachak	N
367. Mecheua	N	410. Khejuriaghat	N

1	2
411. Khusida	O
412. Koriail	N
413. Maqura	O
414. Mahadipur	O
415. Maudrajnagar	N
416. Malda (Unti-I)	N
417. Malda (Unit-2)	N
418. Mangalbari	N
419. Manichak	N
420. Milki	N
421. Mothabari	N
422. Pakuahat	N
423. Palanpur	N
424. Ratua	N
425. Samsi	N
426. Sujapur Town	N
427. Vaishnaunagar	N
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-JPG</i>	
428. Alipurduar	N
429. Banarhat	N
430. Barobisa	N
431. Belacoba	N
432. Bilpala	N
433. Brajopur	O
434. Chalsa	N
435. Dhupguri	N
436. Falakata	N
437. Gaikata	O
438. Hasimara	O
439. Jaigaon	N
440. Jalpaiguri	N
441. Jateswar	O
442. Jhalong	O
443. Kalchini	O
444. Kamakshyaguri	O
445. Krantichat	O
446. Kumargramduar	N
447. Lateguri	N
448. Madarihat	N
449. Mal Bazar	N
450. Mattali	N
451. Moynaguri	N
452. Nagrakata	N
453. Qodlabari	N

1	2
454. Rajganj	N
455. Raninagar	O
456. Tepurhat	O
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-PRL</i>	
457. Anra	N
458. Anara	U
459. Barabbum	N
460. Cheliama	N
461. Dubra	N
462. Garhjoypur	N
463. Hura	N
464. Jhalda	N
465. Kanhipur	N
466. Manbazar	N
467. Huncha	N
468. Purulia	N
469. Rayannathpur	N
470. Ramchandrapur	N
471. Rangadih	N
472. Santaldih	N
473. Tulln	N
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-NDP</i>	
474. Bahin	O
475. Bhatol	O
476. Bhupalpur	O
477. Chopra	O
478. Dalkhola	N
479. Hemtabad	O
480. Iclampur (2)	N
481. Itanar	N
482. Kaliaganj	N
483. Kanki	O
484. Karandighi	N
485. Kunor	O
486. Maharajahat	O
487. Panjipara	N
488. Ratirajpur	O
489. Raiganj	N
490. Ramganj	O
491. Sonapurhat	O
<i>** Name of Telecom. Dist-NDS</i>	
492. Balurghat	N
493. Buniadpur	O

1	2
494. Gangarampur	N
495. Goplaganj	N
496. Harirampur	N
497. Hilli	N
498. Kusnmandi	N
499. Patliam	O
500. Rampur	O
501. Tapan	O
502. Trimohini (1)	O
** Name of Telecom. Dist-NDA	
503. Aranghata	N
504. Assannagar	O
505. Badkulla	O
506. Bagula	N
507. Bara Andulia	O
508. Betai	O
509. Bethuadahari	N
510. Birhagar	N
511. Chakdah	N
512. Chapra	O
513. Dayerbazar	O
514. Debagram	N
515. Duhulia	O
516. Dighagar (2)	N
517. Dutta Phulia	N
518. Fulia	N
519. Haringhata	N
520. Joaniabhairuka	O
521. Kalgunj	O
522. Karpore	N
523. Krishnagar	N
524. Mandanpur	N
525. Majdia	N
526. Matiary	O
527. Mayapur	N
528. Muragachha	O
529. Nahadwip	N
530. Nagalnkhra	O
531. Nazirpur	O
532. Palasipara	O
533. Plassey	N
534. Purbabishnupur	N
535. Ranayhat	N
536. Santipur	N

1	2
537. Shyampur DZR	O
538. Swarnpganj	N
539. Tchatta	O
<i>Electronic Exchanges Set up so far in West Bengal Telecom Circle</i>	
** Name of Telecom. Dist-SKME	
540. Gangluk	N
541. Pakyong	N
542. Rangli	N
543. Rangpo	N
544. Ranipool	N
545. Rehnock	N
546. Singtom	N
<i>Electronic Exchanges Set Up so far in West Bengal Telecom Circle</i>	
** Name of Telecom. Dist-SKMN	
547. Chungthang	N
548. Mangan	N
<i>Electronic Exchanges set up so far in West Bengal Telecom Circle</i>	
** Name of Telecom. Dist-SKMS	
549. Molli	O
550. Namrhe	N
551. Ravangla	N
552. Temibazar	N
<i>Electronic Exchanges set up so far in West Bengal Telecom Circle</i>	
** Name of Telecom. Dist-SKMW	
553. Rayzing	N
554. Nayabazar	N
555. Sombaria	O
556. Soreng	N
Total 556 Exchanged	With STD 358

STATEMENT-II

Representations were received from agencies listed below :-

1. Ghoksadanga Nagrik Committee for setting up an electronic exchange at Ghoksadanga.
2. Secretary, Coochbehar Zila Bus Owners Association for setting up exchanges at

Dewanhat, Nishiganj, Pundibair, Sitaihat, Sitalkuchi, Ghoksadanga, Boxirhat and Tapurhat.

3. Chandrabandha Merchant Association for setting up telephone exchange at Changrabandha.
4. Coochbehar Zila Bus Owners Association for setting up of exchange at Balarampur and Baneswar.
5. Boxirhat Bayabasayee Samiti for setting up exchange at Boxirhat.

Present Status

1. The following towns are already having electronic exchanges :

1. Dewanhat 2. Nishiganj 3. Pundibari
4. Sitaihat 5. Sitalkuchi 6. Tapurhat
7. Boxirhat. Pundibari and Boxirhat exchanges have STD facility.

2. Exchange at Ghoksadanga is under installation.

3. Exchanges at Balrampur and Baneswar are planned for 96-97.

STATEMENT-III

Proposed New Exchanges 1996-97.

West Bengal Telecom Circle

Type of ex- change	S.No.	Location	District
1	2	3	4
C-DOT 253P			
	1.	Bangitola	Malda
	2.	Gopalganj	Malda
	3.	Nalagola	Malda
	4.	Nazirpur	Malda
	5.	Deotola (Katli)	Malda
	6.	Raniganj	Malda
	7.	Pirganj	Malda
	8.	Kumedpur	Malda
	9.	Ashapur	Malda
	10.	Goalpara	Malda
	11.	Sulta	Malda
	12.	Batna	Malda
	13.	Sanashpur	Malda
	14.	Bangalbari	Malda
	15.	Rashakhua	Malda
	16.	Shyampur	Malda

1	2	3	4
17.	Tangidighi		Malda
18.	Churaman		Malda
19.	Daspara		Malda
20.	Haptiaganj		Malda
21.	Khardah		Malda
22.	Damorhat		Malda
23.	Kashpur		Malda
24.	Bolla		Malda
25.	Baridhara		Darjeeling
26.	Bhua		Darjeeling
27.	KJP		Darjeeling
28.	Sevake		Darjeeling
29.	Ghoshpukur		Darjeeling
30.	Tapurhat		Jalpaiguri
31.	Ethelbari		Jalpaiguri
32.	Upper Pendua		Gangtok
33.	Panpagis		Gangtok
34.	Bankati		Burdwan
35.	Rajbandh		Burdwan
36.	Bijur		Burdwan
37.	Gangpur		Burdwan
38.	Barsul		Burdwan
39.	Ramnagar		Burdwan
40.	Medgachhi		Burdwan
41.	Agradwip		Burdwan
42.	Hator		24 Pgs (S)
43.	Kharibari		24 Pgs (S)
44.	Bhangar		24 Pgs (S)
45.	Khalapota		24 Pgs (N)
46.	Bajjola		24 Pgs (N)
47.	Akaipur		24 Pgs (N)
48.	Panchpata		24 Pgs (N)
49.	Kurulia		24 Pgs (N)
50.	Bira		24 Pgs (N)
51.	Kamarkundu		Hoogly
52.	Bashirhat		Howrah
53.	Jhikira		Howrah
54.	Barajagulia		Krishnagar
55.	Hanskhali		Krishnagar
56.	Nrishingapur		Krishnagar
57.	Bhangpur		Midnapur
58.	Ratalia		Midnapur
59.	Parui		Birbhum
DCB RSU			
1.	Matigara		Darjeeling

1	2	3	4
	2. Salugara		Darjeeling
	3. Benachitty		Burdwan
CDOT RSU			
	1. Malancha		Midnapur
P1OR RLU			
	1. Kulti		Burdwan

[Translation]

Subsidy on Wheat, Rice And Sugar

2443. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL GODHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provide subsidy to the Food Corporation of India for making available wheat, rice and sugar to the consumers at fair price;

(b) if so, the amount provided during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether there has been any changes in sale and purchase price of the Corporation from time to time during the said years; and

(d) if so, the details of the sale and purchase price during the above years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. While subsidy is not released State/UT-wise, the following amounts were released to the FCI on this account :-

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Year	Subsidy released		Total
	Foodgrains	Sugar	
1993-94	5537		5537
1994-95	4509	591	5100
1995-96 (Prov.)	4960	382	5342

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The details are given in attached statements I, II and III

STATEMENT-I

Central Issue prices of wheat, rice and sugar during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Issue Price : Rs per quintal

Year	Wheat	Rice			Sugar
		Common	Fine	Superfine	
1993-94	330	437	497	518	830
1994-95	402	537	617	648	905
(1.2.94 w.e.f.)	402	537	617	648	905

In respect of ITDP/RPDS issues, issue prices of wheat and rice are Rs.50/- per quintal less.

STATEMENT-II

Statement of Procurement Price of Wheat Levy rice and Paddy Fixed by the Government of India for the Years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

I. Procurement Prices of Rice

Name of State		(Rate in Rs./Qtl.)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1		2	3	4
1. Punjab	Common	533.40	582.55	626.40
	Fine	582.90	633.40	651.10
	Superfine	620.90	671.85	684.00
2. Haryana	Common	529.20	579.80	620.20
	Fine	578.25	630.30	644.60
	Superfine	616.00	668.50	677.15

1			2	3	4
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Common	501.45	558.85	600.90
		Fine	531.75	589.85	624.50
		Superfine	574.75	634.75	656.00
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Common	518.90	565.45	596.30
		Fine	550.40	596.95	619.90
		Superfine	581.90	628.45	851.20
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Common	512.85	546.05	574.90
		Fine	543.95	576.40	597.50
		Superfine	575.10	606.75	627.60
6.	Orissa	Common	528.80	576.15	601.70
		Fine	560.90	608.30	625.50
		Superfine	593.05	640.40	657.10
7.	Assam	Common	514.70	545.25	585.60
		Fine	554.30	584.30	608.70
		Superfine	586.00	615.10	639.40
8.	West Bengal	Common	488.25	531.95	569.50
		Fine	530.90	575.55	591.90
		Superfine	561.20	605.85	621.70
9.	Maharashtra	Common	501.65	546.30	576.10
		Fine	531.90	576.60	598.70
		Superfine	562.20	606.85	628.80
10.	Gujarat	Common	484.45	Not Fixed	Not Fixed
		Fine	513.80	-	-
		Superfine	543.15	-	-
11.	U.T. of Chandigarh	Common	524.25	566.35	609.00
		Fine	572.90	615.70	632.90
		Superfine	610.25	653.05	664.90
12.	U.T. of Pondicherry	Common	489.05	Not Fixed	Not fixed
		Fine	518.70	-	-
		Superfine	548.30	-	-
13.	Delhi	Common	529.20	553.85	620.20
		Fine	578.25	602.05	644.60
		Superfine	616.00	638.50	677.15
14.	Bihar	Common	500.20	Not fixed	Not fixed
		Fine	535.90	-	-
		Superfine	566.50	-	-
15.	Karnataka	Common	494.05	538.35	580.20
		Fine	524.00	568.25	603.10
		Superfine	553.95	598.20	633.50
16.	Rajasthan	Common	521.30	566.15	609.00
		Fine	565.35	611.10	633.00
		Superfine	606.75	653.10	665.00
17.	Tamilnadu	Comon	489.05	-	Not fixed
		Fine	518.70	-	-
		Superfine	548.30	-	-

II. Procurement Prices of Paddy

All States/UT's	Common	310.00	340.00	360.00
	Fine	330.00	360.00	375.00
	Superfine	350.00	380.00	395.00

III. Procurement Prices of Wheat

All States/UT's	330.00	350.00	360.00
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STATEMENT-III

The ex-factory price of levy sugar is determined on the basis of the Statutory Minimum Price payable for sugarcane and conversion cost, etc. The Country has been divided into twenty zones based on agro-climatic conditions and each zone has a different ex-factory levy sugar price (notified annually under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955)

The range of ex-factory prices (wagon delivery) yearwise are as follows :

S.No.	Sugar year* 1st Oct.- 30th Sept.	Ex factory price (Rs. per Quintal)
1.	1993-94	651.55-902.13
2.	1994-95	748.25-943.82
3.	1995-96	825.81-1041.45

Development of Buddhist Pilgrimage Places

2444. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Buddhist pilgrimage places in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal for development of Kushinagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e). The Government has entered into a soft loan agreement with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for the development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The financial assistance is to the tune of 7.76 billion Japanese Yen.

The places identified in Uttar Pradesh are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piorahwa and Sravasti. The major components of the project are strengthening of National and State Highways, improvement of local roads, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and setting up of wayside amenities.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 12.25 lakhs to make a Restaurant-cum-waiting hall in Kushinagar during 1994-95. Besides, U.P. Airways has indicated Kushinagar as one of the centres for connecting the Buddhist circuit.

Non-Basmati Rice

2445. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-basmati rice of lower quality used to be sold at lower price in the international market due to low prices in the country;

(b) if not, whether the prices of such rice were increased in the country whereas the competitive rice exporting countries have reduced the price of their rice in international market during the past years;

(c) if so, whether the target set for export of rice during 1995-96 has been achieved;

(d) if so, the total quantity of rice exported; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) It is not possible to accurately compare the prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality, and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports.

(b) As per the EXIM policy, non-basmati rice can be exported freely without any quantitative ceilings and minimum export price restrictions. So far the sale of fine and superfine rice by FCI for export is concerned, it was revised from time to time on the basis of the recommendations of the High Level Committee. The export sale price was last revised with effect from 1.7.96 as under :-

Fine/Superfine Rice

Punjab	-	Rs.7350 per tonne.
Haryana	-	Rs.7300 per tonne
Western U.P.	-	Rs.7200 per tonne
Madhya Pradesh	-	Rs.7450 per tonne.

(c) to (e). By exporting about 55 lakh tonnes of rice during 1995-96, India became the second largest exporter in the world. Export of rice from the country during 1994-95 was only 8.9 lakh MTs.

Haj Flights

2446. SHRI KACHARU BHABU RAUT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide extra flights for Haj-Pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the number of flights being arranged this year;

(c) whether concession is also provided in such flights for Haj-Pilgrimage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). A total of 120 outbound flights and 113 inbound flights were operated from Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras to Saudi Arabia and back for transportation of Haj Pilgrims during Haj, 1996.

The Haj Pilgrim fare for the round trip was fixed by the Government at Rs19,640.00 which includes a subsidy of Rs.7640 per Haj pilgrim.

[English]

Sales Tax/Corporate Tax

2447. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Super Bazar Consumer Society was asked to pay Rs.90.00 lakh as sales tax/corporate tax which has been outstanding for the last three years;

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

(c) the taxable earning of the Super Bazar during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the demand made by the sales tax authority; and

(e) the stage at which dispute stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). It has been reported by the Super Bazar Delhi that assessment of sales tax of Super Bazar has been completed upto 1992-93 and income tax upto 1993-94. It has also been reported that they do not have any pending tax liabilities.

(c) It has been reported by the Super Bazar, that they do not have taxable earnings.

(d) It has been reported by the Super Bazar that during the last three years they have paid sales tax as detailed below and they have not received any demand from the Sales Tax Authorities :-

Year	Sales Tax paid (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	150.18
1993-94	182.24
1994-95	215.60

(e) Does not arise.

Airport in Kerala

2448. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new Airport being constructed in Kerala has suffered a set back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken to speed-up the construction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Backward Classes

2449. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the development of backward classes in comparison to SCs/STs during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government propose to give representation to backward classes in Parliament and State Legislature like SCs/STs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The following steps have been taken by the Government for the development of backward classes :-

(i) As in the case of SC/STs, 27% reservation is provided to OBCs in Civil Posts and Services under the Government of India in direct recruitment.

(ii) OBC candidates are given the benefit of relaxed standard in respect of written examination and interviews as in the case of SC/ST candidates.

(iii) The upper age limit for OBC candidates in direct recruitment has been increased by 3 years as against 5 years given to SC/ST candidates.

(iv) The number of attempts for OBC candidates who are otherwise eligible has been increased to 7 in respect of Civil Services examinations.

(v) As in the case of SC/ST a Commission viz. National Commission for Backward Classes has been set up under the NCBC Act, 1993.

(vi) As in the case of SC/ST, a financial Corporation, viz. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has been set up to promote economic activities for the benefit of backward classes and to assist the poorer sections of these classes in skill development and self-employment ventures.

(vii) As in the case of SC/STs, the Government has implemented a scheme called the Pre-Examination Coaching for weaker sections including minorities and OBCs.

(b) and (c). No, Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Allocation of Foodgrains

2450. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether off take of foodgrains out of total foodgrains allotted under the Public Distribution System for the tribals and drought prone areas has been less than 50% during the last financial year;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to make some changes in the system of fixing quotas of foodgrains for States under the Public Distribution System;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of about 103.68 lakh tonnes of wheat & rice allocated for Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in about 1775 identified blocks consisting of hilly, drought prone remote, and tribal areas, the quantity lifted by the States/UTs was about 43 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. Hence the off take under RPDS during 1995-96 against the allocation was about 41.5%.

(c) to (e). As per the existing practice the allocation of wheat & rice for the Public Distribution System (PDS) is made for States/UTs on month to month basis according to the local availability, production, off-take trend, relative needs, etc. The allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs is supplemental in nature and is not meant for the entire need of any State/UT. In so far the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) is concerned the allocation is normally made @ 20kg. per family per month. Final decision to make changes in the system has not been taken so far.

Licences to New Sugar Factories

2451. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of applications received from the Government of Karnataka for issue of licences for new sugar factories and also for issue of licences for expansion during the last two years till date;

(b) the number of applications approved under both the categories, separately;

(c) the number of applications pending, alongwith the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b). 56 applications were received through the Ministry of Industry, Deptt. of Industrial Policy and promotion for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar factories & 9 applications for expansion in the existing units during the last two years, i.e., 1994 and 1995 (January to December). Out of 56 proposals for new sugar factories, 15 have been approved and all the 9 proposals of expansion have been approved.

(c) and (d). As on 30.6.1996, 13 applications received through the Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar factories were pending consideration of the screening committee of the Ministry of Food.

It is not possible, at present, to specify any time frame in this regard.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

2452. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Fair Price Shopkeepers caught red handed while blackmarketing good quality wheat, rice and sugar during each of the last three years and current year State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the value of goods seized therefrom during the above period State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons apprehended for blackmarketing; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such blackmarketing?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b) Functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) is a vast operation involving distribution of millions of tons of foodgrains, sugar, edible oil, kerosene

throughout the country and, as such, a few shortcomings here and there cannot be ruled out. Certain instances of blackmarketing in essential commodities like wheat, rice and sugar have also come to the knowledge of the Government. However, this Department does not maintain details of such irregularities against the Fair Price Shopkeepers in PDS. It is presumed that these details are being maintained by the concerned States/UT Governments as the operational responsibility for implementation of PDS rests with the respective State/UT Governments.

(c) and (d). Checking of malpractices is a continuous process. Central and State Governments are continuing their efforts to check malpractices effectively. The Central Government has enacted Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to tackle such problems. The operational responsibility of proper distribution of PDS commodities as well as enforcement of EC Act, 1955 and PB Act, 1980 lies with the State Governments. The Union Government monitors enforcement operations of the State Governments/UT Administrations and advises them from time to time to intensify action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and similar legislation to check malpractices/blackmarketing of commodities meant for Public Distribution System. On this subject, the Union Minister for Civil Supplies has recently addressed a communication to the Chief Ministers/Administrators of all the State Governments/UTs to activate their enforcement machinery and to take prompt action wherever instances of blackmarketing etc. come to their notice.

[English]

ED Agents

2453. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Extra Departmental Delivery Agents in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from ED delivery agents for regularisation of their services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As on 31st March, 1996, the total number of Extra Departmental Delivery Agents in the country was 79,958.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Several Memorandums have been received in this office seeking improvements in the Service conditions and regularisation of the services of Ed agents including Extra Departmental Delivery

Agents viz. grant of leave, pay-scales, increments, gratuity, pension etc.

(d) The Memorandum mentioned in (b) above have been considered from time to time and improvements wherever feasible made. A committee headed by Justice Talwar to look into all aspects of the service conditions of ED Agents has been appointed. In the process two instalments of interim Reliefs have been sanctioned to the ED Agents. The quantum of Ex-gratia Gratuity has also been increased to Rs.6000/- recently. Several other improvements have also been made in the combined duty allowance paid to the ED Branch Postmasters and Stationery Allowance. 100% vacancies in Group 'D' Departmental Cadre and 50% vacancies in Departmental Postmen Cadre earmarked for outsiders are also offered to the Senior most eligible ED Agents. Such of the ED Agents as get recruited in Departmental Group 'D' and Postman Cadres become eligible for all the facilities and privileges applicable to the Departmental Employees.

However, the workload in the ED Post Offices ranges between two and five hours per day whereas Departmental Post Offices work for full eight hours. In view of this and other relevance considerations, namely, functional and financial, after careful examination it has not been considered feasible to regularise the services of all Extra Departmental Agents including Extra Departmental Delivery Agents.

Training Complex of FCI, Gurgaon

2454. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4064, dated August 23, 1994 and state:

(a) the detailed reasons for not completing and commissioning the Training Complex at Gurgaon by December 1995;

(b) the time limit by which the said work is proposed to be executed;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the losses suffered by the owners of the properties occupied by FCI at East of Kailash, New Delhi even after the expiry of the lease deed as far back as 14 years ago;

(d) whether the Government propose to investigate the matter and take action against the officials who are responsible for such an undue delay in vacating the above properties and not fulfilling their commitment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) At the time of preparation of preliminary estimate,

the consultants viz. M/s CPWD Consultancy services had assumed normal depth of foundations for all the structures. However, the results of the soil investigation conducted subsequently revealed that the depth of the foundation assumed as above would not be adequate due to encountering of soil with lower bearing capacity. The Consultants had therefore to adopt stronger foundations, as a result of which the quantum of sub-structure works of all the buildings of the project has increased substantially.

The detailed estimates and structural drawings for the various buildings and services covered under the scope of the project could not be furnished by the CPWD Consultancy services in one go. This necessitated execution of the works of the project under different phases. As a consequence of the above two factors, the completion date of December 1995 fixed earlier also got extended.

(b) The revised date of completion of the said work is 31st December, 1996.

(c) As per the policy of the Food Corporation of India, an offer for increase of rent @ 25% (twenty five percent) w.e.f. 1.6.1992 has been made to the owners subject to execution of revised/fresh lease agreement.

(d) The matter does not warrant investigation.

(e) Does not arise.

New Post Offices in Villages of M.P.

2455. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices working in the rented accommodation in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for opening new post offices in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details of post offices working in rented accommodation in Madhya Pradesh postal circle, district-wise is given in the attached statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of the proposals under consideration for opening new post offices in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97 are given below :-

S.No. Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices

1	2
1.	Bigaudi, District Satna
2.	Chinda, District Chhindwara
3.	Dubgawan, District Rewa

1	2
4.	Phulchur, District Balaghat
5.	Garhuprora, District Bilaspur
6.	Daukapa, District Bilaspur
7.	Parsada, District Bilaspur
8.	Esbeda, District Bastar

STATEMENT

Details of number of post offices working in rented accommodation in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise.

S. No.	Name of District	Post Offices in rented Buildings	
		Head Post offices	Sub-Post offices
1	2	3	4
1.	Balaghat	-	22
2.	Bastar	-	41
3.	Betul	-	17
4.	Bhind	-	17
5.	Bhopal	1	48
6.	Bilaspur	1	73
7.	Chhatarpur	-	20
8.	Chhindwara	-	25
9.	Damoh	-	15
10.	Datia	-	08
11.	Dewas	-	13
12.	Dhar	-	13
13.	Durg	1	48
14.	Guna	-	18
15.	Gwalior	-	38
16.	Hoshangabad	-	22
17.	Indore	-	56
18.	Jabalpur	-	80
19.	Jhabua	1	18
20.	Khandwa	-	32
21.	Khargone	-	23
22.	Mandla	-	14
23.	Mandsaur	-	35
24.	Morena	-	13
25.	Narsinghpur	-	16
26.	Panna	-	12
27.	Raigarh	-	27
28.	Raipur	-	51
29.	Rajn	-	13

1	2	3	4
30.	Rajgarh (Biaora)	-	13
31.	Rajnandgaon	1	15
32.	Ratlam	-	25
33.	Rewa	-	36
34.	Sagar	-	41
35.	Satna	1	25
36.	Sehore	-	13
37.	Seoni	-	18
38.	Shahdol	-	32
39.	Shajapur	-	17
40.	Shivpuri	-	17
41.	Sidhi	-	18
42.	Surguja (Ambikapur)	-	32
43.	Tikamgarh	-	18
44.	Ujjain	-	30
45.	Vidisha	-	14
Total		06	1192

TV. Transmitter, Orissa

2456. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up low power transmitter/high power transmitter at Hemgir and Bargaon and Doordarshan studio at Rourkela in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide DD-2 facilities to the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). There are no approved schemes at present to set up either TV transmitters at Hemgir and Bargaon or a Doordarshan Studio at Rourkela in Sundergarh district of Orissa. With a view to further augment TV service in the area, a scheme for setting up of a High Power (10 KW) Transmitter is under implementation at Sambalpur in replacement of the existing High Power (1 KW) Transmitter. The High Power (10 KW) Transmitter is expected to be made ready during 1997. When commissioned into service, the High Power (10 KW) Transmitter at Sambalpur is expected to provide TV service to Hemgir subject to terrain conditions, while Bargaon is expected to receive fringe service from this

transmitter. Further expansion of TV service in the hitherto uncovered parts of the country including Orissa would depend upon availability of adequate resources for the purpose and inter-se priorities.

(d) and (e). 7 TV transmitters of varying powers for relay of Metro Channel (DD-2) service are already functioning in Orissa. There is no approved scheme at present to set up additional transmitters for relay of Metro Channel (DD-2) service in the State.

Amount Released for Promotion of Tourism

2457. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the schematic amount released by the Union Government for tourism promotion programmes in Hampi and Hospet in Karnataka during 1995-96;

(b) the amount proposed to be released during 1996-97 for the promotion of tourism in Hampi and Hospet; and

(c) the facilities proposed to be provided to both foreign and domestic tourist in Hospet, Bellary District during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) The Central Department of Tourism has released Rs.13.00 lakhs for the construction of wayside facilities at Thorangal between Bellary-Hospet.

(b) For the year, 1996-97, the amount agreed in principle, construction of a Yatri Niwas at Hampi is Rs.30.00 lakhs.

(c) These facilities are for both to foreign tourists and domestic tourists as well.

[Translation]

Levy Sugar Price

2458. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar factories have increased the prices of levy sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the impact of such increase on consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The ex-factory prices of levy sugar is revised

every year in relation to the changes in SMP. With effect from 1.10.95 the ex-factory price of levy sugar has been revised vide G.S.R. No. 209 (E) Dt. 14.5.1996. The details are in the attached statement-I and statement-II.

(c) The retail issue price of sugar for Public Distribution System has not been increased. Hence, there is no impact on the consumer.

(d) to (f). Do not arise.

STATEMENT-I

Schedule-I

Prices for delivery into railway wagons (Rupees per Quintal) for all ISS Grades (excluding Excise Duty) in respect of factories specified in Schedule III upto a distance of 5 kms. from the factory.

S.No.	Zone	All Indian Sugar Standards (ISS) Grades of Sugar
1.	Andhra Pradesh	939.30
2.	Assam, Nagaland, Orissa and West Bengal	1041.45
3.	Bihar (North) @	942.26
4.	Bihar (South) @	1036.27
5.	Gujarat (South)	853.71
6.	Gujarat (Saurashtra)	942.50
7.	Haryana	863.13
8.	North-West Karnataka	852.62
9.	Rest of Karnataka	891.23
10.	Kerala, Goa And Coastal Karnataka	933.32
11.	Madhya Pradesh	982.93
12.	Maharashtra (South)	849.25
13.	Maharashtra (North)	874.84
14.	Maharashtra (Central)	825.81
15.	Punjab	872.61
16.	Rajasthan	946.96
17.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	938.95
18.	Uttar Pradesh (Central)	882.60
19.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	940.07
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	900.19

@ The prices for North and South Bihar Zones are subject to final orders of the Court in respect of Purchase Tax etc. In case any amount is to be realised from the factories in the aforesaid zones of Bihar, it would have to be refunded by the concerned factories to the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund. Where the Railway Station is beyond 5 kms. from the factory, an additional amount of Rs.0.13 per km. per Quintal of sugar will be paid.

STATEMENT-II

Prices for delivery into Buyer's carts, lorries or other means of transport at the factory gate/factory godown (Rupees per Quintal) for all ISS Grades (excluding Excise Duty) in respect of factories specified in Schedule III upto a distance of 5 kms from the factory.

S.No.	Zone	All Indian Sugar Standards (ISS) Grades of Sugar
1.	Andhra Pradesh	937.73
2.	Assam, Nagaland, Orissa and West Bengal	1039.88
3.	Bihar (North) @	940.69
4.	Bihar (South) @	1034.70
5.	Gujarat (South)	852.14
6.	Gujarat (Saurashtra)	940.93
7.	Haryana	861.50
8.	North-West Karnataka	851.05
9.	Rest of Karnataka	889.66
10.	Kerala, Goa And Coastal Karnataka	931.75
11.	Madhya Pradesh	981.36
12.	Maharashtra (South)	847.68
13.	Maharashtra (North)	873.27
14.	Maharashtra (Central)	824.24
15.	Punjab	871.04
16.	Rajasthan	945.39
17.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	937.38
18.	Uttar Pradesh (Central)	881.03
19.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	938.50
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	898.62

@ The prices for North and South Bihar Zones are subject to final orders of the Court in respect of Purchase Tax etc. In case any amount is to be realised from the factories in the aforesaid zones of Bihar, it would have to be refunded by the concerned factories to the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund.

Sd/-
(Navin Kumar)
Joint Secretary (Sugar)
(No.2-2/95-SPY (D.II))

* G.S.R. 731(E)/Ess.Com./Sugar Dated 8.11.1995

[English]

Religious Minorities

2459. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total population and the geographical distribution of religious minorities in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have conducted any study to find out the socio-economic status of the religious communities particularly the Muslims;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government are aware that in comparison to other communities the percentage of Muslims in Government services and public undertakings is very low;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A statement-I is attached.

(b) No such study has been conducted by the Union Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. Statement II and Statement-III of religion-wise representation of various communities in the State/UT and Central Police forces are attached.

(f) Govt. have taken several steps for ensuring the proper representation of Minorities, which includes Muslims, in Government services. They are as follows:

(i) The 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities calls for giving special consideration to Minorities in the matters of recruitment in Central and State/UT

Governments including Public Sector Undertakings.

(ii) Department of Personnel and Training have issued instructions for nominating a member belonging to the Minority community in Selection Committees/Boards constituted for the purpose of recruitment of ten or more vacancies in respect of Groups 'C' and 'D' services in Central Ministries/Departments including Public Sector Undertakings.

(iii) The Ministry of Welfare monitors the recruitment aspect of the Minorities in Central Ministries/Departments including Public Sector Undertakings on quarterly basis. The Ministry of Home Affairs monitors the recruitment in State/UT Police services.

(iv) Pre-examination Coaching Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare as well as University Grants Commission for the candidates belonging to backward sections among minorities also, to enable them to compete on equal term with others in respect of tests held for recruitment in public employment.

(v) State/UT Governments were asked to organise physical training programmes for the candidates belonging to minorities to prepare them for recruitment in State/UT police services.

STATEMENT-I

(India's total Population: 816, 169, 666)

State	1991 Census - Statewise Figures							Total Min. population	Total % of Min.
	Total Population	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Zoroast		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INDIA								71.84.804	10.80
Andhra Pradesh	66,508,008	59,281,950 (89.14%)	5,923,954 (8.91%)	1,216,348 (1.83%)	21,910 (0.03%)	22,153 (0.03%)	439		
Arunachal Pradesh	864,558	320,212 (37.04%)	11,922 (1.38%)	89,013 (10.29%)	1,205 (0.14%)	111,372 (12.88%)	-	2,13,512	24.70
Assam	22,414,322	15,047,293 (67.13%)	6,373,204 (28.43%)	744,367 (3.32%)	16,492 (60.07%)	64,008 (0.29%)	4	71.98,075	32.11
Bihar	86,374,465	71,193,417 (82.42%)	12,787,985 (14.81%)	843,717 (0.98%)	78,212 (0.09%)	3,518	185	1,37,13,617	15.88
Goa	1,169,793	756,621 (64.68%)	61,455 (5.25%)	349,225 (29.86%)	1,087 (0.09%)	240 (0.02%)	47	4,12,054	35.22
Gujarat	41,309,582	36,964,228 (89.48%)	3,606,920 (8.73%)	181,753 (0.44%)	33,044 (0.08%)	11,615 (0.03%)	12,924	38,46,256	9.31
Haryana	16,463,648	14,686,512 (89.21%)	763,775 (4.64%)	15,699 (0.10%)	956,836 (5.81%)	2,058 (0.01%)	-	17,38,368	10.56
Himachal Pradesh	5,170,877	4,958,560 (95.90%)	89,134 (1.72%)	4,435 (0.09%)	52,050 (1.01%)	64,081 (1.24%)	37	2,09,737	4.06
Karnataka	44,977,201	38,432,027 (85.45%)	5,234,023 (11.64%)	859,478 (1.91%)	10,101 (0.02%)	73,012 (0.16%)	568	61,77,182	13.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kerala	29,098,518	16,668,587 (57.28%)	6,788,364 (23.33%)	5,621,510 (19.32%)	2,224 (0.01%)	223	205	1,24,12,526	42.66
Madhya Pradesh	66,181,170	61,412,898 (92.80%)	3,282,800 (4.96%)	426,598 (0.65%)	161,111 (0.24%)	216,667 (0.33%)	92	40,87,260	6.18
Maharashtra	78,937,187	64,033,213 (81.12%)	7,628,755 (9.67%)	885,030 (1.12%)	161,184 (0.21%)	5,040,785 (6.39%)	60,501	1,37,76,255	17.45
Manipur	1,837,149	1,059,470 (57.67%)	133,535 (7.27%)	626,669 (34.11%)	1,301 (0.07%)	711 (0.04%)	-	7,62,216	41.49
Meghalaya	1,774,778	260,306 (14.67%)	61,462 (3.46%)	1,146,092 (64.58%)	2,612 (0.15%)	2,934 (0.16%)	13	12,13,113	68.35
Mizoram	689,756	34,788 (5.05%)	4,538 (0.66%)	591,342 (85.73%)	299 (0.04%)	54,024 (7.83%)	-	6,50,203	94.27
Nagaland	1,209,546	122,473 (10.12%)	20,642 (1.71%)	1,057,940 (87.47%)	732 (0.06%)	581 (0.05%)	-	10,79,895	89.28
Orissa	31,659,736	29,971,257 (94.67%)	577,775 (1.83%)	666,220 (2.10%)	17,296 (0.05%)	9,153 (0.03%)	10	12,70,454	4.01
Punjab	20,281,969	6,989,226 (34.46%)	239,401 (1.18%)	225,163 (1.11%)	12,76,697 (62.95%)	24,930 (0.12%)	30	1,32,57,221	65.36
Rajasthan	44,005,990	39,201,099 (89.08%)	3,535,339 (8.01%)	47,989 (0.11%)	649,174 (1.48%)	4,467 (0.01%)	-	42,26,969	9.61
Sikkim	406,457	277,881 (68.37%)	3,849 (0.95%)	13,413 (3.30%)	375 (0.09%)	110,371 (27.15%)	15	1,28,008	31.49
Tamil Nadu	55,858,946	49,532,052 (88.67%)	3,052,717 (5.47%)	3,179,410 (5.69%)	5,449 (0.01%)	2,128	153	62,39,857	11.17
Tripura	2,757,205	2,384,934 (86.50%)	196,495 (7.13%)	46,472 (1.68%)	740 (0.03%)	128,260 (4.65%)	-	3,71,967	13.49
Uttar Pradesh	139,112,287	113,712,829 (81.74%)	24,109,684 (17.33%)	199,575 (0.14%)	675,775 (0.48%)	221,433 (0.16%)	389	2,52,06,856	18.12
West Bengal	68,077,965	50,866,624 (74.72%)	16,075,836 (23.61%)	383,477 (0.56%)	55,392 (0.08%)	203,578 (0.30%)	512	1,67,18,795	24.56
UNION TERRITORIES									
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	280,661	189,521 (67.53%)	21,354 (7.61%)	67,211 (23.95%)	1,350 (0.48%)	322 (0.11%)	3	90,240	32.15
Chandigarh	642,015	486,895 (75.84%)	17,477 (2.72%)	5,030 (0.78%)	130,288 (20.29%)	699 (0.11%)	9	1,53,503	23.91
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	138,477	132,213 (95.48%)	3,341 (2.41%)	2,092 (1.51%)	20 (0.01%)	200 (0.15%)	78	5,731	4.14
Daman & Diu	101,586	89,153 (87.76%)	9,048 (8.91%)	2,904 (2.86%)	101 (0.01%)	31 (0.03%)	123	12,207	12.02
Delhi	9,420,644	7,882,164 (83.67%)	889,641 (9.44%)	83,152 (0.88%)	455,657 (4.84%)	13,906 (0.15%)	41	14,42,397	15.31
Lakshdweep	51,707	2,337 (4.52%)	48,765 (94.31%)	598 (1.16%)	1 (0.00%)	1 (0.00%)	1	49,366	95.47
Pondicherry	807,785	695,981 (86.16%)	52,362 (6.54%)	58,362 (7.23%)	29 (0.00%)	39 (0.01%)	3	1,11,300	13.78

STATEMENT-II

Statement Showing Representation of Minorities in the Central Police Organisation (Rank-wise And Religion wise)

S. Name of No. CPO's	Rank-wise Religion-wise	Number					Total%		
		Hindus	Muslims	Christian	Sikhs	Others			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Boarder Security Force (31-12-95)	Gazetted Non-Gazetted Total	2214 158147 160361	52 8072 8124	42 3732 3774	294 6658 6952	1 257 258	2603 176866 179469		10.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	C.I.S.F. (31-12-95)	Gazetted Non-Gazetted Total	537 71392 71929	16 3436 3452	18 2463 2481	35 2869 2904	1 157 158	607 80317 80924	11.1
3.	C.R.P.F. (31-12-95)	Gazetted Non-Gazetted Total	1566 142490 144056	81 8873 8954	65 4094 4156	145 5407 5552	3 229 232	1860 161093 162953	11.5
4.	I.T.B.P. (31-12-95)	Gazetted Non-Gazetted Total	483 25965 26443	7 612 619	6 256 262	39 1224 1263	6 307 313	541 28304 28905	8.2
Grand Total			402794	21149	10676	16671	961	452251	10.9

STATEMENT-III

Statement Showing The Representation of Minorities in the State Police Force On Point No.8 (Rank-wise And Religion wise)

S.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Hindus	Muslims	Numbers		Others	Total%	
				Chrtistain	Sikhs			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh (As on 1.4.95)	51449	11438	181	1967	-	65035	20.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh (31.12.95)	4034	49	14	40	22	4159	3.0
3.	Assam (31.12.95)	38944	4812	43	763	4	44566	12.6
4.	Bihar	NF	NF	NF	NF	NF	NF	NF
5.	Goa (31.3.95)	2675	65	-	346	-	3086	13.4
6.	Gujarat (31.3.95)	55873	3787	141	289	58	60148	7.1
7.	Haryana (30.9.95)	28655	399	1156	27	-	30237	5.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh (30.9.95)	10981	177	194	5	80	11437	4.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir (31.3.95)	9050	17946	1566	93	2142	30797	70.6
10.	Karnataka (30.6.95)	40308	4308	3	1018	69	45706	11.8
11.	Kerala (30.6.95)	28259	4008	-	6915	-	39182	27.9
12.	Madhya Pradesh (31.12.95)	83621	3639	206	1345	105	88916	5.9
13.	Maharashtra (30.9.95)	130420	7542	89	1204	8	139263	6.3
14.	Mehgalya (1.4.94)	956	179	4	4229	1784	7152	86.6
15.	Manipur (30.9.95)	7802	1082	-	2563	-	11447	31.8
16.	Mizoram (30.9.95)	771	40	40	5750	19	6620	88.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
17.	Nagaland (31.3.94)	1721	122	57	639	-	2539	32.2
18.	Orissa (30.3.95)	26915	1718	98	1257	-	29988	10.2
19.	Punjab (31.12.95)	17333	345	50226	478	-	68382	74.6
20.	Rajasthan (30.9.95)	54653	3248	330	33	4	58268	6.2
21.	Sikkim (30.9.95)	2003	2	3	78	832	2918	31.3
22.	Tamil Nadu (30.9.95)	62540	4084	-	7378	76	74078	15.5
23.	Tripura (30.9.95)	9451	287	2	130	86	9956	5.0
24.	Uttar Pradesh (31.12.94)	152903	8543	188	94	-	161728	5.4
25.	West Bengal (30.6.95)	73418	2441	18	236	322	76435	3.9
UNION TERRITORIES								
1.	Andaman & Nicobar (30.9.95)	1709	143	57	685	-	2594	34.1
2.	Chandigarh (30.9.95)	2390	25	1606	24	-	4045	40.9
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli (30.9.95)	223	6	-	-	-	229	2.6
4.	Daman & Diu (30.9.95)	191	6	1	44	-	242	21.0
5.	Delhi (30.9.95)	47014	1450	947	503	3	49917	5.8
6.	Lakshadweep (30.9.95)	143	180	-	13	-	336	57.6
7.	Pondicherry (30.9.95)	1696	68	-	130	-	1894	10.2
Total		948101	82139	57170	38276	5614	1131300	16.1

Provident Fund

2460. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Provident Fund collection from the employees and workers all over the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any heavy amount out of the above fund has been invested to earn interest;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints regarding delay in disposal of Provident Fund cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the procedure in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The total amount of E.P.F. collection from the employers and workers all over the country during 1992-93 to 1994-95 was as given below:

Year	Total P.F. Collection (Rs. in crore)
1992-93	4666.42
1993-94	4954.85
1994-95	5076.89

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The contributions collected but not immediately required for disbursement among the

beneficiaries is invested as per the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. During 1992-93 to 1994-95 an amount of Rs. 14319.86 crore was got invested by the EPF Organisation.

(d) to (f). There are petitions/complaints received in respect of settlement of provident fund claims, family pension claims, transfer of P.F. accumulation, payment of advances, issue of annual statements of account etc. In the EPF Organisation there is already a Public Grievances Hearing System for redressal of all such public grievances/petitions. For providing prompt service to the EPF subscribers, a massive computerisation programme has also been launched in the EPF Organisation.

Trivandrum International Airport

2461. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to provide the basic facilities to the Trivandrum airport after its being declared as an International airport in 1991;

(b) the existing International air services available at the above airport;

(c) whether demands have been received to undertake more air services from the airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Basic facilities like better baggage handling, improved passenger amenities, safety equipment etc. have been provided at Trivandrum airport. Extension of main runway, modification to the international terminal, installation of precision approach lighting etc. are in progress.

(b) 5 foreign airlines namely Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air, Air Maldives, Air Lanka and Oman Air in addition to Air India and Indian Airlines operate 75 flights per week from Trivandrum airport.

(c) and (d). Demands are received for additional services from time to time. New services are started by the airlines taking into account commercial viability of air services, availability of aircraft, capacity, traffic rights on particular routes etc.

Social Development Scheme

2462. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the local social development schemes for workers provided by the private sector engaged in exploration of mines;

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

(c) whether any survey has been conducted regarding these development programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Arrears Due to Cane Growers

2463. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Allahabad High Court has ordered the Government of Uttar Pradesh to pay nearly Rs. 900 crore in sugarcane arrears to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers have protested the payment of arrears through the issue of Vikas Patras and demanded the payment in cash; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to pay the arrears to farmers in cash?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The High Court of Allahabad (Lucknow Bench) has passed an interim Order in Writ P.No. 1720 (MB) of 1996, V.M. Singh v/s. State of U.P. and others directing the Cane Commissioner, U.P. to ensure through the District Cane Officers determination of the actual price of the cane required to be purchased by the sugar mills as per the agreement and payment of the same to the cane growers/cane growers' society within 15 days. No specific amount has been mentioned.

(c) and (d). The Government of U.P. have reported that in response to a complaint voiced in newspapers regarding insistence by one of the district officers to make the cane arrears payment in the form of Vikas Patras, it has issued a circular directing that no such condition should be imposed.

Out-Dated Telephone Exchanges in Madurai

2464. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of out-dated telephone exchanges in Madurai;

(b) whether the Government propose to replace these exchanges by electronic exchanges;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) the waiting list for telephone connections and the time by which the connections are likely to be given to those subscribers;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for setting up more electronic exchanges and expansion of telephone services;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These are planned to be replaced by electronic telephone exchanges during 1997-98.

(d) The waiting list as on 30.6.96 is 9112 and the present waiting list is likely to be cleared during 1996-97.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The following new electronic exchanges are planned to be set up/expanded at Madurai during 1996-97.

- A new technology exchange (EWS) of 10,000 lines.
- Expansion of E 10B electronic exchange by 3000 lines.

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

Judgement of Branch Post Master, Rajasthan

2465. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of judgements issued by the Central Arbitration Tribunal in respect of Branch Post Masters of the Department of Posts in Rajasthan during 1995-96;

(b) whether all judgements given so far have been implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) During the year 1995-96, the Central Administrative Tribunal, (not Arbitration) Jaipur and Jodhpur Benches delivered 15 judgements in respect of ED Branch Postmasters in Rajasthan.

(b) Out of the above 15 judgements 9 Judgements have been implemented.

(c) The details of the judgements implemented are as under :

OA No.	Name of Applicant	Name of Tribunal
1	2	3
1. 534/94	Chotu Singh v/s Union of India	Jaipur
2. 229/93	Ishwar Lal v/s Union of India	Jodhpur
3. 426/94	Jagdish Chandra v/s Union of India	Jaipur
4. 148/95	Jagdish Chandra v/s Union of India	Jodhpur

1	2	3
5. 152/95	Nemichand v/s Union of India	Jodhpur
6. 28/92	Murari Lal v/s Union of India	Jaipur
7. 294/94	K.C. Sharma v/s Union of India	Jaipur
8. 317/93	D.K. Khatik v/s Union of India	Jaipur
9. 351/95	Bhannar Lal v/s Union of India	Jaipur

(d) Since the remaining six (6) judgements were in favour of this Department the question of implementation of the same did not arise.

Night Landing Facilities

2466. SHRI RAJU RANA :

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the airports which have night landing facilities;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide night landing facilities in some more airports during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details of such airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Night landing facilities are available at following Airports :

Agartala, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Rajkot, Ranchi, Trichy, Udaipur, Vadodara, Varanasi, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Imphal, Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta Madras and Thiruvananthapuram.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Provision of Night Landing Facilities at Lilabari airport in Assam has been taken up.

Companion-Free Scheme

2467. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has launched a companion-free scheme to lure passengers;

(b) if so, salient features of the scheme;

(c) the names of destinations for which a free ticket for a companion is likely to be available; and

(d) the other concessional schemes which the Air India has decided to offer?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The scheme is applicable to first class and executive class fare paying passengers on India/Europe and India/UK sectors provided the passenger and his companion follow the same itinerary and perform outbound travel together. The scheme is available for London, Manchester, Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam, Geneva and Rome till 31st August, 1996 and is in addition to the existing incentive schemes like Frequent Flyer Programme, etc.

[Translation]

Water Pollution in NMDC

2468. SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether water pollution is causing due to mining of iron ore by the NMDC in Deposit Nos. 5 and 14 in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of villages and farmers whose land has been affected fully partly;

(c) the number of farmers given compensation due to pollution caused to their land so far and the number of farmers to whom compensation is yet to be given; and

(d) the measures adopted permanently so far to avoid water pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No water pollution is being caused due to mining of iron ore by the NMDC in Deposits 14 and 5. However, some agricultural land has been polluted due to overflow of Kirandul Nalah in the upstream of tailing dam and Nalah No. 25 in Bachel area due to break in the embankment.

(b) The number of villages; farmers and the area of private land affected fully or partly are :

Projects	No. of villages	No. of farmers affected	Total private land affected
Bailadila-14/11C	2	17	35.42 Acres
Bailadila-5	1	22	15.00 Acres

(c) In Bailadila Deposit-5, Bachel, six farmers whose land was affected due to silting have been provided with permanent employment in NMDC. For the remaining farmers, 16 in Bachel and 17 in Kirandul, monetary compensation is under finalisation in consultation with District Authorities.

(d) Measures adopted by NMDC to avoid water pollution, amongst others, are :

1. Use of slow speed classifiers at the screening plants to reclaim iron ore fines.
2. Impounding of slimes from screening plants into the tailing dam. Only clear supernatant

water conforming to GSR 422-E Ministry of Environment and Forests is made to overflow the weir constructed at the dam.

3. 4 check dams in Deposit 14 and 5 in Deposit 5 have been constructed at crucial locations.
4. Desilting of nalas and check dams is taken up regularly.
5. Degraded lands and old waste dumps are regularly reclaimed through plantation of trees to avoid run off of loose fines/material.
6. Waste dump slope is stabilised by sleepers, drum fills and Sisal plantation to reduce soil erosion.
7. 625 meters long protective toe wall with boulders wrapped in chain link mesh has been constructed to arrest wash-off from old fine ore dumps flowing to Kirandul nala.
8. For treatment of domestic sewage, oxidation ponds have been constructed at Kirandul and Bachel. These are checked and monitored regularly.
9. Suitable drains are provided along haul roads and catch pits or settling ponds at the service centres.

[English]

Registered Recruitment Agents

2469. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Registered Recruitment Agents with the Government since the enforcement of the Emigration Act, 1983;

(b) the category-wise break-up of the agents and the total amount of the deposit collected from these agents;

(c) whether the applications of some Recruiting Agents have been rejected; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Since the enactment of Emigration Act, 1983, 2782 Recruiting Agents have been registered with the Government so far. Recruiting agents are broadly categorised with reference to the estimated number of workers to be recruited by them. Accordingly, Registration Certificates are presently issued valid for recruitment of upto 300 workers, upto 1000 workers and more than 1000 workers. Since the Recruiting Agents keep on getting their licences renewed/modified making the same valid for recruitment of higher number of workers, no category-wise record of Recruiting Agents has been maintained. The Recruiting Agents are required to furnish security in the form of Bank Guarantee ranging from Rs. 3.00 lakh to Rs. 10.00 lakhs depending

upon the workers to be recruited by them. They are not required to deposit any amount in cash with the Government.

(c) and (d). The Registration Certificates are issued keeping in view the applicants' financial soundness, trustworthiness, their having basic facilities for carrying out the business, their antecedents and their furnishing security in the form of bank guarantee. In the event of non-fulfilment of these conditions, applications for grant of Registration Certificates are rejected.

AIR/Doordarshan Kendras in Assam

2470. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Assam which have the facilities of producing original programmes in Assamese language;

(b) the details of such projects under implementation in the State, location-wise;

(c) whether Assamese language is given adequate time in telecasting on the National network and DD channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Details are given in attached Statement.

(c) to (e). Except for regional films on Sundays which are telecast on National Network alphabetically language-wise by rotation, no other programme in regional language is telecast on the National Network. Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati telecasts Assamese programmes daily between 6.00 P.M. and 8.30 P.M. in addition to a daily five minute news bulletin in the morning from 8.40 to 8.45 A.M. Furthermore, programmes in Assamese and other languages of North Satellite Channel (DD-13) for a duration of 7 hours 30 minutes daily.

STATEMENT

Under Implementation in Assam Which Have Programme Production (Assame) facilities as Referred to in Reply to Parts (a) and (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2470 for 1.8.96

Station/Kendras Functioning	Station/Kendras under Implementation
1	2
ALL INDIA RADIO	
Guwahati	Kokrajhar (NRS)

1	2
Dibrugarh	Tezpur (NRS)
Jorhat (LRS)	
Hatlong (LRS)	
Nagaon (LRS)	
Diphu (LRS)	
Silchar	
DOORDARSHAN	
Guwahati (PPC)	
Dibrugarh (PPC)	
Silchar (PPC)	

Legend : LRS - Local Radio station.
NRS - New Radio Station
PPC - Programme Production Centre.

Industrial Training to Women

2471. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided for imparting industrial training to women institution-wise and State-wise during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any monitoring is also done by the Government to ensure proper utilisation of the financial assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the concerned states and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Atlanta Olympics, 1996

2472. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount paid for purchasing the exclusive telecast rights of the Atlanta Olympics, 1996 by the Doordarshan;

(b) the advertising revenue likely to be earned by Doordarshan during the telecast of the games;

(c) the timing of the live telecast of the events in India;

(d) its impact, on the regular programming on DD-1 and DD-2; and

(e) whether the Doordarshan propose to meet the threat, if any, be being challenged by ESPN and Star Sports channels?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) (a) US \$ 6,40,000, Sir.

(b) Rs. 612 lakhs, Sir.

(c) From 23.00 Hrs. to 08.30 Hrs. (next day).

(d) Since the events of Atlanta Olympics start around midnight, the live telecast of the Games does not affect the regular programmes of DD-I and DD-II.

(e) Doordarshan proposed to meet the challenge of sports channels such as ESPN and Star Sports by its endeavours to bring major sports events to its viewers live on its terrestrial/satellite network.

Expansion of TV Transmitters/AIR Stations in Gujarat

2473. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

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

(a) the details of proposals received from Gujarat for setting up, expansion and upgradation of TV Transmitters/AIR stations during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise, location-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals cleared so far, location-wise and expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon in each case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Whereas All India Radio has not received any proposal from Government of Gujarat for setting up, expansion or upgradation of AIR stations, requests for expansion of TV coverage have been received from time to time for establishing HPTs at Bhuj, Surat, Palanpur, Panagadh and Gariadhar besides a number of LPTs and relocating Dwarka Transmitter.

(b) to (d). Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Details of TV Transmitters Commissioned/Under Implementation during VIII Five Year Plan :

TV Transmitters Commissioned

HPT	Bhuj (Interim)
	Ahmedabad
	(DD-II)

LPT	Dandi	Mangrol (Junagarh)
	Devghadh Baria	Palitana
	Dharangadhra	Rapar
	Idar	Sanjeli
	Khambat	Shamlaji
	Mahuva	Gandhinagar (DD-II)

VLPT	Netrang
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TV Transmitters Under Implementation

HPT	Bhuj	
	(Permanent set-up)	
LPT	Morvi	Bantva
	Deesa	Radhanpur
	Rajula	Limbdi
	Khambalia	Dhamdukha
	Amod	Dhari
	Mangrol	Una
	(Surat)	
	Jhagadia	
VLPT	Sagwara	

Details of AIR Stations Commissioned/Under Implementation During VIII Five Year Plan

Location	Scheme	Status
AHWA	1KW MW Tr. MP Studio	Commissioned
Replacement/Upgradation of		
Ahmedabad	1 KW MW Tr. to 10 KW FM Tr.	Technically Ready Staff Sanction Awaited
Himmatnagar	1 KW MW Tr. MP Studio receiving facilities	Likely to Spill Over to 9th Plan

Air Accidents

2474. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of accidents involving flights of Indian Airlines, Air India and Private airlines services during the past three years;

(b) the causes of each of these accidents; and

(c) the details of compensation paid in respect of deaths/injuries caused by such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Date of Accident and Place	Operator	No. of Persons		Compensation Paid (Rs.)	Probable Cause of accidents
			Killed	Injured		
1.	15.11.1993 (near Tirupati)	Indian Airlines	Nil	1	1,00,000/-	The accident was caused due to the ill-conceived decision of the aircraft's Commander to divert to Madras, without ensuring that adequate fuel was available when he was faced with a flap-jam and poor visibility at Hyderabad. The plane eventually force-landed due to shortage of fuel.
2.	8.3.1994 (Delhi)	Sahara India Airlines	9	4	30,33,935/-	The accident occurred due to application of wrong rudder by trainee pilot Vidul Mahajan. Instructor Pilot Capt. Khurana did not guard/block the rudder control and give clear commands.
3.	17.12.1994 (Hyderabad)	Indian Airlines	1	Nil	Nil	Accident was caused when an unauthorised person on a moped attempted to cross the runway and was hit to death by the aircraft during its landing roll.
4.	1.7.1995 (Baroda)	East West Airlines	Nil	Nil	Nil	During the touch and go training exercise, soon after main wheels contacted the runway, the left main landing gear failed and the aircraft swung to the left.
5.	2.12.1995 (Delhi)	Indian Airlines	Nil	Nil	Nil	After touch down, the aircraft went beyond the runway. The aircraft suffered substantial damage.
6.	18.5.1996 (Kanpur)	Archana Airways	Nil	Nil	Nil	The accident is under investigation.
7.	11.7.1996 (Near Kulu)	Archana Airways	9	3	Insurance claim of Rs. 7 lakh per passenger is being settled.	The accident is under investigation.

[Translation]

Setting up of Inter Colleges for Handicapped

2475. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to open Inter Colleges for the deaf and dumb persons in some places particularly in Bore;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the locations thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Ministry of Welfare has not received any such proposals.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Inclusion of New Communities in SCs/STs List

2476. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed any High level committee to work out the possibilities for inclusion of some new communities in the list of SCs and STs;

(b) if so, whether this committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have examined the Report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e). No, Sir. However, an Advisory Committee had been constituted in October, 1993 to go into various issues relating to the revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That Committee did not complete its work, and is no longer in existence.

[English]

Upgradation of Post Offices

2477. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices upgraded during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices proposed to be upgraded during 1996-97, State-wise;

(c) whether any criteria have been adopted for upgradation of Post Offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Post Offices upgraded during each of the last three years, Postal Circle-wise is given in the attached Statement - I.

(b) No separate target is fixed for upgradation of Extra Departmental Post Offices. Upgradation of Extra Departmental Post Offices is included in the Plan for opening of Sub-Post Offices. It is proposed to open 150 Departmental Sub-Post Offices. Annual Plan, 1996-97. The Postal Circle-wise target fixed for opening of Departmental Sub-Post Office during 1996-97 is given in the attached Statement - II.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The criteria fixed by the Government to upgrade Post Offices is given in the attached Statement - III.

STATEMENT - I

Number of Post Offices Upgraded during the last three years (Statewise and year-wise)

S.No.	Name of State	Nos. of Post Offices upgraded		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	-	-
2.	Assam	9	3	-
3.	Bihar	-	-	-
4.	Delhi	1	1	-
5.	Gujarat	-	-	3
	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
	Daman and Diu	-	-	-
6.	Haryana	-	1	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-	1	1
8.	J and K	-	-	1
9.	Karnataka	4	1	1
10.	Kerala	3	2	16
	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
11.	Maharashtra	-	1	1
	Goa	-	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7	2	1
13.	North East			
	Arunachal Pradesh	-	2	-
	Manipur	-	-	-
	Meghalaya	-	2	-
	Nagaland	-	-	-
	Mizoram	-	-	-
	Tripura	-	-	-
14.	Orissa	4	1	-

1	2	3	4	5
15. Punjab		1	-	1
Chandigarh		-	-	-
16. Rajasthan		1	-	1
17. Tamil Nadu		1	2	15
Pondicherry		-	-	-
18. Uttar Pradesh		2	2	1
19. West Bengal		-	-	-
Sikkim		-	-	-
Andaman & Nicobar		-	-	-
Total		35	21	42

STATEMENT-II

Target fixed for opening of departmental sub-post offices during 1996-97

S.No.	Name of Circle	Target DSO*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Assam	4
3.	Bihar	11
4.	Delhi	10
5.	Gujarat	12
6.	Haryana	10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10
8.	J and K	2
9.	Karnataka	10
10.	Kerala	9
11.	Madhya Pradesh	9
12.	Maharashtra	12
13.	North East	4
14.	Orissa	4
15.	Punjab	4
16.	Rajasthan	10
17.	Tamilnadu	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh	16
19.	West Bengal	4
Total		150

* Departmental sub post office.

STATEMENT-III

Criteria for Upgradation of Extra Departmental Branch Post Office and Extra Departmental Sub Post Office into Departmental Sub Post Office

1. The minimum daily workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices/Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices should be at least five hours.

2. The annual loss should not be more than Rs. 2400/- per annum in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- per annum in tribal and hilly areas. In Urban areas the post office should be initially self-supporting. At the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention. The profit and loss is assessed according to the formula of income and cost, followed by the Department. This formula takes into consideration the income of the office from sale of stamps and stationery, postage collected on uppaid and insufficiently paid articles, commission on money orders and Indian Postal Orders issued and paid by the Office and Savings banks transactions. A percentage of the total inflow of revenue on these accounts is taken for calculating the income of a Post Office. The cost of the Post Office is based on the establishment charges, rental liability, fixed stationery charges and value of stamps and stationery sold to cover the cost of printing of stamps and stationery etc.

3. The distance between two post offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. If it is a delivery post office, the distance from the nearest delivery post office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

Criteria for Upgradation of a Sub Post Office to Head Post Office

A sub Post Office is upgraded to Head Post Office by bifurcating the accounts jurisdiction of an existing Head post Office when the number of sub post offices under it exceeds 60. There is a further stipulation that after bifurcating the number of sub post offices to be placed under the existing Head Post Office and the proposed Head Post Office is not less than 20. A Head Post Office can also be created in a district if there are 20 sub offices in that district to be placed under the account jurisdiction of the proposed Head Office. In hilly and backward areas, the norms can be relaxed if there is appreciable advantage in financing the Post Offices by upgradation of a sub post office into a Head Post Office.

[Translation]

Doordarshan/AIR, Bihar

2478. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount allocated to Doordarshan and All India Radio centres in Bihar, head-wise;

(b) the amount utilized by these centres out of the amount allocated to them, head-wise;

(c) whether the accounts of these centres have been audited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof separately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Mentally Retarded Persons

2479. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mentally handicapped in the age group of 6-14 years in the country;

(b) the number of institutions set up in the country to provide training and also treatment to these persons;

(c) the training capacity of each of these institutions;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the number of mentally retarded is much more than the capacity created in the country for their training and rehabilitation; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the prevailing situation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No survey has been conducted for assessing the number of mentally handicapped persons in the country in the age group of 6-14. However, a sample survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991 for persons with delayed mental development between 1-14 age, estimates that about 3% of the estimated child population has delayed mental development. Certain studies conducted by some organisations suggest that about 2-2.5% of estimated population suffer from mental retardation.

(b) and (c). According to the information furnished by Rehabilitation Council of India, the total number of institutions providing services (including training) during the year 1995 in the field of mental retardation was 626. Each organisation has an average capacity of 40 children.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Ministry of Welfare has established National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped at Secunderabad with the primary objective to train professionals to provide services of rehabilitation and special education. The Institute has 5 Regional Centres at Calcutta, Mumbai, New Delhi, Patna and Dimapur. In addition, the Institute has 13 supported centres and 7 affiliated centres which provide training to special educators.

Apart from this, Ministry of Welfare has been giving grant-in-aid to the voluntary organisations for training and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded persons. Setting up of a National Trust has also been proposed for providing total care to persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy and also to manage the properties bequeathed to them.

A comprehensive Act, namely, The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been enacted as Act No. 1 of 1996 for ensuring the provision of preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation, social security measures etc.

Setting up of TV Studio in Sikkim

2480. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for setting up of a TV studio/centre at Gangtok in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a TV studio/centre at Gangtok; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Representations are received from various quarters, including the representatives of the people, for expansion of TV service throughout the country including the State of Sikkim. TV Studio at Gangtok in Sikkim is at present under implementation. Site has been taken over, building plans finalised and most of the equipments procured. Meanwhile, a play back facility has been provided at the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT), Gangtok w.e.f. 14.7.1996.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Development of Deva Tourist Centre

2481. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance for the development of Deva Tourist centre in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the importance of Deva Tourist centre, the amount of the assistance provided by the Union Government is very less;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to provide more funds to the State during the next financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The Department of Tourism, Government of India, has agreed in principle to provide assistance for the following schemes for the year, 1996-97 :

S. No.	Name of the project	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Purchase of buses	4.00
2.	Tourist Complex at Vikramshila	30.00
3.	Wayside facility between Neterhart and Ranchi	35.00
Total		69.00

[English]

Cutting of Optical Fibre Cable in Kanpur

2482. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to cutting of optical fibre cables at Sirsaganj, Kanpur on May 18, 1996 the contact of Kanpur with other cities of the country came to an halt;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted to find out the causes of defect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made to stop such occurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. There was no such case of Kanpur city being cut off from the rest of the country on 18.5.96 due to cutting of Optical Fibre Cable. However, the OFC link between Agra-Kanpur failed on 16.5.96 due to damage caused to OFC by a PWD party near Sirsaganj and restored at 00.45 hours on 17.5.96. However, this interruption did not cause loss of contact of Kanpur from other cities in the country.

(d) A new OFC route between Agra and Kanpur is likely to be commissioned as an alternate route.

Assistance to Religious Minorities

2483. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of religious minorities would receive assistance from the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation if the annual

family income is below the poverty line as defined by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was set up on September 30, 1994 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 with the objective of providing financial assistance to these backward sections among minorities whose annual family income is below double the poverty line i.e. Rs. 22,000/- per annum.

(b) The Corporation envisages extending low interest credit to set up self-employment units to those sections of minorities who are economically disadvantaged and not in a position to get credit from other financial institutions.

[Translation]

Management Committee of Super Bazar

2484. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the members nominated in the Management Committee of the Super Bazar, Central Government Cooperative Store and other such stores functioning in New Delhi as on date;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant therein;

(c) the details of the recommendations received by the Government for the nomination of such members during the last three years; and

(d) the norms adopted for the nomination of such members?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) As per the provisions contained in the bye-laws of both the Super Bazar, Delhi and the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society, Delhi (Kendriya Bhandar), nine members including the Chairman are nominated on their Boards of Directors by the Government of India. The names of the nominated members in respect of the two Societies are given in the attached Statement. Government of India do not nominate any members in the Managing Committee of any other store functioning in New Delhi.

(b) There is one vacancy of nominated Director in each of the above-mentioned two Stores.

(c) In respect of Super Bazar, Delhi, during the last three years, nine requests were received of which only one was recommended. The recommended candidate was nominated on the Board of Directors of Super Bazar, Delhi.

(d) In case of Central Government Employees Co-operative Society, all the nominated Directors are senior Government Officers in their ex-officio capacity. In Super

Bazar, Delhi, out of the nine nominated Directors, four officers are in their ex-officio capacity and the rest are individuals who are nominated taking into account their background in the field of social service etc.

STATEMENT

The name of the nominated Directors on the Board of Directors of the :

A. Super Bazar, Delhi

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Shri Balbir Singh, J.S., Ministry of Civil Supplies, C.A. and P.D. | Chairman |
| 2. Managing Director, National Coop. Consumers Federation of India Ltd. New Delhi. | Member |
| 3. Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi | Member |
| 4. Controllar of Accounts, Ministry of Civil Supplies, C.A. and P.D. | Member |
| 5. Smt. Dolly Swamy | Member |
| 6. Shri K.D. Dawar | Member |
| 7. Jathedar Prahlad Singh | Member |
| 8. Shri Hari Shankar Gupta | Member |
| 9. Vacant. | |

B. Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd., Delhi.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Shri Dinesh Chandra, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Deptt. of Pensions and Welfare) | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Anurag Goel, J.S. (Police) Ministry of Home Affairs | Member |
| 3. Shri R.K. Saini, J.S., Ministry of Labour | Member |
| 4. Shri K.G. Goel, J.S., Ministry of Defence | Member |
| 5. Shri Balbir Singh, J.S., Ministry of Civil Supplies, C.A. and P.D. | Member |
| 6. Shri S.C. Nagpal, Director and Chief Welfare Officer, Deptt. of Personnel and Training | Member |
| 7. Shri S. Pattanayak, Director of Estates, Ministry of Urban Development | Member |
| 8. Shri G.C. Srivastava, Secretary and Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. | Member |
| 9. Vacant. | |

[English]

Post Office in Alaknanda Complex

2485. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the residents of Greater Kailash II and Alaknanda Apartments have to face a lot inconvenience due to absence of post office in Alakananda complex:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a space has already been earmarked for the post office there;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up of post office inspite of rapid growth of this complex; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. There is already a Non Delivery Post Office in Greater Kailash-II area to cater to the needs of the residents of the area. Alaknanda area is, at present, being served by Govindpuri Post Office, Kalkaji which is about 1/2 Km. from Alaknanda area. Besides, there are four other Post Offices namely Kailash Colony, 'N' Block, Greater Kailash, Part-I, Chitrangan Park, Hamdard Nagar and Kalkaji to serve the residents of Greater Kailash and Alaknanda areas. A Post Office has also been sanctioned for Alaknanda area.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes. A plot is available for construction of Post Office Building in the market place of Alaknanda.

(d) The non availability of suitable accommodation on rent and paucity of resources have resulted in delay in setting up of a Post Office in Alaknanda area.

(e) The Post Office can start functioning in Alaknanda area as and when suitable accommodation is available on rent or on the construction of a Departmental Building for the purpose depending upon the availability of resources.

Cooperative Sugar Factories

2486. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters of Intent granted for Co-operative sugar factories remained unimplemented, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for assisting such Co-operatives which are at advanced stage?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The State-wise break up of the letters of

intent/industrial licences issued for establishment of new sugar factories in the cooperative sector and pending implementation is as under :

(As on 15.6.96)

S.No.	State	No. of Letters of intent Pending Implementation
1.	Haryana	1
2.	Punjab	1
3.	Uttar Pradesh	3
4.	Gujarat	9
5.	Maharashtra	43
6.	Karnataka	8
7.	Tamil Nadu	2
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1
Total		68

Generally, it takes about 3-4 years to set up a new sugar factory. 25 Letters of intent were issued during the sugar year 1993-94, (October-September) & one letter of intent during 1995-96 and the remaining letters of intent are under various stages of implementation.

(c) The implementation of Letter of Intent/Industrial Licence is the responsibility of the entrepreneur. The Central Government does not provide any loans for the setting up of new sugar factories in the cooperative sector. However, such loans are provided by the financial institutions directly to the undertakings. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) also provides loan assistance to State Governments for contribution towards the share capital of the sugar factories.

Special Increment of Officials in Vidhesh Sanchar Nigam

2487. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vidhesh Sanchar Nigam Limited has granted 14 special increments to some of its higher officers appointed in 1995-96 on the plea that these officers were highly qualified;

(b) if so, the rules under which these increments were sanctioned;

(c) whether these officers were sent abroad for further training; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

P.F. Racket At Post Office

2488. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated March 15, 1996 captioned 'PF racket at post office';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investigation into the said scandal has since been completed;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay;

(f) whether some officers/employees of the Department of Posts/Post Office have been found involved in this case;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken against them?

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

(b) The fraud to the extent of Rs.14,84,630/- has taken place at Kalkaji Post Office during the period from Nov. 94 to Sep.95, relating to money orders presented by Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Nehru Place to be issued at Kalkaji Post Office, New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) the responsible officials have been identified.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h). 4 officials found involved have been placed under suspension and appropriate action initiated.

Loss Suffered by KSCSC

2489. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the amount suffered by the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation due to difference in ex-factory price and issue price of levy sugar;

(b) whether the Union Government compensate the above loss;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). The losses suffered by the State Governments are compensated by the Central Govt. through a fund

named Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (LSPEF) maintained by the Food Corporation of India on behalf of the Central Govt. Government of India has relased a subsidy of Rs.258.67 crores and Rs.155.62 crores to Food Corporation of India to make payment to State Agencies for their differential claims due to the revision of levy price of sugar. FCI has, therefore, made an account payment of Rupees Five crores ninety four lakh sixty nine thousand six hundred and sixty (Rs.5,94,69,660/-) to the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation for the losses suffered by the KCSCSC for the period 1.10.95 to 30.6.96.

Bidhanbag Unit of BALCO

2490. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 118 on December 4, 1995 and state :

(a) whether the streamlining and modernising of the Conductor Plant of Bidhanbag Unit of BALCO has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). The work of revamping and modernisation of Conductor Plant of Bidhanbag Unit of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd (BALCO) to produce All Aluminium Alloy conductor (AAAC) was awarded to M/s Galada Power and Telecom Ltd. Hyderabad (GPTL). Supply/erection/commissioning of all equipment/facilities except for 37 Bobbin Stranding Machine has been completed. This remaining work is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to States

*2491. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI :

SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT :

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided or propose to provide financial and any other assistance to various States for the construction of hotels, motels and guest houses and for the maintenance of the same;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance provided during the last three years, till date State-wise;

(c) the locations of hotels, motels and guest houses opened in the country during the above period and the expenditure incurred on each of them;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to open such new hotels, motels and guest houses during the next three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) to (c). The Department of Tourism, Government of India does not provide financial assistance for construction of hotels, motels and guest houses to the State Governments. However, financial assistance is provided to State/Union Territory Governments for construction of Tourist Bungalows, Tourist Complexes, Tourist Lodges, Wayside Amenities, Yatri Niwases, Cafetarias, Tented Accommodation, etc. During the last three years, the financial assistance provided to State/ Union Territory Governments is given in the attached Statement.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Central Financial Assistance Sanctioned to the State Governments/Union Territories during VIII Five Year Plan, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

S.No.	States	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
		Amount Sanct- ioned	Amount Sanct- ioned	Amount Sanct- ioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.28	171.99	13.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.40	-	52.26
3.	Assam	78.11	52.99	70.24
4.	Bihar	9.75	103.10	116.53
5.	Goa	78.82	76.74	181.06
6.	Gujarat	65.76	14.50	7.98
7.	Haryana	226.76	173.98	111.45
8.	Himachal Pradesh	369.25	297.90	475.90
9.	J and K	236.19	143.47	105.30
10.	Karnataka	177.44	229.96	229.76
11.	Kerala	97.40	287.05	209.94
12.	Madhya Pradesh	30.42	-	-
13.	Maharashtra	309.11	207.39	38.31
14.	Manipur	45.50	-	75.82
15.	Meghalaya	1.85	-	4.09
16.	Mizoram	88.18	56.49	154.66
17.	Nagaland	16.66	23.08	51.60
18.	Orissa	101.52	164.60	108.86

1	2	3	4	5
19. Punjab	111.21	113.93	140.49	
20. Rajasthan	285.70	94.86	176.85	
21. Sikkim	130.89	—	24.61	
22. Tamilnadu	402.45	132.45	249.65	
23. Tripura	9.31	46.61	35.43	
24. Uttar Pradesh	166.04	149.62	26.21	
25. West Bengal	158.38	164.87	191.10	
UNION TERRITORIES				
1. Andaman & Nicobar	53.47	-	45.00	
2. Chandigarh	18.66	21.38	17.20	
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	23.62	-	
4. Daman and Diu	12.03	44.29	44.21	
5. Delhi	133.71	37.41	28.23	
6. Lakshadweep	-	19.95	24.65	
7. Pondicherry	29.75	-	28.12	
Total	3604.00	2842.29	3032.76	

Computer System

2492. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce computerised system at entrance in the Doordarshan and All India Radio centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Controlled flight into Terrain

2493. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has decided to take up the issue of prevention of 'Controlled flight into terrain' accidents on high priority basis;

(b) whether most of the air accidents relate to CFIT which can be avoided;

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

(d) the steps Government propose to take to avoid air accidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Since 1985, there have been 52 accidents involving twin/multi-engine aircraft and only 11 were 'Controlled flight into terrain' (CFIT) accidents.

(d) Steps such as issue of Civil Airworthiness Requirements, Air Safety Circulars, monitoring of flight recorders, safety audit of operators, implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, inspection of aerodromes etc. are continuously taken to avoid air accidents.

Timing of Bill Collection Centres in Delhi

2494. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone bill collection centres opened by the MTNL in various places of Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) whether the timings of the centres are from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. like all other Government offices, whereby the public at large is facing difficulties in attending office in time;

(c) whether the Government propose to change the timings from 8.30 a.m. and onwards in order to mitigate this difficulty;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the number of telephone bill collection centres in MTNL is given below :

	Delhi	Mumbai
MTNL Counter	31	43
Bank counters	86	186
CTO/DTOs	44	16
Post Offices		32
	161	277

In addition, five mobile vans are visiting different places in Delhi on scheduled days.

(b) Timing in respect of collection Centres is given below :

MTNL Counter	10 a.m.	to 3.30 p.m.
Telegraph Offices	10 a.m.	to 5.00 p.m.
Banks		Normal Banking Hrs.
Mobile Vans	10 a.m.	to 5.00 p.m.

(c) There is no proposal to change the timings of MTNL Collection Centres.

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

(e) MTNL is actively considering the opening of more collection centres to serve the customers and to avoid any inconvenience to them in payment of telephone bills.

Doctors in ESI

2495. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether ESI doctors resumed stir towards end of May this year, to press their demand for implementation of the Kartar Singh Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main recommendations of the Kartar Singh Committee and the recommendations which have been implemented so far; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to implement rest of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The main recommendations of the Kartar Singh Committee related, inter-alia, to introduction of two tier residency scheme, provision of free furnished accommodation to all resident doctors, one weekly holiday, counting of senior residency period for service benefits etc. According to the Ministry of Health, the recommendations of the Kartar Singh Committee are applicable to hospitals/institutions wholly financed by the Central Government. The ESI Hospital is neither wholly nor partially financed by the Central Government. As such the question of implementation of the recommendations of the Kartar Singh committee in the case of the ESI hospital does not arise.

Delayed Flights

2496. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of flights of Air India and Indian Airlines, separately, which flew late during the last six months; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the performance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). During the last six months 22.2% of Air India flights and 32.9% of Indian Airlines flights were delayed.

All technical delays are investigated by Indian Airlines to pin-point the cause and remedial action is taken immediately.

Air India has set up a coordination cell to ensure that flight handling related activities are coordinated. With these measures it has been possible to bring down the delays from 29.34% in January, 1996 to 16.57% in June, 1996.

[Translation]

Supply of Wheat, Rice and Sugar to Exporters

2497. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has supplied wheat, rice and sugar to certain firms/agencies for export;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the quantities and prices at which these items are sold to these firms/agencies during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) the names of the countries to which the export of above items were made alongwith the export prices of above items during the above period; and

(d) the profit earned by the Food Corporation of India by the export of these items during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Wheat and Rice

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of Wheat and rice issued by the FCI for the purpose of export, together with their rates, state-wise, during the last three yers and current year are given below :

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

State	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96 @		1996-97 @	
	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	R
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								(upto 15.7.96)
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	0.11	6.19	0.96	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	0.62	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	2.23	0.57	-
Gujarat	-	-	0.34*	0.15*	0.70	5.07	2.57	-
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	0.36	-	-
Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	0.29	-	0.06
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	-	-
Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.17	-
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.15	-

W - Wheat R - Rice (All figures provisional)

@ - The price range of wheat and rice in different states during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is indicated in the given Statement.

* - Wheat and rice were issued by FCI to STC for the purpose of export during 1994-95 at the rate of Rs. 4350 to Rs. 4400 per tonne in the case of wheat and at Rs. 6600 per tonne in the case of rice.

(c) and (d). The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has sold wheat and rice to the exporters with a view to save the expenditure on carrying cost of surplus stocks and make available the storage space for ongoing/ensuing procurement, at the rates not below the rates fixed for domestic sale. The countries to which and the prices at which wheat and rice were exported by the Exporters, after it was purchased from FCI, are not known to FCI.

Sugar :

(a) to (d). The export of sugar is being undertaken through M/s Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd., a notified Export Agency, under the provisions of Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958, (30 of 1958). No sugar has been exported by/through the FCI. Further, the FCI, not being a notified export agency, is also not authorised to undertake any export of sugar.

STATEMENT

The Price Range of Wheat and Rice in Different States during 1995-96 and 1996-97

S.No.	State	1995-96			1996-97		
		Wheat	Rice Fine	Superfine	Wheat	Rice Fine	Superfine
1.	Punjab	Rs. 4100-4458.45	6700-7694	7000-8029	4410-4900*	7050-7350@	- 7350
2.	Haryana	Rs. 4100-4458.45	6650-7629	6950-7975	4410-4900	7000-7300	- 7300
3.	U.P.	Rs. 4100-4458.45	6500-7629	6800-7802	-4660	7000-7200	- 7200
4.	Delhi	Rs. 4150-4458.45	6400-7347	6700-7694	-4410	-6740	- 7060
5.	H.P.	Rs. 4150. -	-	-	-	-	-
6.	J & K	Rs. 4150.	6500-7629	6800-7802	-	-7000	- 7200
7.	Rajasthan	Rs. 4151-4562.95	6900-7629	6800-7802	-4600	-7000	- 7200
8.	M.P.	Rs. 4100-4562.95	6300-7228	6600-7574	-4730	6630-7450	- 7450
9.	Bihar	Rs. 4300-4719.30	6300-7228	6600-7574	-4750	-6630	- 6950
10.	Orissa	Rs. 4350-5136.50	6350-8968	6650-9303			
11.	West Bengal	Rs. 4350-5136.50	6300-8968	6600-9303			
12.	Maharashtra	Rs. 4350-5136.50	6300-8968	6600-9303			
13.	Gujarat	Rs. 4350-5136.50	6300-8968	6600-9303			
14.	A.P.	Rs. 4550-5136.50	6300-8968	6600-9303			
15.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 4550-5136.50	6300-8968	6600-9303	5040-5073	8142-8438	8458 - 8753
16.	Karnataka	Rs. 4550-5136.50	6300-8968	6600-9303			
17.	Kerala	Rs. 4550-5136.50	6300-8968	6600-9303			

* w.e.f. 1.7.96 sale of wheat for export purposes confined to Punjab & Haryana only

@ w.e.f. 1.7.96 sale of rice (fine & superfine) for export purposes confined to Punjab, Haryana, Western U.P. and M.P. only.

[English]

ISD/STD/PCOs at Tourist Centres of Rajasthan

2498. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ISD/STD/PCOs facilities have been provided at all the tourist centres in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the places where the said facility is not available; and

(e) the time by which the above facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, STD/ISD/PCO facilities have been provided at all tourist centres except Sariska and Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary.

(b) The STD/ISD/PCO facilities have been provided at Pushkar, Ajmer, Sawai Madhopur, Mount Abu, Udaipur, Jaipur, Chittorgarh, Jaisalmer and Ramdeora.

(c) and (d). STD/ISD PCOs at Sariska and Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary could not be provided due to non-availability of eligible applicants. However, an eligible applicant for Sariska has been selected recently.

(e) By November, 1996. For Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, it is subject to availability of eligible applicant.

[Translation]

Flight Safety Week

2499. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to observe "Flight Safety Week" for ensuring air travel more safe and convenient in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry have formulated a code of conduct for all air services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). A "Safety Week" was organised by Directorate General of Civil Aviation from 8.7.1996 to 14.7.1996 to generate awareness on matters relating to the safety of aircraft operations including operational, engineering, commercial, ground handling aspects; monitoring of air traffic services; serviceability of communication and navigation facilities etc.

(c) and (d). Operation of all Civil Air Services are governed by the Aircraft Act 1934 and the rules framed thereunder.

[English]

Inclusion of Communities in Central OBCs List

2500. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes has completed its survey to identify and separate the creamy layer from Bhandari, Kharvi, Nathjogi, Gosavi, Dhobi and at communities so that they can be included in the Central OBCs Lists; and

(b) if not, the time by which the report of the Commission is likely to be tabled?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Question of Excluding the socially advanced persons/sections of backward Classes known as creamy layer has nothing to do with the process of consideration of the request of a caste/community in the Central List of OBCs by the National Backward Classes Commission. The Commission has submitted its recommendation in respect of the caste Kharvi, Nathjogi, Gosavi and Dhobi in respect of the State of Goa which is under the consideration of the Government. As regards the Bhandari caste, the Commission has requested the State Government of Goa and the State Backward Classes Commission to complete their survey to enable NCBC to take a decision thereafter.

Use of Iron Ore in SAIL

2501. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the average use of Indian iron ore in a year in the plants of SAIL;

(b) the extent to which it is used in comparison to export quality of iron in a year;

(c) whether Government propose to ban export of iron ore in the interest of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BRIENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). SAIL plants and its subsidiaries use nearly 18 to 19 million tonnes of iron ore in a year. Almost entire requirement is met from its captive sources, production from which is not used for exports.

(c) and (d). At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for banning export of iron ore.

[Translation]

Welfare schemes for Economically weaker sections

2502. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes started for the economically weaker sections of Uttar Pradesh alongwith the amount allocated under these schemes during each of the last three years;

(b) whether these funds have been utilised properly; and

(c) if so, the number of persons benefited under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The details of the welfare schemes for economically weaker sections of Uttar Pradesh and the amount allocated under these schemes during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Approximately 1497475 persons were benefited under these schemes during the last three years.

STATEMENT

(Rupees in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Special Central Assistance to SCP	5933.29	6297.51	5893.03
2.	Scheduled Castes Dev. Corps.	238.77	282.32	-
3.	Liberation of Scavengers	3763.00	4505.49	3800.16
4.	Post Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students	350.00	1421.51	1669.82
5.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for Children	80.33	166.31	68.13
6.	Boys Hostel for SC	60.65	-	66.93
7.	Girls' Hostel for SC	15.77	-	31.82
8.	Book Banks for SC/ST students	103.09	78.21	15.00
9.	Coaching & Allied for SC/ST	3.00	-	-
10.	Implementation of PCR & Atrocities Act	49.60	178.51	399.43
11.	Upgradation of Merit of SC & ST students	-	4.92	-
12.	National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation	1510.14	1402.001	164.41
13.	Pre-Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic criteria	6.52	34.84	36.72
14.	National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	-	1376.00	93.00

[English]

Workers in Hazardous Position

2503. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any investigation into the working conditions in certain small-scale industries like mining of slate plates, manufacturing of slate pencils fire crackers, match factories and Beedi industries where the workers have to work in most hazardous and harmful conditions leading to their contracting various incurable diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the working conditions of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PCOs in villages

2504. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present coverage of PCOs in rural areas and the quantum of additions envisaged for the remaining current Five Year Plan period;

(b) the details of Post Offices in rural areas which do not have PCOs and target time to instal PCOs in every village Post Offices, State-wise/district-wise;

(c) whether SC/ST and Backward Classes are given preferential treatment in allotment of PCO booths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As on 1.4.1996, 216632 villages have been covered with public telephone facility. During the remaining current Five Year Plan period i.e. 1996-97, another 75,000 villages have been planned to be covered with this facility.

(b) The State-wise/District-wise details of Post Offices in rural areas without public telephone facility as on 31.3.1995, are given in the attached statement. There is no separate target for providing PCOs in every village Post Office.

(c) and (d). For allotment of rural STD/PCOs under franchise scheme preference is given to SC/ST applicants alongwith other preferential categories of handicapped including blind persons, ex-servicemen/war widows, retired Department of Telecommunications employees or their dependents, dependents of freedom fighters and charitable institutions/hospitals.

STATEMENT

Details of Post Offices without PCO facilities (Districts wise) as on 31.3.95

Andhra Pradesh

S. No.	Name of District	No. of Post Offices Without PCO facilities
1	2	3
		Rural
1.	Ananiapur	753
2.	Chittoor	603
3.	Cuddapah	656
4.	Kunool	583
5.	East Godavari	701
6.	Srikakulam	398
7.	Visakhapatnam	312
8.	Vizianagaram	602
9.	Adilabad	451
10.	Karimanagar	678
11.	Mahabubnagar	720
12.	Medak	504
13.	Nalgonda	615
14.	Nizamabad	439
15.	Warangal	656
16.	Hyderabad	.
17.	Rangareddy	295
18.	Krishna	586
19.	Guniur	456
20.	Khammam	447

1	2	3
21.	Nellore	523
22.	Prakasam	576
23.	West Godavari	467
Total		12023

Assam

1.	Kamrup	230
2.	Nalbari	219
3.	Barpeta	166
4.	Goalpara	81
5.	Bongaigaon	92
6.	Kokrajhar	84
7.	Dhubri	96
8.	Cochar	207
9.	Hailakandi	88
10.	Karimganj	116
11.	N.C. Hills	63
12.	Karbi-Anglong	113
13.	Nowgong	211
14.	Morigaon	84
15.	Darrang	137
16.	Sonitpur	171
17.	Jorhat	113
18.	Golaghat	176
19.	Sibsagar	218
20.	Tinsukia	93
21.	Dibrugarh	148
22.	Lakhimpur	148
23.	Dhemaji	63
Total		3118

Bihar

1.	Saran	224
2.	Vaishali	181
3.	Bhojpur	250
4.	Buxar	146
5.	Gaya	296
6.	Nawada	145
7.	Jahanabad	126
8.	Nalanda	243
9.	Bhagalpur	178
10.	Banka	141
11.	Patna	085
12.	Begusarai	188
13.	Khagaria	110
14.	Darbhanga	192

1	2	3
15.	East Champaram	214
16.	West Champaram	212
17.	Madhubani	254
18.	Munger	049
19.	Lakhisarai	019
20.	Sheikhpura	026
21.	Jamui	076
22.	Muzaffarpur	386
23.	Araria	005
24.	Katihar	008
25.	Kishanganj	003
26.	Purnea	012
27.	Saharasa	095
28.	Madepura	119
29.	Supaul	098
30.	Siwan	049
31.	Gopalganj	076
32.	Sitamarhi	163
33.	Sheohar	024
34.	Samastipur	359
35.	Dumka	228
36.	Pakur	061
37.	B.Deoghar	118
38.	Godda	118
39.	Sahebganj	078
40.	Aurangabad	184
41.	Palamu	195
42.	Garhwa	062
43.	Hazaribagh	137
44.	Koderma	029
45.	Chatra	068
46.	Giridih	155
47.	East Singhbhum	021
48.	West Singhbhum	029
49.	Ranchi	238
50.	Gumla	171
51.	Lohardaga	077
52.	Dhanbad	117
53.	Bokaro	089
54.	Rohtas	189
55.	Bhabhua	095
Total		7241

Gujarat

1.	Ahemedabad	404
2.	Gandhinagar	50
3.	Mahesana	353
4.	Sabarkantha	403

1	2	3
5.	Banaskantha	322
6.	Bharuch	369
7.	Dang	49
8.	Kheda	455
9.	Panchamahals	394
10.	Surat	470
11.	Vadodara	500
12.	Valsad	420
13.	Anreli	227
14.	Bhavnagar	327
15.	Jamnagar	246
16.	Junagarh	345
17.	K'Bhuj	333
18.	Rajkot	288
19.	Surendranagar	223
20.	Daman	6
21.	Diu	1
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27
Total		6220

J & K

1.	Anantnag	137
2.	Baramulla	123
3.	Badgam	63
4.	Doda	100
5.	Jammu	172
6.	Kathua	103
7.	Kupwara	38
8.	Kargil	44
9.	Leh	45
10.	Pulwana	51
11.	Rajouri	115
12.	Poonch	55
13.	Srinagar	55
14.	Udhampur	115
Total		1216

Haryana

1.	Ambala	125
2.	Y. Nagar	84
3.	Bhiwani	119
4.	Faridabad	85
5.	Gurgaon	99
6.	M.Garh	83
7.	Rewari	91
8.	Hissar	162

1	2	3
9.	Sirsa	85
10.	Karnal	77
11.	Jind	69
12.	Panipat	45
13.	K K R	58
14.	Kaithal	87
15.	Rohtak	112
16.	Sonepat	78
Total		1459

Himachal Pradesh

1.	Rillaspur	85
2.	Chamba	176
3.	Hamirpur	137
4.	Kangra	369
5.	Kinnor	69
6.	Kullu	105
7.	Lahol Spiti	40
8.	Mandi	221
9.	Shimla	225
10.	Solan	50
11.	Simnour	81
12.	Una	105

Total	1663
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Karnataka

1.	Bangalore Urban	62
2.	Bangalore Rural	257
3.	Belgaum	276
4.	Bellary	243
5.	Bidar	158
6.	Bijapur	376
7.	Chikmagalur	126
8.	Chitradurga	232
9.	Dakshina Kannada	181
10.	Dharwad	263
11.	Gulbarga	435
12.	Hanan	189
13.	Kodagu	101
14.	Kolar	226
15.	Mandya	211
16.	Mysore	180
17.	Raichur	314
18.	Shimoga	255
19.	Tumkur	371
20.	Uttar Karnataka	201

Total	4657
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1	2	3
Kerala		
1.	Trivandrum	254
2.	Quilon	164
3.	Pathanamthitta	178
4.	Alleppey	159
5.	Kottayam	200
6.	Idukki	205
7.	Eranakulam	155
8.	Trichur	242
9.	Palghat	189
10.	Mallapuram	249
11.	Calicut	220
12.	Wynad	123
13.	Cannarone	199
14.	Kasargod	144
Total		2682

UNION TERRITORY

15.	Lakshadweep	1
16.	Mahe of Pondicherry	-
Total		2683

Madhya Pradesh

1.	Balaghat	194
2.	Bastar	466
3.	Betual	175
4.	Bhind	205
5.	Bhopal	61
6.	Bilaspur	561
7.	Chhatarpur	193
8.	Chhindwara	202
9.	Damoh	143
10.	Datia	61
11.	Dewas	104
12.	Dhar	121
13.	Durg	273
14.	Guna	144
15.	Gwalior	110
16.	Hoshangabad	156
17.	Indore	97
18.	Jabalpur	251
19.	Jhabua	119
20.	Khandwa	99
21.	Khargone	150
22.	Mandla	201
23.	Mandsaur	174

1	2	3
24	Morena	188
25	Narsinghpur	128
26	Panna	142
27	Raigarh	353
28	Raipur	459
29	Raisen	174
30	Rajgarh (Bio)	125
31	Rajnandgaon	174
32	Ratlam	86
33	Rewa	271
34	Sagar	129
35	Satna	228
36	Sehore	105
37	Seoni	173
38	Shahdol	219
39	Shajapur	106
40	Shivpuri	172
41	Sidhi	145
42	Surguja (Ambikapur)	238
43	Tikamgarh	166
44	Ujjain	103
45	Vidisha	120
Total		8264

Maharashtra

1.	Bombay	
2.	Ahmednagar	406
3.	Akola	226
4.	Amravati	300
5.	Aurangabad	228
6.	Buldana	185
7.	Beed	190
8.	Bhandara	155
9.	Chandrapur	185
10.	Dhule	171
11.	Gadchiroli	138
12.	Jalna	108
13.	Jalgaon	232
14.	Kolhapur	364
15.	Latur	188
16.	Nagpur	219
17.	Nanded	279
18.	Nasik	420
19.	Osmanabad	167
20.	Pune	435
21.	Parbhani	141
22.	Raigad	247

1	2	3
23.	Ratnagiri	493
24.	Solapur	316
25.	Satara	471
26.	Sangli	285
27.	Sindhudurg	282
28.	Thana	294
29.	Wardha	75
30.	Yeotmal	230
31.	South Goa	42
32.	North Goa	78
Total		7550

North East Circle

1.	East Khasi Hills	127
2.	West Khasi Hills	82
3.	Gaintia Hills	61
4.	East Garo Hills	42
5.	West Garo Hills	75
Total		387

Manipur.

1.	Imphal	121
2.	Bishanpur	34
3.	Jhoubal	77
4.	Chandel	62
5.	Churachandpur	91
6.	Senapati	107
7.	Jamenglong	63
8.	Itkhrul	60
Total		615

Arunachal Pradesh

1.	Jawang	11
2.	West Kameng	18
3.	East Kameng	13
4.	Lower Subansire	18
5.	Upper Subansire	12
6.	West Siang	30
7.	East Siang	29
8.	Dibang Valley	21
9.	Lohit	41
10.	Jirap	29
11.	Rahngland	24
12.	Papumpara	15
Total		261

1	2	3
Nagaland		
1. Kohima		108
2. Moudkehung		41
3. Mon		20
4. Phek		30
5. Thensang		38
6. Wokha		18
7. Zimheboto		15
Total		270

Mizoram

1. Aizawl	160
2. Lunglei	64
3. Chhimtuipui	126
Total	350

Tripura

1. West Tripura	192
2. South Tripura	192
3. North Tripura	205
Total	589

Orissa

1. Angul	142
2. Balasore	287
3. Bargarh	86
4. Boudh	28
5. Bhadrak	201
6. Bolangir	156
7. Cuttack	231
8. Deogarh	-
9. Denkanal	125
10. Gajapati	88
11. Ganjam	270
12. Jagotsinghpur	214
13. Jajpur	209
14. Jharsuguda	47
15. Kalahandi	222
16. Kandrapara	174
17. Keonjhar	232
18. Khurda	213
19. Koraput	194
20. Malkangiri	72
21. Mayurbhanj	511
22. Nowrangpur	149
23. Nayagarh	171
24. Nuapara	73
25. Phulbani	222

1	2	3
26. Puri		203
27. Rayagada		168
28. Sambalpur		147
29. Subarnapur		23
30. Sundargarh		319
Total		5177

Punjab

1. Ludhiana	301
2. Fatehgarh Sahib	74
3. Patiala	146
4. Ropar	131
5. Sangrur	147
6. Amritsar	391
7. Bhatinda	92
8. Faridkot	296
9. Ferozepur	201
10. Gurdaspur	187
11. Jalandhar	382
12. Hoshiarpur	355
13. Kapurthala	108
14. Mansa	51
15. Chandigarh UT	7

Total	2869
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Rajasthan

1. Ajmer	311
2. Alwar	402
3. Banswara	200
4. Baran	157
5. Bharatpur	310
6. Barmer	383
7. Bhilwara	283
8. Bikaner	134
9. Bundi	160
10. Chittorgarh	330
11. Churu	290
12. Dausa	204
13. Dholpur	161
14. Dungarpur	232
15. Hanumangarh	213
16. Jaipur	429
17. Jalore	199
18. Jaisalmer	119
19. Jhalawar	197
20. Jhunjhunu	293
21. Jodhpur	296
22. Kota	130
23. Nagur	335

1	2	3
24.	Pali	255
25.	Rajsamand	166
26.	Sawaimadhopur	375
27.	Sikar	333
28.	Sirohi	125
29.	Sriganganagar	285
30.	Tonk	189
31.	Udaipur	389
Total		7885

Tamil Nadu

1.	Chagalpattu MGR	503
2.	Coimbatore	90
3.	Dharmapuri	309
4.	Dindigul Anna	112
5.	Kamarajar	122
6.	Kanniyakumari	169
7.	Madras	-
8.	Maduari	145
9.	N.Q.Millath	428
10.	Nilgiris	26
11.	N.A. Ambedkar	92
12.	P.M. Thevar	122
13.	Periar	222
14.	Pudukottai	90
15.	Ramanthapuram	115
16.	Salem	331
17.	S.A. Vallar	215
18.	Thanjavur	284
19.	Tiruchirapalli	278
20.	T. Kattabomman	174
21.	TVM Sambuvarayar	155
22.	VR Padaiyatchi	315
23.	VO Chidambaram	79
Tamil Nadu		4376
P.U.T.		40
Total		4416

Uttar Pradesh Circle**Kanpur Region**

1.	Kanpur City	77
2.	Kanpur (Dehat)	231
3.	Unnao	184
4.	Fatehpur	180
5.	Farukabad	190

1	2	3
6.	Banda	209
7.	Hamirpur	85
8.	Mahoba	66

Allahabad Region

9.	Allahabad	413
10.	Pratapgarh	316
11.	Varanasi	273
12.	Gazipur	321
13.	Mirzapur	166
14.	Jaunpur	359
15.	Sonbhadra	110
16.	Bhadoi	79

Bereilly Region

17.	Almora	308
18.	Kheri	240
19.	Hardoi	173
20.	Bareilly	33
21.	Badaun	166
22.	Shahjahanpur	210
23.	Nainital	195
24.	Pilibhit	91
25.	Pithoragarh	259
26.	Muradabad	240
27.	Rampur	68
28.	Agra	224
29.	Aligarh	287
30.	Bulandsahar	196
31.	Etah	207
32.	Etawah	188
33.	Jhansi	116
34.	Lalitpur	119
35.	Lalaun	158
36.	Mainpuri	106
37.	Firozabad	84
38.	Mathura	91
39.	Azamgarh	311
40.	Mau	155
41.	Gorakhpur	292
42.	Maharajganj	154
43.	Basti	349
44.	Sidhartnagar	175
45.	Gonda	399
46.	Ballia	263
47.	Bahraich	302
48.	Deoria	225
49.	Padrauna	198

1	2	3
Dehradun Region		
50. Bijonor		218
51. Chamoli		124
52. Dehradun		138
53. Ghaziabad		172
54. Meerut		242
55. Muzaffarnagar		195
56. Pauri		331
57. Saharnpur		95
58. Tehri		182
59. Uttarkashi		108
60. Haridwar		60
Lucknow Region		
61. Lucknow		116
62. Faizabad		520
63. Raibareilly		200
64. Sultanpur		398
65. Sitapur		330
66. Barabanki		276
G.Total		13451
West Bengal		
1. North 24-Pgs		419
2. South 24-Pgs		716
3. Calcutta		x
4. Purulia		394
5. Midnapore		1244
6. Howrah		243
7. Hooghly		371
8. Bankura		395
9. Nadia		341
10. Burdwan		562
11. Birbhum		395
12. Murshidabad		472
13. Malda		290
14. North Dinajpur		324
15. South Dinajpur		
16. Cooch Behar		304
17. Darjeeling		147
18. Japaiguri		208
19. North		17
20. East		78
21. West		23
22. South		42
23. Andaman		56
24. Nicobar		14
Total		7055

Computerisation of Telephone Bills

2505. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the computerisation of telephone bills has been introduced in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction so far;

(c) the target period fixed for the computerisation of telephone bills in all the metropolitan cities; and

(e) the steps taken to provide proper training to the staff for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Computerised billing is already in vogue in all Metropolitan Districts.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above

(d) Staff is being trained both in house & through outside training agencies.

Euro Issues by VSN

2506. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allow Videsh Sanchar Nigam (VSN) to float Euro-issues for foreign currency loan;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been laid down in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). Sir, there is no proposal for permitting VSNL to float Euro-issue for foreign currency loan. However, a proposal for raising additional equity for VSNL in international market is under consideration of the Government.

Beedi Workers in Mysore

2507. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) total number of Beedi and Cigar workers during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the houses have been constructed for these workers during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the welfare measures proposed to be taken for the welfare of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A statement showing the estimated number of beedi workers, at present, in the country, State-wise, is attached.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Several Schemes in the Fields of health, housing, education and recreation are already being implemented by the Government for the welfare of beedi workers in the country.

STATEMENT

Statement showing estimated number of beedi workers in the country.

State	No. of beedi workers
Uttar Pradesh	4,50,000
Karnataka	3,55,000
Kerala	1,36,000
Andhra Pradesh	6,25,000
Tamilnadu	6,21,000
Rajasthan	1,00,000
Gujarat	50,000
Orissa	1,52,000
Madhya Pradesh	6,50,000
Bihar	3,92,000
Maharashtra	2,56,000
West bengal	4,50,000
Assam	8,000
Tripura	5,000
Total	42,50,000

Effect on Steel Industry due to Hike in Petroleum

2508. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether hike in petroleum prices has affected the steel industry and likely to affect on steel producers;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by the Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether the diesel price rise would result in increase cost of raw material and thereby make the finished products costlier;

(d) whether in view of this steel prices would go up;

(e) whether 85-90 per cent of the entire transport in the steel industry is handled through roads which would cost more; and

(f) if so, to what extent steel products will be affected due to this rise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The hike in the prices of petroleum products will affect the steel products.

(b) It has been assessed that due to hike in petroleum prices, the direct impact on public sector steel plants during 1996-97 will be about Rs. 71 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At present the Government does not exercise any control over pricing of steel. The steel prices may however, go up to increase in prices of petroleum prices.

(e) and (f). Pricing of steel products will be affected to some extent. The impact on cost of production in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for instance is likely to be about Rs.35/- per tonne of finished steel and Rs.5/- per tonne of pig iron.

[Translation]

Misbehaviour with Lady Passengers

2509. KUAMRI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidence of misbehaviour with lady passengers on board on Air India flight by the crew members have come to light recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the out come thereof;

(e) the action taken against the guilty employees; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (f). No, Sir. However, an employee travelling on leave, allegedly misbehaved with a lady passenger on board. The employees has been placed under suspension and a disciplinary enquiry has been initiated against him.

Non Electronic Media

2510. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by his Ministry to strengthen the non-electronic media;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand and strengthen the field publicity organisation in the context of the coming into force of the Panchayati Raj and decentralisation of planning and implementation;

(c) whether the present set up for research and reference is centralised or any proposal to have regional Research and Reference Division in Delhi; and

(d) the comparative statement of enhancement of outlay for the electronic media and other media units, if any?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Strengthening of the non-electronic media is an ongoing process. This is achieved by means of monitoring, feedback, review and modernisation of the field units of the Ministry.

(b) The units of the Directorate of Field Publicity interact with local panchayats and work with them. Measures have been taken to modernise the audio-visual equipment and increase the reach of the field functionaries. New units have also been opened in remote areas during the 8th Five Year Plan period.

(c) Research, Reference and Training Division is a centralised set-up located in Delhi. There is no proposal to have regional Research, Reference and Training Division in Delhi.

(d) Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Ministry of information and Broadcasting

Outlay for the Electronic Media and Non Electronic Media Units for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97

(Figures in Lakhs)

S.No.	Sector	Approved Outlay (1995-96)	Proposed Outlay (1996-97)	Percentage increase over 1995-96
1.	Electronic Sector (All India Radio/ Doordarshan)	44878.00	48038.00	7.0
2.	Non-Electronic Sector (other Media Units) (figures include internal resources)	4672.00	5262.00	12.6

Functioning of Telephone Exchanges in Coochbehar

2511. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints in respect of improper functioning of Dinhat telephone exchange in district Coochbehar (West Bengal) during the last three years and till date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A complaint from Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, M.P. dated 12.9.95 was received by the Govt. regarding improper functioning of Dinhat telephone exchange in Coochbehar district.

In the month of June'95 the transmission equipment was damaged due to heavy lighting, interrupting the services. Normalcy was restored on 23.6.95 necessary spare equipments have been procured to avoid such prolonged interruptions.

[Translation]

Packing of Wheat and Rice

2512. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has changed the packing of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains likely to be supplied in changed packing during 1996-97;

(d) whether expenditure on new packing is more in comparison to the old packing; and

(e) if so, the details of extra expenditure likely to be incurred by the FCI during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). It has been decided to switch over to 50 Kg. packaging of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in a phased manner spread over a period of five years starting from Kharif 1994-95 seasons.

(c) Excluding the quantities procured by State Govt. agencies, 6.59 lakh MTs of wheat has been packed in 50 Kg. packaging in rabi 1996-97 out of total procurement of 21.5 lakh MTs by the Corporation. Procurement of paddy/rice in 1996-97 is yet to commence.

(d) and (e). Excluding the additional cost to be incurred in stitching, handling and transportation, cost of jute gunnies per quintal is likely to go up by about 24% when foodgrains are packed in 50 Kg. Bags as against 95 Kg. bags at present.

[English]

Expansion of Telecom System in Maharashtra

2513. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated/utilised for development.

expansion and upgradation of telecommunication system in rural/urban areas of Maharashtra during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the development of telecommunication in rural areas has been given the top priority and the implementation was tardy and sluggish due to non-availability of funds and equipments;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that projects in hand for rural areas are completed without further delay in Maharashtra in general and Sholapur district in particular; and

(d) the details of projects which are lagging behind the schedule in implementation in the State and particularly in Sholapur district?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Air Services

2514. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has demanded expansion of air services in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A request has been received from Government of Maharashtra for increasing services to Aurangabad. Due to capacity and crew constraints, Indian Airlines is, at present, not in a position to increase the services to Aurangabad.

[English]

Norms/Guidelines

2515. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any norms, guidelines or regulation have been laid down by the Government in respect of on board entertainment in Public and private Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No guidelines have been laid down by the Government except that alcoholic drinks are not permitted to be served or consumed on board the aircraft on domestic sectors in India.

Child Labour

2516. SHRI PINAKI MISRA :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has recently castigated the developing countries including India for their sluggish enforcement of anti-child labour legislations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of children under 15 who are engaged in child labour in India;

(d) whether the implementation of anti-child labour measures has been unsatisfactory; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. In June, 1996, the International Labour Conference and the Informal Tripartite Meeting at the Ministerial level organised by the ILO discussed the subject of child labour. It was observed that developing countries are awakening to the serious social, economic and development implication of child labour. The Resolution adopted by the Conference, calls upon Governments, employers' and workers' organisations to, inter alia, enact and give full effect to national legislation that prohibits the exploitation of children at work.

(c) to (e). According to the 1981 census, the total number of working children (in the age group 0-14 years) was 13.6 million. These were 4.26% of the total population of children (0-14 years) in the country.

A major programme to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations by 2002 A.D. has been launched. National Child Labour Projects are being implemented in Child labour endemic areas wherein non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipend, etc. are provided. A massive awareness generation campaign has also been launched to sensitise people against the practice of child labour. The root cause of child labour being poverty and under-development, total elimination of child labour can be achieved with progressive improvement in poverty situation through development in economic and social sectors.

Aluminium Plant, Orissa

2517. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families displaced due to the establishment of Alumina and Aluminium plant at Damanjodi and Angul by NALCO in Orissa;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by NALCO to provide suitable rehabilitation to displaced families;

(c) whether any compensation has been paid to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) 596 families have been displaced at Damanjodi on account of setting up of alumina refinery and 30 families have been displaced at Angul on account of setting up of smelter and captive power plant.

(b) National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) has adopted policy of providing employment to one able bodied member from each of the displaced families. In addition, 521 displaced families in Damanjodi have been provided with pucca house.

(c) and (d). For 4433.02 acres of land acquired in Damanjodi for the alumina refinery, compensation amounting to Rs.1.45 crores has been paid to the displaced families. For 3719.66 acres of land acquired for the smelter and captive power plant in Angul, Rs. 7.72 crores has been paid as compensation to the displaced families.

[Translation]

Installation of TV Transmitters in U.P.

2518. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of TV transmitters proposed to be installed in Uttar Pradesh during 1996-97 district-wise;

(b) whether the required staff have since been appointed for the operation of these transmitters;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Forty (40) transmitter projects, as per district-wise number given in the attached statement are expected to be taken up/completed in Uttar Pradesh during 1996-97 subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Commissioning of these projects would depend upon receipt of staff sanctions for which every effort is being made.

STATEMENT

TV transmitters under implementation in Uttar Pradesh and Expected to be completed during 1996-97 as on 30.7.1996 (District-wise)

S.No.	District	No. of Transmitters
1.	Almora	6
2.	Bahraich	1
3.	Banda	1
4.	Barabanki	1
5.	Basti	2
6.	Chamoli	7
7.	Dehradun	1
8.	Etah	2
9.	Etawah	1
10.	Garhwal	4
11.	Hamirpur	1
12.	Jhansi	1
13.	Moradabad	1
14.	Nainital	1
15.	Pithoragarh	2
16.	Siddarthnagar	1
17.	Tehri Garhwal	5
18.	Uttar Kashi	2
Total		40

[English]

Private Doordarshan Channel Operators

2519. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private Doordarshan channels operating in the country, at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to regulate the telecast timings of these channels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) At present, no private party is permitted to operate a television channel from Indian soil.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Transfer of Telephones

2520. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit has been fixed for shifting the telephones by subscribers in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and number of applications received for shifting of telephones;

(c) the number out of these shifted alongwith the time in which shifted during 1996, till date;

(d) whether any office/staff was found guilty for doing the job after prescribed period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

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

(b) The norms are seven days for local shift and fifteen days for inter-exchange shift. The number of applications received for shifting of telephones is 43619 during 1996* as on 30.6.1996.

(c) The number of telephone shifted within the norms are 34143 during 1996, as on 30.6.1996. The cases pending for shift of telephone are due to :

(i) technically non-feasible area;

(ii) pending due to subscribers reasons.

(iii) rainy season.

(d) No, Sir. The officer/staff is not guilty for doing the job within norms on account of the reasons given in (c) above.

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

[English]

Transfer/Rectification/OB

2521. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit has been fixed as per the new scheduled by Delhi Telecom Circle for (i) rectifying the telephone defect; (ii) for transferring telephone connection from one zone to another in Delhi; (iii) for installation of new telephone connections after the issue of O.B. numbers; and (iv) issue of O.B. numbers and installation of telephone from out of the quota of Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Time limit/norms fixed are:

(i) for telephone fault rectification - 48 hours.

(ii) for shifting of telephone from one zone to another - 15 days;

(iii) for installation of new telephone connection after issue of OBs - 15 days.

(iv) for out of turn cases from MPs quota, the OBs are issued on Priority and the installation of telephone is carried out almost immediately except in cases where the area is technically non-feasible.

Distribution of Essential Commodities

2522. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that irregularities and partialities take place while distributing the essential commodities through Fair Price Shops to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the regular and impartial supply of essential commodities to Schedules Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor people?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). No such instances have been brought to the notice of Government. The implementation of Public Distribution System including distribution to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and the poor is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Arrears of Telephone Bills

2523. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Division, Kalyan has not received due arrears of Telephone bills to the tune of Rs.18 crores from subscribers;

(b) if so, the details of due arrears of each exchange; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to recover the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The information has been called for and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Pending Proposals

2524. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from producers/directors belonging to Orissa to produce serials/teletelms under sponsored and commissioned programme on the National Channel of Doordarshan during the last three years;

(b) out of the proposals thus received how many were accepted and the action being taken to dispose of the pending proposals;

(c) whether the Directorate, Doordarshan inform the proposer the precise reason of rejection of any proposal, if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) State-wise details of proposals are not maintained.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As a matter of policy, reasons of rejection of proposals at the concept stage are not intimated to the producers.

Electronic Cross Bar Exchanges in Assam

2525. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Electro-Mechanical and cross bar Exchanges functioning in Assam at present;

(b) whether these exchanges have completed their life of 15 years;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to replace them with electronic exchanges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) At present five electronic-mechanical exchanges are functioning in Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) All the electromechanical exchanges are proposed to be replaced by electronic exchanges during 1996-97 as details below.

1.	Guwahati	-	4800 Lines
2.	Rangia	-	200 Lines
3.	Duliajan	-	300 Lines
4.	Digboi	-	300 Lines
5.	Namrup	-	200 Lines

Labours in Tea Garden in Assam

2526. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the social security schemes in a big way for the tea garden labourers in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Tea Plantation labour is already covered under the Workmen's Compensation

Act, the Maternity Benefits Act, and the Payment of Gratuity Act. For PF and other benefits they are covered under the Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund Act. The medical care and certain other facilities are provided under the Plantation Labour Act. There is no concrete proposal to make any further expansion of the existing social security schemes exclusively for the tea garden labourers.

Policy on Aviation

2527. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is in the midst of formulating a comprehensive policy on aviation in order to remove certain ambiguities in the existing one as well as give a boost to the booming industry;

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

(c) the time by which the announcement is likely to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Aviation policy is evolved/amended on a continuing basis, keeping in view the experience gained and requirements of trade, commerce/travel & tourism.

Inclusion of Certain Communities in STs List

2528. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamang, Limbu and Rai/Kirat castes from amongst the Nepali/Gorkha community are demanding for their inclusion in Scheduled Tribes List;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering their cases positively; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received for the inclusion of the Tamang, Limbu and Kirati Khambu (Rai) communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, and are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Investment by I.T.D.C. in Delhi based establishments

2529. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested by the India Tourism Development Corporation in its Delhi based

establishments during the last three years alongwith the locations of these establishments as on date;

(b) the profit earned by India Tourism Development Corporation, during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation has prepared/contemplated to prepare new schemes for the development of its units in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) A total amount of Rs.12.71 crores was incurred on its Delhi based commercial units viz., Hotel Ashok, Janpath, Lodhi, Ranjit, Qutab, Samrat, Kanishka, Ashok Yatri Niwas, Duty Free Shops at I.G.I. Airport, New Delhi and Tax Free Shop at Ashok Hotel during the last three years.

(b) The information is given as under :

Year	Net Profit earned (before tax)
1993-94	24.02
1994-95	43.17
1995-96 (Provisional)	65.19

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The tentative Plan proposals of ITDC for the year 1996-97 include the following components :-

(i) Reconstruction of the existing Lodhi Hotel into a 310 room five star hotel.

(ii) A total plan provision of Rs.8.34 crores has been made for renovation/improvement schemes in hotel Ashok, Samrat, Qutab, Kanishka, Janpath, Ranjit and Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi.

[English]

Inclusion of Backward Communities in SCs/STs list

2530. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes has received any request from various backward communities to include and consider them as Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes instead of "Other Backward Classes"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The National Backward Classes Commission (NCBC) has received a request from Kaniyara Seva Samaja, Mysore to include

them in the list of Scheduled Tribes. As inclusion of a community in the list of Scheduled Tribes is not within the purview of the NCBC, under the NCBC Act, the Commission has advised the Kaniyara Seva Samaja to approach the Government.

Equity Capital of Cochin International Airport

2531. SHRI A.C. JOS :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India propose to make investments in the equity capital of Cochin International Airports Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Airport Authority of India propose to provide the navigational equipments, Redars and other technical assistance to the above Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Airport Authority of India has no plan, at present, to invest in the equity capital of Cochin International Airports Limited.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Aids

2532. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government get foreign aid for the welfare of blinds, deaf and dumb, mentally retarded and physically handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign aid obtained under this head during the last three years;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated in Bihar under this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Welfare received financial assistance from, the US India Rupee Fund through the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), USA for the District Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) project for 1985-94. The

assistance for 1990-94 was on tapering basis with Ministry of Welfare's share increasing @ 20% per year. Year-wise details of amount of foreign financial assistance for the last three years is as under :

Year	Amount
1993-94	Rs.26,87,631/-
1994-95	Nil
1995-96	Nil

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Financial assistance from NIDRR was received for DRCs at Sitapur and Chengalpattu for 1985-89.

[English]

STD/ISD Booths in Gujarat

2533. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD booths are functioning in Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) whether a large number of applications are still pending for allotment of such new booths in the State;

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

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The detailed information is given in the attached Statement.

(d) The applications received are examined by a committee which meets every month and eligible applicants are sanctioned. This is a continuous process.

STATEMENT

S.No.	District	No. of STD/ISD booths working	Applications pending for allotment for STD/ISD booths
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	1803	363
2.	Gandhinagar	44	98
3.	Amreli	249	330
4.	Bhavnagar	452	723
5.	Bharuch	567	56
6.	Bhuj (Kutch)	467	439
7.	Banaskantha (Palanpur)	286	103
8.	Jamnagar	429	178
9.	Junagadh	660	426

1	2	3	4
10.	Kheda (Nadiad)	841	432
11.	Mehasana	585	444
12.	Panchmahal (Godhra)	293	29
13.	Rajkot	1011	434
14.	Sabarkantha (Himatnagar)	236	49
15.	Surat	713	377
16.	Surendranagar	273	66
17.	Valsad	591	258
18.	Dang	01	-
19.	Vadodara	2077	-
Total		11578	4805

[Translation]

Labourers in Agricultural Sector

2534. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of labourers in the country at present, category-wise;

(b) whether the labourers engaged in agriculture sector get work for maximum hundred days only throughout the year;

(c) if not, the assessment of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have introduced any scheme to ensure employment to these agriculture labourers in the country during the days when they are jobless;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of days these labourers are likely to get work as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) and (c). According to the fourth Rural Labour Enquiry (RLE), the average days worked per year by men and women of agricultural labour households in agricultural wage employment for the year 1983 (4th RLE) were 159 days and 136 days.

(d) to (f). Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and Intensive Jawahar Rojgar Yojana aim at generation of additional gainful employment and creation of productive community assets. Employment generation during the year 1994-95 under this scheme is 977.14 lakh mandays. An additional 113.47 lakh mandays employment was generated under Intensive Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (IJRY) during 1994-95. On 2nd October,

1993, a new Scheme 'Employment Assurance Scheme' has been launched in 1752 identified backward blocks which presently stands extended to 2448 identified backward blocks. It seeks to provide assured wage employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work in loan agricultural season. The Scheme will mainly benefit agricultural workers. Employment generated under this scheme during 1994-95 is 188.89 lakh mandays.

STATEMENT

*Total Number of Labourers in the country.
Category-Wise*

(1991 Census)

S.No.	Category	No.
1.	Total main Workers	285,932,493
2.	Cultivators	110,702,346
3.	Agricultural labourers	74,597,744
4.	Livestock, forestry, fishing hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities.	6,040,739
5.	Mining and quarrying	1,751,275
6.	Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs	
	(a) In household industry	6,804,021
	(b) Other than household Industry	21,867,458
6.	Constructions	5,543,205
7.	Trade and commerce	21,296,337
8.	Transport, storage and communications.	8,017,746
9.	Other services	29,311,622

[English]

Poor Conditions of Children in Remand and Juvenile Homes

2535. SHRI PINKI MISRA :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the National Mail (Bhopal) dated May 28, 1996 attributable to National Human Rights Commission sources that children in 600 and odd remand and juvenile homes in the country are languishing in conditions that deprive them of basic rights; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the living conditions in juvenile and remand homes and to ensure that the children's stay in such homes is curtailed to the minimum?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the condition of inmates is reasonably good. There is a set norm for providing clothing and bedding to the inmates once he is committed apart from the dietary in take fixed on the basis of calorie requirement. There is a team of Welfare Officers in each home to ensure fair distribution of above articles.

(b) the implementation of J.J. Act, 1986 which provides for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent juveniles and for the adjudication of certain matters relating to and disposition of, delinquent juveniles, rests with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Under this Act, Probation Officers are appointed by the State Government as per their requirement and Juvenile Welfare Boards and Courts are set up to expedite restoration of neglected juveniles to their parents/guardians.

As a follow up measure of the J.J. Act, 1986, Government of India is implementing a Scheme of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment to assist the State Government/UT Administration, for creating and strengthening of infrastructure. Under this Scheme, grant-in-aid is provided to State Government/UT Administration for construction of homes, upgradation of existing homes and maintenance of inmates on 50:50 basis.

In addition to above, the Central Government has been pursuing the State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure successful implementation of the provisions of the J.J. Act and the Scheme of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment from time to time.

Domestic Labourers

2536. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether home based worker about 20 million at present is still unregulated and unprotected labour force in the country;

(b) whether a conference was held last year in Geneva at International Labour Organisation to arrive at a common agreement for the protection of home workers; .

(c) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation for betterment of home workers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Legislation to regulate and protect some sections of home workers like beedi workers is in force.

(b) The International Labour Conference in June, 1996 has adopted a Convention and Recommendations on Home-work.

- (c) No proposal is under consideration at present.
 (d) Does not arise.

Strikes and Lock Outs

2537. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mandays lost during each of the last three years due to strikes and lock outs, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to contain labour unrest during the above period;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the minimum wages in view of inflation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A statement showing state-wise

mandays lost due to strikes and lock-outs during 1993-96 is attached.

(b) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch over the industrial relations situation in the country. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Central and State level, take suitable steps to resolve disputes and reduce work stoppages through mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication. Regular consultations and bipartite discussions with organisations of employees and workers have helped in improving industrial relations.

(c) and (d). The Minimum Wages in the Central sphere comprises of a variable component linked to the Consumer Price Index Number. This component is revised every six months on the basis of rise or fall in Index Numbers, which duly takes care of the impact of inflation on Wages. The State Government have also been requested to make similar provisions.

STATEMENT

Loss of Mandays (in Thousands) during 1993-96 (Provisional) by Selected States.

State/UT	1993			1994			1995			1996 (Jan.-Apr.)		
	S	L	T	S	L	T	S	L	T	S	L	T
Andhra Pradesh	349	1653	2002	1028	2101	3129	1241	2895	4136	104	73	177
Bihar	65	398	463	134	372	506	161	467	628	54	59	113
Delhi	53	1	54	7	1	8	47	0	47	0	0	0
Goa, Daman & Diu	5	4	9	43	7	51	114	0	114	7	0	7
Gujarat	367	345	713	369	285	654	342	477	819	37	32	69
Haryana	148	312	460	138	152	290	44	5	49	0	0	0
Karnataka	295	61	356	70	315	386	219	201	420	79	118	197
Kerala	467	1377	1844	1199	1155	2354	592	1131	1722	1	0	1
Madhya Pradesh	153	0	153	288	32	320	97	0	97	74	16	90
Maharashtra	631	2140	2771	845	1517	2363	648	1070	1719	116	280	397
Orissa	87	13	100	61	27	89	125	8	133	1	0	1
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	249	51	301	250	0	250	354	38	392	32	5	36
Rajasthan	164	138	302	278	229	507	242	204	446	165	90	255
Tamil Nadu	2007	381	2287	1251	568	1819	822	193	1015	63	0	63
Uttar Pradesh	175	661	836	319	253	571	123	394	517	28	97	125
West Bengal	239	7013	7252	290	7236	7527	337	3462	3799	672	1131	1803
Others	160	138	298	81	80	160	212	25	236	79	0	79
Total	5615	14686	20301	6651	14332	20983	5720	10570	16290	1512	1901	3413

S - Mandays lost due to Strikes

L - Mandays lost due to Lockouts

T - Total Mandays Lost

O - Nil or less than 500

Total may not necessarily tally due to Rounding off of Figures.

Source : Labour Bureau, Shimla

Profit and Loss in SAIL

2538. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the profit and loss in each of the Steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during each of the last three years; and

(b) the production of various items therein and the manpower involved, during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) the Profit and Loss (-) in each of the Steel Plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during each of the last three years is as follows :

(Rupees in Crores)			
Plant	93-94	94-95	95-96
Bhilai Steel Plant	367.78	639.47	819.31
Durgapur Steel Plant	(-) 212.57	(-) 94.33	(-) 173.98
Rourkela Steel Plant	3.41	18.97	(-) 56.64
Bokaro Steel Plant	467.82	662.21	805.95
Alloy Steels Plant	(-) 14.23	(-) 5.87	1.12
Salem Steel Plant	4.05	21.14	4.15
Others (non-plant Units of SAIL)	(-) 70.93	(-) 78.26	(-) 81.30
SAIL	545.33	1163.33	1318.61

(b) The Production of Saleable Steel and Manpower involved during the above period is as follows :

Saleable Steel Production

(in '000 tonnes)

Plant	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Bhilai Steel Plant	3335	3409	3495
Durgapur Steel Plant	642	852	947
Rourkela Steel Plant	1130	1201	1148
Bokaro Steel Plant	3205	3168	3330
Alloy Steels Plant	160	154	187
Salem Steel Plant	46	56	48
SAIL Total	8518	8840	9155

Manpower

(as on)

Plant	31-3-94	31.3.95	31.3.96
1	2	3	4
Bhilai Steel Plant	54663	53620	52730
Rourkela Steel Plant	30719	33796	34141

1	2	3	4
Durgapur Steel Plant	29590	29282	28567
Bokaro Steel Plant	48075	47928	47485
Alloy Steels Plant	6775	6654	6533
Salem Steel Plant	1381	1529	1584
Sub total	171203	172809	171040
Others (non-plant units of SAIL)	16697	16697	16464
SAIL Total	187900	189506	187504

[Translation]

Funds Allocated for Welfare of SCs/STs

2539. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country, during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of families expected to be benefited as per the scheme and the number of families actually benefited therein;

(c) whether the allocated amount has not been fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Under the Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes meant for the welfare of SCs and STs the allocation is made scheme-wise and not State-wise. However, funds released to States/UTs during the last three years is given in the attached statement - I.

(b) Details are at statment-II.

(c) and (d). Under most of the Schemes the funds allocated were utilised except in the Schemes of Book Banks for SC/ST students, Coaching and Allied Schemes and Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST Students during 1995-96 due to the following reasons :

(a) Non-receipt of completed proposals from the States/UTs;

(b) Non-provision of adequate matching share by the State Governments/UT Admns.

STATEMENT-I

Funds released under Central/Centrally sponsored Schemes to States/UTs

S.No.	State/UT	Post Matric Scholar- ships.	Pre- Matric scholar- ships	Book Banks	Girls Hostels	Boys Hostels	Coaching & Allied Scheme	Imple- menta- tion & Atrocity Scave- ngers	Libera- & Rehabi- litation of	SC. Dev. Corpo- ration	SCA or SC/ST	Upgradation of merit of students
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		(for Sch. Cast/Sch. Tr.)			(for Sch. Cost)			(for SC/ST Act.)				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1077.365	83.68	70.50	310.30	181.90	3.00	91.02	459.00	875.52	2416.06	-
2.	Assam	-	-	5.78	-	-	0.50	-	-	22.10	220.51	-
3.	Bihar	590.144	65.80	9.91	40.44	70.77	8.56	26.50	-	113.52	2327.11	-
4.	Gujarat	357.951	14.57	0.05	15.05	39.50	5.53	92.74	200.00	96.07	796.82	-
5.	Haryana	68.00	14.56	5.84	-	-	3.56	5.21	714.00	164.31	424.53	2.90
6.	H.P.	3.272	4.40	0.60	-	-	1.00	1.00	-	53.43	699.54	1.10
7.	J. & K.	33.754	-	0.13	-	0.14	0.59	-	-	61.00	76.33	-
8.	Karnataka	1077.436	1.86	4.87	3.09	108.68	1.00	148.86	-	212.35	1282.71	-
9.	Kerala	106.764	1.90	13.67	25.02	6.95	6.96	19.99	-	124.20	402.84	-
10.	M.P.	474.76	168.96	36.90	0.64	-	3.00	16.75	1226.00	57.65	2803.81	-
11.	Maharashtra	1240.04	20.03	20.49	56.43	68.34	1.00	96.14	378.00	138.16	1562.79	-
12.	Manipur	59.47	-	0.72	2.32	2.03	0.25	-	-	-	5.56	-
13.	Meghalaya	74.279	-	-	-	-	0.50	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Nagaland	60.00	-	-	-	-	0.60	-	11.00	-	-	-
15.	Orissa	385.74	6.00	8.86	38.76	34.00	1.50	2.00	119.00	59.22	1075.66	3.92
16.	Punjab	120.878	32.97	2.65	1.00	2.56	1.00	13.40	-	14.13	875.92	-
17.	Rajasthan	348.02	30.08	10.00	5.05	2.52	22.94	51.00	227.00	18.60	1829.89	5.85
18.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.06	-
19.	Tamilnadu	736.98	7.32	29.48	50.55	33.62	2.00	69.26	-	318.50	1879.11	-
20.	Tripura	54.944	12.70	1.02	1.67	5.00	6.39	-	-	9.60	58.85	-
21.	U.P.	350.00	80.33	103.09	15.77	60.65	3.00	49.59	3763.00	238.77	5933.29	-
22.	W.B.	73.20	3.01	2.98	33.86	23.37	0.50	4.40	-	206.56	2322.75	-
23.	Chandigarh	-	-	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	4.80	12.39	-
24.	Dadra & N. Haveli	3.13	-	-	-	-	-	5.00	-	*17.75	-	-
25.	Delhi	-	12.60	2.49	-	-	3.00	-	-	57.65	184.76	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15.	Mizoram	-	63.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Nagaland	-	90.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Orissa	3603.23	815.25	29.40	77.24	16.20	70.04	50.00	31.75
18.	Punjab	2664.68	576.75	36.75	12.25	-	29.56	64.40	16.16
19.	Rajasthan	73.67	9.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Sikkim	214.05	72.00	-	-	34.65	4773	-	-
21.	Tamilnadu	372.37	80.25	18.38	7.31	10.00	-	35.00	-
22.	Tripura	69.22	32.25	3.65	3.65	40.68	-	-	-
23.	Uttar Pradesh	319.06	423.00	26.41	23.74	-	8.56	-	-
24.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Daman & Diu	28.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Andman & Nicobar	77.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Arunachal Pradesh Gauhati Project	-	60.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		29484.50	7500.00	269.72	263.75	252.55	190.00	350.40	125.00

Schemes Meant for Welfare of Scheduled Castes

Statement Showing the Funds released under the Central and Centrally sponsored Schemes during 1994-95 for Various Welfare Activities

S.No.	State/UT	Scheduled Castes Development										(Rs. in Lakhs)		
		'SCA to SCP	'SCDC	'Libe-ration of Sc-aven-	'Post Matric School gers	'Pre Matric School	'Boys Hos-tels	'Girls Hos-tels	'Book Banks	'Upgra-dation of merit cities	'PCR and Aro-	'Coaching and Allied Schemes		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3255.36	577.33	62.47	1391.65	-	475.68	489.68	53.90	-	121.12	40.00		
2.	Assam	273.34	24.42	-	670.96	105.57	9.00	9.00	3.00	-	-	-		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3.	Bihar	-	-	-	451.00	22.00	-	-	16.90	-	-	1.70
4.	Gujarat	956.68	17.82	-	519.71	72.04	99.32	-	10.62	-	102.21	2.57
5.	Goa	3.95	13.45	-	0.90	-	-	-	0.17	-	-	-
6.	Haryana	538.05	75.31	-	80.00	30.50	1.82	2.10	3.00	2.90	4.81	2.74
7.	Himachal Pradesh	195.05	48.43	-	6.00	6.00	-	-	0.51	-	-	-
8.	J. & K.	100.00	85.47	-	65.21	6.01	3.05	-	1.59	-	-	-
9.	Kerala	508.81	79.20	-	199.00	3.80	9.50	-	7.00	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	1873.76	310.21	400.00	1126.68	7.27	174.22	64.39	9.53	2.20	139.81	2.16
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1007.57	51.88	1588.80	706.18	216.18	6.54	130.65	42.16	20.95	204.52	-
12.	Maharashtra	1575.89	56.97	500.00	1997.92	42.96	4.03	-	35.55	-	10.52	0.30
13.	Manipur	6.09	-	-	92.26	-	-	-	0.35	-	-	-
14.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	141.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Mizoram	-	-	-	202.42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Nagaland	-	-	-	219.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Orissa	1332.84	28.82	-	291.26	4.00	35.60	41.40	10.16	21.07	2.10	-
18.	Punjab	1626.72	28.82	-	73.00	78.76	2.70	3.30	4.34	3.75	33.50	5.43
19.	Rajasthan	886.37	9.80	-	438.56	97.69	7.58	-	15.00	8.32	39.88	4.60
20.	Sikkim	4.22	-	-	-	0.55	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Tamilnadu	2055.66	186.54	243.98	714.63	61.11	17.04	3.60	50.62	31.81	70.34	-
22.	Tripura	100.00	-	-	86.49	12.60	0.47	-	0.87	0.83	-	-
23.	Uttar Pradesh	6297.51	282.32	4505.49	1421.51	166.31	-	-	78.21	4.92	178.51	-
24.	West Bengal	2813.37	233.29	-	-	3.42	-	-	1.50	2.13	5.15	4.00
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	0.75	0.10	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Chandigarh	17.40	4.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	8.22	-
28.	Delhi	244.42	62.45	-	19.12	-	-	-	3.69	-	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	17.75	-	1.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Pondicherry	19.31	4.80	-	10.95	-	30.00	-	1.00	-	13.93	-
Total		27300.85	2200.00	7300.00	9600.35	629.00	1000.00	620.00	350.00	100.00	740.00	200.00

In 1994-95 a sum of Rs. 6377.09 lakhs was released to the National SCs and STs Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC). The NSFDC in turn releases the funds through the State channelising agencies based on the proposals received from them.

Schemes Meant for Tribal Development

Scheme-wise Release of Funds under the Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the year 1994-95

S.No.	State/UT	SCA to TSP	Rel. under Art. 275 (1)	Boys Hostels	Girls Hostels	Ashram Schools	Vocational Training Centres	TDCCs	Educational Complexes	(Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1947.10	460.50	58.47	50.00	66.80	-	-	2.01	
2.	Assam	1112.67	315.00	16.00	-	-	-	-	-	
3.	Bihar	1748.70	725.25	-	-	-	44.34	-	4.84	
4.	Gujarat	2491.56	675.00	6.44	4.73	-	21.60	30.00	24.25	
5.	Goa									
6.	Haryana									
7.	Himachal Pradesh	450.57	4.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8.	J. & K.	550.63	95.25	86.02	-	-	-	-	-	
9.	Karnataka	409.03	210.00	-	-	67.50	-	-	-	
10.	Kerala	126.30	35.25	20.00	20.00	-	-	36.00	-	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7535.72	1687.60	16.90	115.83	-	-	124.00	52.30	
12.	Maharashtra	2196.34	801.75	-	-	1.76	54.12	30.00	-	
13.	Manipur	432.81	69.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	
14.	Meghalaya	-	166.50	11.00	11.00	-	-	15.00	-	
15.	Mizoram	-	72.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16.	Nagaland	-	116.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	
17.	Orissa	3956.55	771.00	36.00	44.00	60.00	88.68	75.00	64.99	
18.	Punjab									
19.	Rajasthan	2202.79	600.00	-	-	24.50	-	30.00	48.19	
20.	Sikkim	75.10	9.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	
21.	Tamilnadu	256.88	63.00	-	-	-	10.05	-	-	
22.	Tripura	480.01	93.75	39.17	19.44	19.44	-	-	-	
23.	Uttar Pradesh	70.41	31.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	
24.	West Bengal	135.83	417.75	-	-	-	6.21	-	-	
25.	Chandigarh									
26.	Delhi									
27.	Pondicherry									
28.	Daman & Diu	35.50	-	-	3.00	10.00	-	-	-	
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	37.00	-	-	-	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
21.	Tamilnadu	2803.55	268.96	1300.00	693.00	32.05	100.00	100.00	40.40	10.40	82.54	
22.	Tripura	76.26	-	-	82.35	12.77	6.00	24.00	0.25	-	-	0.09
23.	Uttar Pradesh	5839.03	-	3800.16	1669.82	68.13	66.93	31.82	15.00	-	399.43	
24.	West Bengal	2955.22	254.43	-	635.28	-	134.01	58.70	-	-	-	
25.	Chandigarh	14.86	24.00	-	-	-	15.00	-	-	-	-	
26.	Delhi	231.16	96.07	-	-	27.43	-	-	3.99	4.14	-	
27.	Pondicherry	19.62	9.60	-	26.03	-	-	-	0.25	-	14.35	
28.	Daman & Diu	37.47	37.47	-	2.64	-	-	-	0.28	-	0.10	
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	5.68	-	-	-	0.84	-	14.92	
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	1.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
32.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.71
	Guwahati Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Total	27500.00	3100.00	9000.00	14485.63	892.00	1483.01	564.88	284.1891.64	1536.84	22.17	

In 1995-96 a sum of Rs. 6500 lakhs was released to the National SCs and STs Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC). The NSFDC in turn releases the funds through the State channelising agencies based on the proposals received from them.

Schemes Meant for Tribal Development

Scheme-wise Release of Funds under the Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the year 1995-96

S.No.	State/UT	SCA to TSP	Rel. under Art. 275 (1)	Boys Hostels	Girls Hostels	Ashram Schools	Vocational Training Centres	TDCCs	Educational Complexes	(Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2140.32	460.30	92.63	91.00	72.17	44.34	90.00	2.49	
2.	Assam	1545.19	315.00	-	3.03	-	64.90	-	-	
3.	Bihar	274.22	725.25	-	-	-	-	50.00	1.82	
4.	Gujarat	3060.26	675.00	-	-	-	52.30	-	22.51	
5.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	541.62	24.00	-	6.50	-	-	-	-	
8.	J. & K.	756.64	95.25	12.70	24.05	-	-	-	-	
9.	Karnataka	659.99	210.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10.	Kerala	181.20	35.25	-	-	-	-	57.00	2.75	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.	Madhya Pradesh	9579.66	1687.50	-	-	99.45	44.34	57.00	30.45
12.	Maharashtra	2930.82	801.75	-	-	-	-	75.00	0.68
13.	Manipur	574.53	69.00	-	-	-	-	8.00	-
14.	Meghalaya	-	166.50	13.75	13.75	-	-	-	-
15.	Mizoram	-	72.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Nagaland	-	116.25	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Orissa	4958.10	771.00	46.62	65.93	70.00	-	-	68.67
18.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Rajasthan	2819.04	600.00	-	66.74	-	-	-	20.65
20.	Sikkim	100.19	9.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Tamilnadu	274.44	63.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tripura	564.97	93.75	38.38	19.44	38.38	59.12	63.00	-
23.	Uttar Pradesh	104.08	31.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	West Bengal	1763.21	417.75	115.92	19.57	-	-	-	-
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Daman & Diu	59.31	-	-	20.00	-	-	-	-
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	45.00	40.00	-	-	-	-
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	112.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	60.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Guwahati Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		33000.00	7500.00	365.00	370.00	280.00	150.00	285.00	400.00

STATEMENT-II

Scheme-wise Physical Targets and Achievements for Years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95

S.No.	Scheme	Unit	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
			Achmt.	Target	Achmt.	Target	Achmt.	Target	Achmt.	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	SCA to SCP	No. of families	NA	20.66 \$ lakhs	-	23.44 lakhs	26.96 lakhs	26.96 lakhs	26.96 lakhs	Under compilation
2.	Assistance to SCDC	Individual	5.35 lakhs	5.35 lakhs	5.32 lakhs	5.32 lakhs	6.31 lakhs	6.31 lakhs	6.31 lakhs	Under compilation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
3.	Liberation of scavengers and their Dependents	Benef- iciaries	Training Rehab.	42000	16288	37000	13266*	50000	25358*	44000	Under compilation
4.	Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST Students	No. of Scholarships	-	15.31 lakhs	1070000	40820	150000	15.34 lakhs	64967	122000 -do-	18.47 (per lakhs
5.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for the children in those engaged unclean occupations	No. of Scholarships	-	99254		1.30 lakhs		1.76 lakhs			2.45 (Per lakhs
6.	Hostels for SC Girls	No. of Hostels	-	177		213		73			90
		No. of Inmates	-	9547		19452		7208			7521
7.	Hostels for SC Boys	No. of Hostels		200		101		327			122
		No. of Inmates		10127		7020		24071			11417
8.	Book Banks for SC/ST students	No. of students		11582		33120		37877			26567
9.	Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST students	No. of students		672		334		2336			94

\$ SCA is an addition to SCP to States for SC and the physical target and achievement is under various income generating scheme of alleviation under point 11(a) of TPP implemented by states under their SCP.

(a) The scheme against which targets have not been mentioned are open-ended and as such targets cannot be fixed.

In 1994-95, as against a target for rehabilitation of 1,50,000 scavengers only 65,000 scavengers could be rehabilitated. During financial year 1995-96 as against a target of 1,22,000 communicated by the State Governments to the Ministry of Welfare information received State indicates rehabilitation of only 80,000 scavengers. However, information some of the States is still awaited. State have been requested to furnish the information.

The reasons for non achievement of the target relate to inadequacy of stipend, reluctance of commercial banks to finance project under the scheme and lack of coordination at the level of implementation between the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development.

Schemes Meant for Tribal Development

Physical Achievement under the Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

S.No.	Schemes	Unit	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	SCA to TSP	Families	10.42 lakhs	10.51 lakhs	7.96 lakhs (upto Feb. 96)
2.	Boys Hostel for ST	Hostels	53	66	34
3.	Girls Hostels for STs	Hostels	52	42	45
4.	Ashram Schools for STs	Schools	64	18	163
5.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for ST Girls	Complexs	23	42	47
6.	Vocational Training Centres	Centres	15	19	19

Feature Films

2540. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of feature films telecast by Delhi Doordarshan during each of the last three years, category-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to issue instructions for showing only religious, social, educational and historical films on Doordarshan and impose a ban immediately on the showing of low-taste and vulgar films; and

(c) whether the Government propose to show such films which can be seen by whole family sitting together?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details are given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c). Doordarshan endeavours to telecast films on different themes keeping in mind its programme requirement from time to time. Only films which have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification are considered for telecast. Further, all films are previewed before telecast to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing.

STATEMENT

The number of feature films telecast on Delhi Doordarshan Kendra for the last three years i.e. from 1/1/93 to 31/12/95, year-wise is given below :

S.No.	Category	1/1/93 to 31/12/93	1/1/94 to 31/12/94	1/1/95 to 31/12/95
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Regional	54	45	61
2.	Children films	8	12	6

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Hindi feature films on National Network	145	134	118
4.	Hindi feature films on Delhi-LPTs	51	49	52
5.	Dialect feature films	22	17	17
Total		280	257	254

Decontrol of Newsprint

2541. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to decontrol the newsprint; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Government have already made all types of newsprint, including glazed newsprint, freely importable by all persons with effect from 1.5.1995 vide Ministry of Commerce's Notification No. 3(RE-95)/92-97 dated 30.4.1995 and there is also no customs duty on the newsprint import. Indigenous newsprint is available to the newspapers registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India for purchase from the scheduled newsprint mills without payment of excise duty.

ITDC Coaches

2542. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of India Tourism Development Corporation coaches in operation every day between Bangalore and Mysore for the benefit of tourists;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to increase the number of coaches;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) ITDC is not operating its own coach service between Bangalore and Mysore. However, ITDC is operating a daily package tour between Bangalore-Mysore-Ooty-Bangalore by hiring a coach from an empanelled private transport agency.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The State Government/Corporation can operate tourist coaches between tourist centres depending on the viability of the routes.

Testing of Food Samples

2543. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any independent Quality Control Laboratory for testing food samples, including foodgrains etc. from Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of tests on random samples taken during each of the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir. There is one Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL), New Delhi under the Ministry of Food for testing foodgrain samples for formulation of uniform specifications of different foodgrains from procurement purposes. However the foodgrain samples collected by quality control officers of the Ministry of Food from Fair Price Shops, are also analysed in this laboratory. In addition to above, there are 78 Food Laboratories in the States/Union Territories which are undertaking analysis of food samples covered under the statutory provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Four Central Food Laboratories at Ghaziabad, Calcutta, Pune and Mysore under the Union Ministry of Health are also doing similar work.

(b) and (c). The wheat and rice samples collected from Fair Price Shops are analysed in CGAL for physical quality parameters such as foreign matter, damaged grain, slightly damaged grain, broken grain, immature and shrivelled grain etc. During the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 (till June 1996) 91, 125 and 48 samples were collected respectively from fair price shops and analysed in CGAL, New Delhi. Wherever the samples were found

substandard, the matter was taken up with FCI and concerned State Governments for immediate remedial measures. The information about the analysis of food samples including foodgrains analysed by PFA labs of the State Governments/Union Territories and 4 Central Food Laboratories is not being collected by Ministry of Food.

Backwater Tourism in Kerala

2544. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any plan for giving a special boost to backwaters tourism in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) to (c). Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Government. However, the Department of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for specific proposals based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds. The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government has identified one project at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.00 lakhs for development of backwaters in Kerala for 1996-97. The State Government has to submit the detailed proposal for the project.

The Government of Kerala has identified Veli-Aakulam in backwaters as special tourism area for development and investment.

Bogus Ration Cards

2545. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the strange phenomena of existence of huge number of bogus ration cards and a large number of rural/urban poor remaining without ration cards coexists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the nature, magnitude and seriousness of the problem has been assessed; and

(d) if so, the action plan worked out to streamline the Public Distribution System for the benefit of urban/rural poor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (c). In Revamped Public Distribution System

(RPDS) areas, where the majority of poorer sections of the society live, the States/UTs have reported to have eliminated 10641170 bogus cards and issued 8345758 additional ration cards during the period from June 1992 to June 1996. The Central Government monitors the progress of PDS and RPDS with States/UTs and reviews their functioning in periodic meetings.

(d) The Government is considering a proposal to streamline the PDS with focus on the poor in consultation with the State Governments.

[Translation]

Telephone Division in Uttar Pradesh

2546. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation/proposals from various institutions/ Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a new Division of Telecommunications of Uttar Pradesh in Bareilly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Reservation to the Residents of Hilly District of U.P.

2547. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposal to provide 27% reservation in Government services to the residents of hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh by declaring it backward area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered the above proposals;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). The National Commission for Backward Classes has received a representation from Sh. Harish Rawat, ex-M.P. and others requesting the Commission to direct/suggest the Central/State Government to declare the entire UP Hills area as Backward and to extend the privilege of reservation in the services of Central/State Government.

(c) and (d). At this stage the matter is under consideration of the NCBC.

[English]

Outstanding dues against Private Airlines

2548. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the private airlines operating domestic routes in the country;

(b) the details of the airlines out of them which have not paid the landing, parking and navigational charges to the Airport Authority of India;

(c) the amount outstanding against each of them; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 7 scheduled and 19 Air Taxi Operators are at present Operating in the domestic sector.

(b) and (c). The amount of dues outstanding against each of the private airlines payable to Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on 31.5.96 on account of landing, parking and other charges is given in the attached Statement.

(d) Regular effort is made to collect the dues. Credit facilities have been stopped in the case of East West Airlines for defaulting to clear the outstanding dues. Action has also been initiated under Public Premises Eviction Act in respect of M/s Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd.

STATEMENT

Details of Amount Outstanding from Private Airlines Payable to Airports Authority of India as on, 31.05.1996

S. No.	Name of the Party	Amount due (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Aerial Services	0.02
2.	Archana Airways	0.35
3.	Continental Aviation	10.31
4.	Elbee Airlines	2.85
5.	East West Airlines	1250.82
6.	Gujarat Airways	0.17
7.	Jet Airways	150.23
8.	Jagson Airlines	0.30
9.	India International Airways	3.74
10.	Mesco	0.01
11.	Modiluft Airlines	167.23
12.	NEPC Airlines	16.37

1	2	3
13. Sahara India Ltd.		87.47
14. Saraya Aviation Pvt. Ltd.		0.28
15. Skyline NEPC		52.79
16. Trans Bharat Aviation Pvt. Ltd.		1.31
17. UP Air		48.06
18. VIF Airways		11.94

[Translation]

Export of Steel

2549. SHRI BRIJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for production and actual production made by the various steel plants of the Steel

Authority of India Limited during each of the last three years category-wise, plant-wise; and

(b) the details of export of steel during the last three years by the Steel Authority of India Limited country-wise, quantity-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The target fixed for production and actual production of Saleable Steel made by the four integrated steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Special Steels by Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur and Salem Steel Plant of the SAIL during each of the last three years category-wise, plant-wise given in the attached Statement - I.

(b) The details of export of steel during the last three years by the Steel Authority of India Limited country-wise, quantity-wise and category-wise is given in the attached Statement - II.

STATEMENT - I

Bhilai Steel Plant

Unit '000 T

Category	95-96		94-95		93-94	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
SALEABLE STEEL						
Semis	995	1153	1005	1202	965	1146
Structurals	480	498	490	492	510	438
Bars and Rods	600	558	490	583	450	655
Rails	500	468	500	463	500	475
Plates	675	818	675	669	675	621
Saleable Steel	3250	3495	3160	3409	3100	3335

Durgapur Steel Plant

Unit '000 T

Category	95-96		94-95		93-94	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
SALEABLE STEEL						
Semis	509	381	324	271	293	142
Structurals	165	120	155	134	140	121
Bars and Rods	250	227	250	216	240	168
Wheels and Axles	25	17	28	12	39	7
Sleepers	25	7	40	22	55	29
Fish Plates	4	2	3	4	4	4
Skelp	212	193	170	193	150	171
Saleable Steel	1190	947	970	852	920	642

Rourkela Steel Plant

Unit '000 T

Category	95-96		94-95		93-94	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
SALEABLE STEEL						
Semis	25	47	25	38	24	26
Plates	370	326	341	365	345	350
H.R. Sheets/Coils	209	259	227	260	197	266
C.R. Coils/Sheet	200	223	190	213	205	179
Galvanised Sheets	160	141	155	145	155	128
Electrical Sheets	75	49	72	55	69	52
Tin Plates	65	23	65	35	50	49
Pipes	85	80	85	90	85	82
Saleable Steel	1190	1148	1160	1201	1130	1130

Bokaro Steel Plant

Unit '000 T

Category	95-96		94-95		93-94	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
SALEABLE STEEL						
Semis	100	203	50	170	60	122
Plates	590	557	585	468	575	594
H.R. Sheets/Coils	1359	1492	1293	1565	1235	1542
C.R. Coils/Sheet	1001	908	1022	811	1030	791
Galvanised Sheets	170	170	160	155	150	157
Saleable Steel	3220	3330	3110	3168	3050	3205

Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur

Unit '000 T

Category	95-96		94-95		93-94	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
SALEABLE STEEL	175		175		181	
(Special Steel)						
Slab		92.7		62.4		76.1
Bloom/Bit		56.4		52.9		47.6
Bar		15.7		19.0		17.9
Forge		7.7		6.3		5.8
Plate		11.7		9.5		8.2
Others		3.0		4.2		4.5
Saleable Steel	175	187.2	175	154.3	181	160.1

Unit '000 T

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3. Malaysia	1612	-	-	-	-	2993	-	729	27080	-	32414
4. USA	92423	12914	-	-	-	-	-	12255	1023	-	118615
5. Indonesia	1002	61145	-	-	19982	-	-	-	-	-	82129
6. Korea	10277	30821	-	-	-	-	-	-	318	-	41416
7. Nepal	1926	-	-	-	35803	249	8994	5234	5645	-	57851
8. Hongkong	2099	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2099
9. Taiwan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5107	5217	-	10324
10. Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	1633	-	-	-	-	1633
11. Srilanka	794	-	-	-	-	693	-	1545	847	300	4179
12. Thailand	2886	-	-	-	49462	2949	-	-	-	-	55297
13. Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	1864	216	-	-	-	-	2080
14. U A E	-	-	-	-	-	4614	-	-	-	-	4614
15. Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1305	-	1305
16. Spain	5050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5050
17. Germany	11933	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11933
18. Australia	524	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	524
19. Italy	19920	-	-	-	-	-	-	5207	-	1019	26146
Total	257346	104880	14460	107111	13347	8994	30077	41435	1319	578969	

Country-wise and Category-wise Exports During 1993-94

S. No.	Country	Plates	Slabs	Blooms	Billets	Strls	W/RODS/ DE-BARS	CRC/ CRS	HRC/ HRS	PIG IRON	(Qty./MT) Total
1.	China	96352	76881	20440	-	23743	26915	5430	-	-	249761
2.	Vietnam	6410	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6410
3.	Japan	103882	-	-	-	-	-	-	488	-	104380
4.	Malaysia	4253	-	-	-	2926	-	1808	11522	-	20509
5.	USA	79037	-	-	-	-	-	8812	1783	-	89632
6.	Indonesia	-	14900	-	9710	-	-	-	-	18000	42610
7.	Korea	10367	35032	25014	-	-	-	-	-	-	70413
8.	Nepal	212	-	-	6711	-	-	750	980	-	8653
9.	Phillipines	-	-	-	9699	-	-	-	-	-	9699
10.	Taiwan	-	-	-	30094	-	-	-	5105	-	35199
11.	Singapore	3339	-	-	-	1473	-	-	-	-	4812
12.	Srilanka	-	-	-	-	-	-	1502	555	-	2057
13.	Thailand	-	-	-	3150	1339	-	-	-	-	4489
Total		303852	126813	45454	59364	29481	26915	18302	20443	18000	648624

Exports of Special Steel

1993-94 to 1995-96 (Qty./MT)

Category		93-94	94-95	95-96	Countries
1	2	3	4	5	6
Alloy Steels Plants					Taiwan, Belgium,
Stn Steel					Germany, USA
	Slabs	-	11204	6690	Taiwan, Italy
	Billets	-	632	-	Taiwan, Singapore
	Plates	-	237	928	Malaysia

1	2	3	4	5	6
Alloy Steels					
	Bar/Billet	47			UK, Australia
Total	47	12073	7618		
Salem Steel Plant					
Stn Coils/Sheets		6758	11410	7497	USA, Malaysia Australia, Brazil
Total		6758	11410	7497	Canada, Germany, Denmark, Holland, Italy, Hong Kong, South Africa.

[English]

Security Lapses

2550. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the 'Times of India', dated July 12, 1996 captioned "History-Sheeteer exposes gaps in Delhi airport security";

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

(c) the action taken against the culprits and the officials for issuing passes to persons of criminal background; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Mohinder Singh, Chhote Lal, Lalit Mohan & Harish Chander, employees of M/s Ambassador Sky Chef were arrested by Customs Department for smuggling of gold at Delhi Airport on 11.7.1996.

(c) Photo Identity Cards (PICs) of the culprits have been cancelled. Since the PICs have been issued after police verification, the officers who issued the PICs are not considered guilty.

(d) Instruction for stricter verification of character/ antecedents of applicants have been reiterated.

Non-functioning of Telephone Exchange in Jajpur, Orissa

2551. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the non-functioning of telephone exchange at Jajpur in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to modernise the telephone exchange keeping in view of its importance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The telephone exchange at Jajpur is functioning satisfactorily. A modern electronic exchange of 1000 lines is already working at Jajpur. It is connected with reliable digital Media with Cuttack TAX.

Expansion of Metro Channel

2552. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Metro channel throughout the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Whereas the Metro service of Doordarshan (DD-II) is available throughout the country, via satellite, by using an appropriate dish antenna system, terrestrially the service is being extended initially to State Capitals and major cities in the country in a phased manner depending on availability of resources and inter se priorities. Presently, the service is being relayed terrestrially through 42 transmitters.

New Telephone Exchanges in Goa

2553. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of existing telephone exchanges alongwith the number of subscribers in Goa and capacity thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Goa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of existing telephone exchanges in Goa are 65 with equipped capacity of 72512. The total number of subscribers in Goa is 61830.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to open C-DOT 128 Port Exchange at Dabal in Ponda Tahsil during the year 96-97.

Welfare Schemes for SCs/STs in Assam

2554. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes introduced by the Union Government in the backward and tribal areas of Assam for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) since when the above schemes are being implemented;

(c) whether these schemes have achieved their target;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether periodical review has been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d). A statement showing the Welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Assam is attached.

(e) and (f). Periodical review is conducted every year by the Ministry of Welfare, Planning Commission and also by the Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour and Welfare. Implementation of Scheme was recently reviewed in the Conference of State Ministers incharge of the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes held at New Delhi on 2-3 Feb., 1996 and also with State Secretaries on 29.6.1996.

STATEMENT

Statement showing the details of the welfare schemes for ST/STs in Assam

Name of the Welfare Schemes	Since when the schemes in being implemented	Target and Achievements
1	2	3
SCHEDULED CASTES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION		
1. Coaching and Allied	1969	Rs.1993 lakhs were released. No. of SC/ST students appeared in I.A.S. in 1995-96 = 135
2. Boys Hostel for Scheduled Castes	1989-90	Rs. 9 lakhs during 1995-96 for 19 Hostels
3. Girls Hostel for Scheduled Castes	Third Five Year Plan	Rs. 9 lakh during 1995-96 for 16 Hostels
4. Book Banks for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	1978-79	Rs. 3 lakhs were released during 1995-96
5. Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students	1994-95	Rs.625.985 lakhs were released for 1,45,814 (Provisional) students of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes during 1995-96.
6. Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those engaged in unclean occupation	1977-78	Out of Rs.13 lakh each released during 1990-91 and 1991-92, there is an unspent Central assistance with the State Govt. of Assam. The No. of beneficiaries covered in 1995-96 are 1612.
7. Protection of Civil Right Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities)	1976-77 1990-91	Rs. 2.50 lakhs have been released during 1995-96
8. Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers	1992	(1) No. of persons identified = 6,873 (2) No. of persons trained during 1994-95 = 37 (3) No. of persons rehabilitated = 61

1	2	3
9. Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Students	Since 93-94, with the Ministry of Welfare	The schemes has not been implemented in the State of Assam.
10. Special Central Assistance	March, 1980	(Rs. in lakhs) Released Utilised 1994-95 273.34 163.45 (24,418 Scheduled Caste families) out of a target of 48,000 were benefitted) 1995-96 226.65 (Target is 28,000 Scheduled Caste families) Rs.30.74 lakhs during 1995-96 were released for 41,111 beneficiaries Grant-in-aid was given to three Non-Governmental Organisations during 1995-96. 2 students were given awards during 1994-95.
11. Scheduled Caste Development Corporation	1978-79	
12. Non-Governmental Organisations	1953-54	
13. National Overseas Scholarship	1953-54	
TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION		
1. Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes	1989-90	Rs.16 Lakhs for 32 hostels during 1994-95.
2. Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes	Third Five Year Plan	Rs.3.03 lakhs for 7 hostels during 1995-96
3. Ashram Schools	1990-91	
4. Educational Complex for Scheduled Tribes girls in low literacy pockets	1993-94	Assam is not covered under the scheme
5. Non-Governmental Organisations	1953-54	Rs.15.10 Lakhs for 3 N.G.Os during 1995-96
6. Research and Training	1979-80	Rs.42.42 Lakhs
7. Special Central Assistance	Fifth Five Year Plan	Rs.3745.43 Lakhs
8. Grants under Article 275(1)	1974-75	Rs.931.50 Lakhs
9. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas	1992-93	Rs.64.895 Lakhs for 6 Centres.

Public Distribution System

2555. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are certain special provisions under the public distribution system for the consumer living in the hilly regions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. People living in the hilly regions in the country falling under area specific programmes such as Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) and Designated Hill Areas (DHA), are covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS). The Central Government issues foodgrains to States/UTs for distribution in these areas at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices (CIP) which are Rs.50 per quintal less than the CIPs for normal PDS areas. The Central

Government has advised the States/UTs to add not more than 25 paise per kg. over and above the CIP while fixing the end retail prices. States have also been advised to ensure availability of at least 20 kg. of foodgrains per family per month to these areas and Central Government has earmarked adequate allocation for meeting this requirement.

Child Labour

2556. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any industry in Kerala is reported to be employing children below 14 years of age;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action, if any, taken to free these children from such employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Government of Kerala has informed that though statistical data on

children below 14 years of age employed in any industry in the state is not readily available, it is reported that, in stray cases, in some establishments like hotel, restaurants & automobile work shop etc. children are being employed.

(c) the Provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and the Kerala Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Rules 1993 are being enforced in the State to effectively check the problem of child labour.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Unnotified Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes

2557. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from All India Tapriwas and Vimukt Jaties Federation regarding the inclusion of some Unnotified nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these tribes are likely to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from the All India Tapriwas and Vimukt Jaties Federation for the inclusion, in the Scheduled Tribes lists of Punjab and Haryana of certain communities such as Bazigar, Sansi and others, which are presently specified as Scheduled Caste in relation to these States.

(c) These representations are under consideration.

[English]

Introduction of C.D. Strip

2558. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that I.T.R.C. Lucknow had evolved a C.D. Strip to find out the adulteration in Sarso Oil (mustard oil);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the above strip is likely to be made available in the open market; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on introduction of C.D. Strip in open market?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The ITRC, Lucknow has developed a simple on-the-spot paper strip test to detect adulteration of

mustard oil with an artificially added synthetic toxic yellow dye, Butter yellow. A drop of suspected mustard oil is put on the chemically coated strip when a visual colour change indicates presence of artificially added yellow dye, Butter yellows.

(c) The technology of this test has been transferred to a Lucknow based entrepreneur M/s Nilofe, in May, 1996. The firm is expected to sell the test strip in the open market shortly.

(d) This test can be performed by house-wives/ consumers themselves or for random market pre screening checks by health authorities.

[Translation]

Amount Spent on Promotion of Tourism

2559. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the new schemes for promotion of tourism during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to enable the tourism industry for economic development and for providing employment opportunities; and

(c) if so, the prospective plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India, provides Central Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for promotion and development of tourism under various schemes on the basis of specific proposals received from them. During 1995-96, two new schemes, namely, (1) Refurbishment of monuments, (2) Development and improvement of facilities at Pilgrimage Centres have been introduced and the Department of Tourism has provided Rs.55.18 lakhs as assistance under these schemes.

(b) In order to provide employment opportunities through the tourism industry, the Government of India provides various incentives to the private sector apart from financial assistance to the State Governments. These incentives are Interest Subsidy upto Three Star and Heritage Hotels, concessions in Customs Duty, Exemption in Income Tax under Section 80 HHD, etc.

(c) The Department of Tourism has submitted the Report of the Working Group on Tourism Development for the 9th Five Year Plan to the Planning Commission for the promotion and development of tourism in the country for promoting employment.

Voluntary Organisations in Delhi

2560. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the voluntary organisations functioning in National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) the Central Financial Assistance made available to these organisations for their various welfare programmes during each of the last three years till date;

(c) whether these organisations have submitted their accounts to the Central Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any complaints about the misutilisation of funds;

(f) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(g) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Details of voluntary organisations functioning in Delhi are given in the statement attached.

(b) Financial assistance made available to these organisations (year-wise) is as below :

	(Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	4.90
1994-95	5.90
1995-96	5.15

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g). Complaints have been received against two organisations.

1. All India Deaf and Dumb Society
2. Harmeen Education Society.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has been requested to investigate into the matter and submit a report.

STATEMENT

Scheduled Caste Welfare :

1. Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kings Way, Delhi-9
2. Shoshan Unmoolan Prishad, Nanak Bhavan, Chandralok Colony, Shahdara, Delhi-93.
3. Samaj Seva Sangh, No.69/10, Gali No.16, Brahampuri, Delhi-53.
4. Sh. Muktiar Singh Smriti Shiksha Samiti, Pothakalan, Delhi-41.
5. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Secondary School Society, Ambedkar Bhavan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi.
6. Akhil Bhartiya Gramin Seva Sangh, C-4/433, Sultanpuri, Delhi-41.

7. Mukti Sangram Sangh, Delhi Pradesh, D-584, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-92.
8. Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Research Institute, 3, Institutional Area, Sector IV, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-22.
9. All India Konark Ednl. and Welfare Society, 221, Manas Kunj Road, Uttar Nagar, New Delhi-59.
10. Ch.Deepchand Zailder Memorial Education Society, 408, Mandir Marg, Nangloi, New Delhi-41.
11. Gramothan Kalyan Parishad, B-5/7, Sector-7, Rohini, New Delhi-85.
12. Integrated Rural Development Society, 82, Sevak Park, Nazafgarh Road, New Delhi-59.
13. Sushma Shiksha Samiti, B-4/34, Nandanagari, Delhi.
14. Nari Uthan Samiti, 185/31, Gali No.5, Main Krishana Gali, Mozpur, Delhi.
15. Delhi Scheduled Castes Welfare Association, Ambedkar Bhavan, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi-55.
16. Weaker Section Welfare Federation, D-1/43, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Sector IV, Madangiri, New Delhi-62.
17. Lord Budha Society of Education, 2830, Gali No.2, Bahari Colony, Shahdara, Delhi.
18. Akhil Bhartiya Grameena Evom Pichhara Varg Uthan Samiti, 12/498, Kalyanpuri, Delhi-91.
19. Sh. Swanthatra Bharth Shikasha, Delhi.

Welfare of the Handicapped :

1. Spastic Society for Northern India, Balbir Saxena Marg, Nr.General Raj's School, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-16.
2. All India Deaf & Dumb Society, No.4&7 of Industrial Area, Vikas Marg Extn., Kadbadi Kode, Delhi-92.
3. All India Federation of the Deaf, 18, Northend Complex, New Delhi.
4. Delhi Association of the Deaf, 92, Kamala Market, New Delhi.
5. Handicapped Women Welfare Association, Sector 14, Near Power House, Rohini, Delhi.
6. Association of Advancement and Rehabilitation of Handicapped, 224, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.
7. Association of National Brotherhood for Social Welfare, 21-22, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi-5.

8. Balwantrai Mehta Vidya Bhavan, Masjid Modh, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-48.
9. Delhi Society for Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children, Okhla Marg, Okhla, New Delhi-25.
10. Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial Welfare Society, Jamia Millia, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi.
11. Eclat Society for the Welfare of MR, 16-E.33, East Paper, Patel Nagar, New Delhi-6.
12. Federation for the Welfare of MR, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, Special Institutional Area, New Delhi.
13. Parents Association for the Welfare of Children of the Mentally Handicapped, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi.
14. Samadhan, J-32, South Extension, New Delhi.
15. Tamanna, D-6, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.
16. Samjivini Society for Mental Health, A-6, Institutional Area, New Delhi-67.
17. Akshya Prathisthan, Pocket-III, Sector D, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.
18. Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, N-92, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi.
19. Shri Devsaha Baba Shiksha Shimit, B-1605, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52.
20. Prabha Institute of the Arts and Crafts for Handicapped Persons, Aram Bagh Lane, Paharganj, New Delhi.
21. Akhil Bhartiya Netraheen Sangh, Sector E, B 111 Block Raghbir Nagar, New Delhi-27.
22. All India Confederation of the Blind Braille Bhavan, Institutional Area, Sector V, Rohini, Delhi.
23. Bhartiya Blind Education Culture Welfare Society, 61/18, 11 Telewara, Shahdara, Delhi-93.
24. Blind Relief Association, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Near Oberoi Inter Continental, New Delhi.
25. Institute for the Blind, Punchkuin Road, New Delhi.
26. Janata Adrash Andh Vidyalaya, Siri Fort Road, Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi.
27. National Association for the Blind, Sector-5, R.O.K. Puram, New Delhi.
28. National Federation for the Blind, 2322, Laxmi Narya Street Phar Ganj, New Delhi.
29. Hindkusht Niwaran Sangh, New Delhi.

SOCIAL DEFENCE

Organizational Assistance :

1. Association for National Brotherhood for Social Welfare, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi.
2. National Association for the Blind, P.K. Puram, New Delhi.
3. Samaj Seva Sangh, Brahmpuri, Delhi.
4. Indian Council of Education, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi
5. Age Care India, Saket
6. All India Confederation of the Blind, Rohini, New Delhi.
7. Handicapped Welfare Federation, Tan Sen Marg, New Delhi.
8. National Federation of the Blind, Pharganj, New Delhi.
9. Hind Kusht Nirvan Seva Sang, R.K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi.
10. Federation for the Welfare of the Mentally Handicapped, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi.
11. Association for National Brotherhood for Social Welfare, 21, New Rohtak Road New Delhi.
12. Association for Social Health in India, 4, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi.
13. Babu Nature Cure Hospital and Yogashram, Patparganj, Delhi.
14. Delhi Police Foundation, Saral Rohilla, Delhi.
15. Indian Council of Education, Nankpura, New Delhi.
16. Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

Welfare of Aged

17. Association of National Brotherhood for Social Welfare, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi.
18. Helpage India, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi.
19. Ashirwad Senior Citizens Council, Surya Niketan,
20. Age Care India, Saket
21. All India Women's Conference, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
22. Jamia Millia Islamia, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi.
23. Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi.

Welfare of Street Children :

24. Bal Sahyog, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
25. PRAYAS, Jahangirpuri, Delhi.
26. Salam Balak Trust, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.
27. ANKURAN, Janakpuri, New Delhi.
28. Indian Council of Child Welfare, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi.
29. Sewa Bharathi, Jhandewalan, New Delhi.

Fitting/Purchase of AIDS and Appliances for the Disabled :

30. Amarjyoti Charitable Trust, Karkardooma, Vikas Marg, Delhi.
31. Delhi Council of Child Welfare, Delhi.
32. All India Federation for Deaf, Rama Krishna Marg, Delhi.
33. Delhi Midtown Rotary Service Trust, New Delhi.

Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities :

1. Hamdard Study Circle, New Delhi.
2. SOFED Jamia Millia University, New Delhi.
3. S.N. Das Gupta College, New Delhi.
4. Rao's IAS Study Circles, New Delhi.
5. Employment Today, New Delhi.
6. Sachdeva New PT College, New Delhi.
7. Delhi Public College of Competition, New Delhi.

[English]

Revamped Public Distribution System

2561. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the revamped public distribution system introduced in drought prone and under developed regions of the country is in deep trouble as at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per the recent review of the system the grain offtake between April and December 1995 was down by more than a million tonne and there was a gap of 30% between allocation and offtake in various States under the scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken to improve the working of the system?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The off-take of foodgrains is less than the allocation during the period because of easy availability of grains in the open market at prices comparable to the Issue Prices.

(e) Government proposes to streamline the PDS, with its focus on the poor and issue foodgrains to the population below the poverty line at specially subsidised prices.

Bharat Gold Mines Limited

2562. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Australian company pulling out of the proposed gold mines venture of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) in Kolar;

(b) whether earlier another foreign company backtracked on its decision to scout for gold in Kolar;

(c) whether the Government propose to proceed further in the matter apart from ploughing more funds into the company; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the new revival plan submitted by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), the operating agency appointed by the Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstructions (BIFR)?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). On the basis of the offers received against global tender floated by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), two foreign Companies were shortlisted. BGML signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the preferred shortlisted Company. Subsequently, this Company backed out from the joint venture proposal. Negotiations with the next shortlisted party also did not materialise.

(c) and (d). The revised rehabilitation proposal formulated by BGML and submitted to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) is yet to be received by the Government.

Film Industry, Bangalore

2563. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start a Film and Television Institute in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank assistance is likely to be sought for the proposed Institute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Supply of Commodities

2564. SHRI PARASRAM BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of steep rise in prices of vegetables/fruits/polypack milk, the Government propose to allow fair price shops to handle these commodities by arranging supplies from production centres from rural areas to benefit producers and consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Telephone Exchanges in Bareilly

2565. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strowger system of telephone exchange in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh has been declared obsolete;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be replaced by a new telephone exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The STrowger Exchange of Bareilly was first installed in 1977 with a capacity of 3000 lines and expanded upto 10,000 lines. This exchange has since been replaced and all lines transferred to E-10b Electronic Exchange by December, 1995.

Speed Post Service in Azamgarh, U.P.

2566. DR. BAILRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'speed post' service is available in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Azamgarh district;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Speed Post Service on the National Network is available in 9 cities in Uttar Pradesh.

These are Agra, Allahabad, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Speed Post Service has not yet been provided in Azamgarh District.

(b) Under Speed Post network, only a specific city/town, and not the entire district, is connected. Moreover, justification for introducing this service in a town depends on operational feasibility and financial viability.

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

[English]

Non functioning of Steel Plant

2567. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MESCO Steel Plant in district Tajpur, Orissa has been functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). According to information made available by the State Govt. of Orissa, the following two steel plants are proposed to be set up by the Mesco Group at Integrated Industrial Complex, Distt. Jajpur, Orissa :-

S. No.	Name of the Unit	Capacity (Million TPA)
1.	Mideast Integrated Steel Limited	Ph.I : 0.50 (Pig Iron) Ph.II : 1.20 (Steel)
2.	Mesco Kalinga Steel Limited	Ph.I : 2.25 (Pig Iron & Steel) Ph.II : 4.50 (-do-)

As reported by the State Govt., the first phase of the Mideast Integrated Steel Limited's project is expected to be commissioned in August, 1996.

Delivery of Money Order

2568. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the payment against the money-orders sent by the people are not made in time particularly in hilly and remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received in this regard during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the number of guilty postal employees punished; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure early delivery of money orders?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Money orders are generally delivered in time. Complaints regarding delay in payment of Money Orders constitute only about 0.1% of the Money Order traffic. The occasional delay in payment of Money orders in hilly and remote areas is usually on account of irregular plying of buses, difficult terrain and weather conditions. However, some Post offices in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh in particular, are not able to effect payment of money orders at times as local banks are not in a position to provide adequate cash to Post Offices and have difficulties in preparing drafts for low amounts.

(b) and (c). Number of complaints received relating to Money Orders was 2,67,242 and 2,86,960 in 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. These include complaints relating to delay, non-payment, non-receipt of acknowledgement. All complaints are inquired into and remedial action is taken. If any official is found at fault, suitable action is taken against him.

(d) The information on number of postal employees punished for lapses in the payment of money orders is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The following steps have been taken to ensure prompt payment of money orders :-

- (i) Arranging adequate finance to post offices to pay money orders especially in villages, hilly and remote areas.
- (ii) Periodic revision of cash balances of Sub Post Offices and Branch Post Offices to ensure adequacy of cash in post offices.
- (iii) Regular monitoring of the payment of money orders in Post Offices particularly in the villages and remote areas.
- (iv) Inspecting and visiting officials who visit Sub and branch Post offices verify payment of certain number of money orders as a continuing process.

- (v) for ensuring adequate cash to Post Offices in Eastern U.P. and Bihar for payment of Money Orders the matter has been taken up with the Reserve Bank of India and is being pursued.
- (vi) Progressive motorisation of conveyance of mails, including money orders, to villages instead of conveyance on foot to speed up transmission.
- (vii) Transmission of Money orders through V-SAT stations located in different parts of the country.

Projects in Assam

2569. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects for setting up of TV transmitters/AIR stations in Assam completed and the number of projects pending so far, location-wise;

(b) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the new TV transmitters/AIR Stations proposed to be set up in the State during 1996-97, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A statement showing All India Radio Stations/Doordarshan Kendras functioning/under implementation/envisaged to be set up in Assam is enclosed. AIR projects at Kokrajhar, Tezpur and Dhubri are expected to be completed to by March, 1997 whereas Lumding is targeted during 9th Plan period. The Doordarshan projects envisaged are yet to be sanctioned and implementation of these transmitters will be taken up after requisite funds/infrastructure facilities become available.

STATEMENT

Completed Schemes	Under implementation	Envisaged to be set up
1	2	3
ALL INDIA RADIO		
LRS Haflong	NRS Kokrajhar	
LRS Nagaon	NRS Tezpur	
LRS Diphu	RC Dhubri	
	CRS Lumding	
DOORDARSHAN		
HPT		
Dibrugarh		HPT
Guwahati		Tezpur
Silchar		Jorhat
		Bogaingaon/Kokrajhar

1

2

3

LPT

Jorhat, Sonari
 Goalpara, Bongaingaon
 Golaghat, Hatlong
 North Lakhimpur, Tinsukhia
 Lumding, Hatsingmari
 Margheritta, Hojai
 Dhubri, Diphu
 Kokrajhar, Nagaon
 Nazira, Tezpur,
 Guwahati (DD-II)

VLPT

Digboi

TRANSPOSER

Guwahati

LPT

Bokaghat
 Silchar (DD-II)
 Dibrugarh (DDII)

2nd Transposer at Guwahati

Legend : LRS - Local Radio Station
 NRS - New Radio Station
 RC - Relay Centre
 CRS - Community Radio Station
 HPT - High Power Transmitter
 LPT - Low Power Transmitter
 VLPT - Very Low Power Transmitter.

*[Translation]***Post Offices in Village Panchayat**

2570. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of village panchayats in which Post Office facility is available in Bihar;
- (b) the time limit fixed for providing such facilities to every village panchayat;
- (c) the number of such village panchayat post offices where telegram facility is available;
- (d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide telegram facility in every village panchayat Post Offices of the State;
- (e) if so, the details thereof district-wise;
- (f) whether the Government propose to provide speed post service in the main cities of the State; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 8254 village Panchayats in which Post Office facility is available in Bihar.

(b) There is no specific Plan to provide Post Office in each Village Panchayat. Post Offices are opened

progressively under Annual Plan Schemes subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources.

(c) There are 3394 Village Panchayat Post Offices where telegram facility is available.

(d) No, Sir. There is no policy of the Department to provide telegraph facility in every village panchayat Post Office of the State, as it is provided on the basis of demand and justification of volume of traffic.

(e) In view of above, not applicable.

(f) The main cities of Bihar already covered under National Speed Post Network are Patna, Ranchi, Jemshedpur and Dhanbad; Purnea, Katihar, Muzaffarpur, Munger, Begusarai, Darbhanga, Siwan, Motiharia, Betiah, Giridih, Ara, Bhagalpur, Gaya & Bokaro Steel City are cities/Towns which are served under point-to-point Speed Post Network.

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

*[English]***Contract for Export of Rice**

2571. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the Centre's nominee in the Board of Directors of the Food Corporation of India had complained about awarding of contract for export of rice without inviting tenders in 1995;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) FCI does not award contracts for export of rice. FCI conducts open sale of rice and wheat for domestic use and for export purposes as per authorization by Government from time to time. One of the Directors in the Board of Directors of the FCI had objected to sale for export of rice without inviting tenders.

(b) to (d). The Government had authorised the FCI to export/sell for the purposes of export fine and superfine rice from the Public stocks upto 30 lakh tonnes during 1995-96 subject to the conditions that the export prices fixed should not be less than the domestic prices of fine and superfine rice sold from the public stocks in the open market and export sale prices and other related matters should be decided by the High Level committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, FCI. As the fine and Superfine rice was sold as per the decisions of the HLC/Government, the invitation of tenders for export sale of rice was not considered necessary by the FCI.

[Translation]

Schemes for expansion of Education

2572. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that schemes are implemented the propagation and expansion of education among Scheduled and Scheduled Tribe children in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes introduced by the Government during the last year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government have been making allocations to meet the annual expenditure likely to be incurred on implementation of such schemes;

(d) if so, the scheme-wise amount allocated for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 separately;

(e) whether the allocated amount has not been utilised properly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Yes, Sir.

(b) No scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Welfare during 1995-96 for the propagation and expansion of education amongst SCs/STs.

(c) and (d). The scheme-wise allocation and expenditure of the schemes being undertaken by the Ministry of Welfare for propagation and expansion of education amongst SCs/STs is given in the attached statement.

(e) and (f). The amount allocated has been properly utilised except in a few schemes namely Coaching & Allied Scheme, Book Bank for SCs & STs and Upgradation of Merit for SCs & STs because of non-receipt of complete proposals from some of the State Govt. and non-provision of matching share by the States.

The State Governments have been requested to send the proposals complete in all respects in time and also allocated matching share in their State budgets for these Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of Scheme	(Rs. in Crores)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students.	72.40	96.35	145.00
2.	Pre-Matric Scholarships for children of those parents who are engaged in unclean occupations.	14.00	10.00	7.50
3.	Book Banks for SC/ST students	5.60	3.50	3.60
4.	Girls Hostels for SC	6.00	6.20	7.00
5.	Boys Hostels for SC	6.00	6.20	10.00
6.	Coaching & Allied Scheme for SC/ST.	2.00	2.00	3.00
7.	Upgradation of Merit for SC/ST.	0.55	1.00	1.00
8.	Girls Hostels for ST	3.00	3.05	3.50
9.	Boys Hostels for ST	3.00	3.05	3.50
10.	Ashram School in TST Areas	2.50	2.50	3.00
11.	Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for the development of ST Girls literacy in Tribal Areas.	1.25	1.85	2.00

Guest Houses in Delhi

2573. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Guest Houses set up for tourists in Delhi as on date; and

(b) whether the number of these guest houses is sufficient for tourists visiting Delhi; and

(c), if not, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). There is no scheme of the Central Department of Tourism for setting up of Guest Houses. However, creation of such lodging facility is entirely in the private sector.

344 hotel/guest house licences have been granted till date by Delhi Police in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

In order to augment existing accommodation, the Central Department of Tourism have issued guidelines to the State/UT Governments for formulating and implementing scheme for approving and registering Paying Guest accommodation.

Telecom System in Aurangabad

2574. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecommunications system in Aurangabad district of Bihar is completely in jeopardised condition;

(b) whether telecommunications facilities in Aurangabad is far below its requirement;

(c) whether incidents of corruptions in telecommunications department of Aurangabad has also come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) 3 officials of DOT were found indulging in malpractices leading to leakage of revenue. Necessary action is being taken against them.

[English]

Prohibition

2575. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :
SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that various State Governments have imposed prohibition or likely to impose the same in near future resulting in heavy revenue loss;

(b) if so, whether these States have sought any financial assistance from the Union Government to meet their loss;

(c) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided to each State;

(d) whether any study has been conducted by the Union Government to know that crimes take place due to consumption of intoxicants;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bokaro Steel Plant Project

2576. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages affected as a result of implementation of Bokaro Steel Plant Project; and

(b) the steps taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Land of 49 villages was acquired by Government of Bihar for setting up of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL). The steps taken by the State Government and the Bokaro Steel Plant for the rehabilitation of displaced persons are providing basic amenities like drinking water facilities, construction of roads, schools, health centres etc. at rehabilitation sites, and providing of jobs, preference and concessions in award of contracts to displaced persons etc. by Bokaro Steel Plant.

[Translation]

Standard of Living of Workers

2577. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme to improve the standard of living of the workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). A number of labour laws providing for payment of minimum wages, social security, industrial safety, Payment of Bonus and Welfare Facilities like health, housing, education, recreation and water

supply etc. are already in existence for providing protection and welfare to the different categories of workers. These labour laws are reviewed periodically and amended whenever considered necessary.

Besides, a number of welfare measures like raising of bonus ceilings, introduction of DA slabs in PSUs, revision of minimum wages in Scheduled employments in the Central Sector, and introduction of a Pension Scheme for E.P.F. subscribers etc. have been undertaken in the recent past. Two Bills to replace the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Ordinance and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Ordinance have also been introduced in Lok Sabha during the current session of Parliament. These Bills seek to provide protection and Welfare to building and construction workers in the country. Another Bill to replace the E.P.F. and M.P. (Amendment) ordinance 1996 enabling the Central Government to frame the Pension Scheme is already before the Rajya Sabha.

Supply of Wheat to Bread Manufacturers

2578. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether wheat is made available on concessional rates to various bread manufacturers in the country;

(b) is so, the details thereof, alongwith the price thereof;

(c) the number of bread manufacturers to whom wheat was made available during the last three years;

(d) whether this facility is provided to all the bread manufacturers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Wheat is supplied from Central pool at a concessional rate of Rs.3020 per MT i.e. Rs.1000/- per MT less than the Central Issue Price for Public distribution system to Modern Food Industries (INDIA) Ltd. (MFIL) since October, 1994 and its franchised units since February, 1995 for bread manufacturing subject to stipulated reduction in prices of bread. A quantity of 1.50 lakh MT wheat for bread manufacturing had been earmarked for one year since October, 1994. Subsequently, a quantity of 2358 MT wheat per month was allowed to be issued to the franchised units of MFIL at par with MFIL. The Scheme has been extended upto 31.10.96.

(c) Wheat is being made available at concessional rate only to MFL and its franchised units.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) There are nearly 65,000 bread manufacturing units spread all-over the country. Subsidy involved in allocating wheat to all the units will be very high and the Govt. is not able to spare financial resources at present. In addition, the Govt. does not have any mechanism to monitor proper utilisation of wheat by these units and to ensure the corresponding reduction in prices to the consumer.

Amount allocated for promotion of tourism

2579. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the amount sanctioned by the Union Government to Uttar Pradesh for promotion of tourism during the Eighth Five Year Plan; Year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

The details of central financial assistance sanctioned during the first four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan i.e., 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for development/promotion of tourism are given as under :-

Year	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In Lakhs)
1992-93	97.34
1993-94	151.04
1994-95	223.80
1995-96	26.21

[English]

Advertising Industry

2580. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a quarter of the population comprising children below 14 years is the main target of country's advertising industry;

(b) whether the Government have declared any guidelines for the advertising industry in the interest of the vulnerable section of the population and protect them from the evil effects of advertisement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. All India Radio and Doordarshan are governed by their own codes for commercial advertising. The relevant portions of these codes relating to children are given in the attached *statement*. All India Radio and Doordarshan ensure that the advertisements broadcast/telecast by them do not violate these codes.

STATEMENT

All India Radio :

18. No advertisement for a product or service shall be accepted if it suggests in any way that unless the children themselves buy or encourage other people to buy the products or services, they will be failing in their duty or lacking in loyalty to any person or organisation.
19. No advertisement shall be accepted which leads children to believe that if they do not own or use the product advertised they will be inferior in some way to other children or that they are liable to be condemned or ridiculed for not owning or using it.

Doordarshan

22. No advertisement for a product or service shall be accepted if it suggests in any way that unless the children themselves buy or encourage other people to buy the products or services, they will be failing in their duty or lacking in loyalty to any person or organisation.
23. No advertisement shall be accepted which leads children to believe that if they do not own or use the product advertised they will be inferior in some way to other children or that they are liable to be condemned or ridiculed for not owning or using it.
24. Any advertisement which endangers the safety of the children or creates in them any interest in unhealthy practices, shall not be accepted, e.g. playing in the middle of the road, leaning dangerously out of a window, playing with match boxes and other goods which can cause accidents.
25. Children shall not be shown begging or in an undignified or indecent manner.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation, New Delhi for 1993-94 alongwith statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, 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 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, 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 (1) above.
[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-227/96]
 - (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Welfare for the year 1996-97.
[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-228/96]
 - (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95.
 - (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-229/96]
 - (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay, for the year 1994-95, 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 the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay, for the year 1994-95.
 - (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-230/96]
 - (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of

Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 1994-95.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-231/96]

10. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

11. Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-232/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-233/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for 1996-97.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-234/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Surface Transport for 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See NO. LT-235/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed

Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-236/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for 1996-97

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-237/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Communications for 1996-97 etc.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (Second Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 133(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1996, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-238/96]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Communications (including Department of Telecommunications) for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-239/96]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of The Department of Post for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-240/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Ocean Development for 1996-97

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, I, on behalf of Dr. Yoginder K. Alagh, beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Ocean Development for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-241/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for 1996-97.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English

versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-242/96]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) I, on behalf of Dr. U. Venkateswarlu, beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-243/96]

Notification under Proviso to article 309 of the Constitution and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the General Reserve Engineer Force Group 'C' and Group 'D' Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 343 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 1995 issued under proviso to article 309 of the Constitution.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No.- LT-244/96]

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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 (Railways) No.3 Bill, 1996 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on 30th July, 1996 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."

[Translation]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister, in his budget, has imposed 10

percent basic excise duty on fabrics. On this fabric, there has been 10 percent additional excise duty for the last several years. The entire additional industry, has demanded that this additional excise duty be imposed on the yarn and not on fabrics. But instead of doing so, the Finance Minister, in his new budget, has imposed 10% basic excise duty. All the processing houses in the country are drawing strike from today, the 1st August. This will render lakhs of workers unemployed and cloth production worth thousands of crores of rupees would come to a halt. This will also stop the inflow of foreign exchange that we get due to export of cloth etc.

Sir, this ten percent basic excise duty is an unbreakable imposition and should be withdrawn immediately because this will result in the closure of the textile industry and particularly the man made fabric. In Surat city, 70% man-made fabric is produced. Just as the cotton mills are being closed in Ahmedabad, all the man-made fabric, powerlooms, processing houses etc. would be closed in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Rana Sahib, I think, it is enough.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Therefore, I request the hon. Finance Minister to withdraw or postpone this 10% basic excise duty immediately and inform us about it in his reply. He must give me the reply.

MR. SPEAKER : The reply doesn't come so soon ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are two small items that are to be presented in the House by the hon. Minister of Finance.

12.06 hrs.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET, 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 1996-97.

12.06½ hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH BUDGET, 1996-97

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1996-97.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that due to the paucity of time, you could not accommodate everything. I am not blaming you or anybody for that. But I would like to draw your attention and, through you, Sir, the Government's to the plight of a few lakhs of jute workers in West Bengal which may be taken into consideration by the Government. When the house meets next time - tomorrow is the last day - I request that you may give first preference to the Calling Attention Notice that we have tabled and, in the meantime, the Government may look into the problems of the jute workers in West Bengal. This is a very serious situation because lakhs and lakhs of jute workers are becoming unemployed everyday.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, the latest UNDP Report, better known as the Human Development Report, in its seventh series has come out with some startling revelations as regards the extent and incidence of poverty in our country, as in many other developing countries. According to the Planning Commission, there are about 23 crores of people in our country who are living below the poverty line, and that was calculated on the basis of the intake of calories, particular quantum of calories. The revised estimates show that their number has increased to 38 crores. The Report says that 55 crores of people are living below the poverty line in India. The Government has given importance to seven thrust areas in the Common Minimum Programme in order to alleviate poverty in the country. They should take into account the latest UNDP Report, according to which 55 crores of people are living below the poverty line.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, mine is a question of breach of privilege...(Interruptions)

SHRI KARIA MUNDA (Khunti) : Mr. Speaker, an agitation has been going on for the last 60-70 years for creation of a separate Vananchal or Jharkhand State by merging Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana. But no Government has so far given any thought to this matter or have expressed any concern in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow the hon. Member to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI KARIA MUNDA : The resentment among the people there is threatening to take violent form. People are agitating and a great unrest prevails there. In 1995, the Janta Dal Government of Bihar and the Central Government together had constituted a council but that council is toothless and going nothing. Therefore, we demand that the present Government consider creating a separate Vananchal State by merging Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Verma, I will allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, earlier also I had drawn your attention to the fact that the law and order in Delhi is in the heads of the hon. Home Minister. Delhi is the capital of the country and if murders take place here every now and then...(Interruptions) You cannot prevent me from speaking...(Interruptions)*. The law and order situation is going from bad to worse in Delhi with each day passing...(Interruptions)* and there has been an uproar in the Delhi State Assembly for several days. Sir, you please ask the hon. Home Minister to make a statement in this behalf...(Interruptions) They malign Bharatiya Janata Party...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. No, I cannot allow this any more. Zero Hour is over.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? Everybody may sit down, please. I have allowed Mr. Verma.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL : Sir, I have raised an important issue. But you have not issued any directions.

[English]

Mr. Speaker : I will consider. You come to me. I will discuss with you...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : The hill areas of South Bihar have made a demand for a separate state. In that context, I wish to make my statement...(Interruptions) Sir, for creation of a separate Vananchal (Jharkhand) State comprising Ratnagarbha—present 18 districts of hill areas of South Bihar, the people and the then leaders there, had made a demand through about 2000 memorandums before the State Reorganisation Corporation of 1954 but the same was ignored. Even before that also, the leaders there had made a similar demand and the Jharkhand agitation had been started as early as in 1938. It is the longest public agitation of the world.

About 2.5 crore neglected backward people living in this vast track rich in mineral and forest wealth have been compelled to live below the poverty line. The sole reason behind it is that the State and Central Governments have all along been nurturing an evil desire to continue to exploit unabated this vast track of land enjoying natural bounty...(Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

The M.Ps from Bihar have made a fevrent demand that a separate State demarcated by the hills in the North and rivers in the South East be carved out there. The Prime Minister is requested to announce creation of a separate Vananchal State for the social economic and political development of 2.5 crore people of that area. It is the demand of the justice and would be a fitting culmination of the agitation continuing since 1938 ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Verma ji, your time is over.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now please sit down. Please listen.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Aggarwal, I am not allowing you. You cannot take the House to ransom.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Aggarwal, sit down please. No, you shall not behave like that. This is Parliament. Can you not obey the Chair?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not respect the Chair, how can you call yourself an hon. Member? What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday, an hon. lady Member brought to the notice of the House a matter regarding the alleged misbehaviour of a DIG and the House demanded that the Home Minister should make a statement. I request the Home Minister to make a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sushmaji had said in this House that law and order was in very bad shape. I fully agree with her that law and order is in very bad shape in Delhi...*(Interruptions)* Don't hand over the administration of the police to them...*(Interruptions)*

12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Alleged Misbehaviour With Shrimati Subhawati Devi, MP by the DIGP, Gorakhpur (UP) And Alleged Threat to her life

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making this statement on the alleged misbehaviour with Shrimati Subhawati Devi, hon. MP by the DIGP, Gorakhpur, West

Uttar Pradesh and the alleged threat to her life. Shrimati Subhawati Devi, the hon. Member of Parliament had requested the hon. Speaker for providing adequate security to her. The hon. Member had also stated that the DIGP, Gorakhpur had misbehaved with her on the 2nd July, 1996.

In this regard, a report was called for from the Government of UP. The facts as reported by the hon. MP and the response of the Government of UP to the same are as follows.

In the complaint, it has been mentioned by the hon. MP that she went to the office of the DIGP, Gorakhpur Range on the 2nd July, 1996 at about 7 p.m. The purpose of her visit was to apprise the DIGP about the problems of the area. Here, it has been alleged that when the hon. MP drew the attention of the DIGP Shri Rizwan Ahmed towards the on-going incidents of theft, dacoity, etc., in the area, Shri Rizwan Ahmed abruptly intervened to mention that the hon. MPs late husband was also a dacoit and a murderer and that was the reason why he had met the fate that he deserved. It has been further stated that the DIGP Shri Rizwan Ahmed also alleged that the hon. MP was moving with a group of thieves and dacoits and asked whether the Samajwadi Party was a party of thieves and dacoits.

The hon. MP has further alleged that from the language used by Shri Rizwan Ahmed it appeared that he had extended his full cooperation in the conspiracy of the murder of the hon. MP's husband. It was also mentioned by the hon. MP that the murderers of her husband and their associates were repeatedly sending threatening calls to her over the telephone.

As per the report of the UP Government, the following details have been revealed. Based upon the clarification furnished by the DIGP, Gorakhpur Range and the factual report of the IGP, Gorakhpur Zone, the Government of UP has further furnished the following report :

- (i) It is correct that on the 2nd July, 1996 at about 7 p.m., the hon. MP Shrimati Subhawati Devi along with some of her supporters had gone to the office of the DIGP, Gorakhpur Range. As per the version of Shri Rizwan Ahmed, the DIGP, Gorakhpur Range, the hon. MP Shrimati Subhawati Devi initially started the discussion on issues like personal security for her, security for the family, returning of fire arms, etc., belonging to her family members and complaint against the Station House Officer of Gulriha, namely, Shri Phadindra Yadav.

During the discussion, Shri Rizwan Ahmed, established telephonic contact with the Station House Officer of Gulriha when Shri Rizwan Ahmed was told that Shrimati Subhawati Devi was annoyed because the police was trying to arrest a person named

Ramvriksh Yadav on the basis of a non-bailable warrant issued from the Court. It has further been mentioned that Ramvriksh Yadav is a person against whom a number of serious criminal cases like murder etc., are pending. It has also been intimated by the UP Government that Shrimati Subhawati Devi felt offended/annoyed when DIGP Shri Rizwan Ahmed, on hearing the facts, asked the Station House Officer, Gulriha to go ahead with the arrest of Ramvriksh Yadav.

- (ii) The report of the UP Government further states that after having his talk with Station House Officer, Gulriha, the DIGP, Shri Rizwan Ahmed requested the hon. MP, Shrimati Subhawati Devi to keep good company to avoid any adverse reflection on her image. Realising the attitude of the DIGP, Rizwan Ahmed towards Ramvriksh Yadav, Shrimati Subhawati Devi, the hon. MP mentioned to DIGP that he also perhaps considered her husband to be a murderer. To this Shri Rizwan Ahmed politely mentioned that as her husband was no longer in this world it would not be proper to make any comment regarding him.
- (iii) According to the State Government's report, Shri Rizwan Ahmed has not used the language said to have been used by the hon. MP in her letter. The State Government has further mentioned that from the details of the version of Shri Rizwan Ahmed, it cannot be said that the hon. MP was insulted in any manner or that Shri Rizwan Ahmed misbehaved with her.
- (iv) From the report of the Government of UP, it is revealed that the allegations levelled by Shrimati Subhawati Devi have been enquired into by IGP of Gorakhpur range and he has come to the conclusion that there was no hand of Shri Rizwan Ahmed in the murder of hon. MP's husband.
- (v) On the issue of threats etc., to the hon. MP by her husband's alleged killers and their associates, the UP Government has intimated that Senior Superintendent of Police, and DIGP, Gorakhpur range have been given strict instructions to keep close contact with Shrimati Subhawati Devi, hon. MP and her family members, locate the culprits and take stringent action in the matter in order to prevent any harm coming to Shrimati Subhawati Devi, hon. MP or members of her family.

Sir, we will take all necessary steps to see that adequate security is provided to her...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Pandurang Fundkar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have a lot of business to transact.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Zero hour is over.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahbad) : Mr. Speaker, in my constituency. Hardoi, there is a sugar mill which has been started from this very year...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Zero Hour is over. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Sir, I have given notice...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody has given notice.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Zero hour is over.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have many items of business to transact. Otherwise, the House has to sit on Saturday. If we are not able to complete the business, we have to sit on Saturday. I do not want the MPs to stay here on Saturday.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No more.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please read out, Mr. Pandurang Fundkar.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Zero Hour is over.

(Interruptions)

12.27 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed in the Chair)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we have already started Matters under Rule 377. Shri Pandurang may read out.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Chairman, I have given a notice of privilege about which I have not been informed...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Privilege matter may come later.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There was Zero Hour for half-an-hour and that is over. Now, the Speaker has already started Matters under Rule 377 and I am not going back from there. So, we will take up Matters under Rule 377 now. Speaker has called Mr. Pandurang to read out.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not Zero Hour. Speaker has taken up Matters under Rule 377 and he has called his name. How can I ask him to sit down? Let Matters under Rule 377 be over.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Chairman, I gave notice of privilege four days ago...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right that you have given notice of privilege but, you are a very senior member. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Purohitji, please be seated. Let me answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Purohit, you are a senior Member of this House and this is not fair on your part. You please sit down.

[Translation]

you sit down...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What are your rights?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am standing here.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given privilege notice

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter is under consideration of the hon. Speaker. After his consideration only you would get the chance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Four days have elapsed but the reply is still awaited...(Interruptions) Tomorrow is the last day. Where should we go...(Interruptions) I will finish in 1 minute...(Interruptions) There is corruption of crores of rupees. The hon. Minister has given a wrong reply...(Interruptions) The hon. Minister has replied that the linkage is not done directly. The linkage takes place due to recommendation of the State, while I gave the letter of the Joint Director. He has said that they do not recommend...(Interruptions) It is all a matter of privilege...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, You please allow us...(Interruptions) There is a very important issue...(Interruptions) That is what I want to raise...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Purohit, I would let you know on your privilege Motion. You please be seated now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

12.31 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Subhawati Devi and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Minister, please ask your Members to go back to their seats. This is not the way of conducting oneself in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Purohit, your matter has been considered and disallowed by the hon. Speaker.

(Interruptions)

12.32 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Subhawati Devi sat on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, where is the Chief Whip of her Party?

(Interruptions)

12.33 hrs.

At this stage Shrimati Subhawati Devi and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to extend Cotton Monopoly Scheme in Maharashtra for five years.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAUSAHEB PUNDLIK FUNDKAR (Akola) : Mr. Chairman, Maharashtra accounts for 35 percent of the total cotton production in the country. The Cotton Monopoly Scheme in Maharashtra has been in operation since 1971. Under this scheme, the Cotton Marketing Association tries to benefit 20 lakh farmers of Maharashtra by purchasing their cotton. 6000 workers are engaged under this scheme and organisation like Guming Processing Factory, Agricultural Produce Marketing Society, Sale Purchase Association etc. work under this scheme. To operate this scheme, approval of the Central Government is necessary but the Central Government accords approval to this scheme on yearly basis due to which the scheme is not getting stabilised. The one-year period of this scheme has just ended on 30th June, 1996. In 1995-96, 1 crore 30 lakh quintals of cotton has been purchased from the farmers under this scheme.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to issue orders to extend this Scheme for a further period of 5 years...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order please. What is going on here?

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Chairman, the Treasury benches are behaving in a manner which is not expected of them. It is really unprecedented. Will you conduct the business of the House here or the ruling party will hold their Conference here? If they have to hold the Conference, they may do so outside...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have conveyed it to the Treasury benches.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is happening everyday...*(Interruptions)*

(ii) Need for commencing work on proposed Maksi-Godhara via Dhar Pithampur railway line.

SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR (Dhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Dhar is a tribal and extremely backward area. Even after so many years of our independence, it is yet to be linked through a railway line whereas every year, while presenting the

Central Budget, the Central Government claims that it pays special attention to the development of tribal and backward areas. Pithampur is under the Dhar district which is a very big industrial area and is counted among the main industrial areas of the country. There are about 300-350 industrial units in Pithampur.

The historical tourist resort Mandu and a famous Jain pilgrim place in Maharashtra are situated in this district where thousands of foreign tourists pay their visit every year but they have to undergo a great deal of inconvenience for want of rail facilities. Despite all this, this area has not been linked with a railway line, as a result of which the industrial units and the tourist resorts of this district are being adversely affected.

The work on the proposed Maksi Godhara railway line via Dhar Pithampur has not yet commenced. No provision has been made for this even in this railway budget.

I therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to have a survey conducted for linking Indore to Pithampur on the proposed Maksi Godhara railway line whose survey has already been conducted.

(iii) Need to ensure that workers living in the premises of industrial units in Delhi are not evacuated from their houses due to shifting of units.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, as per a recent judgement of the Supreme Court, 168 industrial units of Delhi have been declared environmentally hazardous. These industrial units have been ordered to be shifted to some other places of the National Capital region by the coming 30th November. This may perhaps solve the problem of the Pollution but the Government should also think of the residential areas of the workers associated with these industrial units.

I would urge the Central Government that the workers of these units who are living in the premises of these industrial units should not be evacuated from their houses. Instead, they should be made the owners of these houses. Due to shifting of the units, on the one hand, the workers would be rendered unemployed and on the other, if they were evicted even from their houses, they would be completely ruined. Due to this apprehension. There is widespread discontent among them and they are prepared to launch an agitation.

Even in my constituency, Thousands of poor workers have been living for years in Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Swatantra Bharat Mill Colony, Birla Cotton Mill and Ayodhya Textile Mill Colony. If the Government decides to allow them to continue to live there, it will provide them immense relief. I, therefore, request that these workers who are living in rented houses for years may be given ownership rights of these houses.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for industrial development of Balaghat district.

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Mr. Chairman, Balaghat district is a 'no industry' district. Lakhs of educated unemployed youths go from pillar to post in search of gainful employment there. Even after 50 years of independence, the needed industrial Development has not taken place there as a result of which, discontent is brewing among the young people, who are on the verge of revolt and are engaging themselves in numerous activities. Naxalite activities are going on in Balaghat district and a good member of young people are taking part in them.

The district is rich in mineral wealth (copper, manganese, dolomite and marble) and forest wealth (bamboo and fine wood). Government should make efforts to set up industries based on paddy and soyabean there. Government assistance should be provided to encourage industries in the 'no industry' districts so as to solve the unemployment problem and engage the youth in constructive activities.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide special economic assistance to the State Government for industrial development in this area ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, it is highly improper. These persons may hold their conference outside. We have no objection to that but they should not do so in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members who want to go out, they can go out and talk.

(v) Need to improve the functioning of public telephones in Sitamarhi district, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Sitamarhi district of Bihar, about 115 M.A.A.R. system public telephones have been installed in various post-offices and Panchayat buildings out of them, not a single telephone is at present in working order, resulting in a great deal of inconvenience to the people in rural areas. These people have to trek a distance of about 18-20 kilometres to reach the market to be able to contact their relations on phone. Ever since the introduction of M.A.A.R. telephone system, all the instruments have gone out of order after having functioned for about six months or at the most one year whereas an M.A.A.R. phone-set costs the Government about Rs.3 lakhs. Thus crores of rupees have been blocked in this unproductive scheme of the Government.

The officers of the District office of the Telecommunication Department, when contacted, come out with the State reply that they have no means to rectify M.A.A.R. telephones. Besides there is shortage

of technicians. To rectify these telephones, engineers have to be called from Lucknow and Bangalore. For want of engineers, the telephones all over the State and the district have been lying out of order.

I request the Central Government to appoint engineers in every district of Bihar at the earliest in order to get the dead M.A.A.R. telephones rectified in all the districts and provide resources for the maintenance of these instruments.

12.44 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

(vi) Need to Declare Amravati District in Maharashtra As Industrially Backward District

[English]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati) : There are four districts included in the Amravati Revenue Division of Maharashtra State i.e. Amravati, Akola, Yeotmal, Buldhana. Amravati district has one municipal corporation and nine municipal councils. Water, road transportation, air-communication are available there. Amravati district has many good educational institutions, engineering and medical courses are also available there. Amravati city is connected with the main railway junction like Badnera and national highway No.6.

Though these facilities are available, yet there is no major industrial organisation in the district. Unemployment problem has become very acute and more than five lakhs youth are without gainful employment.

I request the Union Government to declare Amravati district as industrially backward district.

(vii) Need to clear Barauni Flood Control Project of Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : Barauni Flood Control Project of Bihar is pending clearance from the Ministry of Water Resources of the Central Government. A severe erosion of the Ganga river is taking place at Barauni Madhuspur. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless. Standing crop in the fields have been destroyed.

The Central Government is requested to undertake rehabilitation of the displaced people and make arrangements for the safety of Barauni Madhuspur and Barauni Junctions, the oil refinery and the fertilizer factory.

(viii) Need to set up Teaching Hospital as a Branch of AIIMS at Biswanath Charali, Assam

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : The North Bank of Brahmaputra consisting of six districts of

Assam with a population of nearly one crore is without a full-fledged hospital equipped with adequate modern diagnostic facilities. The hospitals in District Headquarters are small, ill-equipped and overcrowded. There are no facilities or personnel for specialist treatment at all. As a result, serious and chronic patients have to go all the way across the river to Guwahati Medical College Hospital and in most cases to All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi at tremendous cost, inconvenience and, above all, risk of life.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health is requested to consider setting up a Teaching Hospital as a Branch of AIIMS at Biswanath Charali, an hour's drive from Tejpur Airport and nearest to Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from filling a void, this measure will bring relief to thousands of ailing Patients who are making a bee-line to AIIMS, Delhi every month all the way from remote Assam and the North-Eastern States.

12.47 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 31st July, 1996, agreed without any amendment to the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1996, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 1996."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1976, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 31st July, 1996."

12.47½ hrs.

Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996 As passed by Rajya Sabha

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 1996.

12.48 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS THIRD ORDINANCE,
1996

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS BILL

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WELFARE CESS
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996

AND

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS' WELFARE CESS BILL - Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Members, in the Business Advisory Committee, it was decided that the House will now take up the Building and Other Construction Workers Bill as it has to go to Rajya Sabha.

Secondly, in the meeting with the Leaders of all the political Parties, the amendments were discussed and the Government was very kind to accept the amendments moved by the respective Members. It was decided that since the Government has accepted all the amendments, there would be no further discussion and the Bill would be straightaway passed.

Now I would request the hon. Minister to give his reply to the debate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, amendments have not been circulated to the Members
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They have been circulated.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All the Parties were present and everybody had accepted it. The Government was very gracious enough to accept all the amendments.

Now, the hon. Minister will reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Speaker, wish to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Home Minister has just now made a statement. You talk to him. I will also speak to him later.

[English]

Now, I would request the hon. Minister to give his reply.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I am very thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in the debate during consideration of the two Bills, namely, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cell Bill, 1996 moved by me to replace the corresponding Ordinance issued on 20.6.1996.

12.50 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed in the Chair)

The large number of Members who have participated in the debate, reflects the widespread concern in the House for the plight of building and construction workers, whom these Bills are intended to benefit and protect. A large number of amendments have also been moved by the hon. Members.

Taking note of the sentiments expressed in the House, cutting across the party lines, an all-party meeting was convened in the hon. Speaker's Chamber at 10.00 A.M. on 24.7.1996, in order to find a common ground. The representatives of all major political parties and groups attended this meeting which was presided over by the hon. Speaker and under his guidance, an agreement was evolved to move certain official amendments to the Bills as agreed upon during the meeting, upon which all the political parties agreed to extend their full cooperation in passing of the two Bills by both the Houses expeditiously before adjourning for the intra-session recess. This is necessary in order to replace the corresponding Ordinances before they expire on the 21st of this month by virtue of Article 123(2) (a) of the Constitution.

As the House is aware, the official amendments agreed upon during the all-party meeting were duly moved by me after securing the approval of the Cabinet and after obtaining fresh recommendations of the President of India. As a result of incorporating these amendments, there is a quantum improvement in the benefits that are sought to be provided to the building and construction workers through the instrumentality of these Bills. Although I would not like to dwell too much upon the amendments that are now sought to be incorporated by the Government as their significance is well understood by the House, I would like to underline that the spirit of federalism and decentralisation has been sought to be carried a step forward by providing that the cess collected will go directly to the Welfare Boards to be constituted by the State Governments instead of being first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and thereafter being appropriated by the Parliament for each Welfare Board. As a result, the States would not only be free to collect the cess levied under the Act but would also be free to spend the amount collected for the welfare of building and

construction workers in the respective States through the Triparties Welfare Boards to be set up by them instead of waiting for the appropriation being made by the Parliament in their favour for this purpose. This is being done for the first time because the scheme in the cess legislations enacted by the Parliament has been that the cess collected was first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India before its disbursement to the States through appropriation by Parliament. I have no doubt that the State Governments and the Welfare Boards would fully discharge their allotted functions with a sense of responsibility and discipline. At the same time, amendments introduced to reduce the limit of workers in an establishment from fifty to ten for applicability of this Act and for increasing the rate of cess from one per cent to two per cent have tremendous significance. Not only will the coverage increase manifold but, as a result, much more funds will flow to the Welfare Boards which would enable them to take up many more schemes for the welfare of the building and construction workers. The financial burden upon the employers, which includes both the Central and State Governments as well as the public sector undertakings, will increase as a result. I am sanguine that the employers would not grudge shouldering this additional burden for the sake of welfare of their own workers whose sweat and labour provides for their own prosperity, but who themselves have been leading a very precarious existence so far. Similarly, other official amendments moved by me seek to confer significant additional benefits on the workers.

In short, with these changes the Bills have become an extremely beneficial social legislation from the point of view of the workers.

Sir, as the Government has already incorporated various changes as agreed upon in the all-party meeting convened under the Chairmanship of the hon. Speaker, I feel that I need not take the time of the House by going into the individual points made by the Members who participated in the debate because their view points already stand incorporated in the Bills as they stand now.

Sir, I would now strongly urge upon the House you to pass the two Bills unanimously so that the process of implementation could start and its benefits flow to the building and construction workers at the earliest.

Sir, before I close, I would like to profusely thank once again the hon. Members who participated in the debate and the representatives who took part in the all-party meeting and helped to find an agreement acceptable to all the parties through a process of discussion and in a spirit of accommodation. Last but not least, I would like to express my profuse thanks to the hon. Speaker who lent his good offices to these efforts.

12.55 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, Business Advisory Committee has decided for three changes. I will read them out :

"That as sufficient time is not left to start and complete the general discussion on General Budget, 1996-97, the Rule 331(g) be suspended by taking the sense of the House to enable the Standing Committees to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministries concerned during the ensuing recess.

That in view of the Supreme Court's latest orders, the discussion on the relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary might be held over for the present.

That the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996 as passed by the Rajya Sabha might be taken up and passed in the Lok Sabha by 2nd August, 1996."

These are the three changes. Now, Shri Bhargava, you can start and then we will adjourn for lunch.

12.56 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS THIRD
ORDINANCE, 1996

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS BILL

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WELFARE CESS
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996

AND

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS' WELFARE CESS BILL - Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has accepted only one or two suggestions. Firstly, he has agreed that where there are more than 50 workers and in their place even 10 are working. They would be brought within the purview of the Bill. Secondly be said that if some private person is constructing a house and the cost of that house exceeds Rs.10 lakhs, then the workers constructing that house would also be brought within

the ambit of the Bill. He has also agreed to one more thing that of the matter pertains to the centre, then three Members from the Lok Sabha and some from the Rajya Sabha. If there is a matter concerning the State, then M.L.As will be included in it. Besides this, he has not accepted anything.

Sir, my submission is that it is the first Bill in the history of India, wherein some thought has been given about the unorganised labour. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister not to hurry though this measure and also include in it other suggestions made by the hon. Members. Now another difficulty is that you gave all the amendments in the morning. From them it appeared that this Bill will be brought forward here after the passage of these two bills and thereafter other things will follow. But you just now said that it would be passed on the 2nd itself, which means that we have only tomorrow for it. It was hoped that this Bill would be brought forward tomorrow and then I would be able to express my views with all the force at my command. Sir, it is the first Bill for the workers.

My submission is that in this Bill, the definition of the owner is not clear. Who is owner? At certain places, even the worker's an owner. The worker also accepts contract and comes within the definition of the owner the hon. Minister has not defined the owner in this Bill. This should be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Bhargavaji, you may continue after lunch.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Right, Sir, I thank you very much for the same.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House stands adjourned for lunch till fourteen of the clock.

13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till
Fourteen of the clock.*

14.07 hrs.

*Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at seven minutes
past Fourteen of the clock.*

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

[Translation]

Re: Threat to life of a Member

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Either Shri Ram Sagar or Shrimati Subhawati Devi may make their submission in a minute or two.

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, after the statement of the hon. Home Minister, our heart has become heavy. Yesterday I and Shrimati Subhawati Devi had placed before you our tale of woe and submitted that during the period from March to 27th July, her husband, who had been an MLA thrice and was a prominent leader, and 16 others were killed and over 100 persons were injured in frequent incidents. Some of them have been maintained and crippled for life. We brought these incidents to your notice and also submitted that when these incidents took place, the I.G. and D.I.G. were present there but they neither took any action against the criminal who indulged in these incidents nor provided any protection to these people. As such, these incidents are taking place in Gorakhpur and Barsgaon every now and then. Many friends in the House supported us and desired that the I.G. and D.I.G. there should be transferred because they are guilty for the incident. The entire episode should be investigated by the C.B.I. and full protection be provided to the Dalit M.P.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, yesterday, the hon. Home Minister read out the written statement of the officers. In this statement, no mention has been made either for the transfer of the officers, or of having the matter investigated by the C.B.I. or of providing protection. The hon. Home Minister has not made the statement with responsibility. Today, with a very heavy heart, I submit that the Deve Gowda Government has been putting up with such immoral and irresponsible acts. If it continued to do so, it will not last long.

Sir, I and Smt. Subhawati ji are making this statement because the hon. Home Minister is not taking any action. Lok Sabha's current session will end tomorrow. If thereafter anything untoward happens with us, with them or with any person associated with their family. The Central Government will be fully responsible for it. We are placing a record our statement to counter the statement made by the hon. Home Minister and boycott this House. We thank you for giving us an opportunity to state our tale of woe here and boycott the House.

14.11 hrs.

Shri Ram Sagar and Shrimati Subhawati then left the House

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Members will be provided full protection.

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : sir, on this very issue, I have to highlight a point. Yesterday, we made our submission before you and the hon. Home Minister stated that these allegations have been levelled. We did not say that the said allegations have been made. What we have to say is that the crime rate in Gorakhpur has increased to a great extent and is constantly increasing. Similar is the position in the entire Uttar

Pradesh. We requested the hon. Home Minister to take necessary action. He said that he would call for a report from the Uttar Pradesh and look into the matter. In the report submitted by the hon. Home Minister no mention has been made about apprehending the persons, who attached Subhawati ji in her meeting and about providing adequate security to her and the members of her family as also those of the families of other persons. The report is silent about the murders of the workers of the Samajwadi Party, the threats being held out to them wherein the people of Bharatiya Janata Party are involved...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxer) : He is talking absurd...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : He is using unparliamentary language.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That will not go on record
(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : This entire episode should be investigated and the people of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Gorakhpur who are involved in it, should be identified. Only then, this matter will be solved. It is not a one-sided affair. Terror has been spread in the entire Gorakhpur and you are doing injustice to the people there...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are please sit down. You listen to me. I had received direction from the hon. Speaker that any of these two Members may be allowed to make his or her submission. I treat this matter as closed here and I have only this much to say that the Members will be provided full protection...(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the matter is not so simple, because anything said here by any member becomes the prosperity of the House. The hon. Home Minister made his statement and then the Members spoke. Then that is also not proper. It is really very sad that a Member from the Treasury benches, aggrieved as he is, speaks in those terms. The Government also gave its reply but the reply should have been given after taking into consideration all the facts stated by the said Member. Government should have assured that all protection would be provided to the family members of the Member affected. But such an assurance was not forthcoming. As such, a Member from the Treasury benches, out of disgust, was compelled to stage a walk out. I would like to know whether Government proposes to look into the matter in all its details and provide full protection to them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It's all right you please sit down. Your point has come on the record.

14.15 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS THIRD ORDINANCE,
1996

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS BILL

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WELFARE CESS
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996.

AND

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS' WELFARE CESS BILL - Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am making my statement in brief. Many members have moved amendments therein and the hon. Minister has also accepted them. I thank all of them. But certain things have still been left out, which I am enumerating.

In the first instance, the definition of the owner is not clear in the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It would be better if you take less time.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Sir, I am speaking in brief. Secondly, the levy which has been imposed on the owner is not sufficient. Thirdly, in this Bill, no minimum compensation has been fixed for the workers killed or crippled in the accidents.

Fourthly, there is no provision of bonus, gratuity, provident fund and pension for the workers whatever be their length of service.

Fifthly, I would suggest that the cess should not be less than 2 per cent and the Government of India should also contribute its share in it because the state Government would collect the cess and the expenditure incurred thereon would be deducted from it. But in the Bill it has been provided that the State Government would not get more than one per cent. Therefore, my submission is that it should be made two per cent, and thereafter the Central Government should make its contribution. That would be a better proposition.

My sixth suggestion is that the State Board should be given more powers.

My seventh suggestion is that an All India Wage Board should be constituted. It is very difficult to get a good worker even on Rs.100 or Rs.125 now-a-days. Therefore, an All India Wage Board should be constituted

in which the representatives of the workers of unorganised sector should be included to inter-alia decide the minimum wage for a worker. Boards are being constituted at the Central level and the State level. In this regard, I would suggest that gazetted officers should be appointed in these Boards, so that they could monitor their functioning. This is my eighth suggestion.

My ninth suggestion is that the amount so collected should be deposited in the provident fund account or with ESE scheme so that it may be safe. It should not be deposited in the other Central fund. The hon. Minister has also perhaps accepted such a suggestion.

My another suggestion is that a provision should also be made for retrenchment compensation of workers because if it is not done, the worker would have to face starvation and would thus be deprived of the benefit of this legislation which has been brought forward for the first time for the welfare of the workers of the unorganised sector. Then the hon. Minister said that the M.Ps and MLAs would also be included in this Board. My suggestion is that in this Board, some experts should also be included. The workers of agriculture sector should also be brought within the purview of this Bill.

The name of your party, which has formed the Government, is J.D. 'J' stands for July and 'D' for December. Therefore, the tenure of your Government is from July to December. Therefore, you make the best of your time or else, as you know, about 80 percent of our people in India belong to the working class.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : July will come again after December.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Now it will not come, at least in their tenure. So, they should work from July to December. This Government will be ousted in December positively. Therefore, the hon. Members should not bother their heads about the houses. They should work for the welfare of the people. The workers engaged in construction are being exploited. The suggestions made by the Krishna Iyer Committee should also be included in this Bill. Besides there should also be a provision about the Industrial Disputes Act.

Our workers are great artists. They built Rashtrapati Bhawan, several flats, Parliament House and the pillars of Parliament House that we see daily. They all are made of Karoli stone from Rajasthan. These have been built by the workers of Rajasthan, particularly of Jaipur. You all are my brethren but these workers are my neighbours. I request the Government to bring forward a comprehensive bill-incorporating all the suggestions made by me and other Members by way of amendments etc. for which I am grateful to all of them - for the welfare of these workers of the unorganised sector. Lok Sabha will not be in session from tomorrow. It will meet on the 26th August. Till then, you consider the matter

thoroughly. It you need me, I shall also come with my suggestions. You should bring forward a comprehensive bill in consultation with all concerned people. Such a bill has been introduced for the first time in Lok Sabha. I thank the Government for the suggestions that they have accepted. I am confident that the remaining suggestions shall also be accepted. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing the resolution?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I am not opposing the Bill. I oppose the tendency to issue ordinances every now and then. Government brought forward ordinances in quick succession, first in Rajya Sabha, then in Lok Sabha and then again in Rajya Sabha. This Government should not follow the Cong. policies of their predecessor, i.e. The Congress Government. The Congress Party is supporting them. I hope they will agree to the suggestions made by me. Thanks.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Have you withdrawn the statutory resolution.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Yes, Sir, I have withdrawn the statutory resolution as it was brought forward with a limited purpose of having the ordinance rescinded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Statutory Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am putting amendment no. 40 moved by Shri Hannan Mollah to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, the House will take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2-Definitions

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudi - not present; Shri Hannan Mollah.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : I do not press my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri K.V. Surendranath and Shri A.C. Jose - not present.

Amendment made

Page 3, line 24, -

after "own residence" add-

"the total cost of such construction not being more than ten lakhs" (68)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3-Central Advisory Committee

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Hannan Mollah, are you moving Amendment No. 15?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : My amendment has been accepted, Sir. So, I am not moving.

Amendments made :

Page 3, —

(i) *after line 43, insert—*

"(b) three Members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States-members."

(ii) line 44, —

for "(b)" substitute "(c)" (69)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

Page 4, —

(i) line 1,—

for "(c)" substitute "(b)"

(ii) line 7,—

for "(c)" substitute "(d)" (70) (Shri M. Arunachalam)

Page 4,—

after line 12, insert—

"(4) It is hereby declared that the office of member of the Central Advisory Committee shall not disqualify its holder for being chosen as, or for being, a Member of either House of Parliament." (71)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 — State Advisory Committee

Amendment made :

Page 4,—

(i) *after* line 18, *insert—*

“(b) two members of the State Legislature to be elected from the State Legislature — members;”

(ii) line 19,—

for “(b)” *substitute* “(c)”

(iii) line 20,—

for “(c)” *substitute* “(d)”

(iv) line 21,—

for “(d)” *substitute* “(e)”

(v) line 27,—

for “(d)” *substitute* “(e)” (72)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Hannan Mollah, are you moving Amendment No. 17?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 to 11

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 6 to 11 stand part of the Bill.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 6 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 12

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 12 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 12 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill

Clause 14

Amendment made :

Page 7,—

(i) line 4,—

for “five years” *substitute* “three years”

(ii) line 6,—

for “five years” *substitute* “three years” (73)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 15

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Clause 15 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 16

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 16 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 17 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill

Clause 18

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 18 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 19 to 21

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clauses 19 to 21 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 19 to 21 were added to the Bill.

Clause 22

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 22 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 22 was added to the Bill.

Clause 23

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 23 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 23 was added to the Bill.

Clause 24

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 24 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 24 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 25 to 28

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clauses 25 to 28 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clauses 25 to 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 29 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 30 to 34

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clauses 30 to 34 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clauses 30 to 34 were added to the Bill.

Clause 35

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 35 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 35 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 36 to 38

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 36 to 38 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clauses 36 to 38 were added to the Bill.

Clause 39

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 39 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 39 was added to the Bill.

Clause 40 to 44

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clauses 40 to 44 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clauses 40 to 44 were added to the Bill.

Clause 45

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 45 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 45 was added to the Bill.

Clause 46

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 46 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 46 was added to the Bill.

Clause 47

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clause 47 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 47 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 48 to 57

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clauses 48 to 57 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clauses 48 to 57 were added to the Bill.

Clause 58

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clauses 58 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clause 58 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 59 to 61

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :
 "That clauses 59 to 61 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted.
Clauses 59 to 61 were added to the Bill.

Clause 62

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 62 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 62 was added to the Bill.

New Clause 62A Saving of Certain enactments

Amendment made :

Page 22,—

after line 7, insert

Saving of
certain
enactments.

"62A, Nothing contained in this Act shall affect the operation of any corresponding law in a State Providing welfare schemes which are more beneficial to the building and other construction workers than those provided for them by or under this Act."
(74)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 62A be added to part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 62A was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 63 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 63 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1-Short title, extent and Commencement and application

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 10,—

for "fifty" substitute "ten" (67)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand Part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : I have a suggestion to make to the Chair, just to keep the record straight. Before passing of the Bill is taken up, if you have to negative an amendment moved by a Member of the Opposition, you have to obtain only "Ayes" and not "Noes". I heard that only "Noes" were taken up in stead of "Ayes". What I feel is, if "Noes" are taken up on a motion to be negated by the House, it remains part and parcel of the Bill.

The Chair may please go through the record. If "Ayes" are taken up, it would be all right. But if "Noes" are taken up, it means that the amendment moved by the Members of the Opposition is supported.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will go through the record and see.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : I make this suggestion keeping the fact in view that nothing should go on record which may give rise to feeling that it is illegal or against the rules, or something like that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will look into it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a comprehensive Bill which is going to be passed in this august House. This is a landmark in the history of the working class in India. When we go through the Bill, we find that there are certain apprehensions among the working class, especially in those States which have passed their own resolutions. The hon. Minister was very considerate to call a meeting of different political parties to discuss it in detail. We moved certain amendments. The hon. Minister was kind enough to accept certain amendments moved by the Members.

However, in the days to come, at the implementation level there may be some lacunae and difficulties which can be taken care of by the Ministry at the time of framing the rules.

Sir, the unorganised labour in our country will definitely be helped by this legislation.

I once again congratulate the former Labour Minister, Shri Venkata Swamy who originally moved this Bill and now Shri Arunachalam who is fortunate enough to get it passed in this House. In the coming days, this legislation will definitely help the poor and the downtrodden who are in the unorganised sector.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The credit goes to both Shri Venkata Swamy and Shri Arunachalam.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I also join Shri Chennithala in congratulating the hon. Minister who had prepared and the hon. Minister who had piloted it. They have had the opportunity of passing such an important Bill for the first time after Independence. I hope that a large section of

the downtrodden people, the construction workers will be able to get the benefit out of this Bill. But, Sir, we know that the construction lobby is very strong and they have been very active in obstructing this Bill for so many years. Even after passage of this Bill, the construction lobby will try to create obstacles.

I would request the Central Government to take necessary care and in consultation with the State Governments try to throttle all such obstacles and see that the construction labourers get the benefits.

Many points have been raised but only some points have been accepted by the Government and we all agreed to pass this Bill. But as far as the points which haven't been accepted are concerned, I would request the Government that in coming years, through the experience of this amendment, many more amendments will be brought in future to serve the many more amendments will be brought in future to serve the interests of the construction workers.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am extremely proud to stand up in this House and support this Bill. It is because in 1977 when I was an MLA, I had the occasion to inaugurate the first *Kettida Nirmana Thozhilali Union*.

Today, as Shri Chennithala has said, it is a landmark. But I have my own apprehensions when it comes to the implementation side of the Bill. Nevertheless, it is a landmark and the poor people of this country, especially, the construction workers will appreciate and support the move.

Sir, the one suggestion which I would like to put forward for the consideration of this House is this. We have intentionally or unintentionally omitted the brick-makers and certain other connected trades. They are also a major section of the unorganised labour force in this country. They are not going to get substantial benefit from this enactment.

Secondly, out of 8.5 million casual construction workers, how many are going to get benefit out of this Bill? I am putting this question to this House very sincerely. In the coming years, this question will definitely come. At that time our people should not think that the House did not deliberate on this vital subject. This is an area which is unsailed. It is difficult to organise this sector. My experience, Sir, in this field is that the State is the fittest authority in the organised sector as far as this subject is concerned. Now, the Centre has taken the responsibility. Is this the policy of the Government to concentrate powers at the Centre? Anyway, the State Advisory Committee is there. This is a landmark enactment of the House.

I fully support this Bill and I am also really proud to see that the baby which was born in Kerala in 1977 is growing up to a maximum position. I hope in coming years, this enactment will be a landmark for the other unorganised labour sector also.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : A welcome step has been taken to safeguard the interests of the poor workers through this Bill. The Hon. Minister considered the suggestions made by our party - the BJP and accepted many of them, e.g. the number 50 has been reduced to 10; the public representatives are to get representation in the Board and similar other suggestions were considered by the hon. Minister after taking into confidence all the parties in the House.

The Government has not a very healthy convention by bringing forward this amended bill on its own for which we congratulate it. But on this occasion, we would like to state that what is needed is that the Government must pay special attention towards the implementation of this legislation. Parliament enacts several laws but most of them remain up in statute books and are never implemented. I would urge the Government to see that this Board as also the state Boards are given special powers and adequately authorised to check the exploitation of the workers in the real sense and to ensure justice to the workers and punishment to their exploiters.

I once again thank the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill to safeguard the interests of the workers and requests been to keep up his good work.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I really congratulate the hon. Minister for having accepted most of my amendments.

Mere passing of this Bill by the Parliament is not going to benefit the States. The subject 'labour' is in the Concurrent List. Most of the States should have passed it earlier. But, except Kerala and Tamil Nadu, no other State had passed the Bill like this and they are not implementing it.

My request to the hon. Minister and to the Labour Department of the Central Government as such is to find out some method by which a deadline has to be drawn so that this Act is implemented or adopted by all the States. Especially in the Hindi belt and in the Northern India, this is absolutely necessary. Unless there is coaxing from the Central Labour Minister and the Central Labour Department, this Bill is not going to be implemented. This Bill is not meant for the Central Government. Of course, Advisory Committee is there and many other checks and balances are there. Unless there is a mechanism, unless there is a definite point by which the Central Government instructs the State Governments to implement this law, this law will just be on paper only.

With these words, I congratulate the hon. Minister and I am thankful to him for having accepted many of

my amendments. His name will go down in the history. As Shri Ramesh Chennithala has said, Shri Venkatswamy, former Labour Minister, the present hon. Speaker, who is a former Labour Minister and others have laboured for this and finally this Bill has come up. Now it is the fortune of Shri Arunachalam to bring this Bill and get it passed. I congratulate the hon. Minister for this.

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is the third reading. No Member has sent me any notice for his intention to speak. However, every section of the House has cooperated in the passage of this Bill. That is why I am allowing some relaxation. A Member said that the Dy. Speaker also deserves thanks. I say are previous Minister and one new Minister deserve all praise for this. However, I congratulate the entire House that it passed very good Bill for the welfare of the workers.

[English]

The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we come to item No. 23, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava. Are you withdrawing your statutory Resolution, Bhargavaji?

[Translation]

Are you withdrawing?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I shall withdraw because all have expressed their points of view on the subject. It is right that the industrialists, factory-owners etc. in India have a very strong lobby and they obstructed the Bill even at its introduction stage. About you said that it should not be more than one percent. George Saheb is here. Our previous labour Minister is also present here. Now you are possessed of all facts. If you had attended to this work during your tenure, the credit, which is going to him, would have gone to you.

The State Board should be given more powers. The experts should be included in it. A provision should be incorporated in the Bill to provide for at least two percent cess. I would also like to know as to what would be the contribution of the Central Government in it. Otherwise, the Central Government would be getting the credit for nothing. It will get fund by way of cess, constitute the Board and include M.Ps and MLAs in it

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

and them please all. This entire exercise entails expenditure. The toilets, rest-rooms, schools, hostels etc. have to be built for the workers and their family members. Who will build them and from where the funds for all these things come? the State Board would not do any thing. You will not achieve the objective by just including M.L.As, M.Ps and experts in the Board. If you have brought forward this Bill keeping the interests of the workers uppermost in your minds, as per the promise made in your Common Minimum Programmes, then you should provide for at least two percent cess and should also state your contribution categorically.

You would come back to us. You are our comrades. You do some good work so that your Government may run for sometime. You would be in the opposition and come to occupy seats with us. You may desert Nithish Kumar Ji and go to the other side but still it will be a Government of the opposition... (Interruptions) Ram Kripal ji, you please sit down.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : J.D. means, from July to December. Therefore you please do some good work so that people may know that the Government of the opposition had also been formed which had done some work... (Interruptions) I always speak less.

You should provide for at least two percent cess and tell us as to what would be the contribution of the Central Government. The hon. Minister should also speak... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Why don't you congratulate the hon. Minister?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I am congratulating him from the core of my heart. The entire credit is going to him. But he must say that. The cess would not be less than two percent, the Central Government would also contribute and that it would not succumb to the lobby of the owners. Then I would, with your permission, withdraw the resolution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have my permission.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I shall then obey you and sit down. I hope the hon. Minister will agree to my suggestions.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava be withdrawn?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Sir, there is a rule. Will the hon. Minister speak about the cess or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already spoken. I will not stop him if he wants to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I thought that after passing the Bill I can speak and congratulate him.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : The hon. Minister has given a sweet assurance. The assurances sustain life. With your permission, with the permission of the House and...(Interruptions)*

I withdraw the resolution.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I withdraw my resolution regarding disapproval of the ordinance. I congratulate the Government and urge upon it to do as much good work as it can during its stay in office. Therefore, I, with your permission and with the permission of the House, withdraw the resolution.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, the hon. Member wants one assurance from the Government that there should be Ordinances and he should be permitted to move the Resolutions in the House. That is the only assurance he wants.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : It is our right.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on the cost of construction incurred by employers with a view to augmenting the resources of the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards constituted under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Pannani) : When he was withdrawing his resolution, I was trying to get your attention.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I could not see.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : He did the right thing by withdrawing his resolution. But while withdrawing, he uttered a sentence which was not proper. He said....* So I withdraw it". It is not proper. This should not go on record.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will go through the record.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I did not say any such thing....*

It is not importsmentary language. Nitishji has been in the Chair for years. You may ask him. You please look into it. It is not unparliamentary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. It may not be unparliamentary but it is not that anything that is not unparliamentary is necessarily good. I will look into it.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : You please see. I have said the right thing.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will not take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3-Levy and Collection Cess

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hannan Mollahji, please move your amendments.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, my amendments have been accepted in principle by the Government. So, I am not moving them.

Amendments made:

Page 1, line 11

for "one per cent." substitute

"two percent., but not less than one percent."

(15)

Page 2,—

for lines 16 to 23, substitute —

"(3) The proceeds of the cess collected under sub-section (2) shall be paid by the local authority or the State Government collecting the cess to the Board after deducting the cost of collection of such cess, not exceeding one percent, of the amount collected."
(16)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 3, as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 4 and 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 6—Power to exempt

Amendment made:

Page 2, —

for clause 6, substitute—

Power to
exempt

"6. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, exempt any employer or class of employers in a State from the payment of cess payable under this Act where such cess is already levied and payable under any corresponding law in force in that State." (17)

(Shri M. Arunachalam)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 7 to 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 7 to 15 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and

the Long title Stand Part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I am really thankful to the Chair because you have allowed us to pass it in time. I am also very much thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The credit goes to the whole House.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : That is correct, Sir. I am very much thankful to all the Members who have participated in the discussion, and my special thanks are due to my distinguished colleague, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, who has withdrawn the Statutory Resolution the only thing is that my good friend, Shri Bhargava, is coming to the House without reading the Bills properly. That is the only mistake he is committing. The definition of the 'employer' and 'employee' has been mentioned very clearly in the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Arunachalamji, I come to the House after reading every Bill and I can discuss each and every amendment with you. So you cannot say that I come to the House without reading the Bill. I have been an MLA for four terms and have spoken on all Bills and in the 10th and 11th Lok Sabha, I have come to the House after reading each and every Bill. If you are attaching me for some other thing, then it is a different matter...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : If you see the Bill, you will find that the definition of 'employer' and 'worker' has been clearly mentioned. There are clear provisions for payment of compensation for death or injury resulting in disability. The hon. Member asked me about the share of the Central Government. The Central Government is the biggest employer of the construction workers. About fifty percent of the Central plan outlay is spent on the construction projects. Therefore, the Central Government will be the biggest contributor to the welfare fund being created through the Bill.

I hope, you will appreciate the Government's policy in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Bill has already been passed.

15.04 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL
OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT)
THIRD ORDINANCE

AND

THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT)
BILL — AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us now take up item Nos. 17 and 18, that is, further consideration of the Bill moved by Shri Ramakant D. Khalap. Shri Basudeb Acharia, who was on his legs yesterday, may continue.

15.04 hrs.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Central Administrative Tribunal was constituted for the speedy disposal of the cases in regard to the Central Government employees.

15.05 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed - in the Chair)

But our experience is that in a large number of cases where the Central Administrative Tribunal gives the Award in favour of the employees, then the Ministry prefers an SLP in the Supreme Court. Thus, the very purpose for which this CAT was constituted is defeated. This is the experience with the RLC, the Labour Courts and the Tribunals. So, what is needed is where there is accumulation of cases, where there is no speedy disposal of cases, some mechanism should be developed so that the cases do not get accumulated and there will be speedy disposal of cases and the workers will get justice speedily.

Sir, the Air Corporation Act was repealed by this House. Previously, the Central Government was the "prescribed Government" but after the repeal of the Act and after converting the Central Public Sector Undertakings to Corporations and Corporations to limited companies, there is a need to amend the section where the "prescribed Government" is there.

I know a number of cases in the Airport Authority. Recently Sir, in the Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal-II, about 220 contract workers and 210 sweepers have been illegally retrenched. These workers have been working for more than 15 to 20 years. This was done after the change of the contractors. This was never done. For the first time, after the change of contractors, these 210 sweepers have been illegally terminated although they have been doing the perennial of job continuously. There is a law enacted by this

House - the Contract Labour Abolition and Regulation Act - whereby engagement of contract workers is prohibited in a permanent nature of job or perennial nature of job. But this Act is often violated by the principal employer and, sometimes, the Government of India also overlooks this aspect. We have this experience in various departments of the Railways where a large number of employees were working.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : In every single airport. The regular work is done by contract labourers. The Contract Labour Act prohibits this and says that they should be given the same pay as the permanent worker. But nothing is done. I do not know whether Shri Arunachalam will be looking into this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Under Section 22 of the Contract Labour (Abolition) Act, if a contract workers does the work of a permanent worker, he will get the same pay and allowances or par with the permanent worker. But this is neither done in the organisation like the airports nor is it done in the railways. I can tell this based on my experience of the railways. You will be surprised to know that even the casual workers of the railways are not paid the minimum wages as fixed by the various State Governments. These Acts are frequently violated.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sweeping is not a casual work. Is it not a regular work?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sweeping is not a casual work, it is a regular work. These 210 workers had been working for more than fifteen to twenty years. Though the contractors were changed yet the workers were never removed or were never thrown out of job.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Instead of regularising them, they have been changed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They have been thrown out. I request the Labour Minister to look into this and see that these workers are not thrown out. They should be re-engaged in their jobs. We know that there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 about the illegal lock-outs. There are number of cases where, after declaring lock-outs, no action was taken against the industry or the industrialists. I know a case of Mody Steels in Ghaziabad. There was an illegal lock-out declared three years ago. There were 2,500 workers and all of them lost their jobs. I raised this matter on the floor of this House but no action was taken against the persons who were responsible for such illegal action. Although there is a provision under this Industrial Disputes Act of 1947, yet when provisions are violated, no action is taken by the Government or by the Ministry.

Recently, I may mention about what is happening in Air India. I have with me, one case where for mere demonstration by a recognised employees' union - the Air India Employees' Union is a recognised union - four employees were dismissed. They were not satisfied with the wage agreement which was arrived at by the representatives of the union. There was some resentment because the general employees were not satisfied. Because of this demonstration by the workers, four employees were dismissed from service and the management of the Air India charge-sheeted fifty employees. I request the Minister of Labour to intervene. I met the Minister of Civil Aviation and he told me that he would hold a meeting with the management of Air India and also with the representatives of the union. But no meeting has taken place. There is a resentment among the employees. If no action is taken, if the problem is not sorted out, there is a apprehension that more employees would be dismissed by the management of Air India.

I have a case with me of the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation and the General Insurance Corporation. What is the fault of the employees of these two big organisations? They did not have the right to collective bargaining. The LIC employees and the GIC employees had that right to collective bargaining prior to 1981 and 1984 respectively.

This right was withdrawn and they had to go to the Supreme Court. They are fighting their case in the Supreme Court for the last ten years.

Now there is a change in the Government. The U.F. Government has very clearly and categorically stated that it would protect the interest of workers and employees and would see that recognition of the union is done through secret ballot. When such a pledge is there in its approach to the Common Minimum Programme, then why the employees of LIC and GIC will have to wait for the Supreme Court's verdict? What is happening now? Negotiations take place with other organisations like Steel Authority of India, Coal India, Air India, Indian Airlines and nationalised banks. Whereas with LIC and GIC wage revision is done not through negotiations with the employees' union because they have no right to collective bargaining, but the wage revision is done through notification. That is, the wage revision is imposed upon the employees of LIC and GIC. When the Central Government employees have their Joint Consultative Machinery, why should the employees of LIC and GIC be deprived of it?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am concluding.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : This is a very important legislation. In the insurance sector no bipartite agreement is permitted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is talking about it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I think it is a very serious matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Although the amendment is very simple, which is necessitated because of converting the corporation to a limited company which we also opposed when the Air Corporation Act was repealed, it is an amendment of consequent change. I would request that the Labour Minister should bring a comprehensive legislation because the Act is of 1947. There are a number of provisions which have no relevance now. So there is a need for comprehensive amendments and to bring a comprehensive legislation after the experience of 50 years as to how the various provisions are being violated frequently. There is a need for a comprehensive and fool-proof legislation. I would request the Labour Minister to bring that legislation in order to curb anti-labour activities by the management.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, this ordinance was brought forward on the 11th August, 1995 i.e. about 10 months back. It was sent to the Rajya Sabha on 28.11.95 and was passed on 5.12.95. But it could not be passed in the Lok Sabha. The new ordinance also lapsed on the 15th June, 1996. On 20th June, 1996, another ordinance was brought forward. In it, the present Government is not at fault. It is the fault of the previous Government. But since the present Government could not get the Bill passed, it issued the ordinance. Since the present Government is the successor of the previous Government, some blame is bound to come on it as well. Here what I mean to say is :

[English]

In the absence of a proper definition of who is the appropriate authority, in the air-transport sector, in the ONGC and in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India, many disputes are pending.

15.22 hrs.

(Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee in the Chair)

The departments of the Central Government also have their branches in the States. When this dispute reached the States, the State Governments regretted their inability stating that enacting legislation is the job of the Central Government. Therefore, the Central Government is the appropriate authority. The State Government was funding it incapable of taking any

decision in this regard. Therefore, the names of the Finance Corporation of India, ONGC, Air Transport services were changed and converted into limited companies. It was a sort of a privatisation. But my submission is that after all who would settle the labour disputes in these organisations. For that purpose, the Central Government was given powers and designated as proper authority. It is precisely for this purpose that this Bill has been brought forward. These companies have been converted into limited companies and privatised. But who will settle the labour disputes in those companies? That is why this Bill has been brought forward here. I would like to know the number of the pending cases, how many of them have been referred after the promulgation of the ordinance because it is a bill that is to take effect retrospectively. The cases have been accepted after the ordinance and it is a sort of bringing about the change.

Madam, in 1977 also, a Parliamentary Committee had been constituted to consider this draft during the Janata regime. That Committee summoned the representatives of the working class, trade unions and other connected with industrial dispute. Madam, it is an old Act enacted during the British period. Now the situation has undergone a sea-change. Now the public would be the owner and the workers would also have due participation in management. It is a changed situation. But if the hon. Minister had devoted some more thought and time on the Bill it would have been better. Luckily, the Labour Minister is present here. I would like to make some constructive suggestions to him.

My first demand is that it is only the recognised trade unions which should have the right to enter into the agreement. Therefore, the trade unions should be recognised on the basis of secret ballot. The salaries of the workers drawing Rs. 1600/- per month should be raised. Thirdly, the conciliation officer has no powers. If he fails, he refers the matter to the State Government, where labour disputes remain pending for years. The State Government sleep over the labour disputes for years and when it wakes up, it refers the disputes to the Labour Court. Thus the conciliation officer has no power worth the same. He has no recognition. When he fails, he reports the matter to the State Government. As a result, many industries in India are either lying closed or are sick. In many industries, the workers are not getting even their salaries.

I am not talking of Bihar but today, even in Kanpur, U.P., all textile mills are lying closed. The workers there have not been paid salaries for many years. Today, there is President's rule in Uttar Pradesh but you are not in a position to revive those sick mills. Workers are not being paid salaries. The conciliation officer cannot get the bonus, gratuity etc. paid to the workers. Who will look after the interests of the workers in the country?

Who will implement the Court order if awarded in favour of the workers? No such authority is there. As the hon. Member who spoke before me said, there are no judges, no furniture and no chairs etc. in the labour Courts and the industrial tribunals.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the lacunae in this Industrial Disputes Act. You have converted Air India, Air Transport, ONGC etc. into limited companies. Now who will decide the labour cases? These are two amendments. About the second amendment, I would say that nobody would be interested in talking about the interest of the workers. There is a provision of Works Committee in the Act. But the election of this Committee never takes place. Then there is a provision of the Grievance Committee also. But it is also nowhere to be seen. My suggestion is that an Industrial disputes Act should be enacted in the country and for this the opinion of the workers, trade unions and the political parties should be obtained and given due thought. We have been arrested workers' participation in management by all Governments including the present Government. But this assurance should be implemented.

In the end, I submit that the unorganised labour is being exploited in our country due to our liberalisation policy. There is no arrangement for imparting training in the new technology. Multinational companies are coming in our country in a big way. First, only the British East India Company had come here and it ruled our country for about 200 years. Now many foreign companies are coming. Thereafter, I think there would be no Parliament. Some other force would come to rule our country.

Our national leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. S.P. Mukherjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Madan Mohan Malviya, Dr. Ambedkar and others whose portraits are adorning the Central Hall of the Parliament House made supreme sacrifices for the independence of the country. They had not made these sacrifices in the hope that when their progeny comes to power, it would again put the country into the shackles of slavery. If such a thing happened, then these portraits would not be there and this Lok Sabha would also be wiped out of existence. We do not know how many foreign companies will come here and rule over us. Multinational companies are coming because labour is cheap in India. The hon. Minister should keep the interests of the labour in mind and then consider this Bill. When the Central Government has taken power in its hand to settle all these cases, then it should accept my constructive suggestions. Only then the labour class would be benefited. Otherwise in the private Companies, working class would continue to be exploited. Therefore, the Central Government work with a firm hand and accepts

all suggestions made by me for the benefits of the working class.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and to all others who listened to me attentively.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Madam, this Bill for the industrial sector has been introduced with a view to effecting very minor changes. It has been brought forward to legitimise the names of some companies, their management, amalgamation and some other changes. As such, it is a very important Bill for the industrial sector. It will define the relations between workmen, owners and other labourers. Many changes and amendments have been made in the Act but even then we have failed to create an exploitation-free society. The most important thing is that inspite of these provisions, nothing could be done by now. In my constituency, Pali, the the Maharaj's Ummed Mills, about 5000 workers are working. They have not been paid salaries for the last four months. Earlier, there was a strike is that mill due to the arbitrary attitude of the industrialist over the workload. The Government compelled the management to bring the workers back on the work by imposing certain conditions under the Industrial Act. But the management again resorted to lock-out. This lock-out has driven about 5000 workers and their families to the brink of starvation. For the last 3-4 months, there is the starvation providing all over. They do not have enough money to pay the school fees of their children. For this reason, the names of their children are being struck off from the school rolls. They do not have funds to pay for the medical treatment of their children. They are falling prey to diseases. They are being exploited because of the ineffectiveness of this law.

Certain provisions have been made in Articles 41 and 42(1) of our Constitution. Right to Work has been enshrined in Article 41. Workers' participation in management has been provided for in Article 43 (a). When the Constitution amendment regarding workers' participation in management was passed, it was welcomed all over the country.

[English]

Article 43(a) says :

"The State shall take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments or other organisation engaged in any industry."

Under Article 43, it is said :

Living wage, etc., for workers; The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers agricultural, industrial or

otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or cooperative basis in rural areas."

Under Article 41, it is given as :

"The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work..."

Article 42 says :

"The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work..."

[Translation]

All these Articles were enshrined by amending the Constitution. At that time an atmosphere was created in the country that beneaforth there would be no exploitation of workers. They would be given minimum wages and they would not have to face of situation where their family members would face starvation. But all these Articles remained confined only to the Constitution. All the Governments which came into power during the last ten years made repeated announcements that they would enact effective laws to ensure workers' participation in managements, and these laws would be implemented but nothing has so far been done in this regard. For instance, I would like to say that in my constituency, Maharaja Ummed mill has been lying closed. I raised this question a number of times but so far no effective step has been taken to provide work to 5000 workers and to lift the lock-out. They are still starving and food is not being cooked in their Kitchens. Efforts should be made to provide food, medical and other facilities to them and their children. I would request that this mill should be taken over by the M.Ps or some other similar action be taken. The Rajasthan Government issued a communique directing the industrialists to take necessary action in this direction but to no effect. The Rajasthan Government is trying to take effective steps to safeguard the interests of the workers but due to certain legal lacunae, it is unable to do anything ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lodha if you do not mind I would like to remind you that at 4 o'clock today, the House would take up for discussion the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1995. So, please be brief.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Madam, I would not take much time. I was not given time during zero

Hour, so I requested them to give me some time to mention those things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not matter. Your other colleagues are also there.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I appeal to the Government to take back on work about 5000 workers of Maharaja Umed Mill either under some agreement or some Government order or Industrial Dispute Act. The State Govt., the Central Govt., National Textile Corporation and Industrialists should not be allowed to play with the lives of the workers and exploit them or if they continue do so, it will result in widespread resentment among the workers. A poet has rightly said :

'Bhookhe Ki Sukhi roti se Vajra Banega
mahabhayankar,
Rishi Dadhichi ko irshya hogi, tandav nritya
kareng Sh Shankar
Jo jag ko ann pradan kare, jag usko hi
thukrate hai,*
Uski haddi ko noch-noch, jag vaibhav
bhawan banata hai,
Jag ki jhuthan ke thaal bhare, bekar bhale
ye yon jaate,
Roti ki khatir jibh-ribh kar, uske bachhe hain
mar jaate."

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI (Howrah) : One *tandav nritya* has already been performed in Ayodhya.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : To establish exploitation free Society and to end inequality many *tandav nrityas* would have to be performed and many revolutions would have to be brought about...(Interruptions) That is why you have been ousted from Calcutta and people of West Bengal have rejected you. You were exploiting workers there...(Interruptions) You want to run the Government on crutches. That Government will not last long...(Interruptions) We know your traditions.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI : In Calcutta, Muslims celebrate Durga Pooja with us.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : You have cut into two pieces *Bande Mataram* that Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya wrote for the nation. It is their tradition. They did so in pursuance of their policy of appeasement...(Interruptions) I would request that the exploitation of workers should be stopped and they may be provided relief. For this purpose, a comprehensive Bill should be brought forward in consonance with the spirit of Articles 40, 41, 42 and 43 of the Constitution. If it was not brought forward, the workers would continue to be exploited in the days to come. When the *Bhartiya*

Majdoor Sangh gave a call for strike for the establishment of exploitation free society, the same was also opposed and numerous conspiracies are being hatched. I would request that the exploitation of the workers should be put the end to and they be paid their salaries for the period of 4 months during which the Maharaja Umed mal mill remained closed. Proper provisions should be made in the Industrial Disputes Act to deal with the problems of the workers. Bringing of legislation under Articles 41, 42 and 43 only would not serve any purpose. But the Government should have strong political will power to implement the provisions of the Act and the notification. As far as this amendment is concerned, I do not oppose it but a comprehensive Bill for the welfare of the workers should be brought forward. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Madam, I am thankful to you for giving me time to make certain points. I will take only four to five minutes because this Bill has to be passed today.

Madam, this Act was brought in to ensure justice—I will say not only justice, but early justice—to the labourers and workers. Experience has shown that we had not been able to be as successful as we had contemplated in the Act. We find thousands of cases pending before various labour courts in various parts of the country.

I would make two or three suggestions to achieve the object of the Act. When a dispute arises, the matter is referred to the Reconciliation Officer or the Labour Officer. Sometimes it take months together for the case to be disposed of, if the management does not want to give in. In this long fight between the labourer and the management, it becomes very difficult for the poor worker to fight and earn his livelihood. The management can manage the people concerned who manage the affairs. In this regard, I would like to suggest two things. One is, it should be made mandatory for the Reconciliation Office to decide a dispute within a timeframe, maybe of 15 days, maybe of three or four weeks. It should not be left to his discretion to keep the matter pending for an indefinite period. Let him decide the case within a particular time. If he cannot decide the case within that time, the matter should automatically be referred to the Labour Court.

In certain cases, certain State Governments have refused to refer the disputes to the Labour Court. The worker on his own has to go to the court, maybe High Court, maybe another court. It is the court which directs the concerned officer to refer the matter to the Labour Court. I think the matter should be referred, as a matter of right, to the concerned Labour Court, if the Reconciliation Officer fails to do so.

15.48 hrs.

(Shri Chitta Basu *in the Chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to suggest one more thing. We should make the disposal of cases by the industrial court time-bound. Let the industrial court, the labour court decide the dispute at the most within six months. Now the situation is that the workers keep visiting the courts, but they are not able to get their cases decided for years together. I know of certain cases in my area where labour disputes are pending for two to four years without a decision being taken. The poor worker who has no means of livelihood, who is not able to get the economic benefits through certain other institutions, experiences difficulties in his fight with the mighty management. Since he cannot fight with the mighty management, I suggest that this provision should be made mandatory. Provide for it in the law that the labour court has to decide upon case within six months or maybe within one year. Otherwise the matter are not be decided for years together.

To achieve this end, I would like to suggest two more things. One is increasing the number of Labour Courts. We can ask retired Judges of High Courts to perform the job of Labour Court. We can give them specific disputes, ask them to decide upon them. We can ask Sessions Judges to do that. The number of cases is increasing, but the number of the Presiding Officers, who have to decide the matters, is not being increased because of certain reasons. Because of this the number of cases of the workers are increasing day by day and the disposal is increasing.

One more point which I would like to bring to your notice is, even if the Labour Court gives a verdict in favour of the Labourer, it is very difficult for the labourer or the worker to get it implemented. The labourer can move the court, and if he goes to the High Court, he has to engage a good lawyer who would charge a good fee. The management can go to court and can engage any lawyer even Shri Narasimha Rao did it - because they know that they can make the payment whether it is Rs.1 lakh or Rs.2 lakh per day. The poor labourer cannot do it. I suggest kindly consider that in the cases of labourers, the industrial workers, the State Government should come forward. You ask your State Government lawyers to defend the workers where the awards given under the Industrial Disputes Act by the Labour Court are in favour of the workers. It is difficult for the workers to defend themselves. In the criminal law, the private person has no right to come, as the Supreme Court has also said yesterday in Shri Narasimha Rao's case. They will not allow the private persons to come. It is the State which will fight for the person against whom something wrong has been done. In that case, you can ask the

State that if the award has been given in favour of a labourer, why should not the State Government come and say that they will defend the award? They should ask the Attorney-General or the Advocate-General to defend the award.

15.51 hrs.

(Prof. Rita Verma *in the Chair*)

I know about a case in Faridabad, where about 100 workers were awarded wages by the Trial Court. The management appealed to the High Court. They engaged a competent lawyer. It is because they have the means to do that. But the workers could not even engage a lawyer. The award which was given in their favour by the Trial Court was *ex parte* set aside. The court said that they cannot do anything because the labour party has not come.

So, I am suggesting kindly examine it. Let the State defend those awards which are in favour of labourers in case they are not able to defend themselves and if they are not able to engage competent lawyers. Or you can ask your legal Aid Cell to defend their cases. I would request you to kindly incorporate some clause for the execution of the awards under CPC Order 8. If somebody has given you a note and if he does not honour it, you straightaway file a suite which is decreed within few months. I would request you to kindly provide some Clause in the Industrial Disputes Act also. Once the award is given, there must be some enforcing agency which should, within a particular time, enforce that award, and remove that clause of Stay. I would request you to do it by way of suitable amendment. Kindly see that if the Labour Court passes an award in favour of the labourer, High Court may examine it under Article 226. But no Stays should be granted without hearing the labourers, without hearing the other party. Otherwise, the workers will not be able to get justice. I would request you to kindly examine this.

With these few words, I thank both the Chairpersons, you as well as the earlier one, for giving me time to speak.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Madam, Chairperson, I am grateful to the hon. Members for their participation in the debate and for the valuable suggestions offered by them in course of the debate.

Madam, I am also grateful to my Cabinet colleague-hon. Minister for Law - for having taken the trouble to be in the House in course of the debate as I had to remain in Rajya Sabha in connection with another Bill.

The reason for introducing the proposed Bill to amend Section 2(a) of Industrial Disputes Act is for the

limited purpose to declare Central Government as the appropriate Government to deal with industrial disputes in those organisations which have implications of an all-India character. Such establishments and activities are related to air transport services, the Airports Authority of India, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited. They are spread across States and have nation-wide ramifications. It was, therefore, considered expedient and desirable to ensure uniformity in the handling of industrial disputes concerning establishments and their activities. The arrangement of having the Central Government as the appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act in respect of these organisations existed prior to their conversion under the Companies Act. A significant number of disputes concerning these organisations were pending for settlement through conciliation, arbitration and adjudication for want of competent jurisdiction. Hence a conclusive resolution of the question of 'appropriate Government' for these organisations had acquired an urgency which could not be left unattended to any longer. Under the existing dispensation, it is only orders of an adjudicating authority (CGIT/National Industrial Tribunal) which can have an all-India coverage. This can be done only on a reference of an industrial dispute by the Central Government. This can be done only on a reference of an industrial disputes by the Central Government.

Madam Chairperson, coming to the suggestions and the points raised by the hon. colleagues, most of the colleagues have raised for a comprehensive legislation on this. Shri Ramendra Kumar, Shri Pradeep Bhattacharya, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Bhargava have raised this issue.

As far as comprehensive Bill is concerned, the Government is proposing to place draft proposal for comprehensive amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in the forthcoming tripartite meeting of the Standing Labour Committee scheduled to be held in September 1996. This proposal shall be considered at that time by the Government.

Shri Pradeep Bhattacharya has also raised, where are we in regard to adjudication of disputes pertaining to Indian Airlines, Air India, ONGC and IFCI for whom the Central Government is sought to be made the appropriate government. Since promulgation of the first Ordinance in October, 1995, the decision regarding adjudication has already been taken in respect of 79 disputes. Fifty-four disputes are still pending where adjudication decisions are yet to be taken.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia has also wanted to know the guidelines for adjudication of an industrial dispute to the Central Government Industrial Tribunal. There are prescribed guidelines on receipt of failure of conciliation.

The FOC report is first examined in the concerned division of the Ministry. Notice is sent to all concerned Ministries/Departments who are required to furnish their comments to the Ministry of Labour within 60 days. On the basis of the reply received from the concerned Ministries/Departments or if no reply is received after the expiry of the period of 60 days, the Ministry decides whether the dispute in question should be referred to the Central Government Industrial Tribunal for adjudication or not.

There are certain conditions on which the Central Government is refusing to refer a dispute for adjudication. They are staleness of case; *prima facie* no industrial dispute exists; legal remedies are available; and the matter is already *sub judice*. These are the areas in which the Government is refusing to refer it for adjudication.

The hon. Member, Shri Thawar Chand Gahlot, has raised, why not a Financial Memorandum has been attached to the Bill. There are no financial implications in this Bill which is largely procedural. Hence no Financial Memorandum has been attached to this Bill.

Again, my distinguished colleagues Shri Basu Deb Acharia Shri Ramendra Kumar asked about the latest status of recognition of the trade unions through secret ballot. At present there is no law of recognition of trade unions through secret ballot. There is a procedure for conducting of verification of membership in the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Relations Act and the Bombay Industrial Relations Act under which secret ballot can be one of the methods for verification of membership of the trade unions for the purpose of recognition. In Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the secret ballot is being used as one of the means for verification of membership for the purpose of recognition by an administrative arrangement. Taking recourse to secret ballot as one of the methods for verification of the membership is left to the labour courts in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

My distinguished colleague, Shri Bhargava, has raised about the payment of gratuity and other benefits. The payment of gratuity does not come under the purview of the I.D. Act. There are other laws for this and other modes of enforcing them.

My distinguished colleague, Shri Ramendra Kumar, asked about the latest position regarding workers' participation in the management. That has been raised by Justice Lodha and others also.

16.00 hrs.

A Bill in this regard was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in the year 1990. There was an intensive debate and discussion on the Bill. At the end of the debate,

there were few suggested modifications to the Bill. The Bill was then referred to a Select Committee. The Bill was returned at the end of the Tenth Lok Sabha with the observation that the suggested modifications may be considered in the light of the changed economic situation.

The Bill is proposed to be brought up in the forthcoming tripartite meetings of the SLC and ILC which are meeting within the course of this year.

My dear colleague, Shri Topdar raised a point regarding the role of the BIFR in the revival of sick industrial undertakings. As the House is aware, the BIFR is a statutory body under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). The qualification of the members of the Board has been specified in the Act. The procedures for determination of sickness, reporting of sickness to the BIFR, investigation into the causes of sickness and appointment of an Operating Agency for revival of sick industrial undertakings have been laid down in the Act.

The BIFR comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Banking. It is an independent, autonomous, statutory body which acts largely on its own within the purview of SICA. It is mandated to investigate the industrial sickness with a view to coming to a conclusion whether to revive or wind up the establishment, depending on the viability or otherwise of the revival proposal...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayan) : Madam, at four o'clock, discussion under rule 193 is to be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Minister finish his reply at least.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Some of my colleague have raised the point regarding definition of 'workman'. The present definition of 'workman' also includes supervisory personnel drawing wage up to Rs.1600 per month. There is no wage ceiling for non-supervisory workmen.

Request have been received from time to time to enhance the wage ceiling laid down in the Act.

A set of comprehensive amendment proposals is proposed to be brought before the forthcoming tripartite meeting of the SLC scheduled to be held in September, 1996. This includes an amendment to the definition of 'workman', including wage ceiling of the workman.

My distinguished colleagues Shri Pradeep Bhattacharaya and Shri Basudeb Acharia raised a point regarding contract labourers. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1971 does not provide for regularisation of retrenched contract labourers. The Ministry of Labour, on receipt of complaints from time

to time on the plight of workmen of such retrenched contract labour, has taken up their regularisation with the Chairman of the Airport Authority of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

With these few words, I once again thank all the hon. Members who have given their valuable suggestions. When we bring a comprehensive legislation, we will try to incorporate all the positive aspect of the suggestions.

With these words, I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Statutory Resolution and also request the House to pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra is not present.

The question is :

"That this House disapproves of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996 (No.23 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 20 June, 1996."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up Item Nos. 19 and 20 together. Shri Guman Mal Lodha

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayan) : Madam, yesterday it was decided that CTBT will be taken up at four o'clock.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today, CTBT would be discussed last of all.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not listed for now. It is listed at the end.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : It was announced by the Chair that it cannot be taken up at 4.00 p.m. today.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Madam, while the Deputy-Speaker was in the Chair, he said that the CTBT matter was coming up at 4.00 p.m. today. He announced it in the open House.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : As per the information available with me, Item Nos. 19 and 20 will be taken together.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : As you please.

16.08 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION (THIRD) ORDINANCE

AND

ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION BILL

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Arbitration and Conciliation (Third) Ordinance, 1996 (No.27 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 21st June, 1996."

Madam, today we are discussing the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1996 and the Ordinance which preceded it. The first question which requires our consideration is that this is yet another example in the series of the misuses of Ordinance making power under the Constitution. Time and again, we have pointed out that the ordinance making power under the Constitution is to be used very sparingly as it is only when some such extraordinary urgency arises when His Excellency, hon. President is intimated that because Parliament is not in session and the situation warrants that some law has to be made immediately without waiting for the Parliament to come into session. Therefore, the Government, the Cabinet, requests the hon. President to use the emergency extraordinary power of Ordinance-making and issues the Ordinance.

Now, this is one of those occasions where again and again three Ordinances have been issued one after the other as is obvious. The reasons which have been given for these Ordinance - first lapsing, then second Ordinance being issued and that also being allowed to lapse and then the third Ordinance being issued - are wholly inadequate, illegal, insufficient and fail to carry any conviction.

The subject which is dealt with in this Ordinance is regarding arbitration. We have got an existing law regarding arbitration since 1940 or even earlier, 1937, and a few other amendments and laws. So, arbitration is not a new concept. In fact, in our country, there is an age old saying '*panch parmeshwar*', that is, a person who commands respect in a village or in a particular area is respected like God; he can administer and deliver justice to all without any legal formalities, technicalities, requirement of litigation, filing of cases, reply, evidence, cross-examination, documents, arguments and prolonging it for years and years together. That concept of '*panch parmeshwar*' is the concept of arbitration, and that arbitration has been existing in this country since 1940 and even earlier. There were various legislations. Therefore, it is not a new phenomenon that is arising overnight for which His Excellency the President of India was required to exercise the extraordinary power. I fail to understand why the Ordinance making power was misused on such a piece of legislation for which there was no urgency.

Then, there is another aspect to which I would draw your attention. In this Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, we find that the provisions which have been made expressly say that so far as its application is concerned, some parts of it would apply to the whole country - India - and some parts of it would apply to India, except Jammu and Kashmir. Now, it is difficult to understand. In matters of arbitration, why should an exception be made for Jammu and Kashmir. We are already suffering on account of such differences and discrimination in making and application of the laws. I may remind the hon. Law Minister that even when the Forty-Second amendment was made to the Constitution and the Preamble to the Constitution was amended, in which '*integrity*', '*socialism*' and '*sovereignty*' words were introduced, at that time -secularism and integrity, these two important pillars of the Preamble were introduced by the Forty-Second amendment, for the first time, in the Constitution - the most surprising thing we find is that when the Adaptation order was passed for application of the Forty-Second Amendment to Jammu and Kashmir, other phrases of the Preamble were applied to them, but secularism and integrity were not applied, as if the idea was...

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI : 'Secularism' is there. The word 'integrity' is not there.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Please check up the amendment.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI : 'Secularism' was applied; 'integrity' word was not there.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : If you have checked it up just now, then it is all right. But that was my impression and I had checked it up many times. The most important thing is that the general fabric, the foundation, the bedrock of secular parties and secularism - this combination of 13 or 14 or 15 parties who are strange bedfellows, with contradicting and paradoxical ideologies, they all talk about the bedrock of secularism - was not applied in respect of Jammu & Kashmir. What is the hon. Law Minister's reply to this? I have raised this many times, but no reply was given to me.

Probably, there is no reply to it. Why is secularism not applied to Jammu and Kashmir? Do they want to be a theocratic State? Do they want it to be a State where the concept of secularism should not be extended? This is a very important thing. But I am surprised that at no point of time either the Prime Minister or the Law Minister or any person on their behalf has explained this important omission. This is an indication that there also we wanted to appease a particular community and in order to make appeasement, they do whatever they like and according to them even this should not come in their way.

We are going to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Suppose, tomorrow the Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir passes a Resolution in which Resolution they say that they want to adopt a particular religion as a State religion, then all these persons sitting here, who have been talking loud of secularism, would become deaf and dumb spectators to this irony of fate. They would have nothing to say because the Preamble is silent, because of Article 378, because there is a different Constitution and because the laws are applied by different order. That is why even in this innocuous law, even in the Arbitration Law, they say that the second part would not apply. Why? Why should the second part of the Conciliation and Arbitration Law would not apply?

What is the difference between a person going for arbitration in Srinagar or Jammu and another person seeking arbitration in Delhi or Amritsar? No difference can be found out. But still they say that this should not apply. I would like to know from the hon. Law Minister

the rationale, the reason the logic behind such an illogical step, a suicidal step, a step which is against the basic features of the Constitution, which is against the bedrock of the Constitution and which is against the entire fabric of our Constitution. It is difficult to understand why Jammu and Kashmir has been isolated.

Then, there are other provisions in it. I would like to submit that so far as conciliation is concerned, arbitration is concerned, I am not against it. The basic theme of this Act or Bill is all right. In fact, most of it is there except that it is extending to the international sphere on account of the so-called globalisation or the liberalisation or the international treaties or the Charter of the United Nations or some agreement which we have entered into there, and there is no objection to that. We have got certain reservations about the economic policies, globalisation and liberalisation especially in the field of consumer goods. That is a different matter. That is a matter which has divided us off and on.

We have been saying that in the sphere of cottage industries and consumer goods, the multinational companies should not come. They should not come to the State of Rajasthan, go to Bikaner and collect there the Bikaneri Bhujias, pack them, put their name on the package and sell them. This is a different matter altogether. But then, why should it not apply in the case of arbitration? I submit that the international agreements may be there. But one thing is certain that nothing should be done which is against the public policy, which is against the interests of the country, which is against the State and by implication or by expression, it must be made clear not latently but patiently that all the international arbitrations that need be done would be within the framework of the Indian Constitution. We cannot allow an international jurist or some person sitting as an international arbitrator to sit over our Constitution or to act in clear contravention or flagrant disregard to or violation of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution is sovereign subject to the Constitution making power of Parliament. Therefore, whether an arbitrator is of India or of London or of Moscow, he has to abide by the letter and spirit of the Constitution. That rider must be there now. It can be spelt out. The Law Minister has used some words like 'public policy' somewhere. If that can go to that extent, I will be too happy. But if it cannot go to that extent, then, it must be made patent and explicit so that at no point of time, under the name of international arbitration, we succumb to such companies or some powers just like we are having earlier the arbitration on Enron in Maharashtra.

And many other severe factories were there. I need not take the time of the hon. House for that purpose. I would only say that this precaution should be taken in all cases. With this, I move my Resolution for purposes

of deprecating the Ordinance which has been issued. So far as the main Bill is concerned, I support it in its main thrust. Thank you very much.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Madam, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards as also to define the law relating to conciliation and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, the need for reform in the law relating to arbitration in India has been widely recognised. The Supreme Court in one of its judgments dealing with arbitration under the Arbitration Act, 1940 stated that the way in which proceedings under the Act were conducted and without exception challenged in courts had made "lawyers laugh and legal philosophers weep." In a more recent judgment, the Court had observed that the law of arbitration should be made simple, less technical and more responsive to the actual realities of the situations. The Public Accounts Committee had also commented adversely on the working of the Arbitration Act, 1940. The Law Commission of India in its 76th Report had suggested a number of amendments to the Arbitration Act, 1940.

The Resolution adopted by the Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices on 4th December, 1993 had also stated that courts were not in a position to bear the entire burden of justice system and that a number of disputes lent themselves to resolution by alternative modes such as arbitration, mediation and negotiation. They emphasised the desirability of disputants taking advantage of alternative dispute resolution which provided procedural flexibility, saved valuable time and money and avoided the stress of a conventional trial.

The need for reform in our arbitration law is, therefore, clear and urgent. The question was as to how and on what lines the law should be reformed. There were many models on the subject including the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the International Chamber of Commerce Rules on Conciliation and Arbitration.

On a examination of available models and suggestions received from various interests and experts, it was felt that there are definite advantages in repealing the Arbitration Act, 1940 and enacting a new law taking into account the UNCITRAL Model Law. The UNCITRAL Model Law has harmonised the common law and the civil law concepts on arbitration.

There is also an increasing emphasis the world over on conciliation of both international commercial disputes and domestic disputes.

The UNCITRAL had adopted a set of Conciliation Rules in 1980 and the General Assembly of the UN had recommended the use of the said rules by its Member States in the context of international commercial relations. Even in respect of domestic disputes, in many countries, recourse is being taken to conciliation and other less formal modes of settlement.

We believe that the enactment of the new law will go a long way in relieving the mounting pressure on the courts as also in providing a speedier and less expensive alternative to litigation. Alternative Dispute Resolution systems are becoming increasingly popular in other parts of the world. Alternative Dispute Resolution methods like arbitration, conciliation and other forms of non-adversarial methods of dispute resolution can be usefully resorted to in all disputes in respect of which the parties are entitled to conclude a settlement.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1996 as passed by Rajya Sabha seeks to consolidate the law relating to arbitration in India presently distributed in three enactments, namely: The Arbitration (Protocol and Convention) Act, 1937 which deals with arbitration clauses and execution of certain arbitration awards rendered abroad; the Foreign Awards (Recognition and Enforcement) Act, 1961 which provides for the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards; and the Arbitration Act, 1940 which deals with the conduct of arbitrations in India and enforcement of arbitral awards given in India. The Bill while repealing the existing enactments on arbitration, also consolidates and amends the law relating to domestic arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards. It also defines the law relating to conciliation.

Some of the more important advantages which will flow from the enactment of the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1996 are :

- (a) The new law will be a complete code on the law of arbitration and conciliation in India.
- (b) The new law will extend to domestic as well as international arbitration and conciliation and thus avoid a dichotomy within our laws.
- (c) The new law will also apply to dispute capable of settlement by the parties.
- (d) The new law will minimise the role of courts until after an arbitral award is rendered by an arbitral tribunal or the settlement agreement through conciliation is reached by the parties.
- (e) The new law will also enable parties to choose arbitral institutions to determine certain issues on their behalf.

- (f) In respect of international commercial arbitration, parties will be free to decide on the substantive law applicable to the dispute.
- (g) The new law will require the arbitral tribunal to give reasons for its award. This will introduce transparency in decision-making and enhance the faith of the parties in arbitration system.
- (h) The arbitral tribunal will be competent to use mediation, conciliation or other procedures at any time during the arbitral proceedings to encourage settlement of the dispute.
- (i) There will be clear provisions on grant of interest by the arbitral tribunal on the sum adjudged from the date on which such sum becomes due to the date of payment of the amount. This will discourage filing of frivolous objections to the award with a view to delaying its implementation.
- (j) The grounds for setting aside an arbitral award will be clear and unambiguous.
- (k) When an award is challenged, the court will be competent to give the arbitral tribunal an opportunity to eliminate the grounds for setting aside the award.
- (l) There will be no rigid time-limits for making an award. This will help in avoiding most of present litigation which consists in moving courts for extension of arbitrator's time-limits for making the award resulting in indefinite postponement of arbitral proceedings. Under the new law, the parties will be free to fix the time-limit for making the award and to extend the same either before or after the expiration thereof.
- (m) Where the time for making an application to set aside the arbitral award has expired or such application having been made it has been refused, the arbitral award will be enforced in the same manner as if it were a decree of the court. This will eliminate avoidable court proceedings for converting the award into a judgment and decree.
- (n) The settlement agreement reached as a result of conciliation proceedings will have the same status and effect as if it were an arbitral award.

The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 16 May, 1995. The Standing Committee on Home Affairs considered the provisions of the Bill in great detail and made suggestions for amendments to some provisions

of the Bill. I am deeply indebted to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their very valuable suggestions. The recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted by Government and necessary amendments have been made in the Bill as passed by Rajya Sabha.

This Bill is part of the ongoing economic reforms. Since the enactment of the new arbitration law is the basis for the development of Alternative Dispute Resolution systems in India and since there was consensus on the provisions of the proposed legislation, it was felt that the law should be enacted immediately through the promulgation of Presidential Ordinance.

Accordingly, the President was pleased to promulgate the Arbitration and Conciliation Ordinance, 1996 on the 16th January, 1996. The Ordinance was brought into force with effect from the 25th January, 1996. Explanatory statements giving reasons for immediate legislation by Ordinance and reasons for repromulgation of the Ordinance twice, first on the 26th March, 1996 and later on the 21st June, 1996 have already been laid on the Table of the House.

While moving the Statutory Resolution, Justice Lodha has referred to the non-applicability of this Bill to Jammu and Kashmir and certain other things. I am sure that some other hon. Members are also going to raise similar issues. I propose to answer them at one time, that is at the end of the debate.

As has already been said by Justice Lodha, this is a very good Bill. He has supported the Bill. I commend this Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproved of the Arbitration and Conciliation (Third) Ordinance, 1996 (No. 27 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 21 June, 1996."

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards as also to define the law relating to conciliation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation] .

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, the spirit of the Bill brought forward by Shri Ramamkant D. Khalap is indeed laudable but I would certainly point out the dangers inherent in it. He said with great pride that globalisation of trade is taking place. So far, so good.

The United Nations have also framed model bye-laws by adopting a resolution. There is no harm in our taking the benefit of the knowledge of others but now-a-days, the trouble with the models drawn up at the international level is that if you derive some benefit out of them, a tremendous pressure is put on you to adopt them in full. The same thing had happened in the case of GATT agreement and if there is any such pressure on our Government, I oppose it tooth and nail and warn that we should not do anything that way put the sovereignty of our country into jeopardy. Under the provisions of the International Commercial Agreements, there should not be any pressure on us for working against the provisions of the laws enacted by the Government of India. If the hon. Minister proposes to get the benefit of the wisdom of others only to enhance his own knowledge and capacity, he may do so but certainly not under pressure. This applies not by the hon. Minister but to the Government of India also.

Due to globalisation, new trade avenues have of course opened and thus it has become necessary to bring similarity and identity in the international laws. This Bill has been brought forward to help facilitate that similarity and identity. If there is a similar law, it will be of great benefit to the people.

The process of getting justice in the international law courts has been very tedious and expensive. This Bill will provide relief from that also.

Secondly, it is better to enact laws in one go. We had three types of provisions which became outmoded. In view of the demands of justice. They tried to enact a consolidated Bill. Multiplicity of laws used to cause a great deal of inconvenience to the people. Now that inconvenience will no longer be there. The hon. Minister quoted an idiom in English that "lawyers laugh and philosophers weep" to illustrate the way in which proceedings under the Act were conducted and challenged in courts. It is doubtless the CMX of the matter, which ought to have been recognised much earlier. Arbitration has been a part of India tradition and system. I do not blame the hon. Minister because the Government he is part of, is still in its infancy. The previous rulers ought to have seen to it that it was the Indian judicial process rooted in Indian Tradition and not the replace of the western model that showed have been followed and encouraged here. But the Britishers, when they came to our country, changed the Indian judicial system and the arbitration that was the major part of the Panchayati system. Earlier, there used to be Panchayats in all the villages and all disputes used to be settled there. No one used to go to the High Court and the Supreme Court. Even the cases of murders used to be decided in the village Panchayats. But now the very definition of the social justice has been changed. The real justice used to be done then. The

Governments has not realised the importance of the arbitration as it has seen that there are a large number of cases piled up right from the Supreme Court to courts at Tehsil level. It is said that the one who has won in a civil court has lost and the one who lost has been ruined. I myself come from the legal profession. I know the plight of the litigants in our present judicial system. So, I welcome this Bill as a step in the right direction. The Government has very rightly realised the necessity of introducing the Panchayat system.

I would like to tell the hon. Law Minister, Shri Khalap that he is not confined to this law alone. He should restructure the entire judicial system. It will be a great constitution of his and his name will go down in the annals of history. Till now our judicial system is just a caricatured form of the coestem judicial system. It takes years and years for a case to be decided in our courts. Grand father files a suit and his grand-son hears the verdict. This time-consuming process must change. The verdict should be expedited and hearing should take place without losing time. Efforts should be made to bring about the needed reforms in our judicial set-up. I and my party will fully cooperate with the hon. Minister in this regard, so that the people may get justice speedily. I would like that the provisions of Arbitration should be made appreciable in criminal cases as well. The Lok Sabha have proved a total failure and the people have not been benefited by this system.

I know previously judicial Panchayati system used to be there in Uttar Pradesh. In that system judicial powers had been given to the judicial panchayats. Later on that right was withdrawn. Thus the entire system was made redundant, irrelevant and consigned to the waste paper basket.

Lodhaji said one thing here which I would like to repeat. I know what answer the hon. Minister will give. But I would say that the history of the country and the coming generations will not pardon us. The provisions of this Arbitration should also be made applicable to the people of Jammu & Kashmir, so that the dispute could be resolved by the Panchayats there. I feel but article 311 will not be an impediment in this regard. The people of Jammu & Kashmir are running themselves in litigation so much so that it is having an adverse effect on their economy and the trade. The foreigners are introducing in their carpet trade. They say that is no need to allow L.C. and the trade can be carried on without L.C. It is being done in the rest of India. A lot of bungling is taking place in it. It will of course be contained in the rest of India. I fail to understand why this integral part of India is being denied this facility. I don't think Article 371 comes in its way. But for this political will is needed. The people of Kashmir do not want that they should be exploited and victimised. They too wish to join the mainstream of the country and the

world. I welcome acceptance of the recommendations of the Standing Committees. Shading Committees had been formed in the 10th Lok Sabha. Shri Shivraj Patil, who was the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and is present a Member of this House, had made a significant contribution in the formation of these Committees. I am happy that all the recommendations of the Standing Committees have been accepted by you. It helps build the consensus in the legislature. This Bill was discussed threadbare in the Standing Committees before it was brought here. Thus it has become a very useful and desirable piece of legislation. Now even the opposition benches are supporting this Bill because all its lacunae have been removed during discussion in the Standing Committees.

In the end, I once again submit that this Bill be made applicable in J & K State as well. The laws are enacted but the rules thereunder are not framed. These rules should also be framed without losing time. The hon. Minister should give us an assurance in this regard and state the time by which these rules would be framed. There is a mention of enforcement of decrees under the CPC. But there is need to guard against its misuse. If something needs to be done to cut short litigation at that stage, this must be done by proper monitoring so that the Bill could be implemented in its true letter and spirit. With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Madam, I rise to support the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1995, now brought forward before the House to replace the Ordinance. I would like to draw the attention of this august House that the Bill bears the name of Shri H.R. Bhardwaj, former Minister of State in the Ministry of Law Justice and Company Affairs.

There is a difference between this Ordinance and some other Ordinances which have been brought before this House for replacement. This Ordinance was not promulgated as such at the first instance. There was a sincere attempt on the part of the then Government to come before the House and legislate it.

In that way, the Bill was first introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 16th May, 1995 and thus, this is the third Ordinance. These Ordinances were necessitated by sequence of events that took place from time to time.

The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha in May, about 14 months before and it was referred to the Departmentally-related Standing Committee on Home Affairs and the Committee, after careful consideration, submitted their report with their suggestions on 28th November. Suggestions were also accepted by the Government *in toto* and the Bill was also before the

House for consideration during winter Session. But, as you know, Members of the Tenth Lok Sabha are aware as to what sort of a situation was prevailing in Parliament during the winter Session. No legislative business could be transacted and legislative business is the main work of Parliament. There are other items of work also but because of the turmoil created here over the telecom policy which went to the Supreme Court and you know the outcome - legislative business could not be transacted. So, Parliament loses time on extraneous matters which are sometimes avoidable.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : What was that turmoil? You said something about turmoil. We do not know about it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Do you want me to explain it just now?

I would like to say that Ordinances are opposed but good provisions had come in the form of Ordinances. That is really a serious matter and we all expressed concern about it but the House should transact the business in such a way that these occasions do not arise and from our experience, we find that till today, only one Bill relating to the Representation of the People Act.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It is our right to oppose the Ordinance and they are saying that time is being wasted.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Tomorrow, the House will adjourn for about three weeks and what have we done till today during this Session? Except one Bill relating to Representation of the People Act, no other Bill has been passed. So, I would say that at least from now onwards the entire House should address itself to this situation as to how recurrence of such thing will not happen. You always say about misuse of power ... (Interruptions)

With these words, I come to other provisions of the Bill. It is already stated that the more we keep away from law courts, the better it is. You know how the law courts are overloaded; lot of pressure is there and lot of delay in administration of justice is there. Of course, all of us know it. In that way, there is a lot of harassment, expenditure and procedural hurdles.

SHRI ANIL BASU : We have no other alternative except the law courts.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Lok Adalat is also an alternative to some extent.

SHRI ANIL BASU : But Lok Adalat is an extension of the courts.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am sorry for your interpretation. There is a difference between the Lok Adalat and regular courts as far as the time factor and expenditure are concerned.

Sir, the saying goes, justice delayed is justice denied. Justice is invariably delayed in the present system. These Tribunals and Arbitrations deal with matters relating to trade and commerce. Hitherto, our arbitration matters were being dealt with through three legislations. - The arbitration Act, 1940, The Arbitration Protocol Act, 1937 and the Foreign Award and Recognition Enforcement Act, 1961 - and the provisions as contained in all those three legislations have somewhat been integrated in the present Bill. The Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament, the Supreme Court of India, the Law Commission and other representative bodies had adversely commented upon the system of arbitration in our country. It has also been aptly referred to by the hon. Minister that even the United Nations, the Commission on International Trade Law in 1985 had adopted the Model Law on international commercial arbitration. The United Nations has also urged upon its member States to ensure settlement of trade disputes amicably through arbitration. This Model Law could be amended in different forms according to the varying needs and requirements of the countries - this is, after all a model - and we could also have one on those lines in our country.

The provisions as contained in this Bill have been welcomed by all in this House. The whole concept of this Bill is to permit the disputing parties to decide on their forum, place and time to arbitrate upon their disputes. This would help in reducing expenditure and ensure quick disposal of cases. In these respects this is a very welcome Bill and the Government deserves to be congratulated on this score.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Yes, Madam. I am concluding.

Madam, India is an ancient country. We have very rich traditions in our country. We have in our traditions, the Panchayat system. In that respect it is an extension of that system also. But today I am at pains when I am reminded of what is appearing in the newspapers these days about some of the decisions of some of the village and caste panchayats. They are passing judgements to hang people; to tie people to a tree and beat them up; stripping the ladies naked - these judgements of the Panchayats appeared very prominently in the newspapers sometimes last week. We do not want this type of Panchayats but Panchayats in its proper spirits would have to be encouraged. Of course, the Civil Procedure Code, the Evidence Act and the Limitation

Act are also applicable here except for the execution of awards.

Madam, insofar as the State of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, certain provisions - part I, III and IV - of the Bill are applicable to this State only in relation to the International Commercial Arbitration and the International Commercial Conciliation. I think, the Government should examine this aspect. It is only a suggestion I am giving to the hon. Minister of Law. It is because of the special status that this Stat enjoys under Article 370 of the Constitution.

Whether this could be legislated in their own Assembly after the Assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir, has to be examined. Certainly this should be applicable now, *in toto*, to Jammu and Kashmir also. Since there is a sea change going on in the world of trade and commerce, particularly after the liberalised economic policy that we had adopted, we have to keep abreast with its pace. Our Arbitration Act is outdated and falls short of our requirements to meet the demands of today. Our Act will have to be made responsive to the the present day demands. What is the purpose of a law? It has to made responsive to the changing times and the changing requirements. From that angle also this Bill is very useful...*(Interruptions)* It was enacted even before the Second World War, in 1939.

I find certain discrepancies in the Bill. The term arbitration has been defined, but 'conciliation' is not defined. That should also be defined in clear terms, otherwise, it may lead to certain complexities. Regarding arbitration also the parties have been given a lot of freedom to choose their arbitrators, the procedure, time etc. I do not know how it will work, but the number could have been fixed, certain procedure could have been spelt out. Of course, this is a new provision. The approach is also new and it should start well. The Government have the powers which they can exercise in framing the necessary rules under Section 84(1). I am sure this will usher in a new type of system for the settlement of disputes.

Madam, I again congratulate this Government and also the previous Government. Actually the credit goes to the previous Government. It is good that the present Government applied its mind and brought this Bill before the House for replacing the Ordinance. It will usher in a new era so far as arbitration system is concerned.

Sometime after this law comes into force the Government should take stock of the situation and correct the lacunae that may crop up in the implementation stage. With these words, I conclude.

16.58 hrs.

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY (Burdwan) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Bill. While supporting the Bill, I cannot but point out certain shortcomings in it.

While the Bill, as the Minister of Law has said, wants to achieve certain definite objectives, the provisions in the Bill may not help in attaining those objectives.

17.00 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

It has been rightly observed that an alternative forum and procedure for resolution of disputes is now a well-accepted idea, accepted by every advanced country and also by our country. The reason why alternative forum are devised, and alternative procedures are adopted is that it will eliminate delay in disposing of disputes. It will be cheaper; it will be more expedient, but equally efficacious.

I invite the hon. Minister's attention to Section 9 of the Act. Section 9 of the Act provides that for interim orders, of injunction, sale, security and other similar reliefs, the party can make an application and go to court. Because of that, the court proceedings for interim orders shall be delayed for indefinite time. We were just saying that we, now, want to avoid court proceedings for the well-known backlogs and delays. But to encourage interim orders to be obtained from courts is just a step intended to defeat the object for which the Act is sought to be promulgated. Now, again, it does not stop there.

There is a provision for appeal under Section 37 against orders passed under Section 9. The result is that a court will pass an interim order in respect of the enumerated items under Section 9 and those are simple things. Any arbitrator can do it. Then against the order, the aggrieved party will have a forum of appeal and that one is a court. These two proceedings will certainly take years. I have 42 years of experience in a High Court. Therefore my experience only suggests that it will take several years to complete the proceedings and the arbitration will be stalled in the meantime. How will this be an expeditious proceedings?

Kindly also consider Section 27. Certain evidence on the application of a party and at the discretion of the arbitrator can be obtained from court. It is a procedure which is absolutely not called for. By doing so, again you are stalling the arbitration proceedings, asking the court to collect the evidence and remit the recorded evidence back to the arbitrator so that the arbitrator may act upon it. This circuitous procedure of obtaining evidence is the worst step that could have been taken

for any expeditious disposal of dispute. It does not encourage the quality of the arbitration at all. It is true and correct that the application of Evidence Act has been dispensed with, so also the Civil Procedure Code. By disposing, these statistics we have certainly towed the line of the old Arbitration Act. But our experience will certainly invite us to take certain contrary steps.

I hope that the hon. Minister knows that a portion of the Securities Scam involving about Rs. 300 crore pertaining to one or two banks is now under arbitration by one retired Judge of the Supreme Court and a retired Chief Justice of Madras High Court. One witness on the box was being cross-examined for 28 days and even half of it was not finished. It was because the arbitrator had no power like the court under the Evidence Act to stop irrelevant or repetitive cross-examination. So, a party can drag on the proceedings. Oral evidence is also permitted under this Act. For an indefinite period, the witness can go and an unscrupulous party can drag on the proceedings for an indefinite period.

So, I would submit, with all humility, that some provisions should be made so that the arbitrator may have some power to stop irrelevant questioning of a witness and introducing irrelevant materials into the proceedings.

I am sorry to point out that the draft is somewhat casual. Anybody can look at the Second Schedule. How casual a draft can be is certainly evident in this Act. Kindly see Second Schedule at page 32 which reads :

"Protocol on Arbitration clauses :

The undersigned, being duly authorised, declares that they accept on behalf of the countries which they represent the following provisions :—"

There is no undersigned and there cannot be any undersigned.

In an Act of the Parliament, whether Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha will pass, that to a Schedule there will be an undersigned is inconceivable. Even that was not noticed and that was not deleted.

Well, adoption is something and copying is another. There are complexities in the Act, which will certainly not help expeditious arbitration and will give rise to innumerable disputes and litigations. In various clauses of the Bill, a phrase 'habitually resident of a country' has been used. Who is 'habitually resident'? We are accustomed with the word 'ordinarily resident'. It is very difficult to define 'habitually resident'. If you want to introduce and stick to 'habitually resident', well, it will open the floodgate for fresh litigations.

There is another phrase of doubtful merit. It is well known as to what commercial suits are or what commercial proceedings are or what commercial disputes are. But, unfortunately, in our legal relationship, there is nothing like statutory commercial relationship. There is no statute like the Joint Venture Statute of some modern States. China has adopted a Joint Venture law. Commercial legal relationship has not been defined. Courts quite often say that this is a commercial suit but commercial legal relation is not found anywhere, therefore, that again will make it subject to interpretation. And subject to interpretation means litigation, which might have been avoided.

Clause 7 (4) says: "a document signed by the parties." Arbitration agreement may be of different types and one of them is a document signed by the parties. Suppose an arbitration agreement is signed by the parties and one of them is dead, the parties or the predecessor, who has signed the agreement, should be binding for an arbitration. That is not provided here.

There is another provisions to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and that is, Section 200. Section 20 provides that the parties can not only choose their arbitrator but also can fix the site of the arbitration proceeding. It will lead to an anomaly. Both the parties will drag the arbitrator probably alternately to their drawing rooms. One party will say, 'come to my drawing room in the first sitting' and the other party will say, 'come to my drawing room in the second sitting' and the arbitrator will go on doing it. The arbitrator alone should be given powers with the consent of the parties if possible and if not possible, without their consent, to decide what should be the site or the place of arbitration.

There is a mention of a word 'corruption' in explanation to section 34(1). This is appearing in two other sections also. An award can be set aside on the ground of fraud and also on the ground of corruption. Well, legally, we have no concept of what corruption is so that an enforceable concept like fraud can be introduced. Fraud is either misrepresentation of facts or misrepresentation of law. That means something is known but deliberately distorted or version is given. But corruption is yet legally idea so that are award that ground can be set aside. If something is conceived as corruption, let that be well-defined so that on the ground of corruption, and award can be set aside.

I shall now come to the other part, that is, Part-II. Who are these High Contracting Parties? In the Convention which we have adopted, there is a reference to 'High Contracting Parties'. It is given in the Schedule. I have looked to the Rajya Sabha debate and the Law Minister's answer there was that the Government is a

High Contracting Party. Well, if the phrase 'High Contracting Parties' has to be retained, it has to be given a meaning in the body of the Act itself. Otherwise, High Contracting Parties cannot be assumed to be the Government. There are organisations like General Motors, for instance, which have much more funds than the Government has.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Law and Justice to the words 'foreign award'. If you look at section 44 and compare it with section 53, section 44 talks about a foreign award, which is an agreement which was entered into on 11th October, 1960 or after, whereas section 53 talks about foreign awards and agreements entered into on 24th July, 1924 or thereafter. That means there are two types of foreign awards under this Act, one entered into in October, 1960 onwards and the other on 24th July, 1924 onwards. Now, to refer back to a 24th July, 1924 agreement or to an agreement of 1960, it appears to me, is absolutely unnecessary. Simply because the two Charters, the two protocols - the Geneva Convention and the New York Convention - provide for it, there is no reason why we have just to literally to adopt them. We do not know on 24th July, 1924 what agreement had been entered into. 1924 is more than 70 years now. An agreement into then shall be enforceable now. Under this new law I do not think the retrospectivity that is given by these provisions are permissible at all.

Again, see Article VII of the Geneva Convention. This is appearing at on page 30. May I read that article? It says :

"The provisions of the present Convention shall not affect the validity of the multilateral or the bilateral agreements concerning the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards entered into by contracting States, not deprive any interested party of any right he may have to avail himself of an arbitral award in the manner and to the extent allowed by the law for the... and the countries where such award is sought to be relied upon."

The result is, the World Trade Organisation's Dispute Settlement Boards are there.

There is multilateral commercial understanding in the World Trade Organisation and we are crying for long that this is against the interest of Indian economy and Indian sovereignty. Now, this clause provides that although an arbitral agreement is entered in the Geneva Convention if there is a multilateral or bilateral agreement which will include the World Trade Organisation's Dispute Settlement Boards, he can avail of that. That means in spite of this agreement, if he say had a patent agreement, he will have to fall back again on the mercy

of W.T.O. If the parties do not agree to abide by this agreement they will still have the opportunity to have it settled by Disputes Settlement Board of World Trade Organisation which is heavily weighted against India and the interest of Indian Trade and commerce.

Then certain things are really strange. Kindly see Section 36. It reads :

"Where the time for making an application to set aside the arbitral award under award shall be endorsed under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 in the same manner as if it were a decree of the Court."

How does it fit in?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, may I clarify this point? We have issued an erratum. You kindly read it along with this. I will read it out :

"Where the time for making an application to set aside the arbitral award under Section 34 is expired, the said application having been made, it has been refused then the award shall be endorsed under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 in the same manner as if it were a decree of the Court."

This is the correct version.

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : If it is like this then it is all right.

While certainly I support the Bill, but I do not think that the Bill so far as domestic arbitration is concerned—will have that expedition as was expected it should have.

The deficiency of the present Act which is based on 1931 Act of England which was amended thrice by 1979 Act is that the arbitration proceedings was dragging for long. This Bill should be given a closure look and I am sure the Ministry will certainly have a closure look and eliminate the provision whereby arbitration could be dragged on. First the interim orders by the Courts, then there is application, affidavit in opposition and reply thereto, date of hearing and so on and then the appeal against that. This will drag on for years. Therefore, a closure look with an attempt to correct the error is needed.

There are other paragraphs. Caluse 25(4) reads:

"This Part except sub-section (1) of section 40, sections 41 and 43 shall apply to every arbitration under any other enactment for the time being in force, as if the arbitration were pursuant to an arbitration agreement and as if that other enactment were an arbitration agreement, except in so far as the provisions

of this Part are inconsistent with that other enactment or with any rules made thereunder."

So, there should be some look into it. The Act is purposeful and its aim and object are quite laudable. I do support the Bill. But I would request that there should be closure re-examination of the Bill and the errors should be corrected.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have certain reservations in regard to this Bill. This Bill starts with preamble. All the Members have supported this Bill. Shri Rawat, while supporting the Bill wholeheartedly, said that in this country we are carrying on with the caricature of the western laws. But a look at the preamble of the Bill will reveal that it is not the caricature but what the western actually laid down is being sought to be followed in its true spirit through this Bill.

The preamble, starts with the following words :-

[English]

"WHEREAS the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has adopted the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration in 1985;"

Thereafter there are whereas—

[English]

"AND WHEREAS the General Assembly of the United Nations has recommended that all countries give due consideration to the said Model Law, in view of the desirability of uniformity of the law of arbitral procedures and the specific needs of international commercial arbitration practice;"

[Translation]

The next is —

[English]

"AND WHEREAS the UNCITRAL has adopted the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules in 1980;"

[Translation]

Then it is said —

[English]

"AND WHEREAS the General Assembly of the United Nations has recommended the

use of the said Rules in cases where a dispute arises in the context of international commercial relations and the parties seek an amicable settlement of that dispute by recourse to conciliation;"

[Translation]

Then comes conciliation

[English]

"AND WHEREAS the said Model Law and Rules make significant contribution to the establishment of a unified legal framework for the fair and efficient settlement of disputes arising in international commercial relations;"

[Translation]

And in the end -

[English]

"AND WHEREAS it is expedient to make law respecting arbitration and conciliation, taking into account the aforesaid Model Law and Rules."

[Translation]

It is all embracing. Through this Bill, we are trying to accept the rules and the laws framed by the United Nations for commercial arbitration at international level.

Sir, it is true that many amendments had been made in the law enacted by us in 1940 and the details of the amendments made upto 1988 are available here. In this Bill, it has been stated that that law is being repealed. Its short title reads :-

[English]

"A Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Domestic arbitration..."

[Translation]

On one hand, you say that you are repealing and on the other, you are using the words 'domestic arbitration'. Thus, through this Bill you are deciding to ditto whatever the western countries have decided for themselves.

Someone here rightly pointed and that the previous Government had taken such a decision and had accepted the concept of globalisation and since the present Government's existence is dependent on the support of the people of the previous Government, the present Government has brought forward this Bills.

Sir, First of all, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of countries which have so far

accepted the model proposals or laws that the United Nations or any of its commissions had framed in 1980 and 1985 also of those countries which modified their laws according to those models. As far as my knowledge goes, 10 big nations accepted these model laws and the U.S.A. is the front runner in International commercial transactions followed by Germany and Japan and other European countries like France, U.K. and Italy. These are the countries which have disputes and arbitrations in all countries of the world. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. minister whether any of these nations have accepted the model rules and laws of the United Nations for domestic arbitration in their respective countries. The hon. Minister should furnish us complete information in this regard in his reply to the discussion.

Secondly, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there are certain countries which have accepted these rules and laws for domestic arbitration. International arbitration is quite different from it. I am talking of models laws and rules framed by UNO which might have been accepted by them for their domestic arbitration.

The honorable member how spoke before me dwell at length on certain clauses of the Bill. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to clause 11 which reads as :

[English]

"A person of any nationality may be an arbitrator, unless otherwise agreed by the parties."

[Translation]

We discussed the problems of people in villages. But I fail to understand as to how a person from the U.S.A. or any other country would come here and become an arbitrator. This law is not for the international trade only. It applies to domestic trade as well. Therefore, we would like to know what clause 11 (i) means. I would like to know whether this provision applies only to international arbitration or it is applicable to domestic arbitration also.

Now I come to clauses : 12 and 13. Clause 12 reads as under :

[English]

12(1) When a person is approached in connection with his possible appointment as an arbitrator, he shall disclose in writing any circumstances likely to give rise to justifiable doubts as to his independence or impartiality."

12(2) An arbitrator, from the time of his appointment and throughout the arbitral proceedings, shall, without delay, disclose to the parties in writing any circumstances referred to in sub-section (1) unless they have already been informed of them by him."

Then, please see sub-section (3) which says:

"An arbitrator may be challenged only if-

(a) circumstances exist that give rise to justifiable doubts as to his independence or impartiality, or

(b) he does not possess the qualifications agreed to by the parties."

[Translation]

Here he has been challenged. In the first instance, I disclosed that I am innocent and have nothing to do with the dispute. I gave in writing that I have no family, friendly or business relationship with any of the relations of the other party. But subsequently it came to light that some relationship was there. It often happens in our country. We say 'no' in the first instance and then when some facts are revealed, we say 'yes, yes'. We see these things daily in all courts. Now see clause 13 which is as under :

[English]

13(1) Subject to sub-section (4), the parties are free to agree on a procedure for challenging an arbitrator.

13(2) Failing any agreement referred to in sub-section (1), a party who intends to challenge an arbitrator shall, within fifteen days after becoming aware of the constitution of the arbitral tribunal or after becoming aware of any circumstances referred to in sub-section (3) of section 12, send a written statement of the reasons for the challenge to the arbitral tribunal."

[Translation]

Now read the last sentence. Read clause 3

[English]

Sub-clause (3) says:

"Unless the arbitrator challenged under sub-section (2) withdraws from his office or the other party agrees to the challenge, the arbitral tribunal shall decide on the challenge."

[Translation]

Who will decide it—whether the same persons about whom we were subsequently informed that he

was related to and in collusion with the other party would decide. Whether the person apprehended and challenged would also decide about his removal from office. Supposing I am the arbitrator and I am in collusion with the other party. When facts come to light, it is only I and not any other authority would decide whether I should continue as arbitrator or not.

[English]

Sub-clause (4) says :

"If a challenge under any procedure agreed upon by the parties or under the procedure under sub-section (2) is not successful, the arbitral tribunal shall continue the arbitral proceedings and make an arbitral award."

[Translation]

Then I challenged and you said that you would continue to be the arbitrator and when you decided that then I would be in more trouble because I challenged you and the challenged person cannot go in appeal anywhere since it is a matter of arbitration. As such, the person who challenged did not get justice and he only invited trouble for himself.

Sir, I am not able to understand the inherent meaning of clauses 12 and 13. I do not know where you intend to this country to by introducing have such a law of international standard, in the face of your new economic policy and your Government of 13 parties and a tail...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Shri Munshiji was telling that the tail...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Shri P.R. Dasmunshi never had any complaint against us...(Interruptions)

[English]

It is not an unparliamentary word. It is a good word.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, now my objection is about clause 17.

[English]

Clause 17(1) says :

Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the arbitral tribunal may, at the request of a party, order...

[Translation]

here I am laying special emphasis on "order".

[English]

"a party to take any interim measure of protection as the arbitral tribunal may

consider necessary in respect of the subject matter of the dispute."

[Translation]

Now I demand restriction on a thing or want a thing to remain at a particular place. In this case no hearing will take place and the arbitrator will straightaway give the order that much a thing should be done. Here I do not see any need for any hearing. I asked for a thing and you issued the order. Now I draw your attention to clause 9.

[English]

Clause 9 says :

"A party may, before or during arbitral proceedings or at any time after the making of the arbitral award but before it becomes decree of a court, apply to a court..."

[Translation]

Here the court has been brought in -

[English]

For what?

"...for an interim measure of protection in respect of any of the following matters and the Court shall have the same power of making orders as it has for the purpose of, and in relation to, any proceedings before it, namely:-

- (a) the preservation, interim custody or sale of any goods which are the subject matter of the arbitration agreement;
- (b) securing the amount in dispute in the arbitration;
- (c) the detention, preservation of inspection..."

[Translation]

etc. etc. It means that when you need an interim decision in respect of any goods, you have created a court under section 9. When you have provided the facility of the court, I fail to understand the right under clause 17. Here you are giving the arbitrator the right to more arbitrarily. You have Rs. 10 lakhs paid to me by the arbitrator today and we shall order that Rs.10 lakhs be paid today. I want to know as to what is the difference between the two and how it has been done. Since I mentioned to section 31 which reads as under :-

[English]

"A sum directed to be paid by an arbitral award shall, unless the award otherwise directs carry interest at the rate of eighteen per cent per annum from the date of the award to the date of payment."

[Translation]

Sir, the Reserve Bank also has some rules regarding the amount of money. There is also some maximum rate in India. Whenever any Government keeps some money with it, it gives interest on that money. Then how has this 18 percent comes in suddenly? You referred to the issue of the village people. How are things so wrong in India till now and how will the international law bring us out of the mess, how will rural people get justice - all these things are now coming up and you propose to impose an interest of 18 per cent. There is a dispute between two brothers. I fail to understand what all these things mean here. The question is not of the maximum.

[English]

"...unless the award otherwise directs, carry interest..." There is no maximum, Mr. Law Minister. You are trying to mislead me. I am not saying you are misleading the House; you are trying to mislead me. "A sum directed to be paid by an arbitral award shall, unless the award otherwise directs, carry interest at the rate of eighteen per cent..." There is no maximum. "It shall carry..." It is decided that that shall be the interest that shall be paid unless otherwise directed. The "otherwise" decision could be twenty; it could be twenty-five. It would not be ten. This is the meaning of the clause. There is no maximum. It shall be eighteen per cent unless otherwise decided. An arbitrator like my dear friend Shri P.R. Das Munsif may say that eighteen per cent is too much, I will settle at twelve. On the other hand another arbitrator like my equally dear friend Shri Venkat Swamy may say the 'no. Twenty-five per cent shall be paid'. It is open. It does not say anywhere that it shall not exceed eighteen per cent. In any case eighteen per cent is a very high amount.

[Translation]

Therefore, we want to know what it is all about we have, through this legislation, accepted the concept of globalisation in full...(Interruptions). You have studied it so well. We are worried...(Interruptions) But we did not want to interrupt you when you were speaking.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I had not spoken. Our friends had spoken...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I thought you had spoken...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members who spoke earlier had talked about the New York Convention Award

and Geneva Convention Award at the international level. When I read it, I became anxious to know as to what it all means. Why are we moving backwards towards 1924 and 1960? For whom are we making all these arrangements? This question is not secondary. There are certain people who have been having a dispute for the last 40 years with the Government of India or with some big businessmen of India. Before independence, the Britishers were having trade relations with India. East India company had been dismissed but some other companies were operating. There are many cases for which some arrangements are being made through this Bill. I am apprehensive that this may turn out to be an attempt to bring the New York Convention Award and Geneva Convention Award of 1960 and 1924 respectively to the international forum. I am not blaming anybody. This Bill does not deserve all the praise lavished on it. Therefore, this Bill needs to be improved upon. I do not know what lacunae have crept in the legislation of 1940. If you feel that the lawyers and arbitrators are taking more time, as pointed out by Shri P.R. Dasmunshi, then it applies to every case pending before the courts. Should we then close down our courts? Which cases of the workers has not been pending in courts for the last 25 to 30 years? The Railway Board dismisses an employee without any rhyme or reason, only to should some dishonest officer. The poor employee's case is not decided by the court till his death. I have experienced much things as Railway Minister...*(Interruptions)* that is exactly what I am saying. I am saying about the bureaucracy...*(Interruptions)* Our arbitrators are born and brought up in this very country of ours. How will the thinking of an Indian be changed by implementing an arbitration law of international standard here? The man is the same, whether he works under this law or that law. You are unable to change the thinking of the people implementing these laws in the country. The hon. Member who spoke earlier asked as to whom this task would be entrusted and how will be implement this sort of arbitration law? The matter again boils down to the fact that of the persons entrusted with the task of implementing this law stated harassing people, particularly of the rural areas, what is the remedy for it? so, we shall have identify the shortcomings in our judicial, arbitration or conciliation machinery and try to resume then right earnest.

Reports have appeared in today's newspapers that the London court has given its verdict in the case relating to the dispute between Imran Khan and Ian Botham. The case came up before the court only ten days back. Hearing was started immediately and within ten days the case was decided. In India, such a case could have taken 20 years. Imran Khan would have seen the autumn of his life and Botham would have perhaps kicked the bucket without the verdict from the Indian court. In the U.S.A., the renowned boxing champion raped a girl.

The investigation in this case was completed within 15 days and within two months, the boxing champion was awarded four years' sentence. After completing his sentence, when he was released from the jail, he again was in some trouble. Speedy disposal of the cases is the responsibility of the courts but then it is for the Government to equip the courts adequately to enable them to discharge their responsibilities. There is a saying in English - throwing the baby with the bath water. Some thing happens in India. Because of some lacunae in our legislation, we are first replacing it with the foreign legislation and that too for international and domestic arbitrations both. I have strong exception to it and, therefore, I cannot support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANAJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very very difficult to speak immediately after Shri George Fernandes. But the spirit behind the Bill will have to be welcomed.

Sir, there has been a marked deviation in the perception of this Bill as I see it. The 1940 Act had a provision only for arbitration. But the new Bill provides for conciliation of some of the disputes also. This is a welcome feature. As the world has grown, trade, commerce and other fulfillment of the social obligations have given rise to the disputes, differences of opinion, conflicting view points, disagreements etc., etc.

Many matters are pending before the law courts. As has been mentioned just a while ago, because of the cumbersome, circuitous and lengthy legal proceedings, the parties can never meet at one point and get their grievances redressed. At the same time, we should take care to see that in the interest of resolving the disputes at the earliest opportunity, we should not jump to wrong conclusions and create more confusion and lead to a situation which is often described as 'confusion worse confounded'.

In this complicated world it is very much necessary that such kinds of, disagreements, disputes and conflicting viewpoints will have to be thrashed out by mutual dialogue by trying to bring all the parties concerned to some common points on which they could agree and then get speedy redressal of the grievances.

I would like to lay emphasis on the provision of clause 61 which provides for conciliation of the disputes. A doubt arises in my mind because the provision which contains the conciliatory mechanism is not made mandatory and it is only optional. Unless care is taken by the parties concerned, this provision would probably be redundant. If I read out the wordings, that would be very clear to you:

17.48 hrs

(Shri Chitta Basu *in the Chair*)

"Save as otherwise provided by any law for the time being in force and unless the parties have otherwise agreed, this Part shall apply to conciliation of disputes arising out of legal relationship, whether contractual or not and to all proceedings relating thereto.

This part shall not apply where by virtue of any law for the time being in force certain disputes may not be submitted to conciliation."

So, my objection is for the second part of clause (ii) that intentionally, one of the parties, who may be mightier than the other, may prevent the initiation of conciliation proceedings whereby the speedy disposal of the dispute could be arrived at. Of course, clause 74 has tried to give a little teeth to this. It has said that the settlement agreement, that would be arrived at after the conclusion of the conciliation proceedings, would have the same status and effect of an arbitrator's award. But again, the other provisions, which were pointed out by Shri George Fernandes, about the challenge that could be posed to the persons who decide upon it as arbitrators, their jurisdiction, the manner in which they have conducted the proceedings and the decision at which they have arrived at, are subjected for challenge before a law court.

So, my submission is that even after enacting a new law - that too, as the preamble says, mostly to fall in line with the world community at the dictates of the decisions of the United Nations and copying or adopting the model law which was dictated by the UNCITRAL - some scope is given for prolonging the issue and to keep it hanging for a long time' probably will not augur well for such people who would like to get speedy disposal of the disputes. My submission is that a review of these provisions is necessary so that when this Bill would become an Act, in reality, it would like to get speedy disposal of the disputes. My submission is that a review of these provisions is necessary so that when this Bill would become an Act, in reality, it would be instrumental in the speedy disposal of all such kinds of disputes.

Nowhere have I come across any specific provision in this Bill which has laid the model of an arbitration agreement. It gives ample scope to create confusion and doubts in the minds of the parties. And sometimes the party may be misled under misbelief. He will have to submit himself for arbitration proceedings because the provisions of this Bill say that even a mere dispute, that may arise between the parties, may be subjected to arbitration without giving details of the proceedings

that would be initiated at such point of time. He may be compelled to submit himself for arbitration. So, that also requires clarification so that the parties to any transaction are not either misled or are compelled to act under misbelief.

The conciliatory machinery, in my opinion, again requires some elaborate description. Now, I talk about the competence of the proposed conciliator and the number of persons involved in such conciliation proceedings. No doubt the Bill Provides that the conciliatory proceedings will not be bound by the rules contained in the Civil Procedure Code, 1908.

But still the mechanism really should act with all the force at its command. The conciliatory machinery will have to be given a definite status and certain powers should be vested with the conciliatory machinery so that the real intent of this provision could be achieved. Sir, probably, the main aim of this Government is...*(Interruptions)* The Bill was drafted by the earlier regime and the present Government is largely depending upon the support being rendered from outside. This is apparent. They depend upon them solely.

So, without meaning anything, I only pity the Law Minister who had to carry on with the old legacy and now, he is largely depending on the submissions made from their speakers from the Congress party. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi was also trying to tow the line. He was saying that it is a welcome feature, this has to be supported by all of us, etc. As I have said in the beginning, we will have to support and accept the spirit behind the Bill but in reality, if this is to act as a mechanism for speedier disposal of such disputes, then a review of certain provisions is called for which I have pointed out specifically and more emphasis will have to be given for the conciliatory mechanism rather than subjecting the party before the arbitration proceedings which more or less is a replica of the proceedings before a law court. We know about it and we appear before the arbitrators and there again, all the technicalities of the legal proceedings will come in the way like filing statements, counter statements, affidavits, producing and calling for documents, summoning parties.

All these proceedings, etc., will have to be gone into before the arbitrators also. It is no reply for achieving speedier disposal of disputes. So, I would again lay emphasis that the conciliatory machinery which is though of under the new provisions will have to be strengthened and only with that, probably, we could achieve the intended goal. But care must be taken.

With the globalisation of economy, the foreign companies are coming in and they are participating more in our affairs including investment. They are coming in the power sector and even in the consumer goods

sector also. Multinationals are coming in a big way. The provisions contained in this Bill should not give a handle to them to rob the Indians and put us into more and more difficulties. So, care must be taken. Before entering into our country, before coming here with investments, they have already shown us the way for settlement of disputes probably thinking beforehand that their coming here would naturally give rise to certain kind of disputes. So, with this view in my mind, a review of provisions is called for. I emphasise this and would request the hon. Minister to have a careful reading and with reference to the experience, for the last so many years, in working with the earlier Act of 1940, a review is called for.

18.00 hrs.

Let the hon. Minister suggest necessary amendments so that a thorough discussion, on these provisions could be held in this House and we could come out with a proper enactment.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, my suggestion is that the time of the House be extended by two hours. As decided in the leaders' meeting, we may extend the time of the House by two hours today and tomorrow and complete discussion on the Bills and the CTBT. Therefore, the time of the House be extended by two hours. After passing this Bill, we may complete discussion on CTBT today itself. This had been decided in the leaders' meeting. I have only this much to say.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Sir, I am not disputing that such a decision was not taken in the House amongst leaders. My submission is that the CTBT is an important subject and the discussion has already fractured. This discussion ought to have been done earlier.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : At present we have only one Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Whether it is one or one and a half, it hardly matters. You can very well judge the conditions here in the House. I need not dwell on that. It is a very important discussion. Two or three Ministers are present here. If they agree, we may start this discussion tomorrow at 2.00 P.M. or 2.30 P.M. as the first items and conclude it by 3.00 P.M.

[English]

To conclude discussion on CTBT as on after thought at the end of the day would not do justice to a very important issue. That is my new.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Sir, let us sit for a little more time.

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : You may see. Tomorrow at 3.00 P.M. PMB will be taken up. Last weeks Private Members Business will be taken up later, as already decided. It means the ordinances will have to be passed tomorrow itself, otherwise there will be a problem. If we do not discuss CTBT today, then it will have to be taken up tomorrow after the P.M.B. otherwise discussion on CTBT would have to be postponed till 26th. This will not send the right message. That was why I was thinking that after passing the Bill in hand, we will take up CTBT. In the leaders, meetings also, such a decision had been taken. Therefore, my suggestion is that the time of the House be extended by 2 hours and we sit upto 8 P.M. and after passing the Bill, conclude discussion on CTBT. The Minister concerned is present in the House. It is a serious business when Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri George Fernandes start discussion on CTBT, all will come here. There won't be any problem.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, we agreed to sit beyond six o'clock till this Bill is passed.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, we could sit subject to the condition that the discussion on CTBT would take place today.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, discussion on CTBT should take place today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us agree to sit for two more hours beyond six o'clock.

Yes, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, I have sent the name of Shri I.P. Hazarika.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, I stand in support of the Bill under discussion. The Parliament is the supreme body of law-makers in the country. As law-makers we have to keep an open mind and introduce new laws and change old laws for the better. Therefore, we have to eschew the *status-quoist* mentality that any change is bad.

We in this House, believe that any change has got to be for the better. It is not necessary that we should have an allergy to changes, or for that matter allergy to a statute merely because it has been modelled after a format, designed by an august international institution like the UNCITRAL.

A little while ago, 'Swadeshi-Jagaran-Manch' rhetoric has reverberated in this House. But it is not

necessary that anything foreign, anything adopted from abroad is bad and to be spurned. Just because this law happens to be framed on the UNCITRAL model, just because this law happens to be have been initiated the great Congress party in this House, this alone does not vitiate the provisions of the Act. And, here we are in this House to make new laws, change laws responding to the challenges of the times!

Today we are faced with a situation where we have introduced far-reaching economic reforms. We have adopted, a Policy to pursue the path of globalisation of our economy. It is, therefore, necessary and appropriate that the law governing arbitration is changed consistent with the concept of globalisation. This is also a need and indeed the crying need of the times.

I have negotiated many international agreements during my career. I have seen that the foreign parties - not necessarily from the developed world, but also from the underdeveloped world - expressed great skepticism about our legal system, not merely because it takes time, but in many cases they feel that things are confused and not very transparent. In my negotiations, I have seen that if the price of an item is 100 dollars per tonne, and if we coerce the supplier to subject any dispute arising out of the contract to Indian jurisdiction, then we may have to end up paying a dollar or two more. But If we accept the intervention of the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris, for settlement of disputes, or in the case of shipping, if we accept London jurisdiction, Baltic Club Arbitration and all that, then we get better terms from the suppliers. Similarly, in the case of large projects also we have seen time and again that the clause pertaining to settlement of disputes has always created problems because many foreigners - not necessarily from the West, not necessarily from the developed world - always demanded mutually acceptable international mediation of disputes and they settled for ICC, Paris or for London Jurisdiction. We have Seen in the Recent Enron Agreement on the Dabhol Power Project that they also demanded that any dispute should be subject to the jurisdiction of London courts, and at that time we all felt that this is an affront to the country, to our judicial system and indeed to our glorious judicial heritage. But then, reality is reality, and if we want foreign investments to come into the country, we cannot stand on national pride. We have to accept and reconcile ourselves to the realities that prevail in the world today. Let us see for example what is happening in the power sector. In another 15 years' time we have to add 100 thousand megawatts or at least 80,000 to 90,000 megawatts of additional generating capacity in the country. The investment outlay that this should entail would be of the order of Rs.4,00,000 crores. During this given period, it is absolutely absurd to hope and to expect that country

can generate this much of internal surplus for investment in the power sector, alone.

Power is as vital as water and food in today's civilisation. We cannot just do without power. Therefore, if we have to have power to survive as a country, then we have to attract foreign investment. If we are to attract foreign investment on reasonable terms, then we have to reconcile ourselves to accepting dispute settlement procedure that would be acceptable to the people advancing the money. We cannot dictate terms to them. Therefore, this is the compulsion of the situation, compulsion of time. Being swayed by misplaced nationalistic chauvinism if we condemn legitimate of foreign investors we are not going to attract investments from abroad.

This Statute Corrects or rectifies and improves many of the features of the present arbitration law. One of the great things that has been done in this Statute is to bring in some legislation to govern conciliation which will make life much easier for the courts in the country. Again take the case of a decree. Earlier, after arbitration, we had to go to the court for getting a decree, executed. That created its own problems. Today under the changed law the award itself would constitute a decree which could be executed directly.

Similarly, earlier, there were many problems about the arbitrators themselves because of their antecedents and things like that. Today, in this legislation, there are Provisions under which we can challenge the independence or impartiality of arbitrators. This is a provision which was not in existence earlier.

There are features in the Bill which amount to definite and positive improvement on the earlier legislation. it repeals the three Acts which together provided the basis for arbitration. All the good features of the existing laws incorporated. The UNCITRAL have done a lot of work going deep into the problems and they have come up with the model. It is good and I compliment the Government - in fact the earlier Government, my party's Government - for having adopted this model and brought in this Ordinance and now this legislation. But there are a number of features of a number of things that require further consideration in order to make further improvement on this Bill.

Take the example of Section 34. It provides for setting aside of arbitral awards on certain specific grounds. This includes arbitration agreement not being valid or the party has not been given proper notice and a number of procedural or technical grounds. But it does not provide for setting aside of an arbitral award if there is a point of law involved. This law has come in response to demands - apart from the U.N. Organisations - from the trading community and

professionals dealing with such disputes. They all feel that there should be some provision for challenging or appealing or setting aside the arbitral award if there is a point of law. It is because under the proposed system, many of the arbitrators are going to be technocrats, going to industrialists, and professionals who many not be lawyers. Therefore, it is quite natural that they might commit errors of law. What they decided may not be fully consistent with the prevailing law or the laws in force. Therefore, there should be some provision for setting aside the arbitral awards where there are points of law involved. I understand that a similar provision is there in the English law of arbitration.

Secondly, in Section 11, powers to appointed arbitrators in certain circumstance have been given in the case of international arbitration to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and in other arbitration of commercial disputes, to the Chief Justices of State High Courts. In many cases, the High Courts have framed their own rules to further delegate these powers to junior or subordinate courts.

Now, this has created problems at times and I do not think, it will be the intention that the powers delegated to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justices of the High Courts could be re-delegated by them to the subordinate formations. And in this particular case, we feel that if the Chief Justices do not want to exercise their powers, they could nominate the organisations, the arbitral organisations existing in the country, to do their job on their behalf. There should be some policy of the in this regard and the Government should frame rules for according recognition to some of the organisations like the Indian Council of Arbitration or the Indian Society of Arbitration. A number of such institutions have come up recently in the country. Even the Chamber of Commerce could be considered for giving such powers.

There is another point which is missing in this Statute and that is, the commercial disputes pending in the courts for a very-very long time. There should have been a provision in the Statute whereby those disputes which are pending for a long time could be referred to the arbitral organisations for final settlement of the cases. In that case, the arbitral organisations could resort to this provision of the Statute and could resolve the disputes in a much shorter time because they will not be bogged down by legal procedures under the C.P.C. and the Indian Evidence Act.

So far as conciliation portion is concerned, this is a great step towards cutting down litigation before the courts. But, Section 64(2) provides that the parties may enlist the assistance of suitable institutions or persons in connection with the appointment of a conciliator. And in that case, the party may request such an institution

to recommend the name of the suitable individuals to act as a conciliator. Such an institution should be recognised by the Government. If the Government has a policy for recognition of such arbitral organisations, then many reliable and respectable organisations having eminent jurists etc. would be formed up and they will be able considerably to reduce the burden on the courts in the matters of adjudication of commercial disputes.

Finally, I would like to point out one clause under Section 31, which provides for arbitral awards to include interest, cost of litigations, fees and all that. But to discourage frivolous litigation or vindictive litigation even in arbitration, I think, it should include certain provisions whereby penal payments can be imposed on the party raising a dispute on frivolous ground or motivated by ulterior considerations not supported by facts.

Before I conclude, I would like to refer to certain things that have been mentioned by my speakers preceding me about the arbitral Tribunal deciding on the challenge made by a party about the independence and impartiality of a particular arbitrator. It is not that the arbitrator alone is going to decide on himself. He cannot be both accused and the judge himself. It must not be forgotten that there are two arbitrators and may be an umpire also, appointed by the two parties in the disputes and together they would decide. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the person who is challenged is going to decide in all the cases, references have been made that arbitrators have been given arbitrary powers. As already stated it is not one arbitrator but more than one arbitrator, who would decide on the challenges made about the impartiality and independence of the arbitrator. Therefore, there need be no fear that arbitrary powers have been given to the arbitrators in this regard.

About the interest rate and all that, that is based on the existing practice. Today 18 per cent is the existing practice in most of the commercial disputes.

If you do not lay down a norm, then depending on situations, they increase or decrease the rate and it creates certain misgivings and certain doubts in the minds of the parties involved. Therefore, it is highly commendable that the Bill fixes a definite rate of eighteen per cent for the present. From time to time, this may have to be changed, but I feel that considering the present interest regime, this is a commendable provision in the Bill and I see no difficulty in incorporating the fixed rate of eighteen per cent in the Bill and I see no difficulty in incorporating the fixed rate of eighteen per cent in the Bill itself.

With this, I again express my support to the Bill.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, I have entered this Houses for the first time is this Eleventh Lok Sabha and I have been observing that this Eleventh Lok Sabha's job is to ratify all the Ordinances passed before this Lok Sabha came into being. If the present practice continues, probably we will have to only decide about the various Ordinances passed in the past. There are so many Bills which are now pending and which may not be passed now. So, probably when the Parliament is not in Session, all these Bills will again be passed through Ordinances and again we will have to deliberate on them next time and say that well will have to pass those Ordinances only because they have already been issued.

My good friend, Shri Ramakant Khalap has to tend the babies which are forcibly delivered through these Ordinances and have to take a good parental care, which, I am sure, he is doing. But I think, as Shri George Fernandes has said, it is not just throwing the baby with the bath-water but he has to look after the baby also, which is not his own.

I appreciate the fact that now because of India trying to globalise itself with other powers in the world, there are complex commercial transactions which are taking place which necessitate legislation, which probably could not even contemplate such transactions when it was first passed in 1940. So, obviously, this Bill could be taking care of complex situations. But that does not necessarily mean that when the legislation intends to take care of complex commercial transactions, the Bill itself has to be very complex and beyond comprehension on many counts.

I shall try to be as brief as possible. Firstly, the object for which this ordinance was issued and the Bill is now presented before us, is not specified. The one fundamental thing for which such a Bill should really be introduced, is to reduce the delays in rendering justice. Nowhere is it mentioned, not even in the Object clause, that this is the purpose for which this Ordinance was first issued. If that is not the case, then there was really no need to introduce any new legislation because we have a judicial system which really takes care of all types of transactions, may be international or even national. There is no provision in the Object clause, but besides that, in the substantive provisions of the law, nowhere is it mentioned what the time frame is in which any of the disputes referred to arbitration has to be decided. There is a possibility that there will be more delays as a result of this particular law coming into force because there could be a tendency to refer matters to arbitration and again take recourse to the normal judicial system. So, there was really a necessity to decide a fixed time-frame in which such disputes should be settled. But there is no such provision to this effect.

In any of such disputes, a dispute is referred, particularly a commercial transaction, because the parties to the transaction cannot really arrive at a particular conclusion. The dispute arising between the parties cannot be settled between themselves, so it is referred to arbitration. Each party is going to appoint his own arbitrator and since these arbitrators are really owing their allegiance to the parties who have referred them as an arbitrator, they themselves again cannot differ to the dispute. That is why even in the Arbitration Act of 1940 there was a provision for an umpire.

There is, of course, some mention of a presiding officer but there is no specific provision for an umpire under this particular Act. Under Section 10(1), where we are talking about appointment of arbitrators, they are only mentioning about the presiding officer but not an umpire. In the absence of this, there is a possibility that the disputes will not be solved by the parties and the arbitrators will gain keep on fighting among themselves and will not be able to resolve the very dispute for which such machinery is created.

We have a History. We passed certain laws in the past but we did not make them applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. I fail to understand now in 1996 when there is a thinking that Jammu and Kashmir is turning the table and there are so many new things are happening, why should such a legislation not cover an integral part of the country, i.e., Jammu and Kashmir? As regards, commercial transactions does it mean that we would not like to resolve the disputes in India and the foreign investors who would like to come to this country would feel comfortable when such disputes could be referred to arbitration proceedings? This means that we do not want any foreign investment in Jammu and Kashmir. Does this mean that Jammu and Kashmir should not really be precluded from the application of this provision? It is something on which, I am sure the Minister of Law would enlighten us during the course of his reply.

Sir, one of the important things which has not found a place in this Bill is the qualification for appointment of an arbitrator. Sir, so many powers are vested with the arbitrator. We have such a provision when we appoint a judge in the lowest court, the qualifications are decided. We are now leaving it to the parties of the arbitration to decide about what qualifications are decided. We are now leaving it to the parties of the arbitration to decide about what qualification it should possess. At the same time, we are also asking the Chief Justice to decide the appointment of arbitrator in certain cases. But on what basis the Chief Justice is going to exercise his mind and decide as to who should really qualify to the arbitrator unless it is very specifically mentioned in the

very law? It is stipulated very clearly that who should really be qualified to be an arbitrator. There is also a provision for the appointment of a foreigner as an arbitrator. When a foreigner is likely to be an arbitrator it is really very unlikely that a Chief Justice could really know the qualifications that he possesses. He has to obtain his particulars. So a very specific provision about the qualification is necessary. Then obviously this problem could really be solved.

Sir, there is a provision for payment of fees to a foreign arbitrator. But I really do not know whether this fees could be paid by overriding the provisions of Income Tax Act because there is a provision in the Income Tax Act specifying that any foreign technician employed in the country in what fashion he should be paid, what are the terms and conditions under which such a remuneration could be paid and there are ceilings thereon. Does this mean that a foreign arbitrator is not governed by this particular Act or this Act overrides the provisions of that particular law or we will again bring in some litigation as a result of this.

Sir, there is a provision which says that in the case of selecting an international arbitrator the Chief Justice may decide to appoint an arbitrator from a neutral country. Sir, it is a good provision. We are already adopting it in our cricket. When India and Pakistan play we are appointing umpires from West Indies and England. Sir, it is very important as to how and on what basis the Chief Justice is going to decide the neutral umpires in different countries and what are the modalities for making such appointments which is a very critical matter which this Bill fails to address.

Sir, one point which pertains to a point which has already been raised by the earlier speakers is about payment of interest at the rate of 18 per cent. As of now the 18 per cent is a very reasonable rate considering the market situation now prevailing. It is particularly so when the Government is borrowing at the rate of 13 to 14 per cent. The commercial transactions are taking place at 18 per cent. They would call them wise if the Government is borrowing at 14 per cent. But we definitely feel after listening to the speech of the finance Minister that India is going to see better days ahead and in that case by the time this Bill is passed and assented to by the President I am sure the interest rates would have fallen in the country. In any case the rates now prevailing in the Western countries are not more than four to five per cent. So it would be a good idea not to do a business transaction but enter into a contract and then go in for arbitration and call for damages with 18 per cent interest. It makes a better business sense. So, there is need to index this interest to a particular figure. Maybe it is a good idea to index it to the bank rate. It is a good idea to index it to LIBOR because in

any case we are trying to link it to the international transactions.

It has to be indexed because it cannot be 18 per cent. As one of my friends said earlier, there is no need to bring about amendments or Ordinances to bring 18 per cent to 15 per cent or 15 per cent to 13 per cent or to raise 18 per cent to 24 per cent. So, such Ordinance could be avoided, and Shri Khalap would be spared of a trouble of again introducing a fresh Bill to ratify the Ordinance if this 18 per cent interest is indexed to some internationally accepted parameter.

Sir, I understand and appreciate the contribution made by the Britishers as well as the Latin language towards promotion of international law. When we wrote our laws, we had to borrow several phrases from the Latin language because that is how internationally the language was understood. But when we are passing a law now in 1996, I really fail to understand, have we not really come across an equivalent of phrases which could be used in place of Latin phrases? Is it a failure of our own system? Why have we to use the Latin language? We understand that internationally such phrases are used. We could have used our own phrases and could have said that this was what was equivalent of that or meant like this. But in 1996, we are using the same phraseology. We always say that we are likely to receive better investment because we have got a better judicial system. China has no judicial system, but receives almost twenty times of what India receives as FDI, and definitely China does not have arbitration laws like this. But I am sure, if they make a law like this, they would not be using such phraseology, but certainly use their own indigenous legal language.

Sir, Clause 37 (1) is something about which I really would like to be enlightened on. It says:

"Appealable orders: An appeal shall lie from the following orders to the Court authorised by law to hear appeals from original decrees of the Court passing the order, namely:-"

Does this mean that we are going to create a special court for hearing this or is it going to be the same court? What is really meant by 'authorised by law'? Is it something about what type of jurisdiction we will have? What is the purpose of mentioning 'the court authorised by law'? What does that specifically mean? Probably, it again needs to be elaborated.

Another very important aspect is in Clause 30(1). It says:

"The arbitral tribunal may fix the amount of the deposit or supplementary deposit, as the case may be, as an advance for the costs referred to in sub-section (8) of section 31,

which it expects will be incurred in respect of the claim submitted to it."

With regard to the Deposits, our friend referred to the transaction of Debbhol Power Corporation. The total amount involved in this is Rs.3,000 crore. Even if the court directs that it deposit only five per cent of it, it will be Rs.150 crore. These particular arbitrators are not really bound by any provisions of the law as such. They are not really responsible for any judicial system as such. Who is going to keep this amount of Rs.150 crore? What is the security for this amount of Rs.150 crore? The parties to the agreement may have to go to the court to recover this money from the arbitrator. That type of a situation may arise because we are asking them legally to collect the deposits, and this amount will be collected and kept by them in their judicial capacities. So, what is the guarantee and on what basis such an amount could be kept safely is something which needs to be addressed properly. I am sure, we will be enlightened on this subject.

I will come to two points broadly. One is, this particular legislation, though it is aiming to reduce the delays, may actually result in increasing the delays. The Evidence Act will not apply to the arbitration proceedings. But for collection the evidence, under Section 27, one can go to the court. So, basically, on one side, we are saying that these particular arbitrators could function in a manner in which the parties to the arbitration could decide or the arbitrators themselves could decide. For collecting evidence also, it could be decided by them including the language of the proceedings. On one side, under Section 27, we are saying that they can go to the court on particular points. So, it could again result in delays. Section 14 (2) is also a provision which could really contribute to more delays than any solution to it.

It means that if a controversy remains concerning any of the grounds referred to in Clause (a), that is, if an arbitrator becomes invalid because of the *de facto* reason or *de jure* reason, then he has to resign. But if the controversy remains, what happens? You know, Sir, in India there could be controversy for anything and everything. So, there is a very good possibility that every appointment will lead to a controversy and this particular aspect can be referred to the court again. So, this is something which will again result in serious delays. Therefore, I think that this clause really need to be re-phrased or re-drafted to surely mitigate this problem.

There are certain provisions which are vague in nature. I will mention them very quickly. The first one is Clause 13 (2) in which it has been stated that within 15 days of knowing about the incapacity of a particular arbitrator, the party to the arbitration has to move the court. On what basis should it be done? This is

something as a limitation of time. If you move the court on the 16th day, on that very ground itself the appeal could be rejected. So, on what basis should we count the 15 days' period? How about the starting point? There is no definiteness about it. So, there is the possibility of some vagueness which could result in delays.

I just mention one more point which is about Clause 31(8) which says that the cost of arbitration could be awarded by the arbitrators. Now, as we know, there are parties to the arbitration who would also be foreign parties. So, Obviously, the awards given would be payable in foreign currencies also on many occasions. That being so, where are the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act Governing repatriation of money abroad? would this Act also apply or would this supersede the provision of that? If not, this would lead to more confusion than actually attempting to solve it.

My last point is about Clause 34(2)(b) which talks about any of the award. If it is against public policy, then it could be repudiated. We are already saying in the objective clause of this Bill that since there is no general law which prevails in the country, we are trying to introduce a Bill of this nature. Something like public policy is debatable. On what basis does it really vitiate the public policy? it cannot be properly understood and it may result in more confusion than solving it.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill introduce a sea-change in the law of arbitration as obtaining in our country. It both consolidates and amends the law of arbitration as contained in at least three enactments of ours. In the first place, I must take exception of the unreasonable consolidation that is sought by this Bill. The Bill relates and in applicable to both domestic arbitration as also international commercial arbitration. I strongly feel that the two ought to have been kept separate. Otherwise, there are bound to be confusions and hardships created at least in the questions of domestic arbitration.

Look at even the Model Law suggested by the UNCITRAL. Even this Model Law, to which there is a reference in this Bill, talks or restricts the scope to international commercial arbitration.

I invite the attention of the hon. Minister and this House to the very first Article. Article 1 of the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration which we are trying to copy. And this Article 1 lays down the scope of the application of the law as follow :

"This law applies to International commercial Arbitration subject to any agreement in force between this State or any other State or States."

Now we are so enamoured by this foreign brand law of arbitration that we want to bring it even in the domestic field. I must say that we are so enamoured with this foreign law that we propose to go even to the villages and tell the villagers, "here is a law - lable 'Made in the United Nations'". "Even the International Model did not suggest to this. I am sorry, I must say that we are trying to be more loyal than, as the phrase goes, the king and in this particular case, more loyal than even the International Model that we have. A lot of complications are bound to come up and it is necessary that the two laws on domestic arbitration and the law on International commercial Arbitration should be treated separately in accordance with the exigencies of the situation.

The International Model wants the law to apply to (i) International Arbitration; (ii) International Commercial Arbitration, and (iii) subject to any agreement in force between the State and between one State and the other. So the International Model that we are talking about, restricts itself not only to an International Arbitration but also to an international Commercial arbitration. We have a big hotch-potch of domestic arbitration, domestic commercial arbitration, domestic non-commercial arbitration, international arbitration, international non-commercial arbitration, international commercial arbitration, all incorporated in this law made or recommended by the United Nations. I must, therefore, say that greater thinking ought to have gone in fixing up the scope of this new Bill that we have, in the name of consolidation of the laws.

There is another point to be considered and that is, with reference to the definition of international Commercial Arbitration and given in Section 1 (f). We are told that it will be an International Commercial Arbitration where an individual is a national or habitually the resident in any country other than India or where a body corporate is incorporated in any country other than India and so on and so forth. So the transaction with an individual, with a Government and with and institution which is foreign comes under the scope of this Bill. I am sorry, such a wide scope ought not to have been given. We should have looked, in the national interest, to the question of reciprocity of the other country and the scope of the Bill ought to have been restricted only to such foreign countries, individuals and institutions in those foreign countries with which we have reciprocal arrangement; or who also adopt almost the same type of arbitration law as we are today trying to place on the statute.

Sir, the Bill is in response to the pressing need consequent to the policy of liberalisation, globalisation and the increasing role of the multinational corporations. Indeed there is a pressing need for alternate dispute redressal systems or methods like arbitration, mediation,

conciliation and so on the such pressing has been the need that the law was promulgated through an ordinance. No doubt, the Bill will also relieve the courts of a heavy pressure of litigation. I understand that more than 2.5 crores of cases are pending in the courts in our country. Thirdly, we are told in the preamble of the Bill that the Bill is in response to the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly that countries need to follow the model law or arbitration on International Commercial Arbitration and Conciliation Rules as adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

The Bill is supposed to be in conformity with the model law as given by the United Nations commission on International Trade Law. Let us try to see whether the Bill is really in conformity with the model law as given by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. You find that there are a number of inexplicable deviations also. This is not to say that I am enamoured by that model. I have already made my submission about that. But here I say that even when you say that you are bringing a law in accordance with the model law as given by the United Nations Commission on International Trade law, even there, there are deviations and deviations in serious respects. In view of the constraint of time I will not enumerate all the deviations; one can find them if one makes a comparative study of the provisions of this Bill with the international model about which we are told. I may refer to only a few of them.

Take the question of the number of arbitrators. Clause 19 (2) says: "The number is to be determined by the parties failing which a sole arbitrator..."- only one arbitrator. But then Article 10 of the international model we are talking about says: "Failing the determination of the number of arbitrators by the arbitration agreement, the number of arbitrators shall be three", I do not know why this particular deviation has been made. I must submit that the international law was cautious that the number shall be three. We are reckless to say that the number of arbitrators will be one.

It is a serious deviation and an inexplicable deviation. I must say that we are trying to be more loyal than the King himself. Let us take another serious question, that is the question with respect to the challenge to the appointment of an arbitrator. A party may have a serious challenge with respect to the integrity, independence and impartiality of an arbitrator.

Our Clause 13(4) and (5) say that the challenge has to be made to the same arbitral tribunal. It also goes further to say that if the challenge fails there is no appeal. They continue to hear and give a verdict. Well

and good. Let us see, what the provisions of the international model law that we are trying to copy are. It is a serious thing. The model law provides for appeal. The model law, Article 13 (3) says that if the challenge made by a party about the arbitrator fails in the arbitral tribunal, then, within thirty days, that party can go on appeal to a court. But here, we have a particular Bill, which closes the door of appeal, deviating even from the international model. We are trying to be more international than the international model by saying, 'Nothing doing; the arbitration will continue and only in the end, if you do not like the award, you may go to the court, making the court to set aside the award on the ground of impartiality or other matters like incapacity of one of the arbitrators'.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, where are we leading to? On the one hand, this House is being told that we are copying the law as given in the model law and as recommended by the United Nations and on the other hand, we are making things very difficult by deviating even from them, though there are various provisions of the international model which are also objectionable.

I may refer to Clause 34 of our Bill, which says that the award can be set aside by the court if it is not in the public policy of India. Well and good. What do you mean by 'public policy'? This is a very wide term which opens the door to litigation. Here, we are not given any guidance whatsoever, except that in the case of international model there is no explanation. Here, unlike that model which we are copying, we have added one explanation and created more complications. We have sought to give notice of an amendment for a second explanation also on this particular question.

We are told that we are framing our law according to the model law. But then, the international model also refers in its Article 36 to the question when courts can refuse enforcement of awards. Compare this Article 36 of the international model with Clause 57(1) and 57(2) and you will find a lot of difference.

I am not here talking about setting aside of the award. I am now talking about a party going to the court in order to get the enforcement of the award in his favour. Here the question of public policy does not arise. The international model talks about public policy of the State. But here in the case of the enforcement of the award, the court cannot *suo motu* raise this particular question. The court can go into the question only when one of the parties seeks to set aside the award and not otherwise.

Sir, I can go on citing a lot of other instances of such serious inexplicable deviations. But then there are constraints of time. As I have said, the Bill repeals the Arbitration Act which is in Force since 1940 and the

Arbitration Protocol and Convention Act which is in force since 1937 and Foreign Awards Act which is in force since 1961. Thus, we find that our Arbitration laws have stood the test of time for more than half a century. Today this Bill seeks to change the law drastically. We have to be very cautious in this particular matter so that our laws may not become - to borrow the words of the Supreme Court - 'Laughter from the lawyers and tears from the legal philosophers'. We have to avoid such a situation. But here we are told in Clause 18 of the Bill :

"The Parties shall be treated with equality and each party shall be given a full opportunity to present his case".

Are the parties really equal? Look at the Bill. Everywhere the supremacy of the arbitration agreement is above every other law. The parties are free to decide about the place of arbitration, they are free to decide on the nationality of the arbitrators in all kinds of arbitration whether it is domestic, commercial, non-commercial or international. The parties are free to decide on the procedure. It is not determined by the arbitration agreement, then the arbitrators may decide on any procedure.

Similarly, the parties may decide in the case of an international commercial arbitration to abide by the law of any country. We are making a wholesale import of laws of all countries. We import laws which are made in that foreign country and look at the latitude that is given. That if the arbitration agreement does not specify which country's law will apply, then the arbitrator may decide to apply the law of any country that he may deem fit and proper.

I think the national interests and the interests of the domestic concerns have been thrown to the winds under duress from these giant multi-national corporations and foreign corporations with whom they may have to deal. The place of arbitration is to be decided by the agreement. If it is not decided, the arbitrators may decide anything. Now, look at the problems. Supposing, a trader in Calcutta or in Mumbai or in any other city in our country has a commercial dealing with a foreign firm, say a firm in New York and if it is decided that the place of arbitration will be New York, will the Reserve Bank India grant the entire foreign exchange to take all the witnesses from India to New York?

19.00 hrs.

There are constraints of foreign exchange. It may not certainly be possible at a certain stage for all those witnesses to go to New York. But then the Bill makes courts helpless.

Our Supreme Court dealt with the matter. In Michael Golodatz v. Sarajuddin & Co. - AIR, 1963, SC 1044 - the Supreme Court said that there was sufficient cause given under the Arbitration Act of 1940 and not to be found in this particular Bill. But using the advantage of expression 'sufficient cause', the Supreme Court ruled that there is sufficient cause that such a provision of the arbitration agreement cannot prevail because otherwise this trader of Calcutta - from your State - will not be able to take all the witnesses to New York because the RBI does not allow him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Here I have also got a constraint of time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes, yes. We are dealing with such a thing which will bring national disaster also. There are the points that have to be considered today. While we are trying to change the laws, we must see to it that the necessary safeguards are also there for our parties. In Japan, Taiwan and Korea, there is institutional guidance even in drafting of arbitration agreements. Here, there is no such thing. And the Government must come forward in order to see that our people are helped in this particular respect.

I will briefly refer to one or two clauses and conclude. Clause 3(1)(a) says that the notice shall be deemed to have been received if sent at that last known address. This is the time when it is difficult to find the other party. Now we have, in our country, a practice not only of sending the notice at the last known address but also advertising in the papers. If that is not done, if that condition of advertising in the papers is not there, then, I am afraid, this particular clauses, if enacted, will be exploited and totally misused and abused.

Clause 11(6) says that where a party fails to act in appointment of the arbitrators, the other party may approach the Chief Justice under the agreement on the appointment. When the Chief Justice of a High Court or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court can be approached, there is no need further to go on to say that he need not be approached for other means as other sources are mentioned in the Bill. It is an affront to national dignity. I hope the hon. Minister will consider and take this seriously.

Now, I understand that you are impatient. I will, therefore, restrict my further comments. Hon. Member, Shri Iswar Prasanna Hazarika, was speaking here. He made an eloquent appeal to the House to consider the exigencies and the realities of the international situation. We have to have trade and commerce with them.

Therefor, such provisions may be necessary. I will only add that such provisions must be subject to safeguarding of our national interest. The Bill, unfortunately, lacks in this particular respect.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister quoted from page 2075 of Supreme Court AIR in the case of Government Foundations versus watan Singh the following phrase:

[English]

"Lawyers laugh as legal philosophers weep."

[Translation]

You presented this quotation. But my submission is •that the other judges also said that the law that is enacted should be,

[English]

"Very simple, least technical and more responsive to the actual situation."

[Translation]

So, it has also been said. My submission is that then this matter was referred to the Public Accounts Committee etc.

In the past, all disputes whether they retained to land, or property a murder or husband-wife disputes used to be decided by the panchs. That was an culture. But we have forgotten our culture and are adopting western culture. Now justice would be done by the International commission and by the United Nations and by following international standards and for that purpose, we would have to adhere to their model laws. Now we are moving in the reverse gear. Previously Panchs used to decide disputes and now the United Nations is deciding the disputes. So we have catapulted from the bottom to the top.

George Fernandes Saheb rightly said that the Arbitrator should be Indian. Please tell us if the U.S.A. Germany and Japan have accepted this model law. Even if they have accepted it, it is not binding on us. It is the person of India who can be appointed as Arbitrator and it is he who will decide things for us. 18 per cent interest and so many other things have been said here.

My submission is that 11 ordinances have been issued. Its ordinance has been issued for the Third time. In the entire country, Parts I, II, III are IV would be in force but in Jammu & Kashmir, parts I, III and IV would be applicable and part II will not be applicable. Why? What is the intention believe it? What is the U.F. Government afraid of?

[English]

It is not like Article 370 about which you should be afraid of.

[Translation]

It is not like Article 370 about which you think that if you agree to what B.J.P. says then all credit will go to B.J.P. If you have any much fear, then it is a different matter. Otherwise part II should also be made applicable in J&K State. International Commercial Arbitration is universal model law. But where is it? The copy of this model law should be made available to us. The name is quite good but where is it? If it is on your table or in the library, we can accept it. Then it was said :

[English]

"If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the Ordinance, the Central Government may by an order published in the official gazette makes its provisions not in consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance has appeared to it to be necessary or expedited for removal of these difficulties provided that no such order, unless this section has appeared after expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Ordinance."

[Translation]

The Government have not yet framed the rules relating to this Bill. So long as related rules are not framed, it would remain a piece of paper. Please also tell us why the Government is not enforcing this law in J&K State.

[English]

"...to consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards as also to defend the law relating to the conciliation and for matters concerned therewith or incidental thereto."

[Translation]

Please also tell us the names of the countries which have adopted this law.

[English]

They would be cancelled in a court of law.

[Translation]

This Arbitration Act has been enacted in 1940. Since then it has been in force. It is an old Act and has not been annulled. The rules have not been framed thereunder. The Supreme Court has also said the same thing. This Bill is incomplete. So it should be brought forward in a proper manner. Have you come under foreign pressure? If it is then it is a different matter. Its

object is all right. Rawatji has also said about it. Why will it not be enforced in Kashmir and why have the rules not been framed? So long as the rules are not framed, it is merely a piece of paper. The hon. Minister is not here. The other Minister is sitting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is noting down.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Then it is all right. The Bill has certain plus points as well. I endorse the views expressed by Bhagwan Shankar Rawat ji in this regard. Lodhaji has also said so many things. He has been the judge of the High Court and the Chief Justice of the High Court in Assam. He had delivered his judgement, treating a mere post-card as the writ. His suggestions should be accepted. I do not fully support the Bill as it has certain lacunae. We should not fall into the trap of the foreigners. When big nations are not accepting it. What is the compulsion for us? I request the hon. Minister to say attention to this fact. I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill to some extent. The spirit of this Bill is laudable. Some international compulsions have emerged on the surface, giving the international process in the field of trade and commerce a new turn and the world seems to have shrunk so much that we are compelled to talk about globalisation, liberalisation, new economic policies, GATT and then international trade conference etc. etc. In this changed context, it became imperative for us to give a sort of international character to our laws. An attempt has been made to incorporate in this Bill our age old Panchayat system for speedy dispensation of justice through arbitration. The hon. Minister, in his reply in the Rajya Sabha, had enunciated its object as :

[English]

"to decide their own forum, decide their own place, and decide their own time."

[Translation]

The object is all right but in view of the intricacies that have come up in the field of trade in the international market. I would like to know whether the disputes relating to international property right, patent laws and dumping would also come within the purview of this Bill. If any foreign company or any foreign country tries to implicate us in any fraud or indulge in activities against the interests of our country, would this law be able to deal with them effectively? In the international trade market, fluctuations are being experienced and problems of dumping are cropping up. The previous Government was compelled to accept certain laws under "GATT" and "Dunket" even without taking Parliament

into confidence and on that basis, multinational companies were given a free hand in the name of liberalisation.

Of late, a bank of Hongkong and another of England were declared insolvent and thus created problems even in the field of trade and commerce. With the intellectual property rights and patent laws also come within the ambit of this Bill? There is need to pay attention to all these developments.

Secondly, in the Bill, an attempt has been made to define foreign arbitrator under the international commercial arbitration and the consolidated and amended law relating to the enforcement of the Panchayats and the conciliation. But still the Bill suffers from certain shortcomings. In sections 82, 83 and 84 it has been said :-

[English]

"framing of rules by High Court and removing the difficulties."

[Translation]

It means that under the said sections, the High Court would frame necessary rules and would remove other difficulties arising out of it. But the Government has not yet framed rules in this regard, in the absence of which even a sound law would not prove effective. An attempts is being made to implement various international laws including New York Convention and Geneva Convention. But the rules therefor should also be framed without delay. The hon. Minister should state in his reply as to when these rules would be framed so that the House may get the correct information about these rules. I would also like to know whether the Law Minister would frame these rules in consultation with the High Court and Supreme Court or any other agency would frame these rules.

Under Section 34(2), it has been stated that the arbitral award should not be in conflict with the public policy of India. Obviously, the Government has done so to avoid western influence in our country. But the nudity, vulgarity and obscenity being shown on Star channel and cable channel have no place in Indian culture and civilisation. We have our own limitations, human values and heritage. But these are totally ignored and films are being storm at late night hours. Is it not the violation of the public policy of India? When will these TV operators be brought under such Arbitration and conciliation Act? If foreign companies, foreign newspapers, foreign media, electronic media, print media etc. were allowed to intrude into our country. They will pose a great problem for us. The hon. Minister should clarify the position in this regard. At present about 2.5 crore cases are pending in courts. This problem too should be resolved without delay.

Provisions of punishment is also there in the Bill. I would suggest that the arbitrators should empowered like High Court and Supreme Court so that their decisions are binding on all parties. The facility for appeal should also be there. But it should be remembered that "justice hurried is justice burried" and "justice delayed is justice denied". Therefore, this procedure of arbitration and conciliation is a laudable step and I support it. However, it would be better if the Government removes all the existing short comings in the Bill, as pointed out by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat and Shri George and bring forward a comprehensive and more effective Bill. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, as expected, the debate on this Bill has spilled over to different issues. Some of which are contained in this Bill and some are not.

Justice Guman Mal Lodha has been challenging the Ordinance-making power as often as possible.

I agree with his objection that the Ordinance making powers should not be resorted to in a blatant manner. But in my opening speech I had explained the reasons which led to these Ordinances. Vaccum had to filled on account of the intervening circumstances and hence it was necessary to issue these Ordinances. Justice Lodha is fully aware of these circumstances.

His other major objection is about the applicability of this Act or rather, in his words non-applicability of this Act to Jammu & Kashmir. In this respect, I would first request Justice Lodha to read with me Clause 1.

Clause 1(2) very clearly says:

"It extends to the whole of India."

The proviso says :

"Provided that Parts I, III and IV shall extend to the State of Jammu and Kashmir only in so far as they relate to international commercial arbitration or as the case may be, international commercial conciliation."

Justice Lodha wants me to explain the reasons for such a provision. I am sure, Sir, Justice Lodha is very much aware of the constitutional provisions, on account of which this clause had to be enacted in a manner as it is. I think, he himself, on certain occasions, had referred to Article 370. We must also refer to the Constitution, Jammu and Kashmir Order, which has been amended, in its application to Jammu & Kashmir,

Entry 13 in the Concurrent List. This Entry in the Concurrent List as applicable to Jammu and Kashmir reads:

"Entry 13: Civil procedure in so far as it relates to administration of oaths in taking of affidavits by diplomatic and councillor officers in any foreign country".

We had to go back to List 1 and again there, Entry No. 13 says :

"It relates to participation in international conferences, associations and other bodies and implementing of decisions made thereat."

Now, reading these provisions together, it becomes very clear that Parts I, III and IV have been made applicable to Jammu and Kashmir in so far as they relate to international commercial arbitration or as the case may be, to international commercial conciliation. We cannot make the other provision regarding domestic arbitration applicable to Jammu and Kashmir in view of the provisions of the Constitution and in view of the provisions of the Constitution, Jammu and Kashmir Order.

Almost all the Members have referred to India's age-old system of resolution of disputes by the so-called *Pancha Parameshwara* method or the Panchayati system. In fact, what is sought to be done in this Arbitration Bill is to import this age-old concept of Indian system into this law. The parties are allowed the freedom to choose the place and to choose their arbitrators and refer their dispute, whatever it may be, to such people. The law says that the award will be passed by, you can call them *Pancha Parameshwara*, if you want because it could be three, could be five, in odd numbers.

If these *Parameshwara* give an award, that award is being sanctified and it can be executed as if it is a decree. So, exactly this concept is incorporated in this Bill.

The other question raised was that if we have this system prevailing in our country, then what is the need to go some other foreign country or go to the United Nations and copy what they have done. Squarely it was objected to, particularly by hon. Shri Banatwalla, that we are trying to copy what the United Nations have laid down. I think that has also the refrain of hon. Shri Fernandes. Both have said: "Is not our own system sufficient to look after arbitration or conciliation that would arise in our own country?" I do not fully disagree with them. We do have our own law - the Arbitration Act of 1940. But as I referred to what the Supreme Court has stated in regard to its implementation, with regard

to the experience of the people, I quote it again:

"The proceedings under the Arbitration Act, 1940 have made lawyers laugh and legal philosophers weep, and the jurists and the judges and so many other people have commented that the time has come for us to resort to simpler laws, simpler procedures, whereby the whole thing could be so simplified that people would be really happy to go to this system of settlement of our disputes."

We had to go to the United Nations arbitration law because a new era has emerged, a new economic atmosphere has dawned in this country and the international investors who are coming to this country need some guarantee that if any dispute arises, we have a forum where they can take their dispute and obtain redressal or obtain resolution of that particular dispute.

Hon. Suresh Prabhu referred to the conditions prevailing in China. I had the occasion to accompany Shri Suresh Prabhu on a trip to China some time back and what he said is to some extent true that the foreign direct investment in China is perhaps twenty to thirty times what it is in India today. But he has not spoken about one thing. China, as per my information, has adopted about 130 different laws to take care of the new emerging situation - the liberalisation of economy that has taken place in China. Have we, in India, resorted to such a procedure? This is the question. In fact, people ask us if they come here with their investments, if they come here with their technologies and companies, are our laws sufficient to take care of the situations which they foresee when they want to come down here.

Another question was raised by hon. Shri Fernandes. He wanted to know point blank how many other countries have adopted this model law of the United Nations. I have tried to make enquiries and I am told that a majority of countries have adopted the model law of the United Nations. They have modified their system according to this accepted model which is before us while we consider this. I also recollect some hon. Member mentioning, if such a model law exists, why has that not been available to the Members. In fact, that model law was made available when this matter was considered by the Committee. This particular Bill is not a new thing.

As has rightly been said, I should not say that the glory or the courage for bringing this Bill goes to me or to my Government. Absolutely it is not so. This Bill has been before the House. The previous Government has brought this Bill. They have utilized the expertise available on account of the model law prepared by the

United Nations and on that basis this has been brought.

Sir, I would once again refer to Justice Lodha who has referred to the question of secularism though, in fact, that does not pertain to this law at all. But one thing I may tell the hon. Member that this issue must have been considered when this Jammu and Kashmir order was being enacted and probably at that particular time this issue was discussed by this House. I am personally not aware of it.

Are we resorting to any international pressure in accepting this law? My humble submission is, no. We are trying to be as modern as possible. We are trying to provide a modern structure, of course, in the context of our age old perceptions of arbitration so that the old and the new could mingle together and our disputes are resolved.

The concept of delay in Justice once again came up for discussion in this House. Once again, I would refer to the hon. Member, Shri Prabhu, who said that the mounting litigation in various courts is because of the procedural tangle in which the litigants and the judges and the advocates find themselves in when they go to the courts of law. He tried to refer to certain provisions of this Act. He also said that similar thing is likely to happen. Whenever an enactment is made, there will be various brains trying to analyse it from different angles. There will be jurists, there will be legal luminaries who will try to challenge this Act in the various courts of law. They would challenge either the law itself or the proceedings under the law. You cannot stop them. But we have tried to keep the procedural aspects out of the purview of arbitration and conciliation. We have tried to keep the Civil Procedure Code out except so far as it relates to execution of awards and so far as it relates to guaranteeing the presence of witnesses if at all that is required. In other respects the procedure has been kept out. I have a fond hope - in fact, the hope behind it is really very fond - that when the parties go there, they go there out of their own wish. There is no compulsion whatsoever on them and they go there knowing fully well that if they go to courts they are going to prolong the litigation and probably they may not get any answer for that.

A reference has rightly been made by Shri George Fernandes to the recent case of Shri Imran Khan and he has also referred to another case of America. We have seen a number of cases in foreign countries where the cases have been decided so expeditiously that in a matter of few months, in a matter of few days or weeks, we have the answer before us. Can we not have such a system in India in our own country? Once again, it is a hope. I hope that it does not remain simply a pious hope. Then as I have referred to while speaking

on the Judges Bill and I repeat that while I speak on this Bill that let us not be content by expressing the pious hope that one day we may have a similar system as exists in the foreign countries where a case would go to a court and it will be resolved in a matter of days or matter of weeks or matter of months. Let us act in such a way that we have an alternative dispute redressal system which is so strong and so prevalent throughout our country that it is available to each one of our citizen so that this mounting number of cases, this huge backlog of cases gets wiped.

Probably, we have this beautiful picture wherein a case goes to the court, day-to-day trial is held, and the matter is decided expeditiously. In fact, that is also one of the concepts, one of the aspirations, behind this particular Bill.

Sir, a question about the rules was put. Has the Government made rules? Will the High Court make rules, and if the rules are not there, will it come into force? If we look at the provisions of this particular Bill— I would refer to Part IV where the supplementary provisions are indicated—clause 82 speaks about :

"The High Court may make rules consistent with this Act as to all proceedings before the Court under this Act."

I would also request the Members to look at clause 83, which speaks about removal of difficulty.

"If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty."

But once again, a time period of two years has been prescribed under this that no such rule will be made after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act. So, let us start implementing this law and if at all any difficulty arises, at any time, there is a provision here to take care of it. Let us go further.

"The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act."

Let us read this with clause 85 which repeals the old laws.

"The Arbitration (Protocol and Convention) Act, 1937, the Arbitration Act, 1940 and the Foreign Awards (Recognition and Enforcement) Act, 1961 are hereby repealed."

But while repealing, what has been done?

"Notwithstanding such repeal. -

(a) the provisions of the said enactments shall apply in relation to arbitral proceedings which commenced before this Act came into force unless otherwise agreed by the parties..."

Here it answers one more issue raised by one of the hon. Members. It was said, 'What happens to the old laws?' It is taken care of here.

"...unless otherwise agreed by the parties but this Act shall apply in relation to arbitral proceedings which commenced on or after this Act comes into force."

Then, it says :

"(b) all rules made and notifications published, under the said enactments shall, to the extent to which they are not repugnant to this Act, be deemed respectively to have been made or issued under this Act."

So, I think, almost every eventuality has been taken care of under the Part IV Supplementary Provisions. So, I request the hon. Members not to be perturbed by any of these doubts which they have expressed here. The law is quite comprehensive to take care of any situation.

Arbitration, someone said, is defined, but conciliation is not defined. I would say, arbitration also has not been defined. Why arbitration has not been defined? In clause 2(1) (a), it is said,

" 'arbitration' means any arbitration whether or not administered by permanent arbitral institution;"

This is the only definition that is given there. It does not actually define what arbitration is.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : It is a negative definition.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : You can say that it is an inclusive definition. Therefore, this issue - both arbitration and conciliation - has been left open to the parties. The moment they find that there is a disagreement and feel it is to be resolved, they go to a third party and that person itself is the arbitrator, or they go to a third party and agree between themselves that they should obtain a conciliation agreement. So, that itself is conciliation. This is how we have sought to look at this particular thing.

Some hon. Members said that we do not want courts and some other hon. Members said yet we are going to courts. This cannot be the fact. We cannot totally rule out the intervention of courts in any case. If the court is not required at the initial stages, it will be required at

the ultimate stage when the award is given. Then, there are two things. Should the intervention of court be resorted to at the interim stage? We have two types of provisions here. The Arbitrator is given powers to pass interim orders. The court has also been given powers to pass interim orders. The difference between the two is in one case the parties themselves agree that the order for protection of things involved in this may be passed or if there is no agreement, if the parties go to the court, then interim orders have to be obtained. So, I do not think this should make us feel that at some stage, once again, we are bringing in courts to pass interim orders. In fact, it is a provision which is, in my opinion, an enabling provision which helps the parties to look at situations that emerge from time to time.

Then, a point was made about resorting to such interim things. Some Members asked: Will it cause delay? Some delay will definitely be there. But it is not a delay that normally take place as in the normal legal procedure.

A reference has been made to the Geneva Convention and the New York Convention. It was said why the term "High Contracting Parties" has been used. I think, my friend Shri Suresh Prabhu also referred to the Latin phrases. Am I correct? He referred to *ex aequo et bono, amiable compositeur*. I am trying to pronounce the way they pronounce it. I do not think I am good at it...(Interruptions) This has also been explained. These phrases sometimes do get used and on account of the use of such phrases, quite often they get mingled into our legal parlance. We do not have to be afraid of any such thing which may come across within our laws. It only means that the principles of equity have to be made applicable or you arrive at a compromise settlement. On this basis, the meaning is understood by the courts and the parties. Nobody has to be afraid of this terminology.

In conciliation, I think somebody raised the question of confidentiality. If conciliation fails, the parties go to the court. It was asked: Will such parties be entitled to make use of the evidence that came before both of them or before the Conciliators during the stage of conciliation? So, there is a bar on that. Confidentiality of proceedings is maintained under Clause 75. Any evidence given in conciliation is made non-admissible under other proceedings.

Some Members asked: If the arbitrators are ordinary citizens and if they are not well-versed with the law upon which they may have to decide or with the type of problem that may come before them, that will happen? Suppose, an arbitrator happens to be a doctor and the issue relates to engineering or *vice versa*, then what happens. So the basic concept here is that in most of

the proceedings that come before the arbitrator, what is required is a robust common sense to decide upon a particular issue. And in case the arbitrators find that a technical issue is involved, they are free to obtain the help of experts. That also has been provided here.

I would take only one point and the rest of the points are just repetitive. Shri Rawat has referred to the disputes arising out of the intellectual property rights, patents bill and so on and so forth. The reply to this is, any dispute which arises between the parties and about which the parties agree that it should be referred to arbitration, is covered. So the scope of this law, therefore, extends from the commonest family dispute to a complicated international dispute. That is the scope of the entire law. And then this scope ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : What about high contracting parties?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The term 'Contracting Party' is referred to the nations. This Geneva Convention or the New York Convention, to which a reference has been made here, in all international treaties, usually the sovereign States, sovereign nations which are parties to this convention, describe themselves as 'high contracting parties', though not always. That is why, that has been accepted.

If at all anybody wants to know about protocol, I say that parts of protocol have been included here verbatim only to show that those aspects which are covered under those protocol, form a part of this Arbitration Bill. Therefore, this is a good piece of legislation which the previous Government brought before the House. And I have the fortune of piloting it in this House. I would not take credit for it. But if at all, I have been made to be a foster father, let me perform my duty to the extent I can and as honestly as possible. I have tried to do it. I request the hon. Members, therefore, to accept this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Chairman, I want clarification on one or two points. The hon. Minister dwelt on the international aspects of the Bill. We can understand matters concerning international areas but what is his argument for this Bill which is for domestic arbitration? In his reply, he has not clarified this point. In fact, he has not said even a sentence about it. He opened his speech with things international.

When I asked how many nations enacted laws as per the model rules and laws of the United Nations, he replied that majority of the countries did that. I want the precise number of the countries. About 184 or 185 countries are associated with the United

Nations...*(Interruptions)* They may be around 200. Majority does not mean majority of nations but it means majority of how many nations. I want to know whether those countries have adopted the model rules of the United Nations only to dispose of international matters or for domestic arbitration also and how many of them have adopted those rules for domestic arbitration.

According to clause 13, if someone challenges the arbitration and considers him unfit for the post, the United Nations has framed the rules for going to the court for such an eventuality the hon. Minister has excluded this provision. He did not say anything in this connection. He is adopting the rules as laws of the United Nations but he is not adopting them where they are needed the most.

Then a foreigner can become an arbitrator in our country for domestic arbitration. The hon. Minister should clarify these points before proceeding further with the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There should not be a second debate now.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have sought some clarifications.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have sought specific clarifications on four points.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The first question is, how many nations have adopted this law. I gave an answer which I know is not a very precise answer. I said a majority of countries have adopted. That is the information that I have. Some of those countries have also applied it to the domestic arbitration.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You do not still know you how many countries have adopted it because you said a majority of countries have adopted it. I assume that you are briefed that it is a majority of countries because somebody may be committing contempt of the House by giving wrong information. Now 'majority' may be coming down; it is no more 'majority'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, a large number of countries.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I will give the precise answer. I will submit it to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At the present moment you say that a number of countries have adopted it.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I will give the precise figure.

The second point was whether some of the countries have also adopted it. Again, I am not in a position to give the exact number.

Hon. Member Shri Banatwalla, if I have understood him properly, referred to the public policy issue. That is one of the issues he has raised.

Article 13 is regarding challenging procedure. It says :

"If a challenge under any procedure agreed upon by the parties or under the procedure of Paragraph 2 of this Article is not successful, the challenging party may request, within thirty days after having received notice of the decision rejecting the challenge, the court or other authorities specified under Article 6 who would decide on the challenge, which decision shall be subject to no appeal. While such a request is pending, the arbitral tribunal, including the challenge arbitrator, may continue the arbitral proceedings and make an arbitral award."

Once again the concept is this. If at this stage itself we allow the matter to go to the court on the ground that we challenge the appointment of the arbitrator himself, what will happen is it will be like a child stillborn.

20.00 hrs.

The moment you challenge him and go to the court, the matter remains there.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That is not the issue. The issue is that the model and rules provide for it. You are depending so much on the model law and rules. Why have you excluded this provision from that?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I am trying to explain that very part. We have excluded this provision because our experience with our own legal system is such that the moment we go there it become a cobweb. We go there and get ourselves entangled. Therefore, as far as possible...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Even the Chairman is not satisfied with your explanation...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : At a later stage, if the award itself is to be challenged, it can be challenged. That challenge is available.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That challenge is not available.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : It is certainly available.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Where is it available? Clause 35 on finality of arbitral awards says:

"Subject to this Part an arbitral award shall

be final and binding on the parties and persons claiming under them respectively."

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : No, Sir. It is there in Clause 34(2).

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That comes when the entire arbitration has come to an end and the award has been given. Then the aggrieved party may come beating his chest. Is it the way?

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It does not take into account most of the aspects of the Bill. If you start reading Clause 34(2), it says, '...set aside by the Court only if the party making the application furnishes proof that the party was under some incapacity or...' and so on. All these are technicalities. It has nothing to do with the merits. It has nothing to do with the case *pur se*.

[Translation]

You read clause 34. These are all technicalities and if there are not fulfilled, it would mean the something.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The concept is that when arbitration starts and the arbitration is challenged on the ground of capacity or incapacity or for any other reason, then the matter is not taken to a court of law.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Election process is not stopped. The arbitration process may also continue, whatever be the consequences.

[English]

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Yes. In a way, that is true. If the nomination paper is rejected, we do not go to the Court straightaway; we wait for the election petition to be decided upon.

Here, the whole concept has been to reduce the recourse to Courts as far as possible.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I accept that point. But my point is that they have provided a certain proviso. There is a proviso which says that I can challenge that. The challenge is provided for, but who will decide whether my challenge is justified or not? It is the man against whom I have made the challenge. He himself will decide that. In other words, the accused will himself be sitting in judgement over the charges levelled against him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has sought to explain it now.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There is no explanation, either legal or moral, that can come on this particular point.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : There is an answer. Let us say that there are three arbitrators and one arbitrator is challenged...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There is a provision for having only one arbitrator also. It is nowhere provided that there shall be three arbitrators. As defined by Clause (1) (d) "arbitral tribunal" means a sole arbitrator or a panel of arbitrators'. If I am a sole arbitrator and my bonafides are challenged, I will sit in judgement and say, 'I do not care what you speak about me; I am going ahead'. There is 'no appeal on that...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Do you want a panel of arbitrators?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, I do not want that. I am only saying that there are flaws in this law, which I want to be corrected. That is all. This Parliament cannot pass a legislation by just saying, 'We are in a hurry. Now, let us finish it off'. Sir, legislation is not passed like that...(Interruptions) I do not understand it. I am very sorry.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : In this case, what happens is this. Usually, if parties do not agree upon a sole arbitrator, they can resort to three arbitrators. They can increase the number and go ahead. If one arbitrator is challenged, they can consider that aspect together. It is not that there should all the time be a sole arbitrator. What is provided is, 'a sole arbitrator or a panel of arbitrators'. If there is challenge, that challenge is something which is not going to vitiate...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Sir, I do not agree, what he is saying is not possible. If the sole arbitrator or the panel of arbitrators is not agreed upon once and then the party feels that the arbitrator is adopting dishonest means, can the panel of arbitrators be agreed upon then?

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There is no provision for appeal then. The appeal provisions do not come at that time. That is my point.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : At no point of time before finalisation. The party has the power to ask for the panel.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, there are only technicalities.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, even this Bill envisages such an eventuality that there could be a

challenge at a latter stage. It is not *ab initio*. The Bill itself envisages a situation like that. That is why they are saying that at a later stage also there is a possibility of challenge. Initially, both the parties are agreeing on a single arbitrator, but later a situation emerges which is envisaged by this Bill itself.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Please tell us what will happen in that eventuality. If the arbitrator turns out to be dishonest or the party has lost faith in him and wants to change him, he cannot change him and wants to make some addition in the panel of arbitrators, he (party) cannot do it. What will then be his position?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You read clause 34.

[English]

Let the House know what 34(2) is. It does not provide for any appeal at all. It is only on technicalities.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Then it can be challenged on technical aspect. There would be no appeal for it. That sole arbitrator will become an incarnation of God and no action can be taken against him. He may do what he likes.

[English]

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Answer to this is very simple. Arbitration is resorted to by the parties by mutual consent.

[Translation]

Both the parties will choose arbitrators by mutual consent.

[English]

That both the parties agree on so and so. Incapacity is the issue to which challenge is to be made. It does not arise in such a case.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, it arises. Please read Section 12. Let us say we two have agreed for a particular arbitrator. The arbitrator has to give a statement that he has no personal interest in the case or he is not involved in the case in any way. But on a later, we discover that he is involved. Then, we will have to go only to him and say that you are involved. Here the law says that he would decide whether he should sit in as an arbitrator or not. And if he decides that he would sit in as an arbitrator, there is nothing that we can do. And Section 34 does not provide for that even at the later stage of appeal. He referred to Section 34(2). What does it say?

"(2) An arbitral award may be set aside by the Court only if -

(a) the party making the application furnishes proof that -

(i) a party was under some incapacity"

That does not cover the problem that I am raising. It further states:

(ii) "the arbitration agreement is not valid under the law to which the parties have subjected it or, failing any indication thereon, under the law for the time being in force"

This is also another technicality.

(iii) the party making the application was not given proper notice of the appointment of an arbitrator or of the arbitral proceedings or was otherwise unable to present his case; or

(iv) the arbitral award deals with a dispute not contemplated by or not falling within the terms of the submission to arbitration, or it contains decisions on matters beyond the scope of the submission to arbitration;

Provided that, if the decisions on matters submitted to arbitration can be separated from those not so submitted, only that part of the arbitral award which contains decisions on matters not submitted to arbitration may be set aside; or

(v) the composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement of the parties, unless such agreement was in conflict with a provision of this Part from which the parties cannot derogate, or, failing such agreement, was not in accordance with this Part;

Sir, where does Clause 13 come into play? How does Clause 13 cover this? You go through Clauses 12 and 13. Then only you can understand the whole procedure.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, let us read Clause 13 again where challenge procedure is provided for. Let us also go to Clause 12 which speaks about grounds for challenge. The first duty of the arbitrator is this:

"When a person is approached in connection with his possible appointment as an arbitrator, he shall disclose in writing any circumstances likely to give rise to justifiable doubts as to his independence or impartiality".

(2) An arbitrator, from the time of his appointment and throughout the arbitral proceedings, shall, without delay, disclose to the parties in

writing any circumstances referred to in sub-section (1) unless they have already been informed of them by him.

(3) An arbitrator may be challenged only if -

(a) circumstances exist that give rise to justifiable doubts as to his independence or impartiality, or

(b) he does not possess the qualifications agreed to by the parties."

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Underline both (a) and (b).

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : These are the two things.

It further says:

"(4) A party may challenge an arbitrator appointed by him, or in whose appointment he has participated, only for reasons of which he becomes aware after the appointment has been made."

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Correct.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Then let us go to Clause 13. It reads as follows :

"13 (1) Subject to sub-section (4), the parties are free to agree on a procedure for challenging an arbitrator.

(2) Failing any agreement referred to in sub-section (1), a party who intends to challenge an arbitrator shall, within fifteen days after becoming aware of the constitution of the arbitral tribunal or after becoming aware of any circumstances referred to in sub-section (3) of section 12, send a written statement of the reasons for the challenge to the arbitral tribunal.

(3) Unless the arbitrator challenged under sub-section (2) withdraws from his office or the other party agrees to the challenge, the arbitral tribunal shall decide on the challenge."

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He decides ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : It further reads as under :

"(4) If a challenge under any procedure agreed upon by the parties or under the procedure under sub-section (2) is not successful, the arbitral tribunal shall continue the arbitral proceedings and make an arbitral award."

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : That is the problem.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : There is no problem in this.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He decides. He gives the award. That is final.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : There is a solution. Let us go to sub-clause 5 of Clause 13. It says:

"(5) Where an arbitral award is made under sub-section (4), the party challenging the arbitrator may make an application for setting aside such an arbitral award in accordance with section 34."

You have raised an objection against an arbitrator after he has given an award.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : But section 34 does not include it...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is no need for it in section 34....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The solution to the matter referred to by you is there in section 13.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is not there...(Interruptions)

[English]

An arbitral award may be set aside by the court...(Interruptions) It does not take you back to 13(5). Something has gone wrong as under 13(5), it does not say that...(Interruptions) It restricts.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Let us read it again:

"(5) Where an arbitral award is made under sub-section (4)..."

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : You cannot do anything right now.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : No, no; there is no such problem. It takes care of the whole thing. It reads like this:

"(5) Where an arbitral award is made under sub-section (4) the party challenging the arbitrator may make an application for setting aside such an arbitral award in accordance with section 34."

[Translation]

Which arbitral award? The arbitral award given by an arbitrator against whom we have an objection?

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : On what grounds?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Ground is what you said.

[English]

You go back to Clause 12(3). It says:

"An arbitrator may be challenged only if -

(a) circumstances exist that give rise to justifiable doubts as to his independence or impartiality, or

(b) he does not possess the qualification agreed to by the parties."

[Translation]

If you have doubt about his independence and you challenged on that ground and after you challenge. The arbitrator says that he does not accept the challenge and that he would move further and also gives the arbitral award. Then you will have to accept that award whether there is sole arbitrator or there are three arbitrators-some cannot work because you have not to go to the court as that will cause further delay.

[English]

We do not contemplate such a thing. Therefore we say that let this arbitrator proceed and give the award.

And if he gives it, there is no finality then. Sir, nothing is lost because sub-section 5 says:

"Where an arbitral award is made under sub-section (4), the party challenging the arbitrator may make an application for setting aside such an arbitral award..."

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : In which case Section 34 is defective because Section 34 deals with recourse to a Court against an arbitral award. It does not refer at all to Section 13. One of the two is defective. We cannot have a law at the time of passing the legislation which itself is full of contradiction.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly explain Section 34.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : You read section 34 and if there is any provision in it, you tell us...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : It is said here as :

"application for setting aside such an arbitral award will be made".

How will it be made? It will be made in accordance with Section 34. And what is given in Section 34?

"Recourse to a Court against an arbitral award may be made only by an application

for setting aside such award in accordance with sub-section (2) and sub-section (3)."

Which are the sub-section 2 and 3 ?

"That the party making the application furnishes proof that a party was under some incapacity,..."

[Translation]

This incapacity and impartiality comes only here. If there is any doubt about his impartiality, then that is his incapacity.

[English]

Then in (ii) there is the arbitration agreement not valid and all those things...(Interruptions) Let me make one statement. Clause 13 will have to be read into Section 34.

• SHRI SURESH PRABHU : That is what you have to mention here. The grounds under which Section 34 will be applicable are very clearly defined now. That Section 34 could be invoked only in a given situation which you have very clearly specified in Clause 2 of Section 34.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You cannot amend just now what Mr. George Fernandes and others are saying but you can add an explanatory note saying what Mr. George Fernandes is saying. Even that will satisfy them because there is a confusion in the language. If the House unanimously adds this explanatory note, it will satisfy all of us. Let us unanimously do it and end the matter. This is no change of rule. What he is saying is that your rule is not specific about Section 34. So, it should be given in an explanatory note.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : To sub-clause 2(v) of Clause 34, you have to add (vi) to say that what you have specified in Section 13 is right and that also would be available for setting aside an award under Clause 34.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : In my opinion, Sir, it is not required. When you say that a challenge will be made in accordance with Section 34, what does it really mean? It provides the manner in which it is to be challenged and that manner is laid down under Section 34 and the ground is available in Section 13. To utilise that ground available in Section 13, for the purpose of Section 34, an appeal is there and you are setting aside.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Supposing what you are saying is made true, then that means Section 34 is only a Section which gives the procedure for challenging and the ground could be invoked under Clause 13. So, basically all these should go under Clause 13.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : What is the meaning of "in accordance with"? Section 13(4) says that one can challenge it in accordance with Section 34. Let us read it again, if it is necessary.

"Recourse to a Court against an arbitral award may be made only by an application for setting aside such award,..."

Application part exists both in Sections 13 and 34.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : With great respect to the Law Minister, if we read and re-read Section 13(5) where it is given:

"Where an arbitral award is made under sub-section (4), the party challenging the arbitrator may make an application for setting aside such an arbitral award in accordance with Section 34."

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The words 'in accordance with' are important.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : In accordance with Section 34. Now, Section 34 is not an omnibus kind of a section that it is free under any relevant or irrelevant clause. It is very specific in what exactly are the conditions in which the arbitration award may be set aside by the Court. It is because Section 34(2) very categorically says, an arbitral award may be set aside by the Court only if - it says that the arbitration may be set aside only if...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under the following conditions.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That is right, Sir. Unless Section 13 is brought in here in some form or the other. It would not cover that.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, that is why ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : If a note is appended to it, what objection does the hon. Minister have? This will make the provision more clear.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is not a matter of prestige. It would invite a national disaster in the Courts and when the partiality of an arbitrator would be challenged, we would have no remedy whatsoever. These things would come up. The entire problem has come up because some deviation from the model law has been made and has been made in order to make our laws stricter. Article 13 of the model law provided for an appeal at that very time and at that very stage. Then the model law also does not provide for one arbitrator. It provides for a minimum of three arbitrators. We have provided for one arbitrator. So,

you have created some confusion. At time we have stuck to the model law and at times we have deviated from it.

Let us not take this as a matter of prestige. Let there be a proper amendment to it or let there be a proper explanation to it.

There is another Section in this Bill which says,

"If a difficulty is experienced in administering the law then an order can be made and published in the gazette."

I doubt this aspect very much that whether by a mere order this difficulty could be removed. It is because this is not a mere technical matter. It is a matter that goes at the very grassroots of the arbitration. Therefore, let us not stand on any prestige.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, there is no question of standing on any prestige. I do not consider myself a legal luminary in any way. I am trying to go by the provisions of this Bill itself and trying to respond to the problems raised by the hon. Members. There may still remain a problem. There is a clause in this Bill, viz. clause 83 which says,

"If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the official gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the removing the difficulty: Provided that no such order shall be made after expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act."

Sir, I have made a reference to this earlier also. This Section is still there.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : It is inconsistent.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : You tell me what is inconsistent.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : The provisions of clause 13 and clause 34 contradict each other. If you add one explanatory note to it, everything will be all right.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : You said it is inconsistent. How is it so? How are clause 13 and clause 34 inconsistent?

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You cannot go beyond the provisions of the law. Provisions as contained in Section 83 provides for making an order and not amending the law, What is clause 83 ?

"If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act."

It only provides for rule making powers. You cannot amend the law itself. They cannot say that from now on this would be separated as a law.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I agree with you on this. By making use of Section 83 you cannot amend the main law. But still the fact remains that Section 13(5), says about arbitrator's award made under sub-section 4. Now, sub-section 4 says.

"If a challenge under any procedure agreed upon by the parties or under the procedure under sub-section (2) is not successful, the arbitral tribunal shall continue the arbitral proceedings and make an arbitral award".

[Translation]

If there is an objection about the arbitration

[English]

and if that challenge is not successful then arbitration will proceed. Objection is only here. Now, I have called an arbitrator incapable of giving any award to me, how do I subject myself to it.

This appears to be the basic definition. We need not carried away by this argument. Why should we not? Because, basically, where we first appoint him, there is a consent about his appointment. He is called upon to disclose the grounds for his incapacity. He is supposed to give it in writing. Even after that if it does happen, and the parties challenge the appointment of the arbitrator and this challenge - it can be accepted, it may not be accepted - it is accepted, he withdraws, if not he continues his arbitrations till the award. But then the things do not end here because that itself gives a ground to the party to challenge it under sub-section 5 and that ground has to be taken under Section 34.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : It cannot be challenged on that ground. This we are saying repeatedly.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : How can it not be challenged?

[English]

Among various points, this itself becomes a ground to challenge the award.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : The hon. Minister should bring in writing what he is saying because whatever has been written will be there. Mere saying a thing will not help.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : The hon. Minister has a problem. The objection which has been raised is valid because the interpretation is to be done on the basis of the wording of the law.

Section 13, as it stands today, certainly gives powers to the tribunal only to decide whether a defect which has been pointed out is there or not. That means they have the veto power. The arbitrator can say, "you are saying, that you are not interested, and you have got no relationship; so I reject your application."

Now, it can be the wisdom of the legislature to provide the appeal or remedy. The legislature is competent to do so but the in the ordinary law, in the Arbitration Act which we had since 1940, it used to be a misconduct. If an arbitrator is interested on account of relationship, or on account of any office which he is holding with a party or any type of thing of this nature, then any award given by him would be vitiated on the ground of misconduct and that can be challenged on the ground of misconduct in the High Court. This is the position as per the Arbitration Act which stands at the moment. That is my impression. If I am wrong, the learned Minister of Law can correct me.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are absolutely right.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Now, are we going to give veto power against the spirit of the original law? Is that progress or dynamism? Is that the rule of law which we are going to adopt?

As I have said, it is the wisdom of the legislature. If you say, "we want to give to the arbitrator the sole right, we want to give him the veto power", you reject it. No further demur or protest, no challenge, no appeal, no application is there. Then it is possible for you to say so. But it would be against the spirit of the entire arbitration legislation which had been in force, and which is there in the international court also. Therefore, I would say that it is not possible to give veto power to the arbitrator. If that is so, then the second question, which has been raised, arises whether this can be raised under Section 34. Now, the answer, depending upon the reading of Section 34 and simple grammatical interpretation, is that Section 34 nowhere contemplates that an award given by an arbitrator can be set aside on the ground that the arbitrator was interested or having some defect which was contemplated by Section 13,

and is wrongly rejected. That is the discretion of the arbitrator to accept the objection or to reject it. It cannot be challenged under Section 34.

Now an argument is given that because it has been said here in sub-Clause 5" that order given under Section 4 can be challenged under Section 34" therefore, it must be assumed that by way of legal fiction, in addition to the grounds mentioned in Section 34 (1,2,3,4) this is also a ground. This is probably the argument coming from the hon. Law Minister. That could have been valid if Section 34 would not have put a further rider. The problem with which the hon. Law Minister is confronted is that when we have to go by Section 34, then Section 34 is to be applied. It says :

"Recourse to a court against an arbitral award may be made only by an application for setting aside such awards in accordance with..."

Now, up to this is all right. So Sub-Section 2 and Sub-Section 3 are riders. It is not unbridled. It is a limited right to challenge as spelt out by Sub-Clause 2 and Sub-Clause 3: Sub-Clause 2 or wordings of it nowhere contemplates that it has got a cross reference to Section 13. But if it is said "misconduct, wrongful rejection of the application under Sub-Clause 4 of Section 13", then, it would have been all right. Therefore, Sir, a Jurist had said that "Law is nothing but an uncoded common sense and a codified non-sense." So, when they codify it, they can put anything but when we legislators say here, we are not here just to say "yes" to "non-sense", we have to apply our mind and say if it is a non-sense we would make a sense.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You suggest a remedy.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The remedy you have suggested is right. It can be by way of explanation. It can be by way of an addition under Section 34, if under Section 34 one more Sub-Clause is added, then it is all right. As you have said, if under Section 34, Sub-Clause 2 (1,2,3,4,5) and after '5', if you add one more Sub-Clause, that would be all right. Or else, you can put an explanation. It is because explanation is also an addition. But the power which the hon. Law Minister is pointing out of removing difficulties by way of clarification by the Government, is not a legislative power but is a subordinate legislative power. That cannot be applied to fill up the lacuna here or to make some inconsistent situation which is not contemplated by the parent Act, the parent Act would prevail. Therefore, I would submit that he cannot use that power. If he uses it, it would be struck down by the High Court or by the Supreme Court because that is not a legislative power.

That is a power of subordinate legislation, of delegated legislation and a delegated legislation or a subordinate legislation can never make something inconsistent with the original Act.

Therefore, the best thing for the hon. Minister is to keep it for tomorrow, and consider it calmly and quietly. We are not in hurry. It is because now the whole debate is over. We will not go for any more debate. You can calmly and quietly, along with your Law Officers, consider this matter tomorrow. You can sit with your Law Officers. You can sit calmly and coolly without making it a matter of prestige between this side and that side. It is not a matter of this side or that side. We are making a law for 80 crore people of India. It is not only an Indian law but it is an international law. It is for the whole world.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lodha, the hon. Minister is responding to your point.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Before answering this point, I will revert to the question raised by the hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes, regarding the number of countries which have adopted this. I made a statement that majority of the countries have adopted this. Let me stand corrected. The information which I got now is that 40 countries have adopted for the international arbitration and for domestic conciliation and arbitration. Sweden and the Netherlands...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There you are. My entire case against this law stands vindicated. Only two countries in the world had similar legislation for international and domestic reasons. Every country cares for its sovereignty. Every country is concerned about its own laws, which suits its character, its nature and its problems. We are now providing leadership to the world in globalisation of our laws and our legal practices also. Sir, I strongly oppose this point...(Interruptions) I only said: "I am not supporting it." Now, I am very strongly opposing it...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Shri George Fernandes is a Golaith I cannot reply to every point raised by him. With my limitation I will answer. I will definitely say that there is nothing wrong if we are going to give leadership to the world...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Let us do it in some other areas also...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : The existing law takes care of both the domestic conciliation and the international conciliation. If the principles of the Arbitration Act, 1940 are incorporated into this, I will not be able to say in what way it is going to affect our sovereignty. This is my humble submission...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It is not your child. It was already there before you came...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Since it is my adopted child...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : You can disown it. It is the child of the Congress...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Responding to the observations of the hon. Member, Shri Lodha, I once again reiterate. I am convinced that Clause 13(5), which provides for challenging the award in accordance with Section 34, is a remedy good enough to take into consideration a situation emerging out of a case where a party before the arbitrator challenging the arbitrator...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : What about the riders of the sub-clauses (2) and (3)?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : It does not affect at all, in my opinion. There is no rider as such. There is no limitation as such...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : We can do one thing. The Attorney-General can be called. There is a provision under the Constitution which says that the Attorney-General can be called to give his opinion...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Finally, I would like to say one thing if at all such a question does remain in the minds of somebody. Article 226 of the Constitution will come to his rescue. That is the end of it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : What is important in any legislation is also the intention of the legislature. So, if the intention is so clear, why not make it amply clear by codifying it?(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : What is the harm in accepting what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev ji has said...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Not necessary...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : After all, they are the originators of the law...(Interruptions) Why is the foster father supporting it when the real father is opposing it?(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The Attorney-General has got a right of audience and the Attorney-General can clarify it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the hon. Member has raised some points and the hon. Minister also has

replied to them. This Bill has been passed by Rajya Sabha. What I appeal to this august House is that the hon. Minister has heard the views of the hon. Members. The hon. Minister should give an assurance that after passing of this Bill he will get the points raised by them re-examined. That should be assurance. The hon. Minister can come back afterwards to the House with an amendment if he thinks that the points raised by them are valid. Let this Bill be passed today
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Never a law is final
...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : What objection does the Minister have in calling the Attorney-General to give his opinion? What for has the Constitution provided this?...*(Interruptions)* What for is the Attorney-General meant?...*(Interruptions)* Let him come and clarify...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : No law is a final thing. We have been amending the laws and if there will be any difficulty, this House has every right to amend this law also. The Government will come before the House. So, this is not the end of the road.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : It is becoming clear and you are going to enact a law...*(Interruptions)* This will give rise to litigation and a great injustice will be done to the people...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly give an assurance that if there is a need for further re-examination, it will be done?
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has stated that so far as the House is concerned, we are sovereign and supreme. We can always amend the laws and this has been always happening. It has happened on a number of occasions. In the case of electoral reforms also, we have said that a comprehensive Bill will be brought. In this case also, since Justice Lodha is pointing out certain lacunae according to him - and I respectfully disagree - and as Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev also has said. If at all such a necessity does arise, I do not think we should be ashamed of coming before the House again
...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : But, Sir, heavens will not fall by tomorrow. Let them ask for the Attorney-General's opinion. If the Attorney-General says that he is of this opinion, we will abide by it
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, there is a very casual attitude towards the making of this law
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Therefore, Sir, I would request hon. Lodhaji to withdraw his Statutory Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Lodhaji, I think the Minister has replied. Now you have the right to reply.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, our problem is that it is not a question of somehow, by hook or crook, finishing it in a minute or two. We have debated it at length and certain matters have come to light. Probably nobody initially thought so seriously, about it. But once certain very serious constitutional legal matters have come to light and if by conviction we feel that they are such, then I want to say in my rejoinder as a reply that we are making this law not only for India, not only for all sundry - a small villager, a small businessman and the biggest one - but for the whole world. and while doing so, if the hon. Minister is convinced at this stage that certain principles of natural justice are being violated while making the law, that certain unfairness is being committed in the sense that we are giving a veto power to an arbitrator to decide about his own bias and then no remedy, then to say that one can go to the court under article 226 of the Constitution is not a matter where a remedy is there. It is just avoiding the issue. With due respect to the hon. Law Minister, I would submit that we should not avoid the issue. We should face it squarely. And if we face it squarely, then the Constitution provides a remedy in ticklish law matters where interpretations are difficult or two interpretations are possible. The hon. Members of Parliament want to be enlightened. I recollect and I would remind the House that when there was a matter regarding cow slaughter prohibition law and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister, a question arose as to whether it is a State subject or a Central subject. The entire debate had proceeded and the debate had shown that the people were of the view that that law must be made although no division was made.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru at that time said that as this is a ticklish matter whether cow slaughter prohibition law is in List I or List II, i.e., the State List or the Concurrent List let us call the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General was called and he gave an opinion that it is a State Subject and on that basis the House dropped that matter. Now, I am saying so, because during the entire debate which has taken place so far, we have observed that Members cutting across party lines - there are persons sitting on that side who are supporting the Government - have seen the reason and a logic in the submission which has been made regarding this one point. We could leave aside the other points as that

may be a matter of political thinking. But on this point regarding the interpretation of Section 34 read with Section 13 it is obvious that section 13 cannot provide additional provisions under Section 34. This small point I submit to the commonsense of the hon. Minister of Law - a Minister of Law of a country which has the biggest democracy, which has got a written Constitution and again which is the largest in the whole world and we also talk about the rule of law and natural justice every day - that he must examine this point. I do not say that we stand by prestige.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, may I intervene for a moment on this issue? Sir, the whole hullabaloo now is regarding the challenge to the arbitrator and his power to carry with the arbitration proceedings.

Now, let us go to the international Rules of Arbitration and Conciliation on which this Bill is based. Hon. Banatwalla has stated that in article 13 of the model rules, there is a provision that if at all a challenge is made to the arbitrator then within 30 days after having received notice of the decision rejecting the challenge, the court or other parties specified in this article would decide on the challenge which decision has been subject to no appeal. That means it was stated here that it could go to the court. But the same article (3) of article 13 further says that while such a request is pending the arbitral tribunal - including the challenged arbitrator - may continue the arbitral proceedings and make the award.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You just include that. We will have no problem.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, we want only this thing and nothing else.

[English]

You include it we have no quarrel.

[Translation]

Otherwise I am unable to understand it. I do not want to start a discussion in it over and over again. But I will not be able to sit here to support this law. If this matter is to end have like this, then we walk out of the House...(Interruptions) you ask the party to go in for appeal under section 34. The arbitration continues for three years, which involves time and money in the part of the party and then you ask him to go in for appeal when, to my mind the right of appeal is not there. Therefore, you add it in it, though I do not fully agree to it. But if you include it, that would provide some relief. At present there is no relief. Therefore, you include it in it.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : What you have said is absolutely right and another thing is that you have incorporated the model law into this Act also. What you have mentioned is that the arbitration will continue despite the fact that there is a challenge pending. When the challenge is pending the award is given. But how could that award be initiated? How could it be set aside? That is why the Section 34 needs to be more properly defined. There has to be inclusion after Section 34(2) (vi). That is all.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, I am on my legs. He has taken my permission to intervene ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Hon. Members, the whole thing now boils down to a very small issue.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : It is not a small issue.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : In my opinion, it is a small issue, in the sense, it relates to procedure. I do not say that it is small in terms of its importance. I am only saying that it is small in terms of the procedures to be adopted. What has been written in this is that you can challenge the arbitrator and, yet, subject yourself to this arbitration before the same person. So, in the international Model Law, they accept this principle. While giving them the power to challenge, the person who challenges the arbitrator shall continue to go before him and subject himself before the arbitrator. Not only that, the arbitrator will also be entitled to pass an award. So, that will happen ultimately is that the challenge to this arbitrator merges with the final award.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The hon. Law Minister has put a very strong argument, but at the same time, the counter-argument is equally strong.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am on my legs.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I request the hon. Minister to kindly keep this pending for tonight and to call tomorrow early morning a meeting either with his Secretary or, as suggested, with some legal luminaries to take an honest opinion on this. You can find out whether an explanation needs to be added or whether they are satisfied and feel that you have done well. Let us adjourn the House for the day. You may get their opinion, and we shall pass this Bill tomorrow.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : In that case, I have one small request to make to hon. Banatwalla. He has moved an amendment and his question was that we have not defined the 'public policy'. That was the only ground for moving this amendment. I will just give a small explanation on that and then request hon. Banatwalla to withdraw this amendment.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We have not yet come to that stage. It is premature.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Friday, August 2, 1996.

20.53 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Friday, August 2, 1996/Sravana 11,
1918 (Saka).*