

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES** **(English Version)**

**Second Session**  
**(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. III contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 23, 1996/Śravaṇa 1, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Subsidy on Fertilizers

\*181. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present policy of the Government regarding grant of subsidy on fertilizers:

(b) whether the Government have announced the revised rate of subsidy on different fertilizers.

(c) if so, the details thereof:

(d) the total amount of subsidy on fertilizers provided to each State during the last three years:

(e) whether the Government agree to continue the scheme: and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Subsidy is paid by the Government of India on fertilizers under the Statutory Price Control and Urea is the only fertilizer which is at present under the Statutory Price Control.

(b) and (c). In addition to subsidy, Government of India is also giving concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to the farmers. The rates of concession have been revised for sales effective from 6th July, 1996 as under:

	(Rs. per tonne)
Indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate	3000/-
Imported Di-Ammonium Phosphate	1500/-
Muriate of Potash	1500/-
Single Super Phosphate	500/-
Indigenous Complexes	1304-2633/-

(d) Total amount of concession provided for sale of these decontrolled fertilizers in each State during last three years is enclosed as statement.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The scheme of concession is being continued during 1996-97 with effect from 1st April, 1996 to 5th July, 1996 at the earlier rates of concession and from 6th July, 1996 at the revised rates of concession. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the States. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation will continue to reimburse the manufacturers/suppliers on the basis of verification of sales by the States.

#### STATEMENT

States	Funds Released For Sales of 1993-94	Payments made during 1994-95					Payments made during 1995-96				
		DAP	MOP	SSP	Complexes	Total Amt	DAP	MOP	SSP	Complexes	Total Amt
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Andhra Pradesh	7697.80	2911.37	610.21	569.48	3323.95	7415.01	2262.05	794.20	539.49	3662.11	7257.85
Karnataka	5125.77	1395.66	775.09	132.39	2167.49	4440.63	1028.57	494.40	117.73	1822.60	3863.30
Kerala	1521.58	12.53	508.02	0.82	416.74	938.11	7.96	302.77	5.16	190.88	506.77
Tamil Nadu	6306.50	1231.38	1938.43	200.27	1910.09	5280.17	819.95	1851.80	205.60	1651.34	4528.69
Pondicherry	120.94	25.30	39.38	4.05	24.60	93.33	19.15	52.78	5.19	45.55	122.67
Andaman & Nicobar Is	1.24										
Gujarat	4020.33	1520.87	490.62	208.79	554.19	2274.47	2605.77	479.97	180.77	525.04	3791.55
Madhya Pradesh	3192.50	1385.62	203.75	441.85	610.62	2641.84	1050.21	339.70	1177.73	612.23	3179.57
Maharashtra	6620.02	1381.91	864.13	1140.64	2743.56	6130.24	1597.17	1002.43	1239.15	3252.84	7091.5
Rajasthan	1974.40	988.42	30.20	194.69	409.92	1632.23	969.85	25.63	348.45	257.84	1601.7
Goa	18.66	3.17	3.89		24.67	31.73	1.02	3.70	0.00	31.64	36.36
Daman & Diu	0.55										
Haryana	1058.28	2153.75	19.07	15.74	18.17	2206.73	767.59	14.53	68.79	14.58	865.49
Punjab	2515.25	2546.94	158.45	481.17	249.90	3436.46	1324.62	123.42	62.81	140.25	2191.10
Uttar Pradesh	4943.83	4669.81	871.14	1101.47	1393.86	8038.28	4146.11	562.16	1241.49	1445.82	7335.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Himachal Pradesh	60.80	-	15.00	14.39	15.31	44.70	0.00	3.50	1.82	70.96	76.28
Jammu & Kashmir	276.95	26.54	7.20	-	-	33.74	40.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.90
Chandigarh Adm.	0.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.58
Bihar	1166.00	1004.63	488.43	409.29	152.58	2054.93	656.58	415.20	269.94	91.33	1433.05
Orissa	761.72	87.37	92.17	8.14	211.23	398.91	213.16	465.57	85.83	486.87	1251.43
West Bengal	5469.48	1323.09	1046.00	339.91	901.77	3610.77	1046.25	1202.60	1007.90	1151.39	4408.14
Assam	144.90	36.37	100.89	14.23	-	151.49	44.43	218.11	32.39	0.00	294.93
Tripura	45.70	-	36.38	12.23	-	48.71	0.00	15.62	5.27	0.00	20.89
Meghalaya	17.96	3.00	1.00	4.76	-	8.76	3.50	2.00	8.50	0.00	14.00
Sikkim	7.20	1.32	-	-	-	1.32	3.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.07
Manipur	48.54	-	-	-	-	-	7.70	3.71	5.66	0.00	17.07
Mizoram	5.88	-	-	-	-	-	1.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.34
Arunachal Pradesh	1.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	2.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	53126.75	22679.05	8299.45	5294.41	15128.65	51401.56	18623.53	8773.80	7149.37	15453.27	49999.97

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as on Today, we are importing a substantial quantity of fertilisers. We do know that fertiliser is the most important thing in agricultural production. In fact, as on today, though we have substantially improved in recent years, still we have shortages in food production. To improve it, we need the fertilisers. It is very dangerous to depend upon imported fertilisers.

So, I want to ask the hon. Minister, through you, what steps he is going to take to curb the import of fertilisers in future. We have got, for instance, a clear-cut, stable and long-term policy on power and so on. But on fertilisers, what I understand is that there is no such specific long-term policy. It is the manufacturers' felling that, every year, it keeps changing and, therefore, it is a problem. So, we have to control the import of fertilisers. A day must come when we must be self-sufficient in production. You must give a long-term policy for the manufacturers' to stimulate them in such a way that the production goes up, and a day must come when the imports must stop. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to have a long-term, stable policy on fertilisers; he must have the policy in a such a way that the production goes up, and a day must come when the imports should be stopped.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I agree with the viewpoint which the hon. Member has stated. But unfortunately, the subject of fertilisers does not form part of my Ministry; it goes to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. Therefore, I am unable to reply to his question, although I agree with his viewpoint.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, the subject is fertilisers. Perhaps, it might be the fault of the administration which has referred it to the Ministry of agriculture instead of some other Ministry.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The point is that I am the Minister of Agriculture, and, as you are aware,

the subject of fertiliser production comes under another Ministry. So, what can I do? I want to help the Member, but I cannot.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can pass on the question to the concerned Ministry.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, about two years back, the Central Government used to give subsidies and also used to follow-up with all the factories all over India.

I understand that at that time it was very perfect and the benefit was going to the farmer very effectively and very efficiently through the manufacturers. But the system has been changed some two years back and now I understand that each State Government has a different policy in fixing the price due to which reasons substantial time and redtapism is taking place in such a way that the manufacturer is not in position to give the fertiliser to the farmer at the proper time. Therefore, I want to ask if it is possible to go back again to the old system of Central Government giving subsidy in such a way that the Central Government will only monitor all over India the subsidy distribution system.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The point is that so far as subsidy is concerned, it is only for urea, not for all the items.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I know it  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I want to inform the House that urea is not under my jurisdiction. But since the question is addressed to me, I am replying to it. Otherwise, it goes to another Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are save from urea!

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I can give the hon. Member the figures if he wants. But that subject does not relate to my Ministry.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am asking whether the Central Government will go back again to the old system of distribution followed two years back.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is because of the liberalisation policy which your Government adopted without my consent!...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Why did he volunteer to reply to the question when he is not dealing with the subject?...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is true that urea is not under me but I can give information about the price etc. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Why did you rise in your seat when you are not in a position to give information about urea...the Minister concerned should have replied to the question

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am not asking about price. The Central Government had a policy of distribution all over India two years back. The concerned hon. Minister should get up and reply my question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question relates to subsidy on fertilisers.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am asking about subsidy on fertilisers. The Central Government followed a different policy two years back. It used to monitor the distribution all over India.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is not possible just now to do it. What I am saying is that subsidy is only for urea. So far as DAP is concerned, it has been decontrolled. We are giving some concession. What we have announced recently is a concession given on DAP and other items. It is not subsidy. Generally it is called subsidy. The figures are given. I need not repeat them...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already asked your Supplementary question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The hon. Minister is telling a different thing...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question does not relate to the Ministry of Agriculture...(Interruptions) The concerned Department should answer the question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question relates to his Ministry but the supplementary does not relate to his Ministry.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is well known that fertilizers have made significant contribution is ushering in green revolution in the

country and in making the country self sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. The Government has sanctioned subsidy for the fertilisers whether it is DAP, MOP or SSP etc. The present policy of the Government is to give subsidy to the manufacturers of urea or to the cooperatives. Will the farmers purchasing urea from private traders be also given the benefit of the Govt. Subsidy?

At present the big farmers and the manufacturers are the beneficiaries of the subsidy on urea, because the cooperatives are controlled by big farmers. The small and marginal farmers are ignorant of these facilities and they purchase their requirement of urea from private traders. Will the farmers purchasing urea from private traders be also given the benefit of subsidy?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are giving subsidy only to the State Governments and the cooperatives. We do not give subsidy to private traders.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has issued guidelines to the State Governments in this respect. I would like to know the details thereof your objective is to ensure that the farmer gets fertilizers at cheap rate and without hassles. Does he purchase fertilizers through the cooperatives as per the policy laid down by the State Governments? The Central Govt. should issue guidelines about the purchase of fertilizers from private traders.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have already made it clear that we give subsidy only to the state Government and the cooperatives, it is not possible to give it to private traders while calculating the subsidy the State-Governments take into account the expenses on account of transportation and other sundry expenses. If the hon. Members want, we can make available the latest figures, as reading them out would be time consuming.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. You may provide it later on.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : At least the Union Government can issue guidelines.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : To whom?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can lay on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Guidelines may be issued to the State Government so as to benefit the farmers.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is not our policy to ignore the cooperative sector and benefit the private sector.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : But, Sir, the fertilizers are not made available on time and the requirement of the farmer is not met when he needs it the most.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Rawat, you have made your point.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You should bring such instances to our notice and we would sound the State Governments.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, There are some SSP units which are facing a crisis because of non-payment of subsidy to those units. One such unit is in my constituency called the Sardha Fertiliser unit which has been closed down because of non-payment of subsidy to the extent of Rs. three crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take steps to clear the subsidy dues of all the SSP units our country, specially of the Sardha Fertilizer unit situated in my constituency. Because of closure of this unit, the farmers are also facing problems. They are not getting the fertiliser. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take steps or order to clear the dues of the SSP units.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : About this particular factory, I am not aware of it. If it is brought to my notice, Certainly I will help the Member to arrive at a solution. But I cannot say that I will pay them. If the due is proper, I will pay them. Otherwise, I will not pay them.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Would you kindly take up the matter with the FICC?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : That is not my subject. You may write to the Minister concerned.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The farmers are facing difficulties. It is your responsibility.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, ... (Interruptions) Madhya Pradesh is experiencing acute scarcity of urea for the past 3-4 years and as a result, it has not been made available to the farmers. Because of the dual policy in respect of urea, the farmers have to pay higher prices for the urea purchased from private traders as compared to the cooperatives. The farmers have, therefore, stopped purchasing urea from private traders. This has created a urea crisis in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to know the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the scarcity of urea in Madhya Pradesh. Secondly, the quantum of subsidy on fertilisers being given to Madhya Pradesh is on the lower side. The hon. Minister may kindly enlighten us on the criterion adopted to grant the subsidy.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not disseminate between the various states. The states whose agriculture had advanced considerably, consumes more urea. Punjab and Madhya Pradesh consume more urea because of the rapid studies made by them in the field of agriculture.

SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH : Why is there shortage of urea in Madhya Pradesh?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has rightly been pointed out by the hon. Members that indigenous urea is cheaper as compared to the imported urea by Rs. 3624 per tonne. But, unfortunately, indigenous production is not sufficient to meet the demand. Some of the urea producing units are sick and we have to import urea to meet the shortfall. I would again repeat that urea is not within the jurisdiction of my Ministry... (Interruptions)

As regards Madhya Pradesh, as per my information, there is not scarcity of urea in the state. In case the hon. Member has some specific area in mind, I would get it verified.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sir, DAP fertilizer is not available in Madhya Pradesh. The Government had noted the demand of the farmers who had even made advance deposit with the Government for the fertilizer. But in spite of it the state Government failed to supply this particular fertilizer last year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may address a separate communication to the hon. Minister on the subject.

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You give me in writing I will take action.

[Translation]

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is time that another Ministry deals with the fertilizers, but his ministry deals with a subject which requires fertilizers as an important input. He should therefore, keep herself informed about the subject. In the current crop season, when paddy is being sown, urea would be needed in large quantity Rs. 133 crores have been spent without receiving supplies of urea from abroad. In Punjab the urea producing unit in Nangal and Bhatinda are facing closure. About 7000 employees of both the units met me. They complained that they are not getting the facilities due to them. I made inquires to find out the factual position. I have come to know that after the 133 crore urea scam, no further investment is being made on the units. These units may have to close down, which would harm the interest of Punjab. What steps have you taken to stop the closure down, which would harm the interest of Punjab. What steps have you taken to stop the closure of NFL urea factories in Nangal and Bhatinda, which are on the verge of closure?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is true that several urea producing units are sick. There is need to undermix there at the earliest. I had written to the Planning that we are spending more than Rs. 2,000 cores on importing urea, which can be fruitfully used to revive and modernise the sick urea producing factories. In this way we can

meet the entire urea demand indigenously. I would request the hon. Member that he should also pursue the matter with the Planning Commission.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Perhaps Hon'ble Member is not aware that these two factories situated in Punjab are not sick. Their performance is excellent. That is why I requested that these two factories which are showing good performance, are producing more than their installed capacity and have got awards also, should not face closure. The nation will suffer heavy losses if they close down.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is true and I have given my concurrence. I have forwarded it...*(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is standing in the centre neither left nor right.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This observation will serve no purpose as the question has been put to the Central Government.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not use such language

*[Translation]*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : The statement appended to the question reveals that the Union Territories have not received a fair deal. In the statement the figure against Andaman and Nicobar for the year 1994 is 1.24 and all other columns are blank. The inevitable conclusion is that the farmers of Andaman and Nicobar are not entitled to the subsidy on fertilizers. May be the hon. Minister is ignorant of the fact that the remote areas of the country and the union territories are an integral part of the country. Will the hon. Minister make special arrangements for ensuring subsidy or fertilizers for remote area like Andaman and Nicobar islands so that the farmers in these areas may also avail of the facility?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The dots in the statement against Andaman and Nicobar indicate that information has not been received and it should not be considered that nothing has been done.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Who will supply this information.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have to give the information and you have to receive the information. But I would still reiterate that if supplies are not being made in your area we will take necessary steps at the earliest...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : It is not over yet this is a matter pertaining to fertilizers and the farmers require

it...*(Interruptions)* This is a very important question. Will the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is indeed an important question. Everyone is interested in it. It is concerned with farmers. It would be better to have a half-an-hour discussion over it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want comprehensive reply outlining the steps taken in each state. It is for the Government to ensure equitable distribution of fertilizers among the various states and its supply to the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All this information can be elicited in the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This question has already taken 25 minutes. Please sit down.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will there be an end to it? I have already moved to the next question.

*[Translation]*

This question has already taken 25 minutes. Please discuss this subject in the form of some motion say half an hour discussion. Will we spend one hour on a single question?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : In case you give us information about the areas where fertilizers are in short supply, we will order an enquiry. *(Interruptions)* you may please give the names of the areas where it is not available...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may resume your seat. Even if the Members continue to ask the question.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not good. Please sit down. I am taking up the second question.

### Computerised Reservation Centres

\*182. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of computerised reservation centres in the country at present, Zone-wise;

(b) the names of stations where computerised reservation centres are proposed to be opened by the Government during 1996-97; and

(c) the estimated cost of setting up new computerised reservation centres at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### STATEMENT

(a) 275 (including 2 of the Annual Plan 1996-97). The Zone-wise information is given below :-

Northern Railway	-	52
Southern Railway	-	44
South Central Railway	-	42
Central Railway	-	34
Eastern Railway	-	33
Western Railway	-	30
South Eastern Railway	-	16
North Eastern Railway	-	15
Northeast Frontier Railway	-	9

(b) The locations (i.e. stations and satellite locations) where provision of computerised reservation facilities has been proposed in the Annual Plan for 1996-97 are :-

#### Stations

Bina	Cuddapah
Ahmednagar	Alleppey
Saugor	Mettupalayam
Wardha	Nagercoil
Bardhaman	Kanyakumari
Lal Kuan	Shencottah
Darbhanga	Mhow
Izatnagar	Veraval
Nainital	Valsed
Sonpur	Bharuch
Hajipur	Navsari
Modinagar	Nadiad
Panipat	

#### (Satellite Locations)

Ajni (Satellite location of Nagpur)
Itwari (Satellite location of Nagpur)
Varanasi City (Satellite location of Varanasi)
Allahabad City (Satellite location of Allahabad)
Lucknow City Station (Satellite location of Lucknow)
Charbag (Alambag side Lucknow)
Shakurbasti (Satellite location of New Delhi)
Gurgaon (Satellite location of New Delhi)
Lajpat Nagar (Satellite location of New Delhi)
Sarai Rohilla (Satellite location of New Delhi)
Tourista Bureau Jodhpur (Satellite location of Jodhpur)
Mahamandir Jodhpur (Satellite location of Jodhpur)

M.V.P. Colony (Satellite location of Visakhapatnam)  
 Gujawaka (Satellite location of Visakhapatnam)  
 Bokaro Steel city (City Booking Office)  
 St. Thomas Mount (Satellite location of Madras)  
 Luz Corner (Satellite location of Madras)  
 Chinthadripet MRTS (Satellite location of Madras)  
 Coimbatore City (Satellite Location of Coimbatore)  
 Madurai City (Satellite location of Coimbatore)  
 Bandra (Satellite location of Mumbai)  
 Vasai Road (Satellite location of Mumbai)  
 Virar (Satellite location of Mumbai)  
 Ghatkopar (Satellite location of Mumbai)  
 Patna Sahib (Satellite location of Patna)  
 Rajendranagar (Satellite location of Patna)  
**(Non Rail-head State Capitals)**

Agartala  
 Kohima

(c) Rs. 7.94 crores for the locations included in the Annual Plan for 1996-97.

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY : I would like to know the arrangements made to end overcrowding at the reservation centres and also to provide reservation facilities from any part of the country, by any train and for any destination. In case such facilities have been provided, what are the names of the prominent stations which have been covered under the arrangement.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have computerised the reservation facilities and the entire country is launched by computer. Now the common man can avail of these facilities.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : My question was that although the entire country has been linked by computer, get the facility to make reservation from any part of the country for any destination is still not available at several stations. My second question relates to the number of district headquarters which are sought to be linked by computerised reservation. Has reservation facility been provided at Dist. Nautalwa and Siddharthnagar located at U.P.-Nepal border which attracts Buddhists pilgrims from abroad in sizeable number?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : The information regarding the Railway stations and in non Rail-head state capitals where computerised reservation facility is proposed to be provided is provided in the reply to the question. Besides, it is proposed to provide computerised reservation facility in 53 new locations in 1996-97 comprising 25 Railway Stations, 26 satellite locations and 2 Rail head headquarters, so far, 72 per cent Railway reservations has been computerised. As regards the hon. Members query regarding reservation/

cancellation facility from any part of the country for any destination, the work is still in progress.

The scheme regarding linking the entire country with passenger Reservation System, the project will be undertaken later on but at present 92 percent of the reservation facility has been computerised on local basis.

**SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :** My question was whether it is proposed to provide computerised reservation facility at Nautalwa station on Indo-Nepal border for which a demand to connect it with broadgauge line is pending for several years?

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :** As per the norms laid down for computerised reservation facility for any place, the place must register 300 reservation/cancellation. It is being provided at all such stations which satisfy with norms.

**SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :** Is this facility available at Nautalwa or not?

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :** If the place satisfies the norm laid down, the facility would be provided. I do not have the information about place for which information has been sought by the hon. Member. If the station satisfies the criterion of 300 reservations or cancellation, the reservation facility would definitely be provided...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if you go through the answer, you would find how much NF railways neglected in this respect.

Even in regard to computerisation, the figure given is nine. The NF Railway had no past, it has not present and it has not future also. Just now the hon. Minister of Railways informed the House about the normal that there should at least be reservation or cancellation of three hundred tickets. New Jalpaiguri railway station in NF Railway is the most busiest segment in the NF Railway zone. But what is the position of the railway station? We have asked for a computerised reservation centre for New Jalpaiguri. It was said that it would be set up in a satellite town. It was set up in Siliguri which is a satellite town and ten kilometres away from New Jalpaiguri. Of course, you are not the Minister of Railways then. But when we asked for a computerised reservation centre for Coochbehar which is a satellite town. It was set up in New Coochbehar. I would like to know very categorically from the hon. Minister what the norm is and what the criteria are. I would like to know whether my guidelines have been issued. If they are not there, is it only the pious wish of the Railway authorities? Let me know that.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the norms laid down by the Railway Ministry,

North East has not received due attention. The hon. member may be aware that computerised reservation facilities are available at Shillong, Port Blair, Srinagar, Panji. We are also making arrangements to provide this facility at Gangtok, Itanagar, Aizawl, Imphal. As regards Coochbehar...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE :** What he wants to know is that when they requested for a computerised reservation centre for New Jalpaiguri, it was provided in Siliguri. And when they requested for a computerised reservation centre for Coochbehar, it was provided in New Coochbehar. Why is this discrepancy?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :** You had asked a question earlier also on the subject. On making queries, it was pointed out to me that the distance between the two stations is very small and at one of the place only 69 reservations are made and at the other station where the number of reservations is on the higher side, this facility has already been provided.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** The distance between Siliguri, New Jalpaiguri, New Coochbehar and Coochbehar is almost the same.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :** I had also said the Coochbehar and New Coochbehar are adjacent to each other...*(Interruptions)* I assure the hon. Member that we are not very rigid about the rule and if necessity was felt we will amend it and provide the facility at more places.

**DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :** The purpose of computerised reservation is to extend better facilities to the public. But another fallout of this computerised reservation facility is that people travelling on other routes experience considerable difficulty. I would, therefore, request that unless and until all the stations are not connected by computer terminals, it would be in the fitness of things to continue the old system of reservation in the roadside station quota. Ujjain has been provided that facility but it is connected only with Mumbai Terminal. I has not been connected with Delhi, which should done at the earliest these facilities should also be made available at prominent station viz Neemuch, Mandoan. Besides, you have already connected that you have no rigid attitude regarding the enforcement of the rule. I would like to know your attitude in the aforesaid case.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :** We will bear in mind the suggestion and the demand made by you.

*[English]*

**SHRI S. BANGARAPPA :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the proposed Plan allocation for the year 1996-97 is Rs.7,94,00,000. So, nearly Rs.8 crore is set apart for the year 1996-97. I feel that this is a meagre amount

and it is not a matching amount to meet the demands of all the Zonal Railways, namely, South Zone, Central Zone, North-East Zone, etc. Therefore, I am just requesting the hon. Minister to tell us whether there is any proposal to arise this Plan allocation for 1996-97 from Rs. 8 crore to a few more crores of rupees so as to enable them to meet the demands of all the Zonal Railways of the country.

Another question is this: I come from Karnataka and many more hon. members are here who are also coming from areas which are coming under the Southern Railway. Is there any proposal to sanction more money to have some more computerised centres in that Zonal Railway, including the one in my constituency of Shimoga?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regards reservation, I have already stated that we purpose to computerise 92 percent of the reservation centres. As regards resource constraint, the Railways have always faced this problem whether it is gauge conversion, or laying new railway lines. We propose to connect every centre with the network within our resources.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : The South Central Railway had announced more than once that they would open a computerised reservation centre at Benz circle in the heart of Vijayawada City. Even when I met the General Manager, he said that it had been decided to open a centre there and that they were on the look out for a building. But the statement of the ministry does not include that. Will the hon. Minister clarify whether it is an omission or whether there is any rethinking or whether the South Central Railway has again acted irresponsibly by making announcements there and not pursuing them with the Railway Board?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The hon. Member has sent us a slip just now. According to the enquiries made by me this name does not occur anywhere. But still I will get of enquired into.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : It was announced more than once. I have the Press cutting and I met the General Manager also personally. He confirmed it and it came in the newspapers also. If the General Manager has announced it without any authorisation, he should be pulled up... (Interruptions) Sir, the hon. Minister is not responding to it... (Interruptions) He is not responding to what I said. Will the hon. Minister pull up the General Manager if he has made a unauthorised statement?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have no knowledge of Press reports on the subject, but in our records it does not find any mention. But in view of the submission made by the hon. Member, I would personally look into the matter and if necessary we will open a centre there.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Gujarat is an industrial state and is served by the Western railway. People from all over India visit the state because of its industrial and trade links with other parts of the country. The hon. Minister has stated in the reply that there are only 30 computerised reservation centres in the western Railway and a demand has been made to open 12-13 more computerised reservation centres. As per the statement 52 centres are proposed to be opened in 1996-97 but not single centre. Out of it, has been allocated to Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether computerised reservation centres would be opened in Sabarmati and North Gujarat on priority basis?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot adopt a partisan attitude in the matter of setting up of computerised reservation centres. It is our earnest effort to provide maximum facilities to the passengers. We are prepared to promise computerised reservation facility in the metropolitan city areas. All the proposed centres conform to the criteria laid down by the Ministry of the Railways but if the Hon. Member feels it is very important, we may consider his suggestion.

[English]

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the issue of North-Eastern Railway has been rightly raised by my dear colleague, Shri Amar Roy Pradhan. The hon. Minister had stated in his reply that in Panjim, Srinagar and other places, he has provided the computerised reservation centres.

In view of the local trouble in Kashmir, at the moment, the largest traffic-flow next to Pradesha is in Darjeeling. The largest number of Indian and foreign tourists go to see the peak of the Himalayas from the Kanchenjunga Hills. Shri Subash Rishing has been crying for the last few years to provide at least the minimum facility of computerised reservation centre in Darjeeling itself to facilitate the tourists. But nothing has been done. That man has shown his loyalty to the Constitution of India and has remained peaceful.

I hope the hon. Minister of Railways will kindly consider this simple demand and provide a reservation centre in Darjeeling to accommodate the tourists. Otherwise, the problem is that the tourists have to come down, and pay a heavy amount without using the toy train. They go to Siliguri and New Jalpaiguri for reservation which is uncertain.

At the moment, Derjeeling is the prime tourist centre of India. Why do you not consider it on a priority basis? Why is your department neglecting it and not considering it as a tourist centre?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Therefore, I ask the Railway Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We are seized of the proposal and in view of the stress laid by the hon. Member, we will definitely consider it. An hon. Member had referred to Gujarat.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It was about South Gujarat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : All right.

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, I am sorry to know that even the district headquarters had not been provided with advanced computerised reservation system. For example in Pudukkottai is my constituency I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have got any proposal to introduce the advance computerised reservation system at least in district headquarters within a reasonable time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the Railways what matters in the station and not the district or the State. We conduct the survey on the basis of the viability of the station. If it turns out to be viable, we definitely consider it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : With the installation of a mother computer we can connect all the stations of the country with the network computerisation carried out in this manner would also prove to be economical. How is it that Railways have not adopted this system? secondly, whenever a fault is developed in any of the computerised reservation centres, it is not attended to promptly. I also create inconvenience for the public in the matter of reservation. My submission is, will the hon. Minister consider the suggestion for setting up a mother computer in order to connect all the stations with the network?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We will definitely get it examined and, if found useful, we will consider your proposal.

SHRI TARA CHAND SAHI : Bhilai Steel plant is the biggest steel plant not only in India but in entire Asia. The employees of the Plant belong to different parts of the country and many of them commute daily for their work. Besides, Bhilai not only pays crores of rupees to the exchequer but also meets the requirement of the railways to a large extent. But the railway station of Bhilai comprises a small dilapidated room and none of the express trains stops there. Despite being an important Station, it is neglected.

Will the hon. Minister accord it the status due to it?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The question relates to sitting up of computerised reservation centres and not beautification. Bhilai is an important station and if you give your suggestion in writing, I will get it examined. (Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply to part (a) of the question contains zone wise list. North Bihar is spread over an area sparring Gorakhpur to Nepal border. The area falls under NE Railway and the target of computerisation for the area is 15 in view of its backwardness. Will the hon. Minister consider increasing this target to ameliorate its backwardness?

There is lack of transparency in the matter of computerised reservation. Will the hon. Minister make arrangements to reflect the position of reservation on computer on lines similar to arrival and departure position of trains exhibited on the C.C.T.V.?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is the policy of the Government to show special consideration to the backward areas. In view of the fact that in the matter of laying railway lines, backward areas receive priority, computerised reservation is a petty matter and will receive our attention. In my capacity as Railway Minister I concede that there have been complaints about computerised reservation and we do try to redress them. (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Even a metropolitan city like Delhi does not have computerised reservation facility at all the stations. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I had called Shri Chaman Lal Gupta.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jammu station enjoys a strategic position in as much as 40 lakh passengers from all over India arrive here every year and it has sizeable army base. As per the existing arrangement at the station, reservation can be made from Jammu to other stations and no provision has been made for return journey. This lack of facility of reservation for return journey causes a lot of inconvenience to the passengers and there is urgent need to provide this facility.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I shall look into the matter but I cannot make a commitment.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Sir, it is evident from this Railway Budget speech that his concern is to develop the backward areas of the country. As Sambalpur is the most backward area of Orissa which has a Railway Division, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the hon. Minister is going to consider opening of a computerised reservation centre in Sambalpur during 1996-97.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I cannot give an affirmative reply... (Interruptions) It is not possible to give an assurance but will consider it.

[Translation]

### Privatisation by Railways

\*183. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Departments and works where privatisation has been introduced by the Ministry and the results thereof;

(b) whether Jhansi Division has been divided by the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the operational limits of the new Divisions?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

### STATEMENT

(a) Indian Railways have not privatised any department under its control. The Railways have however, offered some of its off-line activities, not directly connected with train operations, to private parties like catering, beautification of stations, supply of bed rolls, operation of cloak rooms, etc. 'Own Your Wagon Scheme', running of tourist trains on identified circuits, setting up of Railway infrastructure under Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme are some other schemes which have been offered to private sector.

(b) and (c). It is planned to set up a new Division at Agra by adjustments from adjoining Divisions including Jhansi. The new operational limits of these Divisions are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : The Railway Minister has stated in reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question that it is planned to set up a new Division at Agra by adjustment for adjoining Divisions including Jhansi. Can this division be not stalled keeping in view the development of the area? Recently, Bilaspur Division was also subjected to such a treatment.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) These Division are set up from time to time keeping in view administrative and functional exigencies. Jhansi Division is, no doubt, the oldest and the most important Division. It is also true that Jhansi Division's performance has been very good but in spite

of it, the Division been reorganised many times to meet the geographical and functional requirements. The present decision has also been taken keeping in view the administrative and functional requirements.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : I would like to remind the hon. Minister that last time when this reorganisation of Jhansi Division was mooted, it had sparked off violent agitation for two months in Bilaspur and Jhansi. The political party to which the hon. Minister belongs and our party were active participants in that agitation. The then Minister had assured that the Bilaspur and Jhansi Divisions will not be bifurcated or reorganised to form a new Division. The hon. Railway Minister, who was the leader of the Janata Dal at that time, had written a letter to the then Railway Minister : I would request the hon. Minister to discuss the issue with the four Members of Parliament from Bundelkhand. The way bifurcation of Bilaspur Division was postponed, can the bifurcation of Jhansi Division also not be postponed? I would request the hon. Minister to consider it favourably.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bhopal Division was set up in 1987 and the decision to set up Agra Division was taken in January 1996. The issue was discussed during the consideration of the Supplementary Budget. Now a demand is being made to discuss the issue with the Members of Parliament ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will you postpone it or not? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I cannot make any commitment in this regard.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : I am registering my protest with the hon. Minister on the floor of the House. All the constituted parties of the United Front had participated in the agitation launched to stop bifurcation of the Bilaspur Division. Even the the Prime Minister had given a categorical statement that new Divisions would not be carried out in view of the agitation against such formation. The hon. Minister had also addressed a letter at that time that a new Division should not be setup. If the hon. Minister adopt a stubborn attitude on this issue, it rejects his insensitive attitude towards that area. I hope the hon. Minister would strive to resolve the issue, otherwise the events may take a serious turn there. He should postpone the formation of the Agra Division till the issue in Thrashed Out with the Members of Parliament... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have made your point, now let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Your announcement have created situation leading to firing and killing of innocent people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister give his reply.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Please do not take controversial decisions which can lead to violence in the States...*(Interruptions)*. Just as it has happened between Sonpur and Hajipur on the question of Railway bridge.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not true that the Jhansi Division is being bifurcated.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : It is being sub-divided.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Allow the hon. Minister to complete his reply.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : All the inncundos are not true. A separate Division is mooted. Agra is as important as Jhansi and I have acknowledge this fact. In case the proposed Division at Agra is set-up, some areas from Allahabad, Kota, Jaipur and some from Jhansi would form part of the new proposed Division which is generally the practice wherever a new Division is set up. It is not true that Jhansi is being bifurcated or sub-divided.

As regards the charges levelled by another hon. Member - who tried to raise the issue during the Zero Hour I would not join issues with him and would only say that politicisation should be abjured. In my Railway budget speech, I had only stated that a bridge on the river Ganges should be built in Patna and not a word more than that. As regards Digha, hon. Members have launched an agitation. I would like to inform that survey work is being done at Digha. It is not a very happy State of affairs that a violent agitation should be launched, leading to firing and killing of people, only on the basis of Government's decision to build a bridge in Digha ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a serious issue and half an hour discussion on the subject should be admitted.

*[Translation]*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already put your question. Please take your seat...

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : We will not accept it. The former Prime Minister had given an assurance also in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You may discuss the issue during the consideration of the Railway Budget.

*[English]*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the BOLT Scheme has been in operation in the Railways. I would like to know...*(Interruptions)* Deputy Speaker has called my name. Please sit down...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the BOLT Schemes has been in operation in the Railways. I would like to know the lines that are under construction under the BOLT Scheme.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : His question has not been replied to properly.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will have to sit down first.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you take your seat?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not proper.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : I am not satisfied with the Minister's reply and I am staging walk out.

11.59 hrs.

(Shri Rajendra Agnihotri then left the House).

*[English]*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the BOLT Schemes has been in operation in the Railways. I would like to know the lines that are under construction under this scheme and how successful and effective this scheme is. I would also like to know what proposals the Railways have with them to improve this scheme and in the next year which are the lines that are going to be included in this scheme.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will lay it on the Table of the House. To-day's question consisted of two parts-both of them equally important. I do not know why they have been clubbed together. One part was about privatisation and the other about Railway Zones. I feel both the issues ...*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why does he not reply to my question? Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. The Minister has not replied to my question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have replied to ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : the Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Toxic Wastes

\*184. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the toxic wastes such as lead ash, scrap batteries, plastic waste etc. being imported from Western countries by certain industrial and business houses are exposing our country to serious health hazards;

(b) if so, the names of these importers and quantity of these items imported during each of the last three years;

(c) the action plan in operation to deal with the pollution hazards caused by the toxic waste dumps along with the results achieved thereunder; and

(d) the further action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The import of hazardous wastes are regulated under Rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, notified by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these Rules (Rule 11), the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes are allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit. Any import of hazardous wastes would come under the purview of these Rules. The Government of India is a Party to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and imports of hazardous wastes are also examined as per the obligations under this Convention.

(b) Details pertaining to the waste imports permitted by this Ministry is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The pollution caused by the toxic waste dumps are being dealt with in accordance with the provisions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 provides for necessary controls for the same. The Government of India is providing financial assistance to identify sites to be developed into secured landfills for the disposal of hazardous wastes. So far, 15 States have been provided with financial assistance for the development of 23 sites.

(d) The State Pollution Control Boards and the State Governments have been requested to take urgent necessary action for inventorization of the hazardous wastes and development of secured landfills for disposal of such wastes.

### STATEMENT

List of units granted permission to import hazardous wastes under Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 upto July, 1996.

1. *Importer*—M/s. Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd., Calcutta

One time permission for the import of 150 KL of waste oil for trial runs for R and D project in December 1993.

*Exporting country* - Dubai

2. *Importer*—M/s. Southern Refiners Ltd. Trivandrum.

One time permission for import of 8000 barrels of waste oil for trial run to demonstrate waste oil re-refining by vacuum distillation technology in 1994.

*Exporting country* - UK.

3. *Importer*—M/s. Zinc Smelters and Refiners India Pvt. Ltd. Bombay

One time permission for the import of single consignment of not exceeding 20,000 MT of zinc containing residual dusts (steel mill dust) on 20th June, 1994.

*Exporting country* - Germany.

4. *Importer*—M/s. Bharat Zinc Ltd., Bhopal.

Permission was granted for negotiating the import of 17,000 MT of zinc ash/dross/scrap from various countries of Europe with a condition that clearance would be sought from time to time on each consignment by providing necessary shipment details. Imports from Germany, Netherlands and Sweden were permitted.

*Exporting country* - Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden.

5. *Importer*—M/s. Indo-Zinc Ltd. Dhar, MP.

Permission was granted for import of 1000 MT containing zinc ash/dross/scrap on 8th May, 1995.

*Exporting country* - The Netherlands.

6. *Importer*—M/s. Associated Pigments Ltd., Calcutta.

Permission was granted for import of 3,500 MT of lead waste containing lead dross/residue/scrap on 11 December, 1995 as per the recommendations of the Committee constituted for this purpose under this Ministry.

*Exporting country* - South Korea.

7. *Importer*—M/s. Indian Lead Limited, Bombay.

Permission granted only to negotiate the import of lead dross/residue/scrap for use in their Thane unit as per the recommendations of the Committee constituted for this purpose on 21st November, 1995. No permission has been given for any consignment so far.

\* All imports were permitted subject to the requirement under Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 and the conditions stipulated for the purpose.

**Railway Line from Jammu to Srinagar**

\*185. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been executed for laying Railway line from Jammu and Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The line from Jammu to Udhampur (54 kms) is already under construction and is currently targeted for completion in 1997-98. The line from Udhampur to Baramulla via Srinagar has been approved and included in the Budget with funds to be provided outside the Railway's plan. The work would be started after funds have been made available by the Government. This project will take 7 years if the full requirement of funds is provided.

[Translation]

**Wasteland in Forests**

\*186. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of area in hectares as wasteland in forests, State-wise; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to regenerate these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) The various steps taken by the Government to regenerate the severely degraded forest area, with crown density less than 10% are :

(i) The concept of Joint Forest Management has been introduced in most of the States for development of forest by the way of people's participation.

(ii) Major schemes launched by the Government for development of forest are :

(a) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Project Scheme

(b) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme.

(c) Scheme on Association of Schedule Tribe and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of Degraded Forest.

**STATEMENT**

*State-wise details of forest area with less than 10% crown density as per the State of Forest Report, 1993*

S.No.	State/UTs	Forest area (in ha.) with less than 10% crown density
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.17.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.300
3.	Assam	60.200
4.	Bihar	1.92.500
5.	Goa (including Daman and (Diu)	1.600
6.	Gujarat	2.42.700
7.	Haryana	12.200
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.84.500
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.10.800
10.	Karnataka	4.63.700
11.	Kerala	9.300
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3.04.900
13.	Maharashtra	7.28.100
14.	Manipur	1.46.100
15.	Meghalaya	98.500
16.	Mizoram	1.15.600
17.	Nagaland	12.000
18.	Orissa	6.35.500
19.	Punjab	11.400
20.	Rajasthan	6.75.200
21.	Sikkim	43.700
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.81.800
23.	Tripura	13.800
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1.04.300
25.	West Bengal	4.800
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	400
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.100
29.	Delhi	300
30.	Lakshadweep	-
31.	Pondicherry	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58.94.300</b>

[English]

### Import of Railway Goods

\*187. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the money spent during 1994-95 and 1995-96 to purchase railway spare parts, coaches, locomotives and other related materials through imports; and

(b) the volume of orders placed to the Public Sector manufacturing Units of the country during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, the relevant figures are as under :

	1994-95	1995-96*
	(Rs. in crores)	
(a) Money spent on Imports	312	388.51
(b) Value of orders on Public Sector Undertakings	1619.40	2252.71

(\* The figures for 1995-96 are provisional)

### Facilities for Handicapped and lady Passengers

\*188. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to reserve quota of berths in all the classes and in all the trains for the handicapped and provide special facilities in the bogies reserved for the lady passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b). The following facilities are provided/planned to be provided to handicapped persons and lady passengers :

- (i) Two berths in sleeper class in trains have been earmarked for handicapped passengers and their escorts.
- (ii) Separate accommodation has been earmarked in suburban trains for handicapped persons.
- (iii) One seat near the door in every second class compartment is being earmarked for handicapped persons.
- (iv) Deployment of security personnel in/near ladies compartments to provide more security.

(c) While some of the facilities have already been provided. Zonal Railways have been advised to implement the remaining on priority.

[Translation]

### Terrorist Activities

\*189. SHRI LALIT ORAON :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the activities of I.S.I. in the Bihar-Bangladesh and the Bihar-Nepal border; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to check these activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b). Instances of activities of ISI on Bihar-Bangladesh and Bihar-Nepal border have come to notice. Government is alive to the situation and is keeping a close watch. All necessary steps including gearing up of intelligence and sharing of information about the movements of ISI activities are being taken. An institutionalised mechanism has been established for coordinated action. The Government of Bihar has been sensitised to counter the threats from ISI. Strict vigil is being maintained by the security and intelligence agencies on the Bihar-Bangladesh and Bihar-Nepal border and activities and movements of Pak ISI agents and their leaders operating on the border are also being closely monitored. Check-posts on the border are being strengthened.

[English]

### Expansion of IDPL

\*190. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the functions of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited during 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

### Time Taken in Issuing Railway Tickets

\*191. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Commercial Department of the

Northern Railway, the travelling public is being put to avoidable hardships and have to wait for a minimum of one hour to get a ticket:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to bring down the time taken in issuing railway tickets and to improve upon the public service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) It is only during the peak periods that the waiting time per passenger exceeds one hour at the reservation counters in metropolitan and major cities. During other parts of the year, the waiting time varies from 20 to 40 minutes at the reservation counters. At the booking counters, where unreserved tickets are sold the waiting time per passenger varies from 5 to 30 minutes from place to place and season to season.

(b) The waiting time during rush period increases on account of substantial increase in the demand for reservations.

(c) The steps taken by the Railways *inter alia* include expansion of the computerised locations, opening to satellite reservation offices, extension of the working hours of the reservation/booking counters and provision of additional reservation/booking counters.

#### Production of Diesel Engines

\*192 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has taken place with a foreign country for the production of modern Diesel Engines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith allocation made and proposed location of the manufacturing units?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

#### STATEMENT

In order to upgrade the technology and manufacture State-of-the-art locomotives in India, a global tender was floated and finalised in favour of M/s Electro Motive Division, General Motors Corporation, USA. These locomotives will be built at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi (DLW). This contract is for supply of the latest technology alongwith 21 locos, including 8 locomotives in knocked down condition which will be assembled at DLW, Varanasi.

The letter of acceptance has been issued in July, '95. The price of transfer of technology is US \$ 17.5 million (Rs. 61 Cr) and the total cost of the 21 locomotives is US \$ 41 million (Rs. 143 Cr).

DLW is likely to commence assembly of the locomotives received in knocked down condition in April 1998 onwards. No allocations are made in 1996-97 since deliveries are expected only after March 1998.

#### Development of Oilseeds

\*193. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total Central assistance provided to each State for the development of oilseeds during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the area under oilseeds cultivation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this direction particularly in the Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A statement is enclosed

(b) and (c) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in 22 States including Karnataka for increasing the production of oilseeds in the country. One of the strategies being adopted under oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is to increase the area under oilseeds cultivation through various measures like sequential cropping, inter-cropping, replacement of low economy crop and as substitute crop in problematic areas/situations

#### STATEMENT

(Rs in lakhs)

S No	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1436 55	1452 100	1413 39
2	Assam	155 743	231 850	165 02
3	Arunachal Pradesh	29 891	28 520	24 10
4	Bihar	69 12	N R	97 78
5	Gujarat	931 449	500 000	549 45
6	Haryana	160 81	N R	162 50
7	Himachal Pradesh	14 46	N R	29 23
8	Jammu and Kashmir	66 397	N R	N R
9	Karnataka	750 00	715 200	183 38
10	Kerala	N R	67 500	132 24
11	Madhya Pradesh	1005 849	1379 040	1144 43
12	Maharashtra	985 03	961 520	1032 27
13	Manipur	22 026	8 775	108 26
14	Meghalaya	15 825	7 500	6 00

1	2	3	4	5
15	Orissa	430 747	457 335	444 00
16	Punjab	187 500	64 000	7 60
17	Rajasthan	820.438	811 890	1332 50
18	Sikkim	55 857	52 723	49.68
19	Tamil Nadu	1425.00	1337.785	951 17
20	Tripura	67.276	11 500	21 09
21	Uttar Pradesh	193.24	511 900	730 21
22	West Bengal	224 792	225 000	205 70
Total		9040.00	8824 138	8820 00

\* N R Money not released

### Influx of Infiltrators

\*194. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :  
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether influx of infiltrators from across the borders of the country is still continuing;

(b) whether recent influx of foreigners is the main cause of tension in the North-East region of the country;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any fresh strategy to check influx of foreigners in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (e). In view of the very long land borders with neighbouring countries, and because of various push and pull factors, infiltration into the country, which is a serious and ongoing problem, continues though at a reduced rate. It is one of the causes of tension in the North Eastern region of the country. The Government of India has taken a serious note of the problem and has taken a series of measures to curb and prevent infiltration. These measures include, inter alia, the following :

#### (1) Strengthening of the border Security force

This includes

- (i) raising of additional battalions under the expansion plan of the Border Security Force;
- (ii) reducing gaps between the Border outposts;
- (iii) increase in the number of OP towers;
- (iv) provision of surveillance equipments and night vision devices; and
- (v) raising of riverine water wing of the Border Security Force

#### (2) Fencing, Flood Lighting and Patrolling

This includes

- (i) construction of border roads and fence on the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders;
  - (ii) flood lighting in the sensitive stretches on the Indo-Pak border; and
  - (iii) intensification of patrolling along the border.
- (3) *Surveillance on the coastal area*

This includes

- (i) intensive surveillance by Naval vessels on the high seas;
- (ii) joint Coast Guard Navy surveillance in the territorial waters; and
- (iii) patrolling by joint detachments of Navy (Coast Guard), Customs and State Police through trawlers in the shallow water along the shore.

#### 4. *Intelligence Gathering, Sharing and Coordination :*

Intelligence gathering is being constantly monitored to ensure that more and more pin-pointed and actionable intelligence is available. Mechanisms have been set up to share such information, promptly with the State Governments.

#### 5. Other Measures :

There are schemes such as Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF) in Assam and Meghalaya and Mobile Task Force (MTF) in West Bengal and Tripura which are being implemented by the concerned States to detect infiltrations.

Standing instructions have been issued to the Border Security Force, State Governments and UT Administrations for detection and deportation of infiltrators.

Based on the reports received from the States of the North Eastern Region and West Bengal, Border Security Force and other agencies, a regular review is undertaken to monitor the situation on an on-going basis.

### Use of Polythene Bags

\*195. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Slow poisoning via polythene bags" which appeared in the "Statesman", dated June 5, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the use of polythene bags is causing various types of diseases and environmental hazards.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the use of polythene in advanced countries has been banned;

(e) if so, the reasons for allowing polythene materials in the country; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Polythene bags are not harmful to the environment per se. Plastic bags or others plastic packaging should have food grade pigments, plasticizers and additives (other chemicals), which do not lead to harmful effects.

(d) to (f). Based on available information, the use of polythene bags in advanced countries is not banned. As per the amended Export-Import Policy (1992-1997), the import of plastic waste is included in the restricted list and its import is permitted against a licence.

#### Soil Conservation Schemes

\*196 DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOSLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Centrally sponsored soil conservation schemes are being implemented in the catchment of the River Valley projects in the country.

(b) if so, the names of river valley projects included under those soil conservation schemes.

(c) whether any River valley has been included in Orissa under the said schemes.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list of on-going 31 catchments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Five River Valley Catchment viz. Hirakud, Machkund-Sileru, Rengali-Mandira, Upper Kolab and Upper Indravati are included.

(e) Does not arise.

#### STATEMENT

*List of Catchments and States covered under centrally sponsored scheme of soil conservation in the catchments of river valley Projects*

S. No.	Name of Catchment	States in which catchment falls
1.	Beas (Pong Dam)	Himachal Pradesh
2.	Chambal	M.P., Rajasthan
3.	Damanganga	Gujarat, Maharashtra
4.	Damodar-Barakar	Bihar, West Bengal
5.	Dantiwada	Gujarat, Rajasthan
6.	Ghod	Maharashtra
7.	Gumti	Tripura
8.	Hirakud	M.P., Orissa
9.	Kangsabati	West Bengal
10.	Kundah	Tamil Nadu, Kerala
11.	Lower Bhavani	Tamil Nadu
12.	Machkund-Sileru	Andhra Pradesh, Orissa
13.	Mahi	Gujarat, M.P., Rajasthan
14.	Matatila	M.P., U.P.
15.	Mayurakshi	Bihar
16.	Nagarjunasagar	A.P., Karnataka, Maharashtra
17.	Nizamsagar	A.P., Karnataka, Maharashtra
18.	Pagladia	Assam
19.	Pochampad	A.P., Maharashtra
20.	Pohru	Jammu and Kashmir
21.	Ramganga	Uttar Pradesh
22.	Rengali-Mandira	Bihar, M.P., Orissa
23.	Sardar Sarovar	Gujarat, M.P., Maharashtra
24.	Sutlej	Himachal Pradesh
25.	Tawa	Madhya Pradesh
26.	Teesta	Sikkim, West Bengal
27.	Thein Dam	J and K, H.P. and Punjab
28.	Tungbhadra	Karnataka
29.	Ukai	Gujarat, M.P., Maharashtra
30.	Upper Kolab	A.P., M.P., Orissa
31.	Upper Indravati	M.P., Orissa

### Fencing of North-East Border

\*197. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for fencing and flood-lighting the North-East border to check the infiltration from Bangladesh and Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) A scheme for construction of 896 Km. of barbed wire fencing along selected stretches of the Indo-Bangladesh Border is under implementation. There is, however, no proposal to fence the Indo-Myanmar border or to flood-light any portion of the border in the North-East.

(b) The details of the scheme under implementation and its progress in various States are as below :

State	Sanctioned length for fencing (Kms)	Work completed as on 31.5.96 (Kms)	Yet to be completed (Kms)
Assam	158	125.24	32.76
Meghalaya	231	167.63	63.37
West Bengal	507	319.18	187.82
Total	896	612.05	283.95

(c) The scheme is scheduled to be completed by March, 1998.

### Militant Activities of ULFA

\*198. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some ULFA militants were killed and some apprehended on June 25, 1996 in an encounter with the Army at Baithalangsa in Karbi Anglong District of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons/army personnel killed/injured during the elections;

(c) the reasons for this sudden spurt of violence by ULFA; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such militant activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d). Reports indicate that on the night of 24th/25th June, 1996, in Kokalangsao, in a raid against an ULFA camp, four hardcore ULFA militants (including one Self Styled District Commander) were killed while three militants were captured. Besides, 13 weapons, a large quantity of ammunition and cash amounting to Rs. 56,000/- were recovered. There were no casualties on the side of the security forces.

According to information available, 26 persons were killed in ULFA related violence between 27th March, 1996 and 15th May, 1996.

During the period immediately preceding and succeeding the recent General Elections, there has been an upswing in the activities of ULFA in some parts of the State. ULFA tried to take advantage of the transitory phase immediately following the General Elections and extend its area of influence through a systematic terror campaign. ULFA has also adopted the strategy of hit and run from its safe sanctuaries/basis.

To contain the growing menace of ULFA and other outfits like BdSF and the NSCN, the army, para military forces and police are maintaining constant vigil. Both State and Central agencies are coordinating and sharing information and are on the lookout for detection/apprehension of the extremist elements. Central para military forces and armed police from other States have been deployed in Assam to assist the State Government in maintaining peace. The whole of Assam stands declared as 'disturbed area'. The army has been operating in the areas seriously affected by ULFA violence. ULFA also has been declared as an unlawful organisation under the provision of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

### Free Rail Passes to Freedom Fighters

\*199. SHRI M. SELVARASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether free rail passes are given only to the freedom fighters drawing Central Pension;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend this facility to the freedom fighters drawing pension from the States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Though these passes are issued by the Ministry of Railways, the cost thereof borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Since the State Freedom Fighters Pension Schemes are run by the concerned State Governments, it is for them to consider the demand.

[Translation]

### Foreign Nationals without Visas

\*200. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign nationals arrested, without having visas, during 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date, Statewise;

(b) whether the Government propose to send them back to their countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c). Passport (Entry into India) Act/Rules provide that all foreign nationals except the nationals of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives must be in possession of valid visa before they are allowed to enter India through authorised immigration checkpoints. Powers under the passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals residing in India illegally have been entrusted to the State Governments/UT Administrations with their prior consent in 1958. Central Government is aware of the problem of illegal infiltrators and has from time to time sensitised the State Governments and UT Administrations and have requested them to launch special drives to identify, detect and deport the foreign nationals staying in India illegally. The data regarding such arrests and deportations is maintained by the State Governments concerned.

### Obsolete Records at Railway Stations

1437. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received letters in June, 1996 regarding obsolete unimportant records lying at the railway stations/offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to weed them out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Two letters one each from Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, MP and Shri Shashi Prakash, ex. MP, suggesting that reservation slips/charts and other registers except those pertaining to accident should be kept only for a period of one month have been received.

(c) As per the extant instructions all records pertaining to reservation, are preserved for six months. In those cases where action is under process, these are preserved till the finalisation of the case. The preservation of these records for six months is

considered necessary to deal with complaints received from travelling public regarding reservations etc., cases of refunds, verification of leave travel concession, military warrants etc.

### Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1438. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of claims regarding Union Carbide Gas for payment of compensation presented and settled till May, 1996.

(b) the number of courts set up for the settlement of such claims, the number of wards where courts have not been set up so far and the reasons for not setting up courts;

(c) the number of claim cases whose appeals are pending in the courts and since when, separately; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (d). Out of 4,94,313 claim cases registered, 3,17,274 cases were disposed of till May, 1996 by the 44 Courts which were set up. Courts in 12 wards could not be set up because of the non availability of suitable presiding officers. Appeals relating to 3,388 compensation claims are pending in the Appellate Courts. Adjudication in the Appellate Courts is taken up in accordance with the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (processing of Claims) Act, 1985 and this is an on-going process.

[English]

### Railway Station at Pokhran

1439. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had received representations from the citizens of Pokhran, Jaisalmer town and surrounding areas to restore back the Railway Station at Pokhran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Representation has been received for restoring the rail link to old Pokhran station.

(c) The viability of the project is under examination by Northern Railway.

### Facilities to Retired Railway Employees

1440. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry extend L.T.C. facility to their employees after retirement also;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether the Ministry propose to extend same facility to the employees of other departments also after retirement?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise

### Suburban Railway

1441. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand made by the Suburban Railway Commuter's Association and the Members of Parliament through Railway Consultative Committee that the Suburban Railway development should be looked after by Railway Ministry and not by the Urban Development Ministry as per present distribution of work, and

(b) if so, the decision made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Based upon the information available, no demand has been received by the Zonal Railways (Central and Western) from the Suburban Railway Commuter's Association/Suburban Railways Users Consultative Committee/Mumbai for transfer of the subject back to Ministry of Railways. However, during meeting of Railway Consultative Committee with the Honble Minister of State for Railways some of the Honble Members of Parliament have raised the issue regarding transfer of the subject back to the Ministry of Railways.

The change in the Government of India, Allocation of Business Rules, 1986 transferring the subject to the Union Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment was effected on the recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries after prolonged discussions with the concerned Central Ministries and Planning Commission. At present there is no proposal for taking over the subject back from Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment by the Ministry of Railways.

### Railway Line to Sealdah-Canning Section

1442. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether some Members of Parliament from West Bengal have requested for laying of some small lines

on the Sealdah-Canning Section of the Eastern Railway especially from the tourism point of view; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request has been noted for further consideration.

### Shifting of DRM's Office

1443. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Divisional Regional Manager's office is being shifted from Alipurduar to Assam, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise

[Translation]

### Recovery of Foreign Arms

1444. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the details of category, quantity and places of recovery of illegal foreign arms recovered in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and as on June 1996

(b) the places of origin of these illegal foreign arms, and

(c) the steps taken to check the inflow of illegal foreign arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DARI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

### Stoppage at Tripunithura Station

1445. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for providing stoppage of Express/mail trains at Tripunithura Railway Station, and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but not found justified.

[Translation]

### National Rail Museum, New Delhi

1446. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) The improvement made in the National Rail Museum in Delhi and the amount spent thereon;

(b) whether there are still many deficiencies in the Rail Museum such as lack of adequate place, non-availability of old steam engines and various dresses of Drivers, Guards and attendants of different times.

(c) if so, the details thereof

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove those deficiencies, and

(e) The time by which these deficiencies are likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A number of improvements have been carried out in the Rail Museum during the current year. Mannequins of railway staff like drivers, guards, station masters etc., have been provided at various places in the museum. An interactive multimedia kiosk having software on the history of Indian railways, Indian Railways today, National Rail Museum and a quiz has also been provided in the indoor gallery for the visitors. Microprocessor controlled audio devices have been installed at 10 exhibits of the indoor gallery to provide audio description to the visiting public on pressing a button. Walkmans with a descriptive audio cassette about the outdoor exhibits has also been made available to enable visitors to have a self guided tour of the museum. The total cost of these improvements is around Rs. 54 lakhs.

(b) The Museum adequately depicts the 150 year old history of the Indian Railways. The space provided is adequate and the museum has an exhaustive collection of 39 old steam engines covering the period from 1855 to 1955. Typical uniforms of Railway staff like guards, drivers & station masters have been provided on the mannequins put on display

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

### Passenger Facilities

1447. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT :  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide additional facilities/concessions to the passengers during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The existing rail travel concession of 50% of normal fares granted to Licensed Porters has been enhanced to 75% with effect from 1.8.96

53 locations have been identified for provision of computerised reservation facilities in the country during the current year.

Provisions/augmentation of other passenger facilities is a continuous process and works are taken up on a regular basis at various stations throughout Indian Railways.

[English]

### Black Marketing of Tickets

1448. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :  
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether instances of black marketing in railway reservation tickets at Delhi, Mumbai and other important railway stations have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the matter, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some instances of blackmarketing in railway reservation tickets at Delhi, Mumbai and other important stations by touts and other unscrupulous elements are being reported and also detected during the course of checks conducted by the railways.

(b) and (c). Railways conduct frequent checks in Reservation/Booking Offices, at stations and in trains. Raids are also organised in the premises of unauthorised agents from time to time. The touts found indulging in malpractices are prosecuted under section 143 of the Railways Act, 1989. Disciplinary action is also taken against Railway staff who are found to be conniving in such activities. As a result of the 6744 preventive checks conducted by the Zonal Railways during the year 1995, 1532 touts were apprehended.

[Translation]

### Crimes in U.P.

1449. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request for conducting an inquiry in the continuously increasing crimes in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh has been received.

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far;

2(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have prepared any action-plan for checking the crimes;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f). As per provisions contained in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects. It is, therefore, for the State Governments to prepare action plan for checking crimes. The Central Government, on its part, has been guiding the States on improving the various facets of police functioning including crime control. The Central Government has also been providing financial assistance to the States for modernising their police forces. No such request as referred to in part (a) of the question has been received by the Central Government.

[English]

#### Security Vehicles for VIPs

1450 SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several pilot and escort security gypsies/jeeps provided to VIPs are running on Delhi roads without the number plates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the mode of their identification in case these are involved in any road accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) Does not arise.

#### Livestock Training Institute

1451 SHRI A C. JOS : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal submitted by the Government of Kerala for sanctioning of grants for the development of Livestock Training Institute at Mattupatti is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The proposal is being examined by government agencies. The Government will take a decision soon on the proposal.

#### Train Between Kolhapur and Tirupati

1452. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether request has been received for introduction of a new train between Kolhapur and Tirupati in February, '96.

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any action on this request; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A request to introduce a superfast train between Kolhapur and Madras to also serve Tirupati passengers has been received in February, '96.

(b) and (c) Examined but has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

#### Survey by RITES

1453. SHRI PC THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'RITES' have made a survey of a proposed railway line from Erumely to Angamaly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report has not yet been received.

[Translation]

#### International Cooperation

1454. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has signed agreements with different countries for mutual cooperation in various fields of environment;

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

(c) the details of the programmes alongwith the fields of environment to which they related?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) The Government of India had signed Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding/Joint Statement of Intent with China, Russia, Austria, Iran, Tajikistan, United Kingdom, United States of America, Brazil and Finland for cooperation in the filed of environment.

(c) The areas of cooperation include sharing perspectives and positions on key global issues such as Global Warming, Ozone Depletion, Desertification,

Biodiversity Conservation, Forests Policies including wildlife conservation. Coastal Management and Ocean issues. Toxic and Hazardous Waste Management, facilitate scientific and technological research, exchange information on environmentally sound technologies and legislation related to sustainable development and environmental protection including law enforcement, sustainable agriculture and agro-forestry techniques, environmental education and promotion of public awareness, protection of flora and fauna, prevention of trade in endangered species, training of personnel, environment impact assessment systems and procedures, management of wetlands and mangroves.

[English]

#### Railway Stations at Guwahati and Lumding

1455. DR PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fourth receipt and despatch yard line at the Lumding has been completed.

(b) whether conversion of platforms Nos one three and four at the Guwahati station alongwith washable apron on platforms No three and four has been completed:

(c) whether washable apron at platform No one at Lumding station has been provided and

(d) the details of provision of water filling arrangement for coaches at the platform Nos one and four at the Guwahati Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The facilities required for water filling on these platforms have been provided

#### Erode-Ernakulam Railway Line

1456. SHRI N N KRISHNA DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the stage at which the work of the Erode-Ernakulam Railway line of the Southern Railway stands presently.

(b) whether there are technical obstacles preventing the said construction activity:

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove these obstacles; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : (a) to (e) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member intends to find out the position of Erode-Ernakulam railway

electrification work as there is no other line work between these stations. The position of electrification work is as under :

Electrification of Erode-Ernakulam section including Cochin Harbour Terminus is an approved work. The work on section Erode-Coimbatore has already been completed. The entire section Erode-Ernakulam is targeted for completion by March, 98

[Translation]

#### Diversion of Funds of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

1457. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the financial assistance provided to Bihar for Krishi Vigyan Kendras is being spent for other purposes as a result of which the position of the said kendras remains worse and they could not encourage model farming, and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the arrangements being made for utilising the allocated amount on these kendras only

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Adequate measures have already been taken by the Government to check any diversion of money provided for Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Bihar by opening separate Bank Account in each Agricultural University and Non-Government Organization and also for each of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Grants are released from the Council only in those accounts. Very close monitoring is done for full utilization of allocated fund of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

[English]

#### Train between Delhi and Baghpat

1458. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 4545 UP and 4546 DN trains running between Delhi-Baghpat-Delhi stops at all the halt stations on the route despite being a mail train; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As 4545/4546 Delhi-Saharanpur Express provides convenient morning/evening commuter service, it stops at three out of five intermediate halt stations between Delhi and Baghpat Road on public demand.

### Abolition of Kollam-Shenkottah Goods Services

1459 SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Southern Railway has any proposal to abolish the Kollam-Shenkottah goods service.

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert the Meter gauge line from Kollam to Shenkottah into Broad gauge; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said work is to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no proposal to abolish Kollam-Shenkottah goods service.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The work is included in the first phase of the Action Plan and would be taken up in the coming years.

### NDDB Supply to Kendriya Bhandar

1460 SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has not been supplying its products to the Kendriya Bhandar for nearly a year, thereby causing difficulty to the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some proposals were received by the NDDB from some of the parties to authorise them to make supplies to the Kendriya Bhandar on the NDDB's terms; and

(d) if so, the reasons for neither authorising the parties which approached NDDB in this connection nor providing supplies to the Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The NDDB distributes its Dhara range of packed edible oils through its sole selling agents M/s Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF). M/s GCMMF Ltd. have been supplying Dhara oil regularly as per the requirements received from the Kendriya Bhandar

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Such requests are also handled by its sole selling agents

### Haldia Petrochemicals Complex

1461. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of progress of Haldia Petrochemical Complex;

(b) the total estimated cost of the entire Petrochemical Complex and the time by which the same would be completed and start production; and

(c) the reasons of such inordinate delay in completing the said complex and in starting production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) As per the information supplied by M/s. Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd., status of the progress is :-

All Process Technologies have been selected and agreements signed. The Process and Basic Engineering work are in an advanced stage of completion in the various Licensors' Offices. The Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contractor for the Cracker unit has been selected and agreements executed. Infrastructural works have already been completed. Discussions are in progress with Financial Institutions.

(b) Estimated cost of the complex is Rs. 5170 crores and production is tentatively planned for the first half of 1999

(c) The licence holder, West Bengal State Industrial Development Corporation, took some time in identifying and selecting the two joint venture partners, and in the formation of a new undertaking. Tying up of loans and selection of technology also took time

[Translation]

### Woman Crime Branch

1462 SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of complaints lodged by women in Woman Crime Branch (Nanakpura) of Delhi Police and the number of complaints out of them disposed of during 1995-96 till date.

(b) whether such complaints are disposed of in a time bound manner;

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) whether some false complaints have also been lodged.

(e) if so, the details of action taken against the concerned guilty women; and

(f) the details of the complaints withdrawn by women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) During the period 1.1.1995 to 30.6.1996, 4633 complaints were lodged by women in the Crime Against Women Cell, Nanakpura. Out of these, 3990 complaints were disposed of.

(b) and (c). The time limit to dispose of a complaint is three months. All efforts are made to dispose of the complaints within the said period.

(d) and (e). No instance of lodging a false complaint has come to notice.

(f) No complaint was withdrawn by any women.

[English]

### Linking of Broad Gauge Line, Bhiwadi

1463 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to install a new Broad gauge line from Bhiwadi to link it with Jaipur-Delhi-Ahmedabad Broad Gauge line

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action contemplated by the Union Government to finalise the same; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard and the time by which the work on this project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) A survey for the proposed line from Khurja-Palwal-Rewari-Rohtak line via Bhiwadi, which would link Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad line at Rewari has been completed. The report would be sent to Planning Commission once the project appraisal has been completed.

[Translation]

### Telephone Facility at Purniya Station

1464 SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the telephone facility to get information regarding arrival and departure of train and reservations at Purniya Junction and Purniya Court station is not available;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide this facility on the above stations

(c) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) A P & T phone for the purpose of enquiry is already available at Purniya station. However, there is no justification to provide this facility at Purniya Court station.

### Reservation for SCs/STs in Railways

1465 SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in the Ministry of Railways; and

(b) the action being taken to fill them up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) As per Department of Personnel and Training's directives, a Special Recruitment Drive had been launched during the year 1995 to wipe out the shortfall of vacancies reserved for SC/STs existing on 1.4.95 through direct recruitment. The shortfall identified in the Special Recruitment Drive as on 1.4.95 vis-a-vis cleared as on 31.3.96 and balance of shortfall is detailed below :-

Particular	Group 'C'		Group 'D'	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Identified as on 1.4.95 for filling up by direct recruitment	361	431	528	990
Cleared as on 31.3.96	306	324	58	808
Balance of shortfall	55	107	470	182

For clearing the balance shortfall and the shortfall as on 30.6.96, another Special Recruitment Drive has been launched from 15.7.96 to be completed by 31.3.97.

[English]

### Out Agency

1466 SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Out Agency for Kuttipuram Station at Ponnani (Southern Railway, District Malappuram) is not functioning;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to re-start the agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Out Agency at Ponnani was closed w.e.f. 7.6.96 temporarily as the Contractor of this agency had abandoned it without any prior notice. However, the Southern Railway administration is taking steps to restart the agency through calling of fresh tenders.

[Translation]

### Railway Colony Danapur

1467 SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether for the want of repair of quarters the Railway Colony of Danapur is in a bad shape;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to maintain these quarters properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The railway quarters in Danapur area are periodically maintained.

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

#### Rail Link in Tribal Areas

1468. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the tribal areas of the country are connected by the Railway Line;

(b) if not, whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard.

(c) whether tribal district Banswada in Rajasthan is connected by the Railway line; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to connect all the tribal districts in the country by the railway line especially Banswada district of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No, Sir.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

#### Doubling of Railway line from Surat to Bhusaval

1469. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Ministry of doubling of the railway line from Surat to Bhusaval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time schedule for the completion of each project in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, a survey for doubling of part section from Amalner to Nardana on this line has been taken up. Further consideration will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

#### Modernisation of Railway Stations in Assam

1470. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of railway stations in Assam modernised during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of railway stations in the State, where modernisation work is in progress;

(c) whether a few more railway stations in the State have been selected for modernisation during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Rangiya, Guwahati, Lumding, Gosaigaonhuti, Silchar and New Bongaigaon railway stations were modernised during the last three years.

(b) Guwahati.

(c) to (e). Works of provision of new station building at Tinsukia and remodelling of station building at Rangiya have been taken up and are expected to be completed during 1997-98 subject to availability of adequate funds.

#### Environment Damage due to Slaughter Houses

1471. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether careless throwing of animal carcasses and untreated blood all around in the open by the slaughter houses near the airports has been causing damage to the aircrafts and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of authorised and unauthorised slaughter houses in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the effective action/measures taken by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The uncontrolled throwing of animal carcasses and untreated blood by the slaughter houses all around in the open near the airports attract scavenger birds which could cause damage to the aircrafts due to bird hit as well as create unhygienic conditions and pollution problems.

State-wise number of authorized slaughter houses is given in the enclosed. No data is available on unauthorized slaughter houses.

(c) The responsibility of proper management of slaughter houses mainly rests with the municipal corporations/committees and other local bodies. However, in order to reduce the menace caused by the slaughter houses, the Central Pollution Control Board has taken the following measures :

- A comprehensive industry document on slaughter houses, meat and sea-food process has been prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board to serve as guidelines.

- To minimise pollution, the Central Pollution Control Board has suggested in-plant control measures viz. reduction of water consumption, reduction in pollution load and by-product recovery.
- The State Pollution Control Boards have been requested to regulate the activities of slaughter houses and insist upon providing of pollution control facilities.

### STATEMENT

#### Statewise Distribution of Slaughter Houses

S.No.	States	Slaughter Houses
1.	Andhra Pradesh	343
2.	Assam	5
3.	Bihar	47
4.	Gujarat	38
5.	Haryana	43
6.	Himachal Pradesh	36
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	33
8.	Karnataka	633
9.	Kerala	715
10.	Madhya Pradesh	261
11.	Maharashtra	282
12.	Nagaland	7
13.	Orissa	75
14.	Punjab	89
15.	Rajasthan	380
16.	Tamil Nadu	183
17.	Tripura	3
18.	Uttar Pradesh	407
19.	West Bengal	11
20.	Sikkim	21
21.	Chandigarh	1
22.	Delhi	1
23.	Pondicherry	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>3616</b>

[Translation]

#### Encroachment of Railway Land

1472. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether encroachment on the railway land at Barauni Junction Gadhara is being made and Railway Board is not taking any action against the encroachers; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to open Divisional Office there after getting the land vacated immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are 118 Nos. of encroachments at Garhara railway station. Action to remove the encroachments is regularly taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(b) No, Sir.

[English]

#### Refund of Unused Tickets

1473. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rules regarding refund of unused tickets have been liberalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

#### STATEMENT

*During the last few years, the rules regarding refund on unused tickets have been liberalised as under :*

(1) For night trains leaving after 9 PM, refund can be obtained from the station within first two hours after opening of reservation office on the following morning also.

(2) Refund can be obtained, during working hours and before preparation of reservation chart, from any station/reservation office in the country which is linked to the ticket issuing station by computer.

(3) Charges for issuing duplicate tickets in lieu of the lost/misplaced/torn/mutilated reserved tickets of over 500 kms. have been reduced from 25% to 10% subject to the minimum recovery of 25% charges for 500 kms. fares.

(4) If reservation for some persons in a group/family ticket is confirmed while others are on waiting list and the entire ticket is cancelled, full refund has been allowed for confirmed passengers also (less clerkage charges) provided that the ticket for entire party/family is surrendered at the journey commencing station within 4 hrs before scheduled departure and upto 3 hrs after actual departure of the train.

(5) Station Masters of 453 important Stations/Reservation Offices have been delegated special discretionary powers to grant refund on unused tickets issued by their stations which are surrendered for refund after the normal time limits prescribed in the rules for refund.

### Simbhaoli Sugar Mills

1474. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any experts team from the Central Pollution Control Board has visited Simbhaoli Sugar Mills in Ghaziabad (U.P.) in regard to the reported dumping of smouldering industrial waste by the mill.

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A two member team from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has inspected the site of M/s. Simbhaoli Sugar Mills Limited, Ghaziabad. The main findings are given below :

(i) The industry is disposing ash outside its premises into low lying areas.

(ii) Though the industry has set up treatment facilities, the effluents do not comply with the standards prescribed by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

(iii) The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board has refused consent to the unit and in the absence of "valid consent" the operation of the industry is illegal, and

(iv) The effluent after treatment is having high Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and is discharged into open lagoons/kuchcha nallah, which is a source of ground water pollution.

(c) The Government has issued closure order to M/s. Simbhaoli Sugar Mills Limited on 2nd July 1996 under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

### Passenger Amenities

1475. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total planned and unplanned expenditure for the suburban trains in West Bengal.

(b) whether there has been decline in passenger amenities in the suburban and other trains in West Bengal and other sections of the Eastern Railway, and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by Government to enhance the passenger amenities in these sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The expenditure on suburban train services on Eastern and South Eastern Railways serving West Bengal is Rs. 376.67 Crores during the year 1994-95.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

### Railway Overbridge at Shikohabad

1476. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand for the construction of an overbridge over the railway crossing at Shikohabad in the Firozabad district

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the construction of the said overbridge.

(c) whether Government would construct this overbridge as early as possible keeping in view the accidents which took place in the absence of an overbridge there

(d) if so, the time by which it would be constructed and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No Sir. There is no proposal from State Govt.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

### Railway Overbridge at Ahmedabad

1477. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of over-bridge over railway crossing on National Highway No. 8A near Ahmedabad was to be completed by 1993-94.

(b) whether the work of approach roads on both sides has been completed by the State Government but the work of Interface to be executed by Railways has not been completed so far, and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay and the likely time by which the same would be opened for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). There is no work of Road over bridge on National Highway - 8A. However, a Road over bridge has been constructed on National Highway - 8 in lieu of level crossing No. 238 near Ahmedabad and opened to traffic in 1994.

### Import of Urea

1478. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA :  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain Government companies have been made eligible to import urea notwithstanding the existence of the MMTC and STC as the sole canalising agencies for many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the date from which departure from the prevalent policy was approved, company-wise;

(c) the reasons for this relaxation in the policy;

(d) the total quantities of urea contracted for import and actually received upto March 31, 1996 by each agency, separately;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the policy decision and restore the status-quo-ante and

(f) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) The urea imported on Government's account till 1994-95 was entirely canalised through M/s. MMTC Ltd. In October 1994 when MMTC was unable to deliver quantities against requirement a decision was made to give ad-hoc allocations to National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL), Pyrites Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd (PPCL) and Madras Fertilizers Ltd (MFL) to supplement the efforts of MMTC. In 1995-96, NFL, PPCL and State Trading Corporation Ltd (STC) alongwith Indian Potash Limited (IPL) were inducted as licencees for import of urea on Government's account with MMTC continuing as the lead canalising agent.

(d) The quantities contracted and actually received by each of the canalising agencies during 1995-96 are given below

(Qty in lakh tonnes)

Name of Canalising Agency	1995-96	
	Quantity contracted	Quantity actually received
MMTC	28.81	26.03
STC	6.17	3.09
PPCL	6.75	3.85
NFL	5.76	3.35
IPL	3.37	1.50

(e) and (f). There is no proposal for reverting to the single agency system at present.

### Bhadrak and Balasore Railway Stations

1479. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to improve the facilities and modernise the Bhadrak and Balasore Railway Stations on the South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any demand has been made to stop Rajdhani Express at Balasore Station; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representations pertained to improvement/augmentation of facilities like extension of platform covers, raising of platforms, booking/reservation facilities, foot-over-bridge, remodelling of station buildings.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The demand was considered but not found justified.

### Daitri-Bampani Railway Line

1480. SHRI MADHABA SARDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the Daitri-Bampani Railway line;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to construct a new railway line between Painkoili and Rourkela keeping in view its importance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Work is in progress on Km. 0-124 of which the first 15 km section from Banspani to Joruri will be opened this year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

### Transfer of Catering Contracts

1481. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether as per the policy of the Government the catering/vending contracts can automatically be transferred to the legal heir of the deceased contractor as usual; and

(b) if so, the detailed guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). As per policy, in the event of death of licence of a catering/vending unit, the licence can be transferred in the name of legal heir, for the unexpired period of contract.

#### Recovery of Arms Dropped at Purulia

1482 DR. G.R. SARODE :  
DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :  
SHRI SOHAN BEER :  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the arms dropped at Purulia have been recovered.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the value of the foreign arms in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). A statement indicating the possible quantity of arms, ammunitions etc. dropped, as per Mr. Peter Bleach, the main accused in the Arms Dropping case in Purulia, and the actual recovery made (as on 30.6.1996) is attached.

(c) Mr. Peter Bleach, the main accused in the case, during interrogation, is reported to have stated that the dropped arms consignment was worth US Dollars 1.65.000 which included an US\$ 30,000 towards the cost of aircraft used for air dropping of the arms etc.

#### STATEMENT

*Details of Arms, Ammunitions etc. as on 30.6.96*

S.No	Items	Possible quantity air-dropped (as per Peter Bleach)	Actual recovery so far as on 30.6.96
1	2	3	4
1.	AL-47/56 (Kalashnikov)	300	246
2.	7.62 Ammunition (50 mm type)	36 400	20 543 rounds
3.	9 mm Pistols	25	11
4.	9 mm Ammunition	3 840	3 885 round
5.	Rocket Launchers	10	10

1	2	3	4
6.	Booster for Rocket Launchers	100	69
7.	Telescopic Sight for Rocket Launchers	10	6
8.	Dragunov 7.62 Sniper Rifles	2	2
9.	Hand Grenade	100	65
10.	Anti tank grenade	100	78
11.	DVM Liquid Cans (fuse & igniter system for grenades)	10	9
12.	Parachutes	3	3
13.	Night Vision equipments	2	2
14.	Oil Pots		60
15.	Cleaning Rod		4
16.	Punches (Canvas pouch Small pouch)		162
17.	Revolver Holster		19
18.	Cleaning brush		59
19.	Nylon rope		1
20.	Sling		102
21.	Empty Mazazine		914

[Translation]

#### Meter Gauge Railway Line from Hasanpur to Sikri

1483 SHRI PITAMBAR PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the foundation stone for laying Meter Gauge Railway Line from Hasanpur to Sikri in the North-Eastern Railway was laid in the year 1974 by then Minister of Railways after its clearance from the Government

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting the work so far even after the lapse of 22 years.

(c) the time by which the Government propose to commence the said work without any further delay, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of Hassanpur-Sakri M.G. new line was included in the budget 1974-75, but owing to low operational priority and constraint of resources, no funds could be provided. It was dropped in 1986. Now again, the project has been included in the budget 96-97.

(c) The work would be started after the budget is passed and necessary clearances have been obtained.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

### Computerisation at Sub-Urban Railway Stations

1484. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise the ticket counters at the sub-urban Railway Stations;

(b) whether any plans have been drawn for the projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated for the purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Computerised reservation facilities have been provided at certain suburban stations of metropolitan and major town. Computerisation has also been done on an experimental basis for issue of season tickets at eight suburban stations in Mumbai. Besides Micro-processor based Self Printing Ticket Machines have also been provided at important suburban stations

(b) and (c) In the financial year 1996-97 it is proposed to provide computerised reservation facilities at 21 additional suburban stations on the Indian Railways. An outlay of about Rs. 12.29 crores has been made during the Eighth Five Year Plan for providing these facilities at suburban stations

[Translation]

### Broad-Gauge Line Between Chapra to Sivan

1485. SHRI LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Metre Gauge Railway line from Chapra to Sivan via Gopalganj into broad-gauge;

(b) if so, the time by which and the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Constraint of resources

[English]

### Railway Line Between Wadi to Gadag

1486. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal regarding laying of new railway line between Wadi to Gadag in Karnataka is pending with the Government since 1952;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the reasons for delay and the present status thereof?

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

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

### Diversion of Railway Line

1487. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to divert the Rail line from Bangalore to Manmad via Gulberga Humnabad and Bhalki; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise

### Train for Howrah via Nawada

1488. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to divert any train running between Delhi and Howrah via Nawada - Sheikhpura;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Due to operational constraints.

### Sabari Railway Line in Kerala

1489. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received first phase preliminary cum traffic survey report of "Sabari" Railway line in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of money needed for the first phase of construction; and

(d) the present status of IInd phase survey of Sabari Railway line from Punalur to Trivandrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) A survey for the proposed line from Kottayam to Punalur via Erumely with the branch line from Erumely to Sabarimala has recently been completed and has

revealed that the line would not be remunerative. However, several MPs and CM/ Kerala had indicated that if the proposed line could be extended to Trivandrum, and from Sabarimala to Dindigul, the lines would form alternative routes and would become viable. There were also several demands for these lines independently. As such, in order to get a realistic idea of the costs and traffic potential of the routes which would be created as well as of the individual segments, the scope of the survey was enlarged to include the survey for a new BG line from Punalur to Trivandrum. These surveys are still in progress. The reports are expected within this year. Further consideration of this project would become possible as soon as the survey report becomes available.

#### Impact of Petroleum Price Hike

1490 SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the impact, both direct and indirect, or hike in the prices of petroleum products on the farmers having marginal, medium and large holdings, category and cost-wise, separately;

(b) whether the Government propose to compensate the farmers for the increase in the costs and if so, the extent and manner of doing the same;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to evolve a formula by which the farmers especially with marginal and medium holdings are to be compensated; and

(d) if so, the broad contours of the said formula?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) In agriculture sector diesel is mostly used for farm machinery and irrigation. As per estimates available under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying cost of Cultivation/Production of Crops in India, on an average, cost of diesel in the total cost is estimated to be about 4%. This percentage is slightly higher upto 6% in more mechanised States of Punjab and Haryana. The 15% hike in price of diesel is likely to increase the overall cost of production of crops by about 0.6% while it may be in the range of 0.7 to 0.9% in the States of Punjab and Haryana for different crops. Estimates according to size class of holdings are not available.

(b) The increase in the price of diesel will get reflected in the cost of production which is one of the important tangible factors in determining the level of minimum support price of major agricultural commodities. Thus, the rise in the prices of diesel will be duly taken into account in working out the minimum support prices.

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

#### Doubling of Railway Line

1491. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam via Kottayam railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### Processed Food Factory of NAFED

1492. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Processed Food Factory of NAFED at Delhi is running into huge losses for the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to institute an inquiry into the whole issue to locate the reasons for the huge losses and fix the responsibility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The losses incurred by Processed Food Factory of NAFED at Delhi from 1992-93 onwards are as under:

Year	Net Losses (in Rs. lacs)
1992-93	44.60
1993-94	55.14
1994-95	130.50

The main reasons for the said losses are generally obsolete plant and machinery, interest on capital, high wages and administrative overheads.

(c) to (e). The Board of Directors appointed an Expert Committee to look into the working of the processed food factory. The Expert Committee made certain recommendations which are under implementation.

#### Introduction of AC Coaches

1493. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce

three-tier AC Coaches in the trains running in Madurai-Bangalore section:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, not at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A.C. 3 tier coaches being manufactured by the Railways are having air brake system and are being progressively deployed on trains getting converted into Air Brake.

### Representations from Jamnagar

1494 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether representations have been received from Jamnagar regarding extension of long distance trains upto Dwarka, increase in reservation quota at Jamnagar station and change in time schedules of Saurashtra Janata, Saurashtra Express and Intercity Express

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) : From time to time, representations are being received in this regard from Members of Parliament and others including Passenger Associations of Jamnagar.

(c) The extension of long distance trains upto Dwarka, Change in timings of Saurashtra Janata Express, Saurashtra Express and Hapa-Rajkot-Ahmadabad Express have been examined but not found feasible due to operational exigencies.

Regarding increase in reservation quota at Jamnagar, this station has been provided with a Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and has access to the entire quota on Mumbai PRS on first-come-first served basis. For the trains in which specific quota has been allotted after computerisation of reservation at Jamnagar, the quotas are reviewed periodically and adjustment are made on the basis of utilisation to the extent possible.

### Forest Cover

1495 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA  
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of reserve as well as total forest cover during 1985 and as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether deforestation/illegal felling of trees at the rate of 47,000 hectares annually has brought down the forest cover in the country to ten per cent only;

(c) the main causes of the low percentage of forest cover

(d) the impact of deforestation on environment and ecology of the area; and

(e) the effective measures/scheme being taken and proposed to be taken by the Union and State Governments to arrest the deforestation activities and increase the forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Statewise details of the forest cover for the period 1985-87, 1989-91 and that of reserved forest for the period 1987-89 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) As per the State of Forest Report, 1993 the area under the forest cover in the country is 64.01 million hectares which is 19.47% of the total geographical area of the country.

(c) The main causes for sub-optimal forest cover in the country are excessive biotic pressure with increasing human and cattle population, encroachments, lack of natural regeneration due to excessive grazing, shifting cultivation, forest fires, diseases, natural calamities like floods, droughts, cyclones, avalanches, etc.

(d) The impact of deforestation on environment and ecology of the area are as under

- Land degradation and impoverishment of the soil due to heavy erosion caused by rain, wind etc.
- The loss of gene-pool, bio-diversity and wildlife habitats of great biological significance.
- Lowering of productivity thereby leading to lesser production of biomass for use of humans and animals.
- Extinction of rare and threatened species of plants and animals.
- Deterioration of life-support systems including water resources.

(e) The effective measures/scheme being taken and proposed to be taken by the Union and State Governments to arrest the deforestation activities and increase the forest cover are as under

- Enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 to regulate diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.
- Implementation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to check forest and wildlife offences.

- Conservation of rare and threatened species of wildlife and unique habitats of great biological significance through implementation of special programmes like Project Tiger, Project Elephant, etc.
- Large scale afforestation/reforestation under Central and State Government schemes
- Encouraging wood substitution and promoting fuel saving devices to reduce consumption of wood.
- Extending agro-forestry and integrated wastelands development programmes over non-forest area to reduce pressure on the natural forests.
- Implementation of Joint Forest Management with the involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies in protection and regeneration of forests.

### STATEMENT

(Area: Sq. km.)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Total Forest Cover for the period		Reserved Forest for the period
		1985-87	1989-91	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47911	47256	50,075.29
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68763	68661	15,321.35
3.	Assam	26058	24508	17,927.81
4.	Bihar	26934	26587	5,051.00
5.	Goa (including Daman and Diu)	1300	1250	651.976
6.	Gujarat	11670	12044	13,763.88
7.	Haryana	563	513	229.47
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13377	12502	1,896.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20424	20443	20,173.74
10.	Karnataka	32100	32343	28,610.53
11.	Kerala	10149	10336	9,152.11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	133191	135396	80,976.01
13.	Maharashtra	44058	43859	42,722.00
14.	Manipur	17885	17621	1,463.00
15.	Meghalaya	15690	15769	980.63
16.	Mizoram	18178	18697	7,127.00
17.	Nagaland	14356	14348	8,625.00
18.	Orissa	47137	47145	26,107.61
19.	Punjab	1151	1343	43.36
20.	Rajasthan	12966	13099	12,301.74
21.	Sikkim	3124	3119	2,650.00

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Tamil Nadu	17715	17726	18,838.00
23.	Tripura	5325	5538	3,847.09
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33844	33961	36,151.55
25.	West Bengal	8394	8186	7,054.00
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	7624	7624	2,929.00
27.	Chandigarh	8	5	1.94
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	205	206	203.08
29.	Delhi	22	22	42.00
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-
Total		640122	640107	414916.165

### Fishing Harbour

1496. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for setting up of a Fishing Harbour at Ponnani in Kerala,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto and the time by which the same is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The project proposal received from the State Government for Rs 916.00 lakhs was examined and the State Government have been requested to carryout model studies and to prepare a Techno-Economic Feasibility Report to ensure the technical soundness and economic viability of the project. The revised report is awaited from the State Government.

[Translation]

### Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1497. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state.

(a) the number of cases of Bhopal gas tragedy in which the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal rejected the representations submitted for revising the category of compensation during the last three years;

(b) whether as per the judgement of the Supreme Court the rejected cases would be revived;

(c) whether the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal has displayed the list of such cases on the notice board;

(d) if so, the date thereof;

(e) whether some compensation cases were brought under the purview of 'Lok Adalats';

(f) if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefor.

(g) the basis on which the cases of compensation were referred to the 'Lok Adalats'; and

(h) whether the cases disposed of by the 'Lok Adalats' would be set aside because the 'Lok Adalat' system did not contain the provision of appeal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) 300

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir, on 25.05.1996

(e) to (g). Yes Sir, 49,299 claim cases were decided in the Lok Adalats. The cases were taken up for expeditious disposal of claims.

(h) No Sir. Claimants feeling aggrieved can go in appeal as per provisions of law and some such cases have also been decided by the Appellate Courts.

[English]

#### Railway Over-Bridge in Kerala

1498 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :  
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name and number of railway over-bridges under construction in the State of Kerala.

(b) the total cost of construction of these railway over-bridges.

(c) whether Government are planning to construct more railway overbridges in the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Six. Three on cost sharing basis and three on 'deposit' terms as under

#### Costs sharing basis

(i) At Tellicherry in lieu of Level Crossing No. 229 at Km. 732/9-10 on Shoranur-Mangalore section.

(ii) Between Wadakkancheri and Mulagunnathukavu in lieu of level crossing Nos. 13 and 15 at Km. 17/16-17 and 20/6-7 on Shorannur-Mangalore section.

(iii) On Wellington Road NH No. 47-A connection Wellington Island and Cochin Bye-pass of NH No. 47-A.

#### 'Deposit' terms

(i) & (ii) Two Road Over Bridges at Km. 94/12-13 between Kalamassery and Idappalli stations on Shoranur-Ernakulam section.

(iii) Road over bridge at Km. 40/5-6 between Ollur and Pudukkad station on Shoranur-Cochin Harbour Terminus section.

(b) Rs. 1816.20 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of level crossing No 561 at Km. 179/13-14 between Varkala and Akathumuri stations has been included in Railway Budget 1996-97.

#### Unauthorised Entrance in Reserved Coaches

1499. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether passengers force their entry into the reserved compartments between Kanpur and Gaya; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check unauthorised entry and ticketless travelling on the above line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some complaints of unauthorised passengers entering into Sleeper Class coaches between Gaya and Kanpur have come to notice.

(b) Apart from taking follow up action on specific complaints, surprise checks are organised frequently by commercial and vigilance departments in close concert with RPF and GRP to apprehend persons travelling without proper authority. Action is taken against such people under provisions of Railways Act. Checks have been intensified in trains running between Kanpur and Gaya.

[Translation]

#### Recruitment in Paramilitary Forces

1500. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the criteria laid down by the Government for recruitment of the Jawans and Officers in various Paramilitary Forces so as to give due representation to all the categories of people and to all the States so as to maintain a balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : Direct recruitment of officers in the Para Military Forces is made through All India Competitive Examinations.

Recruitment of Jawans in Central Para Military Forces is also made on All India basis. The annual vacancies are allotted to each State/UT on the basis of

the population taking into consideration the special needs and circumstances of different areas. The recruitment are made in accordance with the reservation policy of the Government.

### Late Running of Doon Express

1501 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 3009 Howrah-Dehradun Express has been continuously arriving late at the Bareilly Junction for the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure running of the said train on the scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The punctuality of 3009 UP Doon Express has not been satisfactory during the last one year due to various reasons such as accidents, agitations, equipment failures, alarm-chain-pulling, running out of path, miscreant activities etc.

(c) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers level are also being launched.

[English]

### Development of Pulses

1502 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States where efforts have been made for the development of pulses under the National Pulses Development Programme; and

(b) the details of efforts made and net outcome thereof during the last three years in each State particularly in the Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented in 255 selected districts spread over in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Delhi.

(b) For increasing the production of pulses, efforts are being made to propagate the adoption of improved production technology through organisation of field demonstrations and trainings, supply of key inputs like

quality seeds, improved farm implements, Rhizobial culture, micro-nutrients, sprinkler sets, etc.

Besides, frontline demonstrations through ICAR and State Department of Agriculture are being organised to demonstrate the latest pulses production technology.

A letter from the Agriculture Minister to all Chief Ministers has also gone which asks for chalking out a time bound programme for increasing production of pulses. The statement indicating state-wise net outcome in terms of production of pulses achieved in the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

### STATEMENT

#### Production of Pulses

000 Tonnes

S No	State/UT	Production		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Prov.)
1	Andhra Pradesh	677.0	636.5	804
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5.3	5.5	-
3	Assam	57.0	59.4	84
4	Bihar	735.5	810.5	811
5	Goa	5.1	5.1	-
6	Gujarat	538.1	518.5	432
7	Haryana	469.6	493.6	566
8	Himachal Pradesh	8.6	10.3	22
9	Jammu and Kashmir	19.2	19.2	20
10	Karnataka	630.3	625.2	769
11	Kerala	33.3	33.0	20
12	Madhya Pradesh	3264.6	3572.0	3679
13	Maharashtra	2205.3	1698.3	1812
14	Meghalaya	2.5	2.4	-
15	Manipur	-	-	-
16	Nagaland	10.0	10.0	-
17	Orissa	498.6	563.6	537
18	Punjab	80.7	90.5	92
19	Rajasthan	1071.1	1965.6	1874
20	Sikkim	5.5	4.4	-
21	Tamil Nadu	276.4	396.0	556
22	Tripura	6.5	6.5	-
23	Uttar Pradesh	2516.0	2418.7	2633
24	West Bengal	170.6	153.9	205
25	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.8	0.8	-
26	Delhi	1.0	1.0	-
27	Others *	16.20	16.2	51
All India		13304.8	14116.7	14967

\* Include Manipur, Delhi and A & N Islands also

### Over-Bridges in Maharashtra

1503. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals regarding Railway Projects received from the Government of Maharashtra pending for consideration by the Government;

(b) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) the details of projects cleared during the last two months; and

(d) the specific steps proposed to be taken for the construction of overbridges on rail-crossings in the State to avoid traffic jams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No proposals are pending with the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following new projects in Maharashtra have been included recently in the Budget, 1996-97 :

### Doublings

1. Panvel-Roha - Land Acquisition

2. Sewagram (Wardha East) - Chitoda

(d) Railways consider replacement of busy level crossings having traffic density of 1 lakh or more TVUs (Train Vehicle Units, a figure obtained by multiplying the number of trains by the number of road vehicle units passing the level crossing per day) by Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis on the request of State Governments who have to bear their share of the cost.

[Translation]

### Ticketless Travelling

1504. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ticketless travellers apprehended during 1995-96 till date.

(b) the amount of penalty recovered from these travellers; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the ticketless travelling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). During the year 1995-96 and from April to June, 1996, 91.42 lakh persons were detected travelling without tickets and/or with improper tickets and a sum of Rs. 89.15 crores was realised as fare and penalty from them.

(c) In order to curb the evil of ticketless/irregular travel, special and surprise checks are being regularly

conducted by mobilising a large number of ticket checking staff and officers in association with Special Railway Magistrates, Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force. In addition, massive concentrated checks like fortress checks, ambush checks, 96 hour drives are undertaken regularly. The minimum penalty for ticketless travel has also been enhanced in the Railways Act, 1989 from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 50/-.

[English]

### Maintenance of Railway Platforms

1505. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have leased out a number of railway platforms for maintenance to the private parties; and

(b) if so, the names of the stations where platforms have been leased out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No separate contracts have been allotted for maintenance of railway platforms. However, the scheme of beautification/maintenance of stations in lieu of sole advertising rights is in operation at the following stations:

Jaalgaon, Masjid, Dadar, Ghatkopar, Ludhiana, Jullandhar City, Amritsar, Jammu Tawi, Saharanpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Jalpaiguri, Madras Central, Chrompet, Kumbakonam, Mamblam, Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Hubli, Kharagpur, Bandra, Khar Road, Andheri, Kandivli, Borivli, Surat.

### Flyover at Tamblai Railway Station

1506. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for the construction of a flyover at Tamblai Railway Station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No. Sir. There is no proposal from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

### First Class Coaches

1507. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of trains in which the First Class coaches are not available;

(b) whether the Government servants are being put to avoidable inconvenience due to non availability of such coaches in the fast moving trains.

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to provide First Class Coaches with each and every train from which these had been detached during the past few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Indian Railways are running about 3800 Suburban trains in 5 Cities and of these, trains in Delhi, Calcutta and Secunderabad do not carry first class accommodation. On non-suburban sector, about 3950 trains are running and of these, only a few trains carry first class accommodation are voluminous and are not readily available.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to carry more number of passengers per train and per coach in more comfort and as a measures of coping with growth in traffic, railways had stopped manufacturing First Class Coaches. Instead, AC 2 tier and AC 3 tier coaches are already being provided in more and more trains.

#### Replacement of Bogies

1508 SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for allotting new bogies to replace the existing old bogies of the long distance trains on a priority basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Coaches are allotted to the Zonal Railways on the basis of requirement. New Coaches are utilised on premier trains and it is a continuous process carried out in a phased manner. During 1995-96, about 15 pairs of long distance Mail/Express trains were provided with new coaches.

#### Stoppage at New Bongaigaon

1509. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saraighat Express from Howrah does not have any stoppage at New Bongaigaon station;

(b) whether there is demand for stoppage of the train at New Bongaigaon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Examined but not found feasible.

[Translation]

#### Halt at Bariyarpur

1510. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposals for halt of Mujjafarpur-Bhagalpur City Express at Bariyarpur Station on Eastern Railway for providing two AC sleepers and four second class sleepers in Vikramshila, and reservation of quota for two A.C. sleepers and two second class sleepers in Farakka Express have been approved; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement to said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Instructions have been given to Eastern Railway to provide an additional quota of two sleeper class berths at Bariyarpur Station by Vikramshila/Magadh Express. Due to limited availability of reserved accommodation and full utilisation of quotas at the existing quota holding stations, there is no proposal at present to allot A.C. Sleeper quota by this train and also additional sleeper class quota by Farakka Express train.

[English]

#### Construction Activities in Coastal Areas

1511. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has banned construction activities in the Coastal areas within 500 metres of the high water mark.

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

(c) whether the court has also directed the Union Government to set up a National Coastal Management Authority as an apex body to monitor the action of Coastal Management Bodies at the State level.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) In the order dated 18th April, 1996 in civil writ petition No. 664 of 1993, the Supreme Court has directed that pending finalisation of Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs), interim orders passed by the court on 12.12.1994 and 09.03.1995 shall continue to operate. In the interim order dated 12.12.1994, the Court has directed all the coastal States/Union Territories not to permit the setting up of any industry or construction of any type in the area at least upto 500 metres from the sea water at the maximum High Tide Line. But, subsequently in another interim order dated 09.03.1995 the court has modified

the order of 12th December, 1994 and directed that all the restrictions and prohibitions regarding construction and setting up of industries or for any other purposes contained in the notification issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 19.2.1991 and the amendment dated 16.8.1994 shall be meticulously followed by all the concerned States.

(c) to (e). For the purpose of ensuring effective implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, the Supreme Court has directed the Central Government to consider setting up State Level Coastal Management Authorities in each State or zone and also a National Coastal Management Authority under Section (3) of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. In pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Central Government is considering a framework for setting up a Central and State Coastal Zone Management Authorities.

#### Assistance under Tribal Sub-Plan Areas

1512 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to help the farmers in the Tribal Sub-Plan areas to grow crops.

(b) if so, the approximate number of tribals in different Tribal Sub-Plan areas.

(c) the Central assistance sanctioned to them during the Eighth Five Year Plan for development of the agriculture, and

(d) the details of the schemes made in this regard for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d). Economic betterment is an important consideration in the formulation of agricultural development programmes. Specific schemes implemented by Government which help people from the tribal areas include

- 1 Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in North-Eastern Region
- 2 Assistance to Cooperatives for Weaker Sections
- 3 Transport subsidy on Seeds for North-Eastern States and Sikkim
- 4 Special Scheme for STs/SCs for share capital contribution and managerial assistance for credit cooperative societies

Measures have also been taken to ensure that specific benefits flow to SC/ST farmers and other weaker sections under other production oriented programme implemented by the Government. In the case of area development programme, efforts are made to identify

those areas for development which have a predominant proportion of SC/ST population.

A list of important schemes, under which benefits flow to the SC/ST population together with total expenditure during 1992-96 is enclosed as Statement.

The schemes benefit the farmers both directly and indirectly. Direct schemes include crop oriented schemes cooperative for weaker sections, subsidy on transportations of seeds, promotion of fertilizers etc. In view of this, it is difficult to specify the number of tribals who have benefited from these programmes.

#### STATEMENT

##### List of Important Schemes for Assistance to Tribals

S. No.	Scheme	Total Expenditure/Releases from 1992-96 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in NE Region.	2924
2	Assistance to Cooperatives for Weaker Sections	537
3	Assistance to Cooperatives for Women	508
4	Transport subsidy on Seeds for NE States and Sikkim	127
5	Special scheme for SCs/STs for shares capital contribution and managerial assistance for Credit Cooperative societies	305
6	Oilseeds Production Programme	33533
7	National Pulses Development Programme.	10018
8	Integrated Cereals Development Programme - Rice	13032
9	Integrated Cereals Development Programme - Wheat	11705
10	Intensive Cotton Development Programme	3750
11	Special Jute Development Programme	671
12	Integrated Cereals Development Programme - Coarse Cereals	5240
13	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas	62659
14	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project	22077

1	2	3
15	Reclamation of Alkali Soils.	3017
16	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of Flood Prone Rivers.	10622
17	Integrated Development of Spices.	7871
18	Integrated Development of Tropical Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits.	4853
19	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.	13967
20	Development of Fertilizer use in Low Consumption rainfed areas.	379
Total		207795

### Hearings of Rape Cases in Camera

1513. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any legislation for conducting hearings of the proceedings of cases of rape in camera

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

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (c) Provisions already exist under Section 327 Cr. P.C. for conducting trial of rape cases in camera and also to prevent the printing or publishing of any matter relating to such trials

### Broad Gauge Line from Kolagat to Nagaur

1514. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the statement showing the position of survey conducted by the Northern Railway Survey Organisation for laying new broad gauge line from Kolagat to Nagaur and Phalodi in Rajasthan, and

(b) the stage at which the survey is pending and the time by which a detailed survey report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Surveys for new BG lines from Kolayat (Kolagat) to Phalodi and Phalodi to Nagaur in Rajasthan are in progress. The survey reports are likely to be received during this year.

[Translation]

### Rail Link to Maharajganj

1515. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to link Maharajganj Headquarters of District Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh with railway line has been under consideration of the Government since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking a decision thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources, it has not been possible to consider taking up the work for the present.

[English]

### Plant Protection in Jammu and Kashmir

1516. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the pesticides and insecticides being used for the protection of fruit bearing trees in Jammu and Kashmir State;

(b) whether prices charged by the manufacturers of pesticides are very high.

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have framed any policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Commonly used pesticides and insecticides for the protection of fruit bearing trees are : Mancozeb, Carbendazim, Dodine, Captan, Ziram, Carbaryl, Phosphamidon, Discolfol etc

(b) No such report has come to the notice of Government.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken the following major steps to ensure availability of pesticides at reasonable price :

(i) Increased indigenous manufacture of various pesticides is being encouraged;

(ii) With the liberalised import policy, pesticides could be imported freely and sold at competitive price;

- (iii) Agro-industries/cooperatives/marketing federations are being encouraged to come up with more pesticides formulation units and take up pesticides distribution in a big way.
- (iv) Customs duty on imported pesticides and intermediate products has been progressively reduced.

#### Expenditure on Doubling of Railway lines

1517. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the earnings on passenger and goods traffic during the last year, zone-wise and

(b) the amount spent on doubling of the railway lines this year upto June, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The earnings on passenger and goods traffic during the last year, zone-wise are as under

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Railways	Passenger Earnings	Goods Earnings
Central	1192.03	2225.81
Eastern	644.22	1784.68
Northern	1186.10	2313.49
N E	330.37	219.12
N F	111.27	270.51
Southern	595.75	797.11
S C	542.30	1531.63
S E	403.00	3792.13
Western	1107.96	2355.92

(b) Zone-wise approximate amount spent on doubling the line under Grant No. 16 during this financial year upto June '96 is as under

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Central	2.61
Eastern	2.94
Northern	1.08
N E	0.06
N F	0.86
Southern	3.75
S C	1.01
S E	13.67
Western	0.80

[Translation]

#### British Ownership of Railways Lines

1518. DR. G. R. SARODE :

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there are railway lines in Vidarbha region are still owned by a British Company

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these lines were given on lease by the British Company to the Indian Railway;

(d) if so, the time by which the said lease is likely to expire

(e) the salient features of the lease agreement;

(f) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to take over these railway lines

(g) if so, the details thereof, and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The three Railway lines in the Vidharbha region are owned by M/s. The Central Provinces Railways Company Limited, a public limited company registered under Companies Act in India. These three lines comprise of the following sections

1	Murtijapur-Yavatmal	-	113 Kms.
2	Murtijapur-Achalpur	-	77 Kms
3	Pulagaon-Arvi	-	35 Kms
Total			225 Kms

(c) No lease agreement has been executed. These lines are worked by the Central Railway as a branch line in terms of a contract entered into in 1916 and supplementary contracts between the Central Provinces Railway Company and the ex-Great Indian Peninsula Railway, as per the following terms of the agreement

1. The Central Railway as the working agency retains 45% of the gross earnings per annum towards the working expenses
2. The balance 55% of the gross earnings is treated as net earnings of these lines
3. If the net earnings are not sufficient to meet 5% of the returns on share capital invested by the Company plus Rs. 21,000/- per annum towards Management expenses, the deficit thereof is made good by the Central Railway as a Guarantee return

4. If the net earnings exceed the above guaranteed return it will be shared equally by the Central Railway and M/s. Central Provinces Railway.

(d) and (e). Since there is no lease, the question of expiry does not arise.

(f) to (h). Under the agreement, the Central Government have the option recurring at intervals of every ten years to purchase the line by giving the Company a twelve months notice, in writing on 31st March, 1947 or on the 31st day of March of last year of any subsequent period of ten years. The last such option was due on 31.3.96. The option was not exercised and it was decided on financial considerations that these Branch lines may continue to be worked by the Central Railway.

#### Rail link to Hazaribagh and Dumaka

1519. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect the Divisional Headquarters, Hazaribagh and Dumaka with the rail-line.

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be connected; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the 9th Five Year Plan period.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Misuse of Concessional Freight

1520. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of misuse of concessional freight for sponsored foodgrains by FCI have come to the notice of Ministry recently or during the last three years.

(b) if so number thereof.

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such misuse by the Government agencies; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

#### Konkan Railway Corporation

1521. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Konkan Railway Corporation has shown

favours to some private contractors working on the Mega Railway Projects and paid advances to them even before signing the contracts;

(b) whether any enquiry has been ordered into these irregularities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A committee of Executive Directors of the Railway Board is looking into various aspects of payment of advances and their recoveries, on the Konkan Railway project. The Committee is yet to submit its final report.

#### Reservation Quota in Trains

1522. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRIMATI BHAVANA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a number of representations for increasing the quota of berths at various railway stations in Gujarat for the trains directly connected with Delhi, Mumbai and Madras.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard along with the details of quota to be increased for each train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The details are as under :

	Station/Train No.	Direction
Vapi	2925 Paschim Express	Delhi
Amalsad	42 Viramgram-Mumbai Passenger	Mumbai
	9023 Janata Express	Delhi
Billimora	9022 Flying Ranee Express	Mumbai
	9012 Gujarat Express	Mumbai
Chappi	9018 Saurashtra-Janata Express	Mumbai
	9006 Saurashtra Mail	Mumbai
Jamnagar	9018 Saurashtra-Janata Express	Mumbai
	9216 Saurashtra Express	Mumbai
Dholka	9006 Saurashtra Mail	Mumbai
Dhandhuka	9006 Saurashtra Mail	Mumbai
Botad	9006 Saurashtra Mail	Mumbai
Jetpur	9006 Saurashtra Mail	Mumbai
Junagarh	9006 Saurashtra Mail	Mumbai

(c) The demands have been examined and additional quota of two sleeper class berths by 2925

Mumbai-Amritsar Paschim Express has been allotted at Vapi station. The quota available at other stations is adequate to meet the present level of demand.

#### Night Train Between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer

1523 COL. (RETD) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the night passenger train between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer has not been restored so far as the metre gauge track was converted into broad gauge in April, 1995 between these two stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce an overnight passenger train between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer during 1996-97.

#### Delegation of Powers under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

1524. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have delegated Region-wise powers to Chief Conservator of Forests for giving approval for diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. for non-forestry purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and not to the State Governments;

(b) whether several State Governments have urged the Union Government to delegate these powers directly to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Chief Conservators of Forests (Central), Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment and Forests, have been given powers to decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. except regularisation of encroachments and mining.

(b) and (c). Some State Governments represented before Sarkaria Commission for delegation of powers under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on the grounds that even small schemes got delayed while awaiting clearance from the Central Government under the Act.

(d) To cut short the delay in processing of the proposals received under the Forest (Conservation)

Act, 1980, revised guidelines have been issued on 25.10.92 which *inter alia* include delegation of powers to Chief Conservators of Forests (Central) to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. except regularisation of encroachments and mining. They have also been delegated the power of initial processing of all proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha. in consultation with State Advisory Groups.

#### Broad Gauge Conversion in Orissa

1525 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposals for Khurda Road-Bolangir new broad gauge rail link and gauge conversion of Rupsa-Bangripasi narrow gauge section in Orissa have been approved

(b) if so the details thereof and the amount sanctioned by the Government for these work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The works have been included in the Budget 94-95 and 95-96 at costs of Rs. 353.38 crores and Rs. 57.95 crore respectively. Khurda-Bolangir is expected to be completed in the 10th Plan period while Rupsa-Bangripasi Gauge Conversion is expected to be completed in the 9th Plan period.

[Translation]

#### Manufacturing Capacity of Coaches

1526 DR SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the category-wise manufacturing capacity of Coaches in the country;

(b) the category wise number of coaches manufactured during the last five years upto March, 1996; and

(c) the details of category-wise coaches supplied as against the demand of coaches by the various Zonal Railways, zone-wise during the aforesaid period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are four Units manufacturing coaches in the country - two in Railway Sector, viz. Integral Coach Factory and Rail Coach Factory and two in Public Sector, viz. M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. and M/s. Jessops and Company Ltd.

Their capacity of manufacturing coaches roughly is as under :

	ICF	RCF	JESSOPS	BEML
1. Self-propelled coaches	150	-	72	-
2. AC Coaches	90	150	-	-
3. Non-AC Coaches	760	850	376 (MG)*	400 (BG)**
Total	1000	1000	448	400

\* Installed capacity as claimed by M/s Jessops is 180 (MG) coaches.

\*\* Installed capacity as claimed by M/s BEML is 700 (BG) coaches.

(b) The categorywise number of coaches manufactured from 1991-92 to 1995-96 are under :

(i) ICF

Type	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Self-propelled coaches	136	129	233	273	428
AC coaches	89	95	100	101	121
Non-AC Coaches	791	799	705	406	341
Total	1016	1023	1038	780	890

(ii) RCF

AC Coaches	1	18	61	149	150
Non-AC Coaches	914	1097	964	626	540
Total	915	1115	1025	775	690

(iii) Jessops

Self-propelled Coaches	49	51	51	15	33
Non-AC Coaches	80	70	10	-	-
Total	129	121	61	15	33

(iv) BEML

Self-propelled Coaches	-	-	-	9	-
Non-AC Coaches	373	400	375	-	139

Note The above figures include coaches manufactured against export orders and for organisations other than Railways

(c) the details of category-wise coaches supplied to Zonal Railways are as under

Railway	1991-92			1992-93			1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
	AC	Non AC	S.P.												
Central	7	175	40	5	251	33	7	130	116	13	145	62	55	141	82
Eastern	9	233	82	5	267	74	41	323	42	50	340	62	6	26	92
Northern	10	375	13	3	366	6	34	331	17	58	180	66	43	199	57
N.E. Rly	2	208	-	4	181	-	1	43	-	-	-	-	16	91	-
N.F. Rly	-	113	-	4	157	-	2	22	-	-	10	-	15	83	6
Southern	11	320	21	51	361	19	29	462	15	36	138	9	41	286	39
S.C. Rly	2	295	-	3	370	-	7	224	-	17	65	-	21	149	18
S.E. Rly	10	199	13	5	197	30	5	363	40	-	27	50	29	244	42
Western	19	250	9	28	264	18	35	234	54	76	132	48	36	36	122

Note S.P. - Self-propelled coaches

[English]

### Doubling and Gauge Conversion of Railway Lines

1527. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of doubling of Railway lines and Gauge conversion in the Eastern Railway Zone is not upto the target level during the current plan-period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve upon the situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. The progress of doubling work is slow due to court cases and delay in removal of encroachments. There are no Gauge Conversion works on Eastern Railway.

(c) The Railway has been asked to ensure speedy progress by suitable follow up and monitoring.

[Translation]

### Halt at Firozabad

1528. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand over the years for providing a halt of Delhi-Puri (Orissa) Neelachal Express at Firozabad Station

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

(c) if not, the reasons for not providing a halt there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The feasibility of provision of stoppage of 8475/8476 Neelachal Express at Firozabad has been examined but not found justified at present

[English]

### Collision of Train

1529. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Gorakhpur-Gonda passenger train rammmed into a stationary goods train at Domingarh railway station on Gorakhpur-Lucknow section of the North-Eastern Railway on 18 April, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons killed and injured therein;

(c) the main reasons for the train collision; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/contemplated to avoid derailments/collision of trains and to strengthen the safety standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. 583 UP Gorakhpur-Gonda Passenger collided head-on with stationary Dr. Gorakhpur Cantt. Special goods train at Domingarh station of North Eastern Railway on 18.4.96. In this accident, 54 persons were killed, 47 sustained grievous injuries and 37 suffered minor injuries.

(c) Collisions occur mainly due to lapses on the part of train drivers and/or station staff

(d) The following measures have been taken to prevent derailments/collisions of trains :-

1. In order to prevent collisions at stations, track circuiting of the run-through lines has been accelerated.
2. Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal being lowered till the starter and the advance starter lowered for an earlier train have been put back to 'ON' position.
3. Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train and stopping the train if the driver does not respond within the pre-determined time interval has already been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.
4. Upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails and concrete sleepers.
5. The track is maintained by Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.
6. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
7. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised. Four-wheeler wagons are being progressively phased out. Better type CASNUB bogies are being used on wagons.
8. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, all ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.
9. Surprise and night inspection by Officers and Inspectors has been intensified.
10. Performance of drivers, guards and station staff connected with train operation are monitored regularly and deficient staff are subjected to modernised training. Drivers are being trained on simulators.

### Depletion of Natural Resources

1530. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's over-anxiety to boost exports and liberalisation causing disproportionate depletion of natural resources and undermining the environment;

(b) whether any scientific and independent assessment has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

### Issue of permits/licences by NDMC

1531. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether permits/licences are issued by N D M C to hawkers such as milkmen, vegetable/fruit sellers etc for selling their items in N D M C area;

(b) if so, the number of permits issued during the current year; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MODH. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The NDMC is competent to issue such permits/licences. However, no fresh licences are being issued to howkers in view of the Thareja Committee's Report to the Supreme Court. Only old licences are being renewed.

### Army deployment in Assam

1532. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army has been deployed in Assam; at the request of Assam Government

(b) whether Assam Government gave a memorandum to the Honble Government to withdraw the Army from Assam; and

(c) if so, the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The army has been operating in some parts of the State of Assam under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 to combat secessionist and unlawful elements

The whole State of Assam stands declared as 'disturbed area'.

(b) The Central Government is not aware of any such memorandum having been given to the Governor by the State Government of Assam.

(c) Does not arise.

### Chemist Stalls/First Aid Facilities

1533. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether instruction were issued to provide Chemist stalls/First Aid facilities at the Railway Station in 1980; and

(b) if so, the names of the station where such facilities have been provided by the Northern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Over Northern Railway, Chemist stalls have been provided at the following station :

1. New Delhi
2. Hazrat Nizamuddin
3. Delhi Sarai Rohilla
4. Delhi Cantt
5. Chandigarh
6. Attari
7. Amritsar
8. Varanasi

### Transfer of DESU, DTC, DMS

1534. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK  
DR YS RAJA SEKHARA REDDY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre has agreed to transfer the control of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, the Delhi Transport Corporation and the Delhi Milk Scheme to the Delhi Government;

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

(c) whether the Centre have also taken a decision to give the Delhi Government its share in the Central Taxes, Income-Tax, Excise Duty and Additional Excise Duty from August 1, 1996;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Delhi Government have made any request in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). A proposal to transfer the Delhi Transport Corporation, Delhi Milk Scheme and Super Bazar to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is under active consideration. There is also a proposal to place the Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking under the administrative control of the Government of NCT of Delhi. The Transfer of these organisations would improve the delivery of civic services in Delhi.

(c) to (e). The Government of NCT of Delhi has represented for a share in the Central Taxes for funding their Annual Plans. The matter is under examination.

#### Rail Link from Gadwal to Kopal

1535. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that since Nizam's Government one rail line proposal between Gadwal to Kopal is pending

(b) whether Government have received a Memorandum in this regard and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Elections to Bodoland Autonomous Council

1536. SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to hold elections to the Bodoland Autonomous Council in terms of the accord arrived at with the Bodo Leaders and the State Government.

(b) if so, the tentative schedule thereof and

(c) whether the Government also propose to hold dialogue with various factions of the Bodo leaders with a view to speed up the process of elections and if so, the time by which the dialogue is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The elections to the Bodoland Autonomous Council are to be held by the State Government.

The State Government had decided to hold elections to the Bodoland Autonomous Council in December 1995. However, the elections were deferred by the State Government in view of the representations made by some Bodo groups. No fresh date for elections has been announced by the State Government.

The Central Government welcomes all good suggestions which facilitate the democratic process.

#### Prevention of Cruelties to Animals

1537. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether inspite of laws on transportation of livestock from one place to other with regard to their number, arrangement for providing fodder and water etc. they are loaded like sardines and some even die during transportations, and

(b) if so, the preventive measures being taken by the Government to implement the prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Attention of this Ministry has been drawn from time to time on cruelty inflicted on animals while transporting. Following steps have been taken for effective implementation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

(i) Animal Welfare Board has taken up training programme for members of Society for prevention of Cruelty to Animals and also taken up steps to create public awareness.

(ii) State Governments are pursued to nominate nodal officers for coordinating animal welfare activities.

(iii) Financial support is extended to Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to enable them to step up their animal welfare activities and take up prosecutions.

(iv) State Governments have been advised to set up State Advisory Welfare Board.

#### Frequency of Rajdhani Express

1538. SHRI A. G. S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to run Hazrat Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express daily instead of weekly.

(b) whether there is also a proposal to extend Trivandrum-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express up to New Delhi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There are no such proposals at present.

- (c) Does not arise.  
 (d) Operational and resources constraints.

#### Group Insurance Scheme for Fishermen

1539. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether insurance coverage under Group Insurance Scheme for fishermen has been introduced;  
 (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;  
 (c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to enhance the insurance coverage; and  
 (d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b). A Centrally sponsored Scheme for providing free insurance cover to fishermen has been in operation since 1982-83. A fisherman is insured for a sum of Rs.25,000/- against death or permanent disability and for a sum of Rs.12,500/- against partial disability.

(c) The issue of enhancing the insurance cover was raised by the Government of Kerala and by some other State Governments at the 19th Meeting of the Central Board of Fisheries which was held at New Delhi on 18th October, 1994.

(d) It has been tentatively decided to enhance the insurance cover to Rs 35,000/- in case of death and permanent disability and to Rs. 12,500/- in case of partial disability.

[Translation]

#### Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1540. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount deposited by the Union Carbide in the Supreme Court for payment of compensation to the gas victims.  
 (b) the amount out of the above given to the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal;  
 (c) whether the amount lying with the Supreme Court includes interest amount too; and  
 (d) whether the Welfare Commissioner had delayed the payment of compensation to the gas victims and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) US \$ 470 million which included payment of US \$ 45 million made in rupee equivalent amount was deposited by the Union Carbide. The entire

amount along with interest was released in favour of the Welfare Commissioner on 16.10.92 for payment of compensation. The amount is withdrawn and paid as compensation upto 31.05.96. Settlement of claims and payment of compensation is an on-going process.

[English]

#### Replacement of Bogies

1541. SHRI RAMESH CHENITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that most of the trains in Kerala run with the old bogies; and  
 (b) if so, the action being taken to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) passenger coaches have a useful economic life of about 285 years. At any time, therefore, passenger services, including those running in Kerala, will have coaches of mixed vintage. The coaches are, however, given regular maintenance attention to keep them in good fettle.

(b) Coaches are replaced on age-cum-condition basis.

#### Stoppage at New Coochbehar

1542. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of requests received for providing a stoppage of New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at New Coochbehar during the current year till date;  
 (b) whether any action has been taken on these requests so far,  
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some requests have been received in this regard.

(b) to (d) These requests have been duly examined and the stoppage has not been found justified having regard to the importance of the Rajdhani Express.

#### Pollution

1543. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether despite three Pollution control Acts, various kinds of pollution in rivers, cities, and underground water is increasing;  
 (b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and  
 (c) the further effective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The rise in environmental pollution is due to growing population, urbanisation and industrialisation. Some stretches of major rivers are polluted due to discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage or industrial effluents. Instances of ground water pollution have also been reported in certain areas. Air pollution has shown a rising trend in the major cities mainly due to emissions from automobiles as compared to industrial or domestic sources.

(c) The measures taken and proposed by the Government to prevent and control pollution include the following :

- (i) A major vehicular survey was carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) regarding the pollution caused by automobiles in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the survey have been used for the preparation of measures of control of vehicular pollution in the major cities.
- (ii) Effluent and emission standards for major sectors of air and water polluting industries have been notified. Industries have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards.
- (iii) Gross and mass emission standards for all categories of vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Departments of Transport of the various States.
- (iv) Lead level in the petrol is planned to be reduced to a maximum of 0.15 grams per liter by December, 1996 in the petrol to be supplied throughout the country.
- (v) A major programme for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converters fitted in the four-wheeler petrol vehicles is under implementation in a phased manner.
- (vi) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas in petrol driven vehicles in some of the cities.
- (vii) A scheme for setting up common effluent treatment plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under operation.
- (viii) The National River Action Plan has been formulated to clean up the polluted stretches of major rivers covering the municipalities of major cities and towns. The Ganga Action Plan in the second phase includes the Cleaning up of the River Yamuna. The Government of National Capital Territory of

Delhi have a major programme for augmentation of sewage treatment plants in Delhi.

- (ix) Custom and Excise Duty Exemption are provided to the industries for pollution control/monitoring equipment.
- (x) Emphasis has been given on control of pollution at source by way of adoption of clean technology.
- (xi) Formation of Waste Minimisation Circles (WMC) has been done in industries and promotion of practice of good house keeping and better work practices has been encouraged.
- (xii) Proposed major development activities falling in the specified 29 categories are required to take Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the EIA notification, 1994.

#### Agricultural Schemes in Assam

1544 DR PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of specific schemes for modernisation of agriculture in Assam to make the State self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains;

(b) the steps taken for timely supply of quality seeds and fertilizers to the State at reasonable rates;

(c) whether per capita consumption of fertilizers in Assam is much less as compared to the other States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) In order to assist the State Government of Assam in increasing the production and productivity of foodgrains, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice) is being implemented on 75:25 sharing basis between Central and State Govts. The programme components under the Scheme include organisation of field demonstrations and farmer's training for effective transfer of technology. The scheme also provides for incentives to the farmers for the supply of seeds of location-specific high yielding varieties and for identified improved farm implements as well as awards to Gram Panchayats for maximising the productivity, soil ameliorants etc.

(b) In order to make seeds available in time and at reasonable prices to farmers in Assam, the cost of

Transportation of seeds in subsidised to designated seed supplying agencies like National Seeds Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India and State Seeds Corporation by the Central Government under the scheme for Transport subsidy on Seeds. Central assistances on seed transportation upto Rs.40/- per quintal is also permissible to Assam for supply of seeds in identified remote areas from State Capital under the schemes for Intergrated Seed Development.

According to the 'Fertilizer Statistics' 1994-95 brought out by the Fertilizers Association of India, consumption of fertilisers in Assam was 11 kg/ha, compared to an all-India average of 74 kg/ha.

At present, only urea fertiliser is under statutory price control and is supplied to Assam at a uniform price of Rs 3320 per

Metric Tonne. The concession ofn decontrolled fertilizers has also been increased with effect from 6-7-96 to make it available to the farmers at cheaper rates.

(c) & (d) The following measues have been taken to increase the per capita consumption of fertilisers in Assam :-

- (i) Implementation of sceme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers.
- (ii) Implementation of the scheme on development of Fertilisers Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas.
- (iii) Implementation of the Scheme on Development and Use of Bio-Fertilisers.

### Prices of Fertilizers

1545 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any final decision for rationalising the fertiliser price structure;

(b) if so, whether the increase in prices is aimed at discouraging farmers from the indiscriminate use of chemicals.

(c) whether the Government are also considering to enhance the prices of certain chemicals;

(d) whether the new formula will aim at bringing down the per unit cost of NPK;

(e) whether the amount of Rs 500 crore earmarked for fertiliser subsidy has crossed Rs 760 crore, and

(f) if so, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer at present under statutory price control and is sold at a uniform rate of Rs. 3320

per tonne through-out the country. All phosphatic and potassaic fertilizers have been decontrolled and the Government has been giving a concession on their sale to the farmers to encourage consumption.

(c) Department of Chemicals & Petro-chemicals have informed that presently the prices of Chemicals are not monitored and regulated by the Government.

(d) Hon'ble Member is perhaps referring to the scheme of Concessional sale of decontrolled fertilizers to the farmers'.

The scheme is effective from Rabi season 1992-93. The rates of Concession under the scheme have been enhanced w.e.f. 6.7 1996 as under :-

Fertilizer	(Rate per tonne)
DAP (Indigenous)	Rs. 3000/-
DAP (Imported)	Rs. 1500/-
MOP	Rs. 1500/-
SSP	Rs. 500/-
Complexes	From Rs.1304 to 2633 per tonne depending upon their P&K contents.

The State have been asked to ensure that the benefit of the concession is fully passed on to the farmers.

(e) The provision of Rs 500 crores for the financial year 1995-96 was fully utilised. However, the bills for that year are still being received and payments are made from the provisions made for the year 1996-97.

(f) It is because of increase in consumption of fertilizers covered under the scheme.

[Translation]

### Manufacture of Railway Bogies

1546 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present manufacturing and installed capacity of coaches and wagon units in public and private sectors at present separately;

(b) the present requirement of the coaches and wagons in the country;

(c) whether the Government propose to manufacture railway bogies in the Ajmer Coach factory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) In addition to two production units of Railways viz., ICF/Madras and RCF/Kapurthala, there are two units in Public Sector

which are manufacturing coaches, i.e. M/s. Jessop in Calcutta and M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Limited/Bangalore. The licensed and installed capacities for manufacturing coaches and wagons are as under:-

S.No.	Firm	Licensed Capacity	Installed capacity as advised by the firms
<b>A. Coach manufacturers</b>			
<i>Public Sector</i>			
1.	M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore	400 BG Coaches	700 BG Coaches
2.	M/s. Jessop & Company Limited, Calcutta	376 MG Coaches 72 EMU Coaches	180 MG Coaches 72 EMU Coaches
<i>Private Sector</i>			
		Nil	Nil

S.No.	Firm	Licensed capacity	Installed capacity as verified by CA/COST of Ministry of Finance
1	2	3	4

### B. Wagon Builders

(Figures in Fourwheeler Units)

1	M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Limited, Muzaffarpur.	2000	997
2	M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Limited, Mokamesh.	2000	1107
3	M/s. Braithwaite & Company Limited, Calcutta.	3000	3494
4	M/s. Burn Standard Company Limited, Burnpur.	3911	3783
5	M/s. Jessop & Company Limited, Howrah	4750	4210
6	M/s. Jessop & Company Limited, Calcutta	3279	653
7	M/s. Southern Structural Company Limited, Madras (Tamilnadu State Undertaking)		
<b>Total Public Sector :</b>		<b>18940</b>	<b>14304</b>

1	2	3	4
<b>Private Sector</b>			
8.	M/s. Cimmco Birla Limited, Bharatpur	3839	2920
9.	M/s. Hindustan General Industries, Nangioi, Delhi	2000	1269
10.	M/s. Modern Industries, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad.	2000	1227
11.	M/s. Texmaco Limited, Calcutta.	4800	5738
12.	M/s. Hindustan Development Corporation, Calcutta	4056	2042
13.	M/s. Binny Engineering		
<b>Total Private Sector :</b>		<b>16695</b>	<b>13196</b>
<b>Total Public and Private Sector</b>		<b>35635</b>	<b>27500</b>

These two units are new and their capacity are not yet established

(b) The present requirement of coaches in 1996-97 has been assessed as 2150 coaches which includes 400 EMU coaches. The wagon requirement for 1996-97 has been assessed at 25000 fourwheelers against Railway's Rolling Stock Programme. In addition there will be some requirement under "Own Your Wagon Scheme".

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

### Gauge Conversion

1547. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to convert Gorakhpur-Nautanwan meter gauge line into broad gauge.

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard.

(c) if so, the outcome of the survey.

(d) whether funds were already earmarked for this conversion but the work to convert the metre gauge line into broad gauge has still not been completed, and

(e) if so, the time by which the work of converting Gorakhpur to Nautanwan metre gauge line into broad gauge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The survey report is under examination in consultation with the Zonal Railway.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) During IXth Plan.

### Delay in off Loading Cost

1548 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Financial Express', dated July, 1996 under the caption "Delay in off-loading cost \$25,000/ day";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made these in and facts of the matter regarding the mess caused by blocking of 3 Vessels carrying urea at Tuticorin, Madras and Rosi ports due to reported lack of coordination and delay in appointment of handling agent by the Ministry, and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that in future Government does not have to pay heavy demurrage charges for lack of coordination and administrative lapse on the part of Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On the date of news item appeared in the Financial Express, two vessels, "Prabhu Gopal" and "Jag Ravi" which arrived on 15.6.96 and 22.6.96 respectively at the ports of Tuticorin and Rozy were awaiting commencement of discharge for want of designated handling agencies. The Government had started the process for appointment of handling agencies wll in time. But unlike in the past, the rates received through tenders for handling urea at the ports during 1996-97 were uniformly higher over the previous year. As the higher rates have an implication on the quantum of urea subsidy, the finalisation of the 1996-97 contracts merited detailed scrutiny by different agencies of the Government and took longer time. The handling agents have since been appointed at all ports and unloading has already commenced

[Translation]

### Visiting Abroad on Fake Visas

1549. DR. G. R. SARODE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons arrested for going abroad on fake visas during the last three years.

(b) the action taken against them and the measures taken by the Government to curb such illegal acts;

(c) the details of conditions prescribed for issuance of the visas, and

(d) whether the Government propose to simplify those conditions so as to make them easier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). According to information available, the number of persons detected for holding fake visas during the last three years at Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras airports and Attari railway station, was as follows:-

	1993	1994	1995
Bombay	79	83	134
Delhi	75	55	38
Calcutta	02	01	-
Madras	01	12	09
Attari	103	90	38
	260	241	219

The persons holding forged visas were handed over to police authorities for taking further necessary legal action.

After taking into account various considerations based on their national interest, foreign missions decide about the grant of visas to nationals of other countries. The essential conditions for obtaining visas vary from country to country.

Some countries issue visa stickers incorporating security features, while many countries are continuing with robber stamps which are easy to duplicate. Wider use of visa stickers with security features will be useful in tackling the problem of fake visas.

[English]

### Animal Diseases

1550. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increase in the livestock mortality rate due to spreading of the rinderpest and other animal diseases in the country particularly in Karnataka.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the preventing and curative measures taken and proposed to be taken to eradicate these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) There was no significant increased mortality due to rinderpest and some of the important diseases in the country including Karnataka comparative figures of mortality due to rinderpest and some of the important diseases for 1992 and 1995 are enclosed as statement

(c) Prevention and control of livestock diseases come under the purview of the State Governments

However, the Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling/eradicating some of the important diseases like rinderpest foot and mouth disease, tuberculosis, brucellosis, canine rabies and pullorum disease under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, National Project on Rinderpest Eradication and Assistance to States on Control of Animal Diseases.

### STATEMENT

*Mortality due to some of the important livestock disease*

S. No.	Name of the Disease	Country		Karnataka	
		1992	1995	1992	1995
1.	Rinderpest	114	40	Nil	1
2.	Foot & Mouth disease (Bovine & Other Species)	117	476	Nil	52
3.	Haemorrhagic Septicemia (H.S.)	1851	5427	566	407
4.	Black Quarter	960	1894	422	258
5.	Sheep & Goat Pox	1458	228	8	28

### Promotion of Agriculture Sector

1551. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Federation of India Chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to initiate multi form comprehensive strategy for the promotion of agriculture sector.

(b) if so, the details of the study papers prepared and sent by the FICCI to the Government, and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the views expressed by the FICCI?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (c). No communication has been received from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry urging the Government to initiate multi-form comprehensive strategy for the promotion of agriculture sector.

### Trains for Kanyakumari and Howrah

1552. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the request of Orissa Government for introduction of new trains for Kanyakumari and Howrah from Bhubaneswar is lying pending with the Government since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the new trains are likely to be introduced on the said route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The proposals for new train to Kanyakumari from Howrah and Bhubaneswar were examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) Does not arise.

### Plantation Programmes

1553. DR KURAPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand plantation Programmes through different forestry projects during the current financial years; and

(b) if so, the programme drawn and the total hectares of land proposed to be brought under plantation programmes during the current financial year. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAP JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Targets of 1.13 million hectares of plantations on public lands and 111.36 crores of seedling distribution for planting on private lands have been fixed during 1996-97. On the basis of information furnished by the State Governments so far the achievements during 1995-96 have been 0.81 million hectares of afforestation on public lands and 86.57 crores of seedling distribution. Afforestation/plantation programme are to be carried out during the current financial year under various schemes of Central Ministries/State Governments. The State/Union Territory-wise targets in respect of afforestation and tree plantation for 1996-97 are enclosed as statement.

### STATEMENT

*Targets for afforestation/tree planting activities under 20-point programme during 1996-97*

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Area in hectares Seedling in lakhs	
		Seedling Distribution (For Plantation on private Lands)	Area (Public Lands including Forest Lands)
		Final Targets for 1996-97	
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1100.00	50000.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	9500.00
3.	Assam	25.00	27500.00
4.	Bihar	500.00	40000.00
5.	Goa	30.00	1800.00

1	2	3	4
6. Gujarat		1908 00	65597 00
7. Haryana		200 00	32000 00
8. Himachal Pradesh		20 00	28000 00
9. Jammu & Kashmir		60 00	24000 00
10. Karnataka		400 00	65000 00
11. Kerala		180 00	19000 00
12. Madhya Pradesh		450 00	150000 00
13. Maharashtra		1150 00	126000 00
14. Manipur		25 00	12000 00
15. Meghalaya		40 00	18000 00
16. Mizoram		22 00	19800 00
17. Nagaland		60 00	8000 00
18. Orissa		300 00	79000 00
19. Punjab		52 00	20000 00
20. Rajasthan		380 00	76550 00
21. Sikkim		22 00	11000 00
22. Tamil Nadu		1100 00	85000 00
23. Tripura		23 00	10000 00
24. Uttar Pradesh		2200 00	110000 00
25. West Bengal		825 00	44000 00
26. A & N Islands		5 00	3300 00
27. Chandigarh		0.10	500 00
28. D & N Haveli		16 00	1000 00
29. Daman & Diu		2 00	100 00
30. Delhi		25 00	1000 00
31. Lakshadweep		5 00	72 00
32. Pondicherry		5 00	78 00
Total		11136 10	1137797 00

### Bodoland Statehood

1554. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Bodoland Statehood Movement Council's Chief has urged the Central and the State Governments to initiate fresh dialogue on a full-fledged for the aboriginal Bodos; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DÄR): (a) In a telegram, the Chairman Bodoland State Movement Council has urged the Prime Minister to arrange a fresh political dialogue on the whole Bodoland question involving all the struggling Bodo Groups for evolving a lasting political solution. According to the State Government of Assam, no such demand has been received by it

(b) The Bodo Accord has been signed with a view to providing autonomy to the Bodos for their socio-

economic, educational, ethnic and cultural advancement. The implementation of the Accord needs to be watched.

### Cogentrix Project

1555. SHRI JAG MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have environmentally cleared Cogentrix project in haste and without concurrence of the Environmental committee concerned;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the case in view of the serious implications involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The environmental issues associated with the proposed 1000 MW thermal power project were duly considered by the Expert Committee for Thermal Power Projects constituted by the Ministry as per the procedure laid down under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of January, 1994 (as amended in May, 1994). The project was accorded environmental clearance based on the recommendation of the committee and was not cleared in haste

(c) The environmental implications of the project were carefully examined prior to its environmental clearance. Stringent environmental mitigative measures have been stipulated for their implementation by the project authorities.

### Late Running of North East Express

1556. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the North East Express between New Delhi and Guwahati always runs very late;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the punctuality of 5621/5622 North East Express has not been satisfactory due to various reasons such as Alarm-chain-pulling, miscreant activities, accidents, bands/agitations, Loco Failures, Signal and Traffic failures, grid failures, etc.

(c) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels including holding of daily punctuality meetings both at Divisional and Headquarters levels and Foot-Plate Inspection by Senior Officers of different Departments are undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' levels are also launched and lacunae in the system whenever detected are dealt with

### Cotton Production

1557. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the total production of cotton in Gujarat during each of the last three years

(b) whether a huge quantity of cotton is lying in the State for disposal which effected the abnormal delay in making the payments to the farmers as a result thereof.

(c) whether the State Government approached the Union Government for the export of Cotton during the last six months.

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the Union Government propose to solve this problem and to compensate the farmers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The production of cotton in Gujarat during each of the last three years is given below

Year	Production (Lakh bales)
	(170 kg each)
1992-93	19.88
1993-94	16.23
1994-95	22.69

(b) A quantity of kapas equivalent to about forty thousand bales is reportedly lying with the farmers and traders. As for the payment to the farmers, it is being made within reasonable time.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has allotted export quota of 1.15 lakhs bales to the Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation.

(e) The export quota has already been allotted. Various other measures taken in this regard include increase in minimum support price, relaxation in stock limits for cotton for mills and ginning and processing factories, and relaxation of selective credit control to enable mills to buy more cotton.

### Livestock and Dairy Development Programmes

1558. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state

(a) whether financial assistance has been sought by the State Governments from the Union Government for implementing some livestock and dairy development programmes in the States during Eighth Plan till date

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

(c) the details of the assistance sanctioned by the Union Government for implementing those programmes during Eighth Plan, till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Governments seek assistance under various ongoing livestock and dairy development programmes. Statement giving details of funds released during the Eighth Plan, till date is enclosed.

### STATEMENT

*Funds released to the States/UTs under various schemes during the Eighth Plan till date*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S No	States/UTs	Funds released during				Total
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	268.67	275.34	139.39	627.82	1311.22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	14.79	141.41	502.96	85.62	744.78
3	Assam	47.26	158.63	478.67	24.97	709.53
4	Bihar	65.50	93.32	152.92	238.47	550.35
5	Goa	10.37	14.44	12.26	15.47	52.54
6	Gujarat	100.34	591.75	475.70	594.00	1761.79
7	Haryana	102.78	391.07	48.08	358.44	900.37
8	Himachal Pradesh	125.94	103.95	142.26	102.02	474.17
9	Jammu & Kashmir	45.36	92.76	358.14	300.65	796.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Karnataka	124.09	168.38	257.43	243.10	793.00
11.	Kerala	108.13	191.26	375.08	471.00	1145.47
12.	Madhya Pradesh	145.98	417.23	597.48	531.91	1692.60
13.	Maharashtra	166.69	102.30	312.95	358.38	940.32
14.	Manipur	29.47	68.60	125.80	102.69	326.56
15.	Meghalaya	27.54	31.09	99.15	115.48	273.26
16.	Mizoram	42.09	143.30	201.29	252.14	638.82
17.	Nagaland	21.00	115.68	202.08	11.63	350.39
18.	Orissa	58.20	256.52	459.94	714.82	1489.48
19.	Punjab	59.04	95.90	251.67	184.40	591.01
20.	Rajasthan	64.76	87.39	109.44	73.66	335.25
21.	Sikkim	58.82	197.74	232.90	16.75	506.21
22.	Tamil Nadu	109.17	302.50	388.27	236.30	1036.24
23.	Tripura	9.14	105.84	256.12	136.23	507.93
24.	Uttar Pradesh	174.94	604.76	663.88	893.11	2336.69
25.	West Bengal	105.58	183.50	547.25	620.95	1457.28
<b>Total</b>		2086.25	4934.66	7391.11	7310.15	21722.17

#### Union Territories

1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13.02	8.65	9.52	104.40	135.59
2.	Chandigarh	2.87	8.41	7.40	7.55	26.23
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2.66	2.40	2.05	1.53	8.64
4.	Daman & Diu	0.50	1.00	0.90	-	2.40
5.	Delhi	20.68	64.24	142.49	51.77	279.18
6.	Lakshdweep	11.65	5.47	3.60	23.05	43.77
7.	Pondicherry	15.64	17.13	19.95	22.64	75.36
<b>Total UTs</b>		67.02	107.30	185.91	210.94	571.17
<b>Grand Total</b>		2153.27	5041.96	7577.02	7521.09	22293.34

#### Ethnic Violence at Kokrajhar

1559. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asom Tea Tribes Students Association and other tea tribes bodies staged a hunger strike at Dispur on June 26, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their demands,

(c) the total number of persons affected due to ethnic violence at Kokrajhar;

(d) the number of houses destroyed alongwith the number of persons living in the camps; and

(e) the amount of compensation paid to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On June 26, 1996, from 0800 hrs to 1700 hrs., about 150 members of the tea tribe community under the banner of Assam Chah Janajati Mahila Samiti, Assam Chah Janajati Yuva Chhatra Parishad, Assam Tea Tribe Student Association and Chah Janajati swecha sevak Bahini resorted to hunger strike at Dispur. Their demands included, inter-alia, the following :-

- (i) To institute a judicial inquiry into the recent incidents of ethnic violence in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon District.
- (ii) To ensure the safety and security of life and property of all sections of the people.
- (iii) To rehabilitate the people affected in the ethnic violence after proper survey and to pay compensation to the families of those killed, missing and injured.
- (iv) To initiate action to nab the culprits involved in the incidents.

(v) To set up police posts in the violence affected areas.

(vi) To form peace committee with leading members from different ethnic groups to maintain peace and tranquility amongst them by creating a congenial atmosphere

(c) and (d) According to the State Government 2,15,841 people were affected due to the ethnic violence in Kokrajhar and Bangaigaon districts. The exact number of houses damaged is yet to be ascertained. The affected persons took shelter in various relief camps.

(e) The State Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs 14,27,00,000/- as G.R. and R.G. to the affected people.

### Forests

1560. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest cover in the country at present, State-wise.

(b) whether the forest cover is decreasing gradually

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the number of schemes launched by the Government for the development of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment is 640,107 sq km. The State-wise details of the forest cover as per 1993 assessment is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment has increased by 925 sq km in comparison to 1991 assessment.

(d) The various major schemes launched by the Government for development of forest is enclosed as statement II.

### STATEMENT-I

Statewise forest cover as per Assessment year 1993

(in sq kms)

S No	State/UTs	1993 assessment
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47,256
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,661
3.	Assam	24,508
4.	Bihar	26,587
5.	Goa	1,250
6.	Gujarat	12,044

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	513
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12,502
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,443
10.	Karnataka	32,343
11.	Kerala	10,336
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135,396
13.	Maharashtra	43,859
14.	Manipur	17,621
15.	Meghalaya	15,769
16.	Mizoram	18,697
17.	Nagaland	14,348
18.	Orissa	47,145
19.	Punjab	1,343
20.	Rajasthan	13,099
21.	Sikkim	3,119
22.	Tamil Nadu	17,726
23.	Tripura	5,538
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33,961
25.	West Bengal	8,186
26.	A & N Islands	7,624
27.	Chandigarh	5
28.	D & N Haveli	206
29.	Delhi	22
30.	Lakshadweep	-
31.	Pondicherry	-
Total		640,107

### STATEMENT-II

List of major schemes launched by the Government for Development of Forests.

#### (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests

1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Schemes
2. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Schemes.
3. Non-Timber forest produce including Medical Plants Schemes.
4. Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Agencies
5. EcoTask Force
6. Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries
7. Associations of Schedule Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of degraded forests.

#### (b) Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

1. Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme

2. Technology Development, Training & Extension Scheme.
3. Grant-in-Aid Scheme.
4. Investment Promotion Scheme.
5. Wastelands Development Task Force.
6. Employment Assurance Scheme
7. Jawahar Razghar Yojana
8. Integrated Rural Development Programme
9. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
10. Desert Development Programme (DDP)

**(c) Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation**

1. Scheme of Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP)
2. Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)
3. Reclamation of Special Problems Areas and Improvement of Productivity
4. Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with European Economic Community (EEC)
5. Scheme of Watershed management for Shifting Cultivation
6. Integrated Watershed Management in the Ravinous Areas (Phase-II)
7. Indo-Dutch North Bengal Terai Development Project (Phase-III)
8. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)
9. Indo-German Bilateral Programme on Watershed Management
10. Integrated Watershed Development Project (Hills)
11. Integrated Watershed Development Project (Plains)

**Poultry Birds**

1561. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in modern factory farming of poultry, birds are made to suffer unnecessary pain and wanton cruelties like disturbance in their day and night cycle, cutting of their beaks with hot iron, cutting of their claws, cramped for their life in cages and so on;

(b) whether birds have also been afflicted with various diseases on account of this, and

(c) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government to provide natural environment to the poultry birds and avoid torture and cruelties against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Special Trains for Shravni Mela**

1562. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for running of daily special trains from various parts of the country to Sultanganj for the passengers visiting Sharavni Mela;

(b) if so, the number of special trains introduced for the Mela;

(c) whether there is no guest house and other lodging and boarding facilities and acute shortage of light, ventilation, water and cleanliness facilities at Sultanganj Station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A daily special train between Patna-Baidyanathdham and Chhapra and Jasidih are proposed to be run. In addition Kiul-Jamalpur passenger is being extended upto Sultanganj.

(c) and (d). Waiting Hall, ventilation, water and cleanliness facilities are already available.

[English]

**Direct Train from Madurai to New Delhi**

1563. SHRI A. G. S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a direct train from Madurai to New Delhi and other cities.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

**Coconut as Oilseeds**

1564. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which coconut was declared as an oilseed;

(b) whether the benefits/privileges available for other oilseeds have been extended or the coconut cultivation;

(c) if so, the details of benefits which have been extended for the coconut cultivation:

(d) whether all the benefits available for other oilseeds have not been extended of the cocunut cultivations: and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) (a) Coconut was declared as an oilseed of tree origin on 15th October, 1990.

(b) The benefits available for coconut are much more than that available to oil palm, which also is oilseed of tree origin and included in Technology mission on Oilseeds.

(c) Coconut is the single oilseed crop which highest plan allocation of Rs.80 cores during 8th Plan. The incentives/facilities given to coconut growers during the 8th Plan is given in the enclosed statement

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise

### STATEMENT

*Comapartive Statement showing incentives for development of oilpalm; undA TMOP Programmes and for cocunut development under the cocunut development Board during VIII Plan*

	Oil palm	Coconut
1	2	3
Production & Distribution of Seeds/Seedings.	(i) 75% of the cost of Planting material (maximum of Rs.3750/- per ha)	(i) 50% assistance for production & distribution of TXD hybrid coconut seedlings. (ii) 100% assistance for establishment of DSP Farms for coconut (Rs. 43.05 lakh per farm) for 5 years. (iii) 100% assistance for setting up nurseries for production and distribution of quality seedlings at DSP Farms (iv) 100% assistance towards subsidy of Rs.5/- per seedlings for replanting
Cultivation		
(a) Plant Protection		(i) Assistance towards subsidy of Rs.3/- per palm for plant protection measures. (ii) Assistance to States for Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar by rearing and release of parasites (iii) Assistance for incentive of Rs.200/- per disease/senile palm cut and removed by farmers.
(b) Area Expansion	(i) 50% of the cultivation cost subject to ceiling of Rs. 12,500/- per ha for gestation period of 4 years	(i) 50% assistance towards subsidy @Rs.6000/- per ha for First Three years of gestation period
(c) Irrigation	(i) Subsidy loan extant of 50% of the estimated cost (Rs.20,000/- per ha) subject to a ceiling of Rs.10,000/- per ha per oil palm Grower for drip arriagation during 1995-96	(i) Assistance @50% subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15,000/- per ha. for establishment of drip irrigation system for all horticultural crops including coconut.
(d) Fertilisers/Maneuring		(i) Subsidy @ Rs.5/- per palms for fertilisers (ii) For promoting multispecies cropping (including) green maneure @ Rs.200/- per ha)
(e) Farm Implements		

1

2

3

(f) Processing

- (i) Subsidy of Rs.1.00 of lakh (or 25% of the capital cost of plant & machinery for coconut processing.
- (ii) Subsidy of 50% or Rs.35.000/-maximum for setting up laboratory unit for introducing Agmark Standard in Dessicated coconut.
- (iii) Subsidy of Rs.5000/- maximum or 25% of the cost of plant & machinery to atisans for handicraft making based on various parts of the coconut palm.
- (iv) Loan of Rs.1.00 lakh for purchase of expeller unit and accessories to rotary and single expeller units at concessional rate of interest of 10.5%
- (v) Subsidy of 50% of the cost or Rs 10.000/- to coconut farmers for introducing improved copra dryers

### Construction of Hospital at Bhopal

1565 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) the present position of construction of the hospital in Bhopal as per the direction of the Supreme Court in Union Carbide Gas Tragedy.

(b) the total estimated expenditure, the expenditure incurred so far and the actual amount likely to be required for completion of the Hospital.

(c) the latest position regarding attaching the shares of Union Carbide for meeting out expenditure of the Hospital.

(d) whether the amount so realised will be sufficient to meet out the expenditure and if not, the manner in which the Government propose to provide the balance amount; and

(e) whether Government propose to fix the responsibility for not undertaking the construction even after laying the foundation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (e) The construction of 260 bedded hospital at Bhopal which was started in September, 1995 is in progress and according to the schedule, is to be completed by November, 1997. The project is being financed by the funds made available, from the sale of shares of Union Carbide to the Bhopal Hospital Trust in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court. Amount of Rs 117 crores is available for the construction, equipping and maintenance of the facilities for a period of 8 years after its completion.

### Protection to Agriculture Sector

1566. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether contribution of the agriculture sector to

gross domestic product is higher than the contribution of the organised manufacturing sector;

(b) if so, whether the industrial sector of the country enjoys some measure of protection whereas the agriculture sector is denied of any protection;

(c) if so, the reasons for the neglect of agriculture since the last several years, and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per latest the estimates of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) for the year 1994-95 the share of agriculture to the gross domestic product at 1980-81 prices was 29.4 per cent compared to 12.5 per cent of the registered manufacturing sector.

(b) Both the agriculture and industrial sectors enjoy certain trade protections, concessions, subsidies and other incentives for their promotion.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Agriculture sector is being given adequate attention through developmental programmes as well as remunerative prices through the Minimum Support Prices. In the past few years, most of the restrictions on internal and external trade in agricultural products have been removed. Quantitative ceilings and Minimum Export price for most of the agricultural products have been abolished. Recently, the Government have also substantially enhanced the rates of subsidy for phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

### Wagon Manufacturing

1567. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to involve private sector into the wagon manufacturing, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The private Sector is already involved in wagon manufacturing.

(b) Following Private Sector units are regularly manufacturing wagons.

1. M/s Cimco Birla Limited./Bharatpur
2. M/s Texmaco Limited./Calcutta
3. M/s Hindustan General Industries Limited, Nangloi, Delhi.
4. M/s Modern Industries/Sahibabad, Ghaziabad.
5. M/s Hindustan Development Corporation, Limited, Calcutta.

In addition, following Private Sector Units are at developmental Stage :

1. M/s Binny, Madras.
2. M/s Shri Ranga, Coimbatore
3. M/s BESCO, Calcutta.
4. M/s Titagrah Steel, Calcutta.

#### Indian Citizens in Indian Enclaves

1568. SHRI AMAR RAY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission New Delhi was considering the Case of Indian citizens in the Indian Enclaves within the territory of Bangladesh.

(b) if so, since when and the final outcome of the case.

(c) whether any report has been submitted to the Government in this regard, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). In a complaint dated 3 June, 1995, Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, Member of Parliament brought to the notice of the National Human Rights Commission problems of Indian citizens residing in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh. Since the problem concern various Ministries of the Government of India, the Commission took up the matter with all concerned. The Commission recommended to the Government of India that the Enclaves of the respective countries be made over to them and boundary be clearly delineated.

(d) The recommendation of the Commission is under consideration.

#### Capacity utilization by Fertilizers Units

1569. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a major policy initiative to reduce the

fertilizer subsidy, the Government are planning to put a cap on the capital expenditure, which fertilizers units claim from the government under the retention price scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also strictly monitored production levels at the plants to prevent manufacturers from artificially inflating their capacity utilisation;

(c) whether the Government plans to soften the blow by increasing the rate of return on equity from 12 per cent to 16 per cent so as to bring the fertilizer manufacturers at par with their counterparts in the power sector; and

(d) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be decided finally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (d). No such decision has been taken.

#### Alleged Bungling in Freight Computerisation

1570. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rs.121 cr. bungling in Railway Ministry" as reported in Pioneer, dated June 3, 1996;

(b) if so, whether a panel of experts have urged the Government for immediate scuttling of a freight computerisation project.

(c) whether the Government have ordered probe into the scandal, and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Committee of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has after undertaking a study of the software of the Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) under trail in Delhi Area, submitted its report identifying the causes of the problems and deficiencies in the software and has made certain short-term and long-term recommendations so that a workable and useful system becomes available. The Committee has not suggested or implied any 'scuttling' or abandonment of the project nor has it imputed any motives to the officials concerned, which may call for a probe, as has been reported in the news items. The report is under consideration and necessary decisions would be taken shortly.

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

### Extension of Shatabdi Express

1571. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Howrah-Rourkela Shatabdi Express upto Bolangir via Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh and Barpali;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide additional services to the Western Orissa from Howrah, Madras, Bombay and New Delhi?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Frequency of 8301/8302 Hazarat Nizamuddin-Sambalpur Hirakud Express will be increased from tri-weekly to 4 days a week during 1996-97.

### Fishing Industry

1572. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the immense potential for fishing still remains largely untapped in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to identify and remove the problems of the fishing industry without disturbing the environment; and

(c) the facilities and concessions being contemplated to be provided to the fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) : (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The production of fish in the country since 1988-89 is as follows:

Year	Production of fish (lakh tonnes)		
	Marine	Inland	Total
1988-89	18.17	13.35	31.52
1989-90	22.75	14.02	36.77
1990-91	23.00	15.36	38.36
1991-92	24.47	17.10	41.57
1992-93	25.76	17.89	43.65
1993-94	26.49	19.95	46.44
1994-95	26.92	20.97	47.89
1995-96 (Provisional)	27.20	22.30	49.50

It may be seen that the production has been increasing at a significant average annual rate of 6.7% during the period, thus harnessing more and more of the fishery potential of the country. However, continuous

efforts are being made by Government of India to increase production of fish and productivity of fishermen and fishing industry through expansion of aquaculture in fresh & brackishwater, development of coastal marine fisheries, construction of requisite infrastructure like fishery harbours and fish landing centres, provision of adequate credit and development of human resources.

Adequate measure are taken to reduce any adverse impact of aquaculture on the environment. Guidelines have been issued to States and Union Territories to develop aquaculture including shrimp culture as a sustainable, eco-friendly and socially acceptable activity.

(c) Important facilities and concessions provided to the fishermen are :

- (i) Assistance in the form of subsidy to fish farmers for construction of new ponds, reclamation/renovation of ponds & tanks, input for first year fish culture, running water, fish culture, etc. for development of freshwater aquaculture through Fish Farms Development Agencies.
- (ii) Technical, Financial and extension support to shrimp farmers belonging to the small scale sector, training to farmers and incentives for establishment of shrimp hatcheries, semi-intensive farms, etc. for development of brackishwater aquaculture.
- (iii) Subsidy towards 25% cost of outboard motors/inboard motors for motorisation of traditional craft.
- (iv) Re-imbursment of Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 m length.
- (v) Provision of infrastructural facilities for fishing vessels at fishery harbours and fish landing centres.
- (vi) Assistance of 100% to states for strengthening infrastructural facilities for inland fish marketing.
- (vii) Facilities for insurance cover to active fishermen.
- (viii) Development of model fishermen Villages by providing civic amenities such as housing, drinking water and community halls.

### Burning of Straw

1573. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 275 million tonnes of straw is either burnt or allowed to rot in our country whereas burning of the same is banned in many European countries;

(b) whether the Government are considering to reduce the population of live stock since enough straw and other fodder are not available;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the measures planned to check wastage/diversion of animal fodder to meet the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected from FAO/European Countries/States/Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

[Translation]

### Bomb Blasts

1574 SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of incidents of bomb blasts by terrorists in India and the loss of life and property as a result thereof during the last two years.

(b) the number of persons arrested and the number of persons prosecuted in this regard.

(c) whether most of these persons are terrorists motivated by Pakistan; and

(d) the preventive measures taken by the Government to curb such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being obtained from States/Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the House

(d) Under the VIIth scheduled to the Constitution 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. It is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps in this regard. At the Central level action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-terrorists operations of different states and to improve flow of information useful for control of terrorist insurgency activities among the states. Further, help is being provided to the State Governments in terms of financial assistance for modernisation of police, supply of improved weapons, deployment of para-military forces etc

[English]

### Responsibilities amongst Authorities in Delhi

1575 SHRI JAGMOHAN Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the administrative and institutional set-up for the National Capital Territory of Delhi Approximates to that of a dyarchy.

(b) whether the present division of powers and diffusion of responsibilities amongst various authorities is causing a great deal of hardship to the people; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) As a result of the constitution (69th Amendment) Act, 1991 and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 Delhi has got a legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to it. In view of the special responsibilities of the Union in relation to the National Capital, 'Public Order', 'Police' and 'Land' have been kept outside the purview of the Legislative Assembly.

There are, however, certain Public utilities which are under the control of the Union Government. A proposal to transfer the Delhi Transport Corporation, Delhi Milk Scheme and Super Bazar to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is under active consideration. There is also a proposal to place the Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking under the administrative control of the Government of NCT of Delhi. The transfer of these organisations would improve the delivery of civic services in Delhi.

In order to decentralise the administrative structure of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, a proposal to create nine districts is in an advanced stage of consideration. The objective of decentralisation is, inter-alia, to provide the common citizen a ready access to the administration for redressal of his grievances and to make the administration more responsive.

### Killing of Wild Animals

1576 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received reports of mass killing of monkeys, wild pigs, boars, tigers and other animals, particularly from the forests of Kerala;

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

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry study into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the preventive steps taken by the Government to protect the wild animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHD) : (a) No, Sir. However, some incidents of illegal killing of wild animals in different parts of the country, including Kerala, do occur from time to time.

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d), the cases of illegal killing of wild animals are investigated by the respective State wildlife authorities and appropriate action taken under the law.

(e) The various measures taken for protection of wild animals include.

- (i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned by law.
- (ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.
- (iii) A network of 441 wildlife sanctuaries and 80 National parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the state Governments.
- (iv) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife animals reaches them.
- (v) International Trade in Endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- (vi) Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.
- (vii) Inter departmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995.

[Translation]

#### **Railway line between Devas and Harda**

1577. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no Railway line passes through the area between the Devas and Harda in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to lay a railway line there.

(c) whether any survey has been conducted for laying a railway line between the said places;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether public and Railway administration have worked together in some places for laying new railway lines in the country; and

(f) if so, the type of co-operation likely to be expected from the public under this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal to lay a railway line between Devas and Harda.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Shramdan for earthwork and permission to move and take materials to the site of work are the items which can be expected from the public in this system.

[English]

#### **Temporary Workers in Railways**

1578. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) total number of temporary workers in the Railways at present, zone-wise;

(b) the time by which it is proposed to make them permanent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). It is presumed that the Question relates to confirmation of temporary Railway employees. As per the extant instructions, temporary Railway employees are confirmed in service on successful completion of the probation period. The confirmation of temporary employees is thus a continuing process. The number of temporary Railway employees at present zone-wise is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Budgetary Support to Railways**

1579. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to restore the budgetary support atleast by sixty per cent to fulfil the needs of the Railways.

(b) whether in view of the said proposal any concrete programme of action for Railways has been prepared by the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The decision to allocate the available budgetary resources to different sectors, including Railways, is taken by Planning Commission in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c). Railways try to get as much Budgetary support through discussions with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance at the time of Finalising the Annual Plans.

### Over Stayed Visits by Foreigners

1580. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreigners who came to India on valid passports or otherwise over-stayed and thereafter declared as missing

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years till date, country-wise.

(c) whether any of them have been apprehended and deported

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) the action taken in the matter and

(f) the measures the Government propose to adopt to eradicate this evil of overstaying and missing of foreigners resulting in the increase of our population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) (a) and (b) Powers to detect and deport foreign Nationals overstaying their visas or otherwise staying unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the states Government/Union Territory Administrations. Data regarding detection and deportation is maintained by the State/Union Territories

(c) to (f) Detection, deportation, launching of prosecution against foreign nationals overstaying in the country is a continuous process. Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations from time to time to make concerted efforts and to launch special drives to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in the country illegally

### Passanger Amenities

1581 DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor passenger amenities in the New Delhi-Orissa bound trains, and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Provision of passenger amenities in coaches are made as per the recommendations of passenger amenities committee. These provisions are provided on all coaches on New Delhi-Orissa bound trains

(b) Railways have, however, been advised to ensure that all passenger amenity items are in good working order in all coaches in the New Delhi-Orissa bound trains.

### Tiger Population

1582. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the factors posing threat to tiger population.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps taken to make a realistic survey on the tiger population in the country.

(d) the number of tigers as per the latest survey State-wise and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and preserve this species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARYAN PRASAD NISHAD) (a) and (b) The main factors threatening the tiger population in the country, are-

- poaching to meet the demand of illegal international trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body, and

- fragmentation and quality degradation of the habitat

(c) The tiger census is undertaken in the country once in every four years and that in the tiger reserve areas, once in every two years

(d) Last state-wise census was carried out in 1993 and a statement of census figure is enclosed

(e) The steps taken by the Government are -

(i) A 'Tiger Crisis Cell' has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling

(iii) Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon

(iv) A protocol has been signed with the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to coordinate bilateral efforts to stop illegal activities of poaching of tigers and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body

(v) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'GLOBAL TIGER FORUM' for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitats throughout the range countries

## STATEMENT

*Estimated population of tiger, state-wise, in the Country as per Census carried out in 1993*

S.No.	Name of the State	Estimated number of Tigers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	197
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil
3.	Goa	3
4.	Bihar	137
5.	Mizoram	28
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
7.	Orissa	226
8.	Rajasthan	64
9.	Gujarat	5
10.	Maharashtra	276
11.	Karnataka	305
12.	Haryana	Nil
13.	Meghalaya	53
14.	Uttar Pradesh	465
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	180
16.	Madhya Pradesh	912
17.	Kerala	57
18.	Tamil Nadu	97
19.	West Bengal	335
20.	Assam	325
21.	Tripura	Nil
22.	Nagaland	83
23.	Sikkim	2
24.	Manipur	N.R.
		3750

(N R —Not receive)

## Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project

1583. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have denied permission for Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for the denial;

(c) whether the Government have received requests/representations from the State to review this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e). The proposal for diversion of 3001.8 ha. of forest land under the Forest

(Conservation) Act, 1980 for Pooyamkutty Hydro-electric Project in Kerala was rejected on merits in January, 1991 due to its likely adverse ecological impacts. The State Government has subsequently requested for reconsideration of the proposal. The proposal has been carefully re-examined by the Ministry and again rejected on 28.6.1996. Recently a letter has also been received from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala requesting for clearance of the project. He has been informed that it would not be possible for the Ministry to approve the proposal as the envisaged benefits of the project will not be commensurate with the environmental and ecological losses caused by large scale clearance of pristine forests of Western Ghats due to construction of the Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project.

## Ganga Action Plan

1584. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Action Plan was launched under the hundred percent Central Grant Scheme;

(b) whether the policy has been reversed and the scheme is now based on equal sharing of the funds between the Centre and State Governments involved;

(c) if so, the reasons for reversing the policy; and

(d) the impact thereof on implementation of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I was taken up under cent-per-cent Central Grant for the pollution abatement of River Ganga. It was also to serve as a model to be replicated by the State Governments for pollution abatement of rivers with the consent of the concerned State Governments, the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II and the National River Conservation plan were sanctioned as centrally sponsored schemes on the basis of equal sharing of capital cost of works between the Central and the concerned State Governments to give greater feeling of commitment and ownership of the programmes to the States. With this change in the sharing pattern the pace of implementation of the schemes and upkeep of the facilities created thereunder is likely to improve.

## Flood Control Measures

1585. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the losses caused by heavy rains and floods in the current rainy season in Jammu & Kashmir in each district;

(b) whether many areas are facing grave threat from the revers of Chenab and Ujh;

(c) if so, steps taken to save these areas and amount spent every year during the past three years and the results thereof;

(d) whether the Protection Bandhs raised in recent years have been washed away especially in Pargwal Island areas last year as also during the current season; and

(e) if so, the loss caused as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEAPRTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) On the basis of the memorandum received from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, a Statement indicating the district-wise loss of human lives and damage to houses is enclosed.

(b) Floods in river Chenab has resulted in erosion of 100 acres of land in Akhnoor Tehil. Damage in varying degrees has also been caused in some parts of Kathua district due to floods in Ujh.

(c) Government of Jammu & Kashmir have incurred the following expenditure for flood protection measures on the rivers Chenab and Ujh;

Year	Chenab (Rs. in lakhs)	Ujh (Rs. in Lakhs)
1993-94	95.00	33.08
1994-95	139.56	54.89
1995-96	331.06	134.65

(d) and (e). The Protection Bandhs raised in the Pargwal Island areas have been partially damaged due to recent floods in the Chenab river causing an estimated damage of Rs.135.90 lakhs. Some damage to bands was caused last year also.

#### STATEMENT

S. No.	District Affected	Loss of Human lives	Damage to Houses
1.	Srinagar	12	9693
2.	Budgam	3	7715
3.	Baramulla	8	12400
4.	Kupwara	2	37
5.	Anantnag	5	235
6.	Pulwama	4	1687
7.	Doda	3	1
8.	Udhampur	2	28
9.	Kathua	1	-
10.	Rajouri	2	-
11.	Jammu	3	12
Total		45	31808

#### Central Industrial Security Force

1586. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the transfer policy of officers/officials in CISF.

(b) whether the demand for posting in their repsective zones has been raised for a number of items by the officers/officials of the CISF:

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

(d) if not, the reasons for not posting them in their zones, and

(e) the steps taken by the Gvoernment to see that they are posted in their zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e). Details of the transfer policy both for officers/officials in CISF are given in the enclosed statement. At times, requests are received from the officers/officials for out of turn postings to their home zone. These requests are considered on merits, keeping in veiw the administative and operational requirements.

#### STATEMENT

##### Transfer Policy of CISF

CISF has a well defined transfer policy for its personnel, which consists of tenure postings of prescribed periods to be undertaken in areas termed as Home Zones and 'Out of Home Zone'. This cycle of postings is so created that if the individual officer does not disturb this cycle, he will find himself posted in the home zone at the stage when he is on the verge of retirement. Currently, excluding the category of women officers and exservicemen in the non-gazetted ranks, for all others from the rank of Constables to Inspectors, the the tenure cycle is as under:-

(a) 1st tenure	Out of Home Zone	12 years	6 years
(b) Home zone	12 years	-	-
(c) Out of Home Zone	2nd tenure	-	6 years
(d) Home zone	Final Tenure	-	Remaining years of whatever services is left

2. Non-gazetted women employees Presently posted after their initial appointment to a outside home zone area for a period of 3 years, thereafter they remain posted in their home zone, subject to the availability of vacancies. Again, widows employed on compassionate grounds are posted within their home zone as far as possible from the time of their appointment

3. Ex-servicemen have the following cycle of tenure postings:-

- |                      |                  |                               |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Home Zone        | - On appointment | - 6 years tenure.             |
| (b) Out of Home Zone | - 6 years        |                               |
| (c) Home Zone        | - Final tenure   | - Remaining period of service |

4. Followers, who are the lowest paid employees, remain posted in the zone of their employment for the full period of their postings, unless there are compassionate cases for consideration.

5. Ministerial staff is generally posted at only one station for a period of 5 years, extendable by one year in exigencies of public interest. The postings of ministerial staff is decided on the basis of vacancies.

6. Certain areas in the country are listed as 'difficult or sensitive areas'. In such areas, the posting tenure in units within the cycle of zonal postings has been kept to a maximum of two years. Such units where postings of limited tenure is considered, are located in Kashmir valley, Seetalpur, Singrent and in the state of Assam, Nagaland and Tripura.

7. It is a policy not to post a person to a unit where he has already served in the lower rank during the first 3 years of his promotion to the next higher rank. In the postings of GOs, this is only a guideline and is generally followed.

For IPS officer, the tenure in the rank of Commandant is 4 years, for DISG is 5 years and for ISG, it is 3 years. An IPS officer being promoted while serving in the CISF from one rank to another rank will serve a total of 8 years maximum upto the rank of an IGP.

While considerations are kept at the time of postings to give 3 years approximate tenure to GOs in CISF, there is no hard and fast rule and at times, transfers are also undertaken even in lesser time in public interest and exigencies of the time.

The process of transfers and postings is initiated from the month of February of the Calendar year, keeping in view the convenience of wards of employees, to adjust children in new Schools at new stations.

CISF is an All India Organisation and the officer cadre is one of the Central Services in Class 'A' category. In matters of postings and transfers, the efforts remain to retain the All India character in the personnel policy.

#### Native Cattle Breeds

1587. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the native cattle breeds have become extinct and more are on the verge of extinction;

(b) whether importance of bio-diversity has been realised of immense value and as such pools of genetic

resources are being created by developed nations and they are even patenting their genes;

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

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for the conservation and development of each native cattle breed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected from all the States/Union Territories and will be placed on the table of Lok Sabha as soon as received.

#### Expenditure on Railway Police

1588. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI RAM NAIK

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government to clear the outstanding dues on account of expenditure incurred on the railway police;

(b) if so, the total amount outstanding with the Railways as on July 1, 1996;

(c) the reasons for not paying the balance in full so far; and

(d) the time by which the outstanding amount is likely to be paid by the Union Government to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) The total amount outstanding with Railways as on July 1996 is Rs 6.93 crores. However, this amount does not include claims of Rs 22.06 crores, rejected by Central Railway on account of creation of posts of GRP personnel without the approval of Railway Administration.

(c) Some of the reasons for outstanding are as under :

(i) Non-submission of audit certificate by State Govt.

(ii) Non-availability of funds.

(iii) Unilateral creation of posts of GRP personnel by State Govt. without the approval of Railway Administration.

(d) Clearly admissible bills will be passed in 1996-97 subject to availability of funds.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will try to accommodate maximum number of M.P.s. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, I want to raise the incident which occurred on June 2, 1995 in U.P. State Guest House with Kumari Mayawati who was a legislator at that time and later on become the Chief Minister of U.P. On that fateful day, she was not only beaten up but an attempt on her life was also made. Thereafter, the then Governor of U.P., Shri Mofi Lal Vohra asked Ramesh Chand, Chairman, Revenues Board, U.P. to inquire into the incident... (Interruptions) Please sit down, I am not yielding. Mr. Ramesh Chand Committee has submitted its report to the Governor of U.P. Shri Moti Lal Vohra. The Committee had come to the conclusion that a criminal conspiracy was hatched by influenced political leaders of U.P. to liquidate Kumari Mayawati.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know the progress made in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. I have given notice 20 days before but nothing has been said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let Shri Rawat speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Sir, I am not referring to Press reports. I am referring to the report submitted by Shri Ramesh Chandra to the Governor of U.P. in which he has stated that officers of U.P. State Government were a party to that conspiracy to murder Kumari Mayawati and that they had been prescribed by the Chief Minister and Minister of U.P. Government, but they had played a very active role in this heinous crime. At that Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Chief Minister, who is now the Defence Minister in the Union Cabinet. I would urge Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to resign voluntarily in view of the fact that he has been found guilty by a senior bureaucrat of U.P., Shri Ramesh Chandra. Besides, when he failed to come to the rescue of a woman, how can we expect him to defend the country? Ramesh Chandra Committee had also inter alia recommended C.B.I. inquiry into the incident... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had given notice of the issue raised by Shri Rawat; perhaps you have not received it. All of us are responsible in view of President's rue in U.P. the public of U.P. is agitated about the murderous assault made on the B.S.P. leader, Kumari Mayawati on June 2, 1995 in the U.P. State Guest House where she was holding a meeting with the legislators of her party. It was an organised attack. At that time also I had raised the issue in Lok Sabha and Shri Chavan was the Home Minister at that time, who had also issued order of her safety. thereafter, a committee under the chairmanship of Shri Ramesh Chandra, Chairman of Revenue Board was constituted to inquire into the incident.

AN HON. MEMBER : Who constituted the committee?... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It was constituted by the Government. It had submitted an 89 page report and I do not want to quote from it extensively. I would request the Chair to direct the Home Minister to present the report in the House. Excerpts from the Report are being published in the newspapers and is a subject matter of divisions in the country. But if the Parliament is kept in dark, particularly when U.P. State is under President's rule, it would not be fair treatment with the Parliament. Please direct the Home Minister to obtain a copy from Lucknow and lay it on the Table of the House. Only then we will come to know the real contents of the report. The concepts of the report published so far are appalling. These excerpts confirm the charge of conspiracy and also bear out the charge that legislators were abducted and kept in confinement in the Chief Minister's residence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Gupta ji, please promise a copy of the report and lay it on the Table of the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now papers to be laid on the table.

(Interruptions)

12.07 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

### Notification under sub-section (2) of section 43 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

a copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-Section (2) of section 43 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:-

- (i) Notification No. VC/CAU/14 (Establish)/94 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 1996, approving the first Ordinance for the establishment and management of the College of Horticulture and Forestry, at Basar in Arunachal Pradesh.
- (ii) Notification No. VC/CAU/14 (Establish)/94 published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 1996 constituting the first Board of Management of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal

[Placed in Library See No LT 147/96

**Notification under section 150 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayats) Regulation, 1994 Annual Report and review by the Government of the working of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony N.D. 1994-95 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. 34-96 (Hindi and English Versions) published in Andaman and Nicobar Gazette dated the 22nd March, 1996 making provisions for conducting elections of the Adhyaksha and Up-Adhyaksha after completion of one year term under section 150 of the Andaman and Nicobar islands (Panchayats) Regulations, 1994 issued sub-section (2) of section 201 of the said Regulations.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-148/96]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi for the Year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English version) regarding review by the Government of the working of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the Year 1994-95.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above

[Placed in Library See No. LT-149/96]

**Explanatory statement giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Industrial disputes (Amendment) third ordinance, 1996.**

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

An explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 150/96]

**Annual Report Review of the Government of the working of the Control Zoo Authority, New Delhi-1994-95 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Zoo Authority, 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 Central Zoo Authority New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 151/96]

**Explanatory Statement giving reasons for immediate legislations by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Third) Ordinance, 1996.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

An explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Third) Ordinance 1996.

[Placed in Library See No. LT.152/96]

12.09 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 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1996 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd 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 Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1996, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd July, 1996"

12.09½ hrs.

**BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA**

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1996 and the industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1996 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July, 1996.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to your notice how Shri Prahlad Singh, M.P. from Seoni was arbitrarily arrested and detained in the Jabalpur jail by the Collector and the S.P. when he was proceeding to attend the session here. We have not been apprised about this development this incident needs to be probed where a member of Parliament has been illtreated and put behind the bars, this treatment with a public representative is highly improper.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Shri Manoranjan Bhakta

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Fall in power generation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has caused resentment in all the villages of the State. The Government of the State had sought permission of the Central Electricity Authority and the Energy Ministry to purchase diesel generating sets but it was not granted. The steep fall in power generation there has created problems for the students and affected the production of small scale industry. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, power is generated through diesel generating sets and permission should be granted to purchase more sets to augment power generation.

Besides, work on Kalpam power project has not yet started. The Ministry of Environment has sanctioned only half the amount and the rest is still pending. I would request the Minister of Environment, who is present here, to give clearance to the Kalpam Hydro Electric Project at the earliest so that work on the project may start immediately. It is a Union Territory and a remote area. The hon. Minister must pay special attention to it and sanction the necessary amount.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Gupta ji, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey has raised the issue of arrest and detention of Shri Prahlad Patel.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : He has been detained in Jabalpur jail. He had informed the authorities that he was proceeding to Parliament to attend the session but in spite of it he was arrested. It is a question of privilege.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may please call for the factual information in this respect.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention

to the allotment of L.P.G. distribution agency in my constituency, Jahanabad. This constituency comprises two Sub-Divisions viz. Masodhi, distt. Patna and Arawal, distt. Jahanabad. An application has been made for the allotment of L.P.G. distribution agency in Masodhi sub division, but because of procedural complication its sanction has been unduly delayed.

Sir, although Arawal sub division comprises 23 panchayats, still it has not been covered by the scheme for allotment of L.P.G. distribution agency. In Distt. Jahanabad there are other areas also viz. Ghosi, Kurtha, Karpi and Khidarsarai Police Station where L.P.G. distribution agencies should be allotted on priority basis but no action has been taken in this direction. These days L.P.G. has become an essential household item but steps have not been taken to allot L.P.G. distribution agencies in such divisions or densely populated areas.

There is only one L.P.G. distribution agency in the entire Jahanabad city against whom penal action has been recommended by the Consumer Court to the Ministry of Petroleum. But no action has been taken till date even though thousands of consumers have lodged complaints against him. The consumers from places as far away as 30-40 Kilometers come personally to collect the gas cylinders. In order to improve the L.P.G. distribution service, it is imperative to increase the number of L.P.G. agencies.

Action should, therefore, be taken to allot L.P.G. agencies in Masodhi Sub-division, Arawal, Kurtha and PS. Kakor, Khidarsarai and Karpi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please to do not read the statement and be brief.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Action should be taken against the L.P.G. distributor.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you the chance and you should make your submission when permitted.

*[English]*

You will get a chance.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not proper, please sit down.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (Kanara) : On the 10th, Dr. Chittaranjan was murdered there and the investigations handed over to CBI.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Where was the murder committed?

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Dr. Chittaranjan was murdered along with 230 other persons during the riots which broke out in Bhatkal, Karnataka in 1993. The same elements threatened to liquidate me in Delhi on 18-19th July.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Who is threatening you?

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Abdul Rehman of Karnataka...*(Interruptions)* the area is in the grip of terrorism since 1993.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, there is a serious danger to the life of Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, our MP from Kanara. On May 10th, in Bhatkal, our BJP MLA from Bhatkal, which constitutes part of Kanara Lok Sabha segment, was gunned down by fundamentalists and criminals. From that day, continuously some criminals, anti-social elements and fundamentalist forces are following Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, our hon. Member of Parliament from Kanara constituency, making him as the next target for elimination.

Sir, since that day, i.e. right from May 10th till today, nobody has been arrested in connection with the assassination of Dr. Chittaranjan. Though CBI enquiry had been instituted, it has been stalled. According to our information, these elements are following Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, right from Bhatkal, from the first week of July.

In the first week of July, when he went to Bhatkal, these people followed him in a car. CBI nabbed the car but they could not arrest the people. Then those people came to Bangalore on 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th and waited in front of Yadav's Smriti, thinking that Shri Anant Kumar Hegde would be available there. Our MLC, Shri K. Narheri lodged a complaint with Sheshadripuram Police Station in Bangalore that such elements had come to eliminate Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, but police has not taken any cognisance of that but instead have registered a complaint of theft.

Now the same culprits have reached Delhi and are staying in New Karnataka Bhavan, S.P. Marg, New Delhi. Karnataka Bhavan has become a place for criminals and culprits to stay. They are staying there and are continuously watching the movements of Shri Anant Kumar Hegde. Till today nobody has been nabbed.

Shri Anant Kumar Hegde met the hon. Speaker on 12th and lodged a complaint giving full details of the car and the description of the persons who are following him. Hon. Speaker assured him that suitable action would be initiated and that he would take up this matter with the hon. Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta.

Sir, from 12th, twelve days have passed. Today is the 23rd July. No action has been taken by him. Shri Anant Kumar Hegde has not been given any protection. The life and limbs of Shri Anant Kumar Hegde is under the protection of this House, under the protection of the hon. Speaker and the hon. Deputy-Speaker.

Sir, Karnataka is also becoming...\*

We will not allow this. In order to save the life of Shri Anant Kumar Hedge from the attack of bullets, we request you to give protection to him immediately. Let the Home Minister give an assurance on the floor of this House that he will be providing complete protection to Shri Anant Kumar Hegde...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now I call upon Shri E. Ahmed to raise his matter.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I would like to raise a very important point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he has used the phrase...You have not expunged it. What do you take the House for? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is audible.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, they are uttering this kind of phrase, which should be expunged. You are keeping silent. You have to respond to our request...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have not been able to hear anybody because many Members are speaking at a time.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, what happened to you?...*(Interruptions)* They are using expressions like...You do not say that those words should be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That phrase goes out of the record.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have brought this to your notice. Otherwise there will be criticism against you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has been expunged.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I would like to raise a very important point for the consideration of the Home Minister as well as the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we fail to catch your eye ...*(Interruptions)*. It is the Members from the other side who are lucky to catch your eye.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get a chance to speak. Now let Ahamedji make his submission.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

*(Interruption)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let one of you speak

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Some procedure should be laid down for the Zero Hour.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have challenged the procedure. Again you are challenging it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is the second time you are challenging the procedure. I have got a list. I have to select out of them. This is the procedure. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Chair is following the procedure. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already called Shri E. Ahamed to speak. Let him speak first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I would like to suggest that you meet the Leaders of the various Parties to sort out what is happening during the Zero Hour.

[English]

That will do good to the House and it will also enhance our prestige before the people. You kindly do that because all kinds of things are going on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At first, please listen to me, gentlemen.

[Translation]

As per the existing procedure, a list comprising 50-70 Members is prepared and this list is shortlisted by taking into account the importance of the subject and the hon. Member raising it. I have to select a few. Do you want any other procedure?

[English]

Let the leaders of all the Parties sit in the Chamber and decide. So far, this has been followed. All of you may please sit down.

(Interruptions)

\* Not Recorded

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have given a notice on a very important subject.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the past few days, submissions have been made to the hon. Speaker that the life of an hon. Member is in danger. I am not aware whether the Home Minister has been apprised of the threat? In case he has not been apprised, steps should be taken to provide security to the hon. Member. As Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta is present in the House, I would request him to do the needful.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important matter. (Interruptions) Everybody is speaking. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, on the issue of providing security to the Members, I would say that it should not be politicised. If anything has come to the notice of the hon. Speaker, any direction from him will be followed by the Government but it should not be politicised. The way it has been politicized, it is not true. I just want to draw your attention to another thing, i.e. a Commission of Inquiry was conducted in Uttar Pradesh on some matter and that was raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. There was a direction from the Chair. The direction from the Chair will be honoured by the Government. But, Sir, like that there are many occasions. There were many inquiries in the States. And if we bring all those or if any Member raises all of them and if there is a direction that all the reports will be laid on the Table of the House, then there will be no limit.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not asked for all I have asked for only one thing.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Yes, Sir, that is the point. A Commissioner rank officer is conducting an inquiry and that inquiry report is available with the State Government. Is it proper to bring that Report to the Table of the House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Home Minister will call for it.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I do not have the lung power to talk loudly.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : It is the responsibility of the Home Minister to lay this important report on the Table of the House. I have been silent for a long time. (Interruptions) I want to know the contents of the report and the people of the country have the right to know its contents. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, it is available with the U.P. Government. It is an open document.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It should be discussed in the House...*(Interruptions)* The Members want to discuss it in the House.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance and would like to draw the attention of the hon. House as well as the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : As U.P. is under President's rule, it is the responsibility of the Union Government and the House. The people of U.P. are agitated over this report. Earlier also, the leader of the Opposition had made a similar demand on the issue of Uttarakhand...*(Interruptions)*. I do not understand what objection you have in laying the Report on the Table of the House?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stated that Report is available with U.P. Government...*(Interruptions)*...The Report should be made available to the Parliament as the State is under President's rule...*(Interruptions)*...It is the duty of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to make available the report...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want that the Sri Krishna Commission's Report on Mumbai riots should also be laid on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have asked for only one report.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That report should also be laid on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)* Please bring that report also...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : U.P. State is under President's rule...*(Interruptions)* The Report should be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The entire report should be brought. The criminal riot should be probed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune) : Sir, we want the Report of 1992 riots...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I want your ruling...*(Interruptions)* We want your ruling...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : The statement of the hon. Minister is quite meaningful...*(Interruptions)*

He has referred to U.P. Several political leaders are involved in such activities. The entire House would like to know the details of the incident which has revealed the involvement of a prominent political leader in a criminal conspiracy. He has said that it is an open secret. I would urge him to take the House into confidence and reveal the names of those political leaders...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : U.P. is under President's rule and under President's rule...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, subject to correction. I think, this is the first time that a report is directed to be presented before the House and the hon. Home Minister is being asked to produce that. I believe, such a precedent should not be created without full consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Which one?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, immediately there are demands for Reports of other Commissions. Shall we convert this Parliament into State Assemblies? They want a Divisional Commissioner's Report...*(Interruptions)*. Somebody is making an allegation.

Sir, where will you draw a line? There is a reasonable request for the Sri Krishna Commission's Report. Why should it not be presented here?...*(Interruptions)*. Therefore, I humbly appeal to you to reconsider your decision. This is a matter without any precedent. Please consider it, if necessary, consult the Leaders because this will create a very dangerous precedent.

I am also requesting Shri Vajpayeeji and my friends on the other side not to create, for opolitical purposes, a situation in Parliament which will be misused as it is being done now. Therefore, please reconsider about it. This is my humble appeal to you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a point of order. During the Zero Hour, the leader of the Opposition had made a Constitutional and valid submission that an inquiry report about U.P. which is under President's rule, should be laid on the Table of the House. It is administrative Report, readily available and appearing in the Press. It is a genuine demand and Sir, you had also conceded the demand and directed the Home Minister to lay the Report on the Table of the House. Instead of obeying your directive, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is trying to scuttle it. It would be a very bad precedent. You may kindly repeat your directive to the Home Minister to procure a copy of the Report and lay it on the Table of the House tomorrow. No other alternative suggestion should be entertained. All other Reports are laid in the

respective Vidhan Sabhas; it is because the State is under President's rule that a demand has been made to lay it in Parliament. You may please repeat your directive.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What is the objection that you have got?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, You have allowed it. We are duty-bound to obey the ruling...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we have no quarrel about any information that you want to ask from the Home Minister. We have no quarrel or disagreement about any report of any Commission. What they want they can get. What they want to know about U.P., they can know...*(Interruptions)* But, Sir, we want to submit that if you give a specific ruling to favour a particular information or inquiry report to be revealed in the House, then the Members have every kind of apprehension and demand laying of similar kinds of reports which have been presented...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA (Serumpore) : Sir, it is perfectly correct...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the Ramesh Chandra Inquiry Committee has given some findings. Members have a right to know them. I also feel, as a member, that I have a right to know and the House has a right to know it and debate as to what were the findings of this Committee and what were the findings of the Sri Krishna Commission and also about the observations of other Commission on communal riots...*(Interruptions)* If you do it, do it for all...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, we want the report on 1992 riots also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whenever such demands come, I will examine it.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : The Report in respect of which a demand is being made is not the Shri Krishna Report...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I am waiting. Please allow me to speak.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Justice Verma's Report on Rajiv Gandhi's murder case was presented in this very House and was discussed. Then why can this Report be not discussed in the House?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let Shri Ahamed speak I will listen to you after listening to him.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may speak after Shri Ahamed.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, how long should I should stand like this?...*(Interruptions)* I am also a Member. I have been called by the Deputy Speaker. He is overtaking others. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the B.J.P. is taking advantage of your goodself

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will listen to Shri Ahamed first.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been standing here for the previous ten minutes only to make a humble submission before this House. I am going to raise an issue which has been supported by many of the Members of the Treasury Benches when they were sitting in the Opposition. Sir, the TADA Act has lapsed. There is practically no TADA now. But the people who have been imprisoned or have been taken into custody as accused are languishing behind the bars. I have absolutely no sympathy for the TADA prisoners. If they are found guilty they should be convicted. But there are some innocent elements and innocent people who happen to be the accused by chance. They have to be given justice. When will they get justice? Sir, either their cases have to be tried as expeditiously as possible and found out whether they are guilty or not, or if there is no evidence against them they should be let out

A country which has been fighting for the human rights and also opposing violation of human rights has allowed innocent people to languish in jail under the TADA. How can this Government allow it? The Government will have to take up the matter with the respective State Governments.

Now, even the children of 18 or 19 years, who happened to have just given a cup of tea to a person who has been accused under TADA, have also been taken as co-accused. Therefore, it is disgraceful for a country like India to allow innocent people to be landed in jail under the TADA. Therefore, I urge upon the Government and the hon. Home Minister, who had also been supporting this cause with us in the last Parliament, to take up the matter expeditiously and treat them in accordance with law, do justice to them and allow the innocent people to be released.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had also given a notice on the same subject last Friday but I did not get a chance to make a submission as the Zero Hour concluded early on that day. We had raised the issue in the previous Parliament

also and because of the opposition by Members of Parliament and the people at large, the TADA Act was not extended. But unfortunately, 6,000 detainees under TADA are languishing in jails because their cases in courts are proceeding at a snail's pace. I want the Government of India to enact a legislation for review and early disposal of cases of those innocent people who are languishing in jails especially those detained during riots over Babri Masjid issue, the farmers and people detained in Punjab. The Government should take the House into confidence about the steps it proposes to take in order to provide relief to innocent people detained under TADA.

I would like to refer here the action taken by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, when he was the Chief Minister of U.P. He had withdrawn cases against all the innocent persons. The Centre should also apprise the House about the steps proposed to be taken by it about 6000 TADA detainees...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not the proper way. Please sit down and I will allow you.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : It is an important issue and the Home Minister should reply to the submission made by me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has just now referred to another similar criminal case in U.P. and the House is entitled to know details thereof...*(Interruptions)* or else the hon. Minister should deny it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you also but please, let him make his submission.

*[English]*

Let me have my say also.

Please sit down Mr. Fatmi, please sit down.

*[Translation]*

This is not the proper way

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your notice was not on this subject.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister is present in the House and he should speak on TADA...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : My notice given yesterday is valid to day also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your notice is on 'Sinking of Tajmahal'.

*[English]*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I have given a notice regarding sinking of Taj Mahal for to-day. On Friday, I had given a notice about TADA.

*[Translation]*

But it is an important issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But we have to accommodate other issues also...*(Interruptions)* Please sit down.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Sir, TADA is an important issue.

The Home Minister is present to the House and he should inform the House about Government's policy in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to Sitamarhi of North Bihar. All the rivers in North Bihar viz Kamla Balan, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Kosi Adwana and all the tributaries of Bagmati are in spate. About two dozen people have been killed in the floods in North Bihar. Parihar, Soneharsa, Sursand, Dupri, Nanpur, Bayapati Blocks of Sitamarhi which have been inundated. The floods have wreaked havoc in North Bihar. The Train and bus services have been disrupted and the normal life has been totally disrupted. As the area is cut off medical facilities are also not reaching there. The Member of Parliament from Madhubani is the Union Agriculture Minister and his constituency is also inundated. Through you, Sir, I would request the Minister of Agriculture to visit the flood affected area of North Bihar along with the Members of Parliament from that area and relief measures should be undertaken there.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister reply.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : It is true that the flood situation is grave. After my return from visit to Assam, I will visit the flood affected areas next week. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : A large number of people are detained under TADA...*(Interruptions)* The present treasury benches were agitated about TADA when they were in the opposition. Now, we want to know Government's policy about TADA because among the detainees, there is sizeable number of Muslims let the Home Minister clarify the position...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on TADA issue, the Government will make a Statement...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, As per the provisions of TADA...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has said that he will make a Statement on the subject.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It was with reference to his commitment to make the criminals detained under TADA...*(Interruptions)*\* They want those criminals to be released who have committed heinous crimes and murders...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the floor of the House an hon. Member, who was in the judiciary, is making an allegation of a conspiracy between the Home Minister and some hon. Member and with impunity he is repeating that allegation. Where are we going? I would like to know where we are going. Is this the Parliament?...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will not go on record. It may be expunged.

*[English]*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, this is a conspiracy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Lodhaji, please sit down.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a healthy issue which may be conducive in inculcating some sanity in the present atmosphere filled with crime. On the 11th September, the country would be observing the 200th death anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar. Last year also, I had discussed it with the then Prime Minister and Human Resource Minister. Ahilyabai Holkar is known in the entire country for her contribution to the religious activities. Besides, she was an efficient administrator and a benign ruler and in spite of it she was addressed as 'Maa' (mother). I had suggested that her 200th death anniversary should be observed on a national level, particularly in the present law and order situation when women are feeling insecure, the terrorists and criminals are striking with impunity and the crime graph has recorded a phenomenal increase. The previous Government had conceded my demand and a committee was set up by the Human Resource Development Ministry. A demand was also made that a commemorative stamp should also be issued on the occasion besides naming the Indore Airport as Ahilyabai Airport. All these demands were conceded and a committee was constituted for the purpose. At that time it was also suggested that an award should be instituted in the memory of Ahilyabai to be awarded to the best administrator. Now it is more than one year when this committee was constituted and the death anniversary

on the 11th September is fast approaching. But, unfortunately, we are not aware of the number of sittings of the committee or any tangible work done by it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House discusses all the subjects under the sun but healthy issues are neither discussed nor implemented. The committee has not held a single meeting after it was constituted. I request the hon. Minister to enlighten us on the work done by the committee and the progress made in this direction. I would urge the Government to chalk out elaborate programmes to celebrate the 200th death anniversary of Ahilyabai. In order to commemorate her memory, postage stamps should be issued and the Indore airport should be named as Ahilyabai airport. Besides, awards for the most efficient administrators should be instituted.

PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to present in the House a report which would send a chill down the spine of any person who reads it. The former Prime Minister of India, Shri Chandra Shekhar had raised the issue of 12 dead bodies sometime back. But I want to bring to your notice the horrifying spectacle of Punjab where 983 dead bodies were cremated without informing the parents. Our Guru Tegh Bahadur had sacrificed his life in Chandni Chowk for his motherland and to secure human rights for his countrymen. But it is unfortunate that the people who had always been in forefront to defend the country's honour and human rights have been subjected to such brutalities that their dead bodies have been cremated secretly, without any intimation even to their parents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people of Punjab will always be remembered for their selfless service and heroic deeds when this country was ruling under the atrocities of foreign rulers. They made supreme sacrifices to defend the honour of the country. But now I want the Home Minister to clarify the position regarding the General Secretary of the Human Rights Commission and General Secretary of SGPC who have been declared missing but who, according to CBI report, have been murdered and with reported police complicity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will not be proper to discuss the issue as it is *sub judice*

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE (Tarantaran) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I demand that CBI report should be laid on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The matter is still pending in the court. After High Court's Judgement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE : My humble submission is that the Home Minister may be directed to lay the CBI report on the Table of the House, because thousands of persons have been killed and cremated.

Petty matters are taken up in the House...*(Interruptions)*  
but human rights...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is of course a grave issue.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE : The issue concerns thousands of people. The Report submitted in the court should also be laid on the Table because now the matter is an open secret...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : We want an assurance from the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE : The Home Minister may be asked to lay the report on the Table and to intimate to the House what action is proposed to be taken against the guilty persons...*(Interruptions)* The Home Minister must spell out the details in the House...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : It is not an isolated incident. It is only a preliminary report and the final report is still to be submitted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE : At present Congress party is in power in Panjab...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : In the end I would quote a couplet :

"Nanak naam chardi Kala.

tere bhane sab da bhalaa"...*(Interruptions)*

we are being projected as barbarous and dreaded criminals...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is being discussed here.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : As per the report, 984 persons have been identified...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE : The hon. Home Minister should make a Statement here...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you

*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) : Sir, this is a very serious matter where about a thousand persons were cremated under very suspicious circumstances. It is a very serious matter and that is why, it has been brought to the notice of the House. Since a report like that has come, it is being requested that the Minister of Home Affairs should consider taking further action in the matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, after so many issues, some of them having political overtones, I would like to raise a matter of human suffering. As you know, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is a very prestigious hospital under the Government of India. Patients drawn from all parts of the country come here with high hopes and optimism for treatment. The Board of Management of that Institute is headed by the Minister of Health. In such an Institute, a stalemate has been prevailing for the last one week — today, it is the sixth day—and as a result the functioning has been paralysed. The doctors are on strike because of some controversy. There was a death somehow and a case had been registered against some doctors for negligence of duty and so on. Some hooligans also raided the hospital and assaulted the doctors. There is a sense of insecurity on the part of the doctors...*(Interruptions)* Whatever it is, the doctor's strike is continuing, and the doctors of Safdarjung Hospital have also joined in that strike.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : Last time also we have raised the same issue. We want a statement from the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : The Government should issue direction...*(Interruptions)* It should intervene at the earliest

*[English]*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Some patients have been discharged from these hospitals, and the houses of the Members of Parliament have been flooded with these patients. The stalemate is going on and we want to know about the reason and the latest position. This is a Government of India Hospital and the Minister of Health is its President. Let there be a statement immediately by the Minister of Health today itself...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : The Government should come out with a statement.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, please ask the Government to clarify the position and to make a statement today itself

DR. ASIM BALA : The Minister should make a statement today itself.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, the Government should immediately intervene, and it should come out with a statement on what is the latest position.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot force the hon. Minister to say something on this. But if he is willing to say anything, he can say it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, let the Minister of Parliamentary Affair say something on this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Home Minister wants to say something.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : This issue should be settled amicably..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The Minister of Health will make a statement, if possible or, by tomorrow latest The Government will make all efforts to resolve the strike there. Immediate action will be taken against the culprits..*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned till 2.00 P.M.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the Clock*

14.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Five  
Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

*(Mr Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall take up Item Number 8

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

### Indian Council of Agricultural Research

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Sir, I beg to move

"That in pursuance of Rule 4 (vii) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The questions :

"That in pursuance of Rule 4 (vii) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.08 hrs.

## THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA \*BILL, 1996

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : Sir, I move that leave be granted to introduce the Bill to provide for the establishment of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the telecommunication services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the telecommunication services, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[Translation].*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : Sir, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

14.09 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for Boulder Pitching alongside Sone River in Mohammadganj and Maghiyaon in Palamu and Garhwa District Bihar.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu) : The Constant erosion caused by Koyal river in Mohammadganj and river Sone in Manjaria to Kabrakalan, Hussainabad Block and Majhgaon, Distt Palamu and Garhwa, of Bihar may submerge several villages. Every year silt is deposited in cultivable land in Bihar. Land is the main problem of the terrorist affected Palamu and every year soil erosion in reducing the cultivable land. I would urge the union Government to undertake boulder pitching along the banks of Koyal river and Sone river to avoid loss of life and property as well as cultivable land.

- (ii) **Need to evolve a scheme for development of slum areas in Delhi**

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : In Delhi, There are a large number of slum

\* Published in Gazette of India, Extra Ordinary, Part-II Section 2 dt 23/7/1996

\*\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President

Katras which lack basic amenities like sewer, power, drinking water and there are environmental hazards also. The people living in these Katras lead a wretched life in the absence of these basic facilities. The condition of the poor is all the more appalling because of overcrowding in these small houses.

I would urge the Union Government to chalk out a scheme urgently for the development of slum Katras and to provide basic amenities viz. power, water, sewer and improvement of ecology to ameliorate the lot of the people living in these areas.

**(iii) Need to open retail outlets of IFFCO and KRIBHCO in Aurangabad, Bihar.**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Farmers are predominant in Central Bihar but there is not a single IFFCO or KRIBHCO retail outlet there. The result is that the farmers are forced to purchase fertilizers at exorbitant rates and sometimes they are not available even at double the price.

I would request in Central Government to open a IFFCO and KRIBHCO retail outlet in Aurangabad at the earliest, keeping in view the larger interests of the farmers in Central Bihar.

**(iv) Need to increase number of Indian Airlines flights between Calcutta — Agartala and Delhi.**

[English]

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Sir, Tripura is connected with the rest of the country only through airlines. Indian Airlines and Modiluft were operating from Agartala to Calcutta thus connecting Tripura with the rest of the country. But modiluft has stopped its operation for the past one month resulting in hardships to hundreds of passengers, namely, students, businessmen, patients, common men, etc. Indian Airlines has also not increased its flights to fill up the vacuum. People in both sides at Agartala and at Calcutta are suffering as the State is not connected with rail services. I therefore urge upon the Government to look into the matter and see to it that two regular flights of Indian Airlines between Calcutta-Agartala and one regular Agartala-Delhi flight should immediately be started, so that this border State is not neglected any further and people of the State can interact with the rest of the country easily.

**(v) Need to stop import of banned pesticides in the country.**

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : In the years 1992-94, prominent American companies sold 1050 tonnes banned pesticides to India for the past several years, these companies have been exporting thousands of tonnes of banned pesticides to developing

and under-developed countries in violation of U.S. Government's directives. These pesticides primarily belong to Organophosphates, Carbomates, organochlorine and vipridial groups. Scientific studies carried out have revealed that Organophosphates and carbomates are like nerve gas and directly affect brain and the nervous system. Organochlorine also affects brain and the nervous system and causes cancer in the chest. Viprodial kills body cells which can prove fatal.

Studies carried out by an organisation named FASI has revealed that these companies exported 114,600 tonnes pesticides to the developing countries during the past five years. It is a serious matter and I would request the Government of India to impose a ban thereon immediately.

**(vi) Need to allocate funds for linking Baramati-Lonad via Faltn Rail line.**

SHRI HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR (Satara) : Last year the old Daund Baramati metre gauge line was converted into broad gauge line I would suggest in order to mitigate the difficulties being encountered by the South bound passengers and to facilitate movement of freight, the aforesaid line should be linked with Poona, Niraj-Mangalore main line, which will connect Lonad with South. After this linkage, the South bound passengers will not be obliged to travel via Poona and would cut down town time taken in journey as well as for freight traffic. I would request the Ministry of Railways to take immediate steps to link Baramati with Lonad via Faltn which would reduce the distance by 100 kilometres. There would be a saving of one day in the movement of freight also.

It is reliably learnt that the Ministry of Railways has completed the Survey work and accorded the necessary sanction.

I would request the Central Government to make provisions for the above mentioned project in the Supplementary Budget.

**(vii) Need to expedite the work on extension of the runway of the Ahmedabad Airport.**

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, Ahmedabad being the State capital and an industrial city in Gujarat, Ahmedabad airport has been upgraded as an International airport and international flights have already commenced from Ahmedabad airport. The inauguration was also done by the then Union Civil Aviation Minister. According to the requirement of IAAI (International Airports Authority of India), additional land required for runway has been fully acquired by the State Government and handed over to IAAI long back for extension of runway of the airstrip. All the formalities have already been completed.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to issue necessary instructions to IAAI to start the work at the earliest.

**(viii) Need for setting up of a VHF LPT at Kottarakkara in Kollam district of Kerala.**

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Kottarakkara, in Kerala is one of the important taluk headquarters in Kollam district which falls in Adoor parliamentary constituency.

Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra is covering the area of Adoor parliamentary constituency which is within the radius of 100 kms. This is a hilly area and backward. The visibility of the Doordarshan Kendra Programmes in this taluk is very poor. As such, the viewers are not getting any of the programmes of Doordarshan clearly. The people are demanding for setting up a VHF LPT at Kottarakkara for redressing their grievances. It is a long standing demand.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to consider and sanction a VHF LPT at Kottarakkara during this financial year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House will take up the next item...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, as per the Bulletin, Railway Budget would be discussed on the 23rd, 24th and 25th. Today being 23rd, I want to know whether the train will run today? We would like to know the position for our information whether the Railway Budget would be discussed Today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As per the list of Business. This is the item before me.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : But in the Bulletin it is mentioned that the Railway Budget would be discussed on 23, 24 and 25th...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At present I would like to stick to the Agenda. We will consider your plea later on...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Sir, we would just like to know where it will be taken up, say after 6 or 7 or it will not be taken up at all...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will find out the position and apprise you accordingly.

14.20 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Calling off of the Strike in All India Institute of Medical Sciences.**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : Sir, in the last few days a lot of hon.

Members have shown their anxiety about the happenings at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. I would like to inform the hon. Members, through you, that the strike has been called off.

A very unfortunate incident took place on the 17th when some Resident Doctors were assaulted. We had an inquiry conducted into the matter. We have very strongly condemned the incident. I am taking up the matter with the hon. Home Minister as well as the Lt. Governor of Delhi so that such incidents are not repeated in the future. But I would just like to inform every hon. Member who showed his or her anxiety that the strike has been called off as of this morning...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Was any one arrested? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Yes, two of them have been arrested...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk - Delhi) : What action is proposed to be taken against the persons whose alleged misbehaviour led to the strike. There were some political leaders also...*(Interruptions)* who abused and threat the doctors and they were armed in spite of their assertion to the country. I want to know the action proposed to be taken against such persons how soever they may be even the Chief Minister of Delhi. Had some common man done it, would you have let him off...*(Interruptions)* Who is responsible for this...*(Interruptions)*... My submission is that action should be taken against such people who all instigating others...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : We strongly condemn the inaduct and strict action would be taken against the persons involved in the incident. I can only request the police to take action because I am not empowered to take any direct action. I have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : That is what we said. Action has to be taken against the Chief Minister; action has to be taken against the State Government. The Chief Minister's name is also involved in the incident. It is in the newspaper.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : I was saying that I have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Delhi in which he has claimed that his home has been wrongly dragged in the incident and that should be inquired into. We have ordered an inquiry to find out the factual portion and stringent action would be taken against the persons involved in the incident...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That matter has ended now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir... (Interruptions) My query has not been answered and if it is not possible I would like to go home.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will find out and inform you in a shortwhile.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Please find Out.

14.25 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF  
THE BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS BILL

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: BUILDING AND  
OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WELFARE  
CESS THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996

AND

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS' WELFARE CESS BILL — Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Palanimanickam please.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) :

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir.

I welcome the Bill that has been introduced in this House to give protection through legislation to the construction workers in the unorganised sector. This is intended to guarantee some protection in their service conditions through certain provisions of the Act we seek to enact now. I wholeheartedly support this Bill. I am happy to see the introduction of "The building and other construction workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Bill 1996" Clubbed with another Bill "The Building and other construction workers welfare cess Bill 1996". Though they may get help through certain provisions in the already existing centrally legislated Laws, it has been thought fit to go in for an exclusive legislation. I congratulate the Government on this count. The need to enact an exclusive Act to benefit

the construction workers has been understood at last. The Government that seeks to enact a law for this purpose is expected to know all the problem such of those workers face. The construction workers form the second largest group among the workers found in the unorganised sector. I think the Government has fully understood their plight, that is why the Bill is in the process of being passed now after it has come in to vogue through three consecutive ordinances. Hence I appreciate the Government and welcome again the introduction of this Bill now.

United Front Government that has been formed by the coming together of thirteen parties has given to itself a common minimum programme as its guiding policy through its steering committee. What has that programme got to say about the workers in the unorganised sector. It promises to give them a better deal. it says that "some laws have been made in respect of labour in the unorganised sector. These laws will be strengthened and where necessary, new law will be made to protect the interest for such labour, particularly in the construction industry". With that spirit of comradeship and responsibility, I would like to raise certain questions. We are enacting this law after 50 years of independence as a comprehensive Act. Some seven years back the same Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha. But it was withdrawn later as per the recommendations of the Petitions Committee of Lok Sabha. The Committee recommended that a fresh Bill be introduced so as to cater to long felt demands of hitherto neglected segment of the working class i.e. the construction workers. Now it is necessary to go into the question whether the recommendations of a Committee of this House have been heeded or not. While introducing this Bill, Hon'ble Labour Minister has stated in his statement laid on the table of this House that the Bill was withdrawn in 1989 to bring forth a fresh legislation incorporating the suggestions and the scheme contained in the Bill proposed by the National Campaign Committee. He had pointed out the role played by the National Campaign Committee which had interacted with the representatives of both the construction workers and the Government. The National Campaign Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Mr. V.R. Krishna Iyer strived to bring to light the problems faced by about 85 lacs of construction workers throughout the country. Now we must ask ourselves whether that committee is really happy with the form of the Bill that has been introduced now. Are they really satisfied with the proposed legislation? What was the recommendation made by the Petitions Committee of this House? Is it not that the committee reiterated that "it is for the Government to ensure that the legislation which is finally created encompasses all the features to extend practicable". I would like to know whether this Government has accepted that recommendations. If not, the Government should explain why it could not include all the features

\* Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

found in the Bill prepared by the National Campaign Committee. So many Union Labour Ministers have had talks with the representatives of the construction workers about this Bill. Shri P.A. Sangma who had discussed with the workers about this Bill is now the Hon'ble Speaker of this House. We have Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri G. Venkataswamy the erstwhile Labour Minister who have held talks with the construction workers. They are Members of this House now. Shri M. Arunachalam who was Minister in the previous Government which had introduced this Bill earlier is our Labour Minister now. You have preferred to pass this Bill now. I would like to know from you whether you found out from the representatives of the construction workers that this Bill satisfies them or not. The Government must ensure that the workers concerned are really satisfied with this Bill. If not I would leave it to the Government to consider bringing in a comprehensive legislation incorporating all the suggestions from the construction workers's forums. It is said both inside the House and outside also as a criticism that the old Bill introduced in 1988 is being introduced again in the same form without undergoing any change. I would request Hon'ble Labour Minister to explain about the veracity of these comments against the Bill. The Act that would provide a social security to construction workers should empower the State Governments also to exercise the authority provided for in the Bill. I would expect the Minister to explain, how the Union Government intends to Share Power with the States ensuring the benefits of this Bill meant for the construction workers. The Minister has stated that the delegation of such legislative power is of a normal character and are matters of procedure and it would be very difficult to provide for them in the Bill itself.

We must consider the pitiable conditions in which the construction workers are toiling. They do not have a regular job. They have to work without any time limit. They do not have medical facilities, insurance cover, housing facilities and even the accident insurance cover. They do not have death benefits either. They do not have fixed minimum wages. They are not paid equally. Women workers are discriminated against men. They do not have facilities to have education. Their children also do not get a social security. They do not have creches or medical facilities. There is nobody to take care of this unorganised labour force and so naturally they find themselves an exploited lot exploited in all possible ways. All these years we have all been seeing and reading about their plight and only now we have come forward to legislate an Act that would give them a much needed a social security. As we give legal protection after a very long time we must take care to ensure, encompassing all the welfare measures they look forward to. Hence I would request the Government to take note of the lacunae pointed out by the members. I would like to suggest that you may reconsider passing

this Bill if need be so that we can pass a comprehensive and meaningful a Bill.

Apart from the responsibility to ensure the welfare measures meant for the construction workers, the State Governments may also be given more of administrative and financial powers. Instead of collecting 1% cess based on the total expenditure you may collect 2% cess on the estimated cost of constructing a building. The local administration may be involved in collecting the cess money from the builders. I would like to request you to consider again the question of paying all this money into the Consolidated Fund of India. If the money is with the local Governments they may be able to help the needy construction workers effectively with immediacy. You can entrust the responsibility of collecting the cess with the local administration as and when the builders get approval for their building plans from the local bodies. Now we find all the District Head Quarters linked to the capital through computer network. So there is no need to claim that the cess collection needs to be a centralised one. I am afraid the beauracrats are thinking and advising the Government in the same old fashion. So I request the Government to consider this.

At the outset the very early lines of this Bill raises a justifiable question in our minds whether this Bill seeks to protect the interests of all the construction workers. It is stated that the Act applies to establishments which employ 50 or more building workers in any building or other construction workers. It also says that Identity Cards would be distributed to such of the construction workers who have worked for 90 days or more. Now we find stringent action against those who violate the Factory Act and other Labour Welfare Acts. The proposed Act for the welfare of the construction workers may also have to deal with the violators. So this Act should have teeth to deal with such people who deny the legal rights provided to the construction workers. Some builders may show account that they had employed only 40 or 49 workers in order to escape from the ambit of this Bill. I may request the Government to find out the possibility of bringing down this number to 5 or 10 so that mbre number of construction workers could get the benefits of this Act.

It is noticed that the existing law and scheme meant for the construction workers in Tamil Nadu and Kerala are much better than the legislation the Union Government contemplates now. I would like to point out here the pioneering social welfare schemes that are being introduced and implemented in Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri M. Karunanidhi is setting a trend and showing the path to any aspiring Government that would go for legislating welfare measures.

I am afraid the legislation of this Act might result in collecting the cess from the builders and workers and just remain at that. The benefits intended to reach the construction workers should go to them fully. There

should not be any scope for any kind of apprehensive in this regard. I wish Hon'ble Minister allay these fears in his reply to this debate.

We should ensure that there is no child labour among the construction workers. We must ensure compulsory registry containing the details of all the construction workers. We may regulate the employment through Tripartite Construction Labour Boards. As part of social welfare measures these workers must get medical, housing, insurance cover facilities. During monsoon season when it would be hard to earn their bread they should be given subsistence allowances. Government must take all possible steps to give the benefits of all the social welfare measures to these hapless workers in this unorganised sector so far left to fend for themselves without anybody to take care of them.

The aim and objectives of this laudable Bill should reach the construction workers and their families. I fervently hope that the Government would take all possible steps. Appreciating the noble intention of the Government I support the Bill and conclude my speech. Thank You.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on these two pieces of legislation brought before this House which should have been brought long ago. After 50 years of Independence, the largest number of working class, just next to the agricultural workers, are languishing for several decades to have their rights legalised. But unfortunately, those people remained outside the ambit of our legal protection. Even three decades before, in the Tripartite Conference of the Ministry of Labour, it was first of all accepted that such an Act was necessary. Then, again 30 years passed but that legislation could not be passed. About one crore construction workers are there in our country who have no protection, welfare measures and justice in their working place and amenities for discharging their service. They are building the nation through their construction work but we failed to recognise their services and give them a comprehensive legislation. Though belated, the Bill has been brought here.

Sir, you know that this Bill was brought through Ordinances. Before that, there were so many Tripartite and Bipartite Conferences and on the basis of those Conferences, recommendations were made and ultimately, the earlier Government drafted this Bill. The present Bill is almost the same as it was drafted by the last Government and we had lot of differences on several projects.

You many also know that the Construction Labour Movement and the National Campaign Committee fought for their rights and suggested certain measures to be included in this comprehensive Act but unfortunately, those have not been accepted. In spite of repeated discussions, the main points put forward by the National

Campaign Committee headed by Justice Krishna lyer had not been accepted. Yesterday, our former hon. Minister made some good points. I accept those points. We are fighting for those points and when he was a Minister, we had brought all those points before him but he could not incorporate them in the Bill.

Now, unfortunately or fortunately, he is not a Minister and he is speaking the truth... (Interruptions)... So, because of that, I have moved the Motion for sending this Bill to a Joint Select Committee.

If we could send it to the Joint Select Committee they could discuss it and the Committee could prepare a comprehensive report. After consulting the concerned authorities, they could prepare a comprehensive Bill. Our opinion is that this is not a comprehensive Bill.

Sir, first, the Petitions Committee took up this matter. I was a member of that Petitions Committee. We discussed the matter with all those organisations who represent the construction labourers. After getting their opinion, we made certain suggestions. But those suggestions of the Petitions Committee were not complied with. Again, on the basis of that, I also moved a Private Members' Bill in this House. There were wide ranging discussions in Calcutta, Durgapur, Hyderabad and in various other parts of the country. The construction labourers' organisations also discussed this Bill. They recommended that the main thrust of the Bill should be incorporated in the Government Bill. But unfortunately, those points have not been accepted.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the various lacunae that exist in this Bill. It would be the best if the Government decides to accept the suggestion of referring this Bill to the Joint Select Committee. But if the Government have some other difficulties and want to pass this Bill through, then at least the lacunae in the Bill, about which I want to mention, should be taken care of and Government amendments to this effect should be moved on those lines before passing this Bill in this House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Your amendments could also be accepted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I have submitted my amendments and we would see at the time when they are taken up.

Sir, one of the major lacunae in the Bill and also one of the main demands of the constructions workers is that there should be a proper authority for registration and administration of the construction labourers. A Construction Labour Boards should be formed for this purpose. That Board should be at the national and State level and it should also be extended upto the district level. The Board could register the construction labourers. It should be formed on the pattern of the Dock Labour Board. This is the main demand of the construction labourers. But this demand has not been accepted. I would like to request the Government that

the so called Welfare Board should serve the purpose of the construction labourers in a better way.

Secondly, whatever has been provided in the Bill regarding registration - is not acceptable. If this clause in the Bill is accepted, 75 per cent of the workers would be left out and only 25 per cent of the construction labourers would be registered. It is because most of the workers work under small contractors. I have also given my amendments in this regard saying that all the one core construction workers should be brought under the ambit of this Bill. Under the present clause, only 25 lakh construction workers would be included and 75 lakh would be left out from the benefits of this Bill. That would be a hoax and would not serve the purpose. So, I would like to request that any number of construction workers should be registered and there should not be any bar, such as 50 workers.

It has been said that unless a worker has worked for minimum three months in a particular establishment, his name will not be registered. I would say that this is an eliminating clause as this eliminates the workers from getting any benefit out of this Act. If such eliminating clauses are there, I am afraid we will not be able to register many workers. It has been said that the workers would cease to be called as construction workers if in one year they have not worked for a minimum period of 90 days. So, there are a number of eliminating clauses in this Bill and if they are retained, it will not be in the interest of the construction workers. I would, therefore, say that this Bill should not be passed as it is.

There is another clause which says, a worker would cease to be called the construction worker and would not remain the beneficiary if he fails to pay his contribution for one year. A poor worker may have to go to another district in search of work. If he fails to pay his contribution he will cease to be a construction worker. If we allow this to happen, I doubt that even 25 lakhs workers, that are there at the present moment, will not be there in the workers' list. One-fourth of the workers only may get the benefit out of his Bills and another three-fourth of the workers will not get any benefit. This, I think, is the major flaw of this Bill and this should be removed.

I would suggest that a worker may be registered if he works under a person who is constructing his own residence. A big house under construction employs a large number of workers. People are spending about Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.15 lakh on construction. If this type of exemption is given, it will reduce the number of the construction workers who can take the benefit out of this Bill. I would request the Minister that the list of beneficiaries should cover the entire construction labour as without that this will not be in the interest of the construction labour. In this Bill, only a partial benefit is accorded to construction workers.

I would suggest that there should be some welfare scheme for the workers and that welfare scheme should

be a part of the Construction Labour Act, otherwise the intended benefit would not go to them. The workers have got a number of problems. There are economic problems, education problems, accommodation problem, drinking water problem, medical benefit problem and a number of other problems. I would suggest that a comprehensive clause should be added in this Bill spelling out all these benefits so that a comprehensive welfare scheme—becomes a part of the Bill. It should not be left in the hands of the bureaucrats - who may say that it should be done as per the rules - but it should be made statutory. I, therefore, strongly demand that a comprehensive welfare scheme should become a part of this Bill. I request that this should be accepted, as without this, it will not serve the poor people.

Now, I will talk about the cess. An employer is a person who employs 50 workers and above. Those who are constructing personal houses are not contributing to the Cess Bill. There are provisions to exempt these people. In our country we have developed such a culture that if a loophole is there, everybody will take advantage of that loophole and thereby cheat the poor people. I think, if this clause is accepted, the construction workers will not get any benefit.

This exemption clause should not be there. The builders should also contribute to the fund. This collection should directly go to the welfare fund. It should not go to the Consolidated Fund of India in which case it will be lost and will not reach the people for whom it is collected.

I have been working in this field for the last fifteen years. We have built up this movement and have been fighting for these people all these years. When at last the Bill has come, it has come with a lot of loopholes in it, it is not comprehensive Bill.

Regarding contribution to the welfare fund, why should a construction worker contribute? We all know that no surcharge is collected from *beedi* workers, dolomite workers, mica mine workers, limestone workers, chrome mine workers, etc. None of these workers contribute for any welfare fund. Why should only the construction workers contribute? I do not know if the IAS officers and other officers contribute for their welfare funds but why should these poor people be forced to contribute? This is one of the major lacunae. Instead of helping the workers, the Bill will impose a burden on them. Therefore, Clause 16 of the Bill should also be suitably changed.

The clause relating to pension in the Bill virtually results in denial of pension to a construction worker. The condition laid down is, if a worker does not continuously work for a period of five years immediately before he attains 60 years of Age, he will not get pension. To be eligible for pension a worker must continuously work from the age of 55 years to 60 years in a particular construction company. If he does not work in his last days, he will not be a beneficiary of

pension. This clause is out and out a farce and it should be deleted. Any worker who is registered as a construction labourer and who attains the age of 60 years, should be covered by the provision of pension. This type of eliminating clauses will not help the construction worker in true sense.

I have certain objections regarding cess also. In the Bill, a cess of only one per cent has been proposed to be imposed which will result in a very meager fund. a minimum cess of ?? per cent should be imposed to create a sizeable fund which can serve the interests of construction workers.

These are the major lacunae that we have seen in this Bill. I request that either the Government should agree to all these major points which the construction labour unions have been fighting for and incorporate them in the Bill, or this Bill should be sent to a Select Committee so that a comprehensive Bill is brought into the House after accepting these suggestions.

The agricultural workers Bill is pending. Though all previous Governments promised that it will be brought before the House it could not see the light of the day. I hope, that bill will come soon. I also hope that when it is brought, it would not be handicapped by such lacunae. I request the hon. Minister to accept all these major amendments that are yet to be moved.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Do not suggest referring it to a Selected Committee, in which case it will take two years to come back. Ask the Minister to call a meeting.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Within a limited time, you can discuss and you can incorporate the suggestions of those responsible people and unions so that the Bill would really become a comprehensive Bill.

Sir, with these words, I hope that the hon. Minister will take note of the sentiments of the whole country, of the whole movement of the construction labourers and that try to come up with a real comprehensive Bill in the interests of the second target segment of the poorest working class of their country.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am thankful to you for calling my name.

At the outset itself, may I congratulate the hon. Minister for having moved the twin Bills, one to regulate the service conditions and welfare measures of the workers and the other to levy for collection for the conduct of the welfare measures.

If you believe in horoscope and I am slightly afraid of, the construction workers Bills were always fatal or most of them are stillborn. It appears to me that it started in 1975, but eight years back at last the Petitions Committee of this House had very elaborately considered the aspects and the problems of the construction workers. In the meanwhile, a Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. Having noted that the

Petitions Committee of this House was discussing the same, the Rajya Sabha reverted it to the Lok Sabha. But that also met with the same fare.

Again, in 1995, an ordinance was passed and after that much water has flown down. Successive Labour Ministers, not less than a person the hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, then Shri S. Venkataswamy and our venerable hon. Speaker, all have touched it and tried to do it but none of them could succeed. Somehow or other, it receded away from the hand. This is the fourth Ordinance that is being put in the form of a Bill in this House. I think, that it is for the first time in the history of India, that one and the same Ordinance has been successfully respromulgated in the same year and I hope that is why yesterday I objected my learned friend Shri George Fernandes when he mentioned that there is some technical problem. I do believe that there is some technical problem but why I conceded it is that somehow or other let this come in for discussion.

If you look in the history of the Statute Book, in the last 50 years after Independence, there is no dearth of any labour laws. We can be rightly proud of having a plethora of labour laws. Right from 1947 right from the Industrial Disputes Act a number of labour laws are there, regulating service conditions, giving bonus, giving gratuity and terminal benefits, maternity and like that. Even though the subject 'labour' is in the Concurrent List, every Government as well as the Central Government - has enacted enough laws. But very interestingly towards whom are all these laws are directed? They are all directed towards very highly paid pilots and very heavily paid bank employees, industrial workers, and for every organised worker who form ten per cent of the working classes of the country, for whom we have thousand laws. For 10 per cent, we have got everything but unfortunately 80 per cent of our population, that is, 90 per cent of the working force is in the agriculture and construction sector.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, even today, except perhaps the Kerala Government and one or two other State Governments, all the State Governments, in agricultural sector, are still left untouched. Agricultural labourers are still undisciplined. More so, the second targets sector, that is the construction sector is still orphan. When we are celebrating the golden jubilee of our Independence, this year only we have been able to bring in a legislation of that sort for construction workers.

I do not call it a legislation for the construction workers. In some note I happened to read that the number of construction workers available in this country is 8.7 million. It is not at all correct. How can it be? If you conceive, that construction labour is the second largest section of our workforce, it can never be 8.7 million. Our country has a census about lions, our country knows how many tigers are there, our country knows how

many elephants are there. our country has got census about everything but I am sorry to state that till date the Labour Department does not have a census of construction labourers in the country.

15.01 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed *in the Chair*)

According to the Planning Commission, the construction labourers will come to about 50 million to 60 million. Construction industry is the biggest industry of this country. 48 per cent of the total allocation of the Eighth Plan has been earmarked for construction activities and 48 per cent of the Eighth Plan means a huge amount. Perhaps even agricultural sector may not be investing that much of money, but the maximum amount of money invested in a single industry or single activity, if you take is in the construction industry and about that there are no statistics.

So, my humble submission, before this House, is that the hon. Minister should give instructions that there should be a census about construction workers. They are also human beings. If I may respect it, if you have got census for pet dogs and census for animals, what is your census regarding construction workers?

According to me, 20.7 million workers are directly involved in the construction industry. Are those people who cut woods, not part of construction industry? Are those people who do granite work, not part of the construction industry? So if you take everyone together the second major part of the rural population consisting of about 60 million to 70 million people are construction workers. Naturally, when we think about these things priority should have been given to such Bills.

Even today, I am sorry to say that those who talk about labour, including the central trade union leaders, have not done their best for the construction workers. Pilots bring the planes to a standstill in which the elites travel and the bank employees can stop the banking activities in which the elites alone transact, they have been given protection but there is not protection for construction workers.

So, I am again submitting that this Bill be given priority and should be passed. I do not say that this Bill is above everything but because something will have to come into the Statute Book about construction work that is why I am supporting this Bill.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Quilon) What would be the fate of Kerala if this Bill is passed?  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am coming to that. Kerala, like in any other field is the forerunner in this field also. Though Tamil Nadu had passed a Bill in 1984, they did or not implement it till 1994. They have got manual labourers' Act. They have implemented it only in 1994. But, luckily, Sir, the Kerala State Legislature passed a Bill in 1989 and implemented it forthwith in 1989 itself.

The defect of the present Bill is that though the definition is all pervading, even now the definition does not contain what are all categories that are included. In Kerala, we have a schedule. In that schedule we have included 26 types of workers. I will just list them without taking much time of the House. They are : masons; gravel-bankers; masons who work with local bricks; brick manufacturing workers; carpenters; blacksmiths; fitters; plumbers; painters; saw mill workers; bar-benders; helpers in the construction workers who collect sand for construction industry; mosaic workers; tunnel workers; granite workers; electricians; concrete workers; workers who are engaged in thatching roofs of small houses; marble workers; road workers; any other workers connected with the construction work; lime workers; welders connected with the construction industry, and even anti-sea erosion workers.

That is why, I have submitted that this Bill should include a very major section of it. My submission is that, before going into the legalities of it, the hon. Minister should include a clause in this Bill, wherein the State Government should be given enough power to include any type of workers connected with the construction work.

I have mentioned about the legality. Let me ask one question, why should the government call it as 'Building and other Construction Workers Bill'? I do not understand this. Simply calling it as Construction Workers Bill will do.

If building is a construction work, then it includes construction workers. Firstly, the nomenclature of this Bill should be changed, it should be rechristened as 'Construction Workers Bill'. The hon. Minister's name will go down in the history as a person who has passed the Bill for the entire construction workers.

If I may be permitted to say bureaucracy is dangling in the words 'Building and other Construction workers'. They are still not away from it. If there is a worker engaged in the construction of a dam, he is also called a construction workers. If a worker is engaged in the construction of a building, he is also a construction worker. Even if a worker is engaged in the construction of a small building, he is also called a construction worker. Then, what is the meaning of calling it as 'Building and Construction Workers Bill'? I do not find any logic in it. I do not find any implication in it. That is why, we did the same thing in Kerala and it was named as 'Construction Workers Bill'.

Secondly, I have mentioned about the definition. I say that if this is passed the State Government should be given enough leeway to include any kind of workers because India is a diverse country and many type of works are there in different States. What is applicable to Kerala may not be applicable to Bihar. So, the State Governments should be permitted to include as many categories of workers into the Act as possible.

Here, as my learned friend has suggested, there is a very serious problem in this Bill. Is it legally possible? As per the present Bill, the money has to be collected and has to be put into the Consolidated Fund of India. What will happen to the Kerala State Act? The Kerala Welfare act is being implemented very well. Sir, you will be surprised to know, you will be amazed to know that within five years, the Kerala State construction Welfare Board has got a sum of Rs 35 crore as its corpus.

A day will come within the next five years, when the workers in Kerala need not pay and need not collected paying from anybody. It will touch Rs.100 crore mark and with the interest, Kerala, the workers can be easily given pension and other benefits.

Apart from boasting about it, as this Act provides that the money should go to the coffers of the Consolidated Fund of India, my question is, then what will we do? The money that has been collected now and is going to be collected in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, where the Board is functioning smoothly and with everybody's appreciation, may also have to go to the Consolidated Fund of India?

I suggest a compromise. I do not mind saying that. Why I am saying is that a clause should be added that whichever State Government wants that the money to be collected, earmarked to the Board, that need not go to the coffers of the consolidated Funds of India. It is a very complex process. You collect the money from the far-most southern tip of the country, send it to the Consolidated Fund of India and again, it sends back the money.

I understand that the Department of Income-tax is doing it. But it is not like that. The construction activity which takes place in every corner and in every village. So if that money goes to the consolidated Fund of India - it is going to be a very huge amount - and that fund is to be earmarked on what basis? It is not said here on what basis it is done. Now they say, after money is brought to the Consolidation Fund of India, the Act says, the Boards will assemble and some mechanism will be worked out by which the money will be distributed. What is the basis? For income-tax, there is a basis. For excise duty, there is a basis. The Finance Commission will come in every five years and it will earmark it that the hon. Minister would find. Then what is the basis of distribution?

Suppose the construction activity is maximum in my State or for that matter, the construction work is maximum in the city of Mumbai how do you distribute it? There is no formulate at present. Therefore, it will come to a grinding held.

After having collected it, that money can not do any good to the construction workers. So my submission is that the very idea of collecting the money and putting it to the Consolidated Fund of India - if I may put it so - will not be practicable at all. That is impossible and

if I may say so, it may even be illegal also. you may have to test it and it will attract a flood of cases. In a number of cases where we may have to fight for this purpose because the contractors are involved in it.

Now my second suggestion is this. I do not know whether any other technicality is the regarding other States. If you think so, you make a provision by which you can say that whichever State wants to collect it, that can collect it because labour is a Concurrent subject, you have enough freedom and you have enough liberty and leeway in it.

Sir, another difficulty is that once the money is sent to the Consolidated Funds of India, it is very difficult to come out. So instead of that, I have moved an amendment that this money should go to the Welfare Board. The Welfare Board will have enough checks and balances. I have suggested an amendment that instead of it coming under the audit of the Auditor and Comptroller General, you can have an independent audit for the Board which we are doing it.

So, as far as possible, I would request the hon. Minister to take it away from the clutches of the bureaucracy and from the clutches of the Government. I have nothing against the bureaucracy but I am saying it because once it goes to the Consolidated Funds of India, the Government may have its own financial difficulties and with that difficulty, the money that has been collected for the purpose of construction workers gets held up there. What will you do? So the money that you are collecting, the cess that you are collecting, should go to the Welfare Board, which according to me, should be autonomous, should be free from the clutches of the Government. That body will manage and administer that district.

Sir, my friend, Shri Hannan Mollah had mentioned certain things regarding the welfare measures. My suggestion for that is that if you give freedom to the Welfare Board of the States concerned that Welfare Board can formulate its own welfare measures depending on the conditions obtaining in each State. In my State, Kerala, we need not have insurance because insurance has got its own inherent defects. So, we have not opted for insurance. If a particular State wants accident insurance, it can do it.

So, my third suggestion is that the Welfare Board should be instituted in which two Members from this august House can be appointed in the Central Advisory Board either by election or by nomination. I leave that option to the hon. Minister. So, also the State Government or the State legislatures can have two representatives in the concerned Board...*(Interruptions)* Why should you make the registration of the employer, who employs 50 or more workers, compulsory? We are not interested in the registration of the employer at all.

Sir, in Kerala, we permitted individual workers to get themselves registered in a taluk or in the district. My friend, Shri Hannan Mollah has also mentioned about it.

Sir, the Indian National Building and Construction Workers Congress in their memorandum to the hon. Minister have also written that under clauses 11 and 17, the certificate from the registered trade union or central union can be given. As far as an individual workers is concerned, he can renew his registration with whatever conditions you have stipulated like 90 days, etc. He can be a member of the welfare fund.

Now, it is mentioned that a contractor who employs 50 or more workers can be registered. My suggestion is that an individual worker may be permitted to register. If at all you are interested in the contractor to be registered, the employer to be registered also, then the limit should be brought down because in order to circumvent the Bill, in order to get out of the Bill, they may register 20 or 30 people different times. Instead of that, you bring down the number to 15. Any person who employs more than 15 persons will have to register... (Interruptions) The number can be ten also. I agree with you.

Lastly, in the Bill it is mentioned that the cess shall not exceed one per cent. It is a very dangerous clause. It means that it can be 0.5 per cent it can be 0.25 per cent. That is very dangerous.

I wanted to move an amendment that not less than one per cent should be there. Then the Office of the Legislative Wings said that it need President's concurrence. My colleagues have already mentioned about it. I am contented that it should be definitely one per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Pleased conclude.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Yes, Sir.

Another thing is that no exemption clause is necessary. If there is a clause of exemption, then there may be a lot of pressures and there can be exceptions. So, you have to do away with the exemption, otherwise the cess of one per cent will be of no use. By it, you take away teeth from this Bill and the Bill will be of no use.

Sir, I am happy that I am making my maiden speech in this august House about the construction workers for whom I have been working for the past two decades. In any case I am happy that it is coming. Till date all the ordinances and Bills were still-born. Even this Bill is a premature baby, which came out in the seventh month without nails or hair. It is still premature. Luckily it has got life... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb. He is making his maiden speech.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am supporting it because I want to put this premature baby in the incubator. I do not want to kill it. It is not still-born. It is only a premature baby with life. We have to keep it in the incubator and give it enough nursing medicine and food and strengthen it. After that it can be made use of. I do not want to kill it, so I support it.

SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH (Trivandrum) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that since I come to the Lok Sabha the first time that I opened my mouth is in support of this Bill which concerns the daily life and fate a section of our people considered. If I may use the often popular phrase - "wretched of the earth" coined by Herbert Marcuse. The real 'wretched of earth' is in India. It is a different you, may quarrel if there number is eight million or twenty million. Whatever be the number, they are the most wretched of the working class of India, close to the agricultural labour in the villages than the urban industrial workers. A large part of them consists of women and a rather considerable part consists of pre-adolescent workers. I call them children but they are pre-adolescent workers but are children. They are always scattered, shifting from one work place to another and not knowing where to go the next day. There are not at all integrated as the mill workers or any other industrial workers are. All these are the peculiarities which make them, in spite of the peculiarities, a section of our work force that should have been given greatest priority the first priority when legislation is contemplated. That has not been done.

I think this is the eighth attempt. In 1988 we were thinking of legislation, in 1982 itself Tamil Nadu had passed a legislation of its own. From that day they targeted others the workers of the building industry which covered a large portion of the building industry. That was in 1982. It is 14 year now. In 1989, without waiting for the Central Bill to come, Kerala enacted a legislation and brought it into force. It should have been done here long ago. Even now, in spite of all the changes that have come, the name used will leave a very sour taste in the mouth. It says : 'building and construction workers'. What does it mean? why should you call the baby by its real name? I do not understand it. That is one thing.

There has been a big boom in the construction industry now. As we have already seen a big change is coming over in this industry. It is not now the common man who takes loan, say of one lakh of rupees from somewhere and puts up a residential house. That is a very small part of the industry. Greater an greater part of this construction activity has already gone into the hands of big-money people.

We have a company in Kerala. I do not want to mention its name. It can, now, through its activities in connection with power, irrigation and other sectors, amassed enough to buy the whole State if it wants. The Kerala people know the name of the company. Such big sharks have become prominent. The industry is their now. It is not just the residential house building sector alone. Even in a backward city like Trivandrum which I represent what happens is that multi-storeyed skyscraper residential apartments have stolen the show and are coming up in a big way.

Another thing is that smaller house measuring about 1000 sq. ft. are going out of fashion and out of popularity. The big multi-storeyed building are coming up. The big projects like dams, irrigation workers electricity projects and various other projects - mainly owned by Government institutions, departments and corporations - are playing predominant part.

There is a big talk going on whether it is possible to have such a legislation in an industry which is one hundred per cent unorganised. True now, it is unorganised. We have experienced two things in the South. One of them is the plight of handling workers at docks and Cochin Port. Had such a legislation come in time, it would have been more beneficial to them also. Some wrangling went on for some time and finally we had a piece of legislation. The other was a very difficult thing which generated a lot of controversy regarding head load workers. They are spread throughout the State. We tried to organise it in some fashion by the use of legislation which finally we had passed. It has served quite a good purpose and it has not been very bad. There was not much opposition to that legislation which was found helpful to the workers.

So far as legislation here is concerned, I would say that there is a big boom in construction activities, even in a poor State like Kerala, a greatest economic venture is in building construction. Therefore, unless we give protective shield to the workers in this sector, our commitment to the working class will not rally be true.

In this Bill, it is mentioned that a worker should have worked minimum work for 90 days in a year. What it means is such work may not be continuous. Secondly, the minimum number of workers with a contractor should be 50 for registration. Taking all these things together what is the percentage of construction workers that is going to be converted? I do not think that if you retain these two conditions, it would be impossible to cover more than five per cent of the workers and 95 per cent of the workers would remain out of its purview. The similar is the contractor, it is easier for him to say that he did not employ even 10 persons. Who is going to find out the truth? There is no possibility of finding out. These two condition of work for 90 days a minimum 50 persons in the work force make it impossible to give it not only considerable coverage but leave out the larger part of construction workers in this sector.

So, these two things have to be undone. Otherwise there is no use wasting the precious time of the Lok Sabha or any other legislative organ. That is the main point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. The Speaker's name is not being shown in the TV outside. It is mentioned that you are in the Chair, but the speaker's name is not mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will be shown.

SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Sir, the most important thing in respect of legislations like this is the implementation. That is the core issue. Now, what mechanism does this Bill put forth for implementation? It says that there will be an Expert Committee in Delhi. Then, there will be an Advisory Board. They will tender general advice and keep quiet. In the States also there will be Expert Committees and Advisory Boards. Then, do they have any organisation to coordinate the activities conducted under the auspices of the Central Government and the State Governments? do they have any organisation to coordinate the activities at the district level and at the State level? I do not think that they have gone into this question at all.

It is stated that gazetted officers would be nominated for registration at the Centre and in the States. The number of such officers and their qualifications are to be decided by the rule framing body. Beyond that, how do they coordinate between the Centre and the States? The only thing which is stated here is that the Central Government would nominate the Chairmen for the State Boards. The Central Government would nominate Chairman for the Kerala Board, Tamil Nadu Board and all the 25 State Boards.

It is stated that powers would be conferred on inspectors who would be appointed under this piece of legislation. But who will prepare charge and take them to the Metropolitan magistrate or the First Class Magistrate or any judge of that level? Who will do this? This is not mentioned here. All the good things have been written here. But where are the teeth? Without the teeth, how will you implement these provisions?

Sir, I was thinking as to why they cannot involve the Panchayati Raj institutions in the welfare of the betterment of conditions of millions of workers who call themselves as 'construction workers'? Why can you not involve the district panchayats, block panchayats and the village panchayats? They could be involved in the implementation. So, some mechanism should be found out for implementation. The best thing would be to have a tripartite bodies. The Board is given the name as the 'Welfare Board' as if it is concerned only with welfare activities.

They talk about pension but nobody knows what kind of pension they talking about. They say certain other things too like provident fund and life insurance. They are talking about insurance which is already in force for everybody. Even I can get myself insured under the Group Insurance Scheme. That is already in force for money. Excepting that, there is not real maintainable thing which is now contemplated by this legislation. But still it calls itself Welfare Bill. There is not much welfare activity.

Then, there is a provision for a Welfare Board, I think, it is in clause 21. The Welfare Board will decide

the hours of work, payment of wages, etc. All these things have been left to the State Boards and Welfare Boards which are contemplated under this Bill. It is a self-contradictory thing. So, if these things have to be successfully enforced, the only way which we - the people like me and trade union leaders - could think of would be having a tripartite mechanism. You could have tripartite mechanism through this Bill or through some other means. This tripartite mechanism should include labour, employers and representatives of the Central Government or the State Governments. If such a tripartite mechanism comes into force, then the aims and objectives of this legislation could be achieved only partially. Otherwise, it would just remain a pious wish. That is the only thing that is going to happen, if we pass this Bill in this form without any change.

Then, what could be done about the children of 10 to 12 years age?

They are not yet adolescent. If you do not do something for them, they may be out of work and starve. If you do not do something, the World Trade Organisation will catch us by the collar of our shirt. It is a very difficult choice to make. But the fact remains that large number of children are involved in building construction work. Even in Delhi, when I open my window in the early morning, I see building construction workers of 10 years age sleeping in the open in front of our Kerala House. So, something has to be done about it.

Then, as the previous speaker, my hon. friend, Shri Jos said, why should we have a clause in the legislation saying that Government would have powers to give extension to certain employers? It is a very difficult thing. Not only difficult, but it is ever dangerous to have a clause like this.

As regards the nomination of Chairmen of the State Boards by the Central Government, I do not think it is a very desirable thing to do so. They can put up a panel and the Centre could choose from that panel. Or they can get the prior approval from the Centre in deciding who the chairman of the Board should be. That would suffice.

These are the main things I wanted to bring to the attention of the House. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

The concerned Bill has been brought in haste, though it may be very good for the workers who are involved in building and construction work. Why I have pointed out this is because there are so many lacunae in it. As far as the work is concerned, the workers who are on the work have not been taken care of properly. The workers deal with very massive and heavy materials such as stone, brick, steel and cement. There is no adequate provision in the Bill to protect or to take care

of the poor workers who are involved in this type of work. Moreover, these workers, as the hon. Member who spoke earlier has very clearly mentioned that the workers have no age limit. You will find that many workers who are working in the construction work are below 18 years of age. Therefore, this Bill would not be applicable to them and, moreover, they would be certainly by-passed in this Bill. There will be no benefit as welfare for these workers who are working on the job.

Sir, I also feel that the cess that has been recommended in the Bill is not to that extent by which they would be benefited. I feel that it should be enhanced from one per cent to two per cent. As mentioned earlier, the money should not go to the Consolidated Fund of India. This matter has to be definitely coordinated with the welfare bodies both at the State level and at the Central level. The welfare body at the State must have more say on that account because the money that will be collected by them by way of cess would certainly be not of the same quantum in every State. Therefore, the welfare board at the State has to be given weightage according to the amount that has been collected.

Sir, there are no stipulations or rules framed for workers working in the construction. There is no provision for taking care of the children of the workers. They should get the benefit out of this Bill by making a provision for their education, health and other welfare activities. In clause No. 35, it has been mentioned that where the number of females involved in the building work is 50, they should be provided with all the amenities and to make adequate arrangements for giving shelter to their children and infants.

But to my knowledge and experience, nothing has been done in this regard where such type of workers. Therefore, this Bill, under which the various clauses have been mentioned, has not very specifically mentioned about the provisions or amenities that are required by every worker, both male and female, such as drinking water, housing, electricity and other amenities. Moreover, this Bill does not protect the life of the workers to the maximum extent. When they work so hard with so many other categories of materials, their lives should be certainly be protected as it was also mentioned by various other Members, there should be some shelter provided to them for working at places of greater heights with different kinds of materials like steel and others.

With all these few remarks, I conclude my speech. I hope, you will appreciate the same.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I want to be very brief because of the fact that earlier speakers have already dealt with various aspects of the Bill.

The Bill has come too late. Even if it has come too late, it has given too little, particularly in respect of the

construction worker of our country. Some members have mentioned the number as 22 crore and some others have mentioned it something less than that. But I say, it is the teeming millions. And if we are to do any justice to the deprived, to the under-privileged, the first target necessarily has to be these construction workers. If the Government is committed to look after the interests of the most deprived, the neglected and the lowest of the low of our social strata, then the target in these construction workers. At least the Government has up till now taken cognisance of their presence in the society as also their contribution to the human civilization of the world.

This Bill suffers from a basic infirmity. And this infirmity is neither like a fish nor like a Chicken; it is neither for the workers nor for the employers. This is because the basic philosophy of trade unionism has been altogether rejected in this. The basic philosophy of trade unionism is tripartism. I have got an experience of years if not of decades in the trade unionism. I can say that unless there is a tripartite mechanism, it has got no basis at all. It has provided for an Advisory Committee. Who will appoint that advisory committee? The Central Government at the national level and the State Government at the State level, all are nominated; there is no element of election. There is no element of representation either from the workers' side or from the employer side and whatever representation they give will be decided by the Government either at the State level or at the National level. Representation is a basic element in Trade Union Democracy and it should be there in order to protect, preserve and expand the TU right. But that aspect is altogether absent in the whole perception of the Bill.

There is no conciliation machinery. Workers have their own interest; employers have got their own interest. There would certainly be conflict of interests and this is another basic perception of the trade unionism. For that every law relating to the interest of the workers naturally provides for some kind of mechanism for the redressal of grievances or some kind of mechanism for the conciliation of the conflicts arising between the two classes. Here there is no provision of conciliation machinery. If you call it a welfare Bill, these welfare measures will have to be taken by the Board. But that is not very much present here. In future some State Advisory Board will decide upon what kind of welfare measures that State Board will prescribe. There is not mention about that Welfare Board expect for the expression of what I will say pious wish. That is also not there... *(Interruptions)*

I am very happy that you have really understood me. But this is what it is. It is neither fish nor chicken. It is neither vegetarian nor non-vegetarian.

I cannot reject the Bill because that will be injustice. It is after all a Bill concerning the most teeming millions of our society which is going to become a part of the

statute. It will have a place in the statute books. That is the only pleasure I can derive. For that this House or the Minister can claim credit and I am prepared to concede that credit to him. After all construction workers will also be mentioned in the statutes of the country. Therefore it requires to be further modified; it requires to be further enriched; it requires to be further corrected; infirmities and weaknesses removed; and it requires to be further strengthened.

As regards the negative aspects, that is exemption, it takes some of the teeth out of the Bill. As regards the question of depositing the cess to the Consolidated Fund of India, it is an example of the concentration of powers in the hands of the Centre. It shows scant respect for federation. The State Government will collect it from the poorest of the poor and it is expected that that fund will be spent for the welfare of the workers.

It would be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. This House has some control. I do not know how it would be distributed and what the methodology of distribution would be. Not a single farthing can be spent out of the Consolidated Fund of India unless this House approves of it. Thus, it becomes a part of Budgeting, it becomes a process in the passing of the Budget. This is unnecessary and avoidable.

There is the question of collecting cess not exceeding one per cent. What is the rationale for it? Why is not 1.5 per cent? There might be many other factors: contractors, small contractors and so on. You may have some differentials. But why do you not have it at 1.5 per cent or two per cent or three per cent? What is the rationale for that? The hon. Minister should explain if there is any rationale for that. Therefore, I support the perception of the Bill and I support that this Bill should be passed by the House, but it is better that it is further corrected and further improved upon.

I do not mind if the Bill is passed today, but heavens would not fall if it is referred to a Joint Committee and the Joint Committee might be asked to submit its report within a month. There have been many precedents of this nature, where the House refers a particular bill, an important and an urgent Bill to a Joint Committee with the purpose of improving upon it, when the principle of the Bill is accepted by the House. I have not heard anybody who has objected to the principle of the Bill. Everybody has appreciated the basic principle of the Bill. But it needs further improvement; it needs further strengthening; it needs the removal of certain weaknesses and infirmities.

Therefore, this Bill might be referred to a Joint Committee with the request to report within a month and the House can adopt it in a rich and better form with necessary modifications. A motion has already been moved for referring this Bill to a Joint Committee.

With that, I conclude, Sir.

15.85 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

## Development works in Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I call the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): I would like to make the following statement about development works in Kashmir. As hon. Members are aware, the massive unemployment of youth in the State of Kashmir has been a contributions factor in the growth of militancy. Similarly, the State is deficient in power which is an essential infrastructure for development of industry and even for tourism. Government therefore, propose to take up some important projects also to complete the on-going projects on top priority.

Government would be taking up the construction of the 290 km. Railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla as a national project to be financed by Government of India outside the Railways' Plan. The project is estimated to cost Rs.2500 crores and would be a great factor in integrating Kashmir with the rest of the country. In addition to providing employment in the State itself, on completion, the rail communications would help in the mobility of people from the State to the rest of the country for employment, education, trade, etc. The survey work from Udhampur to Banihal has already been completed and survey work up to Baramulla will be over by March, 1997. The line would pass via Katra-Riasi-Banihal-Qazigund-Srinagar.

16.00 hrs.

The Railways would take up the work of construction of the Udhampur-Katra Section immediately, to be completed in four years' time. Government would provide Rs. 200 crores for this phase of the work. With adequate funding, the entire line upto Baramulla could be completed in 8-10 years' time.

## Mughal Road

The Jammu-Kashmir National Highway, the only surface link between the Kashmir Valley and Jammu, is at present beset with problems of frequent blockades as a results of landslides and snow avalanches. To provide a dependable alternative link between the two regions of the State, the Government would take up the Mughal Road Project under the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of "Roads of Economic Importance". The Project spread over a length of 85 Kms. is estimated to cost Rs.77.40 crore (1994-95 costs). The project cost would be shared between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 50:50. The road joining Jammu to Srinagar - (via) Rajouri-Shoplan and Pulwama, and scheduled to be completed in six year's time will generate considerable

employment potential along the entire stretch passing through backward areas of the State. When completed, the road apart from generation of economic activities, will help in mitigating the sense of isolation of the people of Kashmir. For speedy execution it would be entrusted to the Border Roads Organisation.

Hon. members are aware that work on the Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project (3 x 130 MW) came to halt in 1992 with the withdrawal of the French Civil Contractors. An amendment to the overall agreement with the French consortium has been finalised in July 1995. as a result of this, while the machinery is being supplied by the French consortium, the remaining civil works could be taken up by other contractors. Tenders for the balances civil work have been obtained and processed and a decision is expected to be taken shortly by the National Hydro Power Corporation to award the contract. Government would ensure that the Civil works are commenced at the earliest and would also see that the funds for the balance civil works would be mobilised through various sources including Governmental assistance and market borrowings.

Hon. Members are aware that another major hydro-electric project, namely, the Uri Hydro Electric project (4x120 MW) is under construction in the State. The work on this is going on according to schedule and the first unit is likely to be commissioned during this year itself beginning December, 1996. This should provide the much needed relief to the power-starved state.

I have already assured in the very same House that the elections are going to be held very soon. I thing within a day or two the Election Commission in going to announce the poll dates. That is why I am making this statements. When I went there, almost all the political parties insisted on taking up these works. So, the Government has taken a decision to see that some of these works are taken up in the current year itself.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for declaring this package. This will go a long way in establishing peace in the State.

16.04 hrs.

INTIMATION REGARDING ARREST AND  
LODGEMENT OF MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that I had received the following fax message dated 22 July, 1996, from the Superintendent of Police, Narsingpur, Madhya Pradesh, Today:-

"I have the honour to inform you that I have found it my duty, in the exercise of my powers under Section 151 of the Cr. P.C. to direct

that Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Member of the Lok Sabha, be arrested for apprehension of breach of peace.

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, M.P., was accordingly arrested at 1030 hours on 22 July, 1996 and has been sent to Central Jail, Jabalpur by the Executive Magistrate, Gotegaon."

16.05 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF THE BUILDING AND OTHER  
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS THIRD ORDINANCE,  
1996

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS BILL

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : BUILDING AND  
OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WELFARE  
CESS THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996

AND

BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS' WELFARE CESS BILL - CONT.

SHRI ISHWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tegpur)  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise in this august House to support the the Bills, aimed at protecting and promoting the interests and welfare of the toiling million engaged in the construction industry of our country.

16.05 hrs.

(Prof. Rita Verma *in the Chair*)

This is one of the most vital sectors of our economy. As it has already been said in this House, in terms of employment, this sector stands next only to agriculture, providing as it does, jobs to over a crore of people, or as another hon. Member has mentioned, probably about two to three crores of people. But what is more mind-boggling in this particular area is the capital outlay that is envisaged for this sector in our Plans, outside the Plans and also in private sector. I feel that the total amount of capital expenditure defrayed for construction work in our country would annually gross up to something very close to half-a-lakh crores of rupees. This is a very very high figure and it assumes very great significance in the context of the current Bill. Even if 50 per cent of this amount can be covered within the net of the Cess Bill, the annual collection at one per cent, would be of the order of Rs.250 crore to Rs.300 crore. I am sure that this would go a long way in mitigating the hardships of the long suffering teeming millions engaged in this industry.

This industry has its own peculiarities. First comes the non-perennial nature of the projects. Secondly, it is

the migrant character of the labour and also of the employers. Then, it is the non-recognition of the sector as a commodity to be supplied by the contractors. These are the peculiarities of their sector because of which this sector has remained unregulated and unorganised, even our national trade union centres have touched only the fringe of the sector and they are signified largely to the urban areas and the real estate and building business. It is for this reasons that I am happy that the two Ministers in the previous Congress Government made bold to promulgate the two ordinances me that we have, on our Statute Book, for the first time, a law to provide for welfare benefit and protection to the unorganised the construction sector.

These Bills are to replace the corresponding Presidential Ordinances promulgated during the earlier regime making this scheme effective from the 1st of March 1996. It has to be appreciated that the present Government did not have adequate time to fine-tune the Bill or to expand the scope of or to do any serious work on the bills and because of Constitutional compulsion under Article 123, this Bill had to come to this House and within six weeks from the commencement of the Session, the new Bill had to be passed. It is because of this compulsion that this Government, I am sure, in spite of the best of intentions was unable to improve on the provisions of the Bill. But I do not see any reasons that these two Bills should be allowed to lapse.

The construction workers have waited for long three decades for a Bill of this nature to come up. In 1965, the Government of India constituted the Industrial Committee and entrusted to it the responsibility of formulating a comprehensive legislation covering the problems of the construction workers. After this long wait of three decades this Act at least, has come on the Statute Book. Therefore, I feel that instead of throwing them out, we should some how pass both the Bills with all the deficiencies and infirmities notwithstanding.

Legislation of this kind takes time for perfection. What is important for us is to appreciate that certain positive steps have been taken to ameliorate the deplorable conditions in which the construction workers are living. Therefore, we should appreciate the steps and let these Bills be passed and brought into the Statute Book. No purpose will be at this juncture by our indulging in intellectual gymnastics or talking a self-righteous - holier than the pope - attitude in our championship of the cause of the large number of toiling construction workers.

It is true that the scheme for the welfare of the workers as structured under the Bill is replete with infirmities, flaws, deficiencies lacunae and omissions. It is true that it will be difficult to implement the Bill as it stages today. I apprehend that this Bill may become on more labour legislation on paper adorning only the pages of the statute book. But still because it has come,

I think, we should appreciate the gesture and pass it, but only with certain essential amendments. I would, therefore, urge on the Government that even during the permissible time some of the amendments, that have been suggested by hon. Members, should be given serious consideration. Those amendments should be incorporated in the Bills, if possible. Otherwise, the Government should give a solemn commitment on the floor of the House that, as soon as possible, but within not more than three months, they will bring in comprehensive legislation incorporating as many suggestions as possible given by the National Campaign Committee and other bodies concerned with the construction workers.

The difficulty in implementing the Bill lies first in the case of the Cess Bill. The Cess Bill makes the cost of construction the basis of the levy. Now it has not been defined how and on what basis the construction cost would be determined. Unless it is unambiguously defined and amplified in the law, this going to lead to a plethora of litigation and the authorities would get bogged down in fighting cases rather than implementing the welfare scheme for workers.

Then again what is going to be this the basis for allocation of funds. If money is collected by the State, there is no mention as to which will be the authority, or about the agency in the State Government. Would it be the sales tax department or commercial taxes department? What would be the periodicity of the payment of cess? All these things have not been mentioned.

Therefore, at the end, I would like to say that we are supporting the Bills because we would not like to snatch half a loaf from the mouths of the hungry toiling workers because in 50 years, we have failed to give them any loaf at all. Therefore, let us pass the bills on the pragmatic view that half a loaf is better than no loaf and try to bring about as much improvement as is possible by amendments in the Bills in the shortest possible time.

MR CHAIRMAN : The total time allotted for this discussion was two hours. More than one hour is already finished. I will request the Members...

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Kindly extend the time...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri M.A. Fatmi may kindly speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to speak.

I support the twin Bills introduced by the Government. One of the Bills seeks to buy cess equivalent to one percent of the cost of construction

and the other Bill seeks to regulate measures for the welfare of workers. A glance at the history would reveal that all the notable movements of the world e.g. China Wall, Pyramids were built by unorganised workers. All those countries have enacted legislation for the welfare of unorganised workers but in our country, with a democratic set up, no such legislation had been enacted. I, therefore, support the twin Bills brought by the Government.

A visit to any construction site in India would evoke pity at the plight of the workers. Whether it is a building or road being built, it would be observed that neither any shelter nor any medical facilities have been arranged for the workers. In case of any mishap, no first aid is provided to them. In this Bill it has been provided that shelters would be built for the workers at the construction site.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in all in metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras or Delhi, the construction workers either sleep on the pavement or live in jhuggi jhoupries. The present Bill provided for shelter, drinking water and health facilities at the construction site. The Bill also provides for payment of compensation. It is all very commendable however so far as constitution of the Board, its being applicable to those companies which employ more than 50 workers and that the minimum duration of the project should be 12 months and both the employer and the beneficiary will contribute towards the fund is concerned. I do not agree with the limits of 50 workers and 12 months imposed by the Bill the result of this limit would be that the big constructor would sub-divide the contract into small contracts and in this way the spirit of the Bill would be defeated. Besides, how you propose to provide succour to the workers engaged in wood work or a petty iron contract on one of the floors of a multistoreyed building, which may not last one year? It is necessary to cover all the petty contractors engaged by the big company under the Bill. The company should be charged with the responsibility of looking after the welfare of the workers engaged by petty contractors. Besides, the welfare Board proposed to be constituted under the Act should comprise Government servants, representation of building workers' union. As per the provision of the Bill there would be some women on the Board. Among the construction workers, 95 per cent belong to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. I would, therefore, request the Government to provide for representation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes on the proposed Board besides women as envisaged in the Bill.

The Bill also provides that the proposed Board would bear the expenditure on account of the salaries of the members, Chairman and employees of the Board. It is estimated that Rs 250 crores would be collected by way of cess and then it would be distributed among various states. A limit will have to be imposed regarding expenditure on the salaries lest the entire amount is

appropriated by the Board Members and the staff and nothing is left for the welfare of the workers. The Bill also provides for in the event of retrenchment but only those employees would be covered who have rendered more than 12 months service. The daily wagers would not be covered under the Bill as they are period a daily wage of Rs.30 to 35 and after one week or after 3 months they are laid off.

There should be some sort of guarantee for the employees. The employer must give them on months notice after three months and they should be given at least one month's salary at the time of retrenchment. The Bill provides for a weekly off but there is need to treat national holidays or other holidays as paid holidays. The labours should also be provided the benefit of life insurance.

I endorse the views expressed by an hon. Member that it is neither chiches nor fishes; it is mutton. I welcome the Bill because it is for the first time that a Bill has been brought for unorganised labour or construction labour. I urge the Government and the members to pass the Bill in the present form and the amendments there to come be moved later on. The Bill would definitely benefit the workers who at present live on the pavements.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay South) : The Building and Construction workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1996 was actually introduced by the previous Government in December, 1995 but it could not be passed. Now we propose to discuss and pass the Bill. I feel it is never too late to undertake a good measure and by passing the Bill we can do a good turn to the unorganized workers. Besides, it will be a good gift to our workers on the occasion of the 50th Independence Day. The construction workers comprise both men and women and the children as well as the aged are also engaged in this work. But no attention was even paid to the working conditions of women workers, who work the whole day while their infants just lie under the shade of a tree in a cradle. The women labourers are mortly widows or deserted by their husbands. There is no arrangement of crech for their children. Even toilet and drinking water facilities are not available.

In foreign countries, pregnant women workers are given forty days leave with salary after the delivery to enable them to take care of the child. But in India, pregnant women workers are left to fend for themselves and no provision is made for their diet or health. I would suggest that the welfare Board must ensure medical facilities and proper diet for the pregnant women workers besides forty days leave with salary after delivery to look after the baby. I would also like to point out that housing and construction work has assumed the shape of a big industry with investment to the tune of crores of rupees both in the public and the private sectors. But the workers have not benefited from this boom in the

building and construction industry. In Mumbai, Maharashtra Government, have set up a Board to undertake repair of old and dilapidated houses. The Government also provides loans for the purpose. The contractor undertaking the work gets the money and not the poor labourers. In Mumbai and Delhi, workers come in serch of work from other states as well as rural area. Many a time, the workers are iniured or killed while engaged in the repair of these dilapidated houses. But the contractor in connivance with the police bushes up the case and even the next-of kin of the workers are not informed about their death, and when their relatives went Delhi or Mumbai, they find that their near and dear men are no more and even adequate compensation is also not paid to him. The law in the present form does not provide for payment of adquate compensation to the workers. It is a serious problem.

The workers in this unganised sector have never tried to organise themselves or to raise their voice in support of their demands. They toil day and night in hot summer months and in torrented rains worried only about the square meals for the day and not about their future. Now that we have introduced a Bill after fifty years of independence to look after their interest, we most open boarding school for their children so that they become good citizens after getting the benefit of a good education.

The facilities of insurance, provident fund and pension after the age of 60 years should also be provided in the Bill. The Construction companies can meet this commitment easily and it will not be beyond their means or resources. That is why I feel that we most make provision for their secure future also.

The modern houses furnished in the latest godgets and amenities are very comfortable. But we forget that besides steel and cement, the sweat of the workers has also contributed to the construction of these buildings. This is the way of life in our country. In a jewellers' shop there are expensive pieces of jewellery but in that piece the gold carries more value then the labour put in by the goldsmith. Similarly, a sugar mill owner earns huge profit, but the farmers and the workers do not get any benefit of that profit. The prices of cloth are souring day by day but the wages being paid to the workers are stagnant. Even their jobs are not secure.

If we are serious about raising the lot of the workers, then the environment must also exhibit the ill to implement the provisions of the Bill. It must be ensured that the funds earmarked for the welfare of the workers are not inappropriated by others. A sad comment was made by the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi that only 15 per cent of the funds provided for the welfare of the poor percolate to them, the rest-85 per cent is misappropriated by middlemen. If we really want to ameliorate the lot of the workers, we must that the funds earmarked for them are not misappropriated by the middlemen. If the Bill is passed without devising a machinery to check the misuse of the funds, then it will only render lip service to the cause of the poor workers.

The employer should also maintain record of the workers who lost their lives while working on the project so that compensation is paid to the next of kin and in case they are not living with the deceased, efforts should be made to trace them. In case the Central Government passed this Bill, the State Governments can also adopt it to benefit the workers.

The Bill in the present form needs to be amended suitably. In the absence of these amendments, it will not be possible to ensure that the money earmarked for the workers reaches them. The Government must give assurance to this effecting before passing the Bill.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

DR. B.N. REDDY : The Bill for Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1996 is really something which is very important and I really support the Bill. It would really help the construction workers whether they are in the field of construction of buildings or projects, or in the fields of any other construction work, where they are neglected. Neither there are any regulations in regard to the number of their working hours nor in regard to their accommodation. Their living conditions, sanitary conditions, condition with regard to water, electricity, everything is so bad. So, I feel that this Bill is definitely going to provide better conditions of work for the millions and millions of construction workers in the country.

The cess to be collected for the Welfare Fund, which has been limited to one per cent, can perhaps be looked into and revised so as to improve their conditions in comparison to other workers in other fields. We really have to think in terms of one per cent which would be collected from the employers. I think that may not be sufficient. But I would still say that an attempt is being made to see that same would be utilized for the welfare of the workers.

One important aspect which has to be mentioned is that there are several construction workers who are below 18 years of age. We see ten or twelve years girls and boys working in this industry. There is no control; there is no regulation.

Their education, their welfare and their development is not taken care of. We have been seeing the conditions in which they are put during the construction of buildings and other projects. They do not have proper accommodation and there are no proper living conditions. So, I would say that this Bill would definitely bring some improvement in the living and working conditions of the construction workers.

As I learn from some hon. Members, there have been some welfare measures taken in several States, especially in Kerala. But I would say that some beginning has been made, though it has already been delayed for

such a long time. Once some effort is made, later on some more developments and amendments can be made in that.

Sir, I would request the House to definitely and seriously consider and pass this Bill so that we would be definitely doing some justice, some help to improve the conditions of these building and other construction workers.

Hence, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill poses several inconvenient questions. This very Bill was earlier introduced by Shri Venkat Swamy who was the labour minister in the erst while Government and whose party is supporting the present Government. Yesterday, Shri Venkat Swamy made a very moving speech in which he recounted his experience of 40-50 years in the labour movement. This was all comprehensible. But it defied imagination when he said that the Bill needs further improvement and before passing the Bill, the Minister must take others into confidence to amend the Bill suitably. It appears that the Bill which he had introduced under his own signature was not drafted as per his conception. Yesterday, there was unanimity on one point that the bill in the present form was not suitable. Even Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was of the opinion that there was need to improve the Bill. The party, of which he is a leader, had in its manifesto branded the Bill as anti labour. I had read the manifesto in the House yesterday. The party had declared in its manifesto that some of the provision of the Bill were anti labour and the Bill should be introduced only after amending these provisions yesterday, in spite of prodding by me, he did not react. Even the hon. Speaker, who was once the labour minister held the same opinion. All the former labour ministers want improvement in the Bill. Members belonging to C.P.I. and C.P.M. demanded suitable amendments in the Bill. They have given notice of amendments in the Bill. Actually, the Bill in the present form should not have been introduced. Yesterday, when I was protesting against the Bill, all these Members backed me and asked me to sit down. There is unanimity on one point that the Bill should be amended before passing. But what baffles me which is mysterious power is preventing the introduction of an appropriate Bill in the House?

It is with a sense of anguish that I am expressing my feelings. It appears there is a mysterious power outside the House whose stranglehold is so strong that it is preventing all of us to do what is right and what we desire. All the Members of the House, whatever their party affiliation, Jail to comprehend or explain this phenomenon I would like to draw the attention of the House to another aspect of the passage of the Bill. In

1988 this Bill was referred to the Committee on Petitions in Rajya Sabha. At that time a petition was submitted on behalf of National Campaign Committee for Central legislation on construction labour under the chairmanship of Justice Krishna Iyer. This petition was discussed for two years and during this discussion evidence of Secretary, Labour Department, Government officials, labour leaders was recorded. The Committee finally submitted its report in 1989 and I would like to quote from the recommendations made by the committee so that the House may make some introspection in the light of those recommendations. I shall read only a few sentences.

[English]

"This Committee, the National Campaign Committee for Central Legislation on construction Labour, has also formulated a draft legislation, which, if enacted, should serve the interest of the construction workers. The draft legislation prepared by the committee proposed a compulsory registration of all employers and workers, vesting of responsibility for determining and disbursement of wages through an autonomous body and the constitution of tripartite labour boards comprising of employers, construction workers and Government agencies for looking into and regulating the service conditions of the construction workers.

It also lays extra emphasis on the implementation aspect as the actual implementation of all social legislations in the country leaves much to be desired."

[Translation]

This is the unanimous opinion of the Committee of Petitions. The Committee further states:

[English]

"Without going into the merits of the schemes proposed by the Campaign Committee desired that the Ministry of Labour should take a careful note of the suggestions made by the Campaign Committee and see to what extent these could be incorporated in the Bill already introduced in the Rajya Sabha."

[Translation]

The Petitions Committee has made clear cut recommendation that the suggestions made by the Campaign Committee may be incorporated in the draft Bill, as introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

[English]

"Further, even after the passage of the Bill and at the time of framing detailed rules for implementation of the provisions of the Bill,

the Campaign Committee may be involved in the process of consultation so that the objectives underlying the measures could be implemented in letter and spirit."

The last recommendation of the Committee is :

"From the Statement of Objects of the Bill introduced in Lok Sabha, the Committee find that the present Bill will apply only to establishments which employ or have employed 50 or more building workers in any building or other construction work."

[Translation]

In 1988 the Bill is referred to the Petitions Committee which learn the views and evidence of all the Government officers and others. The Committee comes to the conclusion that the Bill will apply only to these establishment which employ more than 50 workers.

[English]

"Thus, all establishments employing less than 50 workers will presumably be beyond the purview of the present Bill. Thus the workers employed by private persons and institutions for construction work will not be entitled to any benefit arising from this legislation if the total work force employees is less than 50. As against this, the scheme formulated by the Campaign Committee seeks to cover all construction workers wherever they may be employed. The scope of the legislation formulated by the Campaign Committee would thus appear to be more comprehensive and wide ranging. It is in this context that the Committee i.e. the Petitions Committee - desire that the legislation proposed by the Campaign Committee may be examined and considered and all good features thereof may be suitably incorporated in the Government Bill."

[Translation]

In the end, the Committee makes a recommendation which the Government is morally bound to accept.

[English]

"The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha be withdrawn and a fresh comprehensive Bill be introduced so as to cater to the long-felt demands of a hitherto neglected segment of the working-class."

[Translation]

The committee makes two recommendations. First, the suggestion made by the Campaign Committee

should be incorporated in the Bill and the limit of 50 workers imposed in the Bill should be removed. It further recommends that the Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha be withdrawn and a fresh comprehensive Bill, should be introduced. In case anybody ignores the recommendations of the Petitions Committee, he is guilty of the contempt of the House. In this context, the observation made at page 730, 1991 edition of the Kaul and Shakhder's book on Parliamentary procedure and practice is relevant and I quote it here.

[English]

"In the case of petition on matters of general public interest, the Committee reports to the House giving the facts as stated by the petitioner, the comments of the Ministry concerned obtained thereon and their conclusions or recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee may be that the petitioner's suggestion *in toto* ought to be implemented or that the petitioner's suggestion in the form modified by or acceptable to the Committee ought to be implemented."

[Translation]

Sir, instead of bringing a fresh comprehensive Bill, the Government introduced the old Bill, which was introduced seven years ago and since then four labour ministers have been appointed. I want to know has the prestige of this House been reduced to this level that the recommendation made by one of its own committees is but acceptable to the House? In such a situation how can we uphold the dignity of the House itself? How can we expect the world to respect us when we ourselves who scant regard to our dignity? We should not have treated this Bill so lightly. We will have to identify that mysterious power either individually or jointly which has a stranglehold on this House and the parties which constitute the House. This mysterious power can be the builders Lobby which has the backing of money to the tune of billion of rupees or some other lobby which is obstructing justice to the ordinary construction worker. So long as we do not identify that power, any discussion here will not be fruitful.

Several suggestions have been offered here during the course of discussion—first, refer the Bill to a select committee, to amend the Bill and lastly to pass it in the present form and then amend it later on. In case the hon. Minister wants the Bill to be passed, he must clarify the portion regarding the quantum of the proposed cess. Several members have asked me as to whether division will place. In view of certain points, I am afraid, we will have to resort to a division or oppose it and later on we will have to have a division. Everyone is talking of one rupees whereas in the Bill, the question is.

[English]

Not-exceeding one percent.

[Translation]

What is the guarantee that the invisible hand which is preventing improvement in the Bill, will not interfere again? In case I know the dispensation of this country correctly.

[English]

It can be half percent, it can be quarter percent.

[Translation]

If I know the system of the country I would say.

[English]

Not exceeding one percent, it can be half percent.

[Translation]

Once it is a fact accomplish any amount of protests would fall on deaf ears. Before passing the Bill, you must take a firm decision on the quantum of cess, whether it would be

[English]

It will be quarter percent. You make no mistake of it. Not exceeding one percent or not less than two percent.

[Translation]

Whatever be the opinion of others, we will not accept anything less than two percent. One of the hon. Members of the House today morning discussed this Bill with me and he was of the opinion that one percent cess would lead to escalation in the cost of construction. This petty sum which is to be used for the medical treatment of workers is compensation in the want of their death is a irksome to people.

[English]

Not exceeding one percent

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, people are prepared to tip the waiters with one rupee after paying a bill of Rs 100 perhaps the waiter will not accept this petty tip. Justice Chagla of Bombay High Court had commented in a case regarding payment of bonus that our industrialist who could not pay a bonus of 8.11 percent must wind up his mill and go home. We are demanding only 2 Percent.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) . Have you given notice of your amendment?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES I have not given any notice.

[English]

Clause 6 of the Bill says and I quote

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, if the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the public interest, it may, by notification in

the Official Gazette and subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified therein, exempt any employer or class of employers from the payment of the cess payable under this Act...."

Mr. Minister, you underline the words "Public interest."

[Translation]

It means you have appropriated the power to exempt any employer or class of employers from the payment of cess and this power would ultimately be exercised by inspectors or officer

[English]

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, this Act can be made redundant. It is as simple as that.

[Translation]

Who else can have more public interest in the country than building workers. Today, we, belonging to different parties are discussing the issue.

[English]

In whose interest is it? Which is the public in whose interest you want to deprive the building workers even of that less than one per cent cess that you may finally decide to impose if the law is passed as it is?

17.03 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY (Poddapally) : 99 percent of the construction workers live below the poverty line. Instead of dwelling on the controversy of one percent, who does not Shri George Fernandes suggest to the Government to contribute two percent towards the cess?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I accept it. You were not present when I made a reference about you. Even you could not do it in spite of your pious wishes. There is an invisible power which is preventing you from implementing your own wishes.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : The hon. Minister is about to reply. Please listen to me.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Why should I blame Arunachalam? How can I find fault with others when CPI and CPI (M) have also succumbed?

The Bill shows the wide gap between what they profess and what the practice. It has been introduced as an ordinance and at the tune of its introduction it was stated that

[English]

As Parliament was not in session and in view of urgency felt by the Government for meeting the long-standing demand for the aforesaid legislation...

[Translation]

It is written in the statement of objects and reasons and you have signed it.

[English]

In view of the urgency felt by the Government for meeting the long-felt demand for the aforesaid legislation...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : It is more than 20 years old.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It has been going on for 20 years and no urgency was felt.

[Translation]

It was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1988 and was referred to a committee. The committee deliberated thereon and made recommendation. After seven years, it has again surfaced in this House..

[English]

Urgency felt by the Government for meeting the long felt demand for the aforesaid legislation.

[Translation]

It puts a question mark on the intention of the Government. The reason is that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the plight of the workers has been highlighted. But how is it that this plight did not come to Government's notice the past 25-30 years.

[English]

Building and other construction workers are one of the most numerous and vulnerable segments of unorganised labour in India. The building and other construction workers are characterised by the inherent risk to their lives and limbs. The work is also characterised by its casual nature, temporary relationship between the employer and the employee, uncertain work hours, lack of basic amenities and inadequacy of welfare facilities.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : What is wrong in it?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It only shows the wide gap between profession and practice. If they were so much concerned, why was the Bill gathering dust in the almira? These may be just crocodile tears. Our worst fears are that Government may not implement it in the right spirit.

I want to ask some tangible question from the hon. Minister in relation to 1-2 clauses.

[English]

Please refer to the last two lines of Section 2(1) (d) of the Act which defines 'building and other construction work.' It says :

"... but does not include any building or other construction work to which the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948, or the Mines Act, 1952, apply;"

Why do you want to exclude them?

[Translation]

Mining is being privatised. Even if they are nationalised what deference will make? As an employer Government is not a benevolent employer.

[English]

Why do you want to exclude building and other construction works to which provisions of the Factories Act apply.

[Translation]

Whom are you trying to shield? If the Act is not amended properly, we will oppose it. We will not support you.

[English]

Here we are not seeking powers. Even in the basic laws, you are excluding all those construction workers who are engaged in construction workers who are engaged in construction doing works to which the provisions of the Factories Act or the Mines Act or the Mines Act apply. Please remove this. Further, Section 2(1) (j) gives the definition of 'establishment'. It states.

"Establishment" means any establishment belonging to ... but does not include an individual who employs such workers in any building or construction work in relation to his own residence".

[Translation]

My objection is that palatial houses are being built in Patna and Delhi which engage a large contingent of construction workers. These houses may cost as much as 5-6 crores. I cannot say anything about a farm house have it seen out. But in Delhi several houses in posh colonies cost as much as One crores. But in his assessment or return this cost will not be reflected.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Try to conclude.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am concluding, Sir.

[Translation]

These houses are built with unaccounted money and the poor must get their rightful due because they have earned it with the sweat of their brow. I would request the hon. Minister to get the proviso deleted from the Act, because it will be misused to exempt half of the employers from the operation of this Act. Some of the employers would seek exemption on the basis of factories and Mines Act. Besides, the limit of 50 workers should also be removed. No loopholes should be left. I know the factory owners of Chhatisgarh. We had to struggle hard against our colleague Shankar Niyogi and several labourers were killed. There are big businessmen trading in liquor. Bones regarding the eradication of poverty are pasted but nothing is done to stop exploitation of labourers. I know how they exploit the labour.

[English]

Every employee is treated as a contractor. He has an individual contract of employment. What will prevent these...\* from doing that? What will prevent any contractor ... from doing that?

[Translation]

No loophole should, therefore, be left. Before employing any worker, he would be asked to sign a bond that he is working on contract basis and I am not an employee.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Is it not unparliamentary?

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : 'Is a word of affection and regard. I always call you a good...' Have not I called you a ...\* many times, Ramesh?

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill needs to be amended in a suitable manner and the limit of 50 workers should be withdrawn. This Bill may not be passed in the present form. A meeting may be held today evening or tomorrow morning in your chamber to discuss the modification which need to be carried out in Bill. If the hon. Minister did not relent, it will become a controversial measure and would not achieve the desired results.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would just conclude now

[English]

Section 16 of the Act says :

"A building worker who has been registered as a beneficiary under this act shall, until he attains the age of 16 years..."

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

Now mark these words, Mr. Minister.

"...contribute to the fund at such rate per mensem, as may be specified by the State Government by notification in the official gazette and different rates of contribution may be specified for different classes of building workers."

[Translation]

Why should the worker contribute? That man has no benefit of any kind. He sleeps on the pavement. This Budget and your economic policy may have received accolades from the people on the other side, but I am sure in the coming ten years you will not be able to provide them houses. The employee will also be required to contribute one percent towards the cess which is not fair. Cess must come from the employer. If in the coming 10-20 years, the workers become so affluent that they are in a position to maintain Maruti cars, you may ask them to contribute. I have suggested 3-4 amendments to Bill. If the hon. Minister does not accept those amendment, we will oppose the Bill. Now let the Minister decide whether he wants our support.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, many suggestions have come from various Members. So, let there be a discussion. The passing of the Bill may be deferred. The Minister may call a meeting of all the political parties and have a discussion. Some of the good suggestions may be incorporated in the Bill and it could be passed unanimously.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday in my speech I had recapitulated the position when I had introduced the Bill 7 years ago. I had called a meeting of the officials and pointed out to them several shortcomings in the Bill and I told them to draft a better Bill. At that time the officials suggested that already ? Years have been spent in bringing the Bill and if the same exercise of circulating to all the ministries is repeated, the Bill may again be delayed by 20 years. They suggested that let the Bill be discussed and let the amendments be made officially. I would like to suggest to the Labour Minister to convene a meeting of the experts, labour leaders, and Members belonging to all the parties of the House and discuss the issue with them. This Bill may be modified in the light of the suggestion made in the meeting and then passed.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, I also support this contention. A number of suggestions have been made by many hon. Members. So, the Minister should call a meeting and invite, at least, those Members who have given amendments for discussion. Sir, if he wants, he could invite other leaders also...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI (Ghosi) : I also support this suggestion...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : We also support it and demand that comprehensive Bill be brought, after carrying out modifications in the Bill...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : The hon. Minister must consider the amendments moved by the members. This Bill should be passed after modifying it suitably...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, this Bill has to be passed before the end of this month as it has to be passed by the other House also...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, this Ordinance will lapse on 2nd August, 1996. That is why it has to be passed before 2nd August.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We can meet tonight or we can meet tomorrow. The hon. Minister can call a meeting tomorrow morning.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : We can discuss tomorrow.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : The hon. Minister has agreed to the suggestion...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, it should be passed only after it has been discussed threadbare.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let it be postponed

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The hon. Minister can come forward with agreed amendments after meeting the Members.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Let the discussion be over.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Yes, let the discussion be over.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, what is your reaction?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : My view is, let us make a beginning in this direction, in the unorganised sector. I have an open mind to discuss with the hon. Members. I can come to the House tomorrow evening; we can discuss and pass it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Should we continue with the discussion?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, we can take it up tomorrow evening and then pass it.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, let the discussion conclude and thereafter, the Minister's reply and the amendments can be taken up together.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, you have to specify the names of those hon. Members who have to be called to attend the meeting. Will it be only those Members who have given the amendments or any other Members?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can call only those Members who have given their names.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North West) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the labour Minister for introducing the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Services) Bill, 1996. The earlier Ordinance was promulgated in 1988 and now it has been introduced in 1996 and if the Bill is not passed before 2nd August, the ordinance would lapse. The Bill is intended to ameliorate the lot of such labourers.

[English]

Those who are the down trodden below the poverty line and most neglected in this country.

[Translation]

Nobody paid any attention towards their plight during the past 50 years. A plethora of laws were passed during the passed 50 years but not a single enactment was about them. Nobody showed any concern about their wages or whether they have any shelter over their head. The society never showed any responsibility to the lot of the workers who tail day and night facing all sorts of hazards to build huge mansiacs in the cities.

In Mumbai high rise buildings known as sky scrapers are being built. Labour from Andhra Pradesh in particular are working in these buildings. The erect their huts or jhoupri on land which is waterlesgged. All these workers are assisted by their wives, children sisters and parents in this work. They inhale dust and cement while working on the site. But no medical facilities are provided to them in case they fall sick. After the project is completed, the builder takes up some other contract and engages new labour for that project to avoid any liability while this labour is left to fend for itself in their hutments.

A vast number of Jhompries have spring up in Mumbai. We had decided to build pucca houses for these people who are residing in jhompries. In Mumbai, the builders have amassed huge wealth and they are

so rich that they can purchase the entire country. But we are not getting their cooperation in helping the poor labour.

I want to know from hon. Minister, who will ensure that the provision of the Act are implemented? Will the Central Government give guarantee that the machinery provided in the Bill would implement the provision of the Act in the right earnest? As regards the definition of worker, as given in the Bill, Shri George Fernandes has dwelt at length on the subject. In the Bill, besides construction worker.

[English]

Those who are involved in that work, they have been incorporated into the definition of this particular mazdoor.

[Translation]

Supervisors and Technical officers have also been clubbed with the construction worker. I want to know why others have been clubbed with the construction worker. separate legislation could have been enacted for them.

In the let paragraph in which mention of machinery has been made I have marked this portion. Here, about appointment it has been stated.

[English]

But does not include any building or other construction work to which the provision of the Factories Act, 1948 or the Mines Act, 1952 applies."

[Translation]

I want to know whether factory workers work in the construction of the building of the factory? In case civil works labour is engaged in the construction of the factory.

[English]

Why do you want to exempt these workers? Why do you want to exclude them from the provision of this Act? That is my straight question to the hon. Minister concerned.

[Translation]

I want to know from the hon. Minister that if the construction workers are engaged in the construction of the factory building, why have they been excluded from the purview of the Act.

In the clause relating the machinery provided for implementation, it is stated

[English]

"On receipt of an appeal under sub-Section (1), the appellate officer shall, after giving the appellant an opportunity of being heard, confirm, modify or reverse the order of revocation as expeditiously as possible."

[Translation]

No timeframe has been provided - 6 months, one year or 6 years or they can be let off any time. In Maharashtra, there is an Act - M.R.T.U. and PULP Act or Maharashtra Recognition of Trade Unions and Prevention of Unfair Labour Practices Act, 1971. It provides -

[English]

"As far as possible, recognition should be granted within six month period."

[Translation]

Sometimes it take as much as 6 years and recognition is not granted.

[English]

In the meanwhile, the union gets changed itself.

[Translation]

but the case is still pending. Therefore, the clause should be specific with a directive that is the event of such and such appeal -

[English]

So and so and within such and such period, that should be decided, not as far as possible. It is a very dangerous one as far as the poor workmen are concerned.

Then, please refer to Clause 9(1) which says :

"Any person aggrieved by an order made under section 8 may, within thirty days from the date on which the order is communicated to him, prefer an appeal to the appellate officer who shall be a person nominated in this behalf by the appropriate Government."

[Translation]

Another machinery has been provided in the Bill, which would add to the delay. In the present structure in the country, delay is inherent. The worker is finding of difficult to get justice because he has either to approach the Court or the conciliation machinery. It is not in favour of the labour. None of the provisions is in his interest.

[English]

This has been copied out from the different enactments of this country.

[Translation]

It is not for labourers. There is no provision for them.

[English]

Are we supposed to do the copying work in this country? Or, are we not going to introduce or incorporate

something new into the Act? Is it necessary that we should blindly follow what has been provided in the other Acts in respect of the labourers?

[Translation]

We have failed to enact a fresh legislation to provide relief to the Construction workers even after 50 years

[English]

We must apply our mind correctly and then say that we have been doing justice to the poor people. -

[Translation]

In this Bill, Justice has not been done to the poor. You have just copied the old provisions and incorporated in this Bill. An regards the provision for appeal -

[English]

Please refer to Clause 12(5) which says :

"Any person aggrieved by the decision under sub-section (4) may, within thirty days from the date of such decision, prefer an appeal to the Secretary of the Board or any other officer specified by the Board in this behalf and the decision of the Secretary or such other officer on such appeal shall be final..."

[Translation]

All further appeals have been barred and

[English]

Whatever he says, that is the final word. He should accept it and proceed further.

[Translation]

He should either accept the verdict with humility or he should not take recourse to this method. This is a defective machinery and I would request Arunachalamji to pay his attention to this aspect.

[English]

Just see Clause 16(2) which says :

"A beneficiary may authorise his employer to deduct his contribution from his monthly wages and to remit the same, within fifteen days from such deduction, to the Board."

[Translation]

I want to know what provision has been made in case of failure of the employer to remit the amount deducted by him? The ESI contribution is directly deducted from the wages of the workers, but if the employer fails to deposit the same in the ESI, the Government takes no action. The doctor also stop attending to them because the employers have not deposited the requisite amount in the ESI. You will have

to make provision in the Bill to ensure that the employer remits the amount deducted by him and in case he fails to do so, what action will be taken by the Board?

[English]

What is the alternative arrangement that the Board is going to make? What is the mandatory for this? These things have to be explained.

[Translation]

It is your responsibility to ensure it before the Bill is passed.

[English]

When a beneficiary has not paid his contribution under sub-section (1) of section 16 for a continuous period of not less than one year, he shall cease to be a beneficiary...

[Translation]

In the case of the worker, it has been provided that if the beneficiary has not paid his contribution.

[English]

He will not be a beneficiary.

[Translation]

No clarification has been made by you that in case the employers fails to remit the amount, what action will be taken by the Board.

Mr Deputy, Speaker, provision has been in the Budget made in respect of vacancies.

[English]

There is a provision for the Budget also. The Board will formulate the Budget. As per the provision of the Budget, all other benefits shall be distributed to the beneficiaries.

[Translation]

I feel the Bill is a good enactment but it should be brought before the House after careful and threadbare discussion and deliberation.

[English]

It has been copied down from somewhere else. That should not happen.

[Translation]

Rules under the Bill have not been framed and have been left to the discretion of the State Governments. Provision regarding overtime has been made in the Bill, but I want to know who would ensure the enforcement of the provision? In the establishments under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act, in case of the payment of overtime, lumpsum payment at the

rate of 1 to 1½ percent is made and sometimes the workers are forced to work without the payment of overtime.

[English]

What should be the practical approach in this particular provision? That is my question.

[Translation]

Have you found ways and means to implement the provision re: payment of overtime? Even today workers are forced to work for as many as 12 hours but without payment of overtime. The employers exploit the workers because of the acute problem of employment in the country. If they refused to work without overtime, hundreds of unemployed persons are prepared to take their place. Therefore, some other provision will have to be made to ensure payment of overtime. Appointment of an Inspector or a Chief Inspector will not serve the purpose, because he seek some gratification for himself and look the other way. The increase in the number of laws in only constructing to increased corruption. Therefore, keeping in view the situation in our country, we must take steps to create more conducive working condition for the workers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon Minister had made some ideal provision in the Bill regarding provision of latrines, urinals etc. for the workers. Have you ever visited the countryside or the rural areas in the country? Have you found any urinals or latrines there? How do you expect the contractor to provide these facilities to the construction workers? But who will implement this provision? Do you expect the State Governments to implement the provision?

[English]

Is there any remedy for this?

[Translation]

You have provided in the Bill that temporary accommodation will be provided to the construction workers at the site? I want a categorical reply, as to who would build houses for the construction workers in the present circumstances?

[English]

The temporary accommodation provided under Sub-section (i) shall have separate cooking place, bathing washing and lavatory facilities.

[Translation]

The wordings of the Bill are, no doubt, attractive but who will implement it? You have incorporated this provision only as a publicity stunt with an eye on the print and electronic media where it will be announced with all fanfare that Shri Arunachalam or the United Front Government has passed a legislation to provide innumerable facilities to the construction workers.

[English]

Why do you want to incorporate this provision into this Act.

[Translation]

Your only objective is to use it as publicity material for your Government.

[English]

Why do you want to incorporate this provision? If you are going to implement it you are always welcome to do so. But if you cannot do it, what is the use of keeping this provision into this Act?

[Translation]

As regards drinking water, in the residential colonies people hardly get it for one hour. How will the contractor arrange for water for the construction workers? You have, no doubt, made a Provision. But what are the hard realities? You must go and see it for yourselves. Only one pitcher is kept as a drinking water source and the water is not fit for human consumption. How do you expect the builders, who are exploiting them till date to provide all these facilities to the workers? Perhaps by making this provision in the Act, the worker would face greater harassment. I would, therefore, suggest that hard realities must be taken into account while framing the provisions.

There is another clause providing for demolition. Had this practice of demolition been followed in Mumbai, the jhuggis and jhompries would not have proliferated to such an extent. The population of Mumbai is 1.25 crores and at least 60 percent of the population comprises Jhuggi Jhompri dwellers. Had this practice of demolition been followed, after completion of the building by the builder, the jhompries would have been demolished. But the fact is that the workers sell their Jhompries.

[English]

All these things continue and the Government has to take the liability Builders use then and throw them away. This is the tendency of builders. You are making a legal provision for the employees working with such builders which is not going to be implemented. My question to you is, in such case what are you going to do.

[Translation]

Provision for first aid has also been made in the Bill. It has been done under the Employees Guarantee Scheme. But on the spot inspection will enlighten you about the realities. You visit any construction site, you will find both first aid and creche facilities were existent. There is provision in the law but it is not being implemented. The implementing machinery indulges in corruption. Who is responsible for this?

[English]

Is it not the responsibility of the Government to take such steps and see that whatever provisions have been made in the Act are actually implemented?

[Translation]

I want to know who would implement it? The other big joke is the provision regarding canteen. Who is going to provide them facility of canteen?

[English]

Have you seen the practical aspect of this entire Bill? Who has drafted this Bill? My suggestion to the person concerned is that he should go all over the country and find out for himself where such provisions have been made, even where three thousand people are employed by a builder.

[Translation]

As per the provision made in the Bill, any builder employing more than 200 workers will have to provide the facility of Canteen. The reality is that even in establishments employing more than 2000 workers, this facility is not available. In case it is not there.

[English]

by incorporating this provision into the Act, how are you going to provide it? I will not blame you Mr. Arunachalam.

[Translation]

The Bill was drafted by the bureaucrats and presented to you as a *fait accompli*.

[English]

Who will see the practical aspect of this Bill? Who is going into the greater details of this Bill and who will be the implementing machinery? Who is responsible if the provisions of the Act are not implemented?

What is the provision? How are you going to see that the provisions of the Act are implemented?

[Translation]

The Bill has provided for the appointment of a safety officer for safety and other purposes. If a worker falls from a height and dies, there is nobody to look after him. In our country, human values are totally missing because of the mad race in pursuit of accumulation of wealth. We have seen the plight of accident victims with our own eyes. What to speak of accident, the workers find it difficult to get proper treatment with their meagre resources, if they fall sick.

The responsibility for framing the rules has been left to the State Governments and you know very well that they will never do it.

[English]

They know there are a number of lacunae in this Bill.

I would not blame you. It is not your desire. The issues must have been in your mind. The Bill has come to you have been told that this must be passed within a given time because already the Ordinance was promulgated three times.

[Translation]

The relivance is valid upto 2nd August. In case the Bill is not passed by that date, they will have to approach the President of India for permission to promulgate a fresh Ordinance which may not a very happy situation. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has offered dinner if we are prepared to sit late to pass it. We will of course get food but perhaps the poor will be deprived of it.

[English]

Whatever we do is for the welfare of the poor people. We are passing this Bill for the benefit of those people, who are the down-trodden and who are below the poverty line. We must be very careful. Shri Arunachalam. It should be done by incorporating the necessary amendments to the Act and making it fool-proof. All the poor people should get the benefits, not the MPs. If we do not get any credit, it is all right. We would tolerate that. We are working for the poor people and we should see that whatever provisions are incorporated in the Act are beneficial to all the contract labourers working on construction.

[Translation]

As suggested by Shri George Fernandes.

[English]

apply your mind again. Give some thought to this particular Bill. If needed, we would sit together and we could try to consult with each other. We could try to find out some more remedies also. We could try to accommodate each other and suggest amendments. Whatever you might accept, we have to see to it that everything that we do is for the benefit of the concerned working people.

[Translation]

We are providing for that class of workers which is the most neglected class. The other contribution of

[English]

one per cent is not sufficient, as Shri Venkat Swamy has said.

[Translation]

In case Government pays for the cess, it's a welcome step but it will tant amount to dipping into public funds

In case the employer pays for it, it will be drop in huge profit the builders make. The building and construction business is the most flourishing business.

[English]

They are not benefited. The buildings are going up towards the sky and the labourers working on these buildings are suffering.

[Translation]

It is not only the construction workers, but other categories of workers also eg. plumbers, carpenter, etc. who are affected

Besides several skilled engineers.

[English]

they are also coming into this sector only because it is profitable. People who are coming for the sake of acquiring experience are totally exploited.

[Translation]

The builders construct several buildings but the construction workers are without any shelter. The construction workers should be paid more than their wages by deducting a small fraction of the builders margin of profit.

There is also the provision of payment of bonus to the workers. I just want to know from the people who drafted the Bill, whether they are aware of a single instance where bonus was paid to the workers in this line?

[English]

Workers of the organised sector are getting bonus. A provision for minimum bonus has been made to the extent of 8.33 percent. It is assured for them

[Translation]

You have ofcourse made provision of bonus for construction workers, but the main point is, will they actually get bonus? But as it is not possible, only those provisions should be incorporated in the Bill which can be implemented and for doing a good turns, we must pass a good Bill.

[English]

Arunachalamji, you being the Minister of Labour the credit should go to you. For that purpose, open mind, open heart, open discussion and open views are very much necessary. I hope your colleagues, including the Prime Minister will come forward and see that necessary amepdments are incorporated and then only this Bill can be brought before this House for passing

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : At the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for introducing this Bill which will benefit lakhs and lakhs

of poor workers in our country. Actually, this Bill was introduced by the former Minister of Labour, Shri G. Venkat Swamy but the Bill could not be passed.

For the last 22 years this Bill is being discussed in various fora. In the Labour Ministers' Conference also, I think, it was agreed to formulate such a Bill to help the poor and the downtrodden people of our society. These workers are a vulnerable section of our society. Definitely these people need more attention. We should take more care of them. Their welfare measures should be implemented were effectively. This Bill was introduced by our Minister with these views in mind.

Now, there are shortage of skilled workers in our country. It is very interesting. You cannot find any skilled artisan; you cannot find any skilled carpenter. They are all going abroad. They are getting more wages and they are getting more facilities abroad, especially in the Gulf countries. They are in greater demand in working in foreign countries. Now, there is a dearth of skilled workers in our country. It is a fact. We are not in a position to give them a decent life.

Moreover, the relationship between the employer and the employees is not permanent. The relationship is of a casual and temporary nature. It is because of this temporary nature, the employer is not taking care of the employees who are engaged by him. The hours of work is also uncertain. Since it is a temporary nature, the employer is not normally provide any welfare measures to these workers. There is no specific time allotment for the workers. They are not provided with basic amenities. The workers in the unorganised sector are facing all these difficulties.

To rectify all these hardships, the Ordinance has been promulgated by the President. I agree with the learned hon. Members that more thought should have been given to this Bill. Lot of lacunas are in this bill of course, this is a comprehensive legislation. So, we should think about more and more welfare measures for the poor people of our society. I think, tomorrow's discussion will definitely throw more light on this and when the clause-by-clause consideration of this Bill takes place, we can contribute more in this respect.

This is the first attempt to know what are the conditions of the poor sections of the society are, in what condition they are working and what the welfare measures needed for the society are which we are contemplating. This is the latest achievement and for that, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister.

I want to emphasise on certain specific points. Clause 4 of the Bill says that it will apply to any establishment which employs 50 or more workers. This provision may enable the employer to show that he employs less than 50 workers. For that matter, any employer can say that he is only employing less than 50 employers so that he can avoid this provision of this Bill.

There is another problem regarding registration. The Bill says that registration is not at all compulsory. So, any employer can compel the employee not to go in for registration. In fact, the provisions should be for a compulsory registration. Without compulsory registration, this cannot be enforced, since the employer can always compel the employee or coerce them not to go in for registration and so, he can evade this provision. If compulsory registration is there, no employer can show less number of workers working in the establishment. So, if there is no compulsory registration, there is every possibility of an employer getting out of this Bill. Hence, necessary amendments should be made in this regard. Otherwise, the workers would not get the benefits which are mentioned in this Bill.

Secondly, another clause deals with the eligibility of workers to get the benefits of this Bill. It says that the workers should have completed 90 days during the preceding 12 months. I do not know whether the Minister had given a thought to this provision. He should clarify whether a person should have continuously worked for 90 days or whether it is enough, if one completed the 90 days prescribed in this Bill in total only. This is not clear from this Bill.

So, these uncertainties should be cleared. He should make it clear as to whether it is enough if a worker is engaged for 45 days at a stretch and another 45 days in another stretch. He should make it clear as to whether this type of counting of the 90 day-period is right. This point is not at all clear and I would urge upon the hon. Minister to make these things clear so that there is no ambiguity about this.

Another point is about the registration fee. Certain artisans can afford to pay the fee prescribed. But those people who are working in the rural areas are in a very bad condition and they cannot afford to pay the registration fee of Rs. 50. The fee is too much for the daily wage earners. So, my suggestion to the hon. Minister is that it should be reduced to Rs. 10 so that the workers can afford to pay.

Clause 17 deals with the effect of non-payment of contribution. It says that if a worker is willing to pay the arrears, he is eligible for the benefit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I would make only two or three points more.

My point about arrears is that the arrears should be collected in a few easy instalments. If it is made up in easy instalments, one can afford to pay. If one is forced to pay in lumpsum, he will not be in a position to pay that. So, ultimately what happens is that he would be out of the scheme.

18.00 hrs.

It is always better to give easy instalments so that the worker can pay. He can remit the money and can

also enjoy the provisions of the Act. The efforts should be to give benefit to the workers and not to put burden on them. The Bill is for helping and giving benefit to the poor people. If there are easy instalments, the workers can give and their burden can be minimised.

The other point I wanted to mention is about clause 7 of the Bill. It deals with safety and health measures. It is a very important matter. Almost all our learned friends, who participated in the general discussion on the Bill, mentioned about the health hazards and the conditions in which the workers are working in different areas.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Should I thank you?

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, it was agreed that the Members could participate in the discussion on this Bill today. The hon. Minister will reply tomorrow and then it will be put to vote. Therefore, I suggest that we can extend the time by one hour...*(Interruptions)* It was agreed by your leaders that we will finish the debate today and the hon. Minister will reply tomorrow.

We do not have time for the Railway Budget. It should have been taken up today. Now we are shifting it to tomorrow. There will be no time for the Railway Budget. Another Bill is also there. Therefore, we can sit for one hour more...*(Interruptions)*

It was discussed in the hon. Speaker's chamber. All the leaders agreed to it. So, we can sit for one hour and finish this debate today.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sometime back we had reached a consensus that some leaders will sit together.

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : That also has been agreed to. The hon. Minister and other leaders are meeting tomorrow at 10 o'clock. But whatever points the hon. Members want to say, let them say. We can sit for another one hour...*(Interruptions)*

The leaders are meeting tomorrow at 10 o'clock. After that meeting, the Minister will come with whatever amendments are agreed upon there. But we can finish the debate today. The suggestions can come from the hon. Members today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We may sit for one hour more.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Bahrapur) : Just now Jena ji had said that a meeting would be held with the leaders and the Bill would be amended in the light of

the suggestions made here. May be some Members are not able to give their suggestion. Will the House be deprived of the opportunity to discuss the amended Bill?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : No, this is not the portion...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

Let us not go by hypothecation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will there be a meeting in the chamber of the Deputy-Speaker and they will go through all the debate?...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Mr. Jena, the hon. Members would like to give some more suggestions.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : That is why I had suggested that the time of the House be extended by one hour so that the suggestion of other Members can also be taken into accord.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : It may not be possible to accommodate all the member is one hour.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The time can be extended by two hours.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : The Bill is of a nature or which members would like to offer their suggestion.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Let them offer their suggestions and the sitting can be extended by one hour.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : The Bill is very important and is likely to make immense impact.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will review the position after one hour.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : I have moved a Resolution to disapprove the Ordinance. I want to speak on my Resolution. When will I get the chance to speak, to-day or tomorrow.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : You will speak tomorrow.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : What is the urgency?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : It is your Resolution and you have the right to speak.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : It is of course my right. After the hon. Minister conceded all the amendments and speaks thereon, will I gets a chance to speak? It is my submission that the debate is not likely to be over by 7.00 P.M. and now it is 6.05 PM. We need not hurry through this important measure.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : That is why I am suggesting to extend the sitting by one hour and I do not have any objection if it is extended further by one hour.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : It is no use extending the sitting of the House even upto 9 P.M.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : We will review the position after one hour.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : My submission is that when the Bill is to be passed tomorrow, why not discuss it tomorrow itself. You are not taking up the items as per the Bulletin circulated by you. According to the Bulletin, the discussion on the Railway Budget was scheduled for 23, 24 and 25th but to-day discussion on the Railways Budget was not taken up. This extension of the sitting by one hour will not serve the purpose. I have the right to speak and I will certainly speak tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : If you give your suggestions briefly, it will be possible to conclude the discussion in an hour...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : It means the discussion will conclude by 7 P.M...*(Interruptions)* And if it remains inconclusive, it will be taken up tomorrow. We are Jain and we take our food before sunset... Besides, to-day is Tuesday and I am on fast. Your insistence on continuing the decision is anti-Jain religion.

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, we can proceed...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I have already brought it to your notice that it is past 6 P.M.

*[English]*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, there is no use of going on talking without any solution.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : All the Members may be asked to adhere to the time limit fixed for them and all the Members who went to offer their suggestion should be accommodated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There can be one way out. The hon. Members may just give their suggestions only.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Jenaji, your stance has changed after joining the other side; otherwise you used to beat others in leaving the House. The hon. Member from Patna wants us to restrict ourselves to points. It is an important Bill relating to very large section of society. It is being meted out a callous treatment. In this manner it will not be possible for you to give justice to the people for whom the Bill is meant. This restriction of time will not serve my purpose.

*[English]*

MR. RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, allow me to put my views before the House. Clause 8 deals with...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is unanimity on one point that the time of the sitting be extended upto 7 P.M. We will review the position thereafter.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : What about the people like us who believe in Jain religion...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned to meet again on July 24, 1996 at 11.00 AM.

18.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, July 24, 1996/Sravana 2, 1918 (Saka)*

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