

Eleventh Series, Vol. XI, No. 21

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Phalguna 29, 1918 (Saka)

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

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



*(Vol. XI contains Nos. 21 - 22)*

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

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(English Version)

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Thursday, March 20, 1997/Phalguna 29, 1918 (Saka)

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253/30	import	important
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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 20, 1997/Phalguna 29,  
1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at One Minute Past  
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : Sir, I have an important question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Which question are you referring to?

(Interruptions)

DR. M. JAGANNATH : This is a very important question because the Expert Committee has found fault with Karnataka on the Alamatti dam issue saying that they have violated the Bachawat Award.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us have it after Question Hour please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN (Palani) : Sir, the Government of Karnataka is not taking steps to solve the problem.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please cooperate now.

(Interruptions)

DR. M. JAGANNATH : All the objections have been overruled by the Committee. Hence, the Government must immediately stop construction of the dam. All construction work should be stopped forthwith... (Interruptions) The Centre must cancel all the clearances given for this and also stop funding this project.

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN : The Cauvery issue should be solved and drinking water should be provided for the people for Tamil Nadu... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will surely get a chance after Question Hour. Do not break conventions. Please sit down.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : All right. Thank you.

11.02 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### Out of Order Telephone Exchanges

+  
\*361. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the exchanges, telephone

towers and telephones installed in the rural areas and villages are lying out of order;

(b) if so, the details of such villages, State-wise;

(c) the reasons alongwith the time since when they are out of order;

(d) whether loss of worth crores of rupees is being suffered as a result thereof;

(e) the reasons for not implementing the schemes meant for repairing of the out of order telephones in these areas;

(f) whether several officers have been found responsible in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) 12 small exchanges in J and K are lying damaged, 86 small exchanges in Andhra Pradesh burnt due to militancy/terrorism. 11264 Village Public Telephones are also lying out of order, out of total 2.49 lakh VPTs due to various reasons. The details are given in the Statement-I.

(c) Statement-II is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Statement-III is laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Sir, schemes are being implemented and following instructions/guidelines have been issued to all the field units to further improve the working of village telephones :

(i) Testing of the Village Public Telephone (VPT) should be carried out daily by dialling from the exchange.

(ii) Testing of MARR link should be carried out daily from the base Station.

(iii) Battery set for Remote Subscriber Unit (RSU) should be checked up at regular intervals.

(iv) Solar panels may be installed immediately wherever these are not provided so far.

(v) As an interim measure Annual maintenance contracts for the repair of Printed Card Board and unit may be entered into by the circles. The field units are progressively taking action in this regard.

(vi) The staff may be trained in the maintenance of MARR systems.

(vii) Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing village telephones.

(f) and (g) A thorough inquiry into the veracity of the reports of the field formations regarding functioning of VPTs has also been ordered through an independent agency the selection of which is under process.

CBI has also been asked to investigate as to whether all norms of administrative, technical and financial propriety were observed while ordering and procuring the MARR equipment for VPTs.

**Statement-I**

*Telephone exchanges and village public telephones lying faulty.*

(As on 10.03.1997)

S. No.	Name of Circle	No. of exchanges	No. of village public telephones
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	86	164
3.	Assam	—	243
4.	Bihar	—	3347
5.	Gujarat	—	73
6.	Haryana	—	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	44
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	205
9.	Karnataka	—	119
10.	Kerala	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	3046
12.	Maharashtra	—	204
13.	North East	—	359
14.	Orissa	—	1236
15.	Punjab	—	15
16.	Rajsathan	—	255
17.	Tamil Nadu	—	45
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	—	811
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	—	604
20.	West Bengal	—	494
21.	Mumbai	—	—
22.	Calcutta	—	—
23.	Delhi	—	—
24.	Chennai	—	—
Total		98	11264

**Statement-II**

The small exchanges as stated in (a) and (b) above are lying out of order since 1990 and onwards in the States of J and K and Andhra Pradesh due to damages caused by militancy/terrorism.

Regarding Village Public Telephones, about 11264 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are lying faulty as on 10.3.97. Out of faulty VPTs, 1000 are lying out of order for less than one month, rest are lying faulty for more than one month. The main reasons for VPTs remaining faulty are :

- (1) Militancy/terrorism/naxalite activities.
- (2) Prolonged failure of power supply.

- (3) Remote and in-accessible areas with poor transport facilities causing problems in movement of men and materials.
- (4) Suspected technical inadequacy of the equipment.
- (5) Overhead physical transmission media which is prone to thefts and damages due to environmental reasons.
- (6) Misuse of the battery of equipment by the users.
- (7) Inadequate repair/maintenance facilities of MARR equipment of different makes.

**Statement-III**

There are 11264 VPTs lying out of order as on 10.3.97. The loss of revenue on this account is not very large.

Apart from this a total of 98 small capacity exchanges are lying out of order which have been burnt/damaged by the Militants/terrorists in Andhra Pradesh (86 nos.) and J and K (12 nos.). As it is not possible to restore them due to prevailing law and order situation, hence no loss can be attributed on account of lack of maintenance.

STD connectivity is not available in 2 small exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh due to failure of satellite links. Loss on this account is negligible.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister, because though one can understand that the telephone system is disturbed in Kashmir because of extremist activities but what are the reasons that the telephone system is not in order in other states as well. By giving exaggerated figures some telephone connections are definitely provided, but later on they are not properly maintained. Whether these are properly functioning or not. For example, maximum number i.e., 3347 telephones are lying out of order in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The main reason behind this, that I can comprehend is that the equipment purchased by the Telephone Department are of low standard which are out of order very soon. Once the telephone is installed, no officer or employee does visits to see whether it is functioning properly. I do not want to repeat the suggestions given by the hon. Minister to improve the system, but the situation will not improve only by giving suggestions. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the officers of the exchange should go periodically, say weekly, to see whether the telephones installed are functioning properly or not. I demand that system of collecting such information is extremely necessary otherwise, inspite of Government's expenses the common public is not benefitted to that extent which they should get. The few suggestions given by the hon. Minister to improve this system ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Telephones remain out of order almost everywhere. I would like to know, by when the few suggestions given by the hon. Minister would be implemented?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : I am first a Member of Parliament and then a Minister and I am elected amongst the masses. The hon. Members and the august House is concerned about the telephones in the rural areas, and it is our concern as well, and we are not fully satisfied with it. The amount of money that is spent on the rural telephone is not being properly utilised. So we have ordered the C.B.I. to investigate whether all the formalities - technical, financial - are adopted rightly or not or the equipment is purchased arbitrarily. We have given this directive also that after contacting the hon. Members the District level officers will tell them how many telephones are in working condition, and how many are out of order, so that you know the right position, and you will also be able to observe when the right information is being given or not. Besides, we are giving telephone connections under MARR system and this is the last fortnight of 1996-97. The system of the Government is such that most of the Government works are usually completed in the last fortnight of the financial year. We have also given the instructions that priority should be given to all the suggestions or recommendations given by our hon. Member. If they can't instal they should explain why they can't instal it or why they can't consider his recommendations.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Member's question was about the six suggestion you have given and the time by which these would be implemented.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We have issued instructions in this connection and monitoring cells have been opened in every C.G.M. circle, through which we will be monitoring regularly, and we will seek the co-operation of all of you. We have associated hon. Members also in monitoring.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wanted to know the time limit but the Hon. Minister did not say anything about it. Along with the time-limit, I would also like to know by when telephone facility would be provided by the Government to the divisions and Block Head quarters where it has not been provided till date e.g. in my Bihar State, at Aurangabad there are many Block Headquarters where there is no telephone facility, Sunato, Gudmu etc. in Ranchi and other headquarters there are no telephones. By when telephone facility would be provided there? Besides by what time telephone facility would be provided at every Panchayat level? The hon. Minister has just now said about CBI enquiry into the bunglings but he has not categorically stated the time by which enquiry would be completed. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister. Till now how many people have been examined during the process of investigation and

what action has been taken thereon. I would like to know all these things from the hon. Minister?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, the orders of investigation have been given just now and now we will consider in the Department about the time-limit. As far as the hon. Member has said about the Block Headquarters, it is true that there should be exchanges at the Block Headquarters. Next year we would issue directions that in the next financial year block headquarters should also be covered for opening exchanges on priority basis.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this connection the criteria are not followed at all, and the influential people in the society who can afford to pay and grease the palms of officials are provided with telephone connections. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has received any complaint in this connection and if so what action has he taken against the corrupt officers?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Are you asking about Mirzapur?

SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Yes.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has himself told me about Mirzapur. We have also ordered vigilance enquiry of the case, and directed the officers to set up VPT wherever the hon. Member wishes to get it installed. The officers will obey, and if VPT can not be installed, the officers will explain to you as to why it can not be installed.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, every day we are talking about the rural upliftment. The public telephones in villages are expected to give easy communication facilities to villages. But in most of the villages, these telephones are not at all working. For example, in my Dindigul Parliamentary constituency, there are hundreds of telephones which are not working for the past several months.

The hon. Minister has given some details in his reply. It is very much disappointing. I do not know whether they are disappointing us or the officers who gave this information are disappointing themselves. In the reply, it is stated that in Haryana, all the telephones are working, in Kerala also, all the telephones are working, and about Calcutta, Delhi and Chennai, the information is not available... (Interruptions) In Tamilnadu, only 45 telephone exchanges are out of order. This is what is given in the reply. How can I believe it?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : I am coming to the question. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is having any correct picture of telephone exchanges that are not working in this country. How many village public telephones are there in our country? Has the Government gone into the details of

the erring officials? Has the Government got any figure regarding the action taken against those officials?  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to him first.  
*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : The information which the hon. Member is seeking is given in my reply to the main question. Whether the information which we are getting from the field is correct or otherwise will be investigated by an independent agency. The 400 instruments which were introduced in the beginning have proved failure. We know it and we will get it investigated by the C.B.I. or an independent agency. We are conducting the enquiry ourselves to know the reasons of its failure. We are not satisfied ourselves. We do agree with your feelings that these rural telephones are not functioning properly. We are investigating into it and we need your co-operation.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to know from the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be seated. It is an important question. I am aware of it. So I will allow more than five supplementary questions on it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you yourself are admitting that it is a most important issue, I, therefore, request to kindly allow half an hour discussion in this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is alright. Let the supplementary be taken up first. After that half-an-hour discussion will also be allowed. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister is not but the statement which he has given regarding telephone exchanges and rural PCO's lying out of order, he has told therein that only 204 rural PCO's are out of order in Maharashtra. He cannot go everywhere but whether the information which he has received is based on the reality? More than 204 rural PCO's are lying out of order in my own constituency.

He has evaded the reply which was expected from him to part (f) of the question. How best the telephone officials/officers are discharging their duties is known to all? I would like to know to whether you have any time-bound programme regarding the selection process of the members of the Committee to be constituted to conduct inquiry into the malpractices being committed in the Telephone department and do you intend to include any Member of Parliament in that Committee?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I don't know whether information is correct or not but I have directed to an independent agency to find

out the facts...*(Interruptions)* There is a institution in Hyderabad, one institution is in U.P. also. We invited quotations from them and very soon orders shall be placed with them. We have given a separate order to the CBI to conduct an inquiry regarding administrative or financial fault if found therein we ourselves are not satisfied with this information. That is why we have ordered an inquiry.

As far as the involvement of M.Ps is concerned, we have issued instructions to the field officers that they should inform the MPs regarding the actual number of VPTs functioning there so that they may be able to know whether their information is correct or not ...*(Interruptions)* We have issued instructions ...*(Interruptions)*. We shall take action against those who do not provide information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : All this information is wrong. Not even a single telephone is in order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, House is not satisfied with the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister and inspite of being Minister he himself is not satisfied with this information. How the constitutional problem arises because the Minister is accountable to the House and he is also Head of the department. If he himself is not satisfied then what is he doing in the Ministry? Any how we can realize his problem. Till yesterday he was engaged in political problems of Uttar Pradesh. Today their problem has been solved, they have almost lost U.P.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not a question of Uttar Pradesh.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am coming to the question, It has a political commotion. They had no time. They have given datas with regard to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and all over the country. Complaints are being received even from those places where there are last-chances of it. We challenge him that whatever figures he has submitted regarding Bihar are quite wrong. The Members from Madhya Pradesh are also saying the same that the figures in respect of their State are wrong. We would like to know through you whether he has got time to spare from his political engagements and whether by utilising his time he will be able to give correct figure. He himself admitted that most of the telephones in Bihar are out of order whereas not even 5 per cent telephones are in order in the villages. It is a reality. He told that he was giving directions to the Field officers to provide information to the Members of Parliament regarding the VPT's lying out of order alongwith the location thereof. What will be tell us? We know that all telephones are out of order. Informing us is not so important, What is required to keep them in order. We want to know that whether it is possible for the Hon'ble

Minister to leave Delhi and Lucknow to verse this problem personally in the state capitals particularly in Patna? Whether he will call all the officers and the Members of Parliament to discuss this problem so as to find out some way for improvement in the functioning of the telephone department? I cannot tell a lie in the House. If I am not satisfied, I shall never say that I am satisfied. We ourselves are emphasising the fact that VPTs are not functioning properly. Nitishji is my friend for the last 20 years. If they continue changing their colour the problems shall continue to arise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Come to the question.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : You have given suggestion of monitoring. I agree with you ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall allow, I have already noted down it. Let him speak first.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : In the reply it was told that it has also been asked whether at the time of placement of order for procurement of MRRR equipments for VPTs, all administrative, technical and financial norms have been taken into account? Due to some technical faults VPTs do not functioning properly. You told all this about VPTs. But you should pay attention towards the personal telephones for which bill is paid quarterly. Their telephones are also out of order. Whenever any Member of Parliament writes to the concerned officers, they reply that the work is not to be done by the MP, it is to be done by their staff. Whenever we visit their offices, they seem to be reluctant to meet us. What action you shall take against them for their such attitude?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Meghe, what is your question?

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : The complaint of MP is not attended to.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright, it is your question.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : You issue directions to the effect than the letters of Member of Parliament must be acknowledged. What are you going to do in this regard?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : If any officer ignores an Hon'ble Member of Parliament, he does not deserve to a officer. We shall consult you and Hon'ble Speaker also on this matter. We want your more participation in this regard so that more suggestion may come up.

*[English]*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : This is not correct. When I was Minister for Communications, there was a standing instruction that all SDOTs and DETs, by rotation, should contact the Members of Parliament and verify whether they have any complaint or anything like that about them. This has been withdrawn subsequently not by him but by somebody else. That instruction must go. Otherwise, it is true that no officer would listen to us. Members of Parliament should be contacted every now

and then by holding Consultative Committee meetings or Zonal Committee meetings. Let them discuss with the Members of Parliament and know about their complaints or suggestions. When they have got free telephones, why are they not doing that? So, I request the hon. Minister to kindly give that instruction as per his assurance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is an advisory supplementary!

*[Translation]*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We have not implemented the instructions thereof. After your consent and permission we shall meet Hon'ble Speaker and get it implemented. Till now the Member of Parliament were included in the telephone Advisory Committee. We are thinking about it that all MPs should be included in the telephone Advisory Committee so that it may be more effective...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall ask the fact benches also to speak. Let him be heard first.

SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI : Due to terrorism all telephones in Jammu and Kashmir are out of order. 12 telephone exchanges were set on fire. No PCO is working there. I would like to know by when these telephones shall put in order and there 12 telephone exchange be repaired? Simultaneously I would like to know by when telephone services between Delhi and Laddakh shall be restored?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We shall try with the our firm will to redress your grievances at the earliest possible. If you want to have a discussion on this issue, We also want that there should be complete discussion on the subject so that the feelings of all the people are reflected...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen one thing. You are also not subject and even the Minister is also not satisfied. It would be better if you have half-an-hour discussion or have a discussion under some rule.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How there will be one hour discussion. You may speak at that time. The Minister has also agreed.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have spent 25 minutes on just one point.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How many Half-an-hour discussions you will allow, Sir? I wanted to put a very categorical question.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sit down please. I will allow others also.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : The Government spent crores of rupees on spreading the Radio Telephone system in the villages. But at that time the excessive telephone system expended in the country in the name of Pam Petroda. Wait-battery is used in Radio telephone system which slowly and slowly, gets discharged. Due to this, it stops functioning. Now that system is being replaced by the solar battery system. May I ask you to let us know the names of the places where this system of Radio Telephone has been set-up? What are the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to set up such telephone exchanges in these villages where waiting list has been prepared for providing connections to the consumers?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : We are trying to achieve our target fixed for this year. Now we have introduced zero maintenance battery. Apart from this directions have been issued to achieve the target as soon as possible...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : O.K. Let us consume the whole time on only one point.

SHRI L. RAMANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, In Andhra Pradesh, 86, small Exchanges have been damaged due to the ongoing militant activities. In this connection, I have also held meetings with the hon'ble Minister. The Minister did set up a Review Committee in this respect consisting the Chief General Manager of Andhra Pradesh and Divisional Manager Telephone of my district. I want to know as to when these 86 small Exchanges are likely to start functioning alongwith the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone connection to the Sarpanch and local people?

*[English]*

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, Members from Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh should be heard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, listen to his reply.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : It is a fact that much damage was done to the Telephone Exchanges by the terrorism. Elsewhere also, such complaints have been received, therefore, we have included M.Ps. also in our job and requested them to give report themselves. We will try our best that these are repaired at the earliest.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one year back under West Bengal sub-Telecom circle, a 120-channel equipment was installed in my Constituency at Adra. Only six channels are working. The Telephone Exchange also is not working properly for the last three years. I am not getting any telephone either from Delhi or from my Constituency. May I know from the Minister whether he will take steps so that the 120-channel equipment, which was installed one year

back at Adra Exchange under West Bengal sub-Telecom Circle, starts functioning?

*[Translation]*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Acharia ji is one of our most respectful members. I will issue directions to the concerned officers today itself to look into his complaints...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Half an hour has been spent on this question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I have not been called ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Much time has been spent on this question. Half an hour has been devoted on one question.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may give it for Half an Hour Discussion. It will last for one hour on its own.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please maintain decorum.

### **Uplinking Facilities**

\*362. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether giving uplinking facilities on Indian soil to satellite television channels will help earn more foreign exchange and also increase employment potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fee proposed to be levied on private channels for uplinking from Indian soil; and

(d) the steps taken to popularise the Doordarshan international channel?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The issue of permitting uplinking facilities from Indian soil is related to the question of permitting private broadcasting from within the country. This and other related issues would be taken care of by the proposed broadcasting bill which is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

(d) Various measures such as increasing the telecast time, showing programmes/films including in regional languages for benefit of NRIs, live telecasting of events of national importance, publicising channel programmes and schedules etc. have been taken to increase the popularity of Doordarshan International. Further, our missions abroad have been asked to give wide publicity to the telecast schedules and also give

no-objection certificates to cable operators willing to downlink DD international channel for further distribution.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : If a channel has to uplink programmes from our country, it will have to invest money in India to produce the programmes which will mean more foreign investment and greater job opportunities. May I know from the Minister whether Doordarshan will seek the help of the Pan American Satellite Corporation to popularise Doordarshan International Channel?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : So far as DD-3 and DD-International channels are concerned, a Bill is coming before the Parliament. Once that Bill is passed, we can definitely say something about it.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : There are a large number of NRIs, living in more than 50 countries, who watch the programmes of DD-International channel. I would like to know whether the Indian Embassies and High Commissions would be provided with fund to set up Dish Antennae to receive the beam from Pas-I and Pas-IV Satellites being used by the Doordarshan or has any request been made to Pan American Satellite Corporation to help in making the Dish Antennae available to those countries where there are a large number of NRIs.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : In my reply itself I have said, so far as giving financial assistance to different Embassies is concerned, there is no such proposal with the Government. Of course, we are popularising it. We have increased the total duration of telecast to 18 hours. The fresh programmes will be telecast for 10 hours and the duration of repeat programmes has been increased to 8 hours. Once the programmes are popularised, the viewership will go up.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, time and again it has been asked on the floor of the House as to what kind of programmes are being aired in India through Satellite Channels. In my new these programmes are misleading the youth of our country and playing with their future. They are eroding our cultural heritage. A kind of mental perversion is taking place among our youth. The hon'ble Minister has time and again said that he would initiate some action in this regard because right now we are not having any policy to control the satellite channels. May I, therefore, know from the hon'ble Minister whether any decision has been taken in this regard or this Government is on the verge of its collapse and is not in a position to take a decision. I want an answer to this question from the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The very objective of our Prasar Bharati Bill is to put a check on all such programmes are against our culture, traditions and are being aired on Indian Soil. It was my heartiest desire to bring this Bill in this session itself — but certainly I will bring it in the next session.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am listening it for the last six months that it would be brought in, it would be brought in... (Interruptions) Programmes with vulgar scenes are being aired through satellite channels and ultimately, our Doordarshan has also started competing with these channels. Whether Satellite channels would come in the parameter of Doordarshan?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Yes.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the question is linked with the uplinking facilities to the satellite channels. Is it not a fact that the Government, as a matter of their collective policy, made it clear to the sports fraternity of India that they can augment their resources, they can negotiate with any TV channels they like for getting financial support? The Government has invited the sports' bodies and told them that the Finance Ministry had made it categorically clear that they have no objection to it in view of the liberal economic policy. Based on that policy, while a number of sports' bodies including that of Football negotiated with the foreign TV channels to sell their products. In spite of the judgement of the Supreme Court, the uplinking facility was not given by Doordarshan with the result that the Indian population is deprived of watching the game and also to earn resources.

The production quality of our Doordarshan is so bad that even if we project the game, the sponsors do not come forward. Doordarshan never paid the money till before the foreign channels came. I negotiated the matter time and again. On the 24th of this month, Nehru Cup will be staged in Cochin. Now, the viewers are asking me whether they would be allowed to watch it and I cannot say anything to them.

In view of this, will the Government find a *via-media* so that the foreign TV channels can get the uplinking facilities? It is because the Government's policy is that they do not pay even a single penny to sports' bodies and they have to augment their own resources.

Will the Government ensure that the uplinking facilities to satellite channels not jeopardise the interest of the national security and also at the same time an arrangement between the foreign TV channels and Doordarshan be made so that Doordarshan could also exhibit the game at the same time to viewers in India? Otherwise, what is the point of running the sports' bodies?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : That is what, in my first reply itself, I have clearly stated. We are keeping in view the judgement of the Supreme Court and also the commitment of the Government that in the next part of this Budget Session, we are going to bring the Broadcasting Law. In that law, we will deal with it. Whether it is down-linking or uplinking, all will be involved in that. Once the Bill comes before Parliament,

I think, the hon. Members will have more opportunities to speak. In the next part of this Budget Session, we are definitely, going to have this Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Minister, it is a matter pertaining to your office. We opposed this programme in the Ministry while you were sitting in Doordarshan. Now, he has joined the Star TV and is earning lakhs and lakhs of rupees. This is what is happening in India. You try to find out, who is doing it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, my question is also there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The officer who was working in my office should have taken into account that I am heading this department. I do not want to comment on anyone. But I can say that right now we don't have a law in this respect. Now the Supreme Court has given a ruling that we have got no power over AIR service. BBC service is not available in Singapore. NEWS is not available in France. I am not saying anything against the judgement but if our country is capable of making a law in this regard then we will not allow anything in our territory which is against our culture...*(Interruptions)* Bill is before the Cabinet and would be brought in the House in the next session...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : This supplementary still remains. Whether they will remain in the power next time or not?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now let them speak one by one.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter pertaining to providing uplinking facilities to Indian Companies from Indian soil has been pending with the Government for the last so many years. In the absence of this facility, though we are earning foreign exchange on the one hand but on the other hand, our companies have to work hard by paying frequent trips to Masco and Singapore. In the absence of uplinking facility, they can air any dimmed programme from other countries. They are not governed by the laws of our land. This uplinking facility is given by the four departments — Home, Space, Telecommunications and I and B. The hon'ble Minister must be knowing that within 13 days of my short Tennure I had held the meeting of the officers of these four departments to materialize this decision. I had also held meetings with all companies and removed all the impediments which were likely to stall the process of taking a final decision.

Now they remain no more. Only the decision remains to be taken. I want to ask the hon'ble Minister that when all the formalities pertaining to this important decision can be disposed of within 13 days then why could not you do it in the last ten months during your present tenure? You are holding the charge of this office for the last ten months, why could not you do it? Why is it still pending? You have included this aspect in the Broadcasting Bill. There are so many lacunas in this Bill that it is not going to pass easily. This Bill will be referred to ten Standing Committee and it will take years in getting the same passed. Will you be pleased to state whether you propose to take a final decision for giving this uplinking facility to Indian companies and whether you will exclude it from the purview of Broadcasting Bill...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Whenever I take decision, it is always a final decision. I never take an incomplete decision...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Is it your complete decision?...*(Interruptions)* You have kept it pending by including this aspect in the Bill. What is the answer to my question? You have been keeping it pending for the last ten months...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You have to be serious here. Such non-serious answer to this question will not do. The Government should function seriously ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : May I compliment the Information and Broadcasting Ministry that they have made lot of progress in Doordarshan? We have got different channels also. But there is no separate channel for sports purpose alone. It is high time we should have a channel exclusively for sports purposes. The biggest Sports Mela is going to take place in Cochin from the last week of March till the middle of April. Only a very few days are left now. Now the Football Federation is negotiating with Star TV. With whichever TV they are negotiating, they are ready to telecast it, may I ask the hon. Minister whether Doordarshan will assure the House that this biggest Football Mela of this country will be telecast and that live telecast will be given by Doordarshan from Cochin?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it related to this question?

SHRI A.C. JOS : I have put the question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry. It is not related to the original question.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The hon. Minister is ready to answer the question.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If he wants to reply, I have no objection.

[English]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I will have a discussion with Shri P.R. Dasmunsi. Of course, I was thinking to have meeting in my room. Even the Football Clubs or any Association in India must have this.

[Translation]

Because they pay comparatively more money but the viewers of star T.V. are only one percent whereas the viewership of Doordarshan is at least 29 crore. That is the facility of our country. If machinery is good enough and if somebody wants help for taking uplinking facility, we will try to give him... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You had your say. Let Shrimati Jayawantiben Mehta speak, now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the ultimate victim is the football team... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Jos, you are a senior Member, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, Doordarshan does not allow the sports bodies to give this to any other channel.

[Translation]

You have created a situation in which mother does not give food and father does not allow begging.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister is taking it lightly... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already allowed Shrimati Jayawantiben Mehta.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am asking this in the interest of the State of Kerala and the hon. Minister is not giving any assurance... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I will call Shri Dasmunsi for a meeting... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very beginning of this question, my sisters Uma Bharati, Sushma Swaraj and Munshiji made their respective submissions. Replying to their questions, the hon'ble Minister said that he would bring in the Bill in the next session. In reply to Question No. 366, the Minister has made two things clear. He has said that he would promote the cultural values of our society. In addition to these questions, I

want to ask further that when you bring the Bill, that will be discussed and passed at that time but leave it a side. I want to say that showing woman taking drinks, smoking cigarette and showing other similar things etc. on screen is against our culture.

So far as dignity and self-respect of women are concerned, you should issue orders that from today onwards those vulgar scenes will not be shown. My another question, which is very much linked with his one, is that... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now it is sufficient, you can ask only one question you, please, let him give his reply.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : My next question is also in this connection. In reply to this, he has said that a selection Committee has been set-up therefor.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : What is your question?

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : My question is that whether you are going to issue orders for putting a ban on it today itself. The selection committee consists of only bureaucrats, so I would like to know whether you propose to include some social figures also in this committee.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It is very good suggestion, I will look into it.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is taking it lightly. He should issue orders on such a serious issue.

#### New Reserves of Gold

363. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the mines alongwith the quantity and value of gold extracted therefrom during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far;

(b) the total reserves of gold in the country at present;

(c) the States where exploration of gold has been going on;

(d) whether new gold reserves have been located in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and some other States;

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

(f) the steps taken for proper exploration of gold?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) The details of the mines alongwith the quantity and value of gold extracted therefrom during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto February, 1997) are indicated below :

Name of the Mine	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Production	Value	Production	Value	Production	Value
<b>Bharat Gold Mines Ltd</b>						
M.C.A.	81.30	379.51	87.61	434.56	68.87	352.89
Nandydroog	271.77	1268.62	281.44	1395.94	287.89	1475.16
Chigargunta	138.55	646.75	132.57	657.55	136.76	700.76
Old Bisanatham	24.58	114.74	24.93	123.65	32.60	167.04
Yappamanna	87.74	409.57	79.31	393.38	65.18	333.98
Hosur Champion	13.67	63.34	10.04	49.80	6.12	31.36
<b>Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited</b>						
Hutti Unit	1232.44	5834.49	1011.09	4903.52	1249.15	5621.18
Chitradurga	6.00	217.55	50.20	246.81	159.43	717.44
<b>Hindustan Copper Limited</b>						
HCL (By-product)	480.00	2241.30	375.00	1805.24	510.00	2448.00

(\*) Based on the average price of gold realised at Indian Market.

(b) The total reserves of gold-ore in the country is 45.2 million tonnes as on 1.4.1990. An additional reserve of 6.73 million tonnes of gold-ore has been established during the last three years (1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96).

(c) Exploration for gold is being undertaken in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has located new deposits of gold in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra during the last three years. The details are as follows :

**Karnataka** - (i) Hira-Buddini, Raichur District, (ii) Chinmulgund, Dharwar District, (iii) Nagavi, Dharwar District, (iv) Ajjanhalli West Block, Tumkur District (v) G.R. Halli, South Block, Chitradurga District.

**Andhra Pradesh** - (i) Dona Temple Block, Kurnool District (ii) Kothapalle Block, Anantapur District (iii) Kudithanpalle Block, Chittoor District.

**Kerala** - (i) Kappil Sector, Mallapuram District.

**Rajasthan** - (i) Anantpuri-Bhukia, Banswara District.

**Madhya Pradesh** - (i) Gurharpahar West, Sidhi District.

**Maharashtra** - (i) Parspro West Block, Nagpur District.

(f) National Mineral Policy, 1993 encourages induction of foreign technology and foreign participation

in exploration and mining of high value and scarce minerals which include gold also.

In its field programme, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has taken up a number of items of exploration of gold with geological mapping, geo-chemical and geo-physical surveys. A Sub-Committee (Group-IV) formed exclusively for Noble Metals under the Central Geological Programme Board of GSI reviews regularly the total gold exploration carried out in the country and forms guidelines and identifies areas for exploration of gold.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the demand of gold is constantly increasing. On many occasions in the past we had to sell our gold in order to improve our economy. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister about the modern indigenous and foreign technology available with us for mining of gold reserves at lesser cost in our country with a view to meet the growing demand of gold.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I do agree with the hon. Member that the production of gold in our country is very less. Our demand is 475 tonnes whereas we produce only two tonnes, the rest we are getting through import or from recycling. It is a very important question. The Government has taken several measures

to increase the gold production in our country. The Geological Survey of India is the nodal surveying agency which explores gold in our country. The Government will strive its best to give more money to the Geological Survey of India.

Looking to the demand of gold in our country, after liberalisation of the economy in 1993, the new Mineral Policy was announced. Previously, gold was reserved only for the public sector, now gold is open for the private sector also *viz*, both for foreign and domestic investments. It is because gold is a very high risk area. More money is required. Modern technology is required. Geological survey is not adequate equipped to tackle this problem. So we are inviting investment to produce more gold in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question was about the number and names of the foreign companies through which we are undertaking our mining work but that has not been replied.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I categorically said that after the liberalisation of economy in our country, we are encouraging both foreign and domestic investments. Regarding the specific question regarding which foreign company involved in gold exploration in the country, there is a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Hindustan Zinc and BHP, Australia for mineral recovery in the eight districts of Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has told in his reply to my question that an additional reserve of 6.73 metric tonne gold ore was explored during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. He has informed about many such other places. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister the quantity of gold ore explored in Gurhar hills of Madhya Pradesh and at other places in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. What are the figures available with him in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, I cannot give the actual figure right now. It is because gold is a very high rise area. Exploration is going on. The recovery percentage is not because gold in our country is of poor grade.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a technical matter and when any survey is conducted, it becomes known as to how much quantity of gold is available at a particular place. Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister is not giving us actual figures.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has said that figures are not available with him.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what are the Government's foreign investment policy in respect of mining work. How much capital has been invested and what are the conditions thereof?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : After the liberalisation of our economy, new policies were announced and mineral sector is opened both for the domestic and foreign investments. Gold has also attracted enquiries. Foreign investment is good. There is no automatic approval for equity participation in gold. It is done on case to case basis. The Foreign Investment Board gives permission on certain conditions. The conditions are the size of the project, commitment of the external resources, previous track record of the company, level of technology to be employed in the project and financial status of the company.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### PCO/Radio Telephones in Gram Panchayats

\*364. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is being introduced by the Government for linking the Gram Panchayats with Public Call Office and Radio Telephones in the country;

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

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats linked with Public Call Offices and Radio Telephones in the country till now, State-wise; and

(d) the target fixed for 1997-98 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) There is already an existing scheme in the Department for providing public telephones in all the villages of the country including Gram Panchayats. The Radio technology such as Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) is utilised wherever technically necessary.

(c) The details are provided in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The targets for 1997-98 is yet to be finalised.

**Statement**

S. No.	Circle	Total Gram Panchayats in Circle as on 28.2.97	Gram Panchayats Provided with VPTs as on 15.3.97
1.	Andaman Nicobar	67	53
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19533	17095
3.	Assam	2485	2080
4.	Bihar	11792	8907
5.	Gujarat	13510	12215
6.	Haryana	5946	5400
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2757	2460
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1461	740
9.	Karnataka	5676	5340
10.	Kerala	982	982
11.	Madhya Pradesh	30922	19226
12.	Maharashtra	24937	22249
13.	North-East	4241	2206
14.	Orissa	5261	4973
15.	Punjab	11743	9252
16.	Rajasthan	9178	8208
17.	Tamil Nadu	13288	12994
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	61262	19054
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	16609	7998
20.	West Bengal	3295	3225
21.	Calcutta Tel	468	107
Total		245413	164844

[English]

**Regional Office of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.**

\*365. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Offices of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited are proposed to be wound up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any new guidelines have been chalked out to intensify the mineral exploration activities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) In the interest of consolidating and improving the

financial position of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) the Expert Committee set up by the Ministry of Mines has recommended the replacement of the present 3-Tier structure by a 2-Tier structure by abolishing Area Offices. Certain action was initiated towards implementation of these recommendations. However, on receipt of some representations, the recommendations are presently under review.

(c) and (d) As per the new Mineral Policy, 1993 announced by the Government of India, mining sector has been thrown open to private investors including foreign parties. Therefore, MECL, in order to operate in an open and competitive environment is required to improve its operations by adopting modern techniques of exploration. MECL is to expand its operations by securing more and more exploration jobs on contractual basis which will make the Company financially viable while its role on promotional exploration activities will be limited to the budgetary support from the Government.

**Serials**

\*366. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the serials shown on Doordarshan are trivialising serious social issues;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the norms fixed for selection of serials on TV network;

(d) whether any irregularities have come to the notice of the Government regarding approval of serials;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to select a slot and serials for Doordarshan;

(g) if so, the details of the composition of the said committee;

(h) whether the Government also propose to associate CBI officials in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to approve programmes which propagate high social values combined with wholesome entertainment. In particular, preference is given to programmes which promote good socio-cultural values, among other things.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The broad criteria for selection of serials are as follows :

(i) Storyline and its contemporary relevance;

- (ii) Treatment of theme;
- (iii) Overall competence of the technical crew, and
- (iv) Relevance to Doordarshan's programme requirements.

(d) and (e) Such complaints are received at various kendras and the Directorate General, Doordarshan from time to time. Complaints of a serious nature indicating gross procedural irregularities are enquired into departmentally and the matter referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) whenever warranted. Out of 7 such complaints, which were enquired either departmentally or through CBI, no irregularity could be established in 4 cases. In 2 cases, prosecution proceedings have been launched against the officers concerned. One case is still under investigation.

(f) and (g) Doordarshan has already set up a new selection committee to select slots and serials under the Chairmanship of Director General, Doordarshan which consists of :

- (i) Deputy Director General (DD-1)
  - (ii) Deputy Director General (DD-2)
  - (iii) Deputy Director General (DD-3)
  - (iv) Deputy Director General (DD-International)
  - (v) Controller of Programme concerned.
- (h) No, Sir.
- (i) Does not arise.

#### Proposal for Laying Down New Railway Lines

\*367. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether proposals for laying new railway lines from State Governments have been received by the Government of India;
- (b) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has also submitted any proposal to the Union Government for laying new railway lines in the States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the details of railway lines being laid in the State at present?

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

(b) A proposal has been received from the Governor of Uttar Pradesh for providing a rail link from Tugalakabad to Maripat via NOIDA Greater NOIDA.

(c) A survey for the proposed line has been ordered. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(d) The information is given as under :—

*Projects  
New Line*

Katra-Faizabad

*Gauge Conversion*

Mau-Shahganj

Chappra-Aunrihar

Mathura-Achnera

Khadda-Gorakhpur

Kashipur-Lalkuan

Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura and Kasganj-Bareilly

*Doubling*

Tundla-Yamuna Bridge

Kanpur-Panki 3rd line

Muradnagar-Meerut

Ghaziabad-Moradabad patch doubling

Gonda-Jarwal Road

Gorakhpur-Sahajanva

[Translation]

#### Doordarshan Kendras/Studios

\*368. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :  
SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL :

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

- (a) the number of HPTs, LPTs and VLPTs in the country, at present with particular reference to Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Government propose to set up new Doordarshan kendras/studios in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the locations thereof;
- (d) whether the Government also propose to link all Panchayat headquarters in the country particularly in Rajasthan with Doordarshan relay centres, and
- (e) if so, the time by which all these projects are likely to be set up and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 87 HPTs, 579 LPTs, 158 VLPTs and 20 Transposers, including 2 HPTs, 55 LPTs, 12 VLPTs and 2 Transposers in the State of Rajasthan, are presently in operation in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### Statement

*State-wise Details of Doordarshan Kendra/Studio Projects Presently under Implementation/Envisaged to be set up in the Country*

State	Under Implementation	Envisaged to be set up
Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada Warangal	Vizag
Bihar	Ranchi (AUG.)	-
Gujarat	Rajkot (AUG.)	Junagarh
Haryana	-	Hissar
Kerala	Trichur	Calicut
Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior Jagdalpur Indore	-
Maharashtra	Bombay (EXP.) Nagpur (AUG.) Pune	-
Orissa	Bhawanipatna Sambalpur (PMT.)	-
Punjab	Patiala	-
Rajasthan	Udaipur	-
Sikkim	Gangtok	-
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Madurai Salem
Uttar Pradesh	Mau Allahabad Mathura Varanasi	-
West Bengal	Jalpaiguri Shantiniketan (PMT.)	-
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	-
Delhi	Delhi (AUG.) Parliament (PMT.)	-

**Note :** No such projects are presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in other States/Union Territories.

**Legend :** AUG. - Augmentation  
EXP. - Expansion  
PMT. - Permanent Set-up

### Waiting List for Telephones

\*369. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the waiting list for telephone connections is continuously increasing in the metropolitan cities of the country for the last few years;

(b) if not, the number of applicants on the waiting lists in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Jaipur, Lucknow and Patna during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any final time limit to sanction telephone connections to the registrants of 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Waiting list for telephone connections as on 31st March, 1996 was less than that on 31st March, 94 in all the four metro cities (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta).

(b) The number of applicants in the waiting list in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Jaipur, Lucknow and Patna during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to provide 29 lakh telephone connections in the country during 1997-98 as against a target of providing 24.5 lakh telephone connections during 1996-97 with this provision it is expected that the waiting list upto 31st March, 1997 in most of the exchange areas in as many as eight telecom Circles, including metro cities, will be cleared during 1997-98. In the remaining areas the waiting list will be cleared progressively during 1997-98 and thereafter.

### Statement

S. No.	City	Waiting List		
		1993-94 As on 31.3.94	1994-95 As on 31.3.95	1995-96 As on 31.3.96
1.	Delhi	250901	130243	9221
2.	Mumbai	93296	50039	10572
3.	Calcutta	48627	52393	47361
4.	Jaipur	62043	62598	46790
5.	Lucknow	5853	7827	11334
6.	Patna	5136	2285	6067

[English]

### Aircraft Maintenance Services

\*370. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "AI to market aircraft maintenance services" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated February 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and facts relating to the proposal under consideration;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared for implementation and implication thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A multi-disciplinary marketing cell has been set up to explore the possibilities of taking up third party jobs of maintenance and overhaul of air-frames, engines, etc. of domestic as well as international airlines.

#### Import of Fuel

\*371. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have been importing fuel;

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

(c) the countries from where the fuel is being imported by the above airlines;

(d) whether the cost of imported fuel is less in comparison to its cost in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof and estimated savings of AI and IA in importing the fuel;

(f) the steps taken to reduce fuel prices in the country;

(g) whether the directives of the Government regarding Station-wise fuel quota, prices and actual lifting are being complied with by Air India; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (f) In 1995, Indian Airlines imported 32,600 kilolitres of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) through Indian Oil Corporation under Special Import Licence (SIL). The Company saved Rs. 17 crores due to price differential between the imported and domestic fuel. Subsequently due to imposition of surcharge and levying of customs duty on such imports, Indian Airlines discontinued the import of ATF. Air India does not import ATF but uplifts it from online stations wherever necessary.

The fuel prices in India are about 51% higher than the average fuel prices in the international market.

(g) and (h) No such directives have been issued by the Government.

#### Revision of Royalty Rates of Mineral

\*372. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a statutory body to revise the Royalty rates of minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a decision was taken to revise the royalty rate of minerals in every three years;

(d) if so, the reasons for not revising the royalty rate of Lignite since 1990;

(e) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented to streamline the existing system of fixing the royalty rates of minerals departmentally; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (f) As per the provisions of Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 the Central Government may by notification in official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule to the Act, so as to enhance or reduce the rates at which royalty shall be payable in respect of major minerals with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, but no enhancement in the rates of royalty in respect of such minerals can be made more than once during any period of three years.

The Central Government constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than coal lignite and sand for stowing). The Study Group had members from some of the important mineral producing States including Gujarat. The Study Group also had consultation with the State Governments and the mining industry and considered the question of revision of rates of Royalty on major minerals and dead rent in all its aspects within the scope of its term of reference before submitting its report to the Government. The Study Group submitted its report in November, 1995. The report of the Study Group has been examined and the revision of rates is under consideration of the Government.

As regards lignite, action for review of royalty on lignite has been initiated by the Ministry of Coal.

[Translation]

#### Permission to Foreign Companies to Advertise their Products

\*373. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) whether the Government have agreed to permit foreign companies to advertise their products on all channels of Doordarshan;

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

(c) the estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned each year as a result thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to meet the demand of foreign exchange which goes out of country as a result of advertisement given by the Indian manufacturers for their products on Star TV Channels after implementation of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. It has been allowed w.e.f. March, 1994.

(b) The telecast of advertisements including that of foreign products on Doordarshan is governed by the Code for Commercial Advertisements on Doordarshan. The telecast fee is charged on the basis of Commercial Rate Card which is updated from time to time.

(c) Payments are received in Indian Rupee only.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Implementation of Recommendations of Kelkar Committee

\*374. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations alongwith the decision taken by the Government on each of the recommendations, with particular reference to the recommendation regarding fleet planning for Indian Airlines; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government for implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Kelkar Committee was set up to make a comprehensive examination of the reasons for losses of Indian Airlines and to formulate a turn around strategy.

The Committee after examination, concluded that Indian Airlines, which was a profitable organisation till 1988-89 started incurring losses for reasons beyond its control, the three main reasons being the grounding of the A-320 fleet for a prolonged period, the merger of Vayudoot with Indian Airlines and its operations in uneconomic sectors over prescribed limits.

It was in this context that the Committee recommended a turn around strategy. The important recommendations of the Kelkar Committee relate to :-

(i) Financial restructuring, which includes capital injection of Rs. 922 crores in the form of

compensation, subordinated loan, equity, and contribution by Indian Airlines and its employees.

(ii) Fleet Planning.

(iii) Route Rationalisation.

(iv) Organisational Restructuring.

(v) Human Resource Management.

The Kelkar Committee has recommended that the capital injection would start giving returns to Government on its contribution from the year 1999-2000. It has concluded that the turn-around package should be considered and adopted early and in totality.

As this turn-around strategy involves a large amount of financial contribution, the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission to expedite implementation.

[English]

#### Import of Steel

\*375. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :  
SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Steel imported during each of the last two years and current financial year, so far; country-wise;

(b) the sector in which the imported Steel is being used;

(c) details of domestic production of Steel at present; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the import of Steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The quantity of Steel imported during each of the last two years and current financial year (April-August, 1997), country-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Sectors for which the Steel is being imported include Cold Rolling Units, Auto/Cycle industry, Container industry, Galvanising units, Engineering industry, Electrical industry, Re-rolling industry, Heavy Industry, etc.

(c) The total production of finished Steel during current year upto February, 1997 is estimated to be 20.4 million tonnes comprising about 10.2 million tonnes each of flat and non-flat products.

(d) As per the existing policy, import of Steel is freely allowed. The producers of Steel are constantly orienting their production to meet the market needs. Modernisation and expansion of Steel plants of SAIL has been taken up towards this objective. Since 1991, Government has also adopted various policy measures

to encourage creation of additional Steel production capacities in the private sector. With the setting up of Steel plants in the private sector mainly to produce flat products, a major portion of the demand for hot rolled coils/cold rolled coils which are presently imported is likely to be met by indigenous production.

### Statement

#### Country-wise Import of Carbon Steel

Country	('000 tonnes)		
	94-95	95-96	96-97 (April-August)
Australia	74.2	77.3	3.1
Austria	13.1	1.1	2.2
Belgium	68.6	65.6	66.9
Brazil	83.5	61.7	8.5
Bulgaria	7.2	-	-
Canada	0.6	1.5	2.6
China	5.2	9.6	0.3
CIS	163.8	414.7	56.4
Czech	3.1	9.4	0.5
Finland	14.1	2.7	1.9
France	65.5	36.4	35.7
Germany	296.4	209.2	77.5
Holland	22.8	36.4	25.4
Hungary	2.5	5.6	2.1
Iran	213.6	106.1	47.4
Italy	59.0	33.1	10.9
Japan	128.9	196.6	82.9
Korea	82.7	60.2	23.9
Kuwait	5.0	1.4	0.1
Mexico	-	12.5	-
Poland	1.3	26.8	1.7
Romania	7.8	13.3	2.8
Singapore	4.7	5.5	5.7
Slovak Rep.	60.5	33.0	9.2
South Africa	164.7	73.4	15.7
Spain	42.9	8.9	19.2
Sweden	7.4	4.1	1.3
Tanzania	-	-	-
Turkey	59.0	4.1	-
U.K.	73.6	101.0	48.1
U.S.A.	69.3	101.6	39.1
Venezuela	0.2	6.5	-
Others	60.2	64.5	43.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1861.4</b>	<b>1783.8</b>	<b>634.1</b>

### Gauge Conversion

\*376. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of narrow/metre gauge lines converted into broad gauge during the Eighth Five Year Plan, Zone/State-wise;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon, Zone-wise;

(c) the details of narrow/metre gauge lines proposed to be converted into broad gauge during Ninth Five Year Plan, Zone/State-wise;

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, Zone-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to take up conversion work through private funding; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The sections in different zones which have been completed so far and those to be completed in the 8th plan are given below :

	92-93		Zone	State
	Completed Section			
Delhi-Rewari	83	NR	Haryana/Delhi	
Lalgarh-Merta Rd	177	NR	Rajasthan	
Lalgarh-Kolayat	47	NR	Rajasthan	
Sawaimadhopur-Jaipur	125	WR	Rajasthan	
Nadiad-Kapadvanj	45	WR	Gujarat	
Bangalore-Tumkur	59	SR	Karnataka	
Mysore-Bangalore	138	SR	Karnataka	
Dindigul-Tuticorin	196	SR	Tamil Nadu	
Bangalore-Yellahanka	12	SR	Karnataka	
Guntur-Narsaraopet	46	SCR	AP	
Bellary-Rayadurg	54	SCR	AP/Kar.	
Aurangabad-Jalna	64	SCR	Maharashtra	
Parbhani-Parlivaijnath	63	SCR	Maharashtra	
Burhwal-Mehmoodabad	38	NER	UP	
Kotkapura-Fazilka	80	NR	Punjab	
Lucknow-Kanpur	59	NR	UP	
Mankapur-Katra	30	NER	UP	
Purulia-Kotshila	35	SER	WB	
	1351			
	93-94		Zone	State
	Completed Section			
	1	2	3	4
Bhatnada-Hissar	157	NR	Haryana	Punjab
Jaipur-Phulera	55	WR	Rajasthan	

1	2	3	4
Phulera-Jodhpur	261	NR	Rajasthan
Tumkur-Arasikere	101	SR	Karnataka
Arasikere-Chickjajur	114	SR	Karnataka
Narsaraopet-Donakonda	75	SCR	AP
Secunderabad-Mehboobnagar	127	SCR	AP
Madras-Tambaram	27	SR	TN
Chickjajur-Chitradurg	16	SR	Karnataka
Jalna-Parbhani	116	SCR	Maharashtra
Gondia-Arjuni	82	SER	Maharashtra
Secunderabad-Bolarum	14	SCR	AP
Allahabad-Varanasi	126	NER	UP
Guwahati-Lumding	181	NFR	Assam
Mehmoodabad-Sitapur	60	NER	UP
Merta Rd-Merta City	15	NR	Rajasthan
Daund-Baramati	42	CR	Maharashtra
Lalkuan-Kathgodam	29	NER	UP
Patel Nagar-Sarai	3	NR	Delhi
Durgapur-Jaipur	8	WR	Rajasthan
Mysore-Ashok Puram	5	SR	Karnataka
Lucknow-Manaknagar	5	NER	UP
	1619		
94-95 Completed Section	Kms.	Zone	State
1	2	3	4
Hissar-Rewari	143	NR	Haryana
Phulera-Ajmer	81	WR	Rajasthan
Rewari-Jaipur	225	WR	Rajasthan
Mehsana-Khodiyar	52	WR	Gujarat
Delhi Cantt-DLI/NDLS	14	NR	Delhi
Jodhpur-Jaisalmer	295	NR	Rajasthan
Chickjajur-Harihar	60	SR	Karnataka
Harihar-Hubli	129	SR	Karnataka
Hubli-Londa	93	SCR	Karnataka
Londa-Miraj	188	SCR	Karnataka
Birur-Shimoga	63	SR	Karnataka
Hubli-Gadag-Hariapur	78	SCR	Karnataka
Alnavar-Amedwadi	26	SCR	Karnataka
Donakonda-Giddalur	84	SCR	AP
Chickjajur-Chitradurg	18	SR	Karnataka
Parbhani-Purna	29	SCR	Maharashtra
Purna-Nanded	32	SCR	Maharashtra
Arjuni-Wadsa	23	SER	Maharashtra

1	2	3	4
Muzaffarpur-Raxau	129	NER	Bihar
Lumding-Nailalung	22	NFR	Assam
Chapermukh-Haibargaon	21	NFR	Assam
	1805		
95-96 Completed Section	Kms.	Zone	State
Hariapur-Hospet	67	SCR	Karnataka
Hospet-Swamahalli	60	SCR	Karnataka
Londa-Castlerock	25	SCR	Karnataka
Mudkhed-Nanded	23	SCR	AP
Nailalung-Dimapur	38	NFR	Assam
Yellahanka-Chickballapur	46	SR	Karnataka
Makrana-Parbatsar	21	WR	Rajasthan
Samastipur-Darbhanga	37	NER	Bihar
Giddalur-Nandyal	69	SCR	AP
Gunda Rd-Kottur	50	SCR	Karnataka
Aunrihar-Chhapra	171	NER	UP
Yeshwantpur-Salem	46	SR	Kar/TN
Chhindwara-Parasia	28	CR	MP
Dimapur-Furkating	70	NFR	Assam
Guwahati-Kamakhya	7	NFR	Assam
	758		
96-97 Completed Section	Kms.	Zone	State
Wadsa-Nagbir	28	SER	Maharashtra
Arasikere-Hassan	47	SR	Karnataka
Hossur-Salem	151	SR	TN
Mau-Shahganj	99	NER	UP
Hassan-Holenarsipur	30	SR	Karnataka
Mehsana-Marwar-Ajmer	423	WR	Rajasthan
Sagauli-Narkatiaganj	59	NER	Bihar
Castle Rock-Vasco	87	SCR	Goa
Total	924		
<i>Works in progress</i>			
Guntakal-Nandyal	136	SCR	AP
Tinsukia-Lekhapani	63	NFR	Assam
Bangarpet-Kolar	18	SR	Karnataka
Furkating-Tinsukia	193	NFR	Assam
Tinsukia-Dibrugarh	48	NFR	Assam
	458		
	1382		

(b) The total expenditure incurred during the 8th five year plan Zone-wise is as under :—

Zone	Exp. in crs. of Rs.				
	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97 (Upto Jan'97)
CR	1	13.1	8.89	27.82	14.86
ER	0	0	0	0	0
NR	151.62	239.16	195.05	38.59	10.53
NER	68.11	84.19	128.49	162.46	85.75
NFR	83.31	59.95	97.71	116.72	145.59
SR	133.06	161.23	187.26	234.94	172.2
SCR	179.31	235.11	392.81	478.41	198.04
SER	11.81	69.14	28.35	35.56	21.05
WR	65.69	137.62	224.98	156.77	190.25
Total	693.91	999.51	1263.54	1251.26	838.37

(c) The lines to be converted during the 9th five year plan have not yet been finalised. However, in the first year of the 9th plan viz 97-98, the following sections will be converted :

Section	Kms.	Cost of the entire project	Zone	State
Jodhpur-Marwar	103	100	NR	Rajasthan
Hotgi-Bijapur	100	208	SCR	Karnataka
Nagbir-Chandafort	111	242	SER	Maharashtra
Mehboobnagar-Dronachellam	185	283	SCR	AP
Mysore-Holenarsipur	87	119	SR	Karnataka
Chennai-Tirchy	312	300	SR	Tamil Nadu
Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	55	50	NER	Bihar
Mariani-Furkating loop	85	552	NFR	Assam
Hajipur-Bachwara	71	71	NER	Bihar
Tirchy-Thanjavur	50	139	SR	Tamil Nadu
Hassan-Sakleshpur	42	185	SR	Karnataka
Simalguri-Moranhat	54	552	NFR	Assam

(d) The 9th plan has not yet been finalised. The expenditure likely to be incurred on the projects to be opened in the first year of the 9th plan viz 97-98 is shown in reply to part (c).

(e) Not at present, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Electronic Exchanges

\*377. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the targets for setting up of electronic exchanges in the country have been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) if not, the stage where delay is being caused and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the locations where the Government propose to set up electronic exchanges during 1997, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The overall net switching capacity targets for setting up of electronic exchanges in the country for the last three years have been achieved as detailed below :

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	(in lakh lines)		
Targets	15.44	19.00	24.00
Achievements	18.27	22.30	26.02

(b) and (c) The Telecom Circle-wise details for the last three years, viz. 1993-94, 94-95 and 95-96 are given in the enclosed statement. Even though targets are not achieved in some Circles during certain years due to non-availability of infrastructure in time, overall targets

have been achieved by taking action of diversion of equipments.

(d) The details of locations for 1997-98 have not been finalised.

**Statement**

S.No.	Circles	93-94		94-95		95-96	
		Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements
1.	Andhra Pradesh	101856	149537	141000	118617	188882	121328
2.	Assam	16000	16388	16460	17104	15704	25477
3.	Bihar	47732	44541	50240	66012	28464	39095
4. @	Gujarat	126616	123866	173100	162099	229098	146588
5.	Haryana	36736	53417	31600	64931	88616	68948
6.	Himachal Pradesh	14768	22410	20340	28320	65036	40232
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	9968	10890	4850	9811	41853	17181
8.	Karnataka	85522	108170	118300	183383	191648	137873
9. +	Kerala	95440	95794	111220	121277	322597	167088
10.	Madhya Pradesh	73540	144467	91600	117860	168895	96503
11. \$	Maharashtra	162828	169780	144600	181031	275179	273353
12. *	North East	10700	14413	10860	12062	25750	22616
13.	Orissa	33906	34692	13370	20120	30130	31082
14. @@	Punjab	77404	78682	113800	126477	219504	152513
15.	Rajasthan	88780	105134	112900	116039	171351	127863
16. ++	Tamil Nadu	99502	81564	123800	137838	280252	178822
17. \$\$	Uttar Pradesh (E)	147564	116212	129300	139958	82540	79193
18. +\$	Uttar Pradesh (W)	-	-	-	-	96534	106077
19. **	West Bengal	21960	19885	25460	38906	46813	51404
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	1300	1417	1388	1384
21.	Mumbai	87000	187372	252000	272000	238550	238540
22.	Calcutta	56000	55530	56500	53420	85500	58734
23.	Delhi	96000	154050	504000	201000	249690	283050
24.	Chennai	60700	40050	71000	40380	137000	86950
		1550522	1826844	2317600	2230070	3280974	2601894

N.B. :-

@ Gujarat circle includes Gujarat, Daman and Diu

+ Kerala circle includes Kerala and Mahe

\$ Maharashtra circle includes Maharashtra (except Mumbai) and Goa

\* North East circle includes Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

@@ Punjab circle includes Punjab and Chandigarh

++ Tamil Nadu circle includes Tamil Nadu (except Chennai) and Pondicherry

\$\$ Uttar Pradesh (E) circle includes complete UP State for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 and Eastern UP only for the year 1995-96

+\$ Uttar Pradesh (W) circle includes western UP only for the year 1995-96

\*\* West Bengal circle includes West Bengal (except Calcutta), Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar for the year 1993-94 only.

### Mineral Reserves in Bihar

\*378. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar has the largest number of mineral reserves in the country;

(b) whether the Geological Survey of India have conducted any survey in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to exploit these minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Bihar is endowed with several economic minerals deposits and is one among the few states in India which is rich in mineral wealth.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted the survey for all the major minerals of Bihar the important once being, Bauxite, Copper, Coal, Chromite, Iron Ore, Gold, Apatite, Asbestos, Fire-Clay, Graphite, Kyanite, Limestone, Mica, Tin, Pyrite, Felspar, Vermiculite, Lepidolite, Baryte, Andalusite, Nickel-Cobalt, Talc-steatite, etc.

(d) Any exploration/exploitation agency is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting prospecting licence/mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder and in the light of the New National Mineral Policy, 1993 announced by the Government of India.

[Translation]

### Per Capita Average of Telephone Connections

\*380. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita average of telephone connection in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the demand of telephone connection is increasing due to the increase of population rapidly;

(c) if so, the extent upto which the target of providing one telephone connection per hundred persons has been achieved; and

(d) the number of telephone connection likely to be provided during 1997-98 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) The demand of telephone connections is increasing due to the rise in per capita income in India. Population increase also contributes to an increase in demand.

(c) The target of providing one telephone connection per hundred persons has already been achieved for the country.

(d) The target of providing 29 lakh telephone connections (DELS) has been set for the year 1997-98.

### Statement

Statewise per capita average of telephone connections as on 31.03.96.

S.No.	State	Per capita average number of telephone connections	
		(Per person)	(Per 100 Population)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.0111	1.11
2.	Assam	0.0043	0.43
3.	Bihar	0.0030	0.30
4.	Gujarat (a)	0.0200	2.00
5.	Haryana	0.0159	1.59
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.0184	1.84
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.0059	0.59
8.	Karnataka	0.0159	1.59
9.	Kerala (b)	0.0220	2.20
10.	Madhya Pradesh	0.0084	0.84
11.	Maharashtra (c)	0.0276	2.76
12.	North East (d)	0.0069	0.69
13.	Orissa	0.0048	0.48
14.	Punjab (e)	0.0247	2.47

[English]

### Expenditure on Aviation Fuel

\*379. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has to spend Rs. 200 crore more on aviation fuel during the current financial year than originally estimated;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure on Airline's fuel against the original estimate;

(c) the reasons for pushing such burden; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) The actual expenditure on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) for 1996-97 is likely to be Rs. 758.82 crores as against the budget estimate of Rs. 753.53 crores. The excess in expenditure is mainly due to increase in average fuel consumption and prices of ATF.

1	2	3	4
15.	Rajasthan	0.0099	0.99
16.	Tamilnadu (f)	0.0168	1.68
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.0052	0.52
18.	West Bengal (g)	0.0081	0.81
19.	Delhi	0.0994	9.94
	All India	0.0128	1.28

(a) Including Daman, Diu, Dadar and Nagar Haveii.

(b) Including Lakshadweep (UT).

(c) Including Goa and Mumbai.

(d) Including Arunachal Pradesh Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

(e) Including Chandigarh.

(f) Including Chennai and Pondicherry (UT).

(g) Including Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Calcutta.

Note : For computing the per capita telephone connection, the population projection as on 1.3.96 from Registrar General of India has been taken.

[English]

### Travel Agents

4008. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Government officials are purchasing air tickets for touring within the country from the travel agents;

(b) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in the matter to save the public fund going into the hands of travelling agents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) As per the existing instructions Government officials on official tour are required to purchase tickets directly from Air India or Indian Airlines. In case, due to some unavoidable reasons, the help of a travel agency is required, the services of public sector travel agencies namely M/s. Ashok Travels and Balmer Lawrie are to be availed of. Cases where there are any specific difficulties in following these procedures are required to be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for granting relaxation on the merits of each case.

### Inconvenience to Road Passengers

4009. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 8

Railway gates between Calicut and Cannanore in Kerala create bottleneck on the road transport that leads to great inconvenience to road passengers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to build overbridges at these Railway gates;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any proposal to put up Railway gates at these points; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The State Government of Kerala was advised to sponsor Road Over/Under Bridges at these locations which are within the criteria, for inclusion in Railway Works Programme. No such proposal has yet been received from the State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Opening of Junior College at Bitragunta

4010. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bitragunta is a railway town in Vijaywada of South Central Railway and a large number of railway workers are living in Bitragunta and more than 2000 school going children are there;

(b) if so, whether the children of the railway employees are experiencing difficulty in going to Nellore and Kavali for school and college studies;

(c) if so, whether there is a long pending demand for sanction of a junior college at Bitragunta for the benefit of the railway employees' children;

(d) if so, whether he has been urged to consider the demand of railway employees and sanction a junior college at Bitragunta; and

(e) if so, whether the Government have considered the demand and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Only 1651 Railway employees are posted at Bitragunta where two Railway High Schools are situated with a total strength of 1003 students.

(b) Approximately only 50 wards of Railway employees are going to Nellore and Kavali for higher studies.

(c) At present there is no demand from the Railway employees for setting up of a Junior College at Bitragunta.

(d) and (e) A demand was raised by the Hon'ble MP in the Consultative Committee of MPs for the Ministry

of Railways for sanction of a Railway Junior College at Bitragunta. The demand was duly considered but was not found feasible of acceptance particularly when the Railway population at Bitragunta has come down due to closure of Steam Loco Shed.

### Konkan Railway Projects

4011. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :  
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount likely to be spent on the on-going work on Konkan Railway Project alongwith the comparison between original and revised estimates;

(b) the reasons for delay in execution of work and escalation of cost;

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

(d) whether the Government have revised its estimates keeping in view the profitability of the Konkan Railway;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of proposed train services through Konkan Railway;

(g) the details of amount contributed by the Government of Kerala for the construction of Konkan Railway;

(h) whether the Government have received complaints of serious irregularities in implementation of the above project; and

(i) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) It is expected that the amount of Rs. 3026 crore will be spent upto March 1997 as against the current project cost of Rs. 3100 crore Originally, the project was estimated to cost Rs. 1043 crore at 1989-90 price level.

(b) the main reasons for delay are acute shortage of funds and adverse geological conditions in softsoil tunnels in Goa and Karnataka area.

The reasons for escalation in cost are as follows :-

- (i) Inflation due to passage of time.
- (ii) Additional expenditure required due to increased scope of work in tunnels, protection works and implementation of recommendations of Oza Committee in Goa Sector of the project.

(iii) Adoption of current prevailing standards of construction as compared to original provision.

(iv) Additional financing costs due to delay in completion of the project.

(c) Construction of the project is likely to be completed by 30.06.97.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Revision of the estimates has been done keeping in view of the profitability of the Konkan Railway. The cash flow indicates that the project remains profitable even after this revision, mainly because the projected increase in quantum of traffic as well as fare increases as applicable to Indian Railways.

(f) Train services through Konkan Railway will be provided in phases in keeping with the improvement in infrastructural facilities including line capacity, terminal development works and availability of higher speeds. The train services proposed to be provided included :-

1. Passenger shuttles on Ratnagiri-Madgaon and Madgaon-Mangalore sectors.
2. Extension of Kurla-Sawantwadi Express upto Madgaon.
3. Diversion of 6635/6636 Kurla-Mangalore/ Cochin Netravati Express.
4. Diversion of 2431/2432 Nizamuddin Trivandrum Rajdhani Express.
5. Diversion of 2617/2618 Nizamuddin Mangalore Mangala Express with extension upto Ernakulam.

After completion of line capacity works on Diva-Panvel and other adjoining sections, it is proposed to divert 6335/6336 Gandhidham-Nagercoil (weekly), 6337/6338 Rajkot-Cochin (weekly) and 6333/6334 Rajkot-Trivandrum (weekly) Express.

(g) The Government of Kerala has fully contributed the equity contribution of Rs. 36 crore.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

### Post Offices in Bihar

4012. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices opened and proposed to be opened in Bihar, particularly in Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribag districts alongwith their locations during the last three years; and

(b) the amount earmarked therefor during 1994-95, 1995-96 and for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 900 EDBOs and 6 DSOs have been opened so far in Bihar during 1993-94, 1994-95

and 1995-96. The number of Post offices opened particularly in Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribag districts alongwith their locations during the last three years are as under :

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Giridih	EDBO 1 at Ratanbahiar	nil	nil
Kodarma	nil	nil	nil
Hazaribagh	1 at Hesla	nil	nil

(b) The amount earmarked for Bihar Circle is as under :

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	(rupees in Lakhs)		
	28.00	60.70	71.34

[Translation]

#### Railway Protection Force

4013. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any committee has been constituted to look into functions and other problems related to Railway Protection Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of recommendations made by the said committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No such Committee to look into the functions and other problems of Railway Protection Force has been constituted recently. However, in July, 1994, the Ministry of Railways had set up a Committee consisting of one serving and four Retired Officers of the Railway Protection Force to look into the Organisational and functional problems of the RPF. The tenure of the Committee was for a period of 6 months. However, the Committee did not give any report till its term expired.

#### Construction of Overbridges

4014. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to construct overbridges at Ratlam, Javra, Mandsaur and Nimach on Ratlam-Ajmer section of Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to construct overbridges at the said places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Road over bridge at Ratlam in lieu of Level Crossing No. 82 already constructed in 1994. At Javra Road in lieu of Level Crossing No. 192-A it was sanctioned in 1986-87 but State Government could not start work on approaches hence frozen. Another Road over bridge at Javra station in lieu of level crossing No. 177 qualifies for replacement on cost sharing basis but State Government has not sponsored proposal required under extant rules. Level Crossings at Mandsour and Neemach are having low traffic density hence do not qualify for replacement with over/under bridges on cost sharing basis.

[English]

#### Modern Goods Shed at Dhankuni

4015. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to build up modern goods shed at Dhankuni;

(b) if so, the progress of such shed;

(c) whether any target has been fixed to complete this project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Dhankuni is already functioning as a freight terminal. The sanctioned work for its expansion/development as a Nodal terminal is under execution and is likely to be completed by 31.12.98.

#### J.P.C. Report

4016. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 241 on July 11, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the CBI has since submitted its final report in this case;

(b) if so, the details of the findings and the follow-up action taken by his Ministry thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) As per information received from the CBI, field investigation has been completed and

now the evidence is being scrutinised and examined. It is not possible to indicate any time frame within which the report can be submitted.

#### Doordarshan Staff in Commercial Service

4017. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commercial service of Doordarshan is included in the category of house keeping and the staff is liable for transfer in every two years as per the policy of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of violation of the policy noticed by the Government;

(d) the details of staff who have completed 5, 8 and 10 years of service in the commercial units; and

(e) the reasons for such violations?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

Group	Staff in Position	Less than 5 yrs.	More than 5 but less than 8 yrs.	More than 8 but less than 10 yrs.	More than 10 yrs.
A	3	3	-	-	-
B	5	3	2	-	-
C	19	9	3	5	2

#### Earnings of Hooghly Ghat and Garifa Railway Stations

4018. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the earnings of Hooghly Ghat and Garifa Railway Stations during the last three years, year-wise and station-wise;

(b) whether the facilities provided at Hooghly Ghat Railway Station are also likely to be provided at Garifa Station;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide better passenger amenities at Garifa; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The earnings of Hooghly Ghat and Garifa Station for last three years are as under :

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	Hooghly Ghat	Garifa
1994-95	55.15	64.65
1995-96	59.14	68.84
1996-97	63.14	73.37

(b) to (d) Passenger amenities provided both at Hooghly Ghat and Garifa station is as under :

	Hooghly Ghat Station	Garifa Station
Platform	High level with pucca surface	High level with pucca surface
Bench	50 benches are provided	45 benches are provided
Urinals	3 urinals are provided	4 urinals are provided
PF Sheds	Up PF sheds 46.84m <sup>2</sup> and on DN PF 46.84m <sup>2</sup> shed provided	PF sheds-40m <sup>2</sup> shed on DN PF provided. Work for providing shed on UP PF is going on. Target date of completion of shed on UP PF is 31.3.97.
Waiting Hall	81m <sup>2</sup> hall provided	94m <sup>2</sup> hall provided
Booking Counter	One counter provided	One counter provided
PA System	Provided	Provided
FOB	Not provided	Sanctioned and included in Pink Book 1996-97 item No. 48 cost approved Rs. 7.42 lakhs.
Approach Road	Metalled approach road provided	Metalled approach road provided
Electrification	Station is electrified	Station is electrified

From the above, it is clear that the amenities as available at Hooghly Ghat station are available at Garifa station also. In case of PF shed the deficiency at Garifa station has already been under taken to be made good.

A bigger waiting hall of 94m<sup>2</sup> has been provided at Garifa station in comparison to 81m<sup>2</sup> waiting hall of Hooghly Ghat station. No FOB at Hooghly Ghat station is available. But FOB at Garifa station has already been decided to be provided and the proposal of provision of FOB at Garifa station has already been sanctioned and included in Pink Book 1996-97.

### Performance Linked Incentive Scheme

4019. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total expenditure Air India has incurred on 'Performance Linked Incentive' scheme till date;

(b) total amount paid under the PLI, category-wise;

(c) in what way the company has been benefited after implementation of the scheme;

(d) whether the performance linked incentive scheme is linked with profit making of the company;

(e) what is the minimum as well as maximum amount paid under this scheme per month; and

(f) total financial burden on the company due to above scheme per month?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The expenditure incurred on performance linked incentive (PLI) scheme by Air India from May, 1996 to February, 1997 is Rs. 65.01 crores. Payment to various categories of staff is linked to the achievement of performance parameters fixed under the PLI scheme.

(c) and (d) There have been significant improvements in on-time performance, aircraft availability, despatch reliability etc. The scheme is not directly linked to profits but is intended to attain improved performance which would ultimately result in increased revenue.

(e) Minimum and maximum amount paid in the month of January, 1997 was Rs. 305 and Rs. 88165 respectively.

(f) The average payment under the PLI scheme is Rs. 6.27 crores per month.

### Booking of Goods in Howrah Goods Shed

4020. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions to discourage incoming and outgoing booking from Howrah Goods Shed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to review the matter till such facilities are provided at Dankuni;

(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) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, periodical operating restrictions are imposed on inward goods traffic due to increased demand of passenger trains operation on the limited facilities available in the Howrah Complex. No review is required as Howrah goodshed has not been closed, though facilities have already been provided and goods traffic is being dealt with at Dankuni.

### Diesel Box 'N' Depot

4021. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work pertaining to the Diesel Box 'N' loco shed depot at Angul in Orissa has been completed;

(b) if not, the progress made till date;

(c) the funds allocated during each of the last three years for above depot; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the work at above depot?

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

(b) and (c) The progress made as on 31-12-96 and the funds allocated during each of the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Work Name	Physical progress	Funds allocated during 94-95	95-96	96-97
(i) Angul-Facilities for maintenance of BOX 'N'/BCN depot.	22%	0.60	3.00	2.50
(ii) Angul-50 loco BG diesel shed.	62%	1.50	9.70	2.95

(d) These works are likely to be completed by March'99. The progress of the works are monitored and instructions to the concerned authorities are issued from time to time to expedite the progress on work where it is considered the progress is slow.

### Berths/Seats in Rajdhani Express

4022. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of berths/seats in the Rajdhani Express going from Hazrat Nizamuddin/Delhi to Trivandrum (in each class);

(b) the number of these seats/berths reserved for passengers to Kerala;

(c) the number of berths/seats reserved from Madras and stations in Tamil Nadu and other States;

(d) the number of the seats/berths in each class which were occupied during each journey from Delhi to each of these States during the past three months alongwith the details of vacant seats;

(e) whether Kerala is not adequately served even though there are more passengers from that State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total accommodation available in the Hazrat Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express train in each class is as under :

18 berths in 1st AC

135 berths in AC2-Tier

256 berths in AC3-Tier

(b) and (c) Out of total accommodation of 409 berths available in all classes, 123 berths are allotted at Nizamuddin to Kerala bound passengers. Rest of the accommodation is allotted to passengers going to other States including Tamil Nadu.

(d) The utilisation of reservation quota by 2432 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express train during the last three months ending February'97 is as under :

Month	1st AC	2AC	3AC
Dec.'96 for Madras	40%	58%	69%
for Trivandrum	60%	100%	100%
Jan.'96 for Madras	15%	44%	50%
for Trivandrum	37%	74%	86%
Feb.'97 for Madras	27%	39%	46%
for Trivandrum	40%	58%	80%

(e) and (f) It is proposed to provide an additional quota of 2 berths in 1st AC, 23 berths in 2AC and 35 berths in 3AC for Trivandrum bound passengers by 2432 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express train.

#### Express Container Railway Service

4023. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched express container railway service for domestic cargo between major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof with plan of action, year-wise and area-wise with related details;

(c) the measures taken to expand/upgrade/modernise movement of goods traffic in the country during 1997-98 and implications thereof, zone-wise; and

(d) the projections of rise in goods traffic over the next five years and action programme worked out to meet the traffic load?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railway has started, between selected pairs of stations, nominated-day container services called CONTRACK since January, 1997.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Induction of high horse power Locomotives, Bottom Discharge Hopper wagons for improving wagon turnround and wagon utilisation is being done for upgrading/modernising freight traffic operation. Higher levels of freight traffic will be carried by acquisition of additional Rolling Stock.

(d) It is expected that in the next 5 years i.e. in the terminal year of the IXth Plan, the freight traffic would rise to 525 million tonnes from 410 mt in 1996-97 (Revised Estimate). The above traffic would be met by acquisition of additional rolling stock and by improving utilisation of the existing stock.

#### Statement

##### The details of CONCOR's CONTRACK services

Stream	Frequency	Day/Date	Commenced From
Delhi-Chennai	Thrice every week	Friday, Sunday and Tuesday	17.01.97
Delhi-Vijaywada	Fortnightly	15th & 30th of every month	30.01.97
Kanpur-Calcutta	Weekly	Every Thursday	23.01.97
Lucknow-Calcutta	Weekly	Every Wednesday	22.01.97
Moradabad-Calcutta	Weekly	Every Monday	20.01.97
Chennai-Delhi	Weekly	Every Friday	18.01.97
Bangalore-Delhi	Weekly	Every Sunday	23.02.97
Bombay-Delhi	Weekly	Every Friday	21.02.97
Delhi-Dhandarikalan (Ludhiana)	Weekly	Every Sunday	9.03.97
Dhandarikalan (Ludhiana) - Delhi	Weekly	Every Tuesday	11.03.97

### E.S.I. Scheme

4024. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance scheme is implemented by the Union and the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of machinery which ensures coordination between the two agencies;

(c) whether this machinery so far identified the problem in implementation of the scheme and made suggestions to improve the working of the scheme to the satisfaction of the workers and the panel doctors;

(d) if so, the salient features of these recommendations made during the last three years, and

(e) the steps taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) The notification regarding the area in which the ESI Scheme is to be implemented is issued by the Central Government. Thereafter, the Scheme is administered by the ESI Corporation and the State Governments. Except in the case of Delhi and NOIDA, under the existing arrangement medical care is provided by the concerned State Government. However, the expenditure of medical centre is shared by the ESI Corporation and the State Governments in ratio of 7:1. The functioning of the Scheme is reviewed by the ESI Corporation, its general purpose committee and the regional boards which are tripartite bodies consisting of representative of Government, employers and employees. The cash benefits to insured persons are administered by the ESI Corporation through its regional/local offices. There have been sporadic complaint about shortage of doctors, medicines, equipments, etc. in the hospitals/dispensaries. Such complaints are forwarded to State Government for taking remedial action. There have been no serious complaints with regard to administration of cash benefits.

### Seminar at Garden Reach Rail Institute

4025. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a Seminar was held at Garden Reach Rail Institute on January 19, 1997 on "Safety and Technical Progress" organised by Diploma Engineer Association of Railwaymen (DEAR);

(b) if so, the details of the said seminar;

(c) whether the Government have taken note of those suggestions;

(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) : (a) No such Seminar was conducted. However, it is understood that Diploma Engineers Association of Railways (DEAR) held their Annual General Meeting at Garden Reach Railway Institute on January 19, 1997.

(b) In this Annual General Meeting the Association is reported to have deliberated on the utility of quality circles in railway services and other matters pertaining to safety in Railways in general.

(c) Letter addressed to G.M/S.E Railway by the Association does not contain any concrete suggestion

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

### Railway Link with Kandi

4026. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a survey was conducted to connect Kandi in Murshidabad district of West Bengal with railway line;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to update the said survey for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not connecting an important place of West Bengal with rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir, a survey was conducted in 1991.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The survey revealed that the line would have negative return. In view of the constraint of resources this line could not be taken up.

### Opening of New Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

4027. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to open new Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Recently the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management Baji Raut Regional Centre for Eastern India has been opened at Bhubaneshwar which will cater to the tourism training requirements of the Eastern and North-Eastern regions.

#### All Channel Programmes, West Bengal

4028. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the demand from West Bengal to telecast all Doordarshan Channels and Metro channel programmes through Bardhaman and Asansol TV Relay Centres;

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

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be started from these stations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Requests are received from time to time, from various quarters, for augmentation of TV service in various States. Whereas DD-2 and all other channels of Doordarshan are available throughout the country, including the entire State of West Bengal, via satellite by using appropriate dish antennae system, terrestrial transmission of DD-2 service is being extended in a phased manner depending on availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities. There is, however, no approved scheme, at present, to extend this facility to Asansol and Bardhaman.

#### Introduction of Express Train from Asansol to Rampurhat

4029. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an express train from Asansol to Rampurhat via Andal-Sainthia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

#### Production and Export of Aluminium

4030. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :  
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual production consumption of aluminium in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the total export of aluminium and aluminium products during the above period;

(c) whether the production is sufficient to meet the demand of the country; and

(d) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to absorb latest technology for better yield of aluminium?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The production of Aluminium, consumption and export of aluminium and articles thereof during the past three years i.e. from 1993-94 to 1995-96 is indicated below :-

Year	Production	Consumption	Export
1993-94	465165	410000	89661
1994-95	477801	471000	95099
1995-96	529264	521000	69636

(c) and (d) The installed capacity for production for aluminium of the five primary producers of aluminium is 6,70,000 tonnes; 3,18,000 tonnes capacity is in Public Sector and 3,52,000 tonnes is in private sector. The Primary Producers in the country take their decisions in respect of production of aluminium based on their commercial judgement. Besides aluminium metal and its articles thereof are under Open General Licence (OGL) of Export Import Policy. Each individual is free to do import and export of aluminium metal and articles thereof depending upon their commercial judgement. Similarly the decision to absorb that technology is dependent on the judgement of each enterprise.

[English]

#### Doordarshan/AIR Projects, Tripura

4031. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects for setting up of TV transmitters/AIR stations completed in Tripura, so far alongwith the number of pending projects, location-wise;

(b) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the new TV transmitters/AIR stations proposed to be set up in the State during 1997-98, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c)

*Projects Completed/Functioning*

*All India Radio*

1. Agartala	20 KW MW Transmitter
2. Belonia	6 KW FM Transmitter (LRS)
3. Kailashahar	3 KW FM Transmitter (LRS)

*Doordarshan*

1. Agartala PPC
2. Agartala HPT
3. Agartala LPT (DD II)
4. Belonia Transposer

*Projects Under Implementation*

*All India Radio*

1. Longtherai	6 KW FM Transmitter
2. Dharmanagar	1 KW MW Transmitter (CRS)
3. Natun Bazar	

*Doordarshan*

1. Kailashahar LPT
2. Teliamura LPT
3. Kailashahar LPT (DD II)
4. Dharmanagar VLPT

Projects/schemes are expected to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan subject to availability of funds, infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities.

Legend : LRS-Local Radio Station  
PPC-Programme Production Centre  
HPT-High Power Transmitter  
LPT-Low Power Transmitter  
VLPT-Very Low Power Transmitter  
CRS-Community Radio Station.

**Construction of New Railway Stations**

4032. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal regarding construction of new Railway Stations at Vehloli and Tanset in Maharashtra under Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the above-mentioned Stations are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Proposals for opening of halts at Vehaloli between Vasind and Asangaon stations and at Thansit Cabin between Atgaon and Khardi stations on Kalyan-Kasara section which are under the jurisdiction of Central Railway have been received and examined. While opening of a halt at Vehaloli has not been found justified on operating and engineering points of view, a halt at Thansit Cabin has not been found to be financially justified.

**Utilisation of Railway Land and Properties**

4033. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Railways had appointed

a High Level Committee to study and submit report on thousands of Acres of unused railway land and properties at Barauni-Garhara areas of North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has since submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Complaints from Passengers of IA**

4034. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from the passengers of the Indian Airlines regarding irregularity of schedules, delays and deficiencies in other services;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last six months;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start Trivandrum-Chennai-Delhi directly daily flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last six months (August, 1996 to January, 1997), 858 complaints were received from the passengers of Indian Airlines regarding irregularities of Schedules, delays and deficiencies in other services.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Beedi Workers

4035. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 1.5 lakh people, including children and women, are engaged in beedi rolling in Madhya Pradesh and they roll about 20 crore beedis, daily;

(b) whether only three lakh beedi workers in that States are accredited with the labour department and are entitled for facilities provided under the Beedi Welfare Fund Scheme of the Union Government; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the unorganised labour under the various labour law?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Mumbai-Bangalore Kurla Express

4036. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the problem faced by the travellers of Mumbai-Bangalore Kurla Express (Train No. 1017) due to increase in duration of journey from Mumbai to Hubli after the gauge conversion and the inconvenient timings of this train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to change the timings and reduce the duration of journey;

(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) : (a) to (e) At present, 1017 Mumbai CST-Bangalore Express leaves Mumbai CST at 2240 hrs., arrives Hubli at 1725 hrs. It takes 18 hrs. 45 minutes to cover a distance of 752 Kms. between Mumbai CST and Hubli.

The present timings of 1017 Express are convenient at Mumbai CST, Hubli and Bangalore.

Reduction in running time of 1017 Express would make the arrival timings at Bangalore very inconvenient and hence is not proposed at present.

### Regional Office of the National Film Development Corporation

4037. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for appointments in National Film Development Corporation;

(b) whether Regional Offices of National Film Development Corporation are appointing persons on temporary, daily wage and contract basis;

(c) if so, the details of appointments made by National Film Development Corporation since January 1, 1994.

(d) whether complaints have been received regarding violation of criteria; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Increase in Passengers between Guwahati and New Delhi

4038. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of passengers have increased manifold between Guwahati and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of average daily number of passengers on waiting list for Brahmaputra Mail and NE Express for all classes during the last two years;

(c) whether not a single superfast train has been introduced from Guwahati to New Delhi for a long time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the frequency of Rajdhani Express is going to be increased to daily in lieu for thrice a week now; and

(f) if not, the alternatives considered to provide accommodation to large number of persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The passenger traffic between Guwahati and Delhi/New Delhi has increased to some extent.

(b) The daily average number of passengers on waiting list at the originating point by 5621/5622 N.E. Express and 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail during

last two years were as under :

Year	Train No.	Daily Average Wait listed Passengers	SL		
			2AC	FC/3AC	SL
1995	5621 N.E. Express	6	4	56	
	5622 N.E. Express	9	5	24	
	4055 Brahmaputra Mail	3	4	35	
	4056 Brahmaputra Mail	2	1	145	
1996	5621 N.E. Express	8	5	60	
	5622 N.E. Express	3	1	21	
	4055 Brahmaputra Mail	4	3	46	
	4056 Brahmaputra Mail	5	5	149	

(c) A weekly Rajdhani Express was introduced between New Delhi and Guwahati in July '94 which has been made tri-weekly from 26.1.96.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Load of the existing services is augmented as and when found feasible to clear the extra rush.

#### Programme Staff of Doordarshan and AIR

4039. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(A) whether the programme staff of All India Radio and Doordarshan undertook fast in December, 1996 and submitted a charter of demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature of their demands;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether some of the demands have been considered so far; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Programme Staff Association of AIR and Doordarshan undertook indefinite hunger strike with effect from 5.12.1996. The hunger strike was later withdrawn.

(c) The demands pertain to various administrative matters like revision of pay, filling up of vacant posts, creation of posts, etc.

(d) and (e) The Government have already initiated necessary action in this regard.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Construction of Subway at Old Faridabad Railway Station

4040. CHAUDHARY RAMACHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware the long pending demand for the construction of one subway near Cabin No. 37 of old Faridabad (Haryana) railway station;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to construct subway at above place; and

(c) the time by which the above subway is likely to be constructed?

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

(b) No firm proposal with proposed location, site plan and other relevant details has been received from the appropriate State Authority.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Optic Fibre Lines

4041. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to enter into the stage of the 'state-of-the-art' telecommunications;

(b) whether it is possible to by pass the copper-wire era and avail of the facilities offered by the wireless and satellite technologies;

(c) if so, the progress made in this direction;

(d) the expenditure has been incurred during the last three years on laying the optic-fibre lines; and

(e) whether it is justified in the context of the satellite technology?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The following steps are being taken :-

(1) Digitalisation of the Network.

(2) Introduction of advanced technology equipment in transmission like optical fibre and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH).

(3) Advanced technology in subscriber access like wireless in local access, fibre in local loop.

(4) Introduction of cellular mobile services, V-SAT networks, Mobile Satellite services.

(b) The wireless and satellite technologies compliment and supplement the copper wire technology.

(c) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is working on Wireless Local Loop (WLL) and also on Mobile Satellite Service (MSS). Both of these will be

available in this year.

(d)	1993-94	-	Rs. 417.00 crores
	1994-95	-	Rs. 479.00 crores
	1995-96	-	Rs. 575.00 crores

(e) Yes, Sir.

### Construction of air strip at Darjeeling

4042. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an air-strip is under construction at Rungbull district in Darjeeling Hills;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the construction work is being executed by the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council;

(c) whether the Government have approved this project and allotted funds for the same; and

(d) if so, the amount allotted and released so far?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Gauge Conversion

4043. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gauge conversion work of Hassan-Mangalore railway line is going on as per schedule;

(b) if so, the total funds earmarked for this work and the time by which the above work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not completing the work within the scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Hassan-Sakleshpur will be completed by September'97 and the rest of the line by December'98.

(b) The cost of the project is Rs. 185 crore of the which Rs. 64.08 crore is likely to be spent by 31.03.97. Rs. 24.00 crore has been provided in 97-98.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Halt of Trains at Mankapur Junction

4044. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that

Mankapur is a big Junction in Uttar Pradesh and a big telephone factory is also there but inspite of it, no important train has its halt there due to which the residents of Mankapur have to face great inconvenience;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide halt of some trains (such as Vaishali Express and Amrapali Express) at Mankapur Junction keeping in view the constant inflow of passengers there;

(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) 11 trains in one direction and 12 in the other are presently stopping at Mankapur Junction providing direct service from Mankapur to Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Cochin, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Lucknow, Barauni, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Not found justified.

### Stoppage to Express Trains at Bilha Nagar Railway Station

4045. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to provide stoppage to Sarnath Express, Ahmedabad-Howrah Express and Link Express at Bilha Nagar (Bilaspur) Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh for the benefit of the citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the income accrued by the Government from the said Railway Station during each of the last three years?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[English]

### Opening of New Divisions

4046. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals for opening new Divisions in Western Railway received by the Government, Division-wise;

(b) the number of proposals out of them accepted, Division-wise; and

(c) the criteria adopted in acceptance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) During last 2 years 11 representations had been received for opening of new divisional offices on Western Railway at Ahmedabad and one for Udaipur. Keeping the various factors into consideration, the Government has decided to set up 8 new divisions at Agra, Ahmedabad, Ranchi, Raipur, Rangiya, Pune, Guntur and Singrauli.

(c) New divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload and accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

[Translation]

### New Telephone Exchanges

4047. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand/scheme/proposal for opening Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) The commissioning programme for 1997-98 has not yet been finalised. However, as per policy of the Department, a new exchange is planned at a place when the registered demand reaches 10 or more.

[English]

### Apna Net

4048. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently launched Apna Net by a group of post graduate students has gained astonishing popularity;

(b) if so, whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited has blocked the site of Apna Net;

(c) whether it is tantamount to denial of consumers rights; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Apna Net is a registered Website with Internic, USA connected to a leased line (128 kilobits/sec) of VSNL's Gateway Internet Access

Service. No data is available to judge its popularity. Access to Apna Net has been temporarily Disabled by Vadish Sanchar Nigam Ltd. due to repeated violation of agreement between VSNL and subscriber (Apna Net).

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

### First Class Privilege Pass

4049. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the First Class Privilege Pass issued in favour of railway employees are not allowed to travel in Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express in Chair Car and Three Tier A/C sleeper class;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;

(c) whether the Government have even examined the Financial and Social aspects of denying First Class privilege pass holders to travel in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) First Class Holders are allowed to travel in III AC in Rajdhani Expresses and Chair Car in Shatabdi Express trains, subject to certain restriction on the number of berths/seats to be booked against one privilege pass.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### Communication System

4050. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to cyclone and rains in Andhra Pradesh during 1996, the major communication systems damaged in almost every part of State;

(b) if so, the details of loss suffered on account of this;

(c) whether all the communication systems have since been repaired; and

(d) if so, the total expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Due to cyclone and rains during 1996, the communication systems were affected only in East Godavari, West Godavari, Anantpur, Cuddapah, Nellore and Prakasham District of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Revenue loss suffered on account of this is estimated to be about Rs. 1.15 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total expenditure involved is about Rs. 3,85,63,665/-.

### Survey for Kollengode-Trichur Rail Line

4051. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted year before for laying new railway line from Kollengode to Trichur under the Madhurai division in Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on above line is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Development of Telecommunications Network

4052. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the development work of telecommunications network has been below expectations during 1996;

(b) whether the Government propose to take concrete measures to accelerate pace of development work in telecommunication sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. The target of 20 lakhs fixed, during 1995-96, for provision of new telephone connections was fully achieved and every effort is being made to achieve the target of 24.5 lakhs for 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to provide about 29 lakh telephone connections during 1997-98 which is about 18% higher than the targets for 1996-97.

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

[English]

### Stoppage to Train at Kharagpur Railway Station

4053. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage to Train No. 2421/2422 at Kharagpur for the benefit of passengers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Not justified.

### Survey for Running Passenger Service

4054. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to conduct a survey to run passenger service on Howrah Circular Railway from Howrah to Howrah via Ramkistopore-Shibpurchar-Shalimar-Santragachi-Belanagar-Belur-Liluah;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to conduct survey to fulfil the long standing demand of the people of West Bengal;

(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) to (d) The survey for a passenger line between Howrah and Shalimar was carried out during 1991-92. On the west side of the area between Howrah and Shalimar, there are houses, jute mills, factories, flour mills, etc. On the East side i.e. river front there are a number of warehouses and small factories. The ware-houses and factories are located right upto the bank of river Hooghly.

There are a number of sidings taking off from the existing rail line between Howrah and Shalimar serving the mills, ware-houses, and factories, etc. There are 12 level crossings on this short stretch of about 4 km. The curvature of track is excessive and this will have to be flattened which will require dismantling of 45 godowns and 25 buildings. For running any passenger services all the sidings will also have to be closed.

Hence, provision of Howrah Circular Railway on the pattern of Calcutta Circular Railway is not technically feasible.

### Underground Telephone Cables

4055. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any proposal for putting/ laying underground telephone cables/lines to avoid faults during the rainy seasons in the country;

(b) if so, to what extent the said work has been completed; and

(c) by when the remaining one is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

### High Tech Exchange in Kollam District

4056. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kollam district of Kerala has been suffering hard to cater their Telecom needs at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish an OCB High Tech Exchange having the facility of integrated service digital network in Kollam district;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The status of clearance of waiting list in Kollam is relatively much better compared to other parts of Kerala. The demand growth rate in Kerala has been very high (about 35%) as against growth rate of about 21% for the country as a whole.

(b) and (c) A New Technology Exchange having facility of integrated services digital network is proposed to be installed in Kollam district.

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

### Setting up of Branch of Central Tourist Information Bureau

4057. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a branch of the Central Tourist Information Bureau at Madurai;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has its tourist offices at major tourist centres frequented by International and Domestic tourists. The four Regional Tourist Offices located at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai look after their respective regions.

### Casual Announcer in Garhwali and Kumaoni in Nazibabad

4058. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received

complaints that Garhwali/Kumaoni programmes are being broadcast with the help of those who have not qualified in audition test from Aakashvani Kendra, Nazibabad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Garhwali and Kumaoni casual announcers working at present in the said Aakashvani Kendra, respectively;

(d) whether the Government propose to regularise them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present Six casual Announcers are working in AIR Najibabad.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) There is no provision in the existing Recruitment Rules for regularisation of casual Announcers.

### AIDS among Railway Employees

4059. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing incidence of AIDS among railway employees in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government intend to provide special assistance to the railways to deal with the developing situation regarding AIDS among railway employees; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) National projections suggest an increasing incidence of AIDS in the Indian population, which perhaps include railwaymen and their families. Facilities for testing the presence of HIV in the blood have only recently been established in most of the hospitals of the Indian Railways. Preliminary data suggests a rise in HIV positivity from 1.08% in 1995 to 1.2% in 1996 of the samples tested.

(c) and (d) NACO under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is providing assistance for training of Medical and Para-medical staff including confirmatory testing for HIV of blood samples from railway hospitals in their approved referral centres.

### Doordarshan International Channel

4060. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to help and fund Indian Embassies to set up dish antenna to received Doordarshan International channels for NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to earn more foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Diplomatic practice does not permit the Indian Embassies to use dish antenna for commercial purposes. The main objective of DD-International is to project India and Indian views abroad and question of earning foreign exchange is incidental and secondary in nature. For the time being, anyone who wishes to downlink DD-International signal for distribution to public including NIR's in any country is permitted to do so after obtaining a 'No objection certificate' from Doordarshan.

### Grant of All India Railway Card Passes to Spouses of Arjun Awardees

4061. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant the All India Railway Card passes to spouses of the Arjun Awardees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to extend the facilities for using the said passes in trains like Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express; and

(d) if so, the time by which these facilities are likely to be extended?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Survey for Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Line

4062. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that survey work on new Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Vaijnath rail line has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the above work is likely to be started and completed;

(c) whether the Government had sanctioned one crore rupees for this project during 1995-96;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in laying the above rail line;

(e) the time by which the above line is likely to be laid?

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

(b) Does not arise. However, the work could not be started as the required clearances were not available. The target for completion of the work has not yet been fixed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The work has been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs only on 21.2.97. Preliminary work for taking up the project is on hand.

### Construction of Yatri Niwas at Indore

4063. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Indore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) No proposal have been received from the State Government for the construction of Yatri Niwas at Indore.

### PCO and Telephones in Rural Areas

4064. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for setting up PCOs and telephones in rural areas in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98;

(b) the criteria fixed for setting up PCOs and telephones in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the number of persons in the waiting list in rural areas in Ghatampur Parliamentary-constituency; and

(d) the number of PCOs allotted during the last three years?

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

[English]

**Allotment of Steel Quota**

4065. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received request from the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for increasing allotment of steel quota for the use of people of the above States;

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

(c) the quantum of steel quota allotted to the above States during the last two years; and

(d) whether this quota is exclusively for the use of the Government Departments or for the public in general?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) As per the extant policy, distribution of steel is decontrolled. However, the requirements of Defence, Railways, Small Scale Industries, Exporters of Engineering Goods and the North Eastern Region are met on priority. The Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) oversees implementation of this arrangement. DCI&S has not received any request from Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam Limited, Government of Madhya Pradesh for increasing their allocation for the current year. But request from the Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited, Government of Rajasthan has been received for additional allocation of 4,000 M.T. of steel materials for the current year. Request of the Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited for additional allocation of 4,000 M.T. has been met in full.

(c) The total allocation including additional allocation for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below

Name of the Corporation	Allocation	
	1995-96	1996-97
(i) Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam Limited, Government of Madhya Pradesh.	13,486 M.T.	8,995 M.T.
(ii) The Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited, Government of Rajasthan	11,000 M.T.	11,370 M.T.

(d) DCI&S makes allocation of steel materials to the Small Scale Industries Corporations of the State Governments for catering to the needs of small scale industries in their States. However, 10% of the allocation is permissible for supply to Government Departments.

**Procurement of Wagons**

4066. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :  
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Railways had planned to procure 30,000 wagons during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that wagon industry has failed to supply the required number of wagons so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the requirement of wagons during 1997-98, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. This included the quantity of about 5000 FWs to be procured under Own Your Wagon Scheme.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Main reasons reported are :-

(i) Shortage of couplers and casnub bogies to be arranged by them.

(ii) Internal problems in some of public sector units.

(iii) Closure of M/s. H.G.I./New Delhi w.e.f. 30.11.96 as per Hon'ble Supreme Court orders for shifting outside Delhi.

(iv) Production for 2 months at M/s. Cimmco Birla Ltd. was affected by floods.

(e) Projected requirement of wagons for 97-98 for Indian Railway as a whole is 26,000 in terms of four wheeler units as included in Budget document. Zone-wise requirement are not estimated.

**Accidents in Industrial Establishments**

4067. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents occurred in the Industrial establishments of Gujarat during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the Union Government have issued or propose to issue instructions to the Industrial establishment of the State to provide adequate safety arrangements and to pay adequate compensation to the labourers injured during the accidents and to prevent the recurrence of such accidents;

(c) if so, the number of Industrial establishment which have adopted the safety measures; and

(d) if so, the result achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to information received from the State Government of Gujarat, the number of accidents which took place in the State during the last three years is as under :-

	Fatal	Non-fatal	Total
1993-94	197	16167	16364
1994-95	202	15489	15691
1995-96	176	16117	16293

(b) to (d) Safety measures required to be taken to check occurrence of accidents have been laid down in the Factories Act, 1948 and the Rules framed thereunder. All industrial establishments are required to follow the same. In addition, the Governments of Gujarat have amended the Gujarat Factories Rules, 1963 in the year 1995. These rules provide all the adequate safety measures for prevention of accidents and health and safety of workers. Training programmes and National Safety Day are arranged for industrial workers to create safety awareness. All the fatal accidents are inquired by the Senior Officers of the Directorate of Factories of the State Government of Gujarat and adequate safety measures are suggested for prevention of such accidents. Mock drills and on-site emergency plan, rehearsals etc. are arranged to meet any emergency. The compensation to the labourers injured during the accidents is paid as per the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

[Translation]

#### On-going Construction Work of Over Bridge

4068. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the on-going construction work of overbridge on Hardoi-Sitapur road in Hardoi city has been abandoned for a long time;

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

(c) the estimated cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

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

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

(b) Railway's portion of work has been substantially completed, State Government is yet to execute work on approaches.

(c) Total Estimated Cost Rs. 4.13 crore Railway's share Rs. 1.92 crore and State Governments share Rs. 2.21 crore Expenditure incurred by Railway so far Rs. 1.09 crore.

(d) Depends upon completion of work on approaches by State Government.

[English]

#### Telephone Services in Allahabad

4069. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Allahabad district which have been provided with telephone services;

(b) whether a large number of these rural telephones are not in working order;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received in 1996; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the working of telephones particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of villages in Allahabad district with telephone facilities is 877.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 195.

(d) The steps being taken to improve services in rural areas are as follows :—

- (1) Reliable media is being provided to replace overhead media for rendering STD service.
- (2) Annual Maintenance Contract has been signed with manufacturers for providing proper maintenance of MARR systems.
- (3) One Sub-Divisional Engineer is being posted in every Tehsil Head-quarters.
- (4) Routine testing is being done regularly under the direct control of Divisional Engineer (Rural).
- (5) Higher capacity batteries are being provided in the villages of Allahabad district as the systems are affected by heavy power cuts, around 12 hours daily.

[Translation]

#### Decrease in Facilities

4070. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether facilities for the common passengers are decreasing despite introducing fast and long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether there are a few general coaches attached to fast and superfast trains and there is shortage of reserved coaches and absence of medical and catering facilities in a number of trains all add to the sufferings of common passengers;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposed to introduce a train for common passengers having all the coaches for only second class ticket holders and make arrangements for general catering services in the trains meant for common passengers;

(d) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Number of coaches, reserved or unreserved, in a train is determined by the limitations of track, traction and terminal facilities. With the progressive switching over from steam to heavier traction like diesel and electric, number of bogies in a train have increased. First-Add boxes are provided with the Guards of all the passenger carrying trains. In superfast, Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains, first-aid boxes with additional contents are also kept in custody of Train Supdts./Pantry Car Manager. Scheme of providing a team of doctor and para-medical staff has also been introduced in a few selected long distance trains. Catering requirements of passengers are met satisfactorily from the static and mobile units.

(c) to (e) In July'95 Time Table, Railways had introduced four pairs of 'Jansewa Express' with exclusive second class sitting accommodation. Due to poor occupaney and public demands, two of these trains had to be provided with sleeper class and upper class accommodation also.

[English]

#### Deposit of Pension Amount

4071. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount deposited in Railway Pension Fund and the annual payout from the Fund;

(b) the manner in which Railway Pension Fund is invested at present, and the annual income out of such investment;

(c) the recommendations of the Railway Committee on capital restructuring in this respect; and

(d) the action has been taken to complement the recommendation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total amount deposited in Railway Pension Fund and the annual payout from the Fund for the last three years is

as under :

Year	(Rs. in crore)	
	Deposit	Withdrawal
1993-94	1540.53	1487.85
1994-95	2070.41	1086.00
1995-96	2170.33	2117.17

(b) Balances of the Fund remain with the Central Government (Reserve Bank of India) and earn interest at the rate applicable for payment of dividend to the General Revenues, which presently is 7 percent.

(c) and (d) Railway Capital Restructuring Committee vide their recommendation No. 37 have opined that in case the pension fund can not be operated as a fund which registers substantial growth from time to time, as is being done elsewhere in the world, there is no point in continuing it as at present. The report of the committee is under examination.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Facility to Panchayat Headquarters

4072. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of panchayat headquarters connected with telephone facility in Madhya Pradesh till now;

(b) the amount spent for this purpose during the year 1995, 1996 and 1997 so far; and

(c) the time by which the remaining panchayat headquarters are likely to be connected with this facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of a total of 30,922 Nos. of Gram Panchayats, 19,226 Nos. have been connected with telephone facility in Madhya Pradesh till now.

(b) The amounts spent are-

During 1995 - Rs. 61.25 Crores

During 1996 - Rs. 24.90 Crores

During 1997 - Rs. 51.10 Crores

(c) Remaining Gram Panchayats are proposed to be connected with telephone facility during, 9th plan period.

[English]

#### Development of Railway Station

4073. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have been

implementing a programme to develop certain railway stations/junctions as model stations;

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

(c) the names of the railway stations proposed to be developed during 1997-98, particularly in Orissa;

(d) whether the Jaipur-Keonjhar Station/Junction was earlier selected for development as a model station; and

(e) if so, the details of progress made and the targeted date of completion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) There is no such scheme in vogue at present.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Purchasing of Accident Relief Crane

4074. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irregularities are committed in regard to purchasing of Gottwald Accident Relief Cranes from Germany;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Difficulties Being Faced by Passengers in Reserved Compartments

4075. SHRI MURLIDHAR JENA :  
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that unauthorised passengers cause a lot of troubles to the bonafide ticket holders of sleeper class, particularly to those passengers who travel with their family and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have framed some rules to punish unauthorised passengers travelling in reserved compartments;

(d) if so, the nature of such punishment;

(e) the number of unauthorised passengers prosecuted during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(f) whether the Government propose to implement these rule expeditiously;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps contemplated by the Government to give relief to passengers particularly of the long distance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Cases of occupation of reserved coaches by daily passengers and other unauthorised passengers causing a lot of troubles to the bonafide ticket holders of sleeper class, have come to the notice during surprise inspections, through complaints and Press media.

(c) and (d) Under Section 155 of the Railways Act, 1989, if any passenger enters a compartment where no berth or seat has been reserved for him and refuse to vacate the compartment, he can be removed and shall also be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 500/-.

(e) The details of persons apprehended under Section 155 of the Railways Act are not separately maintained. However, total number of persons prosecuted under different Sections of the Railways Act was 1,70,601 during 1995-96 and 1,42,809 during 1996-97 (upto January '97).

(f) to (h) 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. Ticket checking activities are intensified in trains and sections which are found to be vulnerable.

#### Complaints of Staff of C-DOT

4076. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about some staff of C-DOT;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The complaints relate to irregularities of an employee of C-DOT in hiring accommodation, medical claims, recruitment, misappropriation of funds etc.

(c) to (e) The complaints are under investigation.

#### Restructuring of ITDC

4077. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp/restructure India Tourism Development Corporation in the light of observations and recommendations made by the Disinvestment Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the action plans drawn up for strengthening infrastructure network and promoting tourism in the country, both in public and private sector and the investment proposed to be made therefor during 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has submitted its report to the Government on 20th February, 1997. The Commission has recommended inter-alia for restructuring of hotel operations of ITDC in different cities. The recommendation of the Commission are presently under examination of the Government.

(c) The Capital plan of ITDC is not prepared statewise. For the year 1997-98, ITDC has drawn its Annual Plan envisaging an outlay of Rs. 70 crores schemewise as under :

S.No.	Scheme	Proposed Outlay (Rs. in crore)
(i)	Spillover Schemes	38.00
(ii)	Expansion Schemes	10.00
(iii)	Renovation/Improvement in existing Hotels	18.49
(iv)	Ashok Travel and Tours	0.50
(v)	Misc. Schemes	3.01
Total :		70.00

Strengthening of infrastructure network and promoting tourist is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory administrations. The Department of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance for various tourism projects on the basis of specific requests received from the State/Union Territory Governments, based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds. However, proposals for

1997-98 from State/Union Territory Government have not been received.

[Translation]

#### ESI Dispensaries

4078. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :  
SHRI K. PRADHANI :  
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dispensaries of Employees State Insurance Corporation functioning in the country, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the number of persons benefited therefrom;

(c) the details of the projects prepared for upliftment and modernisation of these dispensaries;

(d) the amount released so far during 1996-97 for the improvement of these projects; and

(e) the number of dispensaries proposed to be opened during the next three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) There are 1442 ESI dispensaries functioning in different parts of the country. A statement showing number of ESI dispensaries, State-wise is annexed. As on 31.3.96, there were 2.83 crore beneficiaries eligible for medical care and treatment provided in various ESI dispensaries. Except in Delhi and NOIDA, the responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. The expenditure on medical care is shared between the ESIC and State Governments in the ratio of 7:1. Modernisation of facilities in the ESI dispensaries is an ongoing process. The total amount released so far by the ESI Corporation during 1996-97 for medical care as a whole is Rs. 211.74 crore. New ESI dispensaries are opened as and when needed.

#### Statement

S.No.	Name of the State/U.T.	No. of Dispensaries
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	135
2.	Assam	26
3.	Bihar	56
4.	Chandigarh	02
5.	Delhi	47
6.	Goa	05
7.	Gujarat	121
8.	Haryana	69
9.	Himachal Pradesh	07

1	2	3
10.	Karnataka	145
11.	Kerala	136
12.	Madhya Pradesh	64
13.	Maharashtra	78
14.	Meghalaya	01
15.	Orissa	53
16.	Pondicherry	13
17.	Punjab	70
18.	Rajasthan	65
19.	Tamil Nadu	160
20.	Uttar Pradesh	145
21.	West Bengal	36
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	08
Total :		1442

[English]

#### Programmes on Satellite Channels

4079. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

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

(a) the number of satellite channels on the TV network operating in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch some new channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any programme is being exhibited continuously contrary to the interest and moral values of the children and teenage group;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether in the name of advertising the product, obscene and vulgar approach are being encouraged every day; and

(g) if so, the steps the Government propose to prevent the above?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Doordarshan has 19 satellite channels in its network.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Doordarshan telecasts commercial advertisements as per the guidelines prescribed in the Code for Commercial Advertising. The Code inter-alia does not permit indecent and obscene advertisements.

(g) Does not arise.

#### Punctuality of IA Flights

4080. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH  
GAEKWAD:

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether punctuality record of Indian Airlines flights continues to be dismal;

(b) if so, the number of air-flights delayed, disrupted or cancelled during 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 so far; and

(c) the number out of them attributed to strikes and agitations by pilots and other staff?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of flights delayed/disrupted or cancelled during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is given below :

Year	Take off	Delays	Cancelled
1994-95	77205	22911	3396
1995-96	76444	24364	2538
1996-97	68373	21351	1246

(upto 31.1.97)

(c) The number of flights delayed or cancelled during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 due to industrial unrest is given below :

Year	Delays	Cancelled
1994-95	59	289
1995-96	33	42
1996-97	8	83

(upto 31.1.97)

[Translation]

#### GPO in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

4081. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not setting up a General Post Office (G.P.O.) at Gadchiroli even after the formation of the district Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) in 1982;

(b) the number of the districts in the country where there are no G.P.Os;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(e) by when the G.P.Os are likely to be set up in all the districts of the country, including Gadhchiroli?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) As per departmental rules, the first class Head Post Office situated at the Headquarters of a Postal Circle viz., Chief Postmaster General or, where there are more than one such Head Post Office at that place, the one attached to the circle headquarters is termed as General Post Office. Normally the headquarters of the CPMG of a Postal Circle is the State capital. Therefore, the question of opening of a G.P.O. in every district of the country, including Gadhchiroli, does not arise.

[English]

#### Full Time Programme on LPT, Tamil Nadu

4082. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Doodarshan service for 24 hours, particularly on Low Power Transmitter Centres;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Bauxite Reserves in Gujarat

4083. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is abundant reserve of bauxite in Kutch region and other districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no bauxite based Aluminium industry in the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to set up Aluminium based industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The reserves of bauxite in the State of Gujarat, as on 1.4.90 are as follows :

(Unit in thousand tonnes)

District	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total
Gujarat Total	36,423	18,967	52,354	107,744
1. Amreli	7	1	-	8
2. Bhavnagar	100	-	410	510
3. Jamnagar	13,964	2,774	23,262	40,000
4. Junagarh	4	-	15,662	15,666
5. Kheda	469	-	614	1,083
6. Kutch	21,834	66	11,760	33,660
7. Sabarkantha	-	15,864	647	16,511
8. Valsad	45	262	-	307

(c) and (d) There is no bauxite based Aluminium industry in Gujarat. Bauxite is utilised mainly in refractory and abrasive industries in Gujarat.

(e) To encourage private sector investment in the aluminium sector, aluminium metal and its downstream products have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing. However, Government had approved the Foreign collaboration proposal of M/s. Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd. with M/s. Raytheon Engineers and Constructors Inc. USA for setting up of 5 lacs tonnes per annum (TPA) Alumina Plant in District Kutch, Gujarat.

#### Length of Rail Lines

4084. SHRI NURUL ISLAM :

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of Railway track abandoned in the country because of various reasons like gauge conversion, change of route etc.;

(b) the length of Railway track to Assam vis-a-vis in the country in 1947 and 1996;

(c) whether the length of railway track has been quite low in the North Eastern States, particularly in Assam;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the length in these States, particularly in Assam;

(e) the year from which conversion into broad-gauge was undertaken in the country and the break-up of broad gauge of metre gauge in Assam vis-a-vis in the country upto 1996; and

(f) the targets made for gauge conversion in Assam during current year and progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Women Vocational Training Centres

4085. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any women's vocational training centre in Jharkhand region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the planning of the Union Government to open the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Vocational Training Centres/Industrial Training Institutes are mainly established and run by the concerned State Governments. According to information made available by State Government of Bihar, there are four women's ITIs in the region. They are located in Hazaribagh, Chaibasa, Ranchi and Dumka. The total seating capacity of these ITIs is 432.

Training facilities in general ITIs are also open to women candidates.

### Misuse and Unauthorised Occupation of Retiring Rooms

4086. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale misuse and unauthorised occupation of retiring rooms on the main railway stations and the rude and discouraging attitude of the railway employees are directing the bonafide passengers to seek hotel accommodation;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to handover the retiring rooms to private entrepreneurs; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to correct and improve the retiring room services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No instance of misuse or unauthorised use of retiring rooms or rude behaviour on this account by railway staff has come to notice.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted at various levels to prevent misuse and unauthorised occupation of the retiring rooms or misbehaviour by the staff. Steps are also taken for proper upkeep of the retiring rooms to maintain the standard of retiring rooms at the desired level.

[Translation]

### Introduction of Train between Surat and Patna

4087. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :  
SHRI KANSHI RAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new train service between Surat and Patna;

(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) and (b) It has been decided to introduce a weekly train between Surat and Patna during 1997-98.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

### Revival Package for ITI, Bangalore

4088. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :  
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :  
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the revival package for the Indian Telephone Industries Limited;

(b) if so, the amount of soft loan given or proposed to be given to tide over the current working capital problems;

(c) the loss incurred by the company during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, so far;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to enlarge the business of the I.T.I. with defence sector and with DoT;

(f) whether the above company is likely to come out of the red by 1998-99; and

(g) the details of various concessions in tax etc. given by the Government under the revival package?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) DoT have already taken certain steps as follows :

- (i) Enhancement of advances against Purchase Orders from 50% to 75% upto 31.3.1997;
- (ii) Release of an adhoc amount of Rs. 62 crores on account of liquidated damages and other financial issues;
- (iii) Compensating the Company for the losses suffered in running their Srinagar (J and K) Unit;
- (iv) Extending Government of India Guarantee for issue of Bonds aggregating to Rs. 100 crores under private placement etc.

Other proposals of the Company viz. enhancement of equity by Rs. 200 crores, grant of long term soft loan of Rs. 150 crores and financial support for VRS and R and D etc. are being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

(c) The losses incurred by the Company during these years are as under :

1994-95	-	Rs. 81.91 crores
1995-96	-	Rs. 283.96 crores
1996-97	-	Rs. 117.52 crores
(upto 30-9-96) (Prov. unaudited)		

(d) The main reasons for the losses are as follows :

- (i) Competition from private vendors and reduction in the prices of telecom equipment;
- (ii) Interest burden owing to large borrowings;
- (iii) High manpower cost and other overheads.

(e) The Company has been advised to explore the market potential in non-DOT Segments including Defence by strengthening their marketing set up. The success of the Company in non-DOT segments will depend upon their marketing strategies and competitiveness.

As far as DOT is concerned, apart from assured orders ranging from 20% to 30% in different products to the Company has also been authorised to undertake cable laying jobs in some Telecom. Circles.

(f) All necessary steps to help the Company to become profitable in the coming years are being taken.

(g) Revival plan does not include any tax concessions, as these are as per relevant laws of the country.

### Disposal of Scrap

4089. LT. GENERAL (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount released by the Government on account of disposal of Scrap, etc. during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date;

(b) the break-up of the said amount, zone-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to liquidate all the scrap Squandered here and there in the areas belonging to Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The total value of sale of scrap realised by the Railways during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was as under :

	(Rs. in crore)		
Railways	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 upto February'97
CR	115.72	135.42	83.14
ER	117.10	100.97	85.22
NR	180.21	170.26	106.19
NER	42.68	48.01	25.94
NFR	25.61	23.41	14.65
SR	135.31	125.54	90.50
SCR	116.37	110.13	60.49
SER	120.89	130.70	112.83
WR	121.10	134.40	88.16
Total	974.99	978.84	667.12
PUs	42.76	39.26	30.60
Grand Total	1017.00	1018.00	697.72

(c) Mopping up of available scrap lying with the Railways and its prompt disposal is a continuous process. With a view to maximise the sale of scrap, a management group has already been set up in the Railway Board headed by Additional Member (Store), Additional General Manager at Zonal Headquarters and Additional Divisional Rail Manager at Divisional level have been nominated to closely monitor the progress of disposal and ensure that the scrap is not allowed to accumulate and disposal is prompt. The system is working satisfactorily.

### Earning by Freight Traffic

4090. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways earning was far behind its target for freight traffic during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways were behind the target carrying raw materials for steel plants, finished steel, iron ore, cement, fertilizer and petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) There was a shortfall in freight earnings with reference to the original target. However, with reference to the revised target, the actual freight earnings were higher in comparison with the proportionate target upto Jan, 1997 as brought out below :

To end of Jan 1997  
(Rs. in crore)

	Proportionate target based on Revised Estimate	Actuals	Variation
Goods Earnings	13558.18	13615.82	+57.64

The shortfall was essentially due to non-materialisation of projected traffic from the core sector, barring coal.

[Translation]

### Railway Factories

4091. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway factories in the country alongwith their installed capacities, location-wise;

(b) the details of the coaches/wagons manufactured by these factories during each of the last three years upto January 31, 1997, factory-wise;

(c) whether these factories have produced their products according to their installed capacity;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to tap their full capacity; and

(f) the details of the wagons/coaches purchased by the Government during the above period?

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

Details of the Railway factories location-wise	Installed capacity
(i) Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan, West Bengal.	150 locomotives per annum (Electrical)
(ii) Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.	150 locomotives per annum (Diesel)
(iii) Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.	1000 coaches per annum.
(iv) Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala, Punjab.	1000 coaches per annum.
(v) Diesel Component Works, Patiala, Punjab.	72 locos rebuilding per annum
(vi) Wheel and Axle Plant, Bangalore, Karnataka.	77000 wheels and 48000 axles per annum.

(b) The coaches are manufactured only in Integral Coach Factory and Rail Coach Factory in Railway Sector. The details are as under :

Railway Factory	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 Upto Jan. 97
Integral Coach Factory	780	890	802
Rail Coach Factory	775	690	698

Details of the wagons manufactured by Railway Workshops during last three years is given below :

Railway Workshops	Wagons manufactured (In terms of four wheeler units)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Upto Jan'97)
Amritsar	400	400	445
Golden Rock	500	650	370
Samastipur	300	327.5	360
Total	1200	1377.5	1175

(c) Based on Railway's requirement of coaches and wagons for a particular year the orders are placed on Production Units and workshops for manufacturing coaches and wagons. However, efforts are made to fully utilise their installed capacities.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) Total number of the coaches and wagons procured by Railways (including from Railway

Workshops) during last three years is given below :

Year	(In terms of four wheeler units)	
	Wagons	Coaches
1994-95	10575	1579
1995-96	17950	1752
1996-97 (Upto Jan. 1997)	17430	1677

[English]

#### Doordarshan Production Centre, Karnataka

4092. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Karnataka having Doordarshan Production Centres, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open such more Centres in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Two Programme Production Centres, one each at Bangalore and Gulbarga are presently operational in the State of Karnataka.

(b) There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up additional Programme Production Centres in Karnataka.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Waiting List for Telephone Connections

4093. SHRI RAJU RANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of customers on waiting list for telephone connections in Bhavnagar city;

(b) the time by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to install new telephone exchanges in the district during 1997; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith names of the villages thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 10661 customers on waiting list for telephone connections in Bhavnagar city as on 28.02.1997.

(b) The existing waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March, 1998.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is a plan to commission 15000 lines New Technology exchange at Bhavnagar

city during 1997-98. It is also proposed to open new telephone exchanges in the following villages in Bhavnagar district during 1997-98 :

S.No.	Name of Village	Type of exchange
1.	Bhutia	256 C-DOT
2.	Bajud	-do-
3.	Dolti	128 C-DOT
4.	Ganghali	-do-
5.	Bagdana	-do-

#### Free Travel Railway Passes

4094. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of free railway passes issued for higher-class railway travel and the cost involved per annum during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 so far, indicating the criteria adopted for issues of such passes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : A statement is enclosed.

#### Statement

S.No.	Category	No. of higher class pass (IAC/2AC/1Class) issued		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto 7.3.97)
1.	Individual and organisations at discretion of MR	181	315	425
2.	Ex. MR/MOS(R)/DMR	3	4	5
3.	Ex. MPs	1258	1301	1670
4.	Arjuna Awardees/ Olympic Medalists/ Asian & Commonwealth Gold Medalists	—	—	337
5.	Gallantry Awardees (Defence)	—	—	467
6.	Gallantry Awardees	—	—	243
7.	Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federation of India.	—	—	46

Since passes are complimentary in nature, the cost thereof is not computed.

In regard to category (i) above, complimentary card passes are issued at the personal discretion of the

Minister of Railways to eminent persons and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational and welfare activities of national importance. Other categories are self explanatory.

### Unemployed Persons

4095. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed persons registered with various Employment Exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide employment to these persons;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide special grants to the States to give unemployment allowance to the jobless youth;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The approach to the 9th Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty.

(c) to (e) The Central Government is not in favour of paying unemployment allowance to any category of unemployed on account of resource constraints.

### Statement

*Number of job-seekers on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as at the end of 31st December, 1996.*

(In thousands)

State/Union Territories	Number on live register
1	2
<b>States</b>	
1. Andhra Pradesh	2937.6
2. Arunachal Pradesh	7.0
3. Assam	1296.0
4. Bihar	3465.5
5. Goa	102.7
6. Gujarat	931.3
7. Haryana	756.3
8. Himachal Pradesh	638.4
9. Jammu and Kashmir	152.9
10. Karnataka	1808.5

	1	2
11. Kerala		3274.1
12. Madhya Pradesh		2293.6
13. Maharashtra		3815.9
14. Manipur		292.1
15. Meghalaya		28.0
16. Mizoram		48.8
17. Nagaland		20.6
18. Orissa		963.5
19. Punjab		540.0
20. Rajasthan		886.9
21. Sikkim*		
22. Tamil Nadu		3607.7
23. Tripura		205.9
24. Uttar Pradesh		2491.6
25. West Bengal		5468.8
<b>Union Territories</b>		
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		21.6
27. Chandigarh		139.7
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		5.0
29. Delhi		1081.2
30. Daman and Diu		5.0
31. Lakshadweep		9.7
32. Pondicherry		133.8
Total		37429.6

- Note : 1. No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
2. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.
3. All the job-seekers on the live register are not necessarily unemployed.

### New Railway Line from Adilabad to Chanala

4096. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of the new broad gauge railway line from Adilabad to Chanala (Maharashtra) has been completed;

(b) if so, when the said railway line was completed; and

(c) the time by which trains from North and South are likely to start on the said railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No such work is in progress.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Electrification of Managalore - Shoranur

4097. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had conducted the techno-economical survey for Electrification programme on the Mangalore-Shoranur section of Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on said section is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### ISD/STD/PCO Facilities at Tourist Spots in Bihar

4098. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ISD/STD/PCO facilities have been provided at all the tourist centres in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where this facility is not available; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to provide this facility to all the tourist centres?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Sir, 19 out of 33 tourist centres in Bihar are provided STD/ISD/PCO facilities. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The remaining tourist centres in Bihar are proposed to be provided with the Telecom facilities during 1997-98.

#### Statement

(I) *List of tourist centres where STD/ISD/PCOs are available.*

1. Rajgir
2. Pawapuri
3. Netarhat
4. Maithan
5. Gaya
6. Barabar
7. Parasnath Madhuban
8. Rajrappa
9. Hazipur
10. Vaishali
11. Sitamarhi
12. Rikhiya
13. Kamtaul

14. Babu Barhi
15. Darbhanga
16. Kalna
17. Mangalgarh
18. Bhawanipur Pandawl
19. Rajwara

(II) *List of tourist centres without STD/ISD/PCOs.*

1. Nalanda
2. Kakolat
3. Hazaribagh
4. Usri Falls
5. Suraj Kund
6. Itkhorri
7. Koleswari
8. Betla
9. Sasaram
10. Mohnia
11. Uchait
12. Bispi
13. Jaimangal Garh
14. Kapileshwar Asthan

### Flights from Bhavnagar

4099. SHRI RAJU RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start more flights from Bhavnagar to other cities instead of only one flight to Bombay; and

(b) if so, the cities which are proposed to be connected by air from Bhavnagar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines, at present, operates a four times weekly service on Mumbai/Bhavnagar/Mumbai sector. Due to aircraft capacity constraints, Indian Airlines has no plans, at present, to increase its services from Bhavnagar. However, private operators, with suitable aircraft are being encouraged to add more flights in their network including Bhavnagar.

[Translation]

### Production of Metal and Non-Metal Ores

4100. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of important metals and non-

metal ores in the country during each of the last two years;

(b) the target fixed for 1997-98;

(c) the actual production as on February 1997;

(d) whether this production has met the demand of the country;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the new reserves of scarcely available ores and minerals have been found in the country during the current year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Electrification of Rail Routes

4101. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :  
SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :  
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :  
SHRI D.P. YADAV :  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway routes electrified during the Eighth Five Year Plan, zone/State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise;

(c) the details of the railway routes to be electrified during current financial year and proposed for the Ninth Five Year Plan, zone/State-wise; and

(d) the total expenditure is likely to be incurred thereon, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Details of Railway routes electrified during first four years of the VIII Five Year Plan Zone/State-wise are as under :

Year 1992-93		
	RKM Energised	State
	1	2
<i>Central Railway</i>		
Bina-Girwar	97	Madhya Pradesh
Damoh-Sagoni	41	Madhya Pradesh
<i>Eastern Railway</i>		
Sonnagar-Bagh-Bishnupur	6	Bihar

	1	2
Barki-Salaya-Kajarat-Nawadih	15	Bihar
Kajri-Kechki	23	Bihar
<i>Northern Railway</i>		
Sabjimandi-Naya-Azadpur	6	Delhi
Khurja City-Khurja Jn.	3	Uttar Pradesh
<i>South Central Railway</i>		
Bibinagar-Maula Ali	28	Andhra Pradesh
Maula Ali-Sanatnagar	23	Andhra Pradesh
Maula Ali-Secunderabad	7	Andhra Pradesh
<i>South Eastern Railway</i>		
Anuppur-Sahdol	40	Madhya Pradesh
Bilaspur-Khongsara	66	Madhya Pradesh
Khodari-Venket Nagar	30	Madhya Pradesh
Anuppur-Bijuri	47	Madhya Pradesh
Boridand-Baikuntpur Road	42	Madhya Pradesh
<i>Western Railway</i>		
Sabarmati-Chandoliya	5	Gujarat
Total	479	

Year 1993-94		
	RKM Energised	State
	1	2
<i>Central Railway</i>		
Girwar-Damoh	54	Madhya Pradesh
Sagoni-Katni-Murwar	66	Madhya Pradesh
Agasod-Karod-Malkhadi	07	Madhya Pradesh
Badnera-Amravati	09	Madhya Pradesh
<i>Eastern Railway</i>		
Baghbishnupur-Barki-Salaya	15	Bihar
Kajarat-Nawadih-Japla	10	Bihar
Garwa Road-Kajri	26	Bihar
Kechki-Barwadih	18	Bihar
<i>Northern Railway</i>		
Naya Azadpur-Sonipat	34	Dehi/Haryana
<i>South Central Railway</i>		
Hussain Sagar-Hyderabad	6	Andhra Pradesh
Hussain Sagar-Sanat Nagar	5	Andhra Pradesh
<i>South Eastern Railway</i>		
Shahdol-Chandiy Road	87	Madhya Pradesh
Khongssora-Khori	20	Madhya Pradesh
Venkat Nagar-Anuppur	30	Madhya Pradesh
Bijuri-Boridand-Manendragarh	15	Madhya Pradesh

	1	2
Baikuntpur-Bishrampur	58	Madhya Pradesh
Daritola-Tiger Hill	9	Madhya Pradesh
<i>Southern Railway</i>		
Bengaluru-Kengeri	13	Karnataka
<i>Western Railway</i>		
Chadoliya-Gandhinagar	23	Gujrat
Total	505	

Year 1994-95	RKM Energised	State
<i>Central Railway</i>		
Katni-Murwar-New Katni	10	Madhya Pradesh
Tadali-Ghugus	14	Maharashtra
Jalamb-Khamgaon	12	Maharashtra
Butibori-Mmrer	32	Maharashtra
Majri-Rajur	21	Masharashtra
<i>Eastern Railway</i>		
Japla-Satbahini Station	27	Bihar
Untari Road-Garwa Road	14	Bihar
Barwadih-Tori	73	Bihar
Bandel-Dhatrigram	52	West Bengal
Kulpi-Karanjali	4	West Bengal
Sitarampur-Chittaranjan	18	West Bengal
<i>Northern Railway</i>		
Sonipat-Karnal	82	Haryana
<i>South Eastern Railway</i>		
Chandiya Road-New Katni	33	Madhya Pradesh
Manendragarh-Chirimiri	25	Madhya Pradesh
Durg-Maruda	16	Madhya Pradesh
<i>South Central Railway</i>		
Vijayawada-Bye-pass-line-Mustabada	13	Andhra Pradesh
Motumari-Jaggayyapet	27	Andhra Pradesh
Total	473	

Year 1995-96	RKM Energised	State
	1	2
<i>Eastern Railway</i>		
Satbahini-Untari Road	04	Bihar

	1	2
Chittaranjan-Jamtara	16	Bihar
Karanjali-Nishchintpur	08	West Bengal
Dhatrigram-Katwa	53	West Bengal
<i>South Eastern Railway</i>		
Dumetra-Lathiketa	03	Orissa
Mohuda-Karkend	14	Bihar
Simhichalam (North)-Gopalpatnam	12	Andhra Pradesh
<i>Northern Railway</i>		
Karnal-Ambala	93	Haryana
Sambhu-Mandigobindgarh	53	Punjab
<i>Southern Railway</i>		
Erode-Coimbatore-Podanur-Irugar	130	Tamil Nadu
Walayar Yard	02	Kerala
<i>South Central Railway</i>		
Mustabada-Bhimadolu	66	Andhra Pradesh
Rajhamundry-Samalkot-Kakinada	69	Andhra Pradesh
Anakapalli-Visakhapatnam	27	Andhra Pradesh
Dornakal-Singareni	30	Andhra Pradesh
Manikgarh-Gadchandur	29	Maharashtra
Total	609	

(b) The anticipated expenditure incurred Project-wise is as under :

		(Rs. in crores)
Name of Project	Expenditure upto March, 97	
1. Bina-Katni	204.52	
2. Katni-Bilaspur	286.00	
3. Sonnagar-Patratu	171.13	
4. Sitarampur-Mughalsarai	140.12	
5. Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana	186.75	
6. Gumia-Patratu	29.63	
7. Bokaro Steel City-Barsuan/Kiriburu	125.81	
8. Erode-Ernakulam	99.15	
9. Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam	184.91	
10. Jamadoba-Mohuda	8.43	
11. Bandel-Katwa	41.82	

(c) The details of railway routes to be electrified during the financial year and proposed for IX Five Year

Plan Zone/State-wise are as under :

	RKM	State
<i>Eastern Railway</i>		
Tori-Patratu-Chainpur	106	Bihar
Jamtara-Madhupur-Jasidih	71	Bihar
<i>Northern Railway</i>		
Mandigobindgarh-Ludhiyana	49	Punjab
Ambala Cantt-Jagadhari Workshop	51	Haryana
<i>Southern Railway</i>		
Walayar-Shoranur-Vallatolnagar	77	Kerala
<i>South Eastern Railway</i>		
Bondamunda-Rakshi	56	Orissa
Karkend-Jamadoba	08	Bihar
Tiruldih-Chandil	37	Bihar
<i>South Central Railway</i>		
Bhimadolu-Rajhamundry	72	Andhra Pradesh
Samalkot-Annaram-Anakapalli	107	Andhra Pradesh
Total	634	

*Proposed Railway routes for electrification during IX Plan*

	RKM	State
	1	2
<i>Eastern Railway</i>		
Jasidih-Mughalsarai	454	Bihar/U.P.
Tiruldih-Ilu	24	West Bengal
Ilu-Barkakana	65	Bihar
Chainpur-Gumia	31	Bihar
<i>Northern Railway</i>		
Sarswan-Saharanpur	21	Uttar Pradesh
<i>South Eastern Railway</i>		
Rakshi-Kiriburu	30	Orissa/Bihar
Bimlagarh-Barsuan	20	Orissa
Bondamunda-Orga	35	Orissa
Orga-Muri	201	Bihar
Muri-Pundag	36	West Bengal
Pundag-Bokaro Steel City	17	Bihar
Purulia-Kotshila	36	West Bengal
Kharagpur-Dantan	54	West Bengal
Dantan-Ichchhapuram incl. Talcher-Paradeep	679	Orissa
Ichchhapuram-Visakhapatnam	250	Andhra Pradesh
Adra-Midnapur	155	West Bengal

	1	2
<i>Southern Railway</i>		
Shoranur-Ernakulam	120	Kerala
<i>Western Railway</i>		
Udhna-Kikakui Road	68	Gujarat
Kikakui Road-Jalgaon	238	Maharashtra
	2534	

(d) Expenditure during IX Plan, project-wise is estimated as under :

Project	Rs. in crores
Ambala-Moradabad	116.80
Chandil-Muri-Barkakana	21.54
Gumia-Patratu	3.00
Bokaro-Barsuan	88.77
Adra-Midnapur	65.50
Erode-Ernakulam	51.77
Kharagpur-Bhubneswar incl. Talcher-Paradeep	312.00
Bhubneswar-Visakhapatnam	295.45
Sitarampur-Mughalsarai	152.73
Jalgaon-Udhna	124.46
Renigunta-Hospet	239.00
Saharanpur-Meerut-Khurja	89.21
New Works	239.77
	1800.00 Crores

#### Telecom System in Birbhum

4102. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that telecommunication system in the district of Birbhum is in a bad shape;

(b) whether the Government are considering to improve the performance of telecommunication of the district; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. The telecom system in the district of Birbhum is working satisfactorily.

(b) and (c) For further improving the services in the District following steps have been taken :

1. New electronic exchanges at Nanoor, Rajgram, Kurumgram and Joydeukenduly will be commissioned by 31.3.97.
2. STD facility will be provided to subscribers of Lohapur, Labpur, Mollarpur, Joydevkenduly,

Ahmedpur, Mohd. Bazar and Mayureshwar by June, 1997.

3. 120 more villages will be provided with Public Telephones by April, 1997.

### Airports Running in Losses

4103. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) is it a fact that 81 Airports are running in losses due to non-availability of adequate tariff;  
 (b) if so, the amount of losses incurred during the last 2 years, port-wise; and  
 (c) the steps being proposed to rectify the situation and make these Airports profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. The losses are mainly due to inadequate traffic revenue.

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

[Translation]

### Closure of Pant Nagar Airport

4104. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHADA' : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for keeping the airports situated at Pantnagar in Kumaun Division in Uttar Pradesh closed for flights;  
 (b) whether efforts are on for opening this airport for domestic flights; and  
 (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Pant Nagar Airport belongs to the Airports Authority of India and has basic infrastructure for sustaining operations of Dornier type of aircraft. The airport is operational and airlines/private operators are free to operate flights to/from this airport.

[English]

### Extension of Financial and Performance Guarantees

4105. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has asked two basic telecom companies holding letter of intents (Lols) to extend their financial and performance guarantees which are likely to expire by the end of March, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) the response of the companies holding Lols;

(d) the terms and conditions at the agreements by DOT and Lols;

(e) whether the Lols have asked the DOT that the concessions accorded to other basic Telecom Companies be made applicable to them;

(f) if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto; and

(g) the terms of agreements with other Telecom Companies?

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

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

(c) to (g) Two out of four companies holding valid Letters of Intent (LOI) have signed the Licence and Interconnect Agreements. However, the LOI holding companies raised certain issues pertaining to Assignability of Licence, Application of Force Majeure, Arbitration procedures, Interconnection charges etc. and requested the Government to modify the Agreement documents. The Government has considered and resolved these issues suitably. The two companies which signed the Licence and Interconnect Agreements had approached the Government with a request that modifications proposed to be carried out in Licence and Interconnect Agreements should be made applicable to them also and the Government agreed to their requests.

[Translation]

### Telephone Booths in Urban Areas

4106. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure for allotment of ISD/STD/PCO to unemployed and handicapped youths in the country;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal;

(c) the applications received during 1996-97 so far, state-wise; and

(d) the number of them processed so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the existing procedure for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO is quite simple. However, the procedure for constitution of STD PCO Allotment Committees has been recently modified.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[English]

### Reservation in Trains

4107. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a great difficulty was experienced by the people during the last summer vacations in getting reservations in the trains despite of special trains started by the Railways to clear the rush of the people from Delhi; and

(b) if so, the number of Special Trains proposed to be started from the Capital during the ensuing summer vacation to avoid such hardships to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some passengers remained on the waiting list.

(b) About 160 specials.

[Translation]

### Development work at Ulab Airport

4108. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not carrying development work at Ulab airport in Begusarai district of Bihar;

(b) whether the people of Begusarai, the headquarter of industrial city Barauni, have to cover 150 kms to board the plane from Patna; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to develop this airport?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Ulab Airport in Begusarai District belongs to the State Government of Bihar. Airports Authority of India has no plans to develop this airport.

[English]

### Change in the Name of Dabok Airport

4109. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to change the name of Dabok Airport in Udaipur (Rajasthan) as Maharana Pratap Airport; and

(b) if so, by when this announcement is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The matter is under examination.

[Translation]

### Requirement of Imported Coal in BSP

4110. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of imported coal required by Bokaro Steel Plant annually during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of imported coal supplied to Bokaro Steel Plant during the above period;

(c) the subsidiary units of Coal India Ltd. which catered the need of coal during the above period;

(d) whether any complaints were received regarding the quality of coal;

(e) if so, the details thereof with regard to different subsidiary units during the above period; and

(f) the amount deducted out of bill of different coal companies on the basis of complaints in the quality of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) SAIL has been importing 'Low Ash Metallurgical coking coal' of prime quality as a quantitative and qualitative supplement to the indigenous coking coal to meet the total requirement of steel plants. Import of coking coal is done centrally for all plants. Actual allocation is done on the basis of techno-economic and stock position.

The quantity of imported coking coal received by Bokaro Steel Plant and its percentage to the total coking coal receipts during the last 3 years had been as follows :

Year	Quantity received (In Million Tonnes)	Percentage
1993-94	1.466	37.8%
1994-95	1.446	42.7%
1995-96	1.594	43.2%

(c) The subsidiary units of Coal India Ltd. which supplied coal to Bokaro Steel Plant are as under :

(i) Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL)

(ii) Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL)

(iii) North Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (NEC)

(d) to (f) The quality of coal supplied to SAIL during the period was determined as per mutually agreed parameters and suitable adjustments were made for variation in the quality through 'Bonus and Penalty' provisions of the contract. The details of quantity of coal

supplied by above units and deductions made on account of poor quality are as given below :

Type of Coal	Company	Quantity Supplied (000'T)			Deduction for Quality (Rs. in Crores)			Reasons for Deductions
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	93-94	94-95	95-96	
Coking	BCCL	1389	1143	1384	5.34	3.23	1.26	Higher Ash % than Norm
	CCL	990	752	945	8.15	2.13	10.60	
	NEC	43	31	62	-	-	-	
Boiler	BCCL	908	806	946	1.50	2.33	2.70	Grade Slippage
	CCL	582	613	884	-	4.56	-	
	NEC	-	54	20	-	-	-	

[English]

#### Stalls sanctioned at Railway stations

4111. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of stalls sanctioned at various Railway stations during each of the last three years in the country; and

(b) the number of stalls out of these allotted to physically handicapped and Ex-servicemen in Uttar Pradesh?

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

[Translation]

#### Journey by Passengers without Tickets

4112. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Zone /Divisions in which maximum number of cases of travelling without ticket were registered during 1996;

(b) whether the Government propose to take any fresh stringent steps to check ticketless travelling; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Name of Zones/Divisions on which maximum number of cases travelling without/with improper ticket detected during 1996 are given below :-

Zone	Division
1	2
Central	Mumbai
Eastern	Sealdah
Northern	Allahabad

1	2
North Eastern	Varanasi
North East Frontier	Lumding
Southern	Chennai
South Central	Vijayawada
South Eastern	Kharagpur
Western	Mumbai

(b) and (c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted frequently by the Railways to check ticketless/irregular travel in association with the Railway Magistrates, Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force. Vigorous checks are also conducted every month under an 'Action Plan' circulated to all Zonal Railways directing them to conduct different types of checks on specific dates at various places and sections prone to ticketless travel.

[English]

#### Newspaper Finance Corporation

4113. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Language Newspapers Association has urged the Government to set up a Newspaper Finance Corporation for the benefit of Indian Language newspapers and help to maintain freedom of press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon so far; and

(d) the steps initiated/under consideration for promotion of healthy growth of small and medium press?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the copy of the resolution, taken at a meeting of executive committee of Indian Language

Newspapers Association, the Government has been urged to establish a Newspaper Finance Corporation for the benefit of Indian Language newspapers and help maintain freedom of Press. Emphasising on the need to treat Language newspapers as a small scale industry, it has been desired that loans at concessional interest rate be provided to them.

(c) At present, there is no intention to set up a Finance Corporation for the Indian Language Newspapers.

(d) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

### Statement

The Government have always recognised the role of small and medium newspapers and have been responsive to their problems. The specific problems of small and medium Newspapers have been taken note of by various committees/commissions from time to time. An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri I. Rammohan Rao, former Principal information Officer was constituted by the Government to look into problems being faced by the small and medium newspapers and to suggest ways to help them to overcome their difficulties. Out of 12 recommendations made by the Committee, 11 have been accepted with minor modifications in some cases, by the Government. Besides, the following measures have also been taken by the Government in regard to promotion of healthy growth of small and medium newspapers :

- (i) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)'s advertising rate structure has an inbuilt provision for providing weightage for small and medium newspapers. To give additional relief to small and medium newspapers the advertisement rates for small and medium newspapers were further revised by DAVP with effect from 1st July, 95 by allowing 15% increase in the weightage admissible to them (newspapers upto and including circulation of 50,000 copies) in the present rate structure. Instructions had also been issued by the Ministry to DAVP in 1995 to double the then existing minimum quantum of advertisements to small and medium newspapers from three to six in a year.
- (ii) In order to ensure greater availability of newsprint, its import has been put under OGL subject to actual user condition by importers who hold a "Certificate for Entitlement to Import Newsprint" issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India. To ensure uninterrupted supply of indigenous newsprint to small and medium newspapers, whose annual requirement of newsprint is 200 Mts

or less, scheduled newsprint mills are required under the "Newsprint (Regulation of Production and Distribution) Order, 1995", issued by the Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion) on 23rd June, 95, to earmark 1/3rd of their annual production to meet the demand of small and medium newspapers on pro-rata basis. The newspapers can lift the stocks from any of these mills in 12 equal monthly instalments.

[Translation]

### Electronic Telephone Exchanges

4114. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Maharashtra where electronic telephone exchanges have been set up during 1996-97;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the names of places where electronic telephone exchanges are likely to be set up in the State during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) During 1996-97 (from April 1996 to 28.2.97), 95 Nos. of electronic telephone exchanges have been set up at various places in Maharashtra. The names of the places are given in the statement-I.

(b) Details are given in the statement-II.

(c) During 1997-98, 113 Nos. of electronic telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up in Maharashtra. The details are given in the statement-III. Actual locations are not yet finalised.

### Statement

*List of Electronic Exchanges set up in Maharashtra since April, 1996 up to 28.2.1997*

S.No.	Name of the Place
1	2
<b>Ahmednagar District</b>	
1.	Khaisgaon
2.	Sarola Pathar
3.	Chicholiphata
<b>Akola District</b>	
4.	Rajura
5.	Kokata
6.	Kanadi
7.	Kanhai Garali
8.	Jamadhi

1	2
	<b>Amaravati District</b>
9.	Itki
10.	Kokada
11.	Belora
12.	Mardi
	<b>Bhandara District</b>
13.	Dewadi
14.	Warhi
15.	Chichal
16.	Paraswada
	<b>Buldhana District</b>
17.	Bawandbir
18.	Asalgaon
	<b>Chandrapur District</b>
19.	Kangalwadi
20.	Wadheri
	<b>Dhule District</b>
21.	Kahatul
22.	Mohadi
23.	Sangvi
24.	Tarhadi
	<b>Jaigaon District</b>
25.	Gadkhamb
	<b>Jalna District</b>
26.	Dhawda
27.	Antarwalil
	<b>Kolhapur District</b>
28.	Parvati Ind. Estate
29.	Bathanangale
30.	Kalambwadi
31.	Alate
32.	S. Takali
33.	Mudshingi
34.	Kekhale
35.	Shirati
36.	Rashivade
37.	Ujalaiwadi
38.	Turanbe
	<b>Latur District</b>
39.	Iharni
40.	Kamkheda
41.	Her

1	2
	<b>Nanded District</b>
42.	Yetala
43.	Takali
44.	Waghalwadsa
	<b>Nasik District</b>
45.	Mundegaon
46.	Shinde
47.	Brahmangaon
	<b>Osmanabad District</b>
48.	Baloor
49.	Massa
50.	Jalkot
51.	Bathrud
52.	Padoli
	<b>Parbhani District</b>
53.	Singnagur
54.	Hingoli Mide
55.	Hadgaon Nakate
	<b>Raigad District</b>
56.	Jambhaivali
57.	Pangloli
58.	Pachad
59.	Adgaon
60.	Manivali
61.	Ghosale
62.	Arvi
	<b>Ratnagiri District</b>
63.	Angawad
64.	Kelshi
65.	Kondye
	<b>Sangli District</b>
66.	Utagi
67.	Borgi
68.	Narasingpur
69.	Yellur
70.	Muchandi
71.	Burli
	<b>Satara District</b>
72.	Chapal
73.	Diskal
74.	Kalghar

1	2
<b>Solapur District</b>	
75.	Ropale
76.	Harvade
77.	Begampur
78.	Sheerapur
79.	Sakai
<b>Wardha District</b>	
80.	Vijaygopal
81.	Pardhi
82.	Kandwa
<b>Yeotmal District</b>	
83.	Niljal
<b>MTNL Bombay</b>	
84.	Mankhurd RSU
85.	Byculla I
86.	Sakinaka RLU
87.	Gokuldharm RSU
88.	Mandwi-2
89.	Gamdevi-3
90.	Fountain-RSU
91.	Vileparle (CNE)
92.	Goregaon (CNE)
93.	Wadala-3
94.	Bandra (CNE)
95.	Belapur-RSU

**Statement-II**

*Details of Electronic Telephone Exchanges set up in Maharashtra since April, 1996 up to 28.2.1997*

S.No.	Name of the place	Type	Capacity
1	2	3	4
<b>Ahmednagar District</b>			
1.	Khaisgaon	C-DOT 128	80
2.	Sarola Pathar	do	88
3.	Chicholiphata	C-DOT 256	184
<b>Akoia District</b>			
4.	Rajura	MILT	56
5.	Kokata	C-DOT 128	80
6.	Kanadi	do	88
7.	Kanhai Garali	MILT	56
8.	Jamadhi	C-DOT 128	88

1	2	3	4
<b>Amaravati District</b>			
9.	Itki	C-DOT 128	80
10.	Kokada	do	80
11.	Belora	MILT	56
12.	Mardi	MILT	56
<b>Bhandara District</b>			
13.	Dewadi	C-DOT 128	88
14.	Warthi	do	80
15.	Chichal	do	80
16.	Paraswada	do	80
<b>Buidhana District</b>			
17.	Bawandbir	C-DOT 128	80
18.	Asalgaon	do	80
<b>Chandrapur District</b>			
19.	Kangalwadi	C-DOT 128	80
20.	Wadheri	do	80
<b>Dhule District</b>			
21.	Kahatul	MILT	56
22.	Mohadi	MILT	56
23.	Sangvi	C-DOT 128	80
24.	Tarhadi	MILT	56
<b>Jalgaon District</b>			
25.	Gadkhamb	MILT	56
<b>Jalna District</b>			
26.	Dhawda	C-DOT 128	88
27.	Antarwalil	do	80
<b>Kolhapur District</b>			
28.	Parvati Ind. Estate	C-DOT 256 Type B	152
29.	Bathanangale	C-DOT 128	80
30.	Kalambwadi	MILT	56
31.	Alate	C-DOT 128	80
32.	S. Takali	C-DOT 128	80
33.	Mudshingi	C-DOT 256	184
34.	Kekhale	C-DOT 128	80
35.	Shirati	C-DOT 256	184
36.	Rashivade	C-DOT 256	184
37.	Ujalaiwadi	C-DOT 256 Type B	152
38.	Turanbe	C-DOT 128	80
<b>Latur District</b>			
39.	Dharni	MILT	56

1	2	3	4
40.	Kamkheda	MILT	56
41.	Her	do	56
<b>Nanded District</b>			
42.	Yetala	C-DOT 128	88
43.	Takali	do	80
44.	Waghalwadsa	do	80
<b>Nasik District</b>			
45.	Mundegaon	C-DOT 128	80
46.	Shinde	C-DOT 256	184
47.	Brahmangaon	C-DOT 128	80
<b>Osmanabad District</b>			
48.	Balloor	MILT	56
49.	Massa	do	56
50.	Jalkot	C-DOT 128	80
51.	Bathrud	MILT	56
52.	Padoli	C-DOT 256	184
<b>Parbhani District</b>			
53.	Singnagur	MILT	56
54.	Hingoli Mide	do	56
55.	Hadgaon Nakate	do	56
<b>Raigad District</b>			
56.	Jambhaivali	MILT	56
57.	Pangloli	do	56
58.	Pachad	do	56
59.	Adgaon	do	56
60.	Manivali	do	56
61.	Ghosale	do	56
62.	Arvi	do	56
<b>Ratnagiri District</b>			
63.	Angawad	C-DOT 128	88
64.	Kelshi	do	88
65.	Kondye	do	88
<b>Sangli District</b>			
66.	Utagi	MILT	56
67.	Borgi	C-DOT 128	80
68.	Narasingpur	do	88
69.	Yellur	do	80
70.	Muchandi	MILT	56
71.	Burli	C-DOT 128	80
<b>Satara District</b>			
72.	Chapal	C-DOT 128	88

1	2	3	4
73.	Diskal	C-DOT 128	88
74.	Kalghar	do	80
<b>Solapur District</b>			
75.	Ropale	C-DOT 128	88
76.	Harvade	MILT	56
77.	Begampur	C-DOT 128	88
78.	Sheerapur	do	88
79.	Sakai	do	88
<b>Wardha District</b>			
80.	Vijaygopal	C-DOT 128	80
81.	Pardhi	do	80
82.	Kandwa	do	80
<b>Yeotmal District</b>			
83.	Niljal	C-DOT 128	80
<b>MTNL Bombay</b>			
84.	Mankhurd RSU	OCB 283	7.0K
85.	Byculla I	OCB 283	5.0K
86.	Sakinaka RLU	E-10B	2.0K
87.	Gokuldham RSU	OCB 283	2.75K
88.	Mandwi-2	OCB 283	11.5K
89.	Gamdevi-3	OCB 283	1.0K
90.	Fountain-RSU	OCB 283	5.75K
91.	Vileparle (CNE)	OCB 283	1.25K
92.	Goregaon (CNE)	OCB 283	1.25K
93.	Wadala-3	OCB 283	7.0K
94.	Bandra (CNE)	OCB 283	1.25K
95.	Belapur-RSU	OCB 283	1.0K

**Statement-III**

*Names of places in Maharashtra where new Electronic exchange are proposed to be commissioned during 1997-98*

S.No.	Name of District	No. of new telephone exchanges to be opened in 1997-98
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	8
2.	Akola	5
3.	Amaravati	3
4.	Aurangabad	5
5.	Beed	3
6.	Bhandara	3
7.	Buldhana	4

1	2	3
8.	Chandrapur	2
9.	Dhule	4
10.	Jalagaon	5
11.	Jalna	3
12.	Kolhapur	7
13.	Latur	4
14.	Nagpur	5
15.	Nanded	2
16.	Nasik	5
17.	Osmanabad	2
18.	Parbhani	2
19.	Pune	4
20.	Raigud	2
21.	Ratnagiri	3
22.	Sangli	4
23.	Satara	4
24.	Sindhudurg	2
25.	Solapur	4
26.	Tane (Kalyan)	2
27.	Wardha	3
28.	Yeotmal	3
29.	MTNL Bombay	10
Total		113

#### All India Radio, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh

4115. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had accorded sanction for setting up of All India Radio, F.M. Band centre at Mandla district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the proposed F.M. Band has been converted into medium band with old technology; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A radio station with 1 KM FM Transmitter and Multi-purpose Studio was originally approved for Mandla as part of 8th Five Year Plan. However, in view of numerous representations received from different parts of the country regarding non-availability of FM receiver sets at a cheaper rate, it was decided that tribal areas in general, would have medium wave transmission. Hence, the scheme was changed to setting up of a radio station with 1 KM MW Transmitter and MP Studio etc.

#### Development of Tourism in Madhya Pradesh

4116. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view the development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh the Union Government are contemplating to solve the problem regarding the transfer of land allotted to centrally sponsored schemes in the name of Government of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Recognising the complexities of land transferability, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has liberalised the guidelines to facilitate the states including Madhya Pradesh, either to transfer land or lease out land or register the title of the built up property in the name of Central Government.

[English]

#### Indira Gandhi International Airport

4117. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indira Gandhi International Airport has reached saturation point;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to build another airport in the outskirts of Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Construction of Rail Postal Service Building at Haridwar

4118. SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct Rail Postal Building at Haridwar Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Department of Postal has contributed its share;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for delay in constructing the above rail postal building; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the above work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A proposal for construction of RMS building at Haridwar railway station had been received from the Post Master General, Dehradun.

(c) and (d) The Postal Department had deposited Rs. 12 lakh on the basis of the estimated cost of 1987.

(e) and (f) The Plan for construction of said building on platform no. 1 could not be finalised due to non-agreement of location. Later, since the Postal Authorities demanded more space, the site had to be changed.

The Revised Plan was approved by the Postal Authorities in August, 1996. The revised estimate of the work was prepared and sent to them in December, 1996. The work can be taken up only after receipt of the approval of the Postal Authorities to the revised estimate.

#### E.D. Workers

4119. SHRI M. SELVARASU :  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether one man committee constituted for examining the conditions service, emoluments and facilities available to Extra departmental agents has submitted its report to the Government;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

#### Post Offices in J & K

4120. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices, sub-post offices and branch post offices in J & K till date, district wise;

(b) the number of post offices, sub-post offices and branch post offices proposed to be set up during 1997-98 in J & K, district-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade sub-post offices and branch post offices in J & K including SPO Kargil, Diskit (Nubra) and Nyoma during 1997-98;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of post offices, category-wise, district-wise in J & K till date are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources within the allotted targets. The Circle-wise targets for opening of post offices during 1997-98 in J & K, have not yet been finalised.

(c) to (e) Upgradation of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) into Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) is included in the target for opening DSOs, within which, an EDBO/EDSO, if found justified in accordance with the existing norms, is upgraded into a DSO, Kargil and Diskit are already functioning as Departmental Sub Post Offices and cannot be upgraded on the basis of present norms, into Head Post offices. Nyoma is not justified for upgradation into a DSO on the basis of norms prescribed for the purpose.

#### Statement

##### Details of Post Offices in Jammu & Kashmir Category-wise and District-wise:

S.No.	Name of District	Head Post Offices (HOs)	Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)	Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices (EDSOs)	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Anantnag	1	12	2	143
2.	Badgaon	-	9	-	71
3.	Baramulla	1	15	4	155
4.	Doda	-	12	1	113
5.	Jammu	2	67	9	147

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Kathua	1	16	4	108
7.	Kupwara	-	6	-	66
8.	Kargil	-	6	-	45
9.	Leh	1	4	-	47
10.	Pulwama	-	8	-	64
11.	Rajouri	1	11	4	106
12.	Poonch	-	4	1	52
13.	Srinagar	1	48	4	65
14.	Udhampur	1	22	2	146
Total		9	240	31	1328

Total number of post offices in J & K : 1608

### New Railway Projects

4121. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent some proposals to the Union Government for construction of new railway projects and expansion/extension of the existing ones in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No proposals have been received from Rajasthan Government in this Ministry so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Tourism Potential in Tribal Areas of Orissa

4122. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the tourism potentials in the tribal areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to tap the untapped potential of tourism in these areas;

(c) if so, the schemes drawn up thereon for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) the proposals received from the State Government of Orissa in this regard; and

(e) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the development of tourism in Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (e) Identification of tourism potential areas including tribal areas is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory administrations.

However, during the last three years, the Department of Tourism in consultation with the Government of Orissa extended Rs. 376.69 lakhs as central financial assistance to specific tourism projects identified by them.

The schemes for the development of tourism in Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan is not finalised.

[Translation]

### Development of Tourism in Bihar

4123. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :  
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent proposals pertaining to tourism development to the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects approved/pending with Union Government alongwith the financial assistance provided for each of the project;

(d) the delay for according approval to the pending projects;

(e) the number of Heritage Hotels of ITDC and Bihar Tourism Development (BTDC) in the State;

(f) whether the Union Government are aware about the beautiful tourist places of Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura districts of Bihar; and

(g) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government for the development of tourism at these places?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned 14 projects amounting to Rs. 282.55 lakhs during the last three years for Government of Bihar.

Rs. 101.4 lakhs has already been released for these schemes. The details are given in statement.

(e) There are no heritage hotels of ITDC and BTDC in the State of Bihar.

(f) and (g) Development of tourist spots is primarily the irresponsibility of the State Government. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial assistance for specific tourism projects submitted during the duration of 5 years Plan by the State Government/Union Territories Administration, based on their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

### **Statement**

*Projects/Schemes sanctioned during 1993-94,  
1994-95, 1995-96.*

S.No.	Name of the Project/ scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
<b>Bihar</b>		
<i>1993-94</i>		
1.	Yatrika at Patna Saheb	21.93
2.	Yatrika at Deoghar	21.93
3.	Cafeteria at Jhumari Tilaiya	0.75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53.61</b>
<i>1994-95</i>		
4.	Tourist Complex at Muzaffarpur	27.07
5.	Tourist Complex at Jamshedpur (Chandel)	26.56
6.	Wayside facilities at Masanjore	8.48
7.	Wayside facilities at Kaju	8.96
8.	Tourist Complex at Deogarh	27.00
9.	Water sports equipment	14.05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>112.12</b>
<i>1995-96</i>		
10.	Tourist resorts at Getalsud	48.00
11.	Development of Palna	27.49
12.	Refurbishment of Gloghar, Patna	33.00
13.	Publicity Programme	5.00
14.	Fairs and Festivals	3.03
	<b>Total</b>	<b>116.52</b>

[English]

### **Two Tier Committee**

4124. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that "Two Tier Committee" has

been set up by the Airport Authority Mumbai, after discussion held recently with Civil Aviation Secretary and Government of Maharashtra to study the questions of slum dwellers occupying its land and their rehabilitation problem;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee has submitted a draft Report which is yet to be adopted. The Recommendations will be made public, after the report is finalised.

### **Appointment on Compassionate Grounds**

4125. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons appointed on compassionate grounds in Southern Railway during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are large number of persons still waiting for appointment on compassionate grounds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these persons are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on table of the Sabha.

### **Recruitment by Corporate Office**

4126. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 70 employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) recruited by Corporate Office on and after 01.01.89 have been given IDA pattern pay scales whereas about 70,000 employees on deputation to MTNL since its formation on 01.04.86 continue to draw CDA pattern scales despite assurance that terms and conditions will be finalised within six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the employees working in MTNL on deemed deputation have been absorbed and are covered by service conditions of MTNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) The Government employees who are on deemed deputation to MTNL are drawing Government pay scales. Out of these employees, the non-gazetted staff are being paid additional ad-hoc payment of Rs. 100 p.m. since 1.9.90. Since the case of their absorption in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has not yet been decided, they are not covered by MTNL service condition so far.

[Translation]

#### Air Crashes Under Investigation

4127. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aircrashes under investigation at present;

(b) the names thereof;

(c) the number of aircrashes where investigation have been completed so far; and

(d) the time by which the ongoing investigations are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Of the 8 accidents to civil registered aircraft which took place during the period from 1st January, 1996 till date; investigations of 3 have been completed and following 5 are under investigation :-

- (1) Accident of M.P. Government Chetak helicopter near Bhopal on 25.8.1996.
- (2) Accident of Ahmedabad Aviation Academy Cessna 152 aircraft at Ahmedabad on 5.11.1996.
- (3) Mid air collision between Saudia B-747 aircraft and Kazakhstan IL-76 aircraft near Charkhi Dadri on 12.11.1996.
- (4) Accident of Blue Dart B-737 aircraft at Bangalore on 28.12.1996.
- (5) Accident of Kerala Aviation Cessna 152 aircraft at Bangalore on 22.2.1997.

(d) It is not possible to give the time by which these investigations will be completed, at this stage.

#### Encroachment of Railway Land

4128. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale encroachment on the land belonging to South Central Railway in Guller Haveli Bider, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the above railways land?

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

(b) At Guller Haveli Bider, triangular track used to exist for turning of Steam Engines. After dieselisation, this facility was not required. So, the track was dismantled.

In 1984, some encroachments were noticed. Railway took immediate steps to protect the land by constructing Boundary Wall. The encroachers filed a suit in the Court against the Railways and got interim stay.

(c) The Railway has taken action for conducting joint survey alongwith Revenue department to demarcate Railway boundary.

[English]

#### International Flights from Trivandrum Airport

4129. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of international flights originating from Trivandrum airport;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of flights from this airport in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 56 international flights are being operated from Trivandrum Airport per week at present.

(b) and (c) Decision to operate additional flights are taken by the concerned airlines based on their commercial judgement, depending on traffic requirements, availability of aircraft capacity etc.

#### Facilities withdrawn for Ex-MPs in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains

4130. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that facilities for Ex-MPs to travel in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains have been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to restore these facilities for Ex-MPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The facilities available to Ex-MPs for travel by Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains on the authority of Complimentary Card Passes were withdrawn on 22.01.1997. They have since been restored on 21.02.1997.

### Accident of Guntur-Bound Nagarjuna Express

4131. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH  
GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fifteen persons were killed and 14 others seriously injured when the Guntur-Bound Nagarjuna Express rammed into an APSRTC bus at Mallavaram unmanned railway crossing;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total compensation paid to the persons died and injured; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the security on the unmanned railway crossing at Mallavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. 16 bus passengers were killed and 7 injured when 7006 Inter-City Express dashed against a bus at unmanned level crossing between Bandarupalli and Nallapadu stations of Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway on 27.1.1997.

(b) and (c) The accident was inquired into by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that the accident occurred due to the failure on the part of the bus driver to take precautions as laid down under Section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act, before negotiating the level crossing.

(d) No compensation is paid to the kin of the victims in case of unmanned level crossing accidents.

(e) The following safety arrangements exist at the unmanned level crossing in question to avert such accidents :—

(i) Warning Boards are provided on both the sides at unmanned level crossing to warn road users.

(ii) Whistle Boards are provided on both the sides alongside the track to enable the train driver to whistle, and in this case, the engine driver sounded the whistle/horn continuously while crossing the level crossing.

(iii) The level crossing is on a straight and its visibility is quite clear.

### Installation of TV Transmitter/DD-2 Facilities, in Orissa

4132. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the staff for installation of TV transmitters

has not been provided on all the Doordarshan Kendra in Orissa particularly Banai Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Sundargarh have not been provided with DD-2 facilities; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be provided with these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Installation staff is deployed for installation of projects whenever required depending on the status of the project. Since the LPT at Banai in Orissa has been completed and commissioned, there is no need for deployment of installation staff for this project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Whereas DD-2 service of Doordarshan is available throughout the country, including the entire state of Orissa, via Satellite by using an appropriate Dish Antenna System, terrestrially the service is being extended in a phased manner subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities. There is, however no approved scheme, at present, to extend this facility to Sundargarh.

[Translation]

### Lackness of Passengers Amenities at Railway Station

4133. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any lackness of public conveniences at Jaunpur city, Shahganj and Azamgarh Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for providing public conveniences at the said stations; and

(c) the time by which Azamgarh Railway Station is likely to be modernised?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As Azamgarh railway station is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled, there is no proposal for its modernisation at present.

[English]

### Trains started from Various States to Bihar

4134. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new trains started from various States to Bihar since June, 1996; and

(b) the number of trains proposed to be introduced in future alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 9 Express (Single) trains including one pair of Rajdhani were introduced since June, 96 from various states to Bihar.

(b) As announced in the Budget Speech for 1997-98, 2 pairs of Express trains namely Delhi-Ranchi Bi-weekly Express and Surat Patna weekly Express will be introduced during 1997-98.

### PCO Opened in Gujarat

4135. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new public call offices opened in Gujarat and the additional staff appointed correspondingly during 1995-96;

(b) whether the public call offices are being manned by physically handicapped persons;

(c) if so, the number of such appointments made in the State during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to open more public call offices in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 1033 local and 1776 STD PCOs were opened in Gujarat during 1995-96. No additional staff has been appointed for this purpose.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some of them are manned by physically handicapped persons.

(c) Physically handicapped persons manning the PCOs are not the employees of Department of Telecom. They are the licencees of the PCOs and work on commission basis.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. 3985 such PCOs have been opened during the current financial year. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

### Statement

S.No.	Name of District	PCOs Opened as on 31.1.97 (STD + Local)
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad (Gandhi Nagar)	1024
2.	Vadodara	1144
3.	Rajkot	389
4.	Surat	127
5.	Mehsana	119

1	2	3
6.	Nadiad	49
7.	Bhavnagar	145
8.	Bhuj	35
9.	Bharuch	15
10.	Bulsar Dang	388
11.	Panchmahal	111
12.	Sabarkantha	74
13.	Jam Nagar	129
14.	Junagarh	06
15.	Banaskantha	159
16.	Surendranagar	44
17.	Amreli	27
		3985

[Translation]

### Setting up of New Railway Zones

4136. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new railway zones set up by the Government during the last year alongwith the divisions included therein;

(b) whether Kota division has been transferred from North-West Railway Zone to Western Railway Zone which having its headquarter in Mumbai;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is persistant demand of people of Rajasthan to transfer Kota division back to North-West Railway Zone which having its headquarter in Jaipur; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/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) Government has decided to set up six new zones with headquarters as follows :

New Zones	Headquarters
East-Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
East-Central Railway	Hajipur
North-Central Railway	Allahabad
North-Western Railway	Jaipur
South-Western Railway	Bangalore
West-Central Railway	Jabalpur

The inaugural functions of all these zonal headquarter offices were held during last year.

A final view on the detailed territorial jurisdiction of new zones has not yet been taken.

(d) and (e) A representation has been received for attaching Kota Division to North-Western Zone. A final view on the detailed territorial jurisdiction of new zones has not yet been taken.

[English]

#### Insufficient Facilities to Passengers

4137. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that trains running in Orissa have no arrangements of potable water and electric fans and as a result thereof it cause great difficulties to passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) All trains passing through Orissa are having facility of electric fans. Adequate drinking water arrangements are also made at the platforms/stations for the passengers travelling in the trains over Indian Railways including in the State of Orissa. The arrangements are suitably augmented during the summer season when the demand for drinking water substantially goes up.

#### Funds for Expansion of Telephone

4138. SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to have separate budget/targets for Telephone expansion in rural areas and delink it with combined allocation of funds/targets for a particular Telecom district/zone/State;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware that budgetary allocation and target for a particular area are used by and large in urban/semi urban areas and rural areas are neglected; and

(e) the percentage of the target achieved in rural areas during each of the last three financial years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Funds are already being separately allocated for rural areas in the plan proposals. However, targets are set for urban and rural areas combined except for village public telephones (VPYs) for which targets are separately earmarked.

(b) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

(c) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

(d) Some allocation for rural area has been utilised in general area which includes urban area.

(e) The achievements of VPT are as follows :

Year	Achievement
1993-94	70%
1994-95	95%
1995-96	30%

#### Procurement of Biscuits for Sale

4139. SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway (DRM Delhi) invited tenders for procurement of biscuits for sale by its catering departments only from the five biscuit companies and not from the whole biscuit industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith, the details of the above five biscuit companies; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such irregularities and bring to book the officials involved in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Procurement of supplies of proprietary items is done by the Railways from the manufacturers of the reputed brands.

(b) Keeping in view the quality, reputation and popularity of brands the railway administration short listed following Companies for procurement of supplies :

M/s Britannia Industries Ltd.

M/s Parle Biscuits Ltd.

M/s Cremica Agro Foods Ltd.

M/s Smith-Kline Beecham Consumers Health Care Products.

M/s Bakeman's Industries Pvt. Ltd.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### STD/PCO Allotted in Sonipat

4140. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the District Telecommunication Engineer, District Sonipat-Haryana has allotted STD/PCO arbitrarily without constituting a committee despite directives issued in this regard by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his attention has been drawn through a letter regarding the bungling in allotment of STD/PCO; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Sir, as per earlier instruction STD PCOs could be allotted by two official members of the committee in places where non-official members were not nominated for the STD PCO allotment committees. These allotment committees were dissolved on 31.10.1996 and STD PCO allotment committees were to be reconstituted by including one representative each of the sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. These instructions were received by the Telecom District Engineer on 18.12.1996 whereas STD PCOs were allotted by the official members of the committee prior to 18.12.1996.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following actions have been taken :

- (i) All the PCOs sanctioned in Sonipat SSA have been held in abeyance and no further action is being taken on these allotments.
- (ii) All the applications received with regard to allotment of STD PCOs are to be scrutinized afresh by the reconstituted committee.

[English]

#### Construction of Overbridges

4141. SHRIMATI SATWINDER KAUR DHALIWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that railway crossings on National and State Highways at Khanna, Morinda and Sirhind are remaining closed due to the frequency of trains and road traffic are hampered as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to construct overbridges at said railway crossings; and

(c) if so, the time by which these overbridges are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The level crossings are closed only for safe passing of trains.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Pilgrims Visiting to Mata Vaishno Devi

4142. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the number of pilgrims visited at Mata Vaishno Devi during 1995-96 and 1996-97, till date?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): According to the information provided by the State Government, the number of pilgrims who visited Mata Vaishno Devi during 1995, 1996 and 1997 (upto February) are as follows :

Year	Number of Pilgrims visited
1995	4032127
1996	4335532
1997 (Upto February)	288220

#### Production of Steel

4143. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production in Durgapur Steel Plant is less even after its modernisation;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to send a technical audit team to the above plant for scrutinising the assets of the plant after its modernisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Work on Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) modernisation started in 1989-90. The main implementation period of DSP modernisation was between 1989-90 and 1993-94. During the last two years as also in the current financial year DSP has been registering increase in production. The details are as under :

Year	Actual	
1986-87	751	
1987-88	836	Pre-Modernisation period
1988-89	832	
1994-95	852	Post main implementation
1995-96	947	Period of DSP modernisation
1996-97 (Apr'96-Feb'97)	969	

The capacity of Saleable Steel production which, before modernisation, was 0.938 million tonnes, is expected to go up to 1.586 million tonnes after modernisation.

Production in DSP is progressing satisfactorily, therefore, at present, no technical audit team for asset scrutiny is contemplated.

### Agreement with the Bharti Telenet Ltd

4144. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has signed the licence and interconnect agreement with the Bharti Telenet Ltd. for providing basic telephone services; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

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

(b) M/S Bharti Telenet Ltd. has been given Licence to provide Basic Telephone Service in Madhya Pradesh Circle on non-exclusive basis for a period of 15 years. The main features of agreements are that during the licensed period, the company shall be paying a total of Rs. 654.50 crores as levy amount and 2% of the annual gross profit towards the administrative charges and R & D Cess. The company shall also pay Interconnection charges for the links to DOT network and Access charges for STD and ISD calls. Further the tariff for the service provided shall not be more than DOT's Tariff and is subject to regulation by TRAI.

In first three years of operation, the company shall provide 1.5 lakh telephone lines including 16,500 Village Public Telephones.

### Improvement of Guwahati Airport

4145. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :  
SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes initiated for improvement of Guwahati Airport;

(b) the reasons for delay in implementing the project and the target period fixed for its completion;

(c) the additional steps initiated to develop it as an International Airport as declared by the Prime Minister; and

(d) the steps taken for Cargo Depot at Guwahati Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) During the 9th Plan period, there are plans to upgrade Guwahati airport for limited international operations. Some of the major works taken/ to be taken up are :

- Modification of the terminal building at a cost of Rs. 17.15 crores to be completed by December, 1997.
- Extension of runway from 9000 ft. to 11500 ft. for operation of Boeing 747 type of aircraft; land is being acquired for this purpose.

Extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 2.41 crores to be completed by June, 1997.

(d) There are plans to construct a new Cargo complex at Guwahati airport. For this purpose also, land has to be acquired.

[Translation]

### Reservation Charts

4146. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to affix the reservation charts in the trains at railway yard instead of platform so that passengers do not face any problem in finding their names on arrival of trains at platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) While issuing tickets to passengers provided with confirmed reservation for travelling in sleeper class, AC 2-tier, Chair Car Class, Coach number and berth/seat numbers are indicated on the ticket itself so that they do not face any inconvenience. Moreover, the reservation charts are displayed on the Chart Boards at the Platform well in time before the scheduled departure of the train. These are also pasted on the train immediately after placement of rake on the Platform. These arrangements are working satisfactorily.

[English]

### Absorption of Steam Loco shed Workers

4147. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated steps to absorb the erstwhile workers of Steam Loco sheds at different places in the country now rendered unemployed after phasing out of Steam Locomotives;

(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) to (c) No railway staff, rendered surplus due to closure of steam sheds, has been retrenched. All such railway staff are being redeployed after suitable training. However, the issue regarding absorption of the Labours, engaged by the private contractors for doing coal/ash handling work in steam loco sheds is under consideration of this Ministry, pursuant to reply to a Starred Question No. 362, replied on 27.08.1996 in Lok Sabha, wherein

Sabha has been assured that whatever is possible for these contract labourers, will be done.

[Translation]

### Train Accidents

4148. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents which occurred in the country during the last six months, month-wise;

(b) the causes of these accidents and the number of persons killed therein alongwith the amount of compensation given by the Government to the affected families; and

(c) the extent of loss incurred by the Government during each of the last two years due to the accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Month-wise break-up of consequential train accidents on Indian Railways since September, 1996 is as under :

September, 1996 - 27; October, 1996 - 23;

November, 1996 - 27; December, 1996-28;

January, 1997 - 29 and Febaurary, 1997 - 32.

(b) Main causes of accidents were human failure, equipment failure and sabotage. As per provisional information, 141 persons lost their lives in these accidents. Fatalities are inclusive of 43 victims in two bomb blasts and 84 persons other than passengers or railway staff. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) Cost of damage to railway property due to accidents during 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 38.18 crores and Rs. 46.15 crores respectively.

### Scheme to Connect Tourist Places by Air Services

4149. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to connect tourist places by air services during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the details of the tourist places connected with air services in Uttar Pradesh at present?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating to Lucknow, Agra and Varanasi.

### Contracts to Foreign Companies

4150. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the foreign companies which have been awarded communication contracts during the last six months;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been transparency awarding in these contracts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) (i) Names of the companies which have been awarded contracts for the supply of telecom equipment during last six months along with details is indicated below :

	Name of the Co.	Equipment	Value of Contract
1.	M/s. Philips Netherland	ISDN Feature phone	52644
2.	M/s. EF Data Corpn; USA	IDR 34 MBPS MOD/DEMOD	USD 452210

(ii) List of foreign companies to whom contracts were awarded during the last six months by Deptt. of Posts for carriage of International Airmail is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The contracts have been awarded through Open Tender Process.

### Statement

List of Foreign Companies to which contracts were awarded during last Six Months for the Carriage of International Airmail

1. Thai Airways
2. Lufthansa Cargo
3. Saudi Arabian Airlines
4. Kenya Airways
5. Egypt Air
6. British Airways
7. KLM Cargo
8. Singapore Airlines
9. Oantas Airways
10. Ethiopian Air
11. Kuwait Airways
12. Gulf Air.
13. United Airlines

[English]

**Air Services between New Delhi to Srinagar via Jammu**

4151. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air services between New Delhi to Srinagar via Jammu is being operated under maintenance/control of vigilance department;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Aircrafts/Boeing are flying without adequate number of passengers inspite of heavy rush to Srinagar via Jammu;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Boeing/Aircraft operated by Jet Airways are running with good number of passengers in a scheduled time between New Delhi to Srinagar via Jammu but the Aircraft/boeing which are operated by the domestic Airlines and its alliances are not running in a schedule time and allowing Jet Airways to fly Aircrafts in place of their flights; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Average seat factor on Delhi/Jammu/Srinagar route is above 70%.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**AI and IA agreement for a Single ticket**

4152. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have reached an agreement under which passengers can travel in both the airlines on a single ticket;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has also taken steps to rake in more revenue for the loss making Air India;

(c) if so, the other steps taken by the Union Government for collaboration of both the Air India and Indian Airlines;

(d) whether his Ministry has also directed Air India Offices abroad to keep the staff strength by half; and

(e) whether Air India expansion plans have also been considered and if so, the details of the expansion plans of both airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) As per IATA regulations any

passenger can make a trip involving both the airlines in a single ticket.

(c) The Government has asked the two airlines to explore possibilities of integrated functioning in some sectors.

(d) Air India is taking steps to reduce staff strength at its foreign stations abroad.

(e) Both Air India and Indian Airlines have plans to continue renewal and expansion of its aircraft fleet during the Ninth Plan Period.

[Translation]

**Proposal of Fund for Research and Development Work**

4153. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide assistance to the secondary steel sector for research and development work;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be provided annually;

(c) whether the Government have also formulated any effective scheme for the utilisation of the above amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Government has not yet taken the final decision to provide assistance to the secondary steel sector for research and development work.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A paper for consideration of the appropriate authorities has been prepared and circulated to the concerned Ministries. The scheme may be formulated and announced on receipt of the final decision of the appropriate authorities.

[English]

**Postmen Clerks in Postal Division**

4154. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for sanction of Postmen and Clerks in the Postal Division;

(b) whether it is a fact that some post of Postmen and Clerks were sanctioned in the Postal Division of Kutch, Gujarat under the above norms;

(c) if so, the number of posts vacant at present; and  
 (d) the action taken by the Government so far to fill up these sanctioned posts as well as the existing vacancies of Postmen and Clerks in the region?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The norms for sanctioning of Postmen and Clerical posts in the Postal Divisions are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) 15 posts of Postal Assistants and 6 posts of postmen were sanctioned for the Postal Division of Kutch District, Gujarat, as per the norms, in 1991.

(c) At present no sanctioned post of Postal Assistant/Postmen is lying vacant.

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

### Statement

#### Norms for the post of Postmen and Clerks in Postal Division

The posts of postmen and clerical cadre are sanctioned based on Staff Inspection Unit norms. Periodical reviews are carried out, keeping in view the justification of additional work hours in Post Officers/RMS/Divisional Offices. Following are the items of work and the time factor given to each item of work performed by the Postmen :

S.No.	Item	Congested area Minute	Less Congested Minute
1.	Unregistered mails	0.75	0.75
	(a) Building which are not provided lift (Upto 4 storeyed Building)	0.75	-
	(b) Buildings provided with lift (Above 4 storeyed buildings) where no arrangement exist for receiving articles at ground floor.	0.80	-
2.	Registered and Parcel Mail (excluding insured and V.P.)	2.50	2.50
3.	Registered and Parcel Mail issued under special lists	4.50 per list	4.50 per list
4.	VP and CD articles delivered	3.00	3.00
5.	VP and CD articles returned	2.50	2.50
6.	MOs Paid	4.00	4.00
7.	MOs returned	2.50	2.50
8.	Unpaid articles	2.00	2.00
9.	Insured articles delivered	3.50	3.50
10.	Insured articles returned	2.50	2.50
11.	Distance traversed		
	(a) On foot	18 mts per Km.	12 mts per Km.
	(b) On bicycle	09 mts per Km.	66 mts per Km.

#### Note :

- From the total work minutes arrived at by application of above time factors a deduction of the following should be made in respect of the delivery of unregistered articles in bulk. Total number of unregistered articles delivered in bulk minus total number of bulk addresses X.0.50.  
 Delivery of three or more unregistered articles addressed to one addressee will be regarded as bulk delivery.
- Articles delivered through Post Boxes and through window of Post Offices will be excluded.
- The number of Postmen justified will be arrived by dividing the total work minutes by 450.
- The figures of articles should be average of six days in the middle of a month.
- Area having a density of population of 2500 per sq. mile or 1000 per sq. mile may be taken as congested areas.
- For every 8 hours of computed work a post of Postmen is justified.

The time factor for each item of work performed by the Postal Assistant is as follows :

Unit of measurement	Number of Units	Co-efficient	Staff justified (product of Co. 2 and 3)
Head Post Office		0.200	
Sub Post Office		0.050	
Branch Post Office		0.002	
Clerks and all Class III officials (excluding Postmen)		0.010	
Postmen		0.005	
Class IV staff		0.002	
E.D. staff		0.001	
No. of complaints per annum		0.0005	
		Total (A)	
Add: 20% of (A) for routine assistance		Total (B)	
Add: 10% of (B) for leave reserve.		Total Staff justified.	

- Note :** (i) 0.3 and above in the total staff justified to be rounded off to the next integer.  
(ii) The strength of the I class POs. should not be included in these staff strength for the above calculation.  
(iii) Accountant to be provided out of this calculated strength.  
(iv) A steno-typist is to be provided for each Divisional Office apart from the above staff.  
(v) For every 8 hours of computed work a post of Postal Assistant is justified.

The norms for sanctioning posts of Sorting Assistant are as follows :

Unit of measurement	Number of Units	Co-efficient	Staff justified (product of Co. 2 and 3)
H.R.Os		0.157	
R.Os/S.R.Os.		0.100	
Sorters, Mail Guards LSG, HSG, IRMs and ASRMs (Class III)		0.020	
Lower Staff		0.003	
E.D. Staff		0.0002	
Complaints per annum		0.0004	
		Total (A)	
Add: 20% for routine assistance		Total (B)	
Add: 10% for leave reserve		Total staff justified.	

- Note:** (i) 0.3 or more in the total staff justified to be rounded off to the next integer.  
(ii) The clerical assistance to the Dy. Superintendent of Mail Offices will be provided from the strength calculated above.  
(iii) Accountant to be provided out of the calculated strength.  
(iv) A steno-typist is to be provided for each Divisional Office apart from the above staff.  
(v) For every 8 hours of computed work a post of Sorting Assistant is justified.

[Translation]

#### Appointment of Rail Travellers Service Agents

4155. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had issued advertisements for the appointment of Rail Travellers Service Agents for the privatisation of Railway reservation; and

(b) if so, the details of such agents appointed so far and the qualifications laid down for such appointment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Rail Travellers' Service Agents are appointed by the railways to purchase rail tickets on behalf of the passengers who cannot go to the reservation offices. Whenever Zonal Railways feel the

need for appointing Rail Travellers' Service Agents, they call for the applications. The conditions for appointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents are as under :

- (i) Applicant should be in possession of the latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate;
- (ii) Applicant should be having office and premises properly maintained with adequate conveniences and amenities in the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers; and
- (iii) Applicant should not be convicted in a criminal case involving moral turpitude.

At present, 481 Rail Travellers' Service Agents are functioning over all the Zonal Railways.

[English]

#### Deposit of Minerals in States

4156. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

the Aluminium, Copper, Granite, Lead and Zinc deposits in each State as on December 31, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : As per the information available, the State-wise total recoverable reserves of bauxite (i.e. for aluminium), copper, granite, lead and zinc deposits is indicated in the enclosed Statement. The reserve position as on 31.12.1996 has not yet been compiled.

#### Statement

State	Total Reserves
1	2
<i>Mineral-Bauxite (Unit-Thousand Tonnes)*</i>	
1. Andhra Pradesh	592001.00
2. Bihar	61104.00
3. Goa	28089.00
4. Gujarat	107744.00
5. Jammu and Kashmir	1783.00
6. Karnataka	27416.00
7. Kerala	7923.00
8. Madhya Pradesh	140791.00
9. Maharashtra	87250.00
10. Meghalaya	896.00
11. Orissa	1442276.00
12. Rajasthan	319.00
13. Tamil Nadu	18327.00
14. Uttar Pradesh	9420.00

1	2
<i>Mineral-Copper (Unit-Thousand Tonnes) (as on 1.4.93)</i>	
1. Andhra Pradesh	
Ore	12028
Metal	137
2. Bihar	
Ore	113823
Metal	1149
3. Gujarat	
Ore	8124
Metal	78
4. Karnataka	
Ore	5386
Metal	42
5. Madhya Pradesh	
Ore	180693
Metal	1752
6. Maharashtra	
Ore	606
Metal	9
7. Meghalaya	
Ore	616
Metal	5
8. Orissa	
Ore	3226
Metal	31
9. Rajasthan	
Ore	80346
Metal	908
10. Sikkim	
Ore	880
Metal	13
11. Uttar Pradesh	
Ore	1120
Metal	18
12. West Bengal	
Ore	79
Metal	1
<i>Mineral-Lead and Zinc (reserves as on 1.4.93) (Unit-Thousand Tonnes)</i>	
1. Andhra Pradesh	
Ore	1866
Lead Metal	70

	1	2
2. Gujarat		
Ore		7875
Lead Metal		163
Zinc Metal		332
3. Madhya Pradesh		
Ore		615
Zinc Metal		26
4. Meghalaya		
Ore		660
Lead Metal		6
Zinc Metal		7
5. Orissa		
Ore		2167
Lead Metal		79
6. Rajasthan		
Ore	168159	
Lead Metal	1997	
Zinc Metal	9371	
7. Sikkim		
Ore		529
Lead Metal		5
Zinc Metal		9
8. Tamil Nadu		
Ore		462
Lead Metal		3
Zinc Metal		17
9. Uttar Pradesh		
Ore		1200
Lead Metal		17
Zinc Metal		37
10. West Bengal		
Ore		2781
Lead Metal		50
Zinc Metal		67

*Mineral - Granite (Unit - Thousand Cubic Metres)\**

1. Assam	205520
2. Bihar	90569
3. Haryana	13600
4. Karnataka	195386
5. Kerala	30
6. Maharashtra	80828
7. Rajasthan	7

	1	2
8. Tamil Nadu		16679
9. West Bengal		4320

Besides the above states granite (Dimension Stone) is also occurring in the states of A.P., Gujarat, M.P., Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh where the reserves have not been intimated and in orissa the resources are of prospective and prognostic category.

National Mineral Inventory as on 1.4.1990.

**Telephone Facility in the Rural Areas of  
Andhra Pradesh**

4157. SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide telephone facility in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the target fixed to provide telephone facility to the rural area of Andhra Pradesh during the next financial year and the time by which this target is likely to be achieved;

(d) the rate of call proposed to be charged in these rural areas and the rent likely to be paid by the villages for new connections;

(e) whether the villages are also proposed to be provided with STD facility; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. the Government has planned to provide telephone facility to all the villages of Andhra Pradesh progressively.

(b) District-wise details of Village Public Telephones provided in Andhra Pradesh upto 28.2.1997 are given in Statement-I.

(c) Targets for 1997-98 have not yet been finalised.

(d) The details are enclosed in the Statement-II.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. All villages will be provided with STD facility during the IXth Five Year Plan progressively.

**Statement-I**

S. No.	Name of the SSA	Status of Telecom facility to villages as on 28.02.1997.	
		On physical Lines	on MARR Lines
1	2	3	4
1.	Adilabad	230	511
2.	Anantapur	566	295

1	2	3	4
3. Chittor		587	596
4. Cuddapah		453	348
5. East Godavari		804	141
6. Guntur		619	400
7. Karimnagar		532	335
8. Khammam		327	270
9. Krishna		784	277
10. Kurnool		561	334
11. Mahabubnagar		443	822
12. Medak		463	607
13. Nalgonda		428	557
14. Nellore		426	512
15. Nizamabad		309	295
16. Prakasam		294	636
17. Rangareddy		427	454
18. Srikakulam		519	638
19. Visakhapatnam		557	209
20. Vizianagaram		397	533
21. Warangal		432	262
22. West Godavari		754	209
Total		10,912	9,241

### Statement-II

No. of calls	Rate of charges	
1-250	Free	
251-450	Re. 0.60 (per unit call)	
451-500	Re. 0.80	"
501-1000	Re. 1.00	"
1001-2000	Re. 1.25	"
Above-2000	Re. 1.40	"
Rent :—		
Exchange system covering the rural		bimonthly rental (Rs.)
1. Exchange systems of less than 1000 lines		100
2. Exchange systems of 1000 lines and above but below 30000 lines		200
3. Exchange systems of 30000 lines and above but below 1 lakh lines		275
4. Exchange systems of 1 lakh lines and above but below 3 lakh lines		360
5. Exchange systems of 3 lakh lines and above		380

[Translation]

### Iron Ore Reserve in Bihar

4158. SHRI BRIJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the iron ore reserve in Sua village of Daltanganj, district Palamu, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the exploration work is likely to be started in this area?

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

(b) Exploration for iron ore was undertaken during the seventies and a reserve of 1,35,000 tonnes was estimated. Poor quality and low reserves do not warrant further exploration.

[English]

### Doordarshan Studio/Kendras, Tripura

4159. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :  
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

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

(a) whether Doordarshan Kendra at Agartala has been upgraded with the opening of a studio for production of programmes there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether important events/functions in Tripura and Calcutta are also broadcast from the above Kendra;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government also propose to start new Kendras in Tripura; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A studio of about 108 Sq.m. area with associated technical area has been commissioned at Agartala in November, 1992.

(c) and (d) Important functions/events in its service region are duly covered/telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Funds for Tourism Development

4160. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide funds directly

at its own level or against the proposals received from the States for tourism development; and

(b) the funds provided by the Union Government at its own level during the last three years, State-wise/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India extends central financial assistance to specific projects submitted by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds.

(b) The central financial assistance provided to State Governments/Union Territories for the last three years is provided in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statements

Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.28	174.64	13.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.40	-	52.26
3.	Assam	78.11	52.99	70.24
4.	Bihar	53.61	112.12	116.52
5.	Goa	78.82	162.07	221.55
6.	Gujarat	65.76	21.19	7.93
7.	Haryana	223.21	188.96	119.45
8.	Himachal Pradesh	349.28	368.85	373.39
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	225.60	215.98	150.30
10.	Karnataka	177.44	229.96	229.36
11.	Kerala	97.40	307.05	209.94
12.	Madhya Pradesh	31.57	9.32	-
13.	Maharashtra	309.31	273.46	83.64
14.	Manipur	45.50	4.00	75.81
15.	Meghalaya	1.85	-	4.08
16.	Mizoram	88.18	111.80	100.86
17.	Nagaland	16.66	36.43	51.60
18.	Orissa	101.52	166.31	103.86
19.	Punjab	186.67	136.71	139.49
20.	Rajasthan	260.43	662.78	164.65
21.	Sikkim	130.89	49.07	24.61
22.	Tamil Nadu	402.45	145.72	250.11
23.	Tripura	15.07	46.61	33.43
24.	Uttar Pradesh	151.04	223.80	26.21
25.	West Bengal	167.30	144.01	191.10
<b>Union Territories</b>				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	53.47	-	45.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Chandigarh	18.66	64.66	17.20
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	23.62	-
4.	Daman and Diu	12.03	42.31	44.21
5.	Delhi	117.23	116.50	28.23
6.	Lakshadweep	-	19.95	24.65
7.	Pondicherry	29.75	-	28.12
Total		3648.49	4110.87	3009.31

[English]

#### Introduction of Shatabdi Express between Salem and Bangalore

4161. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the necessity of starting a Shatabdi Express between Salem and Bangalore via Dharmapuri; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to introduce a Shatabdi Express between Bangalore and Coimbatore via Dharmapuri and Salem during 1997-98.

#### Consumption of Coal by Steel Plants

4162. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of coking coal consumed by the integrated steel plants in the country during 1995-96;

(b) the quantity of coking coal imported during 1995-96 and the average cost thereof per MT;

(c) the quantity of low ash coal from Assam consumed by the steel industry in 1995-96 and the average cost thereof per MT;

(d) whether there is scope for increasing the consumption of Assam coal by the integrated steel plants so as to reduce imports of coking coal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The total quantity of coking coal consumed by the integrated steel plants in the country during 1995-96 is as below :

(In million tonnes)

SAIL	13.890
VSP	3.427
TISCO	2.872

(b) The quantity of coking coal imported during 1995-96 and the average landed cost thereof per tonne is as below :

	Quantity (Million Tonnes)	Average cost per tonne (including freight upto port) (In rupees)
SAIL	5.685	2240.00
VSP	2.575	2401.90
TISCO	0.883	2219.70

(c) The quantity of low ash coal from Assam consumed by the Integrated Steel Plants in 1995-96 and the average cost thereof per tonne is as below :

	Quantity (Million Tonnes)	Average Landed cost per tonne (including freight upto port) (In rupees)
SAIL	0.146	2150.00
VSP	0.020	2076.98
TISCO	0.046	2050.00

(d) and (e) Although Assam Coal is not a substitute for imported Coking Coal, yet SAIL plants are using Assam Coal as much as possible.

[Translation]

#### Functioning of Kusunagar Airport in U.P.

4163. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kusunagar airport in Uttar Pradesh is proposed to start functioning during 1997;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to start functioning; and

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the operation of air service from Gorakhpur airport till Kusunagar airport starts functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Kusunagar airport belongs to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Gorakhpur airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence. Airports Authority of India has no plans to upgrade these airports. Airlines are free to operate flights from these airports, keeping in view the traffic potential and economic viability.

[English]

#### Satellite National Network System for Airports

4164. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up a satellite based national network system for airports in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is being implemented on a built operate transfer basis;

(d) whether there are any overseas investors of Indian corporate houses willing to fund this scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this system is likely to be made fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India is maintaining a vast communication network comprising of land-line tele-printer circuits, direct speech circuits, fax terminal and telex connections at 89 airports. To meet the future technological requirements in the field of aviation, it is proposed to switch over from land-line to satellite based tele-communication network. In the first phase, it is proposed to transfer all direct speech circuits and tele-printer circuits on to this network. In the second phase, network will be enhanced to provide extended direct VHF coverage and inter-connect radars etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The first phase of this network is expected to be operational in 1998.

#### Construction of Over Bridge

4165. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some requests regarding the construction of foot overbridge at Yerraguntala, allotment of sufficient funds for the construction of new Railway line between Nandyal and Yerraguntala to enable its early completion and non-transfer of Guntakal Railway Division to Bangalore zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/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) No request has been received for foot over bridge on

deposit terms at Yerraguntala from State Government/ Local Municipality. Rs. 5 Crore in the 97-98 Budget have been provided for Nandyal-Yerraguntala new BG line. Work will be taken up after land is made available by State Government Detailed Territorial jurisdictions of newly created zones have not yet been finalised.

#### Reduction in Running time of Rajdhani Express

4166. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the running time of Rajdhani Express running between Delhi and Chennai;

(b) whether it is a fact that this route has more passenger traffic than the other metro connections;

(c) if so, the reasons for not increasing the schedule from once a week to six times a week; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Upgradation of technology for speeding up of the trains is a continuous process on the Indian Railways.

(b) Route-wise data of passenger traffic are not maintained.

(c) and (d) The frequency of 2633/2634 Madras Rajdhani Express is being increased from weekly to bi-weekly during April'97. Further increase in its frequency is not feasible at present.

#### Development of Srinagar Airport

4167. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make arrangements for developing Srinagar airport as an international airport; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Srinagar Airport belongs to Ministry of Defence. Clearance/approval of that Ministry has been sought for developing facilities to enable international operations from Srinagar airport.

#### Bharat Gold Mines Limited

4168. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of gold by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the operation of BGML;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to set up a new process plant based on carbon-inpulp technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The production of gold by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) during each of the last three years is furnished below :

(Unit is Kgs.)

Year	Production
1993-94	672
1994-95	650
1995-96	650

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The rehabilitation package, submitted by M/s ICICI, the Operating Agency for the revival of BGML, envisages setting up of a project for recovery of gold by treatment of tailing through carbon-in-pulp technology.

#### Beedi Industries in Kerala

4169. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether beedi industries in Kerala are facing serious financial crises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help the workers specially the large section of poor women employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Extraction of Lead from Bihar

4170. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey for exploration of lead in Bihar;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to take concrete steps for exploration of lead in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The following investigations for Lead in association with Zinc and Copper have been carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during the last 5 years : - (i) Exploration for basemetals (Cu+Pb+Zn) in Kusumghat, Dhawa, Biharkari, Charkipahari, Tulsitanr prospects around Pindara in Hesathu-Belabathan sector. (ii) Integrated geological, geochemical survey of Hesathu-Belabathan Polymetallic mineralised belt with Chhota-Nagpur granite Gneiss province in Banka, Deoghar and Giridh district. (iii) Exploration for basemetals (Cu+Pb+Zn) in Charkipahari- Tulsitanr project in Hesath-Blabathan sector, Deoghar and Banka district. (iv) Exploration for Polymetallic basemetal mineralisation in Jamuniya prospect, NNE of Bagodar, Giridih district.

(c) and (d) Though Lead mineralisation has been established in most of the places, the results are not encouraging. Hence, no further exploration is planned in the area except in Gamuniya prospect.

#### Functioning of RPF and GRP

4171. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the functions of RPF and G.R.P. and the difference between the two;

(b) whether the functioning of these forces is hampered due to the existence of two forces;

(c) whether suggestions have been received for constitution of a single force in place of the two;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The functions of Government Railway Police are posicing in trains and railway premises which include prevention and detection of crimes and maintenance of law and order. The functions of RPF are to provide protection and security to the railway property including property entrusted to the Railways for transportation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Suggestions are received, from time to time, to improve upon the existing system and one of the suggestions under consideration was to constitute a single force in place of the two forces of GRP and RPF. There are practical difficulties in agreeing to this suggestion because GRP is a part of Police force of the

State concerned and policing is a "State subject" while RPF is basically a watch and ward staff of the Ministry of Railways, now upgraded to be one of the Armed Forces of the Union. Even if the State Governments agree to empowering a Central Government Force to do policing in railway premises and in trains and constitutional hurdle is crossed, it has to be assessed whether the new set up will improve upon matters or otherwise, because at present Government Railway Police has all the back-up of State Police Force to have criminal intelligence and armed Police to deal with law and order situations. Presently, however, there is a need for State Governments to make Government Railway Police more effective under the existing system itself.

[English]

#### Introduction of Passenger Train between Ratlam and Bhopal

4172. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a demand has been made since a long time for introduction of a passenger train direct from Ratlam between Ratlam and Bhopal under the Ratlam division of the Western Railway;

(b) if so, whether an assurance was also given by the senior officers in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for not introducing the above train service so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some demands/representations have been received in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

#### Introduction of Bandel-Sealdah Locals

4173. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not introducing Bandel-Sealdah locals inspite of several public demands; and

(b) the reasons for neglecting public demands by the Eastern Railway Authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Four pairs of direct services are available connecting Sealdah and Bandel. Further 15 pairs of services on Sealdah-Naihati and 18 pairs on Naihati-Bandel serve the needs of Sealdah-Bandel passengers. Introduction of additional services between Sealdah and Bandel has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

**ECB Loan**

4174. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is finalising plans to raise nearly Rs. 1,500 crore from the market in the next financial year through a combination of External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), domestic debt and a Global Depository Receipts (GDR) issue;

(b) if so, the broad features of its expansion plans, plant-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to ensure increased efficiency of operations, reduction in energy consumption, continuous casting and oxygen conversion in all its plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is planning to raise about Rs. 1500 crores through various instruments. However, tying up of specific sources for raising funds and the quantum thereof would depend on the market conditions.

(b) As per the broad approach being adopted for investment in SAIL Plants/units during 9th Plan, various schemes in different categories viz. additions/modifications, schemes related to extension/expansion, quality improvement, replacement and pollution control etc. would be considered based on techno-economic viability of each scheme and the availability of funds.

Some of the investment needs identified in the 9th Plan document in respect of 4 Integrated Plants of SAIL, are as follows :

- BSP : Development of Rowghat Mine, New Continuous Casting Plant, Coal Dust Injection in BFs, Beam Mill
- DSP : Medium Structural Mill, Bloom Caster, Coal Dust Injection
- RSP : Renovation of CRM (Phase-II)
- BSL : Coal Dust Injection, Additional Slab Caster, Additional Oxygen Plant, Ladle Furnace

The Government has yet to approve SAIL's 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) SAIL has embarked on modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants which aim at progressively replacing open hearth and ingot casting by more efficient Basic Oxygen furnace and Continuous Casting. This will increase yield, reduce energy consumption and improve quality of products. In addition Operating and Maintenance practices are being improved to increase efficiency of operation.

**Panel Doctors Under ESI Scheme**

4175. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of panel doctors in the country under the Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether there is a machinery to identify the grievances of the panel doctors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the nature of such grievances noticed by the Government during each of the last three years;

(e) the steps taken to redress these grievances;

(f) the present honorarium fixed for panel doctors; and

(g) the time by which the rate of honorarium is proposed to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) 3076 (as on 31st March, 1996).

(b) to (g) Medical care under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is provided through Corporation's own dispensaries and hospitals and in some States also through some private doctors empanelled for this purpose. The fee payable to such panel doctors and other terms of conditions are determined by the concerned State Government with the approval of the Corporation. At present panel doctors are being paid @ Rs. 60/- per IP family unit per annum in State of West Bengal and Goa and @ Rs. 50/- per IP family unit per annum in the State of Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. This being a mutually and voluntarily agreed arrangement between the private practitioners and the State Government concerned, the need for any grievance redressal machinery does not arise.

**Direct Train Service**

4176. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no direct train service from Asansol-Raniganj-Durgapur to Assam;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the people of Assam as well as the people of the coal belt and industrial belt of those places are agitating for a long time for introduction of train service;

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

(d) the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) and (d) Introduction of a train from Asansol/Raniganj/Durgapur to Assam has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

#### Direct Rail Link between Bandel and Kalyani/Ranaghat/Krishnanagar

4177. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the people of West Bengal consistently demanding for a direct rail-link between Bandel and Kalyani/Ranaghat/Krishnanagar by passing Naihati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a curved rail-link is existing short of Naihati which is presently submerged in soil;

(d) if so, whether any attempt has been made to make use of the curve;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps to be taken now to use the said curve to fulfil the demand of the people of West Bengal?

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

(b) Some demands have been received from the people of West Bengal.

(c) The curve line near Naihati is not in existence now.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

#### Revenue Earned in North Bengal

4178. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the revenue collected out of tourism in North Bengal during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to improve tourism in North Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) According to the estimates worked out by the State Government, on the basis of average expenditure per tourist, the tourism earnings by the tourism industry in the six districts of North Bengal during the last three years were as given below :-

Year	Tourist Expenditure (Rs. Crores)
1994	51.98
1995	54.55
1996	55.63

(b) to (d) The infrastructure development of tourism in any place is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, financial assistance is provided by the Central Department of Tourism on the basis of specific proposals received from them, inter-se priorities and availability of resources. The projects assisted by the Central Department of Tourism for improving tourism in North Bengal during Eighth Plan period include the following :-

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Augmentation of facilities at Mainak Tourist Lodge, Siliguri	29.00
2.	Tourist Lodge at Pashupati, Darjeeling	24.14
3.	Yatri Niwas at New Jalpaiguri	44.89
4.	Tourist Lodge at Darjeeling	25.00
5.	Tourist Lodge at Jalpaiguri	30.22

#### Passenger Amenities at Nellore and Gudur Railway Stations

4179. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that no foot over bridge, additional booking facilities, retiring rooms and other passenger amenities etc. have been provided at Nellore and Gudur Railway Stations of South Central Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that no inspections by officers at higher level are conducted to improve the conditions;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to provide adequate passenger amenities at the said Railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A sub-way at Nellore and a foot-over-bridge at Gudur connecting platforms are provided. Booking facilities, retiring rooms and other amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic are available at both the stations.

(c) to (e) Both the stations were inspected recently by senior Officers and as a result improvement to circulating area and surface of platform No 1 at Nellore has been completed recently. At Gudur works of VIP lounge and improvement to circulating area have been taken up.

### Linking of Darjeeling and Sikkim with broad gauge line

4180. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to connect Darjeeling and Sikkim by broad gauge rail line;

(b) if so, whether any survey is being conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above places are likely to be connected by broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a survey for a new BG line from Sivok to Gangtok via Giellekhole and Singtam has been taken up. Further consideration of the proposal will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

### Facilities in AC-3 Coaches of Rajdhani Express

4181. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision was taken to provide Linen Room, Hot case and a Water cooler in all AC-3 coaches of Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that same facilities are not provided in Howrah Rajdhani Express;

(d) if so, the reason therefor;

(e) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided in the said train; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) In AC-3 Tier coaches of Rajdhani Express in Linen room and a hot case are provided.

(c) and (d) As the Howrah Rajdhani coaches were of earlier design, some of the AC-3 Tier coaches did not have these facilities.

(e) The Howrah Rajdhani AC-3 Tier coaches are gradually being modified (in Workshop) to provide for this facility. This work is likely to be completed during this year.

(f) Does not arise.

### Waiting List for Telephone Connections

4182. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that

thousands of applicants are on the waiting list for telephone connections under Cannanore Secondary Switching Area in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to clear the back log;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is dearth of equipments/machinery at many of the Telephone Exchanges in Cannanore Secondary Switching Area; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to supply machinery/equipments for Cannanore Switching area?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The waiting list as on 28.2.1997 in Cannanore Secondary Switching Area is 87697.

The number of new telephone connections added during 1996-97 as on 28.2.1997 is 10516 and connections likely to be added during March, 1997 is 3000.

There are 113 exchanges in the Secondary Switching Area, out of these 88 exchanges are proposed for expansion during 1997-98 resulting an addition of net capacity of 58000 lines.

### Construction of New Railway Terminus

4183. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any demand to construct new railway terminus at Dahanu road station in Western Railway;

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

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced at the said terminus?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Medical Facilities to ITDC Employees

4184. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of the India Tourism Development Corporation hotels are not entitled for treatment in CGHS dispensaries/Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is no ESI dispensary within a radius of two kilometers near the area where the

employees of the ITDC hotels particularly the Class Four employees are facing more difficulties;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the ITDC has appointed some hospitals for treatment of its employees but it does not make full reimbursement of medical bills of these employees and deduct the amount from their salaries;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government propose to provide some facilities particularly to the Class Fourth employees by simplifying the rules; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) ITDC hotels employees may take medical treatment in empanelled Government hospitals. However, they are not entitled for treatment in CGHS dispensaries which are meant for Central Government employees.

(c) and (d) As per ESI Act, employees covered under ESI scheme are to take the treatment from ESI dispensaries irrespective of distance of their residence.

(e) and (f) In addition to Government hospitals, ITDC has empanelled some other Hospitals/Nursing Homes under its medical scheme. The reimbursement to the concerned employees is made as per their entitlement stipulated in to Rules.

(g) and (h) All ITDC employees including Group IV employees are entitled for medical facilities as per the existing Rules. ITDC has no jurisdiction to make any change in ESI Scheme.

[English]

#### Development of Hubli and Gadag Railway Stations

4185. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any programme has been chalked out for the development of Hubli and Gadag railway stations of South Central Railway in view of insufficient facilities available at these stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount provided for the development of these railway stations;

(d) the time by which the development work of the said railway stations is likely to be commenced; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger

traffic have already been provided at Hubli and Gadag stations. However, to augment the existing facilities improvement to water supply and development works at a cost of Rs. 18.55 lakh has been taken up at Hubli and improvement work at Gadag has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 2.21 lakh. These works are expected to be completed during 1997 itself. Constant monitoring of the progress is done to ensure completion as targetted.

#### Tourism Projects in Assam

4186. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourism projects in Assam sanctioned by the Union Government in the current plan;

(b) the details of the projects completed so far; and

(c) the details of the projects under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The details of tourism projects in Assam sanctioned by the Union Government in the current plan and the details of projects completed and implemented are given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

##### List of Prioritised Projects for 1996-97 for the State of Assam

S.No.	Name of the project/ scheme	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Purchase of Elephant for Kaziranga, Manas, Orang and Pobitora (10 nos.)	35.00
2.	Upgradation of sound and light show at Talatal Ghar at Sibsagar	50.00
3.	Upgradation cum expansion of tourist facilities at Kaziranga	19.16
4.	Luxury Tourist Cruise Vessel of two engine 4 cylinder of capacity 40 persons	
	(a) In and around Guwahati including Sualkuchi and Kuruwa	30.00
	(b) From Chandarpur to Pobitora	30.00
5.	Upgradation and expansion of Tourist facilities at Bhalukpong	19.60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>183.76</b>

*Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during Current Plan*

S.No.	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Status/Likely date of completion
<i>Assam During 1992-93</i>			
1.	Pilgrim cottages at Kamakhya	27.09	Work could not be started due to land dispute.
2.	Tourist lodge at Bardaloni Bird Sanctuary	14.00	Work in progress.
3.	Wayside facilities at Kalain	11.73	Work in progress.
4.	Purchase of angling equipment	4.40	Purchased.
5.	Water sports equipment for Diguli Pukri and Sib Sagar	5.56	Purchased.
6.	Tented accommodation	15.88	Purchased.
	Total	<u>78.66</u>	
<i>During 1993-94</i>			
1.	Tourist Cottages at Hajo	24.35	Work in progress.
2.	Tourist resort at Biswanath Ghat	15.45	Land located.
3.	Tourist lodge at Tinsukhia	23.54	Land taken-over.
4.	Tented accommodation at Kaziranga, Manas and Bholukpong, Umronse.	14.77	
	Total	<u>78.11</u>	
<i>During 1994-95</i>			
1.	Tourist complex at Halflong	27.79	Work in progress.
2.	Tourist complex at Rajiv Gandhi Wild Life Sanctuary, Orang.	25.20	Work in progress.
	Total	<u>52.99</u>	
<i>During 1995-96</i>			
1.	Tourist Reception Centre at Kaziranga.	30.00	Work not started.
2.	Picnic huts and other tourist facilities at Manas	25.00	-do-
3.	Cafeteria at Bhalukpong	15.00	-do-
4.	Tea festival	5.00	Completed.
5.	Assistance for Bihu festival	5.00	-do-
	Total	<u>80.00</u>	

**Konkan Railway Employees**

4187. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited are covered under Railway Health Service Scheme;

(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) (i) Konkan Railway employees are not considered as railway servants.

(ii) Konkan Railway Corporation which was conceived as a separate entity as a Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry has framed its own Medical Rules to provide medical assistance to its staff

working in difficult/distant construction sites. These rules have served well during the construction phase.

[Translation]

#### Utilisation of Railway Land for Commercial Purposes

4188. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :  
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that most of the unutilised Railway land has been encroached;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to commercialise the Railway land/encroached land;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to lease out the Railway land in cities and small towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. Only 2457 Hectares out of 24,845 Hectares vacant Railway land is under encroachment/unauthorised occupation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Distance Between Bilha Nagar and Pendra Railway Station

4189. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the distance between Bilha Nagar and Pendra railway stations in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the norms adopted for stopping Superfast and Express trains at stations and the distance for the stoppage of trains between one station to another; and

(c) the names and details of the Superfast and Express trains stopping at Bilha Nagar and Pendra railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) About 116 Kms.

(b) Provision of stoppage of trains including Superfast and Express depends upon the traffic offering, alternative services available, pattern of service and characteristics of the train.

(c) 8029/8030 Howrah-Kurla and 8237/8238 Bilaspur-Amritsar Chattisgarh Expresses stop at Bilha. 8253/8254 Durg-Bhopal Amarkantak, 5159/5160 Durg-Chhapra Sarnath and 8477/8478 Puri-Nizamuddin Kalinga Utkal Expresses stop at Pendra Road.

[English]

#### Housing Scheme for Beedi Workers

4190. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the centrally sponsored housing schemes for beedi workers in the country;

(b) the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether these schemes apply to both rural as well as urban beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The Central Government operates two housing schemes for Beedi Workers namely Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Build your own Housing Scheme (BYOHS). These schemes apply to both rural as well as Urban beedi Workers. The State-wise details for the last 3 years are given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

Number of Houses constructed for beedi workers State-wise and Year-wise during the last three years.

S.No.	States	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		EWS	BYOHS	EWS	BYOHS	EWS	BYOHS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Tamilnadu	-	4	-	86	1000	16
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3341	358	6116	239	4717	117
3.	Karnataka	1306	-	-	2	-	-
4.	Kerala	-	317	-	457	-	155
5.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Maharashtra	-	7	103	13	-	13
8.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Uttar Pradesh	-	28	-	20	-	13
10.	M.P.	12	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Orissa	-	83	-	66	-	153
12.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Assam	-	40	-	109	-	-
14.	West Bengal	-	92	-	45	-	30

### Reservation of Two Berths to Physically Handicapped

4191. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allot two berths in sleeper class for the physically handicapped persons in each non-suburban train under reservation quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether reservation is also proposed to be provided for the attendant accompanying them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Railways have issued instructions to Zonal Railways to earmark two berths in sleeper class in all train running on non-suburban sections for handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket. The person accompanying the handicapped person as escort will also be provided accommodation out of this quota.

### Joint Venture of SAIL for Coal

4192. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAIL is planning for joint venture for mining a part of its coal requirements; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) SAIL has applied to the Ministry of Coal for allocation of certain identified coking coal mining blocks. SAIL proposes to operate these blocks either on its own or on joint venture basis with other parties to meet a part of its coal requirement. The Screening Committee, functioning in the Ministry of Coal, had identified four coking coal mining blocks for captive development by SAIL. After detailed studies SAIL have decided to harness the Tasra Coking Coal Block.

In this regard, SAIL had sought in principle approval of the Ministry of Steel for formation of Joint Venture

Coal Company and the Ministry has conveyed its broad agreement to the same.

### Performance of Public Sector Undertakings

4193. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of each of the Public Sector Undertakings under Mines Sector during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of ongoing/new proposals for expansion/revival of these undertakings and provision of funds made for each of the PSUs for the current year;

(c) the steps taken to improve performance of these PSUs during the next three years; and

(d) the total number of Board level posts vacant/likely be fall vacant during the current year, PSU-wise and action taken to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The performance of the six Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Mines during the last three years in terms of profit/loss is given below :

Name of the PSUs	(Rs. in Crores) (-)Loss		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. NALCO	156.72	300.17	535.25
2. BALCO	15.27	90.51	163.33
3. HCL	(-)69.55	72.26	75.84
4. HZL	4.55	76.43	65.71
5. MECL	(-)11.86	(-)14.03	(-)12.24
6. BGML	(-)39.39	(-)36.50	(-)43.73

(b) and (c) The expansion/modernisation/revival of Public Sector Undertakings is a continuous process, and wherever feasible, necessary budgetary support under Annual Plan is given by the Government to loss making companies. The plan outlays proposed in RE

1996-97 and BE 1997-98 in respect of PSUs of this Ministry are given below :

(Rs. in Crores)			
Name of the PSUs	R.E. 1996-97	B.E. 1997-98	Budgetary Support 97-98
1. NALCO	203.72	461.96	-
2. BALCO	34.95	63.60	-
3. HCL	51.40	191.00	13.00
4. HZL	68.00	124.00	-
5. MECL	10.50	8.00	8.00
6. BGML	6.00	6.00	6.00

The details of some important projects of the PSUs are indicated below :

(i) Expansion of Bauxite Mines of NALCO from

2.4 million TPY to 4.8 million TPY and Alumina Refinery from 0.80 million TPY to 1.575 million TPY at an estimated cost of Rs. 1665 crores (June, 1996 price level) approved.

(ii) Installation of a new Cold Rolling Mill of 40,000 tonnes capacity alongwith associated facilities by BALCO at an estimated cost of Rs. 157 crores has been approved.

(iii) Expansion of Lead-Zinc Ore Beneficiation plant at Rampura-Agucha Mine from the existing level of 3,000 tonnes per day to 4500 tonnes per day at a total cost of Rs. 45.13 crores is under execution by Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

(d) The position of Board level Vacant posts in Public Sector Undertakings and action taken to fill up these posts is given below :-

S.No.	Name of PSU/ post	Since when the post is Vacant/likely to be vacant.	Date of PESB recommendations, if any	Present position
1.	CMD/HCL	1.9.95	15.12.95	Acting arrangement made.
2.	Dir(F)HCL	7.10.96	27.2.97	Proposal for extension of the tenure upto the date of retirement (28.2.98) of the present incumbent has been submitted to the Government.
3.	Dir(P)HCL	4.11.97	-	Action to fill up the post is not yet due.
4.	Dir(P&TS)/HCL	9.4.91 (Date of creation of post)	-	The post has been kept in in abeyance.
5.	Dir(F)/BGML	-	5.10.89	The post has been kept in abeyance.
6.	Director(Technical)/ BGML)	15.10.96	-	The earlier incumbent has been promoted as MD,BGML and the post is vacant. Filling up of the post is not considered necessary.
7.	Dir(F)/HZL	5.7.96	11.12.96	No decision has been taken.
8.	CMD/NALCO	18.6.97	-	Action initiated for giving extension to the present incumbent.
9.	Dir(P&T)/NALCO	30.9.97	-	Action to fill-up the post initiated.
10.	Dir(P&A)/NALCO	30.9.97	-	Action to fill-up the post initiated.

#### Flying Clubs at Bhopal and Indore

4194. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of flying clubs at Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of planes owned by each of these flying clubs;

(c) the number of persons trained at each of these flying clubs during the last three years;

(d) the fee being charged for total training;

(e) whether the entire expenditure is borne by trainees;

(f) if so, there is any subsidy from any quarters towards the training fee; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh Flying Club (MPFC), situated at Indore, has a branch at Bhopal. In addition, there is a private flying institute at Indore known as UDAN Research & Flying Institute Pvt. Ltd. The number of aircraft owned by MPFC is 6. The private institute owns 4 aircraft.

(c) A total number of 687 and 92 pupil pilots have been trained by MPFC, Indore (including its branch) and UDAN Research & Flying Institute Pvt. Ltd. respectively during the last three years.

(d) The MPFC charges Rs. 701 and Rs. 570 per hour for training on Cessna and Pushpak aircraft respectively upto Private Pilot Licence (PPL). The fee charged after PPL upto Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) is Rs. 1800 and Rs. 1375 per hour respectively on these aircraft. The UDAN Research & Flying Institute charges Rs. 6.50 lakhs in the form of package from Student Pilot Licence to CPL.

(e) to (g) Subsidy is provided by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to MPFC upto PPL and subsequent flying for renewal of PPL/CPL at the rates of Rs. 701 and Rs. 570 for Cessna and Pushpak aircraft respectively. No subsidy is provided to the private Institute.

#### Gauge Conversion

4195. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the conversion of Palakkad-Pollachi metre gauge line into broad gauge line;

(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) This line is not included in the first phase of the Action Plan taken up under project Uniguage.

#### Completion of Projects in Abroad

4196. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects in foreign countries completed by the Indian Railways during 1996;

(b) the number of projects in hand at present;

(c) whether any new works have been awarded or negotiations are going on for railway projects in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total foreign exchange earned by rail contracts in foreign countries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Indian Railways execute projects in foreign countries through its PSUs like IRCON & RITES. The projects completed during 1996 by RITES are 25 and by IRCON are 05.

(b) At present, RITES has 25 and IRCON has 13 projects in hand in foreign countries.

(c) and (d) Recently, IRCON has secured 3 projects in Malaysia, 1 in Nepal and negotiation is going on for 1 project in Burkina Faso. RITES is continuing negotiations for 38 foreign projects.

(e) The details of foreign exchange earned during the last three years as under :

(Fig. in millions of Rs.)			
Year	Rites	Ircon	Total
1993-94	78.45	291	369.45
1994-95	116.70	329	445.70
1995-96	235.49	1888	2122.49
Total			2937.64

#### Introduction of Train between Howrah and Haldia

4197. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation for introduction of a superfast train between Howrah and Haldia and construction of double line from Panskura to Haldia;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since taken any decision in this regard;

(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 representations have been received in this regard. However, no representations have been received for construction of double line between Haldia and Panskura.

(b) to (d) The proposal for a superfast train was examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints. However, Howrah and Haldia are connected by 2 pairs of EMU locals.

#### Shortage of Drinking Water in Liluah Railway Quarters

4198. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute drinking water problem in Liluah Railway quarters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to inadequate sanitation, residents of these quarters are suffering for a long time;

(d) if so, whether nothing has been done even after drawing the attention of Railway Authorities; and

(e) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to solve drinking water and sanitation problem at Liluah Railway quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total yield of water from the existing sources of the Railway are insufficient to meet the present day requirement of water at Liluah.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To solve the problem of shortage of water, a work of provision of 1.4 MGD river based water treatment plant has already been taken up.

#### **Air Conditioned Three Tier Sleeper Coaches in Long Distance Trains**

4199. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have planned to provide air conditioned three tier sleeper coaches in some long distance trains;

(b) if so, which pairs of trains alongwith the names of the trains passing through Balasod railway station are proposed to be provided with three tier air conditioned sleeper coaches before March 31, 1997;

(c) whether 2815-2816 Puri Express, 8475-8476 Neelachal Express, 8477-8478 Utkal Kalinga Express are also proposed to be provided with A.C. three tier sleeper coaches till then; and

(d) if not, the time by which the New Delhi-Puri bound trains are likely to be provided with A.C. three tier sleeper coaches?

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

(b) Presumably the reference is towards Balasore.

3 pairs of Expresses stopping at Balasore viz. 2801/2802 Purshottam Express, 2841/2842 Coromandal Express and 6519/6520 Express have already been provided with A.C. 3 tier sleeper accommodation so far.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A.C. 3 tier coach is equipped with air brake whereas these trains are running on vacuum brake. Conversion of long distance trains into air brake is

being done in a phased manner and conversion of these trains will also be considered alongwith similar demands in later years.

#### **Catering Services in South bound Long route trains**

4200. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the catering services in the South bound long route trains were awarded to private parties;

(b) if so, whether the quality of food deteriorating considerably and they are not providing comfortable services;

(c) if so, whether the passengers have made complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have made any check on the quality of food and services; and

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

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

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However 43 complaints were received. Fine has been imposed in 8 cases and in 19 cases warning has been issued.

(e) and (f) Regular checks are conducted by the Railway Administration and suitable remedial/preventive action is taken. During 1995-96, 388 checks were conducted by Southern Railway and suitable action against the defaulting licencees.

#### **Modernisation of Railway Stations**

4201. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the railway stations in West Bengal where expansion/renovation and modernisation were done during the last three years; and

(b) the names of those stations where such work is proposed to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Expansion/renovation/modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken on a need based programme as warranted by growth in traffic depending upon the overall availability of funds and relative priorities of different stations. State-wise details of stations in this regard are not maintained. Works of modernisation/renovation etc. are included in Railways annual works programme every year depending on the availability of funds.

### Credit Facilities to Various Government Offices

4202. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Airlines has extended credit facilities to various Government offices;

(b) if so, the names of such Government offices in Delhi/New Delhi and outside Delhi.

(c) whether the payments are being received by Indian Airlines from these offices;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and the amount due from each office as on February 28, 1997; and

(e) the steps being taken to recover the same by Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines is, at present, extending credit facilities in all to 793 Government Offices in Delhi/New Delhi and outside Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

### Unutilised Stores in Orissa

4203. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantum of material and machinery is lying unutilised in Stores of the district Kalahandi in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and its estimated cost;

(c) whether the Government have also received any complaints/requests from the Government of Orissa and also from several Members of Parliament regarding irregularities committed by the Telecom Officers in execution of different development works; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sir, only one complaint was received from Shri Bhakta Charan Das M.P. which was investigated into and the reply to the Hon'ble M.P. has been sent.

(d) The case has been investigated and no irregularities noticed.

### Losses in BALCO

4204. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic condition of the Bharat Aluminium Company is gradually worsening;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the losses suffered during each of the last three years;

(c) whether he has received allegations against acting Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the above Company from Labour Unions;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(f) the reasons for giving him extension despite already selected a new Chairman-cum-Managing Director?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The net profit earned by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) in the last three years is given below :

Year	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Net Profit (Rs. crores)	15.27	90.51	166.63

(c) to (f) Various complaints against former acting Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of BALCO have been received from Labour Unions of BALCO and are in process. One Labour Union i.e. BALCO Employees Union (Registered & Recognised) has also filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court in the matter and as such the matter is subjudice. In the meantime, the regular CMD of BALCO has since been appointed and has taken charge on the 14th February, 1997 (A/N) and the acting arrangement for the post of CMD has come to an end on 14.2.1997 itself.

### Aviation Turbine Fuel Prices

4205. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether aviation turbine fuel prices are being revived for slashing it down to international levels;

(b) if so, the main purpose therefor;

(c) whether all the domestic airlines including the private airlines increased their fares by 20% following

an increase in prices of all petroleum products including ATF; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A proposal for lowering of administered price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for domestic operations has been deferred by the Government.

(c) and (d) Domestic fares are not regulated by Government and, therefore, airlines are free to fix any fares in their commercial judgement.

[Translation]

#### Fault Repair Service

4206. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it takes many days to rectify the fault of dead telephones due to the negligence of employees and corruption;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Whenever any complaints of deliberate delay or adoption of corrupt practices in attending to rectification of faults on dead telephones are received, these are investigated and disciplinary/administrative action is initiated against the concerned officials.

[English]

#### Shortage of Trolleys at Calcutta Airport

4207. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Calcutta airport is short of trolleys as reported in 'Asian Age' dated February 2, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A contract was awarded on 1-2-1997 for provision, retrieval and maintenance of free baggage trolleys. 1500 trolleys were positioned on 9-2-1997 at Calcutta Airport.

[Translation]

#### Construction of Overbridges

4208. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places where over bridges have been constructed on rail lines in Bihar during the last two years;

(b) the details of proposals pending with the Union Government for construction of overbridges on rail lines; and

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) (1) Chakradharpur - State Government has not started work on approaches. (2) Motihari - Railway portion completed. State Government not constructed approaches. (3) Saharsa - Yet to be sanctioned as State Government has to fulfil certain pre-requisite formalities. (4) Kishanganj - Hatwar - State Government yet to accept the estimate. (5) Fatuah - GAD approved, estimate sanctioned. (6) Mithapur - sanctioned in 1997-98. (7) Deedarganj - sanctioned in 1997-98. (8) Arrah - Railway portion completed. State Government not started work on approaches. (9) Yar pur - Railway portion completed. One leg opened to traffic. (10) Parasnath - Road Over Bridge dropped by Ministry of Surface Transport. (11) Road Over Bridge on N.H. - 32 at km.339/7-8 between CHAS & Ispatnagar on Talgaria-Tapadir section.

#### Automatic Telephone Exchange in U.P.

4209. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges functioning at present in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the capacity of these exchanges;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to set up some new automatic telephone exchanges in the remaining districts of the State during 1997-98;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 1,755 (as on 31.1.1997)

(b) 11,51,694 lines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

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

**Statement**

*Planned commissioning of new small exchanges and replacement of small exchanges by medium capacity exchanges (all C-DOT electronic type) in rural areas of U.P. during 1997-98.*

S.No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	10
2.	Azamgarh	4
3.	Bahraich	2
4.	Ballia	7
5.	Banda	3
6.	Barabanki	1
7.	Basti	3
8.	Bhadohi	3
9.	Deoria	2
10.	Etawah	1
11.	Fazabad	3
12.	Farrukhabad	2
13.	Fatehpur	4
14.	Ghazipur	1
15.	Gonda	4
16.	Hamirpur	1
17.	Jalaun	4
18.	Jaunpur	6
19.	Jhansi	1
20.	Kanpur Dehat	5
21.	Lakimpur	1
22.	Maharajanj	1
23.	Mau	7
24.	Muzaffarnagar	1
25.	Padrauna	1
26.	Pratapgarh	6
27.	Rae Bareilly	2
28.	Sidharthnagar	2
29.	Sitapur	1
30.	Sultanpur	4
31.	Varanasi	5
32.	Lucknow	5
33.	Gorakhpur	4
34.	Kanpur	3
35.	Agra	5
36.	Aligarh	3
37.	Almore	8
38.	Bareilly	5
39.	Bijnore	4
40.	Dehradun	10
41.	Ghaziabad	4
42.	Etah	4

1	2	3
43.	Mathura	3
44.	Meerut	12
45.	Muradabad	12
46.	Muzafarnagar	5
47.	Nainital	2
48.	Rampur	3
49.	Saharanpur	9
50.	Srinagar	8
		201

**Difficulties in Operating IA Flights**

4210. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the difficulties in operating Indian Airlines flights daily between Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur-Udaipur-Aurangabad-Mumbai; and

(b) the measures taken by the Union Government to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) All these stations are connected either to Delhi or Mumbai seven days a week except Jodhpur, which is connected six days a week. While working out their schedule for determining frequencies of operations all airlines take into account not only available resources but also commercial viability of operations as well.

**Broadcasting Centre of AIR, Rajasthan**

4211. SHRI PARSARAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of broadcasting centres of All India Radio opened in Rajasthan so far, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more such centres in the State during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so the details thereof location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) There are 16 AIR stations/broadcasting centres in the State of Rajasthan. These are located at Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Suratgarh, Kota Alwar Nagaur Banswara, Chittorgarh, Barmer Sawaimadhopur Churu, Jhalawar and Jaisalmer. One more Radio Station/Broadcasting Centre with 6 KW P.M.T., M.P. studio and receiving facilities is being established at Mount Abu during the current Plan period. Schemes for the Ninth Five Year Plan have yet not been finalised.

**Under Construction Projects**

4212. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many projects for the expansion and development of railways are under construction;

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

(c) the estimated cost thereof;

(d) the total amount spent thereon so far and the details of various sources for mobilising funds for these projects; and

(e) the time by which the above projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e)

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Project	Estimated cost	Expenditure upto 31.3.97	likely date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
<b>New Lines</b>				
1.	Peddapally-Karimnagar-Nizamabad	193.12	12.70	Phase-I Peddapally to Karimnagar 31.12.99. Phase-II not yet fixed.
2.	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	155.74	0.42	IX Plan
3.	Dharmavara-Penukonda via Putaparthi	94.00	0.00	IX Plan
4.	Jogighopa-Guwahati	635.00	390.00	For bridge and line from Jogighopa to Goalpara - Dec'97 and balance line Dec'98.
5.	Dudhnoi-Depa	22.00	3.00	IX Plan
6.	Kumarghat-Agartala	575.00	1.00	31.3.2002
7.	Bogibeel bridge	1000.00	0.00	IX Plan
8.	Diphu-Karong	800.00	0.00	IX Plan
9.	Harmuti-Itanagar	156.00	0.01	IX Plan
10.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	170.00	1.00	IX Plan
11.	Sakri-Hassanpur	96.00	1.00	IX Plan
12.	Khagaria-Kusheshwarsthan	78.00	1.00	IX Plan
13.	Patna-Ganga bridge	600.00	0.00	IX Plan
14.	Ara-Sasaram	120.00	0.00	IX Plan
15.	Giridih-Koderma	145.00	0.00	IX Plan
16.	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	100.00	0.00	IX Plan
17.	Kapadvanj-Modasa	38.00	2.00	31.12.99
18.	Godhra-Indore-Dewas-Maksi	297.00	11.00	Dewas-Maksi Dec'99 Godhra-Indore not fixed.
19.	Kottur-Harihar	66.00	25.00	IX Plan
20.	Munirabad-Mehboobnagar	380.00	0.00	IX Plan
21.	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Saklespur	157.00	0.05	IX Plan
22.	Hassan-Bangalore	295.00	0.01	IX Plan
23.	Bangalore-Satyamangalam	225.00	0.00	IX Plan
24.	Hubli-Ankola	136.00	0.01	IX Plan
25.	Angamali-Sabarimala	550.00	0.00	IX Plan
26.	Guna-Etawah via Shivpur/Gwalior/Bhind	256.00	170.00	Guna-Khajuri and Panihar Gwalior Sanichara completed. Panihar-Khajuri Dec'98. Rest of the section not yet fixed.
27.	Dallirajahara-Jagdarpur	128.00	0.03	IX Plan

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Lalitpur-Satna and Rewa-Singrauli	925.00	0.00	IX Plan
29.	Amaravati-Narkhed	182.70	11.00	IX Plan
30.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajjnath	353.00	0.30	IX Plan
31.	Panvel-Karjat	89.00	4.00	IX Plan
32.	Baramati-Lonad	75.00	0.00	IX Plan
33.	Kopargaon-Sirdi	32.00	0.00	IX Plan
34.	Nangal Dam-Talwara	150.00	24.13	IX Plan
35.	Jammu Tawi-Udhampur	326.90	235.18	31.12.99
36.	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula	1900.00	2.20	IX Plan
37.	Talcher-Sambalpur	337.00	259.00	31.12.97
38.	Daitari-Banspani	242.00	86.00	31.12.99
39.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh	100.00	10.00	IX Plan
40.	Khurda Road-Bolangir	353.00	2.40	IX Plan
41.	Haridaspur-Paradeep	122.00	3.00	IX Plan
42.	Taran Taran-Goindwal	25.00	0.00	IX Plan
43.	Chandigarh-Ludhiana	150.00	0.00	IX Plan
44.	Dausa-Gangapur	152.00	0.50	IX Plan
45.	Karur-Salem	136.00	0.01	IX Plan
46.	Katra-Faizabad	51.00	10.00	IX Plan
47.	Howrah-Amta including Bargachia-Champadaga branch line	31.00	25.00	Bargachia-Munshirhat 31.3.98. Not fixed for the rest of the section.
48.	Eklakhi-Balurghat	81.00	13.00	IX Plan
49.	Tamluk-Digha	165.00	32.00	IX Plan
50.	Laxmikantapur-Namkhana	70.00	41.80	Upto Kashinagar 31.12.97. Not fixed for beyond that.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>				
1.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	110.00	5.00	31.3.98
2.	Guntur-Guntakal and Guntakal-Kalluru	452.00	359.00	Guntur-Guntakal 31.3.97 and Guntakal-Kalluru 31.12.98
3.	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	72.00	6.00	30.09.98
4.	Secunderabad-Dronachellam and Secunderabad-Bolaram	283.00	178.00	31.12.97
5.	Solapur-Gadag	208.00	78.00	30.09.97 for Hotgi-Bijapur. 31.3.99 for balance portion.
6.	Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Janakampet-Bodhan	283.00	0.00	IX Plan
7.	Naupada-Gunupur	47.00	0.00	IX Plan
8.	Lumding-Digrugarh including link branches	552.00	387.00	31.3.97 for main line and 31.3.98 for linked branches.
9.	Lumding-Silchar	648.00	6.00	IX Plan
10.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigon	380.00	0.00	IX Plan
11.	Sagauli-Narkatiaganj	42.00	29.00	31.3.97
12.	Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar	36.00	8.00	31.3.98
13.	Hajipur-Bachwara	54.00	10.00	31.12.97
14.	Mansi-Saharsa	210.00	8.00	31.12.98

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	147.00	0.00	IX Plan
16.	Jayanagar-Darbhangha-Narkatiaganj	233.00	0.00	IX Plan
17.	Samastipur-Khagaria	70.00	0.00	IX Plan
18.	Bhildi-Viramgam	155.00	0.00	Viramgam-Mehsana Dec '98 rest of the section work is frozen.
19.	Rajkot-Veraval	100.00	5.50	31.12.99
20.	Gandhidham-Bhuj	42.00	13.00	31.12.98
21.	Wankaner-Malia Miyana	79.00	0.00	31.12.98
22.	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension to Pipavav	337.00	0.01	IX Plan
23.	Hospet-Hubli-Goa	522.00	515.00	31.3.97
24.	Bangalore-Hubli	411.00	400.00	Main line completed. Birur-Shimoga completed. Shimoga-Talguppa 31.12.98.
25.	Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore	185.00	64.00	31.12.98
26.	Yellahanka-Chickballapur and Bangarpet-Kolar	57.00	52.00	31.3.97
27.	Mysore-Hassan	116.00	35.00	31.12.97
28.	Mysore-Chamarajanagar with extension to Mettupalayam	175.00	0.00	IX Plan
29.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichendur and Tenkasi-Virdhunagar	280.00	0.00	IX Plan
30.	Neemuch-Ratlam	116.00	2.00	IX Plan
31.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	356.00	0.01	IX Plan
32.	Gondia-Chandafort	215.00	127.00	31.3.98
33.	Miraj-Latur	310.00	24.00	IX Plan
34.	Rewari-Sadulpur	110.00	0.00	IX Plan
35.	Rupsa-Bangariposi	58.00	1.00	IX Plan
36.	Viramgam-Jodhpur, Bhildi-Samdari-Luni	185.00	0.11	IX Plan
37.	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad	540.00	443.00	Completed
38.	Luni-Marwar	45.50	4.50	30.7.97
39.	Luni-Jodhpur	32.00	4.00	30.9.97
40.	Ajmer-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh	262.00	0.01	IX Plan
41.	Luni-Barmer-Muna bao	240.00	0.00	IX Plan
42.	Dindigul-Trichy	80.00	11.00	31.12.98
43.	Madras Beach-Tiruchirapalli	300.00	142.00	31.12.97
44.	Tiruchirapalli-Nagore-Karaikal	139.00	63.00	Trichy to Tanjore July '97. Rest of the section Dec'98
45.	Villupuram-Pondicherry	30.00	0.00	IX Plan
46.	Mau-Shahganj	44.00	43.00	Completed
47.	Chappra-Aurihar	145.00	140.00	Completed
48.	Mathura-Achnera	20.00	0.10	31.12.99
49.	Khadda-Gorakhpur	67.00	8.00	30.9.98
50.	Kashipur-Lalkuan	45.00	1.00	31.3.99
51.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura and Kasganj-Bareilly	395.00	0.00	IX Plan

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Doubling</b>				
1.	Vijayawada-Krishna Canal 3rd line	23.50	0.01	31.12.99
2.	Vikarabad-Tandur	71.80	62.20	31.12.98
3.	Gudur-Renigunta	130.69	0.00	IX Plan
4.	Sonenagar-Mugalsarai	230.00	137.00	31.12.98
5.	Patna-Paras Bazar	10.00	0.10	IX Plan
6.	Paras Bazar-Punpun	7.00	0.00	IX Plan
7.	Karpurigram-Siho	26.70	0.01	IX Plan
8.	Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line	187.00	0.00	IX Plan
9.	Bangalore-Kengeri	24.00	0.50	IX Plan
10.	Kengeri-Ramnagaram	45.00	0.00	IX Plan
11.	Yeshwantpur-Tumkur	80.00	0.00	IX Plan
12.	Bangalore City-Krishnarajapuram	85.00	0.00	IX Plan
13.	Hospet-Guntakal	105.00	0.00	IX Plan
14.	Whitefield-Kuppam	105.00	30.55	IX Plan
15.	Calicut-Mangalore	240.00	35.00	4 block sections by June '97. Rest of the work by 1999.
16.	Kuttipuram-Calicut	60.00	2.00	31.12.99
17.	Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor	30.00	1.00	IX Plan
18.	Quilon-Trivandrum	99.00	36.00	Trivandrum to Kochuvelli 31.3.97. Balance Dec '98.
19.	Hatempur-Gher-single line including Chambal bridge	32.00	27.00	31.12.98
20.	Urkura-Raipur-Sarona	12.00	8.00	30.6.97 Urkura-Raipur 31.3.97 Raipur-Sarona.
21.	Akaltara-Champa	40.00	16.00	31.12.98
22.	Korba-Saragbundia	22.00	5.00	31.12.98
23.	Bilaspur-Urkura	152.00	0.00	IX Plan
24.	Champa-Saragbundia	40.00	0.00	IX Plan
25.	Sarona-Bhillai 3rd line	33.00	0.00	IX Plan
26.	Pirumrod-Bercha and Bolai-Akodia	27.00	24.00	Completed
27.	Kalapipal-Phanda	53.00	0.02	IX Plan
28.	Bolai-Kalisindh-Kisoni-Bercha and Maksi-Piramrod.	49.00	1.00	IX Plan
29.	Diva-Panvel	52.00	20.00	31.12.98
30.	Diva-Vasai	90.00	4.00	31.12.98
31.	Panvel-Roha land acquisition	3.90	0.20	31.12.98
32.	Daund-Bigwan	39.00	5.00	31.12.99
33.	Raghunathpur-Rahama	46.00	12.00	31.12.97
34.	Gajapatnagaram-Vijayanagaram	29.30	28.60	Completed
35.	Rajatgarh-Nergundi	43.00	19.00	31.12.97
36.	Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep-2nd bridges on Birupa and Mahanadi	93.00	0.00	IX Plan
37.	Titlagarh-Lanjigarh	67.00	0.00	IX Plan
38.	Rahama-Paradeep	37.00	0.00	IX Plan
39.	Kota-Gurla-Chambal bridge	10.00	2.00	30.6.98

1	2	3	4	5
40.	Irugur-Coimbatore	25.00	1.00	IX Plan
41.	Tundla-Yamuna	36.00	7.00	31.12.99
42.	Kanpur-Panki 3rd line	35.00	1.00	31.12.99
43.	Muradnagar-Meerut	40.00	4.00	31.12.99
44.	Ghaziabad-Moradabad patch doubling	38.00	1.00	31.12.99
45.	Gonda-Jarval Road	25.00	0.00	31.12.99
46.	Gorakhpur-Sahajanva	25.00	0.00	31.12.99
47.	Sahibganj-New Farakka-Malda Town	61.00	58.00	31.12.98
48.	Duttapukur-Habra	18.00	17.00	Completed
49.	Khana-Sainthia Phase I	12.00	7.00	31.12.97
50.	Guskara-Bolpur	24.00	2.00	31.12.98
51.	Budge Budge-Akra	8.00	1.00	31.12.99
52.	Gurup-Shaktigarh	41.00	2.00	31.12.99
53.	New Alipur-Akra	12.00	2.00	31.12.99
54.	Jhapatardal-Guskara	12.00	7.00	31.12.97
<b>Electrification</b>				
1.	Adra-Midnapur	84.41	18.90	31.3.2001
2.	Bokaro-Barsuan/Kiriburu	214.55	125.82	31.3.2000
3.	Chandil-Muri-Barkakana	45.06	23.52	31.3.98
4.	Sitampur-Mughalsarai	292.87	140.12	31.3.2001
5.	Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam	200.25	184.92	31.3.2001
6.	Gumia-Patratu	32.63	29.63	31.3.98
7.	Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana	208.05	186.75	31.3.97
8.	Renigunta-Hospet	177.06	6.74	Pended
9.	Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur	89.21	0.00	Pended
10.	Patratu-Sonnagar	172.26	171.12	31.3.97
11.	Erode-Ernakulam	150.97	99.36	IX Plan
12.	Ambala-Moradabad	152.21	35.41	31.3.98
13.	Kharagpur-Bhubneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	268.55	0.00	31.3.2002
14.	Bhubneswar-Visakhapatnam	205.45	0.00	31.3.2002
15.	Udhana-Jalgaon	124.46	0.00	31.3.2002
16.	Kusunda-Katrasgarh Jamuniatand	13.61	0.00	31.3.2002
17.	Bandel-Katwa	47.27	47.83	31.3.97
<b>Metro Projects</b>				
1.	Design and Construction Dum Dum Tollyganj	1640.00	507.00	31.3.98
2.	Circular Railway Calcutta	35.49	35.05	31.3.2000
3.	Additional pair of lines between Bandra-Andheri	111.57	78.45	31.3.98
4.	Extension of railway lines from Mankhurd-Belapur	440.87	377.67	30.6.98
5.	Thane-Turbhe-Nerul/Vashi part of corridor no. 2 in Mumbai	403.39	3.00	31.3.2000
6.	Belapur-Panvel doubling of commuter line	279.83	8.00	31.3.2000

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Kurla-Thane 5th and 6th line	49.84	1.00	31.3.2000
8.	Seawood-Uran electrified 5th line	401.81	0.00	31.3.2000
9.	Mumbai Central/Santacruz Borivali 5th line	64.17	10.00	31.3.2000
10.	Quadrupling between Borivali-Virar	327.21	11.77	31.3.2000
11.	Madras Beach-Luz	259.44	149.27	31.3.97
12.	Luz-Velachery	605.70	0.00	31.3.2000

Funding of the above mentioned projects is through internal resource mobilisation, BOLT and budgetary support except for Patratu-Sonnagar electrification project which was partly foreign aided and Luz-Velachery Metro project wherein Government of Tamil Nadu will contribute Rs. 463.74 crores.

### Tourist Circuit

4213. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the tourist circuit fixed by the Union Government for Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to extend Indore-Ujjain-Maheshwar-Onkareshwar-Mandu route upto Ratlam Mandsores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India recently added Bhopal and Sanchi to the earlier circuit of Indore-Onkareshwar-Maheshwar-Mandu-Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

### Over-Crowding of Trains at Ahmedabad Railway Station

4214. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH  
GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ahmedabad Railway Station is having problem of over-crowding off trains;

(b) if so, the steps being proposed by the Government to ease this over-crowding problem;

(c) whether the Government propose to develop Sabarmati Railway Station with trains originating/terminating there to ease the over-crowding at Ahmedabad Railway Station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the terminal facilities on BG at Ahmedabad are being augmented to cater to trains on the converted sections.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Investment by NRIs in Tourism Development of Uttar Pradesh

4215. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Non-Resident Indians or Foreign Agencies to allow them to make investment for development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any schemes to attract Non-Resident Indians for making investment in these States for tourism development are under consideration of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Cases for foreign investment approvals by NRIs or Foreign Agencies are processed by the Reserve Bank of India and the Foreign Investment Promotion Board of the Ministry of Industry. Till date, two projects of foreign investment proposals amounting to Rs. 47.50 lakhs for the Government of Uttar Pradesh and one proposal amounting to Rs. 24 lakhs for the Government of Gujarat have been processed.

(c) to (e) As per the industrial policy formulated by the Ministry of Industry, Non-Resident Indian investment is allowed upto 100% in the Hotel and tourism related industry. Specific Schemes to attract Non-Resident Indians investment in States are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

### Indian Telecommunications Services

4216. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :  
 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :  
 SHRI PARBHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research Bombay, the Indian telecom services are far behind other countries in quantity, quality and pricing;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for further improvement in telecom services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) DoT is aware of the Chapter on "Telecommunications" of the report of study conducted by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research. Eventhough the Indian telecommunication network may not be comparable to that of developed countries, considerable progress has been made in Indian telecom network during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

During the first four years of Eighth Plan the network has more than doubled. There has been steady improvement in the quality of service with the introduction of electronic digital switches for local as well as long distance swithing, Digital Transmission Systems, Optical Fibre Systems and improvement in customer premises equipment. Further penetration of these latest technology systems in the network during the Ninth Plan will bring more improvement in the Quality of Service.

The Government have also allowed private sector participation in value added services and basic services to supplement the efforts of DoT in improving the quality and quantity of Indian Telecom Network.

The prices of telecom service in India are determined, taking into account India's ground realities, particularly the necessity of supporting rural telecom network and generating surpluses for ploughing back for infrastructural development, growth and expansions.

[English]

### Amount spent on Travelling by MP's

4217. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on travelling by Members of Parliament by Rail during the last two years;

(b) the total expenditure in providing free rail passes to Freedom Fighters during the above period;

(c) whether there are plans to minimise expenditure on the above two categories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Debits raised on Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha for rail travel of MPs during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is Rs. 4.35 crores.

(b) Debits raised on Ministry of Home Affairs for rail travel of Freedom Fighters during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is Rs. 102.29 crores.

(c) and (d) There is no such plan with this Ministry.

### Night Landing Facilities

4218. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :  
 SHRI RAJU RANA :  
 SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide night landing facilities to some airports during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details of such airports; and

(c) the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Night Landing Facilities will be installed at Tirupati, Lilabari and Jammu airports during 1997-98. During 1998-99 no airport has been identified so far for providing this facility.

(c) The amount earmarked is Tirupati Rs. 40 lakhs, Lilabari Rs. 140 lakhs and Jammu Rs. 126 lakhs.

### Advertisements

4219. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government give advertisements in various newspapers for inauguration of various railway projects;

(b) if so, the details of such advertisements given from June 15, 1996 till date;

(c) the amount spent thereon;

(d) the amount spent in this regard during the corresponding period in the last two years;

(e) whether the amount spent during the current year is much more as compared to previous year; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the same?

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

(b) and (c) Advertisements were published in the newspapers during the year 1996-97 by the Railways on the occasion of inaugural functions pertaining to new projects/new zones, etc. An amount of Rs. 3.74,13,749/- (approx.) has been spent for the same.

(d) Amount of Rs. 55,59,695/- (approx.) and Rs. 1.36.94,478/- (approx.) have spent during the corresponding period of 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Railway Advertisements are normally released at DAVP rates which are comparably lower than the commercial rates of the newspapers. Such advertisements in the newspapers are restricted to only major events/projects having national relevance and in such cases proper care is taken to restrict the number of newspapers so as to keep the expenditure within the available funds.

[Translation]

#### Cases Against Registered Recruiting Agents

4220. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only registration certificates of the agents sending labourers abroad are cancelled and no criminal cases are registered against them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Complaints received against registered Recruiting Agents are examined in consultation with the concerned missions abroad and

action for suspension and cancellation of their Registration Certificates is taken according to the merits of the cases are provided under Section 14 of the Emigration Act, 1983. In addition to the above, cases are also referred to the Police/C.B.I. for investigations.

[English]

#### Cancellation of Scheduled Programmes from Gujarat Doordarshan

4221. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of scheduled programmes telecast on Doordarshan Kendras of Gujarat have been cancelled or stopped during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken or being taken against guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise details for the period from 1994 to 1996 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The scheduled programmes are cancelled on account of compulsory relay of National Network programmes, State Mourning, Election Code of Conduct, last minute cancellation of recordings resulting in non-availability of programmes and failure of power supply.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Statement

##### Details of the Cancelled Programmes

Date	Time	Reasons for cancellation	Cancelled Regional Programme
1	2	3	4
1-7-94	5-01 pm to 7-25 pm 7-46 pm to 8.00 pm	Wimbeldon live and Chitrahaar	1. Gulshan Gulshan 2. Adult Education 3. Apna Udyog 4. Gram Jagat 5. Spon. Serial 6. Saptahiki
3-7-94	7-45 pm to 8.00 pm	-do-	Sponsored Serial
9-7-94	8-05 pm to 8.30 pm	Network Programmes	1. Antarang Gujarat and Spon. Serial-Amasna Tara Ata Pata
9-7-94	8-15 pm to 8-30 pm	Akasha Urja Strot	
19-7-94	5-00 pm to 6-52 pm	Hindi Film-Aqta	1. Comm. Programme 2. Sambharana 3. Swasthya Sudha 4. Yuva Darshan 5. Gram Jagat

1	2	3	4
<b>November '1994</b>			
5-11-94	7-55 pm to 8-30 pm	Triangular Cricket Match - Live	Simatti Doorriyan
7-11-94	5-00 pm to 5-13 pm	3rd One day cricket match	-
11-11-94	5.00 pm to 5-27 pm	Spl. Programme on Kuvempu from Delhi	Ramat Jagat
13-11-94	12.00 to 1-00 pm	Film Stars Cricket Match - Live	Sponsored Serial 1. Girja Shankar Gor 2. Patrasetu
5-1-95	3-30 pm to 5-26 pm	Seminar National Judo Championship	
10-1-95	6-10 pm to 7-25 pm	International Film Festival	Yuva Darshan, Gram Jagat
12-1-95	5-00 pm to 6-30 pm	Rashtriya Yuva Utsav	
15-1-95	4-30 pm to 5-00 pm	Documentary	Gujarati Film
30-1-95		Matial Day (From Delhi)	Spl. programme on Gandhi-Death Anniversary Aapana Muk Mitro.
10-2-95	Till 12-39 pm	Live Telecast of Hockey	Sponsored Serial - Hun Ne Mara and Shriman Safalkumar
15-2-95	Till 1-29 pm	Live telecast of Badminton from Guwahati	Ramat Jagat, and Parab and Ramta Ramta
24-2-95	6.00 pm to 7-28 pm	Live telecast closing ceremony of World Chess Championship from Hyderabad	Rojgar Samachar, Aapna Udyog, Gram Jagat and Spon. Serial - Aaghat
28-2-95	5-33 pm	Delink caption given late	Ramat Jagat, TV Report on Vir Meghamayo and Guru Ronidas
2-5-95	Till 6-52 pm	Live Telecast of 8th SAARC	Ramat Jagar, Lok Geet, Swasthya Sudha
21-5-95	12-00 noon - 1-00 pm	Live telecast of Birsa Munda Award Ceremony	Regional Afternoon Transmission
28-5-95	12-03 pm	Delink caption given	Patrasetu
9-6-95		French Open'95 - Live telecast from Paris	Aapana udyog, Gram Jagat
12-6-95		Gold Cup Hockey - Live from Chandigarh	Gram Bharati, Sport, Folk Dance, Spon. Prog.
5-6-95		Due to live telecast Federation Cup Football Tournament	Mariyan Day, Guru Arjun Dev. Sport, Saughat, Spl. Programme on Environment Day.
6-12-95		All India A.R. Molly Gymnastik Championship live from Hyderabad	Aam Aadmini Vaat
8-12-95		-do-	Nirate Programme
7-12-95		Launch of INSAT-2C live telecast	Gram Vikas
15-12-95		25 years of Independence of Bangladesh - live telecast	Pustak Parichay, Shramik Jagat.
18-12-95		Opening Ceremony of SAF Games live from Madras	Lok Varso, Spots, Adult Education, Saughat, Swasthay Sudha
21-12-95		Due to SAF Games live from Madras	Gram Vikas, Sampratni Sathe
22-12-95		-do-	Nirate, Sport.
24-12-95		-do-	Play - Atyachar
25-12-95		-do-	Adult Education, Uphaar, Sampratni, Sathe, Gram Jagat, Sponsored prog.

1	2	3	4
26-12-95		Due to SAF Games live from Madras	Aam Admini Vaat, Classical Dance, Swasthya Sudha and Ramta Ramta, Gram Jagat.
10-4-95 to 14-4-95		Due to death of Ex. Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai (5 days National State Mourning).	Whole regional transmission was deviated.
3-3-96	Sunday	Live telecast of cricket match till 1740 hrs.	Serial : Talya Toys Pachha Talya and Jagruti (Jayashree G.)
5-3-96	Tuesday	Live telecast of cricket match till 1718 hrs.	Vikasane Panthe and Social Justice (M.K. Parmar)
6-3-96	Wednesday	Telecast of Wills World Cup'96 till 1653 hrs.	Aam Admini Vaat : (N. Damor)
9-3-96	Saturday	Live telecast of cricket match from Bangalore.	Special Serial
11-3-96	Monday	Live telecast of Wills World Cup'96 till 1735 hrs - and 1930 to 2000 hrs.	Lok Vasro : A. Rajyaguru Sports : (R. Mehta)/Adult Education (M.K. Parmar), Spl. Serial : Asli Nakli.
13-3-96	Wednesday	Telecast of Wills World Cup'96 till 1900 hrs. and 1930 to 2000 hrs.	Aam Admini Vaat : N. Damor/LMV-(SAW) Sports: (R. Mehta), Swasthya Sudha (S. Trivedi), R. Ramtan: (Dilip) Gram Jagat : (G.N. Jani), G.Gulal-R. Shah
15-3-96	Friday	Live Telecast of unweiling of the status of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Portrait of Madhu Limaye by - President from Delhi relay 1720 hrs.	Nirante: (M. Patel)/Sports (R. Mehta)
14-3-96	Thursday	Live telecast of Wills World Cup'96 till 1900 hrs. and 1930 to 2030 hrs.	Gram Vikas: (N. Patel)/Freedom Fighter (H. Gharekhan)/Sports: (R.Mehta)/Halve Haiye ) H. Gharekhan/Gram Jagat- G.N. Jani/ Special Serial
22-3-96	Friday	Live telecast of Badminton Championship till 1800 hrs. from Vijaynagar	Nirante : (M.Patel)/Sports : (R. Mehta) Sahitya Sarwani-H. Gharekhan
5-4-96	Friday	—	Reg. Started at 712 hrs. Sahitya Sarvani - (H. Gharekhan and Sports - (R.Mehta)
7-4-96	Sunday	Live telecast of Davis Cup, Afternoon/Regional Transmission	Two spl. serial of 1200 & 1230 hrs.
13-4-96	Saturday	Live telecast of All India Open Tennis till 1900 hrs.	Spl. Serial: Aapni Tukadi Zindabad
7-5-96	Tuesday	Polling India-96 Election forecast live from Delhi	Social Justice, Kujool, State Government Documentary, Yuva Darshan, Gram Jagat
10-5-96	Friday	Election anylisis live telecast from Delhi	Nirante, sports, Gulshan Gulshan, Shramik Jagat, Gram Jagat
28-5-96	Tuesday	Live telecast from Lok Sabha	Vikas Ne Panthe and Kaydo Bole Chhe
27-5-96	Monday	-do-	Lok Varso, Sports, Adult Education, Uphaar, Sahiyaro Saath.

1	2	3	4
2-6-96	Sunday	Devotional Prog. live telecast on the death of former President N. Sanjeeva Reddy and Delink not given.	Spl. Serial (Two) and Gujarati Film, Spl. Serial and Patra Setu
6-6-96	Thursday	Live telecast of French Open Tennis from 1725 to 1900 hrs.	Spl. Programme/Natak/Gram Jagat
7-6-96	Friday	-do-	Nirante, Sports, Sahitya Sarvani, Shramik Jagat, Gram Jagat
8-6-96	Saturday	-do-	Play 1830 hrs.
11-6-96	Tuesday	Live telecast of Parliament Session till 1900 hrs.	Vikas Ne Panthe, Kaydo Bole Chhe, Parab, Documentary, Yuva, Darshan, Gram Jagat.
17-6-96	Monday	Live telecast from Parliament till 1815	Aam Admini Vaat, Light Vocal Music, Sports, Swasthya Sudha, Ramtan Ramtan

[Translation]

#### Decrease in First Class Coaches

4222. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of first class coaches have been decreasing day by day and the number of air conditioned coaches have been increasing continuously;

(b) if so, whether it may result in surplus of coaches and whether the Government are considering the reappointment of surplus coach attendants in other departments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the first class coach attendants and travel ticket examiners and the employees of the same group and their pay-scales are similar and they are entitled to wear the same uniform; and

(e) if not, the rules under which the first class coach attendants have been allowed to wear black uniform like travel ticket examiners and to perform the work of a ticket examiner in sleeper coaches?

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

(b) and (c) It would not result in any significant surplus of coaches as first class coaches are being condemned every year due to the coaches nearing their codal life of 25 years. Efforts are being made to absorb such surplus coach attendants in other suitable categories.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) At present, no such practice is prevalent.

[English]

#### Functioning of Container Corporation of India in Orissa

4223. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the offices of the Container Corporation of India Limited at Balasore, Paradeep and Talcher in Orissa are being operated;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) the steps being taken to make these offices operational; and

(d) the details of activities undertaken by these offices during the last two years?

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

(b) There is no container handling activity at these places.

(c) There is no proposal to set up office of Container Corporation of India Ltd. at Talcher and Paradeep. However, for setting up an Inland Container Depot at Balasore, land has been acquired.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Misappropriation of Funds in Bihar Sharif

4224. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint about misappropriation of funds, and bungling in Cable and other materials of Bihar Shafif Sub-divisional Telecom Department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

***Doubling and Electrification of Bangalore-Madras Route***

4225. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore-Madras rail line has been doubled and electrified; and

(b) if not, the time by which the said line is likely to be doubled and electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Bangalore - Madras line is doubled and electrified between Madras and Kuppam and Bangalore and Whitefield. Work has been taken up between Kuppam to Whitefield, and will be completed in the coming years.

[Translation]

**Purchase of Telephone Instruments**

4226. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone instruments are manufactured by public sector undertakings in the country or the Government purchase them from foreign private companies also;

(b) the details of Government or foreign private companies manufacturing instruments;

(c) whether these instruments are lying in the Government stores in large quantity after becoming useless;

(d) if so, whether instruments are got repaired and put in use; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Telephone instruments are being manufactured by Public Sector Undertakings as well as Private Sector in the country. The Department of Telecommunications is purchasing the instruments from Indian companies only.

(b) The details of Indian companies manufacturing telephone instruments are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

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

**Statement**

***Name of EPBTs Manufacturing Company***

1. M/s BPL Telecom Ltd.	Private Sector
2. M/s Himachal Exicom C. Ltd.	Private Sector
3. M/s Bharati Telecom Ltd.	Private Sector
4. M/s Tata Telecom Ltd.	Private Sector
5. M/s Guj. Comm. E. Ltd.	Private Sector
6. M/s Priyaraj Electronics Ltd.	Private Sector
7. M/s IT! Ltd.	Public Sector
8. M/s Goa Telecom and Sys. Ltd.	Private Sector
9. M/s Crompton Greaves Ltd.	Private Sector
10. M/s Eastern Telecom T. Ltd.	Private Sector
11. M/s Anco Comm. Ltd.	Private Sector
12. M/s Remington Rand	Private Sector
13. M/s Punwire	Private Sector
14. M/s Webel Comm. Ind.	Private Sector
15. M/s Set Telecommunications	Private Sector
16. M/s Telematics India Ltd.	Private Sector

[English]

**HPT/Relay Centre, West Bengal**

4227. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to set up a high power transmission/Relay Centre of Doordarshan at Krishnanagar, district Nadia, West Bengal;

(b) whether land had been allotted by the Municipality; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Work on the project would start as soon as the same is approved by the competent authority. The normal lead time involved in implementation of a project

of this nature is about 3-4 years subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

#### Higher Rate of P.F.

4228. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH  
GAEKWAD :  
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new scheme has been launched to ensure higher returns to subscribers of Provident Fund in Government service and undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of higher returns expected therefrom?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Details of Flying/Gliding in Delhi and other States

4229. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of flying/gliding in Delhi and other States, till date, and the date of their setting up and the number of planes they have;

(b) the club-wise amount provided as subsidy/assistance during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the status given to each of these clubs by the Civil Aviation Directorate; and

(d) the details of achievements of these flying/gliding clubs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) There is no system of according status to the flying/gliding clubs by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(d) A total number of 22,917 different categories of flying licences to pilots have been issued upto 31.03.1996.

#### Statement

Name of Flying/Gliding Clubs, State to which belong and Date of establishment	No. of Aircraft/ Gliders	Amount of subsidy given by D.G.C.A. (Rs. in lakhs) (approximately)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5

#### Flying Clubs/Schools/Institutes

(A) Flying clubs/schools/institutes covered under Government subvention scheme

Delhi Flying Club (Delhi) 28.5.1928	13	11.40	9.26	4.02
Government Flying Training Centre, Lucknow. (U.P.) 1.8.1980 with 3 branches at Kanpur, Faizabad and Varanasi	7	11.80	8.17	13.81
Bombay Flying Club Juhu airport, Bombay (Maharashtra) 9.5.1928	8	4.58	4.27	2.42
Madras Flying Club (Tamil Nadu) 4.3.1930	7	8.02	6.48	3.88
Government Flying Training Instt., Behala Calcutta, (West Bengal) 7.8.1963	4	1.17	8.25	Nil
Rajasthan State Flying School, Jaipur (Rajasthan) 1954	5	5.98	6.44	7.59
Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore with one Branch at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) 1951	9	12.96	19.90	33.38
Government Flying Training School, Bangalore, (Karnataka) 1948	6	10.06	Nil	Nil
A.P. Flying Club, Hyderabad (A.P.) 8.9.1958	7	11.21	5.79	10.84
Kerala Aviation Training Centre Trivandrum, (Kerala) 14.7.1959	4	3.45	3.32	2.24

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat Flying Club, Baroda, (Gujarat) 20.12.1958	7	11.60	11.37	15.14
Coimbatore Flying Club Ltd. (Tamil Nadu) 1960	8	0.20	Nil	0.42
Patiala Aviation Club, Patiala, (Punjab) October, 1962	5	8.89	7.36	1.09
Amritsar Aviation Club, Amritsar (Punjab) 1962	4	4.13	4.92	3.97
Pinjore Aviation Club, Pinjore (Haryana) 1.4.1991	2	4.18	1.51	4.26
Jamshedpur Co-op. Flying Club Ltd. Jamshedpur (Bihar) 1966	3	2.73	1.09	3.65
Hissar Aviation Club, Hissar (Haryana) 1965	5	5.05	5.17	3.53
Karnal Aviation Club, Karnal (Haryana) March 3, 1967	6	6.13	3.37	8.41
Ludhiana Aviation Club (Punjab) 1.1.1968	5	11.29	12.35	7.30
Bihar Flying Instt. Patna (Bihar) 1940	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Government Flying Training Institute, Bhubaneshwar (Orissa) 1946	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Andaman and Nicobar Flying Training Instt., Port Blair Oct., 1988	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Banasthali Vidyapith Flying Club (Rajasthan) 11.8.1961	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nagpur Flying Club (Maharashtra) 1948	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Northern India Flying Club, Jalandhar Cantt. (Punjab)	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Assam Flying Club, Guwahati (Assam) May, 1958	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
<i>(B) Private Flying Clubs/Schools/Institutes :</i>				
UDAN Research and Flying Instt., Indore (M.P.) 1.10.1990	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bangalore Aeronautics and Tech. Services (Karnataka) 12.1.1994	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ahmedabad Aviation Akademi (Gujarat) 1.5.1994	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Orient Flight School, Madras (Tamil Nadu) 26.12.1994	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rajputana Aviation Academy, Kota, (Rajasthan) 22.07.1995	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Teneja Aerospace and Aviation Ltd., Bangalore (Karnataka) 27.06.1994	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tata Nagar Aviation, Jamshedpur (Bihar) 22.07.1996	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Garg Aviation Ltd., Kanpur (U.P.) 11.10.1996	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tetra Aviation Academy, Salem (Tamil Nadu) 04.02.1997	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Flytech Aviation Academy, Hyderabad (A.P.) 01.11.1996	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
<i>(C) Autonomous Organisation under Ministry of Civil Aviation</i>				
Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Adademi, Fursatganj, (U.P.) 1985	11	Budget is funded by the Government.		
<b>Gliding Clubs</b>				
Ahmedabad Gliding and Flying Club (Gujarat) 19.12.1961	5	0.93	0.85	1.66
Birla Gliding Club, Pilani (Rajasthan) 1957	4	1.02	1.03	0.74
Delhi Gliding Club (Delhi) 21.11.56	7	2.99	3.07	3.05
Gliding and Soaring Centre, IIT Kanpur, (U.P.) 27.11.1968	4	1.29	1.06	0.80
Deolali Gliding Club, Nasik (Maharashtra) 10.08.1962	5	2.78	3.12	4.46

1	2	3	4	5
Pinjore Aviation Club (Haryana) February, 1982	2	5.50	6.73	5.77
Hissar Aviation Club (Har.) 1968	6	6.63	6.11	5.77
Jamshedpur Gliding Club (Bihar) 1988	2	0.74	1.88	3.32
Bihar Flying Instt., Gliding wing, Ranchi (Bihar) 1996	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Government Gliding Centre, Pune (Maharashtra)	13	Complete budget is borne by Government (DGCA)		
Ludhiana Aviation Club, Gliding wing (Punjab) 1.3.1977	2	2.15	1.04	1.45

[Translation]

### LPT/Studio, Maharashtra

4230. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

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

(a) whether some low power transmission centres in Gadchiroli-Chandrapur, Maharashtra have not yet become functional despite the completion of their construction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether a demand has been received by the Government to set up TV tower at Jawhar in District Thane, Maharashtra;

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

(e) the time by which these are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Though the Low Power T.V. Transmitter projects at Sironcha and Aheri in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra are technically ready, these projects could not be commissioned into service pending sanction of staff by the competent authorities for operation and maintenance of these projects. There is, at present, no L.P.T. project under implementation in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

### Relay Centre in Gujarat

4231. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Doordarshan relay centres in Gujarat at present, capacity-wise;

(b) whether these centres are sufficient for the coverage of the entire population of the State; and

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken by Government to increase the number of capacity of these centres in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 46 TV transmitters of varying capacity, including 5 High Power TV transmitters, 39 Low Power TV transmitters and Very Low Power TV transmitters, are presently operational in the State of Gujarat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) With a view to further improve TV service in the State of Gujarat, 15 transmitters of varying capacity, including 1 HPT (permanent set-up), 13 LPTs and 1 VLPT, are presently under implementation in the State. In addition to these projects, 5 HPTs, 8 LPTs/VLPTs are envisaged to be set up in the State subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

### Exploration of Mines to Private Sector

4232. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

DR. A.K. PATEL :

DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of mine workers are being exploited throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has liberalised foreign equity participation in mining sector;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(e) whether the Government have chalked out any programme before handing over the mines to private sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (b) As per the information available, the mineral sector employs about 8 lakh persons. The interests of the

persons employed in the mineral sector are duly protected under the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 and the related legislation.

(c) to (f) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 envisages foreign equity investments in joint ventures in mining promoted by Indian companies to be encouraged. Further the foreign investment in equity would normally be limited to 50%, this limitation would not apply to any captive mines of any mineral processing industry. Enhanced equity holding can also be considered from case to case basis. The grant of mineral concessions is governed by the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder.

[Translation]

### Construction of Overbridge

4233. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI PRATAP SINGH SAINI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places where overbridges have been constructed on level crossings in Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the details of proposals pending for construction of overbridges in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the details of the overbridges proposed to be constructed in Uttar Pradesh in near future;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation regarding construction of overbridge at Amroha railway level crossing; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The work can be considered on deposit terms if State Government sponsors proposal for the same.

### Statement

(a) 1994-95

(1) Near Mau station in lieu of L.C. No. 'O' spl. between Mau-Indara stations.

(2) Near Deoria Sadar Railway station in lieu of L.C. No. 130-A between Deoria Sadar and Baitaipur railway stations.

(3) Road Over Bridge at Shahjanpur in lieu of L.C. No. 332-A.

1995-96

(4) Near Badshah Nagar (Lucknow) in lieu of L.C. No. 4 ML on N-H. 28.

1996-97

(5) Road Over Bridge at Ahraura Road-Jeonathpur in lieu of L.C. No. 116-A.

(6) Road Over Bridge at Rai-Bareilly in lieu of L.C. No. 26-A.

(b) (1) Iradatganj Road Over Bridge in lieu of L.C. NO. 430-A on Jabalpur-Allahabad section.

(2) Jajau-Road Over Bridge in lieu of L.C. No. 478-A on Jhansi Delhi section.

(3) Orai Road Over Bridge in lieu of L.C. No. 182-B, Jhansi-Kanpur section.

(c) (1) *Iradatganj Road Over Bridge*. Proposal received in March 72, General Arrangement Drawing approved. Ministry of Surface Transport's approval awaited.

(2) *Jajau Road Over Bridge*. Proposal received in Oct. 72 from UP Government, location changed for which Ministry of Surface Transport's approval awaited;

(3) *Orai Road Over Bridge*. Proposal received in Nov. 1989 from UP Government road alignment suggested have to be changed as it was falling in Railway land.

(4) Road Over Bridge near Badshah Nagar (Lucknow) Railway station in lieu of L.C. No. 3 ML has been sanctioned for which State PWD yet to convey acceptance of General Arrangement Drawing and Detailed Estimate of approaches.

(5) Road Over Bridge near Eye Hospital Kanpur in lieu of L.C. No. 6 spl. Municipal Corporation yet to convey acceptance to Detailed Estimate.

(6) Road Over Bridge at Partapur on Delhi-Saharanpur section at Km. 59/6-7.

(7) Road Over Bridge at Hathras on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section.

(8) Road Over Bridge on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section on Ramghat Road, Aligarh.

(9) Road Over Bridge at Sakoti Tanda on Delhi-Saharanpur section.

(10) Road Under Bridge on Delhi-Ghaziabad section at Gashala Road, Ghaziabad.

(11) Road Over Bridge at Ramnagar on deposit terms.

[English]

### Betul Radio Station

4234. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether 35 percent population of Betul district in Madhya Pradesh is tribal/aboriginal;

(b) if so, the number of hours given for broadcasting the tribal language programmes like Gondee and Korkee; and

(c) the number of hours allotted to broadcasting agricultural, sanitary and health related subjects for the rural education during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Betul, being a Local Radio Station, broadcasts programmes in the principal language of the area i.e. Hindi. In addition, folk music in Gondee is also broadcast for 20 minutes on an average every week regularly. No programme is broadcast in Korkee.

(c) During the last 3 years, the Station broadcast everyday a programme of 30 minutes duration devoted to agriculture, health, sanitation, and related subjects.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Facility in Hospitals in U.P.

4235. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hospitals in U.P. which have been provided free telephone so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide 'trip facility' during 1997-98; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

#### TDM, Ghaziabad

4236. COL. RAO RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) since when the office of Telecom Divisional Manager, Ghaziabad is functioning;

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade the office of TDM to GMT;

(c) since when the present GMT Ghaziabad is posted and the number of telephones provided in Ghaziabad since the TDM's office started functioning; and

(d) the details of the transfer order of A.E.'s issued during the regime of the present GMT and the reasons for so many transfers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The office of TDM Ghaziabad was functioning from April 1986 to October, 1990.

(b) The office of TDM Ghaziabad was upgraded to G.M. Telecom Ghaziabad in October, 1990.

(c) The present GMT is posted at Ghaziabad from 30.1.1996 and number of telephones provided in Ghaziabad since the TDM office started working is 1,05,689.

(d) The details of the transfer of AEs issued during the regime of present GMT alongwith the reasons are enclosed as Statement.

#### Statement

##### Regarding: Transfer of A.E.'s

Total 47 transfer orders have been issued and all are in the interest of service due to vast expansion of Ghaziabad Telecom. Net-work and installation of new technology equipments including transmission media. Main reasons for transfers are detailed below: (Total 47 officers were effected).

No. of transfer	Reason
6.	To the interest of training including foreign training.
6.	In the interest of installation of new technology equipments.
6.	Due to creation of new posts.
1.	Due to commissioning of new exchanges.
1.	Due to retirement of AE's.
8.	Vacancy caused due to promotion of AE's/ADE's to D.E.,
A.	Most of the transfer orders have been issued at the same stations and in the same buildings to avoid disturbance to the officers.
B.	Not a single representation against any of the transfer orders from any officer has been received so far.

#### Safety in Mines

4237. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the effectiveness of mine safety arrangements and standards;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of the review;

(c) the details of recommendations made at 27th International Conference on safety in mines research institutes; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) A sub-committee of the consultative committee of the Ministry of Labour which

was constituted on 20.11.95 by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to study the status of safety in Mines and to suggest suitable remedial measures for ensuring better safety standards has submitted its report to the Government on 18.04.96. The major recommendations of the said committee are as under :

- (i) Amendments to the Mines act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder for effective enforcement.
- (ii) Training to the officers of the Directorate General of Mine Safety and the Workmens' Inspectors.
- (iii) Strengthening of the Directorate General of Mines Safety by providing adequate and requisite manpower.
- (iv) Holding of conference on safety in Mines.

(c) and (d) During the deliberations of the 27th International Conference on safety in mines research institutes, held from 20th to 22nd February, 1997, stress was laid on holding the conference after every two years to provide a forum for individuals and organisations to discuss problems of mining safety and health. It has been recommended that a stable source of fund is necessary for safety research and monitoring. Areas have also been identified where technology transfer and research is to be done in priority. Recommendations received need to be balanced with the compulsions of resources for being given effect to.

12.00 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### **Annual Report and Review of the working of the HTL Ltd. Chennai, for the year 1995-96.**

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (I) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
  - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the HTL Limited, Chennai, for the year 1995-96.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the HTL Limited, Chennai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1720/97]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the HTL Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1721/97]

- (4) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1722/97]

#### **Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Mines for the year 1997-98.**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Mines, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1723/97]

#### **Annual Report of the Indian Institute of the Mass Communication, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1724/97]

#### **Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food for the year 1997-98**

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers :

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1725/97]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1726/97]

**Annual Report of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.  
 (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96.  
 (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1727/97]

**Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution :—  
 (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 6 of 1997) for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996 (Posts and Telecommunications)  
 (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 7 of 1997) for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996—Defence Services (Army and Ordnance Factories).  
 (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 8 of 1997) for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996—Defence Services (Air Force and Navy).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1730/97]

- (2) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Union Government) of the Defence Services for the year 1995-96 (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1731/97]

- (3) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Union Government)-(Postal Services) for the year 1995-96 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1732/97]

- (4) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Union Government)-(Telecommunication Services) for the year 1995-96 (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1733/97]

**Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Tourism 1997-98.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Tourism for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1734/97]

**Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year 1997-98.**

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Surface Transport, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1735/97]

**Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1736/97]

**Railways Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 1997**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers :

- (1) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 59(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 1997, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1737/97]

- (2) A copy of the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 1997, under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1738/97]

12.02 hrs.

#### MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th March, 1997 agreed without any amendment to the National Environment Appellate Authority Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th March, 1997."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations

and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.02½ hrs.

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

##### Fourth Report

[English]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY (Peddapalli) : Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Forty Sixth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited.

12.03 hrs.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

##### Fourth and Fifth Reports

[English]

SHRI ABDUL REHMAN ANTULAY (Kulaba) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals :

- (1) Fourth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Twenty-Sixth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on 'Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology' (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).
- (2) Fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Twenty-Seventh Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on 'Fertiliser Education Policy and Projects' (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Fertilisers).

12.04 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

##### Improved people-to-people contacts with Pakistan

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as hon. Members

are aware, Indo-Pakistan official level talks at Foreign Secretary level are due to be held from March 28 to 31 in New Delhi. Talks at a higher level are also expected thereafter. We approach these talks in a positive and constructive spirit.

As hon. Members would have noticed, Pakistan has announced its decision to release 38 Indian children who have been under detention in Pakistan since 1994. We appreciate this gesture. These children were travelling on Indian fishing vessels which were apprehended by Pakistani authorities over two years ago. We have made many representations on their behalf and I had raised the issue with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yakub Khan when I met him on December 18, 1996, in New Delhi. It is a matter of satisfaction that Pakistan has now responded positively, and steps have already been initiated by us to ensure that the children are brought from Pakistan to India at the earliest. May I also convey our deep gratitude to Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi who has taken good care of them for over a year and a half while they were lodged in the Edhi Centre in Karachi.

As hon. Members are aware, travel by Pakistani nationals to India, under a reciprocal arrangement with Pakistan, is permitted only on the basis of visitors visa. These visas are meant essentially for visits to meet close relations. This is obviously very restrictive. In keeping with our policy to promote people-to-people relations, we have decided to permit Pakistani tourists to visit India in groups. This, as hon. Members will agree, is a major new unilateral step in the right direction. In addition, we have also decided to ease travel by Pakistani businessmen to India. They will now be eligible to one year multi-entry visa and, if travelling by air, they can exit and enter either through Mumbai or Delhi. The other measures to be implemented are :-

- (i) Young and elderly Pakistani visitors will be exempt from police reporting. This will give them relief from what can be a troublesome requirement.
- (ii) Visa fees for senior Pakistani citizens will be waived.
- (iii) The number of religious shrines in India which can be visited by Pakistani pilgrims will be increased.
- (iv) Expansion of cultural contacts between the two countries will be encouraged through exchanges of cultural groups, artists, poets and writers. Visits by students and journalists will also be encouraged. All these categories will be exempt from visa fees.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many Indian soldiers are still languishing in Pakistani Jails as war presioner of 1971. What action the Government is going to take for their release?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete his statement, first.

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, let me complete.

- (v) Free flow of books and periodicals establishes better appreciation of each other. Therefore, India will unilaterally permit their import in keeping with our general policies.

The measures that I have announced today are designed to add to the goodwill between the peoples of the two countries. They are an emblem of our earnest desire to establish and maintain relations of friendship and cooperation with our neighbour Pakistan. I am confident that this gesture on our part will have the support of hon. Members.

Thank you...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir what has happened to the I.S.I. activities in this country...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is violating border lines...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question are not allowed on statement.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kindly ask the Hon'ble Minister to answer my question...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is violating the actual line of Control in Rajasthan...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly direct the Minister of External Affairs to answer my question...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No questions are allowed on the statement.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, No questions are allowed on a statement in Lok Sabha. The hon'ble Member should know it...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Khiri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a number of our soldiers are still languishing in Pakistani jails as prisoners of war held in 1971 Indo Pak war. Will the Minister be pleased to state as to what action he is taking to get them released?...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied. The Minister of External Affairs is bound to reply. We will listen to the Hon'ble Home Minister only after getting a reply to our earlier question...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have also expressed your concern in this House about the war prisoners of 1971 Indo Pak war. What steps are being taken to get them released. The External Minister should reply to this question. We are not ready to listen any other Minister unless we get a reply to this question, the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs has to reply this question...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Innocent citizens are being killed...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You are not concerned about the officers who are in Pakistani jails...(*Interruptions*) Gujral Saheb kindly tell us something about our soldiers who are in Pakistani jails... Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may, please, direct the Minister of External Affairs...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have made your submission, now you may please sit down...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : The Minister is ready to give a reply. You may, please, ask him...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I am asking you to sit down but contrary to that you are standing.

(*Interruption*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No question is allowed after statement but in case the Hon'ble Minister wants to say something, I have no objection.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He may give us an assurance that he would hold talks with Pakistan in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are wasting your time. You could have made submissions in Zero Hour. If you cooperate it will benefit everyone.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though clarification is not

allowed on the statement of Minister but it has been the tradition of Lok Sabha that on certain special matters...(*Interruptions*) you may not allow but please at least listen to him...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I will show a number of instances where clarifications had been allowed...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by our minister of External Affairs is a unilateral gesture. It would have been better had that been a reciprocal. He should have dealt upon issues relating to ISI activities in India, POWS of 1971 and firing by Pakistani soldiers at our borders...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, simply I want to know whether you are allowing them...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not allowing.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

Enough is enough, there are many other important issues also.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All other members have taken these seats, you please also take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not compel me.

[*Translation*]

After statement, there will be Zero Hour.

Shri Indrajit Gupta

(*Interruptions*)

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\* Not Recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am making request. Please cooperate with me. This time can be utilized for some other good purposes. There are other important issues.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Indrajit Gupta.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : At least you can say this much...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Umaji how many times. I have to request you. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You please ask the Minister so as to ensure that he would talk. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs we want a reply from you...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Pardon?

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Don't be so agitated. You should at least say that you will hold talks with Pakistan in this regard. Just say sentence...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : He will not talk because of your insistence...(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You please don't speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Has our Government literally surrendered before Pakistan?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for 15 minutes.

12.21 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock.*

12.37 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-seven minutes past Twelve of the Clock.*

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want a statement from the Minister of External Affairs. He should give us an assurance that he will come and

discuss. The wives of Pakistan POWs are not able to decide whether they are widowed or otherwise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be seated first and allow me to speak. Let me say one thing that will allow the Zero-Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Have some patience. Sit down, please.

[Translation]

You should also sit down. My submission is that some days ago I had mentioned in the House that during the war of 1971 we had released 90 thousand Pakistani prisoners of war but some of our prisoners of war are still in the jails, and this should be verified by the Government. If this is verified by the Government it would do the needful...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Still something left?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : We should either get the reply from the Government or from the Hon'ble Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes he will give the reply.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : The Government does not want to say anything about extradition.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No use. Nothing is going on record. Please be seated.

12.39 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Release of persons still under Detention under Erstwhile Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, 1987**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Home Minister to make a statement.

\* Not Recorded.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, I rise to make a statement on the issues raised by hon. Members regarding the release of persons still under detention under the erstwhile Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, 1987 which lapsed on the 23rd of May, 1995.

I want to request the hon. Members to have a little patience because it is rather a lengthy statement. It runs into four or five pages.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Let it be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That is up to the hon. Deputy-Speaker. If he wants me to lay it on the Table, I can lay it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let it be laid on the Table of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : It should be read out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that it may be laid on the Table of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is being laid...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Why should you be so impatient?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is to save the time of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Just one person gets up over there and says something...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Everyone of you will get a copy.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let it be read out. We have a reservation on it.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If this is the will of the House, I have no objection.

*[English]*

SHRI RAM NAIK : In your ruling, you have said that it will be laid on the Table of the House. Shri Banatwalla says, "somebody has said". I am not 'somebody'. I am one of the hon. Members...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : You have not given your ruling. What you have said is, "if the Minister is prepared to do it, he can do so." You did not give a ruling saying that it should be laid on the Table.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Some hon. members had met me privately and they wanted to raise some issues

in the Zero Hour. I wanted that they should get time to speak. If you don't want, I can't do anything.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Should I read out?

*[English]*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Let him lay it on the Table of the House. It should be laid...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : The hon. Minister also said that if we want, then it can be laid on the Table of the House. Then you ruled saying that it should be laid on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : No, no...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You see the record. If you do not attend the House, it is not our fault. Every now and then Shri Banatwalla stands up and says...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please accept my request that whatever you want to speak, please speak it with a smile.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am speaking smilingly that this House has a great tradition. When the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has already said it is a lengthy statement and it can be laid on the table of the House and I have no objection." Later on you gave a ruling that it may be laid on the Table of the House. After this ruling...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : He did not give any ruling, but he simply said that it all the members desire...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Please let me complete. After such a ruling...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Aska) : He cannot give any ruling. Hon. Deputy Speaker cannot give any ruling on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Shri Banatwalla got up and said, "if someone is raising an objection, it cannot be allowed." This is what he said...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Why are they challenging the authority of the Deputy-Speaker?

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Whenever, you give a ruling it is the habit of some of the Members that they would challenge that and create a nuisance...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Why do you say challenging? Nobody has challenged...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am saying with a smile that challenging the ruling of the Deputy Speaker is against the tradition and you have done so...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : There is no question of any dispute. You are wasting the time of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You are just arguing unnecessarily ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : The Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had sought the permission and had said that it was a lengthy statement, should be lay or?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is being heard.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am trying myself to keep smiling. You keep smiling you keep smiling and say what you have to say.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you so agitated?  
*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Regarding Items No. 16 and 17, I think, both the hon. Ministers may lay their statements on the Table of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if all the Members of Parliament desire that the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should read the statement, let him do so.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I wanted to save his time.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The statement would have been read by this time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will not be possible to read it within such a short time. It is a 5 page statement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had definitely said that it is a long statement, but I had never objected to read it. I just left it to you, whether it is to be laid on the table or to be read out. I leave it to you. I have no objection.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not want to make it controversial I wanted to save your time.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, you may read, if you do not want to save your time.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not a ruling

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. Members have raised the issue of release of persons still detention under the erstwhile TADA Act, 1987 even after it lapsed on 23rd May, 1995. The legal position in this regard is that as per the saving clause, i.e., Section 1(4) of the above Act, any investigation or legal proceedings or remedy pending on the date of such expiry is allowed to continue as if the TADA Act had not expired. Such a provision is not peculiar to this Act only, as it forms the basis of the general law of the land. As a result, around 1600 persons - actually, the exact figure is 1599 - are still in detention in various States in the country and as many as 20,037 are on bail in the cases which are on going, as per reports last received from the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations.

I may apprise the House that the Central Government is already seized of the grievances relating to the TADA detenués and it is with a view to mitigate them that the Central Government have been requesting the States/Union Territories to take all necessary steps to finalise the pending TADA cases expeditiously. They have been asked to issue suitable instructions to their prosecution branches to ensure speedy trial of the cases relating to TADA detenués and not to seek unnecessary adjournments. This matter has also been considered by the hon. Supreme Court in Kartar Singh's case in February, 1994 and as per the directions of the hon. Supreme Court, Review Committees have been constituted both at the Central and at the States/Union Territories level. The Central Review Committee is chaired by the Union Home Secretary and comprises of the Law Secretary, the Director, CBI and the Joint Secretary concerned in the Ministry. State Review Committees are chaired by the Chief Secretary of the State and comprise of the Home Secretary, the Law Secretary and the DGP of the State Government. In some States like Maharashtra, the Review Committee is chaired by a Retired Judge. The meetings of these Review Committees at the Central and State levels are being held periodically to examine, in depth, the applicability of the TADA provisions and other incidental questions like recommending bail etc. case-wise.

As a result of these reviews and concerted efforts made by the Central Government, TADA provisions have been dropped against as many as 28502 persons depending upon the nature and gravity of the alleged offence. In this connection I may point out that in August 1996, instructions were again issued to all States/UTs to have a thorough look at all the TADA pending cases especially those which are still pending investigation and where no charge-sheets have been filed in the court and also in those cases where the accused are still under detention. They were also clearly told to ensure that the State level Review Committees constituted earlier are fully functional and regularly review the cases as per directions of the hon. Supreme Court in Kartar Singh's case in February 1994. They

were also requested to review the adequacy or otherwise of the number of designated TADA Courts in the States so as to expedite the TADA cases in a time-bound manner. It is because of these efforts that as many as 11899 TADA cases have been reviewed so far as per the reports last received which resulted in the dropping of TADA provision against as many as 28502 persons as mentioned earlier.

In another Public Interest Litigation, the hon. Supreme Court in its judgement of February, 1996 also classified TADA undertrials into four categories and recommended grant of bail by the Designated TADA Courts in the following manner :

- (a) Hard Core undertrials whose release would prejudice the prosecution case and whose liberty may prove to be a menace to society in general and to the complainant and prosecution witnesses in particular. (In these case the Court did not recommend grant of bail).
- (b) Other undertrials whose overt acts or involvement directly attracts Section 3/4 of TADA Act (for this category of cases, the Supreme Court recommended that if the undertrials have been in prison for more than five years and their trial is not likely to be completed within the next six months, they can be released on bail unless there are reasons to the contrary).
- (c) Undertrials not directly involved under Section 3/4 of TADA but are so charged because of being a part of criminal conspiracy. (In this category, the Supreme Court recommended that they can be released if they have been in jail for three years).
- (d) Those undertrials who were found possessing incriminating articles in the notified areas and hence booked under Section 5 of TADA. (In these cases, the Supreme Court recommended that such class of undertrial prisoners can be released if they have been in jail for over two years).

These guidelines are required to be followed by the Courts.

However, the hon. Supreme Court observed that the above directions may not be applied by the Designated TADA Courts in exceptionally grave cases such as Bombay Bomb blast case. However, even in such cases the hon. Supreme Court has desired that the Review Committee examine the case against each accused to ensure that the TADA provisions are correctly applied. I may appraise the House that the Bombay Bomb blast case which was the result of a nefarious conspiracy by anti-national forces, criminal and

underworld mafia which resulted in a huge loss of life and property and shook the whole country, was also reviewed both by the State level Review Committee as well as the Central Review Committee chaired by the Union Home Secretary a number of times and charges in respect of each and every accused were reviewed and the Review Committees were fully convinced that TADA charges were correctly attracted in all these cases on the basis of the available evidence. As a result of the detailed guidelines issued by the Apex Court, the Designated TADA Courts have released 20037 persons on bail as per last report received from the various State Governments.

Hon. Members will appreciate that India has been facing a challenge to its territorial integrity, political and social fabric for the last few years because of a proxy war being waged from across our borders to destabilise this country. Hostile forces have been busy in building up terrorist and militant groups in parts of the country by providing them training in camps located across our borders and other material support and instigation. In such a situation, pending TADA cases cannot be withdrawn without proper scrutiny. Neither is this legally tenable for the Government to withdraw these cases *suo motu* without the permission of the Courts. It is up to the Designated TADA Courts to grant or refuse such permission for withdrawal of any such case even if the prosecution so recommends. I may point out that one of the Designated TADA Courts in Delhi in July, 1996 refused permission to drop TADA charges in 288 cases in spite of the plea put up by the Public Prosecutor. The Delhi Government has filed a Special Leave Petition against the order of the Designated Court in the Supreme Court of India which has been admitted and the hearing is going on.

The reviews of the State Level and the Central Level Review Committees have resulted in the dropping of TADA charges against a large number of persons depending upon the nature and gravity of their alleged crimes. As per the directions of the hon. Supreme Court in the above mentioned case, Designated TADA Courts have released a very large number of detainees on bail and as of now only about 1599 persons are under detention as per report last received. If hon. Members would like to know the State-wise distribution, I will give that presently. Hon. Members will appreciate that now the cases that remain after repeated reviews and the detainees that still remain under detention after application of the hon. Supreme Court's above directives by the Designated TADA Courts are those cases which are indicative of grave terrorist offences on the basis of available evidence. The Central Government would continue to monitor the progress of these reviews and trials of these cases. I will be writing to the Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories to ensure that bi-monthly case-to-case reviews are held and the proceedings thereof are sent to the Union Home Secretary, who Chairs the Central Review Committee.

I am also inclined to explore the possibility of allowing the detainees and the accused persons under TADA to be heard in person by the Review Committees, if they so desire on the representation submitted by them. Although State Review Committees have the Law Secretary of the State Government as a Member, who is invariably a senior District Judge, I will also bring it to the notice of the States and Union Territories having significant number of pending cases to consider heeding the advice of the hon. Supreme Court in the above mentioned case to have the State Review Committees headed by retired High Court Judges. I may mention that Maharashtra already has a retired High Court Judge heading the State Level Review Committee which is holding monthly review meetings.

Now, with your permission, I would just like to read out a statement showing the number of live cases under TADA and persons under detention.

In Andhra Pradesh, the number of live cases under investigation and pending trial is 294. These figures relate to 19th February, 1997. The number of persons involved is 1,845; the number of persons arrested is 1,436; the number of persons arrested and under detention is 23; the number of persons released on bail is 1401; and the number of persons absconding, that is, yet to be arrested is 409.

**13.00 hrs.**

In Arunachal Pradesh : No. of live cases in 14; No. of persons involved is 57; No. of persons arrested is 57; No. of persons arrested and under detention is 1; No. of persons released on bail is 52 and No. of persons absconding is 5.

In Assam : No. of live cases is 2107; No. of persons involved is 9886; No. of persons arrested is 9290; No. of persons arrested and under detention is 59; No. of persons released on bail is 9215 and No. of persons absconding is 596.

In Bihar : No. of live cases is 4; No. of persons involved is 91; No. of persons arrested is 78; No. of persons arrested and under detention is 21; No. of persons released on bail is 57 and No. of persons absconding is 13.

In Gujarat : No. of live cases under investigation is 77; No. of persons involved is 912; No. of persons arrested is 748; No. of persons arrested and under detention is 160; No. of persons released on bail is 556 and No. of persons absconding is 164.

In Goa : No. of live cases is 1; No. of persons involved is 3; and No. of persons absconding is 1.

In Haryana : No. of live cases is 103; no. of persons involved is 219; No. of persons arrested is 218, No. of persons arrested and under detention is 16; No. of persons released on bail is 203 and No. persons absconding is 1.

In Himachal Pradesh : No. of live cases is 1; no. of persons involved is 8; no. of persons arrested is 6; no. of persons released on bail is 6 and no. of persons absconding is 2.

In Jammu & Kashmir : No. of live cases is 5154; no. of persons involved is 6837; no. of persons arrested is 2993; no. of persons arrested and under detention is 429; no. of persons released on bail is 3707 and no. of persons absconding is 137.

In Karnataka : No. of live cases is 19; no. of persons involved is 224; no. of persons arrested is 160; no. of persons arrested and under detention is 54; no. of persons released is 92 and no. of persons absconding is 60.

In Manipur : No. of live cases is 579; no. of persons involved is 2251; no. of persons arrested and under detention is 9; no. of persons released on bail is 1611 and no. of persons absconding is 244.

In Madhya Pradesh : No. of live cases is 28; no. of persons involved is 453; no. of persons arrested is 373; no. of persons arrested and under detention is 11; no. of persons released on bail is 111 and no. of persons absconding is 80.

In Maharashtra : No. of live cases is 238; no. of persons involved is 1146; no. of persons arrested is 647; no. of persons arrested and under detention is 338; no. of persons released on bail is 337 and no. of persons absconding is 162.

In Meghalaya : No. of live cases is 8; no. of persons involved is 20; no. of persons arrested is 20; no. of persons released on bail is 16 and no. of persons absconding is 4.

In Punjab : No. of live cases is 1393; no. of persons involved is 2634; no. of persons arrested is 2304, no. of persons arrested and under detention is 158; no. of persons released on bail is 2029 and no. of persons absconding is 212.

In Rajasthan, the no. of live cases is 52; the no. of persons involved is 198; the no. of persons arrested is 167; the no. of persons arrested and under detention is 65; the no. of persons released on bail is 110; and the no. of persons of absconding is 31.

In Tamilnadu, the no. of live cases and pending trial is 20; the no. of people involved is 282; the no. of persons arrested is 204; the number of persons arrested and under detention is 55; the no. of persons released on bail is 123; and the no. of persons absconding is 75.

In Uttar Pradesh, the no. of live cases is 58; the no. of people involved is 119; the no. of people arrested is 107; the no. of people arrested and under detention is 37; the no. of people released on bail is 70; and the no. of persons absconding is 12.

In West Bengal, the no. of live cases is one; the no. of persons involved is eight; the no. of persons arrested

is six; the no. of persons arrested and under detention is six; and the no. of persons absconding is two.

In Chandigarh Administration, the no. of live cases is seven; the no. of people involved is 17; the no. of people arrested is 12; the no. of persons arrested and under detention is three; the no. of persons released on bail is nine; and the no. of people absconding is five.

In the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the no. of live cases is 404; the no. of people involved is 518; the no. of persons arrested is 518; the no. of people arrested and under detention is 154; the no. of persons released on bail is 332; and the no. of persons absconding is seven.

So, the no. of total cases is 10,562; the total no. of persons involved is 27,728; the total no. of persons arrested is 19,344; the total no. of persons arrested and under detention is 1,599; the total no. of persons released on bail is 20,037; and the total no. of persons absconding is 2,222...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South-Central) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, why Daud Ibrahim has not been arrested so far...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down...Okay.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He is still absconding...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please behave properly. Please sit down.

*[Translation]*

You please sit down. How many times shall I have to repeat. Let him give the statement first.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister make his statement. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, what are they doing about those 'pending cases'?...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Activities of I.S. I. are still going on issued...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister of Home is sitting here...*(Interruptions)* Whether the Minister of Home Affairs. Afraid of him...*(Interruptions)*

Whether the Government has hired Daud Ibrahim?...*(Interruptions)* Whether Pakistan has hired him for carrying out bomb-blasts?

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2.10 P.M.

13.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twelve minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI L. RAMANA (Karimnagar) : The Government of Karnataka has Almatti Dam.

MR. SPEAKER : We will take it up later on.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : The Motion under Rule 184 has been fixed for 2 O'Clock. So, we will take it up first and then, we will go to other business of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : The Minister of Defence intended to make a statement on the incursions into the Indian territory by the Chinese Army. But, suddenly, the House was adjourned...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We will dispose of this item first. It is because it is listed for 2 O'Clock.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : There is no problem. We will take it up later on.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : I have to give this statement in the Rajya Sabha as well. Mr. Deputy Speaker had called me...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is only about one-and-a-half pages.

14.14 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Recent incursions into Indian Territory In Himachal Pradesh Region by the Chinese Army***[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Several members have expressed their concern regarding infiltration by the Chinese defence forces in Himachal Pradesh. In this regard, as was mentioned by our Hon'ble Members, I would like to clarify that in the central sector in Himachal Pradesh there has been no infiltration by the Chinese forces. The tracks junction referred to by them falls in the Laddakh region of Jammu and Kashmir and it is completely under our control. As far as infiltration in trig region area of Laddakh is concerned, I want to assure the Hon'ble Members that the Government of India is keeping watch on the situation and we are taking up this issue with our Chinese counter part. After having clarification regarding the line of actual central such incidents shall not recur. Neither any construction work has been done by the Chinese forces in the trig height area nor any firing has been reported there.

I want to tell the House that normally peace has prevailed on Indo-China border. Both countries are committed to maintain peace and on the border area under the agreement of 1993 with regard to maintain peace on the line of actual contract on Indo-China border and the agreement signed last year for taking measures to create mutual confidence in the military zones on both sides. There is institutional arrangement in both the countries to sort out the differences with regard to border issues.

The full implementation of some provisions of the agreement of 1996 relating to the measures to create confidence among both the countries depends on their mutual consensus on the alignment of the Line of actual control and both countries have agreed to speed up the process of defining and confirming the line of actual control. Under this agreements both the countries are have agreed also committed to take certain measures for creating confidence between them.

For defining the alignment of line of actual control, the discussion between both the countries is going on under the present system of expert group and joint action group. The expert group discussed this issue in its 5th meeting held in New Delhi on March 3-4, 1997.

I want to assure the House again that the Government of India keeps constant watch on all incidents affecting the security and integrity of the country and concrete steps are taken to ensure the preparedness of our defence forces for the security of our border area.

14.17 hrs.

**RE: MOTION UNDER RULE 184 FOR RECALLING GOVERNOR OF UTTAR PRADESH***[English]*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : I hold that this motion, standing against my name, and as admitted by you, more particularly your filling many important gaps in our law on the subjects involved through your observations, is a significant legislative landmark. Vital current issues confronting our Republic have been addressed. Democracy, conduct of Governors, Governor and the Union Home Minister, other Ministers, Centre-State relations, collective responsibility of Cabinet are only some of them. As, however, the objective political situation is different and as I do not wish to cause any further contention between high functionaries of the Republic, I do not move the motion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.

*(Interruptions)*

14.18 hrs.

*Dr. M. Jagannath and some other hon. Members then came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after this motion under Rule 184.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You don't have to come here. Please go back.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are on Rule 184.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Alamatti is a dispute between Telugu Desam and Janata Dal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We will take it after this motion.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, Karnataka State is well within its power to use 743 TMC of water ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, what is going on in the House?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know what is going on. You better guide me.

*(Interruptions)*SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, Karnataka is well within its rights with regard to the Bachawat Award ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are on Rule 184.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, please. Go back to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

14.21 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. M. Jagannath and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I know, he has no motion.

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, he may not have moved a motion but we can comment on what he has done ...*(Interruptions)* We are asking the hon. Speaker's permission to comment here and now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear him first.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Under which rule?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Under Rule 339...*(Interruptions)* Sir, Rule 339 says :

"(1) A Member who has made a motion may withdraw the same by leave of the House.

(2) The leave shall be signified not upon question but by the Speaker taking the pleasure of the House..."

...*(Interruptions)* A motion which has been given before the House shall have to wait and seek the leave of the House to be withdrawn. If the House grants leave then only the leave is granted to withdraw the motion...*(Interruptions)* Now it is the property of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This rule applies after the motion has been moved. The hon. Member said that he was not moving the motion.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : In your ruling you said that you had admitted the motion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the whole nation knows that you had admitted it under Rule 184...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I had admitted a notice of the motion. It is not a motion.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, in today's Agenda Paper, Item No. 21, which has been listed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, let him speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev. Give him one or two minutes. There is nothing wrong.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : My purpose of standing here is not to stop the hon. Speaker from giving his decision. But in this House, the Motion was allowed to be moved. It is not moved by you. Once the matter was allowed by you under Rule 193 but the same was not accepted by them. On their demand, the matter was allowed by you to be raised under Rule 184. Now what is the language of the Motion under Rule 184...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : That everybody has said...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Mahajan, you have allowed yourself to be ashamed. Please sit down. You listen to me...*(Interruptions)* You cannot reply.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You go ahead.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : In this Motion the last line says "...therefore, this House do now resolve that the Governor of Uttar Pradesh be recalled forthwith"...*(Interruptions)* Now I would like to know what their proposal is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is supporting your case. Why are you worried?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I would like to know from my learned friend Shri Jaswant Singh that whether It is the same Governor whom Shri Kalyan Singh and Ms. Mayawati have met and claimed to form the Government. My second point is, whether it is a fact that whether the same Governor will administer the oath of office of the Ministers there or not. My third point that I would like to know from Shri Jaswant Singh. Can a historical judgement given by the hon. Speaker in this House be scuttled by a Member by not allowing it? He has scuttled it. We want that it should be discussed. We want to know whether the law and order situation of that State needs any discussion. We want to know from

the BJP that what programme with Ms. Mayawati as the Chief Minister of the State has got to bring ...*(Interruptions)* Allow us to discuss the issue.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, your ruling is important. Your ruling is more sacrosanct ...*(Interruptions)* We have a right to speak in this House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, I am on my legs. Shri Dasmunsi, please listen.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I want to say one word more. Let me finish.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, wait. Before you say anything you must read. What is my ruling? You listen to me. At the end what did I say? I said :

"In the circumstances after giving a careful thought to all aspects of the matter, I admit the Notice of Motion under 184."

It is the notice which is admitted, not the Motion. I have no right to compel a Member to move his Motion. How can I do what?

Matters under Rule 377.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit to you about rights and conventions...*(Interruptions)* There are no two opinions. I only submit that you gave the ruling to admit the notices only. I entirely agree with you. I admit it...*(Interruptions)*

14.32 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Ramsagar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You go back to your seats. I will allow you all. You hear me. Enough is enough.

*(Interruptions)*

14.33 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Ramsagar and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : They will respect the ruling. What I wanted to say is you are the custodian and you are running the House. I can tell you. This discussion is accepted...*(Interruptions)* Now that Shri Jaswant Singh is withdrawing it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is not withdrawing it. He is moving it.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am telling you. I am telling you that this is not the way to take the precious time of the Speaker. If he has anything to say, this is not the correct way. This is not the proper way to invoke the spirit of the nation and the law of the land ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think that is enough.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Bara Banki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to hold discussions on the notice which he had given under Rule 184...*(Interruptions)* There are the people who got Mr. Dewediji killed...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I have given my ruling. Nothing more.

Mr. Finance Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Finance Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, my point of order is that you have given your ruling. After that, again they are trying to bring that issue. You have actually moved to the next item...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We have not moved to the next item...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, according to the rules, we cannot go back after the next item is announced.

MR. SPEAKER : I wish all Members followed the rules. That is my sincere wish.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we are always cooperating, but they are not cooperating.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Chidambaram.

SHRI RAM NAIK : On which subject is he going to speak, Sir? We will not allow him to speak on the same subject.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : What is that you will not allow. You are not the Speaker yet. Sir, there is now a point raised about the applicability of rule 339. My learned friend...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : That point has been decided by Your Honour, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him submit. It may be enlightening all of us.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am submitting to you, Sir. Why are they afraid of submission? Just hear my submission.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, if you want us to cooperate, this is not the way of getting the cooperation. We will not cooperate then...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Speaker has allowed me to submit...*(Interruptions)*. Sir Mr. Dasmunsi ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, so much agenda is there and after moving to the next item, how can you go back to the same item?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Why are you afraid of a submission? I thought you would use an argument to meet an argument. Why are you afraid of an argument? You meet an argument with an argument.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that when his speech is over, please allow me to speak under the rule which I am going to quote.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not given the ruling. I only pointed out to Mr. Dasmunsi that it is only a notice and not a motion. That is the clarification I gave.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, we are now discussing the applicability of rule 339. A point has been made that rule 339(1) has been attracted. Kindly see rule 339. It says : "A member who has made a motion may withdraw the same by leave of the House"...*(Interruptions)*. I am submitting to you, Sir. Why are they afraid of my submission? I have looked into the rules and I have looked into the 'Kaul and Shakdhar'. Subject to correction, there is no authoritative ruling on the word 'made'. Therefore, I would humbly submit that you hear us for a few minutes on what is the scope of the word 'made' and then decide. I am not saying that you should not decide, I am saying that if there is no ruling on the word 'made', then natural justice requires that you hear a few of us on the meaning of the word 'made' in the context in which it has occurred. We shall take you to the earlier rules. You are the final authority. Please hear us for a few minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Have you finished?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No, Sir, I have not. But if they are making any submission on that point, they can...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, he has read only rule 339(1). Now I am referring to rule 339(2). It says : "The leave shall be signified not upon question but by the Speaker taking the pleasure of the House. The Speaker shall ask : "Is it your pleasure that the motion be withdrawn?" That means, once the motion is moved, then only he will seek the pleasure of the House. The meaning of the word 'made'...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMSAGAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and wherever Bhartiya Janata Party is ruling the law and order situation is worsening. Public life is shattered. Law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh is better and this fact has come to light that the murder of Brahmdukt Dwedi is the result of the

conspiracy of Bhartiya Janata Party. That is why they want to escape from the discussion.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I shall complete my submission, Sir, and then let them refute my argument.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him submit first. He has to submit it fully.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us enlighten ourselves. It is a very good thing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, there is a point. You hear both of us.

Sir, kindly look at Chapter XIV. It says that : "Notice of a motion shall be given in writing addressed to the Secretary-General". You are absolutely right, Sir. A notice of motion was given. The notice was on a substantive issue asking for the recall of the Governor. Now, Rule 186 sets out the various conditions subject to which ...*(Interruptions)* If you have to, if you want to interrupt, you can...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : When we are not moving. You are asking us to move it and when we were moving it, you were opposing it what is all this?...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : You are tempting me to.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is a serious thing. Let us listen him.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, Shri Ram Naik's point that is not clear to us is : How is it that the high constitutional authority who had to be recalled five days ago, today becomes such a wonderful person that they do not wish to recall him?...*(Interruptions)* That is the question. Let them answer that question now ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to say something...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, let us listen to him. I will allow you also.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You say...*(Interruptions)* He should remain the Governor of U.P. ...*(Interruptions)* You prove your strength.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : You are not feeling of recalling him just now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : According to the statement read out by Shri Jaswant Singh he is a high constitutional authority...*(Interruptions)* Five days ago he was neither 'high', nor he was acting in a constitutional manner nor he was 'an authority'. ...*(Interruptions)* Today he has become 'high', 'constitutional' and 'an authority'! It is because you will go to him tomorrow and stand before him and say : "I take oath as your Minister."...*(Interruptions)* You will stand before him and say : 'I take oath as your Minister. I will serve you loyally'. That is what you want to say ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Sir, he is not quoting any rule. If he is so much interested in recalling the Governor...*(Interruptions)* he may move it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I want to read a rule...*(Interruptions)* They are interrupting me. I only want some time to read a rule. I wish to confine to the rule ...*(Interruptions)* If I am diverted, naturally I will be diverted. The rule says that : 'A motion may be admissible...'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar - Delhi) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : When I am reading a rule, what is the point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : An important issue to be raised by me is to come up under Rule 377. The time of the House is being wasted. They are not aware of the significance of the subject...*(Interruptions)* Please kindly allow me to move the matter under Rule 377.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let Shri Chidambaram complete. Shri Goel, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am reading a rule. Sir, you had said that this motion is admissible because it satisfies the condition under Rule 186. Once a motion is admissible, then we go to Rules 190, 191 and 192. I do not wish to read the rules. Rule 190 says : "The Speaker may, after considering the state of business in the House...allot a day or days or part of a day for the discussion of any such motion". You will find that nowhere in Chapter XIV is the word 'made' or 'moved' used in connection with the motion...*(Interruptions)* I am only making a legal submission. Kindly allow it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That can be done in the court.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You are a law-maker ...*(Interruptions)* you make the laws that are to be

governed by...*(Interruptions)* This is a forum which is governed by law as much as any other forum.

Now, Sir, to the best of my knowledge, subject to correction, it does not use the word 'moved' or 'made' anywhere in Chapter XIV. Now, come to the general rules of procedure...*(Interruptions)* Let me come to the rules of procedure. In the Rules of Procedure the portion relating to motions starts with Rules 338 and 339. Rule 339 says : "A member who has made a motion". Why does it not say : 'A member who has moved a motion'? ...*(Interruptions)* There must be a distinction between the words 'made' and 'moved'...*(Interruptions)* You have given a notice of motion. The notice has been admitted. It is now a motion. Sir, you have admitted the motion ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, let him not interrupt. I have not completed...*(Interruptions)* We have crossed that stage.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : It is only a notice.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, obviously a meaning has to be given to every word in the rule...*(Interruptions)*

The word used is 'made' a motion. There is no definition of the word 'made'. It is not using the word 'move'. A notice of the motion has been given. You have admitted the notice of the motion and today's agenda paper reads that so and so to move the following...*(Interruptions)* Does he make a motion? ...*(Interruptions)* Wait a minute. Why are you in a hurry? I am arguing a point.

Sir, does he make a motion before moving or does he make a motion after moving? This is the issue. I would humbly submit to you to please hear us and decide the question. Does he make a motion before moving or does he make a motion after moving. I humbly submit that if he has 'made' the motion before moving, then Rule 339 is attracted. If he has 'made' the motion only after moving, then, perhaps, their point is right that Rule 339 is not attracted.

Sir, what is the meaning of the word 'made' in the context of the word 'move'? My submission is this. There is no definition, there is no ruling. Let us, therefore, go by first principles. How does one move a motion? You move a motion once you formulate a motion, satisfy the conditions of Rule 186 and give a notice. My submission is, when a Member of this House formulates a motion in accordance with Rule 186, gives a notice and the Speaker admits that notice, the motion is 'made' ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : No.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, this is my submission. What is his problem? He is not giving the ruling.

Therefore, the motion is made. A motion which is made can either be moved or not moved. Let me repeat that. A motion which is made can either be moved or not moved. If the motion is not made at all, where is the question of moving an unmade motion? You have to make something and then move it. You have to make a

motion. The motion is made and if the motion is made, my humble submission is that Rule 339 is attracted and he cannot withdraw the motion without the leave of the House. If what they say is correct, then Rule 339 would have read that a Member who has moved a motion shall not withdraw the same by the leave of the House. It says that a Member who has 'made' a motion shall withdraw the same by the leave of the House. So, I would humbly request you to give your earnest consideration. That is my submission.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sympathise with my good friend Shri Chidambaram. He is trying to tell about law to them who are the most lawless outfit...*(Interruptions)* I sympathise with Shri Jaswant Singh...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think he will yield. I have risen only because my good friend Somnathji has made a reference to me and only to make one observation that the Outstanding Parliamentarian of 1996 is being outstandingly obstructionist and outstandingly obstreperous. This is a reflection of his frustration...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE : Sir, I have no manner of doubt that Shri Jaswant Singh was very sincere when he congratulated me yesterday ...*(Interruptions)* And so many of my friends in the BJP, they so are so nice.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it goes to prove that he is 'outstanding'.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, so many of them came to me and I cannot really express myself the great affection that was shown by all of them. I deeply cherish that, all my life, I shall.

But here is a question on which I am trying to sympathise with my friend Shri Jaswant Singh. All the stridency has gone today. Now, the Leader of the Opposition, maybe, I say contempt of the House, how has he now been despatched to Lucknow to be the advisor there?...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, many things can happen. I do not know because all sorts of immoral, unethical...*(Interruptions)* and apolitical combinations are coming up. I was only reading Shri Jaswant Singh's very well drafted motion. Nobody can question his expertise. Now the whole basis of this motion is in the context of so called chaos, anarchy and destruction. Now, today there is withdrawal of the motion which means there is no anarchy, there is no chaos and there is no destruction. He has explained very thoroughly the so called factual aspects ...*(Interruptions)*. His explanation did not satisfy you. Therefore, you persisted with this motion. You persuaded the hon. Speaker also by your cogent arguments that there was a case and the hon. Speaker was kind enough to admit it. Now, therefore, please have a moral courage and the political honesty to say that there is no chaos,

anarchy and destruction even before your Government has come...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : That you have to tell to your Home Minister. It is the Home Minister's comment ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, does it mean that we are discussing the motion? Sir, I am on point of order. Only the rules are being discussed. Sir, how can you allow him?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You say that there was nothing wrong in the conduct of the Governor ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Please do not mislead the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Kindly read the language...*(Interruptions)*. The objection was taken to the statement of the Governor that he has spoken to the Prime Minister. Now you have no objection and therefore there is no reason for the recall of the Governor. We saw on the TV last night...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, he is going beyond rules. How can he go beyond rules? He should try to follow the rules.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : At least follow the rules for a day.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Follow the rules at least for one day, at least today, at least this hour, at least this moment!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I do not know whether after six months their turn will at all come or not. They are still hoping. They do not know that she is not so naive to give up that post after six months. Therefore, in your anxiety to form an unprincipled coalition there...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, on that basis this House has been taken for a ride. They are welcome to withdraw this motion but my only request is that this House should not countenance in certain areas. I do not expect such unsavoury behaviour from them. But the House cannot be taken for a ride. Let them withdraw the motion but let them admit that there was no chaos and anarchy.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very interesting point being raised. I am really very happy.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that as per our Rules of Procedure, whatever motion we put forth, it passes through four stages. At first stage, a member gives notice. At the second stage, you decide the admissibility thereof and if it is admissible you admit it. At the third stage, the member rises to move the motion and then the document becomes the property of the House. After that this motion may have two fates. Either it may be

discussed and after discussion division may take place if required, or the may withdraw with the leave of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this motion is at the third stage now. Shri Jaswant Singh gave notice. You decided its admissibility and gave your ruling under which it was admitted. Now it is at the third stage. You may go through its language as is given in the list, it reads like this.

[English]

Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to move the following.

[Translation]

Further the text thereof of is given. If Shri Jaswant Singh moves this motion and after that he wants to withdraw, the leave of the House will be required. You put the question. It will be withdraw if the House grants leave, otherwise not. At the third stage Shri Jaswant Singhji has taken the decision because quite now circumstances have arisen in Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)* I am surprised. In the Rajya Sabha the Hon'ble Home Minister stated that it is necessary to form a popular Government there...*(Interruptions)* Therefore he decided not to move the motion. No motion can become the property of the House unless it is moved. Unless it is moved it cannot go to the stage of withdrawal. Due to this reason the motion has become dead at the third stage. How this fourth stage has come? Hon'ble Chidambaramji is time and again referring to the Rule 339(2). Hon'ble Members are referring to this rule and telling that it will be withdrawn. The stage of withdrawal has not come at all. If the motion would have been moved, and Shri Jaswant Singh would have taken decision after that, then only the stage of withdrawal would have come. This motion has become dead at the third stage because Shri Jaswant Singh has decided not to move. No discussion can be held on this motion. Withdrawal stage cannot come at this juncture. This motion has become dead at this stage itself. No discussion can be allowed on this issue. It is my point of order.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You tell us what you want. What do you want?

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. I do not think I need many arguments. I am sorry to say that. But I think enough arguments have been made.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not like to go into discussion regarding move or motion etc. Neither I would like to refer any rule or initiate any political discussion on opportunism. I shall not discuss all these things ...*(Interruptions)*. I can talk about all this at any time but not at present. I am putting only one question. This

motion is here...*(Interruptions)* My socialism does not depend on you. I have been a socialist even before you were born. Mr. Speaker, Sir, before your ruling comes, I am putting a question. My question is restricted to this only that there are two names associated with this motion and had they not been present in the House, What would have been the fate of the Motion? ...*(Interruptions)* He may reply to it later, let the Hon'ble Speaker speak first. What happens to the motion if its move, whose name the motion is listed, does not come to the House before the motion is moved? Whatever analysis of the rule you are going to give on this issue, you kindly keep this aspect also in your mind. While to giving your decision.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. I think this discussion is enough on this issue. I will come to other issue. I think we have discussed enough. I must listen to Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, in addition to what Shri Chidambaram said, I will point out one thing and you may give the ruling...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to listen to you Shri Banatwalla.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You will be happy to listen...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? He is a very senior Member.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : In addition to what the hon. Minister Shri Chidambaram has placed before the House, in addition to those rules, I have also to draw your attention to another rule 176(1). And the language of that rule is very clear. However, before I read it and before I conclude, my submissions must be heard with patience. Rule 176(1) says :

"A member in whose name a resolution stands on the list of business shall..."

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is not a resolution ...*(Interruptions)* I am on a point of order. That should not be allowed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is a motion ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pramod Mahajan, you leave it to me. I know my job. You do not have to tell me. Have some patience.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let me complete my submission. What is this?...*(Interruptions)* It says :

"A member in whose name a resolution stands on the list of business shall, except when he wishes to withdraw it, " the word used is "withdraw", "when called upon, move the resolution..."

So, the question is not of making or moving. The question is very clear here that he does not move means he is trying to withdraw it. Withdrawal will need the consent of the House. So, this is very clear that except when he wishes to withdraw, he must move it. So, when he does not move it, it means he wishes to withdraw it. And that withdrawal will require the consent of the House.

However, Sir, I would like you not to be so strict here also because in the meanwhile a lot of things have happened.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : We are on a legal matter. Please confine to the rule.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing it. I will go through the record.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would tell you not to be very strict with this particular rule. The question is that if the House does not allow the withdrawal of the motion and if the mover does not move the motion, then a deadlock will come up...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, in good grace, let them now be excused. The opportunistic coalition Government that they are looking for is because of...\* I would like to say that.

MR. SPEAKER : I have heard enough. Let me give the ruling now.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, I want to draw your attention to Chapter XIII of the Rules of Procedure which relates to Private Members' Resolutions. The procedure in Chapter XIII of the Rules of Procedure commencing from Rule 170 up to Rule 176 which had been referred to by the hon. Members relates to how on a Private Members' day the resolutions would come forward before the House; how that issue should be taken up and at what point of time the speech would be given. It is under Rule 176. It is in relation to a speech delivered on the Private Members' Resolution. It is not at all in respect of the Motion.

Rule 339 has also been referred to. This has been pointed out...*(Interruptions)* Kindly bear with me for a minute. Sir, you have heard the most illogical and fallacious submissions of Shri Chidambaram whereby wanted to converted the present into the past. Rule

Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

339 expressly uses the word "made". "Made" means, It is an act done earlier to it. It must be moved in the House. That is the first submission. In Rule 339, please note that the words used are "has made". "Made" means that before that, he must move it in the House; the resolution is tabled; put before the House and then it is made. Then the question of withdrawal arises ...*(Interruptions)* Here, they want to have a child without a marriage. They want to have a child even without engagement. This is most fallacious...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to point out that Shri Banatwalla can have a *Burkha* marriage. Under the Muslim law, *Burkha* marriage is permissible. But how can Shri Chidambaram have it? Shri Chidambaram cannot have a *Burkha* marriage...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it should not go on record. An ex-Judge is saying like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I thank Shrimati Sushma Swaraj for solving another problem.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. She solved the problem by pointing out that the question comes when the matter becomes the property of the House. The same thing was raised by Justice Lodha the other day, I think, yesterday, perhaps. So, the rule is very clear on this. Please listen to me. I am dealing with a very serious thing. Section 340, sub-clause (4) of the Manual on Business and Procedure says that once a motion set down in the Agenda is moved, but not till then, it becomes the property of the House. So, that is a very clear-cut thing. So, I do not think I have to give any ruling on that.

As far as Rule 339 is concerned, read with Rules 184 and 185, I will confine to that. I must be very grateful to the House. It was a very very enlightened debate on a very important issue of interpretation of the rule, particularly the Finance Minister made a very strong point.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I was even tempted to agree with him. But I may be able to clarify the question of what is the meaning of "made" and what is the meaning of "moved." I think it is very clear that under rule 185 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, a notice is to be given. Then, under Rule 184 of the Rules of Procedure, a motion is made. Now, the notice having been given in this case and admitted, the motion has to be made. How? By moving? Unless it is moved, it cannot be made. I think that is a very, simple interpretation. So, I have no other way except to go to the next item of the Agenda.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Jagannath, I will give you one minute.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : Sir, the Expert Committee set up by the United Front to go into the politically sensitive Almatti Dam dispute has upheld the fears that the raising of the dam height by Karnataka will jeopardise irrigation and power generation interests of Andhra Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* Not only has the Committee considered raising of the dam height to 524.256 metres FRL (full reservoir level) unnecessary as of now, it has also declared that Karnataka's objections to the Telugu Ganga project and two other projects across the Krishna river in Andhra Pradesh were without basis...*(Interruptions)* We demand the Government of India go through the facts and figures of this case and stop construction...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : This should not go on record. There is no Committee. There is no appointment order given by the Central Government...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. JAGANNATH : The six-member Committee said that the FRL of 524.256 metres was required only when Scheme 'B' of the Bachawat Tribunal Award on the Krishna dispute among Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra fructifies...*(Interruptions)*

It is, therefore, not necessary at present to build a bigger storage of 227 tmc at Almatti dam with top-off shutters all 524.256 metres...*(Interruptions)*

The Committee's unanimous Report refers to the opinion of the Indian Institute of Science, which has pegged the FRL at 518 metres which could be increased to 519.6 metres to take care of loss due to siltation etc. ...*(Interruptions)* Referring to Andhra Pradesh's apprehension the extra storage facility for a period of three months at Alamatty Dam is more than what is required...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YELLIAH NANDI (Siddipet) : Let the Prime Minister reply to this...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. JAGANNATH : It has been observed that Andhra Pradesh may not get timely supply according to the irrigation and power demand for the period of such hold-up in Alamatty reservoir.

MR. SPEAKER : What is going on? Enough, enough.

Now we shall take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava is saying.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point. Please sit down.

15.12 hrs.

*At this stage, Dr. M. Jagannath and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. SPEAKER : I had allowed you. You read out your paper. What else do you want?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed him to read his paper. Go back to your seats.

15.13 hrs.

*At this stage, Dr. M. Jagannath and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

15.14 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

##### (i) Need to improve postal services in Jaipur, Rajasthan

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of Jaipur city has at present exceeded 20 lakhs and because of Municipal Corporation it has crossed the limits municipal limits of Sanganer and Amer. Postal distribution zone has spread upto Jamdoli in the last upto Bhankhrota border in the west, Harmada in the north and Sanganer in the south upto Vatika or on tok Rot upto industrial area on Digg Malpura road and beyond shopur on Gonair Road, colonies located on both the sides of Sirsi Kanakpura, Jagatpura Railway Station and some new colonies. Besides it has extended upto new colonies like Malaviya Nagar, Sanganer, Dungapura, Shyam Nagar, Vaishali Nagar, Jhotvakda, Gandhinagar, and the biggest colony of Asia Mansarovar and Vishwakarama area. Dak is received in these colonies after a week. Only 363 post men have been assigned the Dak distribution work in Jaipur city, whereas according to the figures nearly 2 lakh 50 thousand ordinary letters, 30 thousand registered letters, parcels, insured packets, VPP and money orders etc. and daily for delivery with the city. As per the stipulated norms should be delivered by a postman per day, according to which there is a need of nearly 500 postmen, but the Government of India has imposed a bay on creation and recruitment of new posts since 1984. If there are 363 postmen, it comes to about 5510 persons per postman, i.e., one post man has to deliver the mail of more than 5000 person on an these average days, which is just double of the figure stipulated in the norms. Accordingly, the postmen of the newly developed far flung localities have to travel a distance of 60-70 kms of the area for delivering the mail.

I urge the Government of India that sanction for appointment of additional postmen for Jaipur city may be granted and along with the sanction of the filling up of vacancies, four time clearance from the letters boxes be assured as was done erstwhile, and sanction of posts of additional group 'D' employees and sanetaining of appropriate under the post for other jobs be accorded.

**(ii) Need to bring a Legislation to ban the sale of Lottery**

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the millions of the households which are being ruined because of lotteries.

Central Government is responsible for lottery because in item 40 of list-I of seventh schedule of the constitution of India it has been clearly stated that the Central Government alone can prohibit the State lotteries. It is a Union subject. The State where lotteries are sole have right to ban the lotteries of their own state, but they can't ban on the lotteries of other states. So it is the responsibility of the Central Government to bring a Bill to stop lotteries.

Sir, there are certain states which do not sell their own lottery tickets in their state, but sell their tickets, in other states, thereby running the people of that state our Delhi Government by banning the lotteries in public interest, has deprived itself of a profit of 50 crore rupees, but the lotteries of other states are sold in Delhi openly and Delhites are being ruined.

Sir, people have become bankrupt because of lotteries. Some people sold their wives, some committed suicide while some poisoned their children. Day in and day out the incidents of crime and looting are on the increase.

Number of times attention of the Prime Minister has been drawn towards banning of lotteries, but I am sorry to say that nothing has been done so far.

Sir, more than 150 MPs belonging to all the parties have signed a memorandum for banning the lotteries. I myself have given a Private Members Bill for banning the lotteries But I would therefore appeal the Prime Minister and hon. Ministry Home Affairs that the lotteries should be immediately banned by bringing Government Bill in the current session itself.

15.15 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

**(iii) Need to ensure the All Round development of Scheduled Caste Community**

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Chairman,

Sir, there is a widespread resentment and dissatisfaction amongst the people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities for lack of any appropriate policy for them. The reservation for them are not in proportion to their ratio in population. There is no representation of Scheduled castes in the Planning Commission. The reserved posts for them in the Services have been filled up. The people belonging to the scheduled casts are more affected by the problems like child, labour, life below poverty line and unemployment. The people belonging to the Scheduled castes are not safe and secure from social discriminate atrocities and harassment. Measures and provision are being made for the violating the existing reservation by dalit christians. Therefore, I urge the Central Government that the people belonging to the scheduled castes should be saved from the said anomalies so as to ensure their progress and development.

**(iv) Need to shift Head Office of NMDC from Hyderabad to Jagadapur in Bastar District, M.P.**

SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM (Kanker) : Mr. Chairman Sir, iron city Belladella is situated in Bastar district. Three units out of the four units viz (i) Belladella Iron one project No.-14 and 11c, (ii) Belladella Iron ore Project No.-5 and (3) (iii) Diamond Mine Project ore situated in Bastar and Panna districts. All the above mentioned mines located in Madhya Pradesh are fetching foreign exchange worth crores of rupees for the Central Government every year and royalty of crores of rupees is received by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Fourth Unit of NMDC is located in Karnataka. It is unfortunate, that the Head quarters of NMDC are located in Andhra Pradesh though not even a single project out the four projects of NMDC is located, nor is there any unit under construction and no exploration work is going on there. As the Headquarters of NMDC are located in Andhra Pradesh, the unemployed people of Bastar district are not able to get employment there, sheareas the people from other states are alesorbed in the jobs even now. The people of Bastar district are not absorbed in the jobs. My Bastar district is an area with a majority of Adivasi. The people of this place face great difficulties when they have to appeal in an interview and they are not allowed to fill in the registration form as well. My district and state is Hindi-Speaking.

Therefore, I request you that the office (Headquarters) of NMDC located at Hyderabad may be shifted to Jagdalpur, district Bastar.

**(v) Need to construct a High Dam on Kosi River**

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa) : Sir, Kosi River orginating from Nepal causes devastation in

North Bihar every year because of flood, which causes heavy loss of life and property amounting to crores rupees. If Hydro-electricity is produced after constructing a high dam in Barah It will not only supply sufficient electricity to Nepal and Bihar, but electricity would be available to the whole of India. During summer season, the water collected in the reservoir of the Dam can help irrigating the dry famus of North Bihar. Besides, Bihar can be assured of the required quantity of water from the water of the Gangas which was affected as a consequence the India-Bangladesh agreement regarding sharing of the water of Gangas.

It is therefore, requested that the Central Government will very soon construct a high dam on Kosi river after having necessary agreement with Nepal.

**(vi) Need to ensure workers' participation in Management**

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are celebrating 50 years of Independence but many workers are going to be jobless day by day due to sickness of BOGL, MAMC, Burn Standard, HFCI (Durgapur), JESSOP, Tyre Corporation of India, Cycle Corporation of India, IDPL, NTC, etc.

The article 43 A of part IV of the Constitution states *inter alia* that the State shall take steps by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of Undertakings, establishments or other organization engaged in any industry.

In order to implement the directive principles of the Constitution as provided in article 43 A and to achieve the goal, it has become extremely necessary to make suitable amendment in part IV of the Constitution to ensure the rights of participation of workers in management of industry as fundamental rights. This is a demand of millions of workers from all over India.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take some necessary action in the matter.

**(vii) Need to set up Industrial Units in Satara District of Maharashtra**

[Translation]

SHRI HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR (Satara) : Sir, though District Satara of Maharashtra has all the potential for economic and industrial development yet adequate development of the district has not taken place. Besides land, such facilities as electricity and water are also available for setting up of industries on the other hand, there are a number of skilled but unemployed people in the district whose services can not be utilised only because there are no industries in the area.

Hon'ble Minister of Industry of the previous Government had issued directives to get a survey conducted for this purpose. However no action has been taken on those directives. I would like to know from the Government if any such survey has been conducted so far and if so by what time the present Government proposes to get this work done?

I can not only anxious to get the survey conducted but I am also eager to see that various types of industries are set up in our distirct, unemployed people are given jobs and economic development takes places in my area.

Therefore, Central Government is requested to get the industrial survey conducted immediately and if the survey has been completed, the process of setting up of new industrial units be started without further delay.

**(viii) Need to effectively implement Family Planning programme in the country**

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Sir, according to 1991 census, the population of our country stands at 80,07,85,000 and it could touch 100 crore mark in the near future. It is a matter of concern which should be considered seriously by the House and the Countrymen and some concrete steps should be taken. National Development Council had constituted a committee in 1991 which submitted its report to the Union Government in 1993. The committee had made the recommendation in the report that the Central Government should formulate a National population policy and present it in the parliament in order to control the every increasing population in the national interest. This committee has prepared a draft of National population policy wherein it has been mentioned that from 1981 to 1991, 42 percent increase in population has taken place in U.P., M.P., Rajasthan and Bihar. It is clear then that there is a need to pay more attention towards family planning programmes and to provide sufficient funds in these states.

Family planning programmes can be effectively implemented at the grassroot levels through Panchayat Raj. The Non-Governmental organisations and women's organisations should be given special incentives to follow up these programmes. The funds allocated by the Central Government for family welfare programmes should be sent directly to districts so that the pace of family welfare programmes could be accelerated.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Item Nos. 19 and 20 in today's Revised List of Business. The time allotted by the Business Advisory Committee for these items is one hour.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to make a submission. Actually, when the debate was going on, there was reference to Almatti Expert Committee report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I have taken up a different item.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the time. Please resume your seat. There is an appropriate time, you can take it up then.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly cooperate with the Chair. We are on a different item now.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not going to deviate from the rule. There is Lok Sabha sitting tomorrow also and you can take it up tomorrow.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri Amar Pal Singh.

15.27 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE  
AND  
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*[Translation]*

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : I strongly oppose the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 and its provisions in principle. This ordinance is destined to be withdrawn. I urge upon the Government to prepare the bill a fresh and make appropriate provisions in it. Thereafter the bill should be referred to standing committee of finance through the House. The ordinance should be brought for discussion in the House only after the standing committee has given its suggestions and recommendation. So long as this is not done, this ordinance bill not be acceptable to me. Hon'ble Mr. Chairman Sir, though you and the House, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister as to why I am objecting to and opposing this Bill? As per the provision under Clause 15, nobody can take a loan from one's friend or any person from his village or town or a neighbour. Such a provision has been made that nobody will take

a loan and if anybody violates this clause, he is liable to be jailed for a term upto one year. I would like to cite two examples in this regard. Sugarcane is grown in my constituency. When the sugarcane grower gives the sugarcane to the mill, he does not get cash payment when he requires money, he prepares 'gur' and takes it to the broker in the market. If the broker has no money left with him he makes payment to the farmer by borrowing money from his fellow broker. If the provisions of foreign exchange are made applicable they will not be able to receive loan through check and then they would carry on such activities clandestinely. Hon'ble Minister wishes to do away with the meance of black money but this would once again encourage the same.

I would like to cite one more example. Suppose big private companies appoint agency holders after taking some deposits from them. Thereafter goods and supplied to agency holder on credit. The Dealer or sub-dealer of the company deposit the money and after depositing the money, when they sell the goods, they return it. But if this clause is made applicable, the agency holders will not be able to carry on their business. For example there is motor car industry, spare parts industry, medical equipment business, motor vehicle business tractors and motor cycle business. All these trades are being pursued by agency holders. There are several good points in this ordinance. Many finance companies used to close down their operations and run away with the money of depositors. Now they would not be able to do that any more. Shares were regulated only after share scam took places. There are certain good provisions in the bill introduced by the Minister to regulate the finance companies. Its good features are not visible due to provisions contained in 45(s). Due to this section, a person would not be able to borrow money from his neighbour. If he does so, he could be imprisoned for one year. This will bring the entire trading activities in rural areas and small towns to a halt. That is why I strongly oppose the ordinance.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 2 of 1997) promulgated by the President on 9 January, 1997."

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to my learned friend, Shri Amar Pal Singh for bringing out some points in opposition to the Bill that I will move now to replace the Ordinance. But I would most humbly request Shri Amar Pal Singh and other hon. Members

of this House to hear me patiently for a few minutes because, I think, what I am moving today is an important Bill. It is an important step in order to regulate financial intermediation in this country and will, to a large extent, wipe out what is perceived as a large scale evil present in financial intermediation in India.

Financial intermediation must be efficient. Efficient financial intermediation is a *sine qua non* for a healthy and vibrant economy. Given the twin needs of providing adequate protection to the depositors and maintaining the stability in the financial system, financial intermediaries all over the world are subject to varying degrees of prudential regulations. In India, the regulatory framework for banks has evolved over a considerable period of time. However, attempts to regulate the working of non-banking financial companies started only in the 1960s, with the introduction of Chapter 3 B in the Reserve Bank of India Act by the Banking Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1963. Since then, the operations of non-banking financial companies have increased manifold. The need of a more comprehensive regulatory framework for the working of the NBFCs was therefore acutely felt.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee, which inquired into the irregularities in securities and banking transactions had recommended that the Government should examine whether the legislative framework for regulating NBFCs is sufficiently wide. The Working Group on Financial Companies appointed by the Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Dr. A.C. Shah had suggested regulatory and control measures to ensure the healthy growth and operations of these companies.

Insofar as acceptance of deposits by unincorporated bodies are concerned, to which, I believe, Shri Amar Pal Singh, refers, these have so far been governed by the provisions contained in Chapter 3 C of the Reserve Bank of India Act, which was inserted in 1984. However, despite these provisions, some of the unincorporated bodies were found to have circumvented the statutory restrictions by floating different partnership firms as and when the firm reached the level of 250 depositors.

There are reports of several finance companies and unincorporated bodies having failed to repay the deposits collected from unsuspecting depositors who have been tempted by the attractive returns and incentives offered. Concern has been expressed in several quarters on the need to take urgent steps to regulate the activities of such companies and unincorporated bodies.

It is in this background that the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 was promulgated. This Ordinance contains only two Chapters. One is

Chapter 3 B and the other is Chapter 3 C. I do not believe that anyone has any objection to the amendment that I am making in Chapter 3 (b) because that deals with Non Banking Financial Institutions. Objections have been expressed in respect of Chapter 3(c) because it is dealing with unincorporated bodies. I will deal with it presently.

The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 provides several safeguards for the NBFCs so as to ensure their viability. These include compulsory registration of the NBFCs with Reserve Bank of India, stipulation of minimum net owned funds requirement, creation of reserve fund and transfer of certain percentage of profits every year to the fund and prescription of liquidity requirement. Reserve Bank of India has also been vested with powers to issue guidelines encompassing aspects such as income recognition, accounting standards, provision for bad and doubtful debts, capital adequacy etc., which are intended to ensure sound and healthy operations and the quality of assets of these companies. RBI is also empowered to issue directions to the auditors of NBFCs to order special audit of NBFCs, prohibit acceptance of deposits by NBFCs and to make application for winding up of NBFCs. Whereas earlier the only recourse available to the depositor was to approach the Court of Law for redressal of grievances, powers have been vested with the Company Law Board for directing the defaulting NBFCs to make repayment of the deposits/interest with a view to protecting the interest of the depositors.

Now, an apprehension has been expressed that this will interfere with indigenous banking or para banking as practised by money lenders and pawn brokers. I wish to meet this point quite headlong. I do not want to duck the issue. It is true that India has had a history of indigenous banking, money lending and pawn broking. It is also true that they fill a credit gap in the society. But there is no gain saying the fact that money lending and pawn broking is based on usurious interest rates. It can be nobody's case that money lenders and pawn brokers lend money at reasonable interest rates. The law that I am making does not interfere with lending. The law that I am making concerns with the other aspect of the business, namely, the funds which he uses to lend. Let me make it very clear that money lending is not affected at all. Let me also make it very clear that pawn broking is not affected. A man may lend his own money. A man may pledge articles and lend his money. I am not affecting lending. He can lend his own money. He can lend that money which he takes from 22 categories of relatives. I will read out the 22 categories of relatives. He can lend money which he takes from any commercial bank or scheduled bank. He can lend money which does not fall within the definition of deposit in Section

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

45 (i) (b)(b) of the Act. Therefore, there is a lot of money that he can lend. What he cannot do is take deposit from a total stranger and lend that money because it is the stranger who has been cheated, it is the stranger who has been duped and it is the stranger who has been defrauded.

So, this Bill, Shri Amar Pal Singh, does not interfere with lending. It interferes with deposit taking. I have had discussions with a number of people. I have had discussions with BJP's floor leader, Shri Jaswant Singh and I have had discussions with a number of hon. Members from the Congress Party, principal among them being, Shri Ramesh Chennithala, Shri P.J. Kurien, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and Shri Sharad Pawar.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor) : Please do not mention the names because it is going on record.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am only saying that I have had discussions with them. I am not saying anything else.

They have expressed some practical concerns. In response to those practical concerns, I am moving some amendments officially...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete.

Now, Sir, in response to these, I have made some amendments. I am moving official amendments to that effect. But before that, let me clarify some points. What is being prohibited is six activities which are contained in Section 45(I) of the Act and Section 45(I) (ii) of the Act plus the seventh activity, namely, principal business of taking deposits and lending. Now, there is a misapprehension that if somebody is doing business in cloth or paddy or hotel or steel, then he will be prevented from taking deposits. That is wrong. He can take deposits for doing his business but if his business is lending that money, then he cannot take deposits. Let me make it clear. If I am doing, say, paddy business and I am buying and selling paddy, I am a wholesale trader in paddy or a retail trader or a small trader in merchandise, then I can take deposits from somebody and I can do business of trading in paddy or steel. But I cannot take deposits for the sake of lending that money as a money-lending activity. That is what is prohibited. So, trading is not prohibited. Taking deposits is not prohibited. Taking deposits from relatives and taking deposits from banks are not prohibited. Lending with your own money is not prohibited. What is prohibited is taking deposits from third party, strangers who are not your relatives and using that for lending purposes. That is being prohibited...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. You will get a chance to speak.

Now, practical difficulties were raised about two or three aspects I am willing to concede to them. For example, what we have said was, hereafter if anybody wants to carry on the six activities referred to Section 45(I) or the seventh activity of taking deposits and lending, that is, purely money lending, then an individual, a partnership or an association of persons cannot carry on that activity. If you want to carry on that activity, then you must convert yourself into either a company or a corporation or a cooperative society or a *nidhi* or a chit fund. Why is this distinction? It is obvious. It is only because a company, a corporation, a cooperative society, chit fund or *nidhi* are legal entities under law. They can sue and be sued by their name. They have to report and comply with various laws. An individual, a partnership and association of unincorporated persons are not legal entities. They cannot sue and be sued in their names. Therefore, we are not allowing them to carry on these activities.

Practical difficulties were raised. How do we convert Rs. 50 lakhs capital? I concede that point. I am moving an amendment and reducing it to Rs. 25 lakhs. So, that should take care of a substantial number of grievances of including my learned friend from Kashmir. Rs. 50 lakhs has been reduced to Rs. 25 lakhs.

Then a practical problem was posed that we have given two years for him to return the deposits. I again concede that point. I am now moving an official amendment to make that two years into three years and to give powers to the Governor, Reserve Bank to extend it by a further period of one year. So, the Act itself will say three years but now, it is extendable by one more year, that is, four years. I am moving these two amendments. But I think that the time has come to bring a law of this nature. There were some companies in Kerala with major scandals. Thousands of people were cheated. In Tamil Nadu, almost one thousand crore of rupees have been cheated by finance companies. In Andhra Pradesh, some cheating cases have come to light. There is a demand from Andhra Pradesh that a law should be passed. Such companies are mushrooming now even in Bihar, UP and Madhya Pradesh. Nobody is different and nobody ought to become champions of these differences. Nobody is different. We are moving towards the 21st century. Para banking must yield way to banking. But I recognise that it will take some time. We are taking the first step not in controlling lending but in controlling deposit taking. Lending will be controlled by the State Government by its own laws. Kerala has its own law on money lending and pawn broking. Let lending be controlled by local laws. Deposit taking is a nation-wide phenomenon. A man in Kerala can take a deposit in Karnataka. A man in Tamil Nadu can take deposit in Uttar Pradesh.

Therefore, I have to make a national law against deposit taking from total strangers.

Sir, there is enough freedom to take deposit from relatives, from banks and your own money. In fact, the money lender must use his own money; the pawn broker must use his own money. Why is he taking somebody else's money and lending it and if he is taking somebody else's money at 36 to 48 per cent, how is he lending and making a living? It is on the premise that he would never return that capital, he would only give the interest. Thousands and thousands of people have been cheated out of their capital. *Goondas* have been hired in Tamil Nadu to beat away people who wanted the return of their capital.

So, the time has come, Sir, and I most humbly submit that the whole House should cooperate in this. We have spent many many months in making this law. There were two Committees; the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India has gone into this; we have gone into this and I think, the law has to be made. I am willing to deal with practical difficulties. I have dealt with practical difficulties. We would see if there are any other suggestions on this. I think, Shri Banatwalla has one amendment which I am inclined to accept if he presses for it and if he is not convinced by my reasons.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I think, it is logical.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I agree.

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilhour) : What is the position of the trader who wants deposit for his trading.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have said that it is allowed. Money lending is barred only for items under 45 (i) (VI). If you are trading in steel, in paddy, in turmeric, in merchandise, you can take deposits and you you can use it. But you cannot use that money for money lending purposes. Let me make that very clear. Traders are not affected. A group of traders were brought to me by some hon. Member.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : But a misunderstanding has been created amongst the trading community.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Misunderstandings are created by us. I am clarifying so that the whole world knows about it. I think, Mr. Bhargava brought the traders to me. I have clarified to them and they were quite happy. They were satisfied.

Therefore, the time has come to make this law. I know that there are pressures. There are pressures from our constituents, from people who live in our constituencies, but we, as law-makers, must rise above these pressures. We must look to the future. We must

move away to institutionalise banking rather than this kind of para-banking.

Sir, with these words, I commend this Bill and I most humbly request the hon. Members to pass this as soon as possible..(Interruptions)

I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 2 of 1997) promulgated by the President on January 9, 1997."

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, I just want a clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Professor, just a minute. I will allow you. Now the hon. Minister has explained everything in minute detail and he has also taken into confidence every section of the House.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : No, Sir. He has not taken the whole House into confidence. It is fallacious...(Interruptions) It is wholly illogical and illegal ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Lodha, you are not even allowing me to speak. You first take your seat.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, it is something...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You resume your seat first. You can talk only with my permission.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, if Shri Lodha wants to go on record opposing this Bill, let him go on record opposing this Bill...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lodha, you are a senior Member of this House.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, how could you say that he has satisfied everybody when we are just not satisfied...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If before I could even complete on what I wanted to convey you have jumped to conclusion, then how could you understand?

[Justice Guman Mal Lodha]

What I was telling is that time allotted for this Bill was one hour. Now, let the speakers confine themselves only to the points. Wherever there are clarifications to be sought from the Minister, let us do it and then get this measure adopted. This is what I wanted to appeal to the hon. Members of the House.

Now, I would call the speakers and later on, after the reply of the hon. Minister, if there is any clarification, the Minister would respond to that.

Now, I would call Justice Guman Mal Lodha.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I wanted to have a clarification from the hon. Minister. I wanted to ask when he was replying. He then said that I could do it after he finished his speech. I just want a clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not his reply. He would reply after the discussion is over.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, how could you say that? He himself had conceded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He had conceded, it is all right.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, this kind of an intervention is allowed in Parliament. When the Minister is replying, any Member could seek a clarification ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not replying to the debate. He has just moved the motion for consideration of the Bill.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I know that he has no replied to the debate. I just want a clarification on what he said. All right, if you do not allow me, I would not ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it is not like that. You see after the discussion, he would reply to the debate and at that time you could seek any clarification. I do not suppress that right of the Members of the House. If you seek a clarification, another Member would also want to seek a clarification and the discussion would not go ahead.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I do not know why are you adopting a different standard in case of this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it is not a different standard. Professor, that is not correct.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : I am on a point of order. These remarks are against the Chair. Such remarks should not go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, I will see.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He would not have meant it also. He might have said it in anger.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know. It is all right. I will see.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I did not mean anything against the Chair. I said, he is adopting different standards and not bad standards. 'Different' may include good also. Why do you attribute motives?... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Let the remarks made by him then remain on the record. Let it be known to the world that a professor has spoken in an undignified language.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Let the hon. Member show any rule to prove that what I have said is unparliamentary.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Casting aspersions on the Chair is highly objectionable. He has said, "You are adopting different rule for different persons."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, let us hear Justice Lodha.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : At the very outset I must submit that yesterday and day before yesterday, two Bills were there for which one hour time was fixed. When the discussion started and Members started participating, it was felt that these may require much more detailed discussion and understanding. The whole country is observing these Bills. There have been widespread strikes, *dharnas*, deputations and demonstrations against these Bills. The whole country is observing as to how the legislators or the Members of Parliament discuss it. They are watching whether the Members of Parliament at all apply their mind or just cursorily bringing a Bill and getting it through. This way, we become the laughing stock. People ask us as to what we do in the Parliament. They ask us don't we read the Bill, understand it and then participate in its discussion. There are 543 Members, each representing about 5 lakh, 10 lakh or 15 lakh people. So, I would request you to kindly allow us to put our view point clearly and patently.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Who is preventing you from that?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The hon. Finance Minister has made an appeal that since there has been a lot of squandering of money, in the interest of saving the investors, let us go through this legislation. I agree with him but I may tell him that all these chit fund companies, the banking companies, are in the corporate sector. They are registered under the Indian Companies Act. They are not petty shop-keepers, like the *panwallas*, general mechants or *kabadiwallas* doing the business. They are organised gangsters who cheat the people and take advantage of the Indian Companies Act. You are not catching hold of such registered companies under the corporate sector but you are catchng hold of the petty shopkeepers. You are leaving the head and catching the tail. You want to press the tail and leave all big persons who have made money.

To start with, I may bring to your notice a letter received by me just now from the Indian Bank Employees Federation in which it has been mentioned:

"According to the information available, Rs. 46,000 crore of money in public sector banks has been shown as non-performing asset."

You may kindly note that Rs. 46,000 crore has been shown as the non-performing asset which really is a bad or doubtful debt. While the money of a petty investor who goes to the bank puts his entire Provident Fund and Gratuity, which he has earned for the whole of his life in the bank I would respectfully submit to the hon. Finance Minister that the banks give this money in crores to people who squander it and never return it back. The hon. Finance Minister has absolutely no concern for that. On the contrary the letter says that in an image-building exercise, the Finance Minister went to a bank in Chennai and held a meeting of the Board of Directors. He asked them to settle the matter at 50 per cent of the amount. That means, an amount of Rs. 23,000 crore is written off straightaway. This is the state of affairs. Is it not hypocrisy that we talk of the poor, we talk of saving the investors, but we are not able to contain the guilty, the accused who are squandering money in these banks, not at one place, but at every place? You will find that we had requested the Minister in this House several times to come out with the list of persons. There are 100 big industrial houses who have taken Rs. 10 crore to Rs. 5 crore. There is a company which has taken many crores of rupees from Indian Bank in Chennai and all that money has gone. Now the Minister wants to settle for 50 percent or less, whatever it is. Is this not squandering of public money?

Then, take the case of a poor trader who runs a small business. The Minister says that he does not check the money-lending business. Very well! He is correct when he says that money-lending business is controlled by the State laws. But, why is it that these amendments have been made for individuals or partnership firms? Kindly note the amendments which have been made. The axe has fallen, not on the corporate sector, not on a Harshad Mehta, not on the Indian Bank, not on all those banks which have squandered money, but on the poor trader who is sitting in a small town doing a petty business to earn two square meals a day. It is easy to say that he can take as much money from the bank as he needs. May I know how money is taken from a bank? The hon. Minister probably has no experience of it because he moves in elite circles, fortunately for him, having a vast practice when he was a member of the Bar and otherwise. He never had the problem of going to a bank as a small businessman and getting the money he requires.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to conclude please.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I have to mention certain things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sixteen minutes are allotted to your Party and four persons have to speak. That means, other Members are not going to get any time.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I submitted that this is a matter on which you have to kindly be liberal. You have to allow some more time to understand the view of the people. Otherwise, if you have to say "yes, yes", we can also say "yes, yes" and go away. But people would laugh at us, they would curse us that we have become a laughing stock after coming to Parliament. Kindly listen to me for a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are elaborating one point for five minutes and there are a lot of points with you.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I have not elaborated, I have just replied to his sermons and preachings which are hypocritical and fraudulent because they never reach the people.

AN HON. MEMBER : Let him substantiate it, Sir.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Actually it is for the rich people. Big companies are made and the poor people are being victims. Since you are pressing for time, I would straightaway come to the provisions.

The Minister has said that he had made some amendments. True, after the Ordinance, certain amendments were made. But then, what is the amendment made? Kindly try to follow this. He says that 45(s) provision has been added. True, it has been added on the recommendation of some Committee. The Committee recommended for checking evil practices in big business houses which have got a big purse and not evil practices which are very rarely found in the transactions of a small trader hardly making two square meals a day. I am reading the text which has been amended by him. It says :

It was earlier subject to the provisions of chapter 3(b). No person other than a body corporate shall accept any deposit, provided that the individual may accept deposit from a relative and any other individual only for his personal use and not for lending business purpose."

This was the original.

16.00 hrs.

Now, he has amended it. The amendment is as under :

"No person being an individual or a firm or an unincorporated association of individuals

[Justice Guman Mal Lodha]

shall accept any deposit if he or his business wholly or partly includes any of the activities specified in clause (c) of Section 45(1)."

Now, it would be necessary to read Section 45(l) to know why this has been laid down in the Act. Business of the non-banking financial institution means carrying on the business of the financial institution referred to in clause (c) and includes business of the non-banking financial institution.

Sir, whatever has been mentioned in clause (c) is important. In section 45(l), there are six categories which the hon. Minister has mentioned. I would like to point out that the categories which he has mentioned are in clause (c). In the old Act, that clause (c) says :

"The financing whether by way of making loans or advances or otherwise of any activity other than his own."

Now, this has been prohibited. Kindly note, when this has been prohibited, how can money be taken by a person? The loan can be taken for his own activity. But if he gives it to some other person, then that is prohibited.

Secondly, the acquisition of shares, stocks, bonds and debentures means that if a person is doing a business of a stock broker or a card holder in the stock exchange, then he is covered by it.

Then, I will come to letting or delivering of any goods to a hirer under a hire purchase agreement as defined in clause (c) of Section 2 of Hire Purchase Act. Sir, thousands of persons purchase trucks and buses on the basis of loans which are advanced to them under hire purchase agreement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : If they go to the banks, the banks charge exorbitant rates of interest. They want security; they want service charges; and the rates of the banks vary to a certain extent. There also if a person has got an 'approach' or if he is an influential person, then he can go and take money from the bank. Otherwise, for an ordinary person, to approach the bank and to take the money is almost impossible. So, this amendment which the hon. Finance Minister is bringing forward would result in completely stopping the hire purchase business by a trader or a firm. What he says is that if you want to do that, you form a company. If you form a company under the Indian Companies Act, then it would be permitted. If a sole trader wants to do it, it would not be permitted.

My respectful submission to the hon. Finance Minister is this. Why does he prohibit these small

persons? Corporate sector has been more fraudulent. Chit funds have been started by a chain of companies which have taken money from poor persons. The first 100 or 50 corporate sector or big industrial houses have taken money running into crores of rupees from the banks and spent it. Now they are keeping a non-performing debt. If a small person, if a trader wants to sent the money, then they say, it cannot be done. I would, therefore, submit that whether it is your Common Minimum Programme or whether it is the question of doing business, you must have some compassion, some consideration, some kindness for the small traders.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should also have some consideration to me. So, please conclude now.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am concluding, Sir. I will not take much time. I am trying to come at the right point, that is 45(S) where the hon. Finance Minister says that he has not prohibited any money being taken by a trader.

I want to know from him whether he allows hire-purchase agreements and hire-purchase business to be done. This is my pointed question to him which he has to answer.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : My answer is 'no'.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : He says, No. You see, Sir, he has says no here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, you please reply later on. Now, Mr. Lodha, you have taken fifteen minutes and now from your Party no one will speak.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am very sorry that on a serious matter having the financial implications...

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a serious matter and the Business Advisory Committee has allotted one hour for this.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Only yesterday, you had given three hours to the other Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Instead of arguing, you kindly conclude.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : If we want to be heard on these issues, where are we to go? You are the guardian of this House and crores of people are looking towards you and all of us as are looking at us to how we debate here. Are we here to raise our hands and say 'yes' and 'no' only?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, I am appealing to the hon. Finance Minister to be kindly gracious and not to

curb trading and business. He has made certain amendments which are good. I appreciate them and I welcome it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Thank you.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Earlier even for a simple business, there was a prohibition. Then there was a question and in answer to that question he said he would make an amendment. He has made an amendment. But that amendment is very limited. What I want to ask is how a small trader can be asked to form a company. I may ask him. He knows what the corporate sector is. He knows what the Registrar of Companies is.

A Solicitor would take two thousand rupees or five thousand rupees or ten thousand rupees for drafting a prospectus, company's Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association. Another ten thousand rupees would be spent at the Registrar of Companies to get it registered. Then, a company is required to appoint one Company Secretary or a Chartered Accountant with Company Secretaryship. If it appoints one, he would take rupees fifteen thousand per month. Can a small trader afford all this? It would be completely wiping out the trading in this country.

I can certainly understand that he has got a problem so far as the chit fund companies are concerned. Actually, we are here to request him to make such laws, to ban them, to prohibit them and to punish them. But those are companies and not individuals. He has made the laws for individuals and partnership firms. I have got no problem so far as the provisions contained in Paras 3, 4, 5 and 6 are concerned, that is doing insurance business or doing a business of chit funds. The Sixth para is regarding the big advertisement to be put and prices to be given. The hon. Minister can ban them, prohibit them, and punish them. It is good and we do not object to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude. Please cooperate with the Chair, otherwise I cannot conduct this House.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : But regarding first, second and third paras, I would say that it should not be done.

A surprising thing has happened in the category of relatives from whom money can be taken. Twenty-two categories have been made. But father's brother is not included, mother's brother is not included; brother-in-law for whom it is said that wife's brother is more important than the whole world has not been included. Why? Who has drafted this list? So, that list also requires amendment.

In such a state of Affairs, I would submit that bringing an Ordinance first and then saying that now if

we strike off the Ordinance, it is not proper and therefore, it should not be referred to the Standing Committee is not correct. This is indirectly violating the decision of the Speaker. The decision is that after the Standing Committees have been formed, all the Bills would be referred to them. There is no hurry. Heavens are not going to fall. The business did not start today but it had started one fine night. It was there for a very long time. It is going on. Even earlier, you have put a check. I would submit that they must send it to the Standing Committee for a calm and composed scrutiny.

Here every time I am afraid of the bell because it is hanging on my head just like a sword. Due to this I am not in a position to develop my points. Every time I am feeling that you are stopping me. Therefore, I would submit that kindly agree to send it to a Standing Committee. Let the Standing Committee reply. Even your Finance Bill, your Budget would come after three weeks. What is wrong if it goes to the Standing Committee and after three weeks you can take it up again? So I am suggesting this in all earnestness. I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister would agree to it.

If he does not agree, then I would say that the people of this country are vehemently opposing this Bill. In this Bill, you will also find another thing which is antagonizing the small people throughout the country. In small villages, they are doing some business for agriculturists or something like that. All the people would be antagonized by this. Therefore, it is better that in your own interest, you send it to the Standing Committee and then take it up for consideration. That is all. If you are not sending it to the Standing Committee, then I vehemently oppose it.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Sir, my name is in the Resolution. It is always the practice that if somebody's name is there in the Resolution, then he should be given a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry. Your name is not there.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : That practice is in the Assembly and not in the Lok Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Once the first Member who moves the Resolution, immediately the name of the other Members will be cancelled. That is the practice in Lok Sabha.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He should be given a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will be given a chance. Shri Sanat Mehta, you are going to speak. Your name is there. We will call you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, this Bill is going to have far-reaching consequences in

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

our rural financial system. First of all, I cannot agree with the manner in which the Bill is proposed to be introduced in this House. After a very long deliberation, we have adopted the system of Standing Committees. All the Bills which are originating from different Ministries and Departments should go to the Standing Committees and proper scrutiny should be there. After that scrutiny, with their recommendations, all the Bills and Demands for Grants of different Departments will be presented to this august House and deliberations will take place on the Bills or on the Demands for Grants. But unfortunately, we have been seeing for the last two weeks, 13 Ordinances have come before this House. Of course, I accept that in an extraordinary situation, an Ordinance can be tolerated. I do not find there is any urgent or extraordinary situation which has arisen in this context which warranted the promulgation of this Ordinance. So, it is not a good practice. In future, I think the Government will take care of this aspect and they will refer all the Bills to the respective Standing Committees. After the scrutiny by the Standing Committee, it should come with a proper report before the august House so that the Members can deliberate on this.

We are not against regulating the non-banking financial institutions which are existing in our country. Especially after the liberalisation, numerous non-banking financial institutions are coming up. As per the report of the Reserve Bank of India, there are more than nine crores of this type of institutions which are coming up in different parts of our country.

Sir, if you look at our rural credit system, different types of these systems can be seen in different parts of the country. It may differ from West Bengal to Kerala; it may differ from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu. Different types of age-old financial institutions are existing in our country. All of a sudden, we cannot say that these are not benefiting the rural people or a farmer or a poor man in our villages.

I am agreeing that depositor's interests should be protected. I also agree that somebody who is taking the deposits from others is laundering the money and one fine morning he is suddenly absconding. This practice we can see in different States. I am coming from a State where we have a bitter experience of such companies. After a long deliberations and through the wisdom of the Kerala Assembly, we had formulated the Kerala Moneylenders Act. Why was this Act made? It is because we can well regulate these small lenders, pawn brokers, non-banking financial institutions, etc.

I agree with the hon. Minister of Finance that numerous institutions are coming up and they are

creating troubles for the common man and the poor people. But there should be some regulations for the deposits accepted and when deposits are accepted, nobody can lend them. The whole problem is arising out of the present banking system of our country.

In 1969, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had taken a bold step to nationalise our banks. It had given some fruits and definitely we are enjoying them. But till now in the villages if a poor man goes to a bank, first of all, he is afraid to go to a bank and even if he goes to the bank, the bank people will not hear him. On the other hand, if a man comes in contessa car, then the bank manager will definitely come downstairs, receive him and take him to his cabin and give everything and whatever he wants.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Provided there is a branch of the bank in that village, else what can be done?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : A poor man or a villager, if he wants to take Rs. 5,000 from a bank, the bank people will ask for collateral security, this security, that security, surety, etc. I am telling you the practical difficulties which we are facing in our rural areas. If a poor man wants Rs. 5,000 for helping his child to get an admission in the school, he will get Rs. 5,000 from a pawn broker or a man who is having these financial transactions. This is what is existing in our country. I entirely agree with the hon. Minister of Finance that we have to change the system. We are on the threshold of the twenty-first Century. First of all, he has to scrutinise the banking system. A lot of Committees were appointed to scrutinise our banking system.

Sir, a number of fraudulent activities are going on in our banks. As far as bank scam is concerned, more than Rs. 5,000 crore were mismanaged. However, nobody is held liable for this thing. This is a public money which was fraudulently twisted and it has gone to some of the pockets. So, definitely we have to check these financial institutions and non-banking financial institutions, but it should start from the banking system itself. I agree that it is a good beginning, but we have to see that the poor man in our villages should get the benefit and advantage of our banking system. Unfortunately, today, we are not getting that benefit. How to rectify this?

In the Khanna Committee Report itself, at point 9 on page 3, it is well mentioned: "As regards unincorporated bodies, enforcement of provisions contained in Chapter 3C of the Reserve Bank of India Act should be left to the State Governments and the Bank may extend support to the Government as and when called for." The Finance Minister has rightly pointed out that in Kerala, the system is managed by the Kerala Moneylenders Act. Of course, lending is a State Subject but a deposit-taking is a Central Subject. I do not

understand why we have to make certain rules and regulations to regularise their deposit-taking.

Then, the Finance Minister's contention is that RBI cannot look after crores of non-financial institutions throughout our country. So, my point is that it should be left to the State Governments. The State Governments will be able to keep an eye on these institutions very effectively than the RBI. So, as per the Khanna Committee Report, the time has come to delegate this power to the State Governments so that they can be better administered by the State Governments and the State Governments can have a better look at the numerous activities of these institutions. So, my humble request to the hon. Minister is to leave this money-lending activity to the State Governments so that it can be properly regulated.

In the Kerala Money-Lending Act, it is very well mentioned that the deposits shall be accepted only in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Central Act 3 of 1934) and at such rates of interest not exceeding the rates fixed by the Reserve Bank of India for the non-banking financial companies. So, we have to have a system which will be beneficial to the poor people of our villages and the pawnbrokers or other financial institutions should not act as a Shylock and they should not exploit the poor people in the villages. At the same time, if the banks' attitude does not get changed by this amendment, I have an apprehension that all our rural credit system which has been existing in this country for the last so many years, will be affected. That is only my apprehension. I am not against this Bill and I am not against the laudable objectives which the Finance Minister is expressing in this august House.

16.23 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

I welcome that he has accepted some of our suggestions for making it a company. He was telling us that the representatives from different parts of the country are requesting him for converting an organisation into a *Nidhi*. But I was told - I do not know whether it is correct or not - that it will take seven to eight years to convert an organisation into a *Nidhi*. Lot of bureaucratic hurdles are there for making a company also and the man who has applied for converting an organisation into a *Nidhi*, will have to undergo a lot of unnecessary formalities and finally he will get the certificate after eight years of waiting. So, this should be avoided. Of course, an organisation can be converted into a *Nidhi* or a company but, at the same time, the Finance Minister should ensure that those who are giving the application for converting an organisation into a *Nidhi*, should be

able to undergo a smooth procedure. They should get easy access to the procedures and they should be able to get an organisation converted into a *Nidhi* without inordinate delay.

I have only one or two more points to mention. I have heard some experts expressing their opinion that it is a violation of the Constitution and if it is passed, it may be challenged in the court. I do not know about that.

The Finance Minister is one of the best lawyers available in our country. He has to go into that aspect also. My only contention is that our people, especially those people who are in the villages, should get some benefit out of this system. If, all of a sudden, it is stopped, there will be far-reaching consequences in our system. It should be rectified. I welcome that. He had agreed that for registration of a company the amount was reduced to Rs. 25 lakh. It is a welcome step. He had given three years' period to wind up this activity and the R.B.I. has been given power to extend it by one more year. This is the beginning of controlling the non-financial institutions. Of course, there may be problems which may arise out of it. Different types of problems may come up. I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that as and when such problems come up he should see to it that they are solved. If there are any possibilities of rectifying their grievances, he should extend his possible help.

This is definitely a good beginning. The apprehensions which I mentioned here should be taken care of and the poor people should not be affected by this.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am always impressed by the assertions of our former Justice, Shri Lodha, though seldom I am able to agree with him. I am also sure that the issues raised by our young Member are quite important. There is no doubt that there are lots of problems in the banking system and we make reference to them, including in the report on the Indian Banking which has been circulated widely. But since when have we started arguing that if you do not catch a big thief, you should not catch a small one? Is this a valid kind of approach that we are adopting in our society? One of the weaknesses, if I have understood it clearly, is about this.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : They are crocodiles not thieves.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Even when the National Planning Committee was preparing this report, they were concerned of the scene regarding rural lending. In a certain sense the public sector banks performed yeomen service by trying to curb the range

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

and intensity of money-lending in the countryside. Everybody knows that such a society progresses - in our language it will be a society advanced towards industrial stage - from the earlier feudal or agricultural stage. The pattern of lending also changes. It is changing all over the world. It is in that context that you must permit another three years. He is amending that also. In fact it is already provided that it will be three years plus an additional period of three years. I would like to get it standardised three years plus one year in both the areas. I do not know why is he wavering that way. But it is certainly a failure of development of our banking system that these things are still continuing. I have no doubt on this.

Shri Ram Naik was mentioning about the culture of the banking system, the spread of the banking system. Have we been able to establish the banking system as such in all corners and also the culture of accommodating individuals? Then, the culture in the banking system would have changed. Then such problems would not have arisen. Even without any Bill or any law they would have faced *euthanasia* or they would have died.

But given the conditions and in three years' time, we shall not only cross into the next century, but will step into the next millennium also.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It is not for coming into force. But even within three years you can refund the amount.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You can also get in time for incorporation in three years in order to arrive at your network.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It is not for incorporation, but for refunding of the amount.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Lodhaji, let the Finance Minister reply to all these points.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : No, Sir. I am just correcting him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chatterjee, there are many speakers to speak on this Bill. Please address the Chair.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Therefore, I extend my general support despite the fact that it originated as an Ordinance. We have all indicated our objections in issuing Ordinances unless there is an emergency. There was no emergency in the last one month which needed an Ordinance in this regard. There are one or two Ordinances which were called for due to some emergency situation. But by introducing many Ordinances and escaping the scrutiny of the

Standing Committees, we have turned the Budget Session into an Ordinance Session and we are now short of time.

Sir, I have several comments to make about the Bill. The first point is, if I remember correctly, the Jha Committee also suggested that there should be one class of non-banking financial institutions and as we know, today there is another class governed by the Reserve Bank of India which is residuary non-banking financial institutions. The distinction is, they can collect deposits. It is partly in consonance with that approach that they should be standardised as this Bill says. But in that case, I want the Finance Minister to see whether or not these two are really standardised and brought to a common place.

The other point is, he has also agreed to make it Rs. 25 lakh. I was suggesting Rs. 20 lakh and being a firm believer in the metric system, I thought that 10, 20, 30 would be better. But it does not really matter. It says that provided that the period allowed to continue business under this sub-section shall in no case exceed six years in the aggregate. If he is tightening, the first three years is all right, but he is providing another three years subject to certain considerations. If he wants to control, I do not think that another three years should be provided for and here also it should be one year which is being introduced as an amendment from that side. This is the second comment I want to make.

The third point is, as far as drafting is concerned, the Standing Committees are not in confrontation with the Government. They improve the drafting. I do not know whether there are some loose ends here also. For instance, on page 5, line 14 it says "to the extent such amount exceeds ten per cent, of (a) above."

It is regarding accumulated balance of losses, etc. and all these things are there. Now, together it has to be 10 per cent or individually, it has to be. Somebody has to clarify this. Please do what the wisdom suggests.

Now, look at the explanation on page 5 under sub-section (b) (1). It is repeated. It says :

"Investments of such company in shares of its subsidiaries."

Why could we not say there itself the debentures, bonds, etc. and re-draft the whole thing? But anyway this is not the stage for all these things. The point which I want to underline is that had this Bill gone to the Standing Committee, such improvements, even in the draft, could have been possible.

The next point I want to mention is regarding Section 45 IC sub-section (2). I want a clear answer to this. It says :

"No appropriation of any sum from the reserve fund shall be made by the non-banking

financial company except for the purpose as may be specified by the Bank from time to time and every such appropriation shall be reported to the Bank within twenty-one days from the date of such withdrawal."

Now, my question is, if I withdraw the money and refund it within that period of 21 days, what would happen? This is what has happened during the scam. You take the money and return it before the reporting time. So, one has to be clear in the formulation of what exactly, he has to control. Are you providing this 21 days elbow room so that such funds can be utilised as they please? Or you want to put a check there ...*(Interruptions)*. I am not opposing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, he is also from Kerala. I thought, that will generate some indulgence from you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have no interest. We have taken more time than allotted. Please conclude now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I now come to audit. The auditor is being appointed. The auditor will check this incorporated entity. Now, the problem is, he has its subsidiaries, he has its group companies where he gives loans etc. But who would check them? Is it a common auditor? What answer does the Finance Minister has if these are independent auditors? Something must be discovered either by the Ministry of Finance or by the Reserve Bank of India.

The next point that I want to make relates to Section 45NB sub-section (2)(b) at page 9. It says :

"the publication by the Bank, if it considers necessary in the public interest so to do, of any information collected by it under sub-section (1) in such consolidated form as it may think fit without disclosing the name of any non-banking financial company or its borrowers."

Now, this is a secrecy clause against which all of us are fighting. Why can you not bring out the names? Why do you want to introduce this kind of a restriction? If certain things are happening, let it be in full public glare. The Common Minimum Programme is very important, at least, for one reason that it underlines and emphasizes the need for transparency. So, please consider this aspect of the matter also.

Section 45NC says that it will be published in the Official Gazette. My earnest request is to introduce an amendment to say, 'it will also be laid on the Table of the House' because the Official Gazette does not always draw our attention.

Then I come to the amendment regarding relatives and partners. Now, we are battling for the Women Reservation Bill.

And this is an archaic reference of relationships. put it squarely. Why only step-mother and not step-father? This is against the empowerment of women. There has to be an amendment to that effect. Secondly, what about the 'in-laws'? From the wife's side, as the writing goes, you have referred to 'mother' and 'father'. But what about the 'mother-in-law' or the 'father-in-law'? Why are they not included? Therefore, I propose that here also there should be an amendment (1) in terms of 'step-mother' and (2) in terms of 'in-laws' both of the 'son' as well as either of the 'spouses'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you may not get time to go to this extent.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I will extend my relationship with the Chair as well as with others.

Now, I will come to page 11. Section 4AA says :

"If any auditor fails to comply with any direction given or order made by the Bank under section 45MA, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees."

This I consider to be ridiculous. The Finance Minister should consider increasing the amount. And also the story of auditors, as came out in the Scam Committee Report, is not a very glorious one. So, more punishment should be meted out.

My last comment is this. The Finance Minister said that deposits are an all-India affair, but this is a kind of argument which is not acceptable. In fact, he is trying to control lending as well by providing capital adequacy and all other things. Therefore, those who will collect the deposits, their lending will also be of an all-India nature. Therefore, restrictions should be there.

I extend my support and I will be happy if the Finance Minister can give consideration to the points that I have raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari starts now, I have to inform the hon. Members that we have started the debate at 3.25 p.m., and the time allotted was one hour. One hour is the time allotted by the hon. Speaker, but we have taken more than one hour and ten minutes. There are eight more speakers who want to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : May I make a submission on this? All these time schedules are like our planning systems. They are indicative in nature. All these are indicative and they are not binding. Show me

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

a single example when we have functioned within the time limit? We can only indicate that one should take less time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am only requesting that you should not take too much time.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I want to make a submission on this. Though one hour was fixed, normally it is extended. That is the normal practice. In addition to that, that one hour was fixed because the discussion on the Motion under Rule 184 was to be taken up today and tomorrow. Now that it is not being taken up, we have enough time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Finance Minister has to reply to the Budget.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I only want to say that you can restrict the speakers to speak for four or five minutes. But those who want to speak, let them, speak. That is what I want to say. You can restrict them to speak for only four or five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before I could make my point, you have started speaking. I am only requesting you to confine your speeches to ten minutes. This is all I request. There are eight more speakers and at this rate it may take more than two hours. We have the Budget discussion and the reply after this.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariganj) : I won't take much time. I rise to support this bill. As has been felt earlier that a committee should be sought. This bill was drafted after seeking the opinion of experts and it serves a major purpose. All sorts of depositories and non-banking companies are proliferating throughout the country. What my friend here has said is very much true. Poor and needy people are unable to get loans because of the faulty functioning of banks and corruption prevalent there. That is why the number of non banking companies is rising. Unemployment is yet another prominent reason. Such companies attract the unemployed youth of rural areas by promising them the post of General Manager. In hope of getting a job, they co-operate by mobilising funds from relatives and acquaintance it has been found that mostly poor people are trapped. They invest their hard earned money in these non banking companies which in turn utilise this money to purchase shares, create properties and expand their trading activities. Without maintaining proper accounts. Finally one comes to know that such and such company has been closed down overnight consequently depositors are left in the lurch. This bill would enable the Government to check the fake companies and safeguard the interests of depositors.

The companies will be registered and under the provision of this bill, Reserve Bank is proposed to be empowered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, I would like to request the Finance Minister that besides imposing a check on such companies and making stringent provisions for monitoring, their working the functioning of banks should also be monitored as they are not working properly. You had admitted in a meeting and also gave a statement to newspapers that banks are more or less useless. If they are unable to carry out trading activities do not give loans, do not attract more and more customers and jail to provide satisfactory services, they should not have the right to continue functioning. My second submission is that the poor or the honest people once trapped in the vice set up by such banks are unable to free themselves.

I, myself had been a victim of such policy. One of my family members had taken a loan of Rs. 60 thousand later on deposited a sum of Rs. 1 lakh and ten thousand but so far he could not get a clearance from there. Therefore, I would like to say that functioning and management of banks should be examined to check such activities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister of Finance for bringing this Bill for safeguarding the interests of the depositors.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while joining the views of the senior member of my party Shri Lodhaji, I rise to oppose this bill.

There is resentment and several apprehensions in the minds of traders community in the country about this Bill. Hon. Minister of Finance has tried to say something about this bill but, I feel he could not clarify totally the prospective impact of this Bill. Just now our friend Shri Ramesh from Kerala was also saying that. It is correct that there had been disorder in transaction of money at local level which creates problems. But in spite of all this banking transaction is going on smoothly without any complaint. Such type of problems can be anywhere. As just now he has told that Rs. 46 thousand crore has been put in the non-performing debt. There are several big business houses which are not returning loans worth crores of rupees but you cannot close down all the companies and banks for this reason. The Government should have tried to understand and solve the problems of common man and small industrialists in this regard. I myself have received several memoranda and telegrams from Finance Companies of Haryana and Punjab since this Bill has been taken for discussion. Hon. Minister of Finance has also admitted that just now a delegation of traders came to meet him in this regard. I would like to say that in place of making haste

on this issue it should be debate seriously. Issuance of ordinance on such an issue is really unfortunate. Ordinance is issued on such an issue which cannot be postponed further. These are our old conventions and it had been better if the Bill is brought after a thorough discussion in case the Government wanted to change this system. I would like to say that it should be taken seriously. The two announcements made by the hon. Minister of Finance are praiseworthy. In the first the ceiling of 50 lakh has been reduced to 25 lakh and secondly the time limit for winding up has been increased upto 3 years from the earlier 2 years and 1 year has been given to Reserve Bank of India for it. But I would like to draw your attention towards the amendment made in last item on page 11 of this Bill :

[English]

"Provided that if the Bank is satisfied on an application made by any person to the Bank that such person is unable to repay a part of the deposits for reasons beyond his control or such repayment shall cause extreme hardship to him, it may..."

[Translation]

I feel that residuary power and over adding power should also be given under the Third clause, like

[English]

"if under the facts and circumstances of the case, the bank is of that opinion"

[Translation]

Otherwise some peculiar and genuine situation may arise and that will not be covered under it, which means that,

[English]

"The situation will be beyond their control and it will cause extreme hardship."

I think if the intention is to give overall power to the Bank, then you have to say this also i.e.. "If under the facts and circumstances of the case, the Bank is of that opinion, then the Bank should be given the power also." I request you to examine that point also.

[Translation]

Sir, as Shri Chatterjee and other members have also mentioned, I would like to say that so far as the issue of relationship is concerned some more relations like—wife's brother, husband's brother, maternal uncle and Father's sister are considered near relatives and these should also be included under the list of 455\$.

In the end, I feel that this Bill should be referred to the Select Committee so that different point of views could be discussed at length and apprehensions and fear in the minds of the people could be allayed. Thereafter, the bill can be passed unanimously. With these word I thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Finance Minister has brought forward this Bill to the House. Since 1985, I have been watching the situation in Gujarat. Before the compulsion of registration came in the earlier amendment to this Act, it was said that if more than 250 depositors are there, they will have to register as a Company. Before that, one company in Gujarat had swallowed Rs. 12 crore of the small depositors. At that time, this amended legislation was not there. This amendment was not there with the result that the State could not do anything and the money was swallowed up. The money was siphoned off to other areas. Then, this amendment came fixing the limit of 250 persons and the aspect of compulsory registration. After that, I am associated with one case where from rupees three-and-a-half lakh depositors of four States, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, had collected Rs. 80 crore. Out of that, they siphoned off the money to various industries. It is not that they collected deposit only for lending. They collected money by offering attractive interest rates, by offering some presents. They thought that some villagers would subscribe to this fund. What they do is that they will give them some utensils.

Today even those Rs. 25 crore has remained unpaid. At that time, there were only two ways. I took this case to the then Finance Minister Shri Madhu Dandavate. There were two options. Either to declare this company liquidated under the company law or some scheme of revival is worked out. The experience of taking into liquidation was not proved good in the earlier cases, though a scheme was submitted to the Bombay High Court by the depositors saying that let all the properties which the company is having, be transferred to a Committee of Depositors and money given back to the depositors. The depositors largely consist of farmers, widows and pensioners. Even after that scheme which was approved by the Bombay High Court, very valuable properties are lying there, like some 30 acres of land is lying in Surat. I may bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister that some 22 acres of land which is adjacent to the Indira Gandhi Open University in Mehrauli, is lying vacant. Our Committee cannot indulge in selling it against black-money nor can we transgress the rules of the country because this land comes under the Green Belt. I have moved from pillar to post but no

[Shri Sanat Mehta]

permission is being given. Everybody says that it is under Green Belt. The Committee cannot get the permission. Twenty-two acres of land is lying as it is. And nearby there is a Sainik Farm where all illegal constructions have taken place, not by poor, not by slum dwellers but by millionaires. Some of them are also former Ministers. The law is not coming under their way, with the result, even though the land is very costly near the Indira Gandhi Open University, yet, fortunately, it is not occupied by any slum dwellers. Two days back a jeep came with weapons and they told the watchman that they had purchased that land. Nobody has the right to give power to the depositors. I am told in Mehrauli, there is a most valuable land and if this criteria about the Green Belt is removed as happened in the case of Indira Gandhi Open University, that will help the situation. The depositors cannot indulge in illegal construction like the multi-millionaires as they are much stronger. In these circumstances, in spite of the 12 years of struggle, no pie has been paid by these people. Money was siphoned off into different parts. Otherwise we have to take away some money and they have started a business of land and will be there. If somebody is told that this legislation is very strict and harsh, I do not agree with that. The Parliament of the country has to decide with whom it has to stand. Do they want to stand with those poor depositors? My dear friend is right when he said that this money was collected through 1500 employees all over the place. They gave a wrong direction to the poor and rural people and collected money.

Somebody said, cheating is taking place in banking. Does it mean that we are allowing such things to go on unregulated? I cannot agree with it. My friend Shri Ramesh said that it would adversely affect the rural people. The Money-lenders Act is sufficient. I have been in politics for the last fifty years. I heard the same argument in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly when the Cooperative Act was introduced. At that time also, it was suggested not to bring in the cooperatives as money-lenders were doing an excellent job. Have we progressed further? The Money-lenders Act is also there. It is also very plausible and a good Act. Nothing could be done to these people under the Money-lenders Act. If somebody is worried about the rural people, I would suggest them to follow the path of Prof. Mohammad Yunus and start the Gramin Bank with the help of the Finance Minister.

17.00 hrs.

My experience of five years is, of course, that also nobody is helping I am running a Gramin Bank. I had collected Rs. 25 lakh from my friends but neither

NABARD nor the Mahila Kosh come or inspect my organization. Nothing is being done.

Sir, 35 per cent interest is being charged from the poor people. Are we going to protect that charging of high rate of interest under the names of Moneylenders Act? I feel, on the contrary, that even the provisions which have been laid down here will not be sufficient for such people to be booked. Some harsh measures will have to be taken. The fellow who is running this company, is running a very good office in the posh area of Bombay. Even if he sells his office, a few crores of rupees will come to him. We are not able to touch him at all under any Act. The Reserve Bank of India did only one job because at that time the amendment was very limited. As we agitated with the two Finance Ministers, the Reserve Bank passed the orders that they are not allowed to collect any further deposit and whatever they will recover out of the old deposits, that will be only used for paying back to the depositors.

In these circumstances, Sir, I appeal to this House that let us start. Here somebody is worried that why have I not named such a relative. I am asking that if the main depositor is not getting any money in spite of 12 years, why am I to worry whether his mother-in-law or father-in-law or the step-mother will get the money or not? So, in these circumstances, I support this Bill. Not only that. As this Bill has come into operation, now I seek its help. It is because when I went to the former Urban Development Minister, Shrimati Sheila Kaul, she said one thing that 'if you cannot sell that land in Mehrauli, the DDA will acquire it.' That means, it will acquire at throw away prices. They will construct the houses and make money out of it. What will happen to the poor depositors?

Mr. Chairman, there is one theatre. We wanted to take the possession of that theatre. It went to the court. In the lower court, you know how the stays are given. The theatre is worth Rs. 1.5 crore. Somebody else has trespassed into the theatre and in the court of law, we are fighting it. We are not able even to pay the fees to fight for it. The only thing which we could, was that we paid a sum of Rs. 7.50 lakh to the bank which we had collected from different small properties. But one fine morning, the bank which had a claim over this money, took away that money without our permission. We could not give that money also to the depositors. So, such is the plight of the depositors in this non-banking finance companies.

My dear friend Dr. A.C. Shah headed this Committee. I had a hope that the legislation would come soon because he had, I think long back, submitted the report. I had approached him that 'kindly see that such kind of companies are restricted.' I hope that we will not defend the money lenders in this House because

their interest rates are very high. We will not evade. The real question because frauds are being committed in the banks. We will have to set that right in a different way. We can ask the hon. Finance Minister to be more strict with the banks. That is the right way instead of opening the doors for unregulated deposit collection in banking which cannot be tolerated.

I would appeal to Shri Chidambaram that wherever such cases are existing today, he should ask the Reserve Bank to go into the details. At present, the Reserve Bank is only asking the Committee about the work done by them. In these circumstances, it is very difficult. If once money is siphoned off, it is very difficult to get back that money.

With these words, I strongly support this Bill. I hope that all those who stand for the moneylenders, there are parties in the countries who are only thriving with the help of moneylenders. Let them oppose this Bill. All those who are standing for the poor should support this Bill strongly.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can assure that I shall conclude my speech before the ringing of the warning bell.

Sir, I support this Bill which has been introduced by our hon. Finance Minister before this august House. This Bill has been introduced with the object to regulate the functioning of the non-banking institutions, and to render suitable and adequate protection and relief to the small and poor depositors.

Sir, there is a law in our country in this regard but that was not sufficient to regulate the functions of the non-banking institutions, the business activities of the non-banking institutions and to provide adequate protection and relief to the small and middle-class depositors. These unscrupulous non-banking institutions were advertising through various media for soliciting deposits from public by offering them some attractive incentives by declaring so many lucrative schemes and high rates of interests in comparison with other sectors like LIC, Scheduled banks, etc. So, having been attracted by their offers, thousands and thousands of people had deposited their money by selling their movable and immovable properties, to these unscrupulous non-banking institutions. Ultimately, the people have been cheated and now they have been ruined and became paupers. These long unscrupulous non-banking institutions are liable to be prosecuted under section 420 of the Indian Penal Code and various other sections of the IPC. These institutions have cheated thousands and thousands of poor people of our country. They have not got any relief, any redress from any authority. Ultimately, many of them have committed even suicide.

In this present Amendment Bill some provisions have been laid down for the safeguard, for the protection and for the relief of the poor and small depositors. Some provisions have also been laid down for the safeguard of the non-banking institutions also to ensure their viability. I have no time to discuss the various aspects of the Bill. But, I draw the attention of the House to the points raised by my hon. colleague Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, particularly, in respect of the relations. That is a matter of consideration. I hope our hon. Finance Minister will consider this aspect.

Lastly, I welcome the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Minister of State for Finance also to have brought forward this Bill. This Bill has been introduced at an appropriate time for the benefit, for the protection and for the safeguard of thousands and thousands of people of our country who have been cheated by this unscrupulous agency. The people are calling them Cheating Funds. Cheating is included within the purview of the Indian Penal Code. I thank the hon. Minister for introducing the Bill to protect the small and middle-class depositors from the hands of these unscrupulous and bad non-banking institutions.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have no two opinions about it that this Bill has been brought here with good intentions. Though the purpose of an ordinance is good yet sometimes an unpleasant atmosphere is created by such things. It is the duty of the ruling Government to pay due attention towards such things if it wants to run the affairs smoothly and take up developmental work. Through this ordinance, an inequitable atmosphere is created to do justice to a class. This ordinance has caused upheaval in trading circles of the country. It is better that this Bill has been brought here with some amendments. Just now Mehtaji was mentioning the name of a company. People of my area are also terrified of such financial companies.

I contacted Shri Dandavate and hon. Minister of Finance on this issue. It is really a fact that there are so many people, who have deposited their hard earned money and savings of their whole life with such companies. Now, situation is that at a later stage of their lives they do not have money for medicine even. Action should be taken against such companies. Mehtaji has not mentioned the name of that company but I met Shri Chidambaram to discuss the issue pertaining to this company. Some finance companies are non-banking and are engaged in banking business like the company mentioned by Shri Mehta. In my constituency people are so agitated that they are after the lives of the agents of this company whereas the main culprits are leading a luxurious life in Mumbai. This Bill seems to be

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

good but, its certain aspects need to be clarified, even after moving these amendments.

My city is a trading centre where a number of industrialists are working. Lending and borrowing money from each other is a common thing in trading areas, as one businessman needs 3 lakh to deposit for releasing goods sent through railway receipt and he has only Rs. 2 lakh with him and so he borrows Rs. one lakh for one month or 15 days from his neighbouring businessmen, under which category you will place him. As most of the businessmen run their business while borrowing money from each other. How this will be dealt?

People have apprehensions and doubts about this ordinance and it will be better if it is clarified. A manufacturer can borrow money to run his industry but when he gives the prepared goods to some agents for sale who needs money to set up business. The manufacturer lends some money to the agent which is recovered later on from the commission to be given to him. Under which category this borrowing of money will be counted because the industrialist also does not own the whole money. Such petty clauses should be clarified. The issue regarding hire-purchase and such other petty aspects are not explained clearly in these amendments. People of my area have telephoned me to clarify several such points therefore, I would like to say that there should be some clarity in it.

So far as the issue of relationship is concerned, I would like to say that now a days sentiments regarding family relations are diminishing and family is extended to mother-father and their children and in this way this situation will aggravate further. Now, I will not repeat that but attention should be paid towards this aspect also.

I would like to say one more point. There is no two opinion that motive for bringing the Bill is good but proper attention should be paid towards the situation and condition prevailing in the country for which this legislation is being made. Some members have criticised the present banking system and pointed out lacunae in it but I would like to say as to whether such legislation should not be enacted to improve the system.

Our banking system has not reached our villages, therefore, it is not in a position to help the poor villages. Leave the villages aside and go to the Cities, you will find that though Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) has been implemented but if you approach a bank to get the loan, to say, of Rs. one lakh, you will not get the full amount of your loan. A few thousand out of that amount has to go somewhere. I am not siding with the

money lenders in our villages but the bungling is everywhere.

You have referred to relatives that they receive deposits only from relatives but business flourishes on mutual trust. Ours is a different culture which has to be taken into account. Mutual trust is a must for running a business. A brother can deceive his brother but a friend can not deceive his friend. All these factors have to be taken into account. It seems that overall situation of the country, for which we are enacting this law, has not been taken into account. I do not think that we can liberate our poor villagers from the clutches of money lenders overnight by enacting this law in a hurry. It will take time, therefore, instead of enacting it in a hurry, we should send it to the select committee for a full fledged discussion thereon. That would be the proper way. Thank you.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many hon. members have expressed their views on this ordinance.

There is not much railway service available in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and other important Northern States like Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh and Haryana etc. Therefore, most of our goods are carried by road transport like buses and lorries. Much of our burden is on road transport. Most of the people, engaged with the transport business, purchase old vehicles and get them financed by the private financiers because banks do not lend them money. There are around 45,000 such private financing companies in these four or five states. I think lakhs of people have got employment in these companies. The people who are owning vehicles have drivers, cleaners and other personnel. There are nine crore such companies in the entire country. From this, you can gauge the amount of money of the depositors deposited with these companies. They are harping on this and running their business. Therefore we should not take any such steps which may ultimately harm to our common man.

I do agree that many frauds have come to light about these companies but we should not forget that there are several such companies whose performance has been outstanding. We have received no complaints in respect of those companies. Your proposed restrictions might create problems for them. These companies lend money to the people and run their business. Some people take loans from these companies to run their business and some take for hire-purchase and some for other purposes. Except for these companies, there is no other agency which can make the money available to these people. If any other alternative to this has been found out by our Finance Minister then it is O.K. otherwise these measures may affect the transaction of

lakhs and crores of people. I think implementation of these measures may trigger off resentment among the people in the whole country.

So far as regulation is concerned, we do agree with that. Impose restrictions on the fraudulent companies so that they do not misappropriate the money of the depositors. The measures proposed by you for such companies are good enough. We want and this House want that money of the poor depositors are not swallowed by these fraudulent companies. It is also true that the depositors earn interest on their deposits in these companies and the amount of their money is used for the progress of the country. Had there not been these companies this money would have been of no use for people. Therefore such companies should be allowed to function. But as far as fraudulent companies are concerned, you must impose your proposed restriction on them so that no more cases of fraud do take place in the future again. You have taken several measures and accepted the norms of Rs. 25 lakh. You have also accepted the time period of four years in place of two years and, I think, it has certainly improved their condition but it still requires some more improvement. Many people have got a job in these companies, people are earning interest on their deposits, therefore, these companies should be allowed to function but take action against the fraudulent companies so that such cases do not take place again in the future. It is praiseworthy that you have imposed certain restrictions on such companies. Further, I would like you to and as the hon'ble Members have demanded, you should expand the definition of relation. Name of their relatives for they have to run the company. If you impose excessive restrictions that will create a vacuum. Instead of this, we can resort to other measures so that work goes on smoothly. Give a little bit relaxation, if you can. I welcome the proposed restriction on fraudulent companies.

I would appeal you to ensure that these companies are not wind-up. Non functioning of all companies in the entire country will create a vacuum. Make such laws which do not affect the people who are working in these companies in the country and which ensure that these companies are not wind-up. I extend my support to such laws and whatever amendment you want, you can make therein. You should pay your attention towards them. With these words I conclude and support this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : How many more hon. Members are there to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is one more hon. Member to speak after him.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, In my view, this Bill has been brought in a hurried manner which will have far reaching consequences, therefore, the same should be forwarded to the standing committee so that its pros and cons can be discussed hairbreadth. I view that there are three or four lacunae in this Bill. I am a great fan of Shri Chidambaram ji. I am not going to change my views right now. Last time when he was the Finance Minister, he understood the economy of the country and increased the income tax slab under H.U.F. system very smartly for which I am thankful to him. He has done a great job. He understood the nerve of the Indian Economy.

17.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I am a member of this House since 1991. But in my knowledge, no other Minister ever made any effort to feel that nerve. Therefore I am congratulating him for this great job he did. I say again that I am a great fan of his functioning style. But at time he deviates from his path and it seems to me that, in this matter, he has again deviated. His deviation is that he is not encouraging the HUF system.

The HUF system is the oldest and the biggest system of this country. This system gave birth to operation flood in our country which was also based on this system. I will explain this system to you in a very plain rustic language but I do not know as to how the interpreters will explain it to Shri Chidambaram ji. Anyway, the rural women call it Korcha in villages i.e. women in villages used to sell their grains secretly to the Sabjiwalas or vendors by evading the sight of their husband and mother-in-law and in return they used to purchase some goods and also some money. Rating money in this way they brought milk revolution in the country. This is the story of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. This is not the water gate system. This is a very good system. That way, they used to save their small amounts. Likewise, during harvesting time, they also used to collect some corn ears which were carried back home unknowingly alongwith the grains. The women, after separating the grain from those corn ear, used to sell those grain. The head of the family never enquired about these corn ears.

Whatever gold we have today in our country was accumulated by women, not by men. The credit goes to women. Today gold is beyond the reach of common man. But still you can find some quantum of gold in old families-even in the poorest of the poor families among them. Today it is being politicised in the name of

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

Mangalsutra. The old Dadi Ma of an old family still have some amount of gold. I am dwelling on these points because I want to bring it to the knowledge of Shri Chidambaram ji. for, it seems, as if either his attention has been diverted towards somewhere else or he has not got 'its' knowledge at all. In villages, money is deposited with the money lenders and he pays interest thereon. That money becomes the source of his income. That money lender runs also several kind of business in the villages be — it a foodgrain business or textile business or any other rural business and meets the requirements of the people in the villages. Thus he saves a lot of money. It is everywhere in India which means a lot of money is saved in this way in India. But Chidambaram is not aware of such savings. Might be he does not have adequate knowledge of our villages which has derailed him.

My another point is in respect of service sector. I hope he must be having some knowledge about Kerala where money comes from foreign countries through Pass books. He must be familiar with some English speaking people in Kerala and they must have told him about this. But what about the rural Giribitiya labourers who carries concretes in CPWD in order to earn their livelihood? He also works like this and is known a weekly labourer. He gets his wages every week.

After that he either sends money to his wife through the person who is well known to him and living in the villages. Sometimes he feels that his money may be stolen. He wants to keep it secret and does not want to bring even to the knowledge of his family members. He deposits his money either with the moneylender of the village or with the brokers of the market who are also engaged in the moneylending business. Similarly, when even a small trader or a small farmer goes to the market to sell his product he thinks about his future requirements. He finds that there is no Post Office or Bank in the village and if there is any banks, bungling may take place therein. Therefore he goes to the money lender sitting in the market and deposits his money with him who fulfils this future requirements as per his need. The money lender will never say that he cannot get money as the time is over. That is the thing which I want to bring to your notice that whatever these small farmers save or earns as a result of selling their products, they deposits it with the brokers and thereafter whenever they need they take it from him. Not only so their requirements are fulfilled by this moneylender even when sufficient amount is not deposited in there name. Therefore this system proves a social umbrella. They are running a parallel economy in the country. Even today if we have a look on the term of money lending, we find that this system constitutes 45 percent part of

the whole economy of the country. The Government is trying to take over money lending though in each state the Money Lenders Act already exists. Chidambaramji you do something great. You are in the Union Government and you are Finance Minister of the Country. If you involve yourself in such petty things, it will creat confussion. Therefore, I want to say that if you have any problem with money lending and you are warned about it, I agree with you on this issue. Every state has enacted its Money Lenders Act and it has enforced and regulated it accordingly. Work goes smoothly but now you have put a check on lending. Whenever I require money, my neighbour will not lend me any money. I will be in trouble. Even the Banks will also not lend me any money. I therefore, request not to disturb this private financing system or customary system which is in vogue on a large scale. Simultaneously you should not interfere with the system of H.U.F. The banking system existing in the country does not fulfill the requirements. There are so many short comings in this system. I do not want to go into the details. You also know, how much this banking system is defective. I talked about service sector, problem of women, service people, operation flood and about the agricultural revolution. All these involve a part of small lending. Now I come to the issue relating to the traders and firms on which you want to put a check. But it is not justified. I, therefore, would like to say that you should exempt all these three items money lending, share brokage and hire purchase from your purview, if you do not exempt it from the purview of the Bill, social fabric will be disturbed. Today your attention goes to the higher people only. In fact, you are also a big person. But the common people living in the cities, take the example of Delhi itself, are facing a worst situation. What to think about the condition in other cities, the condition is all more worse there. There is lot of consumerism in the society by taking the goods on hire purchase basis. The trade on hire purchase basis is increasing rapidly, when a child watches an advertisement on T.V. he asks his father for the same. Father does not have money but he purchases the item on hire purchase basis and maintain his status in the middle class. It has become his necessity to maintain his status and he maintains it on the basis of new culture of consumerism.

Sir, with these words I would like to say that you should refer this subject to the Standing Committee for their suggestions. There is no hurry in it. It is a mini Parliament. Most of our friends express their feelings from the political point of view, I know it as I am just coming from Finance Committee meeting. Two members of the same party were speaking from their heart today. The chairman was surprised to hear two members of the same party talking in a different tone. I told him that

they are speaking from their heart here but when they enter the House their whip will speak. Therefore, I want to say that the Government should bring a Bill in this regard after having considered all the aspects so that the society is benefited in the long run and it is not detrimental to our economic interests and does not have an adverse impact on the economy. It should also serve the objective for which it is meant. With these words I conclude my speech.

**SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today a Bill has come forth on which members have different views. The Ordinance is related to the traders and small scale entrepreneurs. It is a fact that the right to promulgate an ordinance is given in the Constitution but it should be promulgated only when there is dire necessity. Promulgation of this ordinance created confusion among the traders and small scale entrepreneurs of the country. There was total bandh throughout Rajasthan for a day Jaipur observed total closure. There was no trade activities in U.P. There was same situation in Madhya Pradesh also. Today some relief has been given. There is a tradition in our country and as Shri Rawat rightly pointed out even today 45 percent of our economy depends on rural life.

Sir, just now some of our friends stated that some companies had indulged in irregularities, but that does not mean that we should change the whole economy. It is not possible. One of our friends from Kashmir has said somethin very good. I would like to draw your attention towards what he said. Your railway department has stopped small bookings. No small booking is being made by the Railways all over the country. The small load is being carried by the trucks and buses. The bank is not financing the trucks and buses which have become obsolete. When somebody goes to purchase them, there are these small companies who ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) :** Do you oppose it?...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA :** Yes, I am opposing it...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** No intervention please. Let him conclude. You please address the Chair.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA :** Secondly all the big companies are giving their products on hire purchase basis. Similarly Tata Company is giving money on hire

purchase basis. Bajaj scooters are available on hire purchase basis. The trade will come to closure due to this hire purchase system.

I would also like to submit as to what shall happen in case we feel any urgent need of money today? I am a businessman but I require money and I took Rs. 1 lakh from my friend for a period of 15-20 days, I think that this is not in any money lending transaction. Suppose he was having the deposit of somebody else but under this act he cannot give money to me. Now under such circumstances if he does not give me money, my bank drafts would not be realised, our consignments would not be released and thus there will be a breakdown in our business.

I want to say one thing more and it is an important point. The big traders appoint their retailer and finance them to set up their shops. They make a contract with their retailers that the amount of Rs. one lakh which they have given them as finance will be deducted from their commission. They cannot give this money in advance because if they do so it will come under money lending. Small farmers purchase their tractors and machines under hire purchase system and if you put a ban on it they shall not be able to carry on their work.

I want to say about seasonal business that the paddy business lasts for six months in a year and pulses business lasts only for four months in a year. Now the seasonal industries, small traders hoard these products and after six months they earn a lot of money. They give this money to other traders. Now this seasonal business will also be covered under Money Lending Act and as a result of that, these traders shall not able to carry on their business.

Under such circumstances I request you to put a check on those who are running fake business. But this Bill has been brought in such a haste that due to it all these small traders, small businessmen, who influence the economy will be adversely affected. I, therefore, request you that instead of taking such action in a haste, this Bill should be referred to the standing committee.

Even the minor points may be discussed there. Moneylanding Act which is in force in U.P. is also applicable in other states as well. All these acts may be reviewed and analysed. Following that, the Bill which will be brought will be a comprehensive and effective Bill in the interest of the commercial world as well as small industries.

I request that after due consideration the Bill may be referred to the Standing Committee and we may act in accordance with the concensus that may emerge thereafter.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is over now. They requested to allow Mr. Mishra to speak. The Chair said that he will be the last speaker. That is what the ruling was. After Mr. Rawat, they requested to allow one more speaker. That is all. I did not accept anything.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have a list of names. I was about to close the debate. It was at your instance that he was allowed to speak. I have got names of your people still.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not know. I am willing to remain here till 2.00 o'clock in the morning, as I did it today. The point is, the gentleman who was in the Chair said that after Mr. Rawat, there is one more speaker.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am talking of the list I have got.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Ram Naik said that Mr. Mishra may be given one minute. I said, if he is the last speaker, he may be given one minute. How does he become not the last speaker?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He had given only one name and you also gave only one name.

(Interruptions)

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Let it be debated ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If you want to stop this Bill, Mr. Lodha, we can debate it for the rest of the day. The point is, Mr. Ram Naik said, allow Mr. Mishra to speak for one more minute. Do not try to turn the table now... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : There should not be any misunderstanding.... (Interruptions) From my side, I thought he was the last speaker. So, I said he was the last speaker. I was not aware that... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : When Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev asked, the Chair announced that there was only one more speaker.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is the opinion of the House?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If this is to filibuster, let it be filibustered.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I can understand the anxiety of the Government to pass the Bill but I do not understand why the Finance Minister is objecting to a detailed discussion. Let there be a detailed discussion.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have to reply on the Budget also.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is again something which I cannot understand. The Finance Minister could have replied to the Budget discussion and we would have passed the Budget. What was the urgency that this Bill was taken up before passing the Budget ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): I submit that after the Bill is passed here it has to go to Rajya Sabha immediately because tomorrow is the last day of this phase of the Session and tomorrow is Friday. That is why we are in a hurry. That is the only reason for the urgency... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Chair said that there was one more speaker. I have no objection. Let them speak. It is quite obvious that Shri Lodha and a few others want to filibuster. Let them speak. I am willing to listen.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) am not going to speak on this subject and I withdraw my name.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : The hon. Finance Minister mentioned about filibustering. That is not the question. The question is that this is a very important Bill affecting the entire rural population of this country. Only when we delve deep into it, we can understand that it is there in every State. Why we people are agitated is, it is our rural economy which has been affected very badly by this. So, we wanted a detailed discussion. I would have been glad if the Finance Minister had sent it to the Standing Committee for a detailed discussion before it is brought back. Instead of that it is being hurried. I do not understand what is the urgency to have a promulgation of an Ordinance on this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We are not discussing it now.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Maybe the Finance Minister should be a little more tolerant. What is the urgency of the

promulgation of the Ordinance? That is not the position now. The Ordinance has already been promulgated and it is before us. So, instead of sending it to the Standing Committee if the Finance Minister is so insistent that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : This particular point was discussed here.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Yes, I do not want to discuss that now. My submission is, a slightly more detailed discussion is necessary. Is the Finance Minister adopting our suggestions. He can at least accept the suggestions coming out the discussion as official amendments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If one speaker is allowed, others will also have to be allowed. Otherwise, I will ask the Finance Minister to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : Yesterday we discussed it for two hours...*(Interruptions)* I accepted the amendments also.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jos has given his name. Besides I have three more names. I would suggest that nobody should speak on this subject and all names may be withdrawn.

*[English]*

SHRI A.C. JOS : My humble submission to the Finance Minister is - I do not know why he becomes so intolerant - we are not here to defeat the Bill. We are not filibustering. We are only saying that this affects the rural population in a very big way. It is a very good measure. I very patiently and carefully heard Shri Sanat Mehta's speech. It is all right that the upper crust of the society accepting deposits and cheating the depositors is there. No doubt about it. We need a discipline for deposit-making also. In that respect I congratulate the Minister for bringing some discipline into the financial aspect of accepting deposits.

But the point is that a poor man needs Rs. 300 or Rs. 500, not Rs. 5000 or Rs. 10,000. If one of my sons or relatives fall ill, I will have to rush to somebody to get Rs. 300 or Rs. 400. The rate of interest may be high. Immediately, I take my ring or for that matter anything to the pawnbroker to get the money. The only thing is that you are allowed to lend the money, but not others' money.

I agree with you. We need the expansion of the term 'relatives'. Here it is succinctly explained. I do not want to quote the Section. The degree of relation can be expanded so that more money, more people can be brought into the net. The amount of capital, that is, Rs. 20 lakh or Rs. 50 lakh, needed for starting the

company can also be reduced to the maximum. That is all we can submit in this regard. We have so many things to say.

India is a country where 80 per cent or 90 per cent of the population live in the rural areas. If you are in need of some money, banks have not become a habit till today. It will take some more years for the rural people to go to the banks. Banks also have got a lot of limitations and procedures. That is why, we are clamouring; that is why, we are asking that some more thinking is necessary in this matter and some more liberalisation is necessary in this matter. It is not because we are, in principle, against it. My submission is that the hon. Finance Minister may kindly note that we are not against disciplining it. We are not against bringing some discipline in the financial sector. A sudden embargo, a sudden deterrent on the economy of the rural India will create more problems.

It is a pity that in our State it is a habit. You cannot deny it. Our moneylending is disciplined and they are doing it very well...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : How many chit fund companies are thriving in Kerala?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Exceptions prove the rules, Shri Ramachandran.

I am not against it. Some more distinct laws will have to be considered in this matter.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I agree that this Bill is very important. It is going to have its impact on the rural economy. I am not passing adverse or positive comments on that. But 10-11 hon. members have already spoken and almost all points have been covered.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Do not make a speech, please ask the question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then, I will have to allow others also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He is only asking the question. You put the question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then, Prof. Kurien, you may also ask the question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Finance Minister has conceded that there is a need for an indigenous bank.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : What is your question?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am asking the question.

[Shri P.J. Kurien]

He has conceded that and he has also conceded the fact that the commercial banks are advanced to the extent of advancing money to the needy. That has been explained. How are you going to bridge this gap?...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly, there are some fraudulent companies in Tamil Nadu so also in other places. Because of that, should we stifle even the honest companies? I want a specific answer to this question...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask only one question.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is that there is no railway in J&K and nearly one lakh vehicles are operating in hire-purchase between Pathankot and Ladakh. In the event of passage of this Bill the whole industry will fail. What do you think about it? Secondly, agreed that the farmer is almost ruined and last year also his crop was totally lost. The Government did not provide only relief to him. By providing money or taking a loan, the sowing operations were undertaken and when the crop is ready, who will repay the loan!

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is not a question, Sir. He is making a speech...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : If this money lending is totally abolished what will the farmer do? Under such circumstances there is no alternative, no arrangement at all. Is there any alternative...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Things become clear when one question is asked at a time.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also have a question to ask.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have received nearly 10 telephone calls since morning. In addition to our constituency (area), there is panic in Akola, Amravati and Nagpur. Various reports are coming in the newspapers for the last 5-7 days e.g. some businessman purchases grains for 70 lakh rupees and gives 50 crates of food grains to the public.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have already explained this.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : A remour is going on there that money is taken on 'Hundi' and documents, and there is a total ban on it. He takes from the bank and the party as well.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Banwari Lal ji that point has been covered already. Now Finance Minister will speak.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already spoken. Please conclude.

[English]

Now, the hon. Finance Minister, please.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, he has already spoken...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding I am not listening to what the hon. Member is saying ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Bhargava, you have already spoken please conclude.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I would like to say that if there is lack of funds, and the other business man may be provided with the money which I have borrowed from somebody else, there should be no restriction on that money. Likewise, if I am a master (owner) and an agent sets up a showroom I provide him money on loan, and I tell him that I will deduct the money given to him for show-room from the commission which you earn from the sale of goods. In the same way, there should be some rebate in hire-purchase, because I have borrowed money from somebody else. Rs. 60 thousand crores are with the businessmen in the form of loans. How can it be realised? Bank will not pay without security and there is no bank facility in the villages.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am telling you that it has already been discussed.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : The number of relations should increase in it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your point is over, please be seated.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : My submission is that if there is any problem in what you have said, it should be removed. This Bill will bring down the Income-Tax and the Sales Tax. Therefore, this Bill may be returned. All my points should be replied for.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be seated, Yes. Mr. Minister.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have spent several hours in this House today as well as yesterday discussing with individual Members who have expressed apprehensions. I have met delegations and in fact, I met, if I remember right, Mr. Bhargava, Mr. Rawat and Mr. Mahajan's delegations and I explained it to them. The gentleman who spoke on behalf of the traders, I am glad that at least, he candidly admitted that he was speaking on behalf of the traders. I met his delegation also.

I am not criticising. I met his delegation and I have already explained. This unnecessary apprehension and I must say with some regret that part of the apprehension is created because we do not spend enough time reading either the Ordinances or the Bills and we do not spend enough time explaining it to the people. For example, the question which Mr. Purohit raised now, I have already answered that.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I was not here.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You were not here, that is the problem. I already answered when it was raised, when I moved the Bill.

Let me make it very clear, the Reserve Bank of India Act already has Chapter 3B and Chapter 3C. Chapter 3B of the Reserve Bank of India Act is titled 'Provisions relating to Non-banking Institutions, receiving deposits and Financial Institutions'.

In that Chapter, all that we are doing is, we are saying, 'NBFCs must follow prudential norms'.

18.00 hrs.

That means, you must have a certain capital, you must have certain reserves, you must file certain returns and you must follow the guidelines laid down by the Reserve Bank which are not as strict as for banks but somewhat stricter than what the guidelines are. Nobody can have any complaint about that. Chapter 3B is already there. It deals with non-banking financial institutions. All that we are doing is laying down capital adequacy norms. What we said was 'Rs. 50 lakh'. But in response to many suggestions, I have reduced it to Rs. 25 lakh. A company which is already in existence today with less than Rs. 25 lakh capital, we said, 'you must now rise to the new capital limit within three years'. Earlier, you must provide the new capital within three years, that is, Rs. 50 lakh. Now because I am reducing that to Rs. 25 lakh, you must bring the new capital within three years. But another three years is given at the discretion of the Reserve Bank. In fact, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee asked, 'why are we giving three plus three'? The answer is that it is already a company. It is already doing NBFC business. It has low capital. It has

to come up to the new capital within three years but if the Reserve Bank thinks that it is an exceptional case, it may consider giving it one year or one-and-half years or three years. The maximum is three years. Nobody can have any complaint about Chapter 3B.

None of you is really talking about Chapter 3B. But unfortunately, you are mixing Chapter 3B with Chapter 3C. Chapter 3B is a provision which has been there for long. It was inserted in 1963. We are only tightening the norms. Just as in banks, we had introduced basil norms, we are tightening the norms on provisioning reserves and capital adequacy. We are tightening the norms under Chapter 3B. Nobody can have any serious complaint. Let us put aside Chapter 3B. Virtually, the whole of the amending Act, except 45(SS), is taken care of. So, you cannot have any complaint about the amending Act.

Now, we come to Chapter 3C. Now Chapter 3C is titled 'Prohibition of acceptance of deposits by unincorporated bodies'. It has only got Sections 45R, 45S and 45T. It only has three sections. Some one said that this Chapter is unconstitutional. I am sorry to disappoint him. This Chapter was challenged in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of this Chapter. So, the Supreme Court has said that Parliament has the power to make the law dealing with acceptance of deposits by unincorporated bodies. Parliament has the power even to prohibit acceptance of deposits by unincorporated bodies. What is an unincorporated body? A company, a corporation, a cooperative society, a *nidhi*, and a Chit Fund are all incorporated bodies. All others are unincorporated bodies. Individual, partnership, association of individuals and even HUF are all unincorporated bodies. What is the distinction in law between an incorporated body and an unincorporated body? An incorporated body has a succession and it can sue and be sued. An unincorporated body cannot sue and be sued except by the names of the persons composing it. This is the well-known definition in law. It has been there for centuries. I am not creating such a definition. When we say in Chapter 3C we had three provisions. Now, what are the existing provisions?

Forget the amending Act. What are the existing provisions? Under 45S, we said, 'individual shall not accept more than 25 deposits'. Firm cannot accept more than 25 deposits per partner or 250 deposits in all. Other unincorporated bodies shall not accept more than 25 deposits as per individual and not more than 250 in all. This is already there.

But this has been completely ineffective. Why is it ineffective? We are three people sitting here. According to the law of permutations and combinations, three people can form six partnership. Simply, you have to

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

work it out. We can form six organizations. So what these people did was that they simply went on multiplying like rabbits. This partnership firms went on multiplying. Each firm can take 250. So if you have 10 partners, you took 250 deposits. All you need it to do was, form another partnership with the same 10 and add one more person you can take another 250. You add one more person, you can take another 250. This is how these companies mushroomed all over India. It was so in Kerala. It was so in Tamil Nadu. It was so in Andhra Pradesh. I am told it is so in U.P., Bihar and Punjab. This Chapter has been completely ineffective.

Many Committees have gone into it. The Reserve Bank of India has spent six months studying this matter. I have come before this House in response to several demands. Questions were asked and I said, 'the Reserve Bank is studying it and I will come here with the Bil.' What are we saying now? We are saying that individual firm and unincorporated body - please remember that this Chapter has been upheld by the Supreme Court - can take deposits, provided, it is not carrying on "six plus one seven" activities. I will read seven activities.

My friends, who are representing the Traders' Association, Ms. Mahajan, Shri Purohit will all be satisfied. These are the seven activities which are prohibited. If you are carrying on paddy business, steel business, cloth business or any business, you are not affected by this.

These are the seven activities which are prohibited. Let me read the seven activities. It is in Section 45 I sub-section (c) (i) :

"carries on as its business or part of its business any of the following activities, namely :-

- (i) the financing, whether by way of making loans or advances or otherwise, of any activity other than its own;

Now, this is called a loan company. It is well-known in the market. These are loan companies which take money and give loans. That is their business. You cannot carry on such a business.

- (ii) the acquisition of shares, stock, bonds, debentures or securities issued by a Government or local authority or other marketable securities.

You cannot carry on the business dealing with stock, bonds, debentures using depositors money. You are not concerned about that. It is very good. The two have been passed.

This is where I think some Member has got a grievance from Kashmir.

- (iii) letting or delivering of any goods to a hirer under a hire-purchase agreement as defined in clause (c) of section 2 of the Hire-Purchase Act.

Yes, the result of this is an individual firm or an unincorporated body cannot carry on higher purchase business. If he wants to carry on higher purchase business, he must convert himself into a company or a corporation or a cooperative society or a Nidhi or a Chit Fund. I agree. But this is deliberately introduced because higher purchase business is nothing but money lending in kind. You take money instead of lending money and you give on higher purchase business. Kindly go through the Hire Purchase Act. There is a built in interest with the power of repossession. It the same as moneylending except what you give in return is not money but kind.

- (iv) "the carrying on of any class of insurance business".

I hope, nobody is worried about that.

- (v) "managing, conducting or supervising, as foreman, agent or in any other capacity, of chits or kuries".

You are not concerned about chit business.

- (vi) "collecting, for any purpose or under any scheme or arrangement by whatever name called, monies in lumpsum or otherwise; by way of subscriptions or by awarding prizes or gifts."

This is a prize scheme. You are not concerned about that.

So, out of these six activities, nobody is concerned about five. As far as one item is concerned, one Member is concerned about higher purchase.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : All are concerned.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : All of you are concerned about higher purchase...*(Interruptions)* B.J.P. should call itself Higher Purchase Party (HPP). Please do not take me too seriously...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : We may be Higher Purchase Party and you are a non-performing assets Party!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Shri Lodha, allow this much of levity at ten minutes past 6 o'clock. Out of

these six items, you are concerned about Higher Purchase. Now, what is the seventh one which is prohibited. Nobody can have any complaint about the seventh one. The seventh one is pure and simple money-lending. The seventh one which is prohibited :

“has as its principal business the receiving of deposits and lending.”

That is pure and simple lending. So out of “six plus one, seven” business, there is some doubt about the correctness including higher purchase...*(Interruptions)* First is a loan company. The business is loaning. Then, virtually you are a bank.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Sir, loaning is also known as money-lending.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is not covered. As I said, it is a loan company where you take money only for the purpose of loaning activities. Now, “six plus one”, you are concerned about higher purchase. You are concerned about money lending.

Let me make it very clear that I am not going to compromise on money-lending. I might as well withdraw this Bill and go home. I am not here to protect money-lenders who take deposits of strangers. I have made it clear that I am not controlling the lending part of money-lending. Lending part can go on merrily. They can lend against gold, they can lend against house, they can lend against anything. All I am saying is, you lend your money or you lend your 22 relatives' money or you lend money which you take from commercial banks or cooperative societies, but do not lend strangers' money. You cannot take a third party's money and lend. That I am prohibiting for an individual or a firm. You can lend your own money and 22 relatives' money. Shall I read the 22 relatives?

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : You have deceived power from congress and you are lending it to others.

*[English]*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, they are lending the power to Shrimati Mayawati now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All these things are not covered in the Act.

SHRI A.C. JOS : A lot of things are happening which are not covered in BJP's programme. That is why I mentioned it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Are these covered under higher-purchase system?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You know better.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Kindly bear with me. Let us not emasculate the purpose of this amendment. This amendment either has to have substance or it can be robbed of its substance. I am afraid, I cannot be a Minister moving a Bill which is robbed of its substance. The substance of this Bill is enlarging Section 45S which has already been upheld by the Supreme Court to take care of the loophole in Section 45S which has not done any good at all. We are now making it very clear that you cannot take deposits of third parties in order to carry on 6+1, that is, seven activities.

Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee raised a number of technical points. I do not know whether I should answer him now or I can answer him separately...*(Interruptions)*. I have got the answers for all the points. I am grateful to him that he often finds out points which escape my attention. Last time he caught me on a printing mistake, this time I am very worried that he was raised three substantial issues. Rather I made a mistake. But I have answers. To be very short, 'A' amount includes 'B1+B2' - you understand what I am saying. Secondly, 21 days is the time that the RBI may extend for him but it does not condone a violation of the earlier statutory requirement. Thirdly, about auditor, yes, an audit can be ordered by the RBI if it thinks that a special audit is necessary. I have got it in writing from the RBI gentleman sitting here. But I shall give him a detailed written answer which will satisfy him. I am not saying that this will be the last word on the subject. I am quite willing to concede.

I know enough about indigenous banking. I know that in this country, there is a traditional banking. In fact, in this country, until some time ago, a mere entry in a ledger was considered an acknowledgment of debt. It did not require a promissory note, it did not require any document. But those were salad days. Today, with a promissory note, with a mortgage deed or with anything else, I will say, I did not take the money. These are the days we are in today and, therefore, laws have to be stricter. Please do not live in an age which is gone-by. We are living in an age where there are rapacious people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The entries in dairies are even now taken as an evidence.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is also argued that entries in dairies are not evidence. Therefore, you can argue both ways. That is not the point. The point is, today we are living in a rapacious age. People are competing for money. People can go to any unscrupulous extent to defraud people. Shri Sanat Mehta was here. He made a passionate and moving appeal, giving concrete cases. Even after that if hearts do not melt, what can I do? Therefore, my humble appeal

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

is that this Chapter has been upheld by the Supreme Court. The prohibition of unincorporated bodies receiving deposits has been upheld by the Supreme Court. I am only expanding the existing Section 45S which has proved to be totally ineffective, by making it tighter. Seven activities cannot be carried on; any other activity can be carried on. You can deposit for your cloth business, for your steel business, for your paddy business...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : You have not taken any action against companies like Lakshmidhand Baggaji. What are you doing about that? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You gave me the letter only yesterday. He promised to write me tomorrow. Therefore, Madam, let me look into it.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : No, the same thing Shri Sanat Mehta was also saying.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You at least gave me the letter. He promised to write me tomorrow and I said, I will look into it.

Therefore, I am pleading with all of you that while we can have sympathy for people who are engaged in traditional business - and some of them may be good people, some of them may be completely honest - but in the larger interests of depositors and the larger interests of society I would must humbly urge you to accept my official amendments. I have conceded the capital of Rs. 25 lakh as against Rs. 50 lakh. I have conceded two years' period into three years. I have conceded Shri Banatwalla's amendment which he will move. Therefore, I believe, he is not speaking. I conceded that. Therefore, I have conceded these amendments.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What about the relations?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : On relations, I will tell you. Unfortunately, I cannot accept this. Every other Act has got the same list of 22 relatives. It is there in the Companies Act and many other Acts. If I make this change only in one list, it will look very odd because other Acts have only these 22 names. I have lifted it from the Companies Act. When I come with a new Companies Act and we finally decide the relatives' list, we can see it. But at the moment please allow me to simply copy the list from the Companies Act because it will otherwise be odd that the Companies Act has got one list of 22 relatives and this Act has got another set of relatives. We can always look at it.

So, please allow me to pass this law. I am grateful for the observations you have made. I will ask the Reserve Bank of India to be vigilant.

There is one other point which I want to mention to my friends. Do not assume that everybody is going to be prosecuted overnight. The power of prosecution is vested under Section 58(B) read with Section 58(E) only upon the Reserve Bank of India and upon the State Government. No other person has got the power of making a complaint. Either the Reserve Bank of India can make a complaint or your State Government can make a complaint. If your State Government is satisfied that nobody is violating the law, they need not prosecute. It is not as though anybody can go and prosecute anyone.

I would must humbly request you to kindly pass this Bill. I am very grateful to everybody.

Thank you.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Shri Chidambaram, I would like to have one clarification.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir it may be the one and the last point.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : You have said in your speech that individuals and partnership firms cannot be sued. This is a new jurisprudence which I learnt from you. Individuals can be sued in their name.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You should have been more attentive.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Partnership firms can be sued in their names. Thousands of suits are pending against individuals and partnership firms. If this is the backdrop of all the laws that have been made by you, I think, you better collect yourself. There is no bar for filing a suit against an individual or a partnership firm. Why are you falling on that - on the individuals and partnership firms and leaving all the companies aside? I would like to know pointedly from you on this point because this is a well-known thing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have understood. You need not elaborate. The individual, as I said, has to be sued as an individual. He is not a legal entity otherwise than an individual. A partnership firm, if it is a registered partnership firm, can sue and then be sued in its registered name. All other partnerships, Mr. Lodha, can only sue and be sued in the names of all the partners as individuals. Therefore, only a registered partnership can be sued...*(Interruptions)* In this country there are millions and millions of partnerships and bulk of them are not registered.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The bulk of them are registered. Otherwise they cannot be sued.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No. The bulk of them are not registered...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have tremendous respect for the Finance Minister, but as far as non-banking finance companies are concerned, they have also embezzled a remarkable amount of money of many of their depositors and have looted money on the lines of lotteries. Myself or any other Member have no objection to regulate it, instead I would suggest that the money of the depositor should be safe as the hon. Minister has said in clause 45(1) (c) about creating a reserve fund of 20% profit, and the reserve fund may be created in advance. In stead of 20 percent profit, a reserve fund may be created on the estimated profit of atleast two years.

Through you and on behalf of the House, I would request the hon. Minister, it is a misgiving that a friend can not borrow money from a friend nor can a neighbour borrow money from a neighbour. So far its review in concerned, I would like to urge that it may be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance so that it is reviewed and the doubts are clarified.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Amar Pal Singh to vote.

The question is :

"That this House disapproves of the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 2 of 1997) promulgated by the President on January 9, 1997."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

### Clause 2

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are amendments to Clause 2 to be moved by Shri Ramesh Chennithala and Prof. P.J. Kurien. Shri Ramesh Chennithala, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, are you moving your amendment?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

### Clause 3

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is an amendment to clause 3 to be moved by Shri P. Upendra. Shri Upendra - Not present.

*Amendments made :*

Page 2, line 28, -

*for "fifty" substitute "twenty-five" (9)*

Page 3, line 5, -

*for "fifty" substitute "twenty-five" (10)*

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 4 to 8 stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4 to 8 were added to the Bill.*

### Clause 9

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are amendments to Clause 9 to be moved by Shri P. Upendra, Shri G.M. Banatwalla and Justice Guman Mal Lodha.

Shri P. Upendra - Not present.

Shri Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, with your permission, I want to move my amendment no. 4 after deleting the word "partnership" from the text of my amendment.

I beg to move :

"Page 10, line 48, -

*add at the end -*

*"or to the receipt of money by a firm by way of loan from the relative or relatives of any of the partners." (4)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I accept his amendment, that is, an individual can take money from his relatives. Similarly, in a partnership firm, the partners

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

can take money from their relatives. That is what his amendment is and I am accepting his amendment.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put amendment no.4 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to vote.

The question is :

"Page 10, line 48,-

*add* at the end-

"or to the receipt of money by a firm by way of loan from the relative or relatives of any of the partners." (4)

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Lodha, are you moving your amendmnts?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 10, line 44,-

*after* "specified in" *insert-*

"sub-clauses (iv), (v) and (vi) of" (5)

Page 10,-

*Omit* lines 45 and 46. (6)

Page 11, line 22,-

*add* at the end-

"23. Fahter's brother, 24. Mother's brother,  
25. Father's sister, 26. Wife's brother,  
27. Mother's sister, 28. Wife's sister." (7)

Sir, my amendments are regarding the inclusion of father's brother, mother's brother, fathers' sister, mother's sister, wife's brother and wife's sister. These relations are in the category of th erelatives which have been mentioned. There are 22 relatives and I have added six more to them.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, normally I would accept this amendment. In fact, for example, when Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee asked as to why we cannot include the step-father also when we have the step-mother, I would accept this in principle. But the point is, if I do it in piece-meal in this Act alone, it will be inconsistent with similar tables in other Acts. The Companies Act has got only 22 relatives and I have taken the same 22 relatives. Let us have a new Companies Act and then we will do it.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : They can also be amended.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : But I have to amend a number of Acts. So, today let us confine ourselves to

the 22 relatives and then when we take a broader view of the table in the Companies Act, we can then bring it in other Acts.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He agrees with the spirit of your amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Amendments Nos. 5, 6 and 7 moved by Justice Guman Mal Lodha to Clause 9 to vote.

The amendments No. 5,6 and 7 were put and negatived.

*Amendments made :*

Page 11, line 3,-

*for* "two" *substitute* "three" (11)

Page 11,-

*after* line 4, *insert -*

"Provided that if the Bank is satisfied on an application made by any person to the Bank that such person is unable to repay a part of the deposits for reasons beyond his control or such repayment shall cause extreme hardship to him, it may, by an order in writing, extend such period by a period not exceeding one year subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order." (12)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 10 to 13 stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 10 to 13 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had demanded three things. The demands included that this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee. The Government did not accept that demand. All this system which the Finance Minister is going to involve would be an assault on hire-purchase agreement. Therefore, we oppose this Bill on this ground and walk out of the House in protest.

18.28 hrs.

Thereafter Shri Ram Naik and some hon. Members left the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

18.29 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET — 1997-98  
\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT  
(GENERAL) — 1997-98  
\*SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(GENERAL) — 1996-97  
AND  
\*DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS  
(GENERAL) — 1994-95

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, the General Budget discussion has covered a very vast ground and I am deeply grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this debate...*(Interruptions)*. I am particularly grateful to Shri Vajpayee, the Leader of the Opposition who has kindly sent me an English translation of his speech in Hindi. I think this is a very kind gesture on his part.

I am also grateful to him for setting the tone of the debate - mild, friendly and reading from a well - crafted script rather than speaking from his heart. The reason is, I believe, that it was not in his heart to oppose this Budget. The compulsions of remaining in that seat require him to speak against the Budget, which, as Member after Member has conceded, has received general acceptance among the people of India.

Yes, there are some apprehensions, there are some concerns and there are some questions. It will be my endeavour during the course of my reply today, which

\* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

I shall try and keep it as brief as possible, to deal with these concerns.

Firstly, I want to put aside matters relating to taxation and I will tell you why. I have received post-Budget representations ranging from umbrellas to C.R. Coils, from polyurethane to foam rubber and also aluminium to which Shri Mahajan referred. A number of representations have been received. I will be failing in my duty, if I do not give my best consideration to these representations. I think, this recess which Parliament has invented is a good opportunity for me to calmly and carefully examine each one of these representations, and by the time I come here with the Finance Bill, I will be ready to accept some of the representations and to explain why I am unable to accept some of the representations. I invite the hon. Members to continue to meet me, if they feel so, during this recess period and convince me that some taxation proposals must be altered. Therefore, I will not take the time today to deal with the specific taxation proposals, particularly relating to excise duty and customs duty. There is another opportunity and I will deal with that at that time.

Let me, Sir, deal with the Budget, the economic philosophy behind the Budget and what this Government intended to do in presenting such a Budget. Firstly, I would implore the hon. Members to look at our agenda. The highest item on our agenda was, in the last five years and remains, the control of the fiscal deficit. It is true that some economists have scoffed at this concern for fiscal deficit. In fact, some of them have called it an obsessive concern for the fiscal deficit. I would most humbly submit that it would not only be bad economics but it would also be bad politics. Nothing is more important to this country, its economic agenda, than the control of the fiscal deficit. It is the fiscal deficit which has caused us tremendous economic difficulties on a wide range of matters. Why is this so?

A high fiscal deficit means the Government borrows very heavily. When Government borrows, it crowds out other borrowers from the market; interest rates remain high and investment in low. A high fiscal deficit means that there is a high degree of monetisation. It is now widely accepted that the single most important reason for inflation is a high degree of monetisation. The expansion of reserve money leading to expansion of broad money is the single most important reason for high inflation. Inflation is a cruelest form of taxation. Inflation taxes the rich man and the poor man alike. If there is inflation of ten per cent, a man earning an income of one lakh rupees a month or twelve lakh rupees a year loses ten per cent of his twelve lakh rupees.

A man earning Rs. 1,000 a month, or Rs. 12,000 a year also loses ten per cent on his Rs. 12,000. Therefore, by any measure, by any standard, it is the control of the

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fiscal deficit which must remain high on our Agenda. Fiscal deficit control is also the key to macro economic stability. When Dr. Manmohan Singh took charge, the fiscal deficit was 8.3 per cent. In a matter of five years, he compressed it to 5.5 per cent which by any standard is a remarkable achievement. But then controlling fiscal deficit beyond 5.5 per cent, I submit, is even more difficult. It is like climbing a mountain. In you ask any mountaineer who climbs the Everest 29,027 ft., climbing the first 20,000 ft. is reasonably easy. Then 20,000 ft to 25,000 ft becomes more difficult and 25,000 ft to 28,000 ft is even more difficult and most people give up when they reach 28,000 ft. The last thousand feet is a difficult one. What we are doing now is, we are carrying on from where the previous Government left and we are trying to compress fiscal deficit, and the treasury benches and the CMP have declared that it is a high goal to bring fiscal deficit to below four per cent. This year, although a number of commentators said that I would not keep to my fiscal deficit targets, I am happy we have been able to stick to our fiscal deficit target of five per cent.

Some questioned about revenues. Let me tell you what I presented in the Budget as a revised estimate for 1996-97 are being achieved. In fact, if you look at personal income-tax, the revised estimate is Rs. 1,000 crore more than the Budget estimate. Yesterday when I reviewed it with the Central Board of Direct Taxes, I was told to my pleasant surprise that the actuals as on 31st March may exceed even the revised estimates by a small number. Therefore, notwithstanding concern expressed in some quarters, we have been able to keep fiscal deficit to five per cent of the target. I think this is something which will please everybody and for next year I set for myself an equally ambitious target of controlling fiscal deficit by 4.5 per cent and believe me, whoever occupies the Chair of the Finance Minister ought to keep the control of fiscal deficit high on his agenda and by the turn of this century, we must bring it down to three per cent. That is the only way we can bring about macro-economic stability.

The control of fiscal deficit is necessary to ensure that enough investible funds are available for productive investment on the growth of economy, for interest rates to remain at moderate range, for RBI financing or monetisation of the fiscal deficit to be kept to prudent limits so that monetary growth and inflationary pressures are contained and that the growth in interest rates arising from additional net borrowing to be kept in check.

I, therefore, intend to continue on the path of fiscal correction and I seek the support of all sections of this House in my efforts to control the fiscal deficit.

Some questions are raised on monetary policy and monetisation. The Budget at a glance gives a figure of Rs. 16,000 crore as monetisation. Immediately some people jump to the conclusion that monetisation in 1997-98 will be Rs. 16,000 crore. No. Far from it. Monetised deficit is being introduced for the first time as a measure. Earlier it was Budget deficit. But it is quite irrelevant. The Budget deficit really did not reflect a net RBI credit to the Government. There is a net RBI credit to the Government which is the extent of monetisation or in colloquial language, the extent of printed money. That should not be high. If that is high, there will be inflation. The Rs. 16,000 crore figure that we have given, is not a net RBI credit to the Government at the end of the year, it is only an indicator of the extent of RBI support to the Government's borrowing programme.

Every year, the Government borrows. A part of the borrowing devolves upon the RBI. The RBI also does open market operations. At the end of the year, the monetisation figure is made available. In 1990-91, the year of crisis, the monetisation was Rs. 14746 crore. Subsequently, it was corrected. In 1991-92, it was Rs. 5506 crore. In 1992-93, it was Rs. 4257 crore. In 1993-94, it was only Rs. 260 crore. In 1994-95, it went up to Rs. 2130 crore and in 1995-96, the last year of the previous Government, unfortunately, it went up to Rs. 19,855 crore. But partly it did not fuel inflation because the other component of reserve money, namely, the foreign exchange reserves, were run down by \$ 3 billion. I am not going into the economics of running down the reserves and increasing monetisation. It is not necessary for our purposes, at this moment. But the point is the Rs.16,000 crore that I have indicated is not the net RBI financing. It is the maximum that the RBI will do to support the Government borrowing programme.

You may ask me what happened in 1996-97. In 1996-97, as of the last figures that I have got from the RBI, the net RBI credit to Government is negative because most of our borrowing programme has been successful and our borrowing programme has been funded by the market itself. A few days ago, it was negative. But on 31st March it might run to a few hundred or may be a thousand crores of rupees. I do not know. So, the Rs. 16,000 crore should not be taken as a figure of monetisation. But it is the extent of support at the end of the year. With monetisation plus the open market operations, we will know the figure. But I am confident that we will keep it down to a figure where inflation will not go high.

Now, how do we contain inflation? As I said, the single most important indicator is M-3. You may have read it in the newspapers. After I met the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Board of Directors of the

Reserve Bank, the Reserve Bank and the Government are of one mind that we will contain M-3 to below 16 per cent. We will ensure that the M-3 does not cross 16 per cent because that is the only way to contain inflation. The second aspect is that we will ensure that the supply side is taken care of. Last year, for a variety of factors - I do not blame anyone - wheat production was less by 3.1 million tonnes. Wheat procurement was less by 4.1 million tonnes. Therefore, wheat prices came under pressure. We have to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat and some more wheat is on the pipeline. Therefore, we will manage the supply side better this year. We have taken advance action on wheat procurement. I want to take this opportunity to appeal to the farmers of Punjab that they must stand by the rest of India. India has stood by Punjab in its hour of trial. India has always upheld the integrity of Punjab because we believe that the people of Punjab wanted the integrity of Punjab to be maintained. We have stood by Punjab in its hours of trial. We have helped Punjab with financial support. Rs. 800 crore of loans have been written off for Punjab. Elections have been held in Punjab. We have helped support a democratic Government in Punjab. Now, it is the turn of the Punjab farmers to stand by the rest of India in supporting the Targeted Public Distribution System. Wheat procurement and paddy procurement is mainly for the Targeted Public Distribution System. I have no doubt in my mind that the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Chief Minister of Haryana as also the farmers of Punjab and Haryana will rise to the occasion and give their surplus production to the FCI and the other procurement agencies so that the Targeted Public Distribution System is successfully managed. But I must also say that if for some reasons wheat procurement falls short of our requirements for the TPDS, we will not hesitate to import wheat. I said so in my Budget statement. We will have to import some quantity of wheat in order to have the TPDS going.

So far as managing money supply and the supply side is concerned, we are confident that we will keep inflation within limits. There is some romantic idea that inflation can be controlled to two per cent and three per cent. Economists of every shade will tell us that that is not possible in a developing and growing country.

What is the record of inflation? Average inflation in 1990-91 was 10.3 per cent. In 1991-92, it was 13.6 per cent. In 1992-93, it was 10.0 per cent. In 1993-94, it was 8.3 per cent. In 1994-95, it was 10.9 per cent. So in the 90s, in the first five years, the average inflation has been ten per cent. It was in 1995-96 that the average inflation came down to 7.8 per cent largely because the money supply was controlled to 13.2 per cent. This year, the average inflation at the end of the year is likely to be 6.8 per cent. Point to point, the

inflation will be eight per cent, but the average inflation in 1996-97 has been 6.8 per cent or so. In a developing country, some inflation is unavoidable. What we must aim at is to break inflationary expectations.

Can someone switch off that mike? Thank you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : It seems, you have a very sensitive ear.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is bad that you hear what I speak but it is worst that I hear what I speak.

Therefore, what we must break is long-term inflationary expectations. I am convinced in my mind that if we contain M3 growth below 16 per cent for two or two three years, the running inflation will be controlled. But we must break long-term inflationary expectations. Inflation is fuelled not so much by inflation itself but really by inflationary expectations. Dr. Manmohan Singh used to say, if everyone in this country talked that the price of edible oil was going up or the price of paddy was going up and each one stored five kilograms of edible oil or five kilograms of paddy, then the price will indeed go up. That is inflationary expectation and we must break that. I want to tell the people of India through this august House that we will manage the supply side. There is no reason to believe that any commodity will be in short supply - be it wheat, be it edible oil or be it sugar. We will ensure that supply side is taken care of. There is no reason for inflationary expectations. We must break these inflationary expectations. By managing the supply side, we will do so. People will have adequate supplies of commodities in the market. There is no reason for people to believe that inflation will get out of control.

So the next point I wish to address is that there is some criticism about pro-rich and pro-poor, that this Budget is pro-rich, it is not pro-poor. The sharpest word which my friend Shri George Fernandes used for me, if I got the translation right, was, it was *Maya Jaal*. I think, the fire that was there in his belly twenty years ago has dimmed now. I am glad about that. There is no *Maya Jaal*. What is pro-rich and pro-poor? In my speech, I have said why our people are poor. People are poor because they do not have land; they do not have water; they do not have education; they do not have opportunities. Nobody wants to be poor. Nobody wants to be poor despite opportunities and despite properties. They are poor because they do not have land. They do not have water. It means, they depend on rain-fed farming. They do not have education. That means there is no skill or cannot translate their skills into productive work. Above all, there is no opportunity. The only way, I think, poverty can be abolished in this country, as opposed to poverty being alleviated, is to give them

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productive jobs or the instruments of production or the tools of production. We are doing all that. I say this with utmost humility that anti-poverty programme is only alleviating poverty. For the time being, we are bringing some relief to the poorest of the poor. Poverty will not be abolished by poverty alleviation measures. Poverty will be abolished only if there is growth. Now what did Lakadawala formula say? There is some debate on that. I am not going behind the formula. The formula says that poverty in this country was declined to about 36 per cent or 37 per cent. What was it? It was 54 per cent. How did this 54 per cent poverty decline to 36 per cent in a growing population? It was 54 per cent for a smaller population. Today it is 36 per cent on a larger population. In absolute numbers, the number of people who are poor may be the same but in terms of proportion, there is a sharp decline. The decline is not as fast as we would like it to be. But there is a decline. This decline, I most humbly submit, will come about only through growth. It will not come through subsidy; it will not come through anti-poverty programmes and it will not come through poverty alleviation programmes. Relief can be given and must be given, and we have given. I am going to read the list of relief we have given. But it will only come through growth.

So, when you describe a Budget as pro-poor or pro-rich, I am afraid you are falling into your own verbal traps. A Budget is either pro-people or anti-people. I believe that the Budget of this Government is pro-people because it provides for growth. It aims to sustain 7 per cent growth. It aims to attain 8 per cent growth and it sets for itself an ambition that by the end of this century, we must have, at least, 8 per cent growth in this country.

Therefore, please do not describe this Budget as pro-rich and pro-poor. Is it pro-growth? Is it likely to stimulate growth? Is it likely to stimulate investment? Is it likely to stimulate the higher GDP growth? The trickle-down may be faster or sooner - I am not saying it will be very fast. For agricultural labour, obviously, the trickle-down is much slower but for some other sections the trickle-down is faster. But, only, growth will bring it about. How did this 54 per cent become 38 per cent? In the first 30 years - I have got the figures, the *Economic Survey* has got it, and those who have the *Economic Survey*, if not here, when you go back home, kindly look at page S-10 of it. It gives you growth figures from 1951-52. For the first 30 years, this country's GDP grew only by 3.5 per cent. In the first 30 years, the average growth of GDP in this country was 3.5 per cent. In fact, there have been bad years. For example, 1971-72 and 1972-73 were very bad years with 1.0 per cent and minus 0.3 per cent growth of the GDP respectively.

Let us take the years which Shri George Fernandes was taking. According to the *Economic Policy*, during 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80, the GDP was 7.5 per cent, 5.5 per cent and then minus 5.2 per cent respectively. Let us take some other years. The average growth in the first 30 years was 3.5 per cent. It is only in the 1980s, you will find that the average growth rose to about 5.5 per cent. But for the first time in India's history, in the last two years and in the current year, the average growth has touched 7 per cent. That I think, is a remarkable achievement. We must be proud of that achievement. Just imagine, if this country had grown at 7 per cent in the first 30 years, rather than 3.5 per cent in the last three years, if it had grown at 7 per cent in the first three decades, this 36 per cent poverty ratio would have come down to 15 per cent or 12 per cent. Growth is the single determinant of abolition of poverty or retention of poverty.

When I quote Deng Xiaping, it is not in order to score a point or impress anyone. Mr. Deng said, "Development is the hard truth." We must also believe in that. Development is the hard truth. It is development, it is growth which will bring long-term benefits to our people. I am, therefore, asking you, most humbly, to look at my Budget, to look at this Budget of this Prime Minister and this Government. Is it pro-growth or is it anti-growth? I submit most humbly, it is pro-growth.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : This is all jugglery.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If it is pro-growth, I submit, it is pro-people.

Sir, some concern is expressed about the shortfall in Plan Outlay. I am not defending the shortfall in Plan Outlay. There has been a shortfall in Plan Outlay. The shortfall has been quite significant this year. But it is not the first year that there has been a shortfall in Plan Outlay. Plan Outlay is made up of two components - one is budgetary support and the other is IEBR, Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources. Year after year, there has been a shortfall in Plan Outlay. Take, for example, 1991-92. The shortfall in Plan Outlay was Rs. 2,797 crore. Take 1995-96, the last year of the previous Government. The shortfall in Plan Outlay was Rs. 4,255 crore. I am not defending the shortfall. But why did the shortfall occur? Budgetary support was fully given. In the IEBR, there was a shortfall of Rs. 6,959 crore. I have got a list of Ministries which contributed mostly to the fall in the IEBR.

For example, in some Ministries the IEBR shortfall was as much as Rs. 1800 crore to Rs. 2200 crore. This

is not a satisfactory state of affairs. If a Ministry wants a large plan like States want a large plan, if Ministries promise an IEER like States promise an additional resource mobilisation, when additional resource mobilisation falls, the State Plan naturally declines in size. Similarly, when IEER falls, the Ministry's Plan shrinks in size. When several Ministries' Plan shrink in size, the total Plan shrinks. We are not happy. But there are extenuating circumstances. The extenuating circumstance is, this Government assumed office only on the 1st of June. This Government presented its Budget only on 22nd July. It was passed only on the 13th of September. By the time we could implement our Annual Plan, six months were over. This cannot be an excuse to the next year.

I have the Prime Minister's permission to announce to this House that next year I will come before this House once every quarter to report the IEER performance of each Ministry, so that each Ministry can be held accountable as to why their IEER is not doing well, why they are not spending what is budgeted for them. You can hold the Ministry accountable, so that by the end of the year we will avoid these slippages in the Plan.

What happened on the Budget side? On a reading of the document it will appear that we saved Rs. 2609 crore on the Central Plan's budgetary support. But I did not take credit for it. I did not immediately take it in my saving. I did not reduce my fiscal deficit by saving Rs. 2609 crore. This is the difference between a single-party Government and a coalition Government. I am not claiming any brownie points for that. If tomorrow another coalition Government comes, it will have to do the same thing. What did we do? When we saved Rs. 2609 crore, I immediately gave an additional Rs. 2500 crore to the States. I did not take credit for it any say I would not spend it on the Plan. On the Plan side itself, taking credit for the savings in the Government of India, I gave Rs. 2500 crore additional amount to the States which is what I mentioned in my speeches on the Plan. If I robbed Peter, the Central Government, I paid it to Paul, the State Governments. The total Plan outlay, the total Plan expenditure and the budgetary support for Plan therefore went up by Rs. 209 crore. I gave some to Kashmir - Rs. 653 crore. I gave some to Defence also. The total went up by Rs. 209 crore. So, we have not saved on Plan. We have spent Rs. 209 crore more on Plan and next year I promise you, with the support of all my colleagues, we will try to achieve the Plan as much as possible. We must try to achieve at least 99 per cent of the Plan outlay. Once I come to the House every quarter with the progress report on both budgetary support and on IEER, you will have an opportunity to ask the Ministers concerned and the Ministry concerned

if there is any slippage and to egg them to make up for the slippage in the rest of the year.

On social sector, there has been some criticism that we are not spending enough on social side. This is far from true. I have with me a list of provisions on the Budget for pro-poor. When I say pro-poor, I mean projects which are directly going to bring relief to the people or long term growth prospects enhanced by these allocations. For fertilizer the subsidy is Rs. 7190 crore. Is it pro-poor or not? I have got a letter from the Fertilizer Association and the Fertilizer Manufacturers. The IFFCO's Chairman has written to me a letter where he says :

"Dear

What you have done in the Budget will provide not only relief to the common man, but will also go a long way in improving the lot of the farming community. We if IFFCO, as a premier cooperative society in the country in the fertilizer industry, are all the more happy that the Budget weighs in favour of balanced fertilization which is a foremost requirement of the country for increasing the production of foodgrains and now the fertilizer industry will be able to serve the farming community in a better manner as it will result in more offtake of fertilizers.

19.00 hrs.

The Rs. 7,190 crore that we have provided in a balanced way for both phosphatic and potassic fertilizers is going to help the poor of India and not hurt the poor of India.

We have also provided for rural family welfare services, Rs. 460 crore; for maternal and child health, Rs. 450 crore; for nutritional support to the midday meal scheme, Rs. 960 crore; and on food and sugar subsidies, we have provided Rs. 7,500 crore. This is, I am afraid, an open-ended subsidy. The economists may criticise an open-ended subsidy but I cannot look at the problems of India purely from an economist's point of view. I do not think, you want a pure economist's point of view to come into Budget-making. We have to look at it politically; we have to look at it as administrators and we have to look into it with economic thinking.

After all, we are political persons, we have to look at it politically. In the political approach, we have to bring in good administration and management. Before we bring in good administration and management, we must have a sound economic input. It is thus that we have decided on a targeted PDS; and the subsidy that

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I have provided today is Rs. 7500 crore. As States switch over to a dual card system, I am quite aware that the subsidy may rise but we have taken a conscious decision. The United Front Government has taken a conscious decision that the Targeted PDS must succeed. We must give to the people below the poverty line food grains at about half the price. Therefore, whatever is required, the Budget will provide for it. I am committed to providing more for food and civil supplies.

I do not wish to read this whole list. On rural employment, the provision is Rs. 6,805 crore. For that Ministry itself, the provision is close to Rs. 9,000 crore. Now, let us look at some broad figures which will give you a broad picture. On social services, in 1996-97, we spent Rs. 13,885 crore; for the next year, we have planned to spend Rs. 17,183 crore. That is the highest ever. If you add the provision for rural development also, on which we are spending Rs. 4,924 crore in the current year and would be spending Rs. 5,805 crore next year, the sum total on social services and rural development this year would be Rs. 18,809 crore and for the next year, it would be Rs. 22,988 crore. How much more can a Budget provide? This is a very large amount. The key is not in the amount, but the key is in the quality of spending, the efficiency of spending. If States do not spend properly, if projects are not monitored properly, you might provide another Rs. 10,000 crore but it would not have any impact.

In terms of percentages, I just want to read one figure. The expenditure on social services sector, as a percentage of total expenditure - now, look at this - in 1995-96, on the Plan side, was 19.57 per cent; in 1996-97, on the revised estimates, it was 19.10 per cent; in 1997-98, on the Plan side, it would be 21.83 per cent. If you look at Plan and non-Plan expenditure together, in 1995-96, it was 6.95 per cent; in 1996-97, it was 6.86 per cent; but in 1997-98, it would be 7.39 per cent. Therefore, there is no argument that we have not provided enough money to social service as a proportion of total expenditure. The provision that has been made for 1997-98 is the highest provision. Now, the ball is in the court of the Ministries, the ball is in the court of the State Governments. They will have to spend wisely; we will have to monitor their expenditure wisely.

The hon. Prime Minister is here. Complaints have come to me that MPs are not being invited to the DRDA meetings and to other meetings. I do not know about it, but I am being invited in my constituency, in my district...*(Interruptions)*

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : That is because you are the Minister of Finance.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : But if this is true, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : The complaint is not only that we are not invited to the DRDA meetings. There are a number of schemes like the Indira Awas Yojana which were initiated by the Centre.

We have no participation in many of the Centrally sponsored schemes. Members of Parliament or their representatives can attend the DRDA meetings. But we do not have any voice in other schemes for which the money is given by the Central Government and implemented by the State Government. The Members of Parliament are not taken into confidence. There, you have to do something...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have heard you loud and clear. The Prime Minister has heard you loud and clear. There is a problem and it will be attended to. My colleague, Shri Kinjarappu Yerrannaidu, is not here. But I will certainly pass this on to him. We will ensure that Members of Parliament are fully involved in all these schemes in the selection of beneficiaries, monitoring etc. and we will take care of that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I am the Chairman of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development. Today we held a meeting. Forty-two Members attended the meeting. We would like to only appeal - we are not complaining - to you about one shortcoming in the Employment Assurance Scheme. The Scheme covers the whole country. Under this Scheme each block is getting Rs. 40 lakh and if they perform well, they get another Rs. 40 lakh. For some block Rs. 20 lakh is given and if they perform well another Rs. 20 lakh is given. But who are identifying the schemes? It is not done either by the *panchayat* presidents or by the councillors. But it is done by the District Magistrates and the BDOs. Why the hell are we there? We do not want the District Magistrates and others to identify the schemes. We should be given the authority to recommend at least fifty per cent of the schemes to be taken up. Otherwise, we are not in a position to do anything. Mr. Finance Minister, please give us something before you go home...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No running commentary please.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : In West Bengal, all the Members of Parliament are members of the DRDA and Planning Committees, Block Level Planning Committees and District Level Planning Committees. Members of Parliament are involved in our State...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There would be no end to it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : This is the question of involving Members of Parliament in the selection process of all the development schemes. But what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says is entirely different. Who said that Members of Parliament are not being invited for the DRDA meeting? We are being invited but we do not have any say there. We want some say there.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I do not know what is the experience of Members of Parliament belonging to Bihar. I cannot say about Bihar. But I can say about West Bengal...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is not the question of Bihar alone...  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him conclude.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We are not being involved in the selection process...  
(Interruptions) The Centre is pumping funds to the States. But we are not being involved in the selection process. We are just monitoring and doing nothing...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am not yielding...  
(Interruptions) It is obvious that the experience is different from State to State. Let us get that clear...  
(Interruptions) I am not yielding. It is apparent that the experience is different from State to State...  
(Interruptions) It is apparent that the pattern is different from State to State. It is also clear that in most of the States they are being invited, but in some of the States they are not being invited. Even if they are invited, they do not have the sense of participation and they do not have the sense of sharing in this...  
(Interruptions) I am fully alive to the problem. The Prime Minister is here. He is listening to what you are saying. We will look into it and we will try to lay down better guidelines where Members of Parliament will have a more important and determinant role in the matter...  
(Interruptions)

...  
(Interruptions) I will have to complete it now, please...  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please have patience.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I said, "...an important and a determinant role."

There were some questions about revenues. I do not see why there should be any doubt about revenues. As I said, revenues are on target. What we have projected is a very modest projection.

Yes, I have cut taxes. I am coming to 'cutting of taxes' now. Revenues have been projected at about 15 to 16 per cent. I have the figures of revenue increases.

In corporate tax, the projections are 15 per cent growth; income tax - 15.16 per cent; customs - 19.06 per cent; excise - 13 per cent; with the total of these four major taxes, the projection is only 15.3 per cent. But if the GDP grows by a nominal rate of 15 per cent, we should get these revenues. The buoyancy of change in GDP to change in tax rates used to be about one or even less than one. It is now 1.5 in the case of personal income tax and corporate tax. I do not feel any apprehension that we will not be able to collect the revenues that we have projected.

There is another way of looking at it. If people will look at Part A of my speech, in paragraph 80, I have said, "Without making any tax changes, gross tax revenues will be so much, after providing the State share of taxes, the Centre's net tax revenue will be Rs. 113,094 crore." If you look at the Budget Estimate, I have provided to the Centre, Rs. 113,394 crore. It is only Rs. 300 crore more. So, what will happen? If I did not make any tax changes, if I did not touch income tax or corporation tax or excise duty or customs duty, I would have collected Rs. 113,094 crore. By making these changes, I hope to collect the same amount. In the first case, I would have been a good accountant; I might have earned the name for being a good accountant. But that is not the function of a Finance Minister. I must do tax changes which will stimulate growth of investment. What I have done is this. I will justify and defend my tax cuts on the ground that while I will collect the same revenue, what I have done is, to stimulate savings, to stimulate investment which will lead to higher growth.

Now it has been argued, why did I cut tax rates? Yes, I have cut tax rates. Maybe, there can be no complaint about cutting excise duties. In fact, the complaint was about adding a few more commodities into that; I am looking into it. But there can be no complaint about cutting excise duties. Cutting excise duties is good; it will give lesser prices to the consumer in the long run, stimulating demand.

Now, cutting excise duties can be argued and we have argued it on several occasions. I believe that India has started to come at least to Asian levels, by the year 2000 AD. I have said so publicly. The CMP says that the tariffs in India must be brought down to world levels in a gradual and in a calibrated manner. All that we are doing is to bring it in a calibrated manner. We have got Dr. Chellaiah's report. The trade weighted average of customs duties in this country last year was about 28 per cent. This year, by the cuts that are made in the customs duties, the trade weighted average may come down by about one per cent or so. It is still much higher than the Asian levels. I believe that customs

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duties must be brought down gradually and in a calibrated manner.

If I have erred in one or two commodities, I have an open mind and I am willing to look into it. But there is no gain saying the fact that in the long run, the customs duties have to come down, first to Asian levels by the year 2000 AD and to world levels by the year 2004 AD. That is the only way, the Indian industry will be competitive. I will give you one example.

People are saying that our capital goods industry will be wiped out, if we cut customs duties. In fact, the previous Government cut customs duties on capital goods industry very rapidly in the first two or three years. Now, what has happened? As a result of that, the capital goods industry is growing at an average of 16 per cent a year, for the last three years. It has become very efficient and it has become more competitive. That is the experience of all Asian countries and I believe if we continue to do it in a calibrated and in a gradual manner, we will only add to the competitive strength of our industry; and our industry will not be wiped out.

Now, I will come to personal income tax and corporation tax. Shri Sharad Yadav said it eloquently in Hindi. I hope I can match his eloquence in English at least partially. Who are our savers in this country? Who saves in this country? Does the Government save? The Government of India turned a dissaver in the year 1980-81. Until then, we were a saver. The Government of India is a net dissaver since 1981. Who saves in this country? The household saves in this country and 17 per cent of our savings come from households.

Six per cent of our savings comes from the private sector. Three per cent of our savings comes from the public sector and the Government poses as a notorious dissaver. That is why, our savings have been at 25 per cent or 26 per cent. Therefore, I said many months ago that my next Budget will reward savers and punish the spenders. I told it in a meeting of the CBDT. Have I not done both? It will reward the savers and punish the spenders. I have done both. If the household sector is the best saver, I believe, the best way to reward them is to cut personal income tax. Member after Member of every political party has welcomed it. Some Members have criticised it. It is quite obvious that both views are there in every party—the BJP, the Congress and some among the Left Parties. In fact, from where did I get this ten per cent threshold rate? I got it from Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee who told me that the threshold rate could be cut to ten per cent or even below. So, the ten per threshold rate is not something normal which I

invented. There is a consensus that the threshold rate must be ten per cent. If the threshold rate is ten per cent, the maximum rate cannot be more than 30 per cent. Therefore, I have cut it to 30 per cent. Corporations are good savers. Therefore, I have cut it to 35 per cent. Now people have asked, "What have you done? You have cut so sharply that today you are better than most countries in the world and most countries in the world do not have such a sharp personal income tax or corporate tax rate." I am afraid that they are completely wrong. You are looking at only the rates. You must look at the level at which the rate applies.

Today in India, the ten per cent rate applies to about a thousand dollars, that is, Rs. 40,000. The 30 per cent rate applies at Rs. 150,000 which is about 4000 dollars. Now, look at the position of other countries. In China, the ten per cent rate applies at 2880 dollars. The 30 per cent rate applies at 86,760 dollars. So, now those who tell me that the 30 per cent rate should not be applied to 4000 dollars should also write a letter to China to say that 30 per cent rate should not apply to 86,760 dollars. The point is that the rate must be equated to the level at which you are taxing.

China's distribution of income is no different with the distribution income in India. Let us look at Thailand. The ten per cent rate applies at 20,000 dollars. The 30 per cent rate applies at 160,000 dollars. Let us look at Malaysia. There is no ten per cent rate. There is seven per cent rate which applies at 7940 dollars and the 30 per cent rate applies at 60,000 dollars. Shall we look at Indonesia which is as densely populated as ours? The ten per cent rate applies at 11,280 dollars and the 30 per cent rate applies at 22,550 dollars. If a country is poor with lower incomes, the case is stronger for applying a lower rate at lower incomes. Therefore, I am absolutely convinced in my mind that what I have done is correct. The ten per cent threshold rate at Rs. 40,000 and the 30 per cent maximum rate at Rs. 1,50,000 is the best reward that we can give to the best saving sector in India. People will save. What will they do with what they save? You are absolutely right. They will either invest or spend. I am not denying that. Nobody is going to put his money in a pillow case any more. That must have been 40 or 50 years ago. He will either spend or invest somewhere. If you spend, according to me, it will stimulate demand. If you invest, it will add to the productive capital of India. So, in any way, in a modern society, saving is good. Who will save? Only those who have income will save, that is, the productive classes will save. We must reward them, Sir. Therefore, I believe what we have done in terms of personal income tax and corporate tax is correct thing to do.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Dr. Manmohan Singh is not convinced.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Dr. Manmohan Singh is convinced. I have got that interview with me. Kindly read that interview. He says that reduction in tax rate is right. It was done too rapidly. Firstly he says that it should have been done last year and then he says that it was too rapidly. A comment has been made but I do not want to comment. At the personal level, I was and I remain an unabashed admirer of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Therefore, I am not going to criticise him. Even if you provoke me, I am not going to criticise him.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I think there is some rivalry...(interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No, There is nothing at all. I am an admirer of Dr. Manmohan Singh. I will remain an admirer of Dr. Manmohan Singh. When I was a Minister, when I was not a Minister for two-and-a-half years and when I remain a Minister, I remain his admirer.

Sir, I admire a number of people in this country and my admiration anyway is not going to be lessened by that. I am a great admirer of late Indira Gandhi; I am a great admirer of late Rajiv Gandhi. Merely because I am in the TMC, should I forget Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi? I am a great admirer of Shri Vajpayee. Merely because we are sitting in the Ruling Party and he is in the Opposition, should I cease admiring Shri Vajpayee?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please have some admiration for Shri Nitish Kumar also.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am an admirer of you also!

Therefore, Sir, I believe what we have done on the tax side is correct and the rewards of that would be seen in the next 2-3 years.

Sir, my friend Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi-he is not here, he has excused himself from here-raised something about self-reliance. I want to take just two to three minutes on self-reliance. We can argue this. What is self-reliance? Who in this world is self-reliant? The Congress manifesto has a chapter on "Greater Self-reliance" Let me read that...(Interruptions) You accepted it. You published it and you went to the elections on this manifesto. So, you cannot disown it anymore.

SHRI RUPCHANDPAL (Hooghly) : Do you own that document here?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We would not challenge because we are happy that we have sent a good man to the United Front Government. We are happy and you do your good job. Come back when we call you at the appropriate time.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, this is what the Congress manifesto says and I quote :

"True self-reliance is measured by the capacity of the countries to save more and invest more. The potential of the economy to create more jobs and generate more incomes. The capacity of industry and agriculture to absorb more investment and better technology. The capacity of the country to pay for the import of capital goods and raw materials. The capacity of the Government to pay for the import of essential articles like fertilizer, edible oil and petroleum products to meet the needs of the people. The capacity of the Government to repay the national debt and to pay the interest charges. The poor countries of the world are not self-reliant. It is the affluent countries which are self-reliant. Our goal is to make India affluent; our goal is to make India truly self-reliant".

So, self-reliance does not stem from poverty, self-reliance stems from strength. Today if we have the capacity to say that the India Development Bonds are being redeemed, 2.2 billion dollars would have to be paid out. I stood up in this House and said about six months ago that we have the capacity to repay every single dollar of the 2.2 billion dollars. What happened? As a result of that statement, as a result of our rising foreign exchange reserves, out of 2.2 billion dollars, only 900 billion dollars actually was repaid and 1.2 billion dollars was reinvested in this country. So, people who paid for these bonds five years ago have reinvested in this country today. So, 2.2 billion dollars did not go out of this country. We have this capacity today to stand up and say that I can import wheat; I can import edible oils; I can import anything that I require. I can pay for my Defence; I can buy SUKHOY aeroplanes; I can buy a particular equipment which our Defence requires; I can spend so much money on space research. How do I say that? I say that only when I become strong, my reserves are strong, when my economy is strong. A seven per cent growth rate and aiming at an eight per cent growth rate and sustaining that growth rate over a period of three to four years would make us more self-reliant and not less self-reliant. Self-sufficiency is different from self-reliance. The people have given up the concept of self-sufficiency everywhere in the world. There is no reason for us to cling to this old shibboleth of self-sufficiency and import substitution when the rest of the world has given it up. We must become self-reliant and self-reliant means the capacity to be able to deal with the world on its terms. I believe, this

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Government, in the year that we have managed and in the years ahead, would make this country more self-reliant and not less self-reliant.

Sir, finally, there were some issues on amnesty. It has been attacked as ethical and unethical and a variety of criticisms have been levelled against the amnesty scheme, particularly, by my good friend Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee...

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You have already answered that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He said that I was creating a situation for generation of more and more blackmoney. I am afraid, I do not agree with that approach at all.

I am afraid, I do not agree with that approach at all. I want to explain to you what this Amnesty Scheme is. There are two very important statements on amnesty by two very important political forces of this country. The first is, the speech made by Shri Jyoti Basu in the National Development Council. I have great respect for Shri Jyoti Basu. I want to quote exactly what he said.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Why do you want to expose him?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No, I am not. I have great respect for Shri Jyoti Basu. What did Shri Jyoti Basu say? Let us understand what he said. In Paragraph 5.51 he described the growth of blackmoney and said :

"If, therefore, even a part of this blackmoney can be unearthed then not only our dependence on external loan will fall but domestic resources will also be mobilised for important infrastructure development or for basic needs".

The words which I have copied into my Budget speech are, "Part of the blackmoney to be unearthed". And, what is the method? In Paragraph 5.2, Shri Jyoti Basu said,

"for unearthing blackmoney it may be possible to innovate a scheme of bonds with reasonable rate of return which can be floated by IDBI or similar institutions with Government guarantee and security against any inquiry into source of income. The States can also get the share of resource mobilisation"

Shri Jyoti Basu's scheme was, take the entire blackmoney in bonds and issue a bond for the face value. If I came with Rs. 1 lakh, I get a bond worth Rs. 1 lakh at a particular rate of interest. Interest, of course, will be charged. But the point to be noted is,

there is no tax. In Shri Jyoti Basu's scheme there is no tax at all. If Rs. 1 lakh is given, a bond worth Rs. 1 lakh is given. There is no tax at all.

Now, there is another important political force in this country which also spoke about the blackmoney and that, of course, are our distinguished friends sitting in the BJP. What did they say about the blackmoney? The BJP manifesto says, "We believe that taxation alone cannot be the base for revenue. So, non-tax revenues are important". They go on to talk about domestic savings. After that they come to a sub-chapter on blackmoney and corruption and this is what they say :

"Starting from Jan Sangh days, the BJP has been raging a relentless battle against the twin evils of corruption and blackmoney. We are committed to rooting out corruption as also the malignancy of blackmoney."

This is the key sentence.

"We will encourage capital creation through funds from such a parallel economy retaining the right of Government to tax the revenue flows from such created capital".

Same is what Shri Jyoti Basu had said, that is the capital will not be taxed. Create the capital, but retain the right of tax on any revenue out of that capital. So, in your scheme also blackmoney will be taxed at zero per cent and in Shri Jyoti Basu's scheme also blackmoney will be taxed at zero per cent. In your scheme the revenues will be taxed and in Shri Jyoti Basu's scheme the interest on the bonds will be taxed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There seems to be an alliance of mind.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : What have I done? I have taxed blackmoney at 30 per cent and you are criticising me for taxing blackmoney at 30 per cent. I am sorry, this is not fair. This is not good politics. This is not good economics. I am taxing blackmoney at 30 per cent. You can ask me why do I tax at 30 per cent? Why do I not tax at 40 per cent? My answer is evident. It is our experience that if you have a marginal rate of taxation for blackmoney higher than the marginal rate of taxation for whitemoney nobody surrenders. We have gone into great length. The cost of managing blackmoney today is estimated to be between 15 per cent and 25 per cent. When I make the marginal rate of taxation at 30 per cent, I am now giving an opportunity to everyone to come clean. You come clean with 30 per cent and then no question should be asked. Please remember, I have only announced the terminal date of

the scheme. I have not yet announced the starting date of the scheme. I have not even announced the scheme. I have only announced my intention to announce the scheme. I will announce the scheme but the scheme will end on 31st of December. In the meanwhile, Chapter 14(b) of the Income Tax Act, which this House passed day before yesterday and the Rajya Sabha passed yesterday, will receive the assent of the President. Therefore, let me make an appeal. I believe that there is a point of taxation at which an honest man will become dishonest. I have got this whole list of taxation details. In the year 1971-72, Members will be happy to know or unhappy to know, the marginal rate of taxation was 85 per cent, plus a 10 per cent or 15 per cent surcharge. With the 15 per cent surcharge, the marginal rate of taxation became 97.5 per cent. With wealth tax, it became 102 per cent. Who will have the incentive to pay any money? Why would there not be incentive to take money under the table? We have progressively brought it down. Successive Governments have brought it down. I believe, there is a point at which an honest man will not become dishonest. I also believe, there is a point at which the dishonest man can be motivated. I am not saying I can convince everybody but they can be motivated to become honest. And, I believe that point, I think that point, is 30 per cent. Give me a chance. Let me try. I have not taken any credit for revenues. Dr. Manmohan Singh tried a scheme. Earlier, Shri Venkataraman tried a scheme. Earlier, way back in the 50s or 60s, Shri Mahavir Tyagi tried a scheme. Let me try a scheme. I am not taking any credit for revenues. Whatever revenues come, 77.5 per cent is going to go to the States. Whatever I get, I am going to put it in basic minimum service for infrastructure. If I get nothing, I will come before you and say, "I have got nothing. Now I have no option but to use Chapter 14D more effectively." But let us give the scheme a fair chance. I am confident, a number of people will say, "All right, at 30 per cent it is not worth the while to do blackmoney. Let us be free from fear of this low Income Tax Officer. Let us walk like proud citizens of this country. Let us pay our tax and let us clear it up." It is quite possible to happen. Let me try. Give me a chance. Let me try.

Finally, I want to say that there are gaps in this Budget. I am not denying that. We have done so much on infrastructure; we have done on the new exploration policy - my colleague Shri Baalu made a detailed statement yesterday; we have done on power. I only want to read this. This is not a mutual admiration society, I did not ask for this letter but my dear friend Shri Venugopala Chari, very helpfully, wrote me a letter on the power sector where he has captured the essence of what we have done on the power sector. He notes

that "Import duty on coal has been reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. This will help our thermal projects. Excise Duty on fluorescent bulbs has been reduced from 15 per cent to 13 per cent providing for energy-saving devices. Power has been included in Clauses 23F and 23G of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act." Then he goes on to list a number of things.

This is not enough. In the previous Plan which comes to an end on 31st March, the Government wanted to add 30,000 megawatts of power. The Approach Paper had a higher figure but final Plan said '30,000' megawatts'. We achieved only about 14,000 megawatts. I am a little unhappy that we are not taking the situation seriously and that generation and transmission is not being taken seriously. If there is one area where we should keep aside all ideological considerations and allow pragmatism to prevail, it is power. If power does not take off, nothing will take off - agriculture will not take off, industry will not take off, services will not take off, nothing will take off.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is what Lenin had said.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, Lenin said, "The two Es, education and electricity, are the two eyes."

Unfortunately, we did not pay enough attention to education, we did not pay enough attention to electricity and we raise all kinds of ideological barriers to what we need to do in power. Take for example transmission. How can we find the money for transmission unless we invite the private sector? Cogentrix plant has been approved. PPA is to be signed. But where is the evacuation capacity? I am not getting into the details. We will have another debate on that. But I want to say, with the Prime Minister present here, that this Budget has a gap. There are some gaps. There are some gaps on power, there are some gaps in infrastructure. I am not denying that. But I am not done. I still have time. I will, with the blessings and support of the Prime Minister and in consultation with my colleague the Power Minister, come forward to the extent possible with a good programme on power generation, particularly, on public investment in power. The India Infrastructure Report categorically states that in some areas public investment must lead the way, in some areas private investment must lead the way. Our experience of the last five years in the power sector has been, we allowed private investment to lead the way. We did not succeed too much. Public investment must lead the way. If the Prime Minister, as I am sure he will, continues to give me his blessings and support, we will find a way in which a substantial public investment in power will be made during the next year and I will come before this House

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with a cogent, coherent programme of investment in power.

19.35 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

There are one or two concerns. One concern is about the public sector. My colleague, the Minister of Industries is here. He will make a detailed statement on the public sector. We have promised it in the Budget. I do not know when he is going to make the Statement. But sometime in this Session, I have no doubt, he will make a statement.

AN HON. MEMBER : White paper!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He will make a statement. White or what statement he would make. He will make a statement...(*Interruptions*)

All I want to say is the revivable public sector units will be revived. Last year, we have revived seven units. I have listed it in my Budget Speech. Why do we not take credit for that? The United-Front sometimes does not take credit for what it does. Seven units of public sector were revived last year. You can say, only seven. I can say, seven. It is the way of looking at it ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Out of how many proposals?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : How many proposals came to us, how many revivable proposals came to us. I shall say, this tumbler is half full, you can say this tumbler is half empty...(*Interruptions*) If a revivable public sector proposal that has come to us, I have not seen the Cabinet turn down any revivable public sector proposal. If a proposal comes to us, we will do it. Let the workers be assured. We have done a lot for the workers this year. We had increased their contractual savings; we have raised their gratuity to Rs. 2.50 lakh; we have cut income-tax which benefits the workers. Go and ask your union workers, is he happy or not with cutting income-tax?; is he happy or not with raising gratuity?; is he happy or not with contractual savings?...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, they are happy. The revivable public sector units will be revived.

I only want to complete by saying that we are committed to federalism. And I think, the most important thing that I have done in this Budget is with the support of all the Chief Ministers. We have agreed that 29 per cent of all revenues will be devolved upon the States. I think that is a major breakthrough. If we can get a Constitutional amendment through this year that will be a feather in our cap, a feather in the cap of this Parliament. And I am confident with the support of

everybody, we will be able to push back the Constitutional amendment through.

Number of other issues were raised. The issue about MRP which Shri George Fernandes raised; naming programmes after Indiraji, Nehruji and all. I do not think we should answer all that. The programmes have been named from time to time. The only programme that we have named is Kasturba *Shiksha* Yojana. Is anybody opposing the *Shiksha* Yojana for ladies being named after Kasturba Gandhi? I do not see why it is. She is not a politician in that sense. She is clearly one of the most venerated women of India. We have named it in order to make it alleviate, to inspire young girls to join the programme in areas of rural literacy. I think, we have rightly named it after Kasturba Gandhi.

And Ganga *Kalyan* Yojana. What is wrong with Ganga *Kalyan* Yojana, tell me? Ganga is not after any political leader. Ganga has blessed this land; fertilized this land; and has blessed this people over the centuries. What is wrong in naming a water project after Ganga *Kalyan*. I think what we have done is perfectly correct.

In other matters, I will respond individually to Members. But, I have great belief, great faith that this country will grow...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : On handloom, khadi ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg your pardon...(*Interruptions*) Those will come into when I deal with the Finance Bill...(*Interruptions*) I will deal with it later, not today. I have already taken an hour ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS : What about employment generation ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There are other opportunities where I will respond.

I want to end with this move...(*Interruptions*) No, please don't raise it. It is not the right time.

I firmly believe that this country can grow. This country can prosper. What is holding back this country is, of course, infrastructure constraint, which is constraining one or two per cent growth. Otherwise, we should aim at nine per cent. We will invest in infrastructure. What is also holding back this country is lack of faith in ourselves. We must look upon ourselves the way the Indonesians look upon themselves, the Chinese look upon themselves. They will look upon themselves with great degree of confidence. Where in the world do you have human resources of this quality? Where in the world that you have a land and water and

sun shine blessed country? We can grow. Countries which are smaller than India, which were poorer than India have outdistanced India. Twenty years ago, Shri George Fernandes was a Minister and I, as one who had just started my practice in law admired his scarlet pimpernel act. But that was a generation which believed in an ideology and I do not blame them. We were geared in that ideology.

Times have changed today. Today the only reason that matters is pragmatism. The only hard truth is development. We must become pragmatic, development-oriented and we must do all that is possible to attain high growth. High growth will lead us to prosperity in the long run. I am confident about my country. I am confident that within my lifetime, within the lifetime of most people here, we will abolish poverty, the abject poverty, as we have known it for 5,000 years. We may not become a rich country like Switzerland or Japan or we may not have that kind of income but the abject poverty, the kind of poverty that sends the children to dustbins, the kind of poverty which sends our women before dawn and after dusk to answer calls of nature,

that kind of poverty will be abolished if we grow at eight per cent or nine per cent. I am confident that this Budget has laid a foundation for that kind of growth and I ask you to support it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1997-98 to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, *on account*, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1998 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 26, 28, 29, 31 to 60, 62 to 92, 94, 95 and 97 to 102."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1997-98 submitted  
to the vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demands	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
<b>Ministry of Agriculture</b>			
1.	Agriculture	490,80,00,000	3,26,00,000
2.	Other Services of Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation	46,95,00,000	39,18,00,000
3.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	99,88,00,000	—
4.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	43,06,00,000	31,00,000
<b>Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>			
5.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	38,32,00,000	6,76,00,000
6.	Department of Fertilizers	1848,82,00,000	107,64,00,000
<b>Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism</b>			
7.	Department of Civil Aviation	43,08,00,000	6,86,00,000
8.	Department of Tourism	17,96,00,000	3,31,00,000
<b>Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution</b>			
9.	Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	— 13,05,00,000	— 8,00,000

1	2	3
<b>Ministry of Coal</b>		
10. Ministry of Coal	28,46,00,000	54,14,00,000
<b>Ministry of Commerce</b>		
11. Department of Commerce	133,71,00,000	17,83,00,000
12. Department of Supply	6,28,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Communications</b>		
13. Department of Posts	523,11,00,000	12,39,00,000
14. Department of Telecommunication	2504,82,00,000	1831,50,00,000
<b>Ministry of Defence</b>		
15. Ministry of Defence	397,09,00,000	4,13,00,000
16. Defence Pensions	619,10,00,000	—
17. Defence Services-Army	3250,69,00,000	—
18. Defence Services-Navy	483,09,00,000	—
19. Defence Services-Air Force	829,72,00,000	—
20. Defence Ordnance Factories	620,37,00,000	—
21. Capital Outlay on Defence Services	—	1673,44,00,000
<b>Ministry of Environment and Forests</b>		
22. Ministry of Environment and Forests	92,13,00,000	1,21,00,000
<b>Ministry of External Affairs</b>		
23. Ministry of External Affairs	234,23,00,000	30,00,00,000
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>		
24. Department of Economic Affairs	696,25,00,000	20,89,00,000
25. Currency, Coinage and Stamps	130,21,00,000	94,22,00,000
26. Payments to Financial Institutions	93,41,00,000	694,43,00,000
28. Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	1830,51,00,000	170,83,00,000
29. Loans to Government Servants, etc.	—	49,78,00,000
31. Department of Expenditure	786,38,00,000	—
32. Pensions.	257,79,00,000	—
33. Audit	85,12,00,000	58,00,000
34. Department of Revenue	31,01,00,000	21,00,000
35. Direct Taxes	84,50,00,000	21,00,00,000
36. Indirect Taxes	132,68,00,000	44,20,00,000
37. Department of Company Affairs	3,00,00,000	1,00,000
<b>Ministry of Food</b>		
38. Ministry of Food	1288,93,00,000	18,71,00,000
<b>Ministry of Food Processing Industries</b>		
39. Ministry of Food Processing Industries	8,12,00,000	2,95,00,000

1	2	3	
<b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>			
40.	Department of Health	239,43,00,000	84,07,00,000
41.	Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy	9,47,00,000	1,00,000
42.	Department of Family Welfare	368,00,00,000	27,00,000
<b>Ministry of Home Affairs</b>			
43.	Ministry of Home Affairs	51,96,00,000	3,68,00,000
44.	Cabinet	16,26,00,000	5,00,00,000
45.	Police	668,37,00,000	77,68,00,000
46.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	58,46,00,000	30,68,00,000
47.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	41,80,00,000	43,14,00,000
<b>Ministry of Human Resource Development</b>			
48.	Department of Education	871,80,00,000	14,00,000
49.	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	26,25,00,000	31,00,000
50.	Department of Culture	36,70,00,000	—
51.	Department of Women and Child Development	158,02,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Industry</b>			
52.	Deptt. of Ind. Dev. and Ind. Policy and Promotion	114,73,00,000	6,00,000
53.	Department of Public Enterprises	85,00,000	—
54.	Department of Heavy Industry	3,73,00,000	36,52,00,000
55.	Department of Small Scale Ind. and Agro and Rural Industries	118,46,00,000	48,46,00,000
<b>Ministry of Information and Broadcasting</b>			
56.	Information, Films and Publicity	27,17,00,000	2,99,00,000
57.	Broadcasting Services	266,31,00,000	72,37,00,000
<b>Ministry of Labour</b>			
58.	Ministry of Labour	123,91,00,000	20,00,000
<b>Ministry of Law and Justice</b>			
59.	Law and Justice	61,37,00,000	—
60.	Election Commission	97,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Mines</b>			
62.	Ministry of Mines	40,16,00,000	6,83,00,000
<b>Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources</b>			
63.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	37,86,00,000	19,12,00,000
<b>Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs</b>			
64.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	57,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</b>			
65.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	20,95,00,000	43,00,000

1	2	3
<b>Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>		
66. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	64,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation</b>		
67. Planning	17,14,00,000	7,67,00,000
68. Department of Statistics	24,90,00,000	86,00,000
69. Department of Programme Implementation	131,95,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Power</b>		
70. Ministry of Power	88,30,00,000	452,59,00,000
<b>Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment</b>		
71. Department of Rural Development	744,36,00,000	—
72. Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation	2101,18,00,000	—
73. Department of Wastelands Development	15,87,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Science and Technology</b>		
74. Department of Science and Technology	85,47,00,000	8,17,00,000
75. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	76,33,00,000	92,00,000
76. Department of Bio-technology	17,26,00,000	88,00,000
<b>Ministry of Steel</b>		
77. Ministry of Steel	1,18,00,000	4,28,00,000
<b>Ministry of Surface Transport</b>		
78. Surface Transport	12,34,00,000	3,61,00,000
79. Roads	142,20,00,000	350,98,00,000
80. Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	38,87,00,000	71,92,00,000
<b>Ministry of Textiles</b>		
81. Ministry of Textiles	73,38,00,000	50,96,00,000
<b>Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment</b>		
82. Urban Development	58,74,00,000	66,43,00,000
83. Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	36,57,00,000	6,67,00,000
84. Public Works	77,42,00,000	35,66,00,000
85. Stationery and Printing	23,90,00,000	75,00,000
<b>Ministry of Water Resources</b>		
86. Ministry of Water Resources	74,84,00,000	5,68,00,000
<b>Ministry of Welfare</b>		
87. Ministry of Welfare	249,04,00,000	48,90,00,000
<b>Department of Atomic Energy</b>		
88. Atomic Energy	127,86,00,000	108,40,00,000
89. Nuclear Power Schemes	128,65,00,000	58,53,00,000

1	2	3	
<b>Department of Electronics</b>			
90.	Department of Electronics	17,49,00,000	5,24,00,000
<b>Department of Ocean Development</b>			
91.	Department of Ocean Development	15,34,00,000	79,00,000
<b>Department of Space</b>			
92.	Department of Space	171,04,00,000	24,09,00,000
<b>The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President.</b>			
94.	Rajya Sabha	3,82,00,000	—
95.	Lok Sabha	8,87,00,000	—
97.	Secretariat of the Vice-President	8,00,000	—
<b>Union Territories without Legislature</b>			
98.	Andamand and Nicobar Islands	61,72,00,000	31,18,00,000
99.	Chandigarh	64,37,00,000	10,71,00,000
100.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	19,01,00,000	3,92,00,000
101.	Daman and Diu	14,30,00,000	2,74,00,000
102.	Lakshadweep	21,23,00,000	2,85,00,000
<i>Total Revenue/Capital</i>		<i>25901,85,00,000</i>	<i>6707,19,00,000</i>

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1996-97 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of

India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1997 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof — Demand Nos. 3 to 9, 12 to 20, 22 to 24, 26, 28, 32 to 37, 39 to 50, 52 to 58, 62, 65 to 68, 70 to 72, 75, 77 to 83, 85, 87, 88, 91, 93, 96 to 101."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1996-97 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demands	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
<b>Ministry of Agriculture</b>			
3.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	32,42,00,000	—
4.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	7,39,00,000	—

1	2	3
<b>Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>		
5.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	— 9,90,00,000
6.	Department of Fertilizers	2,00,000 —
<b>Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism</b>		
7.	Department of Civil Aviation	— 1,00,000
8.	Department of Tourism	— 3,00,00,000
<b>Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution</b>		
9.	Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	31,30,00,000 —
<b>Ministry of Commerce</b>		
12.	Department of Supply	3,85,00,000 —
<b>Ministry of Communications</b>		
13.	Department of Posts	409,98,00,000 —
14.	Department of Telecommunication	2,00,000 474,00,00,000
<b>Ministry of Defence</b>		
15.	Ministry of Defence	81,78,00,000 —
16.	Defence Pensions	383,00,00,000 —
17.	Defence Services-Army	367,10,00,000 —
18.	Defence Services-Navy	136,46,00,000 —
19.	Defence Services-Air Force	312,35,00,000 —
20.	Defence Ordnance Factories	52,69,00,000 —
<b>Ministry of Environment and Forests</b>		
22.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	1,00,000 —
<b>Ministry of External Affairs</b>		
23.	Ministry of External Affairs	83,82,00,000 —
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>		
24.	Department of Economic Affairs	— 1,00,000
26.	Payments to Financial Institutions	18,94,00,000 669,27,00,000
28.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	148,55,00,000 —
32.	Pensions.	205,37,00,000 —
33.	Audit	48,87,00,000 1,50,00,000
34.	Department of Revenue	11,36,00,000 —
35.	Direct Taxes	24,50,00,000 —
36.	Indirect Taxes	44,82,00,000 1,00,000
<b>Ministry of Food</b>		
37.	Ministry of Food	175,69,00,000 —

1	2	3	
<b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>			
39.	Department of Health	31,00,00,000	2,00,000
40.	Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy	1,00,000	—
41.	Department of Family Welfare	71,10,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Home Affairs</b>			
42.	Ministry of Home Affairs	18,88,00,000	—
43.	Cabinet	2,19,00,000	—
44.	Police	260,93,00,000	1,00,000
45.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	68,12,00,000	35,79,00,000
46.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	113,19,00,000	15,36,00,000
<b>Ministry of Human Resource Development</b>			
47.	Department of Education	5,00,000	—
48.	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	6,50,00,000	—
49.	Department of Culture	3,02,00,000	—
50.	Department of Women and Child Development	1,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Industry</b>			
52.	Department of Public Enterprises	2,26,00,000	—
53.	Department of Heavy Industry	867,68,00,000	101,36,00,000
54.	Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro. & Rural Industries	2,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Information and Broadcasting</b>			
55.	Information, Films and Publicity	11,30,00,000	—
56.	Broadcasting Services	22,50,00,000	11,73,00,000
<b>Ministry of Labour</b>			
57.	Ministry of Labour	1,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs</b>			
58.	Law and Justice	1,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Mines</b>			
62.	Ministry of Mines	8,73,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</b>			
65.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	9,10,00,000	23,00,000
<b>Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>			
66.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	17,00,000	174,40,00,000
<b>Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation</b>			
67.	Planning	1,00,000	—
68.	Department of Statistics	6,19,00,000	—

1	2	3
<b>Ministry of Power</b>		
70. Ministry of Power	69,09,00,000	2,00,000
<b>Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment</b>		
71. Department of Rural Development	1,00,000	—
72. Department of Wastelands Development	1,00,000	—
75. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	30,35,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Steel</b>		
77. Ministry of Steel	64,70,00,000	1,00,000
<b>Ministry of Surface Transport</b>		
78. Surface Transport	2,22,00,000	—
79. Roads	61,93,00,000	58,56,00,000
80. Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	2,70,00,000	2,00,000
<b>Ministry of Textiles</b>		
81. Ministry of Textiles	2,00,000	97,68,00,000
<b>Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment</b>		
82. Urban Development, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	—	4,00,000
83. Public Works	15,96,00,000	1,00,000
<b>Ministry of Water Resources</b>		
85. Ministry of Water Resources	1,00,000	5,00,000
<b>Department of Atomic Energy</b>		
87. Atomic Energy	53,21,00,000	—
88. Nuclear Power Schemes	130,05,00,000	—
<b>Department of Space</b>		
91. Department of Space	6,74,00,000	—
<b>The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President.</b>		
93. Rajya Sabha	1,44,00,000	—
96. Secretariat of the Vice-President	8,00,000	—
<b>Ministry of Home Affairs Union Territories (Without Legislature)</b>		
97. Andamand and Nicobar Islands	26,65,00,000	—
98. Chandigarh	33,61,00,000	1,00,000
99. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	2,49,00,000
100. Daman and Diu	4,94,00,000	35,00,000
101. Lakshadweep	22,00,000	8,00,000
<i>Grant Total</i>	<i>4587,21,00,000</i>	<i>1655,92,00,000</i>

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1994-95 to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of

India to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended 31st day of March, 1995 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof — Demand Nos. 14, 17, 19, 24, 64, 77, 90 and 98."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1994-95 submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha.*

No. of Demands	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand submitted to the vote of the House
<b>1.</b>	<b>Expenditure Met From Revenue</b>	
14.	Postal Services	33,59,03,379
17.	Defence Pensions	9,94,02,120
19.	Defence Services-Navy	6,30,17,484
24.	Ministry of External Affairs	35,50,79,760
64.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1,87,386
77.	Ports, Lighthouses, and Shipping	1,13,87,819
90.	Rajya Sabha	1,25,759
<b>2.</b>	<b>Expenditure Met From Capital</b>	
14.	Postal Services	2,07,82,817
98.	Daman and Diu	3,49,410

19.45 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT)  
BILL, 1997\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : I have given a notice for it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, I want to raise three issues, under Rule 218(3). I will not take more than five minutes. The issue which I am going to raise is related to Government's policy. Due to this. I want to raise these issues.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Naik, let the Bill be introduced first. Then you will get the opportunity.

Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary. Part-II, Section-2, dated 20.3.97.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He has introduced the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Just give me a minute.

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98".

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move :

"that the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"that the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98, be taken into consideration."

\*\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this Bill the Government has tried to impose tax on potato wafers and groundnut. Generally these are items of mass consumption. And such, items should not be taxed. Potato wafers making is labour intensive. Hence, it should not be taxed. This is a discrimination. You have imposed excise on Potato wafers but not on banana wafers.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, no speech is really possible at this stage. When my learned friend told me that he wished to just mention three points, I said I would not object. But if he is making a speech, then it is my duty to bring it to your notice a ruling given by the Speaker, in March, 1951, which stood the test of time. At the time of Vote on Account, no speeches can be made. This is a ruling given by the Speaker in March, 1951. That is the ruling as in force today. If the hon. Member only wants mention two, three items, I have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has clarified. I think he will take about three to four minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : He has referred to the 1951 ruling. But since the past six years, every year, on Vote on Account, I had been speaking.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Because nobody had objected.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The entire House knows. Probably you were not attending the House.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Nobody knew this ruling.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am being brief I said I will not take more than five minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ram Naik, you make your submission.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I told you that I would deal with this in the Finance Bill.

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have said but I want to say something. It is a matter of time. I will be brief.

[Translation]

Therefore, my first demand is that the excise duty levied on potato wafers and groundnuts should be withdrawn.

Secondly, the Government has reserved. Some items for the small scale sector. The corrugated board and boxes were initially in the small scale sector. Now they have been removed. Due to this thousands of workers would be rendered jobless. Hence, these items should remain in the small scale sector.

My third demand is related to the Umbrella industry. It is also a labour intensive industry and recognised by the Khadi and village Industry Commission. In this industry most of the work is done manually. You want to levy excise on this too. If at all you want to levy excise then it should be levied on the bigger manufacturers. Excise should not be levied on small scale industries and on Khadi and village industries. We do not levy excise on rain coats but we do so in the case of umbrella industry. This is not justified.

It is my demand that the Government should reconsider its decision on these three issues.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I told you; I told everybody. I started by saying that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : No, you tell the House.

[Translation]

I am talking all this as a policy matter. Therefore, I want your response on these three specific issues.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : There are a number of other items. Why do you mention only three items?

SHRI RAM NAIK : You can raise; I have no objection.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have already said that all tax matters will be attended to during the recess and I will come at the time of Finance Bill and deal with it. I have invited all of you to come and meet me with specific cases. Shrimati Mahajan has already met me in this case.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1997-98, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The questions :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formulged and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Schedule stand Part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

19.52 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 2)  
BILL, 1997\*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97".

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and

appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

19.55 hrs.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1997\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary. Part-II, Section-2, dated 20.3.97.

\*\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary. Part-II, Section-2, dated 20.3.97.

provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1995, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and The Long Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Thank you, Sir.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR  
RE: THE ELECTRICITY LAWS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that in view of the demand made in the House, the hon. Speaker has referred the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 to the Standing Committee on Energy for examination and report.

The House stands adjourned to meet on...

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, there are two Bills. One is about. *Safai Karamcharis...**(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS : The House stands adjourned now...*(Interruptions)*.

*[Translation]*

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, the House has adjourned.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Kindly listen to the hon. Minister. He is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, this Safai Karamcharis (Amendment) Bill is a very important Bill. It has come from the Rajya Sabha. It will not take more than ten minutes to be passed...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : It is a very important Bill. It relates to the poor.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jena, the Speaker has given me only these directions about the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill. I will have to refer the matter to the

\*\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

Speaker. I am not in position to give a ruling. He has given me only this direction about the Electricity Bill. About the Safai Karmcharis Bill, I am sorry, he has given me no direction. I will have to refer it to him.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I wish you had raised it earlier. I have already announced the adjournment of the House. I request that you kindly take them up tomorrow.

As I have already announced, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 21st March, 1997 at 11a.m.

19.59 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 21st March, 1997/Phalgun 30, 1918 (Saka)*