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Monday, May 2, 1994

Vaisakha 12, 1916 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Ninth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)**



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(English Version)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 2, 1994/
Vaisakha 12, 1916 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Small Electronic Exchanges

+
*501. SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRIMATI SHEELA
GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up small electronic exchanges at various places in hilly and tribal areas in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the policy of the Government it is proposed to establish on priority basis small electronic exchanges in the hilly and tribal areas of the country.

(b) Small electronic exchanges are set up in places where registered paid demand for telephone connections reaches 10 or more, subject to technical feasibility. A target of adding 307459 lines in tribal areas has been set for the period 1992-97 and 124274 lines have been added upto 31.12.1993. The circle wise details are given in the *Statement*.

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

STATEMENT

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

Telephone switching capacity addition during 8th Plan (1992-97)

Sl. No.	Circle	Switching Capacity Targets 1992-97	Actual Achievement During 1.4.92 to 31.12.93
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2500	1058
2.	Assam	5226	2582

Sl. No.	Circle	Switching Capacity Targets 1992-97	Actual Achievement During 1.4.92 to 31.12.93
3.	Bihar	2000	15603
4.	Gujarat	40327	7594
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2300	131
6.	Karnataka	67138	12382
7.	Kerala	36800	4197
8.	Madhya Pradesh	61500	42531
9.	Maharashtra	16926	3901
10.	North East	20100	10999
11.	Orissa	13200	7946
12.	Rajasthan	9846	6106
13.	Tamil Nadu	301	218
14.	Uttar Pradesh	925	181
15.	West Bengal	10370	8845
G. Total		307459 Lines	124274 Lines

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir telephone facility is very essential for omnidirectional development of a nation in the present times. It is considered as an essential service and the demand for a telephone connection is so rapidly increasing that we cannot

provide connections to one and all. While replying to my question the hon. Minister has given data which show that the target fixed by the Government for providing telephone service in tribal as well as hilly areas of Gujarat is 40327 connections against which only 7594 connections have been provided upto 31 December, 1993. Similar is the case of

Kerala and Orissa, where the achievement against the target fixed is much lower. With this pace of providing telephone connections, the Government will not be able to achieve its target even by 1997. Through you, I would like to know from the Minister that with such a pace how the Government would be able to achieve its target?

[English]

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Sir, efforts will be made to achieve the target as envisaged in the Eighth Five Year Plan. In the initial stages, we had some problem of equipment as MARR system was not available. Now we are getting the steady supply of MARR system. I am sure, about Gujarat, targets will be achieved as per schedule and there should be no difficulty about it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: The majority of the people live in villages in our country. When Shri Pilot used to be the Minister of Telecommunications, he had said in the International Rural Telecommunication Conference that by 1995 all village Panchayats would be provided with a telephone connection but with this pace of work, the Government can never achieve this target by 1995. Still there are many such villages as have not been provided with telephone facility by the Government. Our villages even lack metalled roads and means of transportation. If every village is provided with a telephone connection then the village Panchayats can take up their developmental works in a proper way. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether all village Panchayats of the tribal and hilly areas of Gujarat and Saurashtra will be provided with a telephone connection by 1995?

[English]

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Originally it was envisaged that all gram panchayat headquarters will be connected with telephones by 31st March, 1995. As I submitted earlier, in this House, this may have to spill over in 1995-96 also because there are nearly a lakh panchayats yet to be connected.

On an average we can cover around 40,000 to 50,000 panchayats in a year. I am sure, by the end of March 1996 all gram panchayats in the country will be given telephone connections. We have 5,80,000 villages and at present the target is to cover 1.5 lakh villages with long distance public telephones by the year 1997. It may not be possible to connect all the villages by 1997. Probably, by the turn of the century we will be able to connect them. Anyway, we are trying to speed up the process. If possible, all villages will be connected by 1997.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: The North-East, particularly Manipur, covers a wide range of tribal areas. Two-thirds of the total area is covered by tribals. In view of the recent ethnic clashes, the necessity for setting up of small electronic exchange is very much pressing. In view of that, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry is taking up any special programme for setting up of small electronic exchanges in those hilly and tribal areas in the State of Manipur.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: I agree with the hon. Member that the North-East, particularly Manipur, requires special attention as regards the telecommunications. We are making all out efforts to improve the communication system. I think by the end of this current

year we will be able to connect at least all the sub-divisional headquarters in Manipur and also some of the tehsil headquarters.

SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the places under consideration to convert the present exchanges into electronic exchanges. If there are any proposals, how many exchanges in the hilly and tribal areas are likely to be converted during the current financial year in the North-Eastern States, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh? If so, by when?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Sir, there is a programme to replace the manual exchanges in this country by electronic exchanges, particularly in the rural areas because these are very small exchanges and it is easy to replace them by electronic exchanges. And....

MR. SPEAKER: The question is very specific. You can send the reply in writing to him.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: I do not have the information readily available with me. I will send it in writing.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon. Minister has just now admitted that he would perhaps not be able to fulfil his pronounced promise in respect of providing a telephone connection to each and every village Panchayat by March 1995. At present, the Department has awarded this work to the contractors and the contractors have engaged two-three persons in each circle, and wherever the locals pressurise them they just lay the cables in those particular areas and then leave for some

other place to take up the job there. Through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether he will ask the Department either to award this work to more contractors or to get this work done by deploying the Department personnel, as still there is a period of 11 months left with them and this work can easily be done during this period? Mr. Speaker, Sir my next question concerns my State only. The Department has said that if at least particular number of people of an area deposit money for installation of telephone connections, only then they can set up of a small Electronic telephone exchange there. I would like to know from the Minister whether he would be able to provide telephone connections by 1995 to those persons who had deposited the requisite amount before 1990?

[English]

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Yes, Sir, I have already stated in the answer that wherever the registered paid demand is ten or more, we are bound to give the exchange and we will definitely give it. The question as to whether it will be connected with STD facility or not is a different issue. Within a village or a group of villages, we can have exchange of small capacity, if more than ten people registered for it.

As regards the first question, if specific instances are brought to our notice, we will take action. It is our endeavour that whenever any work is entrusted to a contractor, the departmental supervision is bound to be there and it is there.

Targets are fixed for every division, sub-division, district and also State. We have to achieve the targets. There is no question of anybody slipping the target.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, it is not so. Even the telephone connections recommended by the Minister and M.Ps have not been installed. The telephone connections, recommended by the M.Ps from their quotas as well as those sanctioned by our State Minister himself have not been installed as yet.... *(Interruption)* You should enquire into it.

[English]

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: I will bring it to the notice of my colleague, Shri Sukh Ram.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Where is the Minister? Is he on leave or has he gone abroad? Where is his senior Minister?

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: He is not the junior even.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the complaints pertain to the Minister of Telecommunication and the concerned Minister is not present. He does not even meet M.Ps. Neither telephones nor the Ministry is functioning in the country.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: The problem is, where shall we go and say when there is no Minister. To whom can we represent?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Even written instructions issued by officers are not heeded to.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have received a letter from the Minister saying that he is on an official tour of Himachal Pradesh. Well, I can understand.....

SHRI E. AHAMED: When the Parliament is in session will he be correct to undertake such official tours? It is not correct. When the Parliament is in session it is not correct for him to go on tours like this. This is the most important official duty of the Minister. The most important thing is the Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir we were under the impression that he had been on a foreign tour, in a conference abroad but it is not so ...*(Interruption)*. This attitude should be deplored... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir I do not want to stretch this matter too far but you will admit it that when the Parliament is in session, it is not proper for a Minister to go on a official tour to any part of the country... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, this is the letter I have received. I would request the Members of the Council of Ministers not to take up official tours when the Parliament is in session unless it is absolutely necessary. We can understand their difficulties. They are the members of the executive and if it is absolutely necessary they can do it. I do not also appreciate letters coming from the Ministers saying that information to

a question will not be available and time should be given. I would request them also not to write such letters to me and if I say no to such letters, they should not feel hurt.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Power Sector

+

*503. DR. LAXMINARAYAN
PANDEYA:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for acceptance of offers from foreign companies to set up power plants in the country;

(b) the total investment offered by the foreign companies in this regard during 1992-93 and 1993-94 and the amount of investment out of it accepted by the Government;

(c) whether all the funds have been utilised for the intended purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the projects for which this amount has been utilised;

(e) if not, the quantum of funds that could not be utilised and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the commitment charges paid by the Government for non-utilisation of these funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (f) A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The guidelines of the policy are given in the **Annexure**. Assigning of Projects to private sector Companies is within the competence of the State Governments, so far as the State projects are concerned.

(b) As on date proposals have been received from foreign companies (including NRI and Joint Venture proposals) for setting up 35 power projects amounting to 22,432 MW costing approx. Rs. 73,386 crores. The details of investment by the foreign companies would be known only after the project proposals achieve financial closure. So far none of the proposals have achieved financial closure.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

(f) The funds needed for investment in private power projects have to be arranged by the promoters. Therefore, the Government of India does not have to pay any commitment charges in respect of such funds.

ANNEXURE

Incentives/Guidelines in the policy to encourage greater private investments in Power Generation and distribution to TAP Additionality of Resources

The following are the details of the scheme to encourage greater private sector participation in the electricity generation, supply and distribution:

The Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 have been amended to bring about a new legal, admin-

istrative and financial environment for private enterprises in the Electricity Sector.

- * Private Sector can set up thermal projects (coal/gas) and hydel projects and wind/solar energy project of any size.
- * Electricity Projects where the total outlay does not exceed Rs. 25 crores need not be submitted to the Central Electricity Authority for concurrence.
- * Private sector companies can set up enterprises to operate either as licensees or as generating companies.
- * All private companies entering the Electricity Sector hereafter will be allowed a debt-equity ration upto 4:1.
- * A minimum of 20% of the total outlay should be the equity component.
- * Promoter's contribution should be at least 11% of the total outlay.
- * Not more than 40% of the total outlay can come from Indian Public Financial Institutions.
- * To ensure that private entrepreneurs bring in additionality of resources to the sector, not less than 60% of the total outlay for the project must come from sources other than Public Financial Institutions.
- * Upto hundred per cent (100%) foreign equity participation can

be permitted for projects set up by foreign private investors.

- * The condition of dividend balancing by export earnings which is normally being applied to cases of foreign investment upto 51% equity will not be applicable to foreign investments in the power sector.
- * The rates for depreciation in respect of assets have been liberalised.
- * With the approval of the Government, import of equipment for power projects will also be permitted in cases where foreign supplier(s) or agency(ies) extend concessional credit.
- * The customs duty for import of power equipment has been reduced to 20% and this rate has also been extended to machinery required for modernisation and renovation of power plants.
- * A five year tax holiday has been allowed in respect of profits and gains of new industrial undertakings set up anywhere in India for either generation or generation and distribution of power. The five year tax holiday will begin from the year of generation of power.
- * The excise duty on a large number of capital goods and instruments in the power sector has been reduced to a uniform lower rate of 5%.
- * The 16% return on the foreign equity included in the tariff can

be provided in the respective foreign currency.

- * Fixed costs can be recovered at 68.5% PLF. Attractive incentives are prescribed for performance beyond this PLF.
- * Flexibility has been allowed in including insurance in the project cost.

For generating companies the following incentives are offered:—

- * Normative parameters under which generating companies will operate have been notified which inter alia provide for 16% rate of return on the paid up and subscribed equity.
- * Generating companies operating coal based, gas based and hydro projects can sell power on the basis of a suitably structured two part tariff.
- * Government of India may consider extending a counter guarantee for the payment obligations of State Electricity Boards to the private power companies on the specific request of the concerned State Government.

The specific incentives for Licensees are:—

- * Licences of longer duration of 30 years in the first instance and subsequent renewals of 20 years instead of 20 and 10 years respectively as it was before.
- * Higher rate of return of 5% in place of the previous 2% above the RBI rate.

- * Capitalisation of Interest During Construction (IDC) at actual cost (for expansion projects also) as against 1% over RBI rate as it was before.

- * Special appropriations to meet debt redemption obligations.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that as no solution to the financial difficulties regarding 35 power projects has been found so far no decision has yet been taken regarding them? Further, whether it is also a fact that the National Work on Power Group has raised objections regarding these projects, especially on the ground that foreign capital investment will be quite costly and present cost will shoot up by 16 per cent? I would like to know whether the Government is pondering over generating power at minimum cost?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): Firstly it has to be appreciated that setting up of power projects in the private sector is a fairly long drawn out process. This is also the experience of UK and USA.

In USA, it took eight years' time before the first project as independent private project could come up. So, it has just taken a little longer, so far as power projects are concerned because of several factors including the long gestation period and the very high capital investment required involving tens of thousands of crores of rupees. Out of those 35 projects which are referred to, seven

of them have been cleared by CCFI which aggregate to 5,128 MWs, involving a cost of Rs. 21,867 crores. As to the objection which the refers to, I do not know what is the precise objection he is referring to. If he could pinpoint and refer to the objection itself, instead of referring to a particular institution, I might be able to deal with it.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Is it true that there is wide difference in the estimated costs of some projects evaluated by the Central Electricity Authority and the Ministry of Power and as a result of it there is difference between the bids of foreign bidders and cost estimates? Further, due to this, no final decision could be taken in this regard.

[English]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, so far as the capital cost of any project is concerned, it is not a matter which is dealt with by the Ministry as such. Under the Law, the Central Electricity Authority is the final authority as the arbiter to determine the entire financial package; and then if it is done, it is for the Central Electricity Authority to give a final verdict in the matter. Sir, in the Press I have read that several organisations have raised this question that the capital cost which has been mentioned is inflated; but there is also a provision in the Law itself and that gives transparency to it. Should anyone have any objection to the capital cost, they can raise this point with the State Government and with the Central Electricity Authority. So, there is a built-in procedure. There is not only transparency, but also a built-in procedure, for adjudication, should there be a valid grievance for any reason? Generally

saying that it is too high or this is too low, is neither here nor there.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Though on the one hand efforts are being made to increase power generation with foreign capital inflow by inviting the foreign companies, yet on the other hand, the Prime Minister's office and the Standing Committee have raised objections on the ground that foreign assistance has not been fully utilised. Even fifty per cent of it has not been utilised and due to this many projects are in doldrums. If it is so, then I would like to know the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard for full utilisation of foreign funds and for early completion of the projects.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: This has already been replied to in reply to the main question.

[English]

"That the funds needed for investment in private power projects have to be arranged by the promoters. Therefore, the Government of India does not have to pay any commitment charges in respect of such funds."

[Translation]

Companies of Private Sector are not allocated funds by the Government.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I submitted that even the Standing Committee has pointed out non-utilisation of funds.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I thought that the question of the hon. Member was

regarding the private sector. Funds inflow under bilateral and multilateral agreements have no connection with this question.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, in the guidelines several concessions have been given. I will focus on three. One is that the power projects will also be permitted in cases where foreign suppliers or agencies extend concessional credit. That is import of equipment should be permitted free. And then, the customs duty has been reduced and then the excise duty on local things, has been reduced to five per cent; and 16 per cent return on the foreign equity included in the tariff can be provided in the respective foreign currency. Now, what impact will this have on the local manufacturers of power equipment?

The Bombay Club and now all the Chambers of Commerce have started talking about level playing field. There is another point of view also that it should not be level but tilted in favour of the Indian producers.

In this case, what impact is this kind of provision—concession of customs duties and other—going to have? For instance, are they working to full capacity? They will be bound in their capacity utilisation. This is a relevant part. Why don't you give—all these concessions need not be 16 per cent in terms of level playing—to the Indian private sector producers also?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: We have given that. Sixteen per cent return on equity is available to an Indian or to anybody else. The policy does not discriminate between a foreign investor and an Indian investor. It is the same.

Secondly, once the private sector is brought in, it will be for the private sector to determine from where to buy the equipment. But if we were not to give facilities in respect of customs duty and if we were not to reduce the excise duty on equipment of power sector, etc...

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Part of GATT? Let us not forget that.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave that aside. He is going into the generalities.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I was on the right track.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you are. You follow your track because you are on the right track.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: He is an old friend of mine. It is his habit that when he finds that the answer is a little articulate, then, he must confuse the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Does he succeed?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Even if it is difficult to confuse him.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I was submitting that these concessions have been provided to assure that the capital cost is not excessive and heavy because we have to keep in our mind the interests of the consumers also.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: He has not answered that part. What impact is it going to have on Indian capital goods producers?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: May I know from the hon. Minister whether any financial tie-up is being arranged for the Kayamkulam Super Thermal Power Station of Kerala? In this House itself, the hon. Minister replied that the Government was negotiating with OECF of Japan. It may be OECF or any other financial company in the private sector. Has the Government finalised the financial tie-up for Kayamkulam project?

MR. SPEAKER: This is specific on the general. If you have information, give it or send it in writing.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I will send it in writing.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: This is regarding financing of project.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly, I would like to submit that the Government never took the House into confidence while formulating new policy and that's why this question has cropped up. We favour a discussion on this issue in the House because it is being widely debated in the country.

I would like to submit that on the one hand the Government is granting 5 years tax holiday and on the other, guarantee of 16 per cent returns is being given on 68.5 PLF. If it increases even by 0.5 then bonus of 1 per cent or more could also be readily given to whosoever invests in these projects i.e. within five years invested amount could be recovered fully. Even then, a constant return of 16 per cent or more is being guaranteed.

We would like to know about its effects on the rates of electricity on which

you are going to sell it in the country. Moreover, it has also been said that the Government is prepared to extend facility to them to the extent that:

[English]

Capitalisation of interest during construction at actual cost for expansion projects also as against one per cent over RBI rate as it was before.

[Translation]

Who is going to determine the actual cost? If you have included insurance amount in it, who would be the monitoring authority to ascertain whether they are showing the actual cost honestly or not. Because you have given up all such responsibilities now.

One more question is related to it. I have received a document from the Ministry in which it has been stated that Rs. 40,000 crore would out flow from the country within next ten years from ENRON Power House which is being constructed. This has been stated by a group of persons through this document. This group consists of former Finance Secretary and higher officials of Power sector who have taken over this responsibility. I have just received a letter from the office of the hon. Minister in which it has been stated that:

[English]

"The foreign exchange outflow for Phase I for the first ten years would be considerably less than Rs. 40,000 crores."

[Translation]

I would like to know the amount likely to be outflowed to foreign countries

as a result of ENRON project and how much rates of electricity are likely to be increased and what would be its effect on the farmers?

[English]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: As to discussion, nothing would I welcome more than a discussion! One thing I want to assure the House is that in this policy, we are desirous of total and entire transparency. There is nothing that we would like to hide. We may have differences of perception, but let the policy be discussed any time, which cannot, of course, be discussed in the Question Hour.

As to ENRON, if the hon. Member wants more precise calculation, I can collect the information from the Ministry and send it to him. I may state here that plenty of disinformation and misinformation is being spread. Instead of that, if the hon. Member were to write to me on a specific project we will only be too happy to reply to him on those specific points.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Mastery of evasion!

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: As to who is going to decide what is going to be the interest, etc., I will clarify the matter. He has raised another question, which fortunately relates to accounting. What happens to interest during construction? The Supreme Court has laid down in many cases that the entire revenue expenditure during construction has to be capitalised and has to be added to the capital cost of the project itself. It is a well-known accounting principle. Also, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in their guidelines have stated the same. On that matter, our policy is

entirely in conformity with the recognised accounting principle.

The other question that he has asked was about the tax holiday etc. In the policy, we have provided for a return of 16 per cent on the equity as a fixed charge in the tariff to be included at 68.5 per cent plant load factor. Keeping in view the return to the existing private companies which is approximately 40 per cent at about 57 per cent plant load factor, this 16 per cent return is a very fair return. Therefore, where the interest used to be 18 per cent and 17 per cent, on a risk capital, 16 per cent is, as a policy matter, considered very fair, just and equitable.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied. What are the views of the hon. Minister regarding the price of electricity on which it will be sold?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: The entire financial package, as I have stated earlier, has to be determined by the Central Electricity Authority, the highest authority which administers the law. It comprises the topmost people, the best technical and financial men. It is they who determine and it is not for the Ministry to determine the price. It is for the States, the generating companies and the Central Electricity Authority. The cost of power will be different from project to project.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, a five-year tax holiday has been allowed in respect of profits and gains of new industrial undertaking both for power generation as well as distribution. Is there any restriction that the Government would like to

impose on these private undertakings with respect to the rates of electricity for distribution or will it be as per the whims and caprices of those companies?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: There is a very great misconception about the tariffs. It is not the Power Ministry which determines the tariffs. Tariff is a matter between the generating company and the purchasing Board. It is decided between the two. They go with the total financial package to the Central Electricity Authority. If it is approved, then that would be the tariff.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the power generated by the States is given to the National grid. I would, therefore, like to know whether the power generated by the private sector would also be given to the National grid? If so, whether Government has taken any decision to reserve electricity for Agriculture sector or rural areas?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, there is no National grid. We have five grids viz. North grid, West grid, South grid, East grid and North-East grid. And the power generated by the State Electricity Board is given to the State. The power generated by the Central sector is distributed among the different States falling under that grid. So far as the power generated by the private sector is concerned, it will be given hundred per cent to the State.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I presume that the policy formulated by the Ministry must have had the approval or at least recommendation of

the CEA. The Minister has said that he decides about the policy and the CEA evaluates as to what would be the final cost. Whatever finance the Minister may put in a private sector, the debt equity ratio is 4:1. Debt is cheaply available but equity practically is one per cent. In that case, why are you showing this kind of favour to the private sector undertakings?

Secondly, you have mentioned that the cost of generation comes to around Rs. 5 crore per MW. The cost of power will come to about Rs. 4 per unit. My worry is, who will buy that power? In view of this, why cannot the NTPC be allowed to bring in some loan from the foreign banks? The Ministry can give more money towards the equity of the NTPC so that it can go for this kind of project by bringing in more debt from different banks.

MR. SPEAKER: Let it be a question, please.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: This precisely is my question. Sir, Why is the Ministry not helping its own agency, that is the NTPC, in the equity aspect so that it can bring in some debt from different banks instead of building up a capital cost and ultimately landing at a cost which will be totally non-remunerative?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Firstly, I have never said that the CEA has formulated the policy. It has been formulated by the Government.

So far as the cost per Mega Watt in the private sector is concerned, as I submitted earlier, it is a subject matter of scrutiny by the CEA. They decide what ought to be the cost and if anyone has objection to it, there is a built-in mech-

anism. One can go to the CEA or to the State and raise objections that the cost is a little inflated. Depreciation and interest, etc. are relatable not only to the approved cost but also to the actual cost. The actual cost has been interpreted in several cases for tax purposes by the Supreme Court. If it is found that it is the inflated cost and not the actual cost, it is always open for the State Electricity Board to determine what is the actual cost. This is so far as the actual cost is concerned.

So far as the higher cost of power is concerned, whether NTPC or anybody else puts it up, the cost of power is going to be the same because the capital cost is near about the same. There may be some marginal difference here and there. The hon. Member's question proceeds on a wrong premise or assumption that NTPC can go to the market and raise as much commercial loan as it likes.

The kind of money which we require here, the NTPC cannot get it in the commercial market. Therefore we have gone in for the private sector. Had it been possible for us to give that money, we would have been happy to give it. According to EPS, in 15 years' time we need 1,42,000 M.W. of electricity. Is it imaginable that NTPC will ever be able to generate 1,42,000 M.W. of electricity? It is presently generating hardly 15,000 M.W. electricity. So, it is not an impractical proposition. But I want to assure the House that whatever capacity addition that we are planning to make, we are doing that. In fact it is only in the Central sector that we are able to adhere to the targets which are given to us in the Plan. We cannot go beyond that. Because even reaching that target is very difficult for us.

Therefore so far as the tariffs are concerned, all that I want to submit is

that the tariffs that were fixed earlier are not comparable to what they are today. For a thermal plant, the gestation period is five to seven years. For a hydel plant, it is 7 to 9 years. You can see that in the next five to seven years' time the cost which is broadly about Rs. 2.25 or Rs. 2.40 today will be found reasonable just like the cost that was Rs. 1.20, five or seven years ago is reasonable today.

Every time the cost is increasing. Therefore while evaluating a comparable cost kindly envisage the gestation period which is very long in this case. This is my submission.

Steel Authority of India Limited

*506. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether hampered rail movement, especially on the Bhilai-Visakhapatnam line, has adversely affected production and exports at SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the export target of SAIL for 1994-95; and

(d) the number of export orders received so far for the current financial year and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Export Target has been fixed at 6.0 lakh tonnes for 1994-95.

(d) For 1994-95, SAIL has so far booked 57 orders for export of mild steel. It will not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to indicate the value of these orders.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMJI BHAJ DAMOR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as import-export is concerned, Steel companies of Public Sector make excess expenditure and to compensate that loss they increase the prices of steel as a result of which steel becomes more costly. So, I would like to know whether Government is going to take any steps to keep the prices of steel low and to exercise control over the steel prices?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, under the present system of deregulation, Government does not control prices. It is the SAIL which controls the prices. But they do frame their prices in a manner so that they can sell it in the market and consumer can buy it. There are certain inputs the cost of which are increasing every year like the railway freight, the cost of power, the cost of coal and so on. They are beyond our control. So, only the prices of mandatory things are increasing and the market is bearing the cost. This year also we have made a profit of about Rs. 4,40 crore. But we do not want to unnecessarily increase the prices. It is not our intention.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMJI BHAJ DAMOR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many reports have been received that one-third employees of Public Sector do not work. What steps Government is going to take in this regard?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I cannot admit that the workers who are employed in the plants are not working. In fact the production in the public sector has gone up by about six per cent. So, the workers are working. They are doing a good work. If there is redundant labour we will look into it. But it is not possible. In today's scenario, there are a number of unions. If they work, you have to give them incentives. You cannot just retrench them.

[Translation]

M.T.N.L.

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*507. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI:
SHRIMATI KRISH-
NENDRA KAUR
(DEEPA):

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has incorporated imported modern telecommunication technology;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges where this technology has been introduced; and

(d) the time by which the remaining telephone exchanges are planned to be covered under this scheme?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The imported modern technology has been introduced in 18 exchanges in Delhi and in 7 exchanges in Bombay.

(d) There is no plan at present to cover all the remaining telephone exchanges by the imported modern technology. However, new exchanges planned to be commissioned in future (including those for replacing existing old electro-mechanical exchanges as and when due) will be digital electronics exchanges only.

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: What is the result? Uptill now, what has the Government done.

MR. SPEAKER: How much has been achieved by the Government in this respect by having Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: We have introduced, as I said, 18 telephone exchanges in Delhi and seven in Bombay. That is as far as MTNL is concerned. We have also introduced modern technology and other exchanges in other cities in India.

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: How many exchanges had been established in the year 1993-94?

MR. SPEAKER: If you have this information, give it; otherwise, you can send it in writing.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: I will send it in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: You can send it in writing.

[Translation]

Steel Prices

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*508. SHRI LALL BABU RAI:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent hike in excise duty and railway tariff and lowering of custom duty on raw materials used by the steel industry have caused a steep increase in steel prices;

(b) if so, the details and the impact thereof; and

(c) the measures being adopted to ensure optimum steel prices?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Due to increase in railway budget of 1994-95 and increase in excise duty to 15% *ad-valorem* on all items of steel in the Budget for 1994-95, the main steel producers have increased their prices. The increase in on-stock-yard prices of Steel Authority of India Limited in respect of some of the representative items of steel on account of increase in excise duty is as under:

Sl. Item No.	Increase (Rs./tonne)
1. Billets (100 mm)	82

Sl. Item No.	Increase (Rs./tonne)
2. Blooms (150x150 mm)	49
3. Wire rods (8 mm)	349
4. Torsteel (10 mm)	358
5. Angles (100x100x8)	554
6. Joists (300x140 mm)	547
7. Channels (100x50 mm)	389
8. Plates (6 mm)	312
9. HR Coils (2 mm)	294
10. CR Coils (0.63 mm)	355
11. GP Sheets (0.63 mm)	454

The increase in ex-stockyard prices on account of increase in railway freight varies from stockyard to stockyard, subject to a maximum increase of Rs. 200/- per tonne.

The lowering of customs duty on inputs like steel melting scrap, ores and concentrates will not lead to price increase but will rather help to reduce the production cost of steel.

(c) After de-regulation, Government has no control over prices of steel. The prices are governed by market forces.

Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants has been taken up. Government have also adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in

the private sector such as removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for the public sector, exemption from the provisions of compulsory licensing etc.

Import of all items of steel is also freely allowed and customs duty on most of the steel items has been reduced.

Increased domestic production and availability of steel and cheaper imports will have a restraining influence on domestic steel prices.

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the part (a) of my question, the Government has accepted that the prices of steel have increased rapidly due to its policies. In part (b) of my question, I had asked about the impact of increase on steel prices. The hon. Minister has not replied to it. The information furnished in reply to part (c) of my question is also not correct in which it has been stated that prices are controlled by market forces. The Government has not taken this question seriously. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament or any other committee regarding increase in steel prices and the action Government propose to take on it.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The Standing Committee on Steel has submitted a Report about the mini steel plants and their closure. In our Ministry, I have formed a special committee to go

into the details and submit a report so that we can re-vitalise them. We have taken this action.

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, due to increase in the prices of steel, how many small industrial units have been closed down and adversely effected?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Due to price increase, the plants have not been closed down: they have been closed down due to the increase in customs duty on scrap. There was a very difficult situation in many steel plants. A few of them have been closed down.

Recently, the Finance Minister has announced a cut in the duty in the Budget. It was brought down from 12½ per cent to 10 per cent. Now it has been brought down to 5 per cent. It has been well received by many steel plants and I hope that the difficulties which they are facing will be removed. As I said, in the past, another difficulty was faced by many steel plants regarding prices of power. We have addressed a letter to all the State Governments requesting them—as it is a job-oriented industry—to consider that special rebate on power be given to steel plants.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: There is a feeling in the private sector that the recent Budget proposals did not do justice to the steel industry of India. Companies like Tatas, etc. have already adopted a policy of go slow and cut in production.

Sir, IISCO's affairs in the public sector are also hanging fire for years together. I would therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister what are the precise plans with the Government for the above, both in the private and public sector. How does the Government intend to increase steel production in the country and whether the Government is contemplating to import steel from abroad?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I am a part of this system. I cannot criticise the Finance Ministry. But I have stated in many debates that the measures which have taken place, we have forwarded them to the Finance Ministry as they have given some consideration. Even after the declaration, I have been told by the Minister that he is looking further into it. So let us hope that some more relief will come in future.

As regards delicensing and decontrol is concerned, we are getting good response from entrepreneurs in the private sector. Only yesterday, I was in Hazira where I have seen one steel plant of 3 million tonnes capacity. Three months before I went to Maharashtra where Mittals are bringing a Steel Plant. Plant of about 8 million tonnes of steel will be setup by the end of century. Government is trying to fill up the gap. But over all, there is a recession in the steel market in the whole world. In that perspective, our industry has done reasonably well.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why the Government has allowed import of all kinds of steel? How can the indigenously manufactured steel, which can be utilised here, can survive in the competition? The Govern-

ment has not only given permission to import steel, but it has also reduced the customs duty on it which has put the indigenous steel producing companies in a difficult situation. Would the hon. Minister like to throw light on it? Has it also been done under the GATT?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The phobia of GATT is everywhere. If I recall correctly, when we first came in the Government in 1991, the President of India in his speech stated that steel has to be competitive because today we are producing 54 million tonnes of iron ore and exporting 30 million tonnes. The value added product should go out of the country. In order to make you more competitive you have to compete in the international market.

When we again started exporting in 1990-91 our value was only Rs. 181 crores. Today we have earned Rs. 1088 crores. So you should not underestimate our steel industry, they are capable. Yes, there are certain areas where there are certain pressures say, in the field of HR coil and CR coil. Because of the customs duty that has been reduced and the production cost in the country, there is a variation of Rs. 500 to Rs. 600.

As I said I am a post box between the industry and the Finance Ministry. I have taken up all these issues, I have full sympathy with the concerned and I will try to see what good can be done in this. I cannot take a decision, but we will be competitive (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, the Minister is underestimating his weight!

[Translation]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether iron ore is being exported and finished steel products are being imported? Whether the Government can apprise us of the total loss incurred by them on this account.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: As I said, iron ore is going out of the country and Government has taken a decision to encourage the private sector. But the imports that have taken place in 1993-94 are less than what they were in 1992-93. So it is not a fact that more products are coming from outside. We will be able to complete in the international market.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: In the answer the importance of enhancing the production of steel in the country has been stated and it has also been said that modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants has been taken up. I want to know, why in this case an accepted modernisation plan for IISCO has not been taken up by the Ministry and why the turn around of IISCO that has been achieved is being set to naught by inaction on the part of the Ministry?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is not a fact that we are not taking up the modernisation of IISCO. Already there is a difference of opinion between some members that we are taking up this modernisation to private sector. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: The programme was already agreed upon. I am talking about already agreed upon modernisation programme in 1988-89. What about that?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I can say this much that when we went to the Planning Commission, we have allocated funds even to an extent of Rs. 300 crore for IISCO also and not the full amount because we are also trying to do some modernisation of IISCO. But our Ministry is now evaluating a report that has come from the Standing Committee, which has suggested various methods to be involved for modernisation of IISCO. And I will not be able to react to many of them now because most of them have to be sent to the Law Ministry for their opinion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: It has already been referred to BIFR because you are considering the report of the Standing Committee. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Unless the Law Ministry's opinion is received, I will not be able to say what will be the ultimate outcome. As I have told you, we are evaluating each and every proposal that has come from the Standing Committee.

Power Generation

*510. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared any blueprint for exploitation of large hydro and natural gas

resources for power generation in the North Eastern region;

(b) whether the Government propose to evolve strategies for private sector participation in power generation and distribution in the North East; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Central Electricity Authority has assessed the total hydro-based electricity potential in the North-Eastern Region at 31857 MW at 60% load factor. The allocations of natural gas for various usages is based on the Imputed Economic Values (IEV) of natural gas used subject to preference being given to the fertilizer and power sectors. So far, gas allocations have been agreed to for 14 power projects in the North-Eastern Region.

(b) The private power policy of the Government of India enunciated in 1991, seeking to promote generation and distribution of power with private sector participation, is applicable to all parts of the country, including the North-Eastern Region.

(c) Expressions of interest from private promoters have been received for six projects in the North-Eastern Region, as per details in the Annexure hereto attached.

ANNEXURE*Details of Expression of Interests by Private Sector Companies in NE Region.*

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ State	Capacity (MW)	Prov. Cost Estimate (Rs. Crs.)	Name of the Company
1.	Kameng HEP/ Arunachal Pradesh	600.00 (Hydel)	1800.00	InterCorp Industries Ltd./ Snowy Mountains Engg. (Australia)
2.	Kharsang GBPP/ Arunachal Pradesh	48.00 (Gas)	168.00	InterCorp Industries Ltd./ Snowy Mountains Engg. (Australia)
3.	Karbi Langpi HEP/ (Lower Barapani) Assam	100.00 (Hydel)	300.00	Bharat Hydro Power Corp./ Subhash Projects & Mktg. Ltd.
4.	Amguri GBPP/ Assam	360.00 (Gas)	1280.00	Northern Engineering Inc., USA/Agra Industries
5.	Adamtilla Open Cycle/ Assam	15.00 (Gas)	52.50	DLF Power Co. Ltd.
6.	Bashkandi Open Cycle/ Assam	22.50 (Gas)	78.75	DLF Power Co. Ltd.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was, whether the Union Government have prepared any blueprint for exploitation of large hydro and natural gas resources for power generation in the North Eastern Region. But, Sir, in the reply of the hon. Minister, nothing in regard to blueprint has been mentioned. I have to say that the Regions prognosticated hydrocarbon resources are estimated to be nearly 4 billion tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas in the on-shore basins: Upper Assam and the Assam-Aracan belt. Its total hydro-electric potential is placed at about

35,000 MW at 60 per cent load factor. A large part of these resources is yet to be exploited optimally due to lack of financial resources and institutional linkages.

May I know from the hon. Minister the measures that the Government have already adopted or propose to be adopted to remove this non-availability of financial resources and institutional linkages?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that we have

a large hydro-electric potential in the North East. As I have already said in the reply, it is about 31,857 MW at 60 per cent load factor (PLF). But we have not been able to harness sufficient percentage of it because of various problems connected with the hydro-electric projects like river water problems, submission problem; and especially in the North East, we have this submersion problem. The biggest project in the North East... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about funds. How will you find funds for this purpose?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: Sir, funds is also one of the constraints.

MR. SPEAKER: How will you find funds for this purpose?

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: We have to raise funds through the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has to release funds. At the moment, the Planning Commission is not in a position to release funds for such huge hydro-electric electric projects. And we can pose them to private sector in due course. Before that, I am explaining that it is difficult to....

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has put a question, can you find funds and how?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): Sir, this is an extremely important Region for us and we have to harness the entire potential. It is a very large potential of 31,857 MW in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur. There are two questions. One is that a very substantial part of it is perhaps not

feasible because of massive submersion. And 20,000 MW project in Arunachal Pradesh would perhaps involve submersion of entire Arunachal. Therefore, that difficulty is there.

As to the funds, there is an acute shortage of funds. The only way that we can harness, whatever we can, is perhaps through the private sector and this Ministry will endeavour its best to get private sector to find funds for it.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Sir, the reply is not complete and satisfactory.

I would like to know whether the Government propose to involve the private sector in laying and maintenance of transmission lines which, otherwise, are likely to become a limiting factor in the development of private sector especially in remote and inaccessible areas like the North Eastern region?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I think, in reply to the earlier question, I have answered this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have replied. The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Passport Offices

*502. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN
PRABHU ZANTYE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications received and the number of those pending during 1993-94; State-wise;

(b) the average time being taken for the issue of a passport;

(c) the percentage of passports issued within the prescribed time limit during 1993-94, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of passport applications;

(e) the progress made in regard to computerisation of passport offices, State-wise; and

(f) the funds allocated for 1994-95 in regard to computerisation of passport offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (f). The information regarding the number of

passport applications received and those pending during 1993-94 statewise is at *Statement-I*. The time taken by different Passport Offices varies according to several factors including workload and staff strength. The time being taken for the issue of passports at the Passport Offices may be seen at *Statement-II*.

Government have taken various steps for the speedier disposal of passport applications including augmentation of staff strength, increase in supply of passport booklets, upgradation of office equipment, introduction of a productivity-linked incentive scheme and streamlining of passport issuing procedures. RPOs at Delhi, Bangalore and Bombay have been computerised. Work is due to begin at Kozhikode and Cochin. Estimates for Hyderabad and Madras are being processed for financial sanction. A programme for computerisation of 11 other passport offices during 1994-95 has also been drawn up. Rs. 8 crores have been earmarked in 1994-95 for the computerisation of passport offices.

STATEMENT-I

Statewise number of passport applications received and pending during 1993-94

Sl. No.	State	Office	Number of applications received	Total pendency as of 31.3.94	Pending over a month as of 31.3.94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	187340	22359	13069
2.	Assam	Guwahati	8980	2728	1811
3.	Bihar	Patna	48395	43169	36863
4.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	71113	49536	37382
5.	Delhi	Delhi	125723	40886	13533

Sl. No.	State	Office	Number of applications received	Total pendency as of 31.3.94	Pending over a month as of 31.3.94
6.	Goa	Goa	16095	3181	210
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	112591	18589	16183
8.	Karnataka	Bangalore	99026	35904	20948
9.	Kerala	Cochin Kozhikode & Trivandrum	426119	23598	9266
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	24604	3044	332
11.	Maharashtra	Bombay & Nagpur	233622	56250	34811
12.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	9637	1819	210
13.	Punjab	Jalandhar	77129	60323	48247
14.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	67430	10577	2651
15.	Tamil Nadu	Madras & Trichy	381997	53529	26369
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly & Lucknow	190999	88376	76655
17.	West Bengal	Calcutta	41596	13941	3816
			2122396	527809	342356

STATEMENT-II

The time taken by each Passport Office to issue a passport where the application is complete

Sl. No.	Office	Time taken in Dec '92	Time taken in Dec '93	Time taken as of 31.3.94
1.	Ahmedabad	105 days	90 days	80 days
2.	Bangalore	28 days	97 days	73 days
3.	Bareilly	70 days	39 days	49 days

Sl. No.	Office	Time taken in Dec '92	Time taken in Dec '93	Time taken as of 31.3.94
4.	Bhopal	40 days	44 days	79 days
5.	Bhubaneshwar	60 days	65 days	44 days
6.	Bombay	50 days	52 days	52 days
7.	Calcutta	90 days	37 days	30 days
8.	Chandigarh	270 days	320 days	291 days
9.	Cochin	180 days	56 days	48 days
10.	Delhi	70 days	45 days	24 days
11.	Goa	40 days	32 days	32 days*
12.	Guwahati	60 days	32 days	28 days*
13.	Hyderabad	80 days	41 days	45 days
14.	Jaipur	240 days	37 days	44 days
15.	Jalandhar	270 days	235 days	106 days
16.	Kozhikode	330 days	66 days	66 days
17.	Lucknow	180 days	107 days	114 days
18.	Madras	150 days	46 days	37 days
19.	Nagpur	28 days	32 days	35 days
20.	Patna	300 days	300 days	280 days
21.	Trichy	300 days	57 days	50 days
22.	Trivandrum	240 days	37 days	35 days

* Time taken as of 4-2-1994

Steel Production and Consumption

*504. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some steel plants in the public sector were unable to meet their performance targets during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

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

(c) the steps being taken to meet the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir, While SAIL as a whole was able to meet its production targets of Saleable Steel in 1992-93 and 1993-94, Durgapur Steel Plant (a unit of SAIL), IISCO (a subsidiary of SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (VSP) a (PSU) were unable to meet their production targets as per details given below:—

(Unit: '000 T)

Plant	1992-93			1993-94		
	Target	Actual	% Fulfilment	Target	Actual	% Fulfilment
BSP	3040	3118	103	3100	3335	108
DSP	710	641	90	920	641	70
RSP	1080	1179	109	1130	1130	100
BSL	2980	2999	101	3050	3205	105
IISCO	406	398	98	400	333	83
SAIL	8216	8335	101	8600	8645	101
VSP	1520	879	58	2130	1184	56

(b) The reasons for non-fulfilment of production targets were as follows:

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT (DSP)

In 1992-93, DSP could not meet its production targets due to the poor condition of Blast Furnace (BF)-I and Blast

Furnace-4 which resulted in lower hot metal production and associated low crude and saleable steel production. In 1993-94, the production target envisaged the commissioning of BF-2 by July, 1993 and short repairs of BF-I. However, BF-2 was commissioned only in December, 1993 and took some time to stabilise. BF No. 1 which got damaged during the

blowing down in May, 1993, took almost 7 months for repairs. However, DSP, with the provision of inputs for its rolling mills from sister plants was bale to step up its production of saleable steel to 70% of target in 1993-94.

INDIAN IRON AND STEEL COMPANY (IISCO)

In 1992-93, IISCO was unable to fulfill its saleable steel production target due to operational problems in the Steel Melting Shop. In 1993-94, IISCO gave preference to production of pig iron on commercial considerations. There were also problems in BF-3 which affected saleable steel production targets.

RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED (VSP)

In respect of VSP, principal reasons for not achieving the targets were:

- (i) The plant having been commissioned in August, 1992, the various units were under stabilisation.
- (ii) Introduction of new technologies for the first time posed certain unforeseen problems for which VSP did not have adequate trained personnel and facilities.
- (c) The position is as follows:

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT (DSP)

DSP expects to meet its production targets during 1994-95 as both blast furnace No. 2 and 1 have been commissioned and hot metal production has stabilised. Most of the units of the

modernisation are also expected to progressively commissioned during the year.

INDIAN IRON AND STEEL COMPANY (IISCO)

IISCO continues to face difficulties in realisation of its production targets as the plant requires modernisation and technological upgradation.

RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED (VSP)

At VSP, several measures have been taken to improve production levels in converters and continuous casting shops, and as a result thereof production targets are expected to be achieved in 1994-95.

Mining Sector

*505. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Foreign firms shy away from Mining sector" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated March 14, 1994;

(b) whether the Indian mining sector is not competitive and financially viable as compared to other countries; and

(c) if so, the factors responsible therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make this sector competitive and viable so as to attract foreign investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries

*509. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether food processing industries have the capacity to create more employment opportunities with less capital investment as compared to other industries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sought expert opinion in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission on Agro-Food Industries and the Study Report of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad indicate that the Food Processing Industry has high employment potential with significantly lower investments. In order to attract investment and stimulate growth of this sector, Government have taken various steps for

making the investment climate conducive. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated and is operating a number of Plan Schemes for development of Food Processing Sector.

[English]

Visit of Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel

*511. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel has recently visited India;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives of the visit;

(c) whether some bilateral issues were discussed during the visit;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(e) the fresh areas identified for strengthening further the relations between the two countries and the follow-up steps taken in that regard;

(f) whether any agreements were signed between the two countries during the visit; and

(g) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, Dr. Yossi Beilin, visited India from March 29 to April 5, 1994 for official discussions, which were held at delegation level with the Minister of State, Shri R.L. Bhatia, on April 3. The visitor called on the External Affairs Minister on April 4, 1994. On his way to New Delhi, Dr. Beilin stopped over at Bombay and Jaipur and paid courtesy calls on Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Both sides stressed the prospects of further cooperation in such areas as drip and drop irrigation, dry land farming, horticulture, animal husbandry and utilisation of solar energy.

(f) and (g). An Air Transport Agreement between the two countries was signed during the visit. The Agreement provides for operating by a designated airline by each side scheduled international air services on specified routes to destinations in each other's country. Each designated airlines shall be entitled to operate upto a maximum of two frequencies and not more than 500 seats per week in each direction.

Construction of Roads and Ports

*512. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Kingdom has shown keen interest to invest in the contribution of roads and ports in India;

(b) if so, whether a high level British delegation visited India in April

and had held discussions with him in this regard;

(c) if so, whether any agreements have been reached with the U.K.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the States where these projects are likely to be set up with British assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. British delegation visited India during the months of February and April, 1994.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is too early to specify the position as the discussions were mainly of exploratory nature.

[Translation]

Doordarshan Coverage

*513. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribal people in Bihar and other States who have been benefited by the Doordarshan transmission so far;

(b) whether any Government agency or any other agency has made any survey to ascertain as to whether these programmes are acceptable to the tribal people;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

, (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct any such survey in the various tribal areas of the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Such statistics are not available.

(b) No survey of such a specific nature has been conducted so far.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Transport Projects

*514. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in the field of surface transport has been made by some foreign countries during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the names of projects financed by foreign countries, countrywise and year-wise;

(c) whether transport projects in Sikkim are also proposed to be financed by the foreign countries;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

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

World Telecom Conference

*515. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently participated in World Telecom Development Conference;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed in the said Conference;

(c) the agreements signed with developing countries regarding transfer of telecommunications technology developed in India to those countries; and

(d) other decisions arrived at during the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. An Indian delegation led by the Minister of State for Communications, participated in

the World Telecom Development Conference (WTDC-94) held at Buenos Aires, Argentina from 21st to 29th March, 1994.

(b) The Conference discussed issues relating to the Global development of telecommunications with particular reference to the following:—

- Goals & objectives for telecommunication development for the year 2000 and beyond;
- Work programme and guidelines for the activities of the Telecommunication Development sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Geneva; and
- Special programmes for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

(c) No such agreements were signed. However, the issue regarding transfer of technology by the developed countries to the developing countries was raised by the Indian delegation which was appreciated by almost all the developing countries and it has been entrusted to a Committee for suggesting ways and means of transferring the technology quickly and on affordable terms.

(d) The Conference adopted an 'Action Plan' which comprises of:—

- A programme of cooperation amongst members of the Telecommunication Development Sector;
- A plan of action by the ITU for assisting the developing countries; and

- A special programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- In addition, the Conference also decided to establish two Study Groups to study issues related to:
- Telecommunication Development strategies and policies;
- Development, harmonisation, management, and maintenance of Telecommunication networks and services.

Visit of Foreign Minister of France

*516. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of France visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed during the visit and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements were signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof, agreement-wise;

(e) whether Kashmir issue had also figured in the talks; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) to (f). French Foreign Minister Mr. Alain Juppe

visited India from 3–5 April 1994. This was the first Foreign Minister-level visit from France in over five years. Mr. Juppe called on the Prime Minister, held talks with the External Affairs Minister and had separate meetings with the Finance Minister, the Home Minister and the Minister for Power. He also addressed Indian businessmen at a lunch organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

2. The main issues discussed during Mr. Juppe's meetings with Indian leaders included all aspects of bilateral relations, in particular the intensification of bilateral economic relations; the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and problems faced by India with externally sponsored terrorism; Indo-Pak relations; issues related to the international trading system; and non proliferation.

3. Mr. Juppe affirmed the desire of the French Government to intensify relations with Indian and give them fresh impetus. He conveyed the keenness of the French companies to increase their presence in the Indian market availing of the new opportunities created by India's economic reforms. In this context, he conveyed their interest in concluding a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement to create a hospitable climate for French investments. With a view to enhancing bilateral economic relations, the French Minister for Trade and Industry is to visit India later this year for a meeting of the Indo-French Joint Commission and a high-level French business delegation is also to visit India in late 1994. Mr. Juppe conveyed that the French Government was prepared to conclude a Financial Protocol for 1994 for the utilisation of which suitable projects could be identified. The two sides also agreed to set up an Indo-French Forum to act

as a catalyst in bilateral relations in various fields.

3. No agreements were concluded during the visit.

4. Mr. Juppe was briefed on India's perceptions and concerns on the Kashmir issue, including Pakistan's support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir which was hindering initiation of the political process in that State. Mr. Juppe affirmed French support for the resolution of all Indo-Pak issues through a bilateral dialogue and indicated that France was opposed to internationalisation of the Kashmir issue. He also stated that France condemned terrorism and external intervention and noted with appreciation India's policy of transparency on human rights as well as the strengthening of safeguards through the setting up of the National Human Rights Commission.

Deep Sea Fishing Industry

*517. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from FAO have been looking into the causes of sickness in the Indian deep-sea fishing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where FAO expertise is being utilised; and

(c) the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A study was carried out by a FAO consultant for identifying avenues for the sustainable &

viable operation of deep sea fishing vessels in India.

[Translation]

(c) Salient features of the findings of the FAO consultant are furnished in the *Statement* attached.

STATEMENT

Salient features of the findings in the Report of FAO Consultant on study of deep sea fishing development in India.

- (1) Indian deep sea fishing fleet has the technical & managerial capacity to continue & diversify its fishing operations.
- (2) An available fishery resource of 1,64,000 tonnes can be exploited annually, having an export value of about US \$ 280 million, by the deep sea fishing vessels.
- (3) Gradual and phased redeployment of the deep sea fishing fleet and collection of catch data is necessary to enable an effective fisheries management.
- (4) Three types of demonstration commercial fishing, namely Oceanic Pelagic long lining, deep water trawling, Demersal lining & trapping, to establish commercial viability of diversified fishing operations, should be taken up.
- (5) Incentives and Credit facilities should be given to deep sea fishing industry for diversified fishing operations.

Shipment Capacity

*518. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shipment capacity is constantly declining in the country;

(b) the quantum of goods in tonne transported by the ship of the Shipping Corporation of India during 1992-93 as compared to 1991-92; and

(c) the profit earned by the Shipping Corporation of India during 1992-93 as compared to 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Shipping Corporation of India Limited have carried 384.37 lakh revenue tons during 1992-93 as against 378.87 lakh revenue tons in 1991-92.

(c) The Shipping Corporation of India Limited have earned profit to the extent of Rs. 143.18 crores during 1992-93 as against Rs. 108.86 crores in 1991-92.

[English]

Private Participation In Power Sector

*519. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to introduce competitive bidding in power sector for setting up power projects in the country;

(b) whether the competitive bidding would encourage more participation of private sector in the power sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of proposals, both Indian and foreign separately, for participation of private sector in power projects presently under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) Awarding power projects to private promoters is within the competence of the State Governments. State Governments have been advised to consider introducing competitive bidding for awarding power projects to the private promoters.

(b) and (c). The proposal for awarding power plants through competitive bidding to private sector by State Government is more for transparency in the procedure than to make such proposals more attractive.

(d) As on date proposals have been received for setting up of 75 power projects in private sector for a total capacity of 32,662 MW costing approx. Rs. 1,04,152 crores. 35 of these proposals are from foreign investors (including NRI and joint venture proposals) for a capacity addition of 22,432 MW costing approx. Rs. 73,386 crores. 35 out of the 75 proposals are from Indian promoters for a capacity addition of 7019 MW costing approx. Rs. 20,330 crores. Remaining 5 proposals for a capacity addition of 3210 MW are proposed to be awarded through bidding.

East Coast Road

*520. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has decided to review the East Coast Road linking Madras to Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether environmental issues have been involved in the execution of the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present stage of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e). A *Statement* is attached:

STATEMENT

Constitutionally the Central Government is concerned with the development and upkeep of the National Highways in the country and all other roads are the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. East Coast Road being a State road, Government of Tamil Nadu are primarily concerned with its development. Information as reported by the State Government in this regard is as under:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have given

environmental clearance to Madras-Cuddalore Section of the East Coast Road which is being developed with the Asian Development Bank loan assistance.

(e) The physical progress of the work is 30%.

STs Posts in MTNL

5619. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge backlog in filling up of posts of class III and IV reserved for Scheduled Tribes in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise with reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, there is a backlog of vacancies as stated in answer to para (b).

(b) Details of ST backlog category-wise is as under:—

Category	Number
Group 'C'	550
Group 'D'	683

The backlog exists as ST candidates were not available.

(c) To fill up the backlog of reserved ST vacancies, following steps are being taken:

(i) where candidates are not available within the Unit, other Telecom. Units have been asked for willing candidates.

(ii) Appropriate Staff Selection Commissions & Employment Exchanges have also been approached for ST candidates.

(iii) Where employment exchanges have given "Non-availability Certificate", open advertisements have been issued in News papers for filling up backlog of reserved vacancies for ST candidates.

Tin Plate Production

5620. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of tin plate in the country;

(b) the total annual demand of tin plate;

(c) whether there is a demand-supply gap which is not being covered by the present tin plate production in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of tin plate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The total

production of tin plate in the country during the year 1993-94 was 92,000 tonnes (provisional).

(b) The total annual requirement of tin plate during the year 1993-94 was estimated at 260,000 tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The import of tin plate is freely allowed. Import duty on tin plate has been reduced from 75% to 50%. Import duty on Tin Mill Black Plate which is the raw material for tin plate, has also been reduced from 35% to 30%. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is planning to increase its production of tin plate in 1994-95.

Transport Corridor through Bangladesh

5621. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has urged the Union Government for opening of a transport corridor through Bangladesh for the economic development of the land-locked North Eastern States on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee of the Planning Commission;

(b) whether the Union Government had taken up the proposal with the Bangladesh Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Bangladesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir, the Government of Tripura has, in the above

context, requested the Government of India to take up with the Government of Bangladesh the question of seeking suitable facilities for transporting commodities to the North Eastern region.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far, the Government of Bangladesh has not reacted positively to our proposals.

[Translation]

Theft of Bank Drafts in Delhi

5622. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gang has been unearthed recently i.e. in the third week of March, 1994 which is responsible for stealing of bank drafts from the post offices in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Kamla Market Police Station has registered an F.I.R. on 9.3.1994 and arrested one outsider Shri Manoj Kumar on 9.3.94 and Shri Narender Kumar, a departmental employee of New Delhi Sorting Division on 12.3.1994 for their alleged involvement in stealing the bank drafts from the post office. A criminal case has also been registered by the police. Drafts for Rs. 22,162.00 were also recovered by the police.

(c) Shri Narender Kumar has been placed under suspension from the date of his arrest and orders have been issued to initiate departmental proceedings against him under the relevant disciplinary rules. This is in addition to the criminal case registered by the police against the persons involved in this case.

[English]

Eviction of Media Persons

5623. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the media persons were evicted from the VIP lounge at the Indira Gandhi International Air Port at the time of arrival of the US Assistant Secretary of State on March 22, 1994;

(b) whether the eviction was done as per the advice of the Ministry of External Affairs; and

(c) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Media reports on this incident have come to Government's notice.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Cultural Programmes on Doordarshan

5624. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cultural programmes telecast by Doordarshan during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have received representations that a good number of artists feel disheartened for the manner in which country's art and culture are being presented;

(c) whether the Government propose to review its policy in respect of Doordarshan's cultural programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Such details are not maintained by Doordarshan.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telecom Facility in Industrial Areas

5625. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve State Governments in providing telecommunication services to the dense industrial areas and private sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Sir, wherever State Governments are setting

up big industrial centres and residential colonies, they can set up their own telecom network in these areas subject to approval of DOT. Such networks can be provided connectivity to the public network through junction lines.

[English]

Haj Advisory Board

5626. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to constitute the Central Haj Advisory Board;

(b) the date of its last constitution, its term and composition;

(c) whether the Haj Committee organised the Annual Haj Conference in 1993;

(d) if so, the recommendations and the suggestions made by the Conference; and

(e) whether those recommendations and suggestions have been considered and accepted by the Haj Committee and by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Central Advisory Board had been a non-statutory body constituted for the purpose of ascertaining the views of important Muslim personalities in the country on Haj and ziarat matters. It was last constituted in November 1987 for a normal tenure of one year. No decision has been taken to reconstitute the CHAB. The CHAB is constituted for a one period with the Joint

Secretary in charge of Haj affairs in the Ministry of External Affairs as the ex-officio Secretary & Convenor of the Board. The CHAB constituted in November 1987 consisted of 38 members and included Chairmen of the State Haj Committees as well as some Members of Parliament and prominent public figures.

(c) to (e). Haj Committee organised the Annual Haj Conference on October 1, 1993 in Bombay. The recommendations and suggestions made by the Haj Committee were mainly in the nature of suggestions for improvement of Haj arrangements both in India and Saudi Arabia. They included early despatch of Building Renting Delegation and Building Selection Team, arrangements for carriage of pilgrims by Air India, increasing the number of departure points, continued availability of ship for Haj voyages, augmentation of medical/administrative contingents deputed to CGI, Jeddah, option to the pilgrims to obtain foreign exchange of either Saudi riyals 4600 or 5500, continued use of air-conditioned buses for pilgrims in Saudi Arabia and early commissioning of Haj House. Suggestions made by the Annual Haj Conference have been examined in detail and implemented on a continuous basis keeping in view their practicality and necessity.

Mango Processing Units in A.P.

5627. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the incentives given or proposed to be given for the export of mangoes particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESS-

ING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): Besides the concessions available under the income tax Act and Export-Import Policy of the Government, assistance is provided by Agricultural & Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) and National Horticulture Board for procurement of specialised transport, establishment of pre-cooling stations, mechanised post-harvest handling facilities, treatment facilities like testing, publicity etc. for export of agricultural and processed produce including mangoes. Ministry of Food Processing Industries also provides assistance for establishment of post-harvest processing facilities like pre-cooling stations, storage establishment of vapour heating treatment facilities etc. These incentives are available for export of mangoes from Andhra Pradesh also.

[Translation]

Pulse Processing Mills

5628. SHRI N.J. RATHVA:
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether pulse processing mills have been set up in Bihar and Gujarat particularly in the tribal districts during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate financial provisions have been made under the National Pulses Development Scheme for the setting up of such mills; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the concerned State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). A provision of Rs. 69 lakhs has been made for the year 1994-95 for supply of Dal processors and storage bins under the Centrally sponsored National Pulses Development Project.

[English]

Roads in Assam

5629. SHRI NURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of black topped road in the district of Dhubri, Barpeta and Golapara in Assam;

(b) the total length of National Highways in these regions;

(c) whether roads are fit for traffic; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). Government of India are primarily responsible for development & maintenance of roads declared as National Highways. The total length of National Highways in the districts of Dhubri, Barpeta and Golapara in Assam is nearly 260 km. These are kept in traffic worthy condition within the available funds.

German Collaboration in Power Sector

5630. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up some power plants with the collaboration of Germany in the country;

(b) the name of the States where those power plants are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the details of generation capacity of those power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). Details of power projects posed for availing German assistance are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State/Implementing Agency	Capacity (MW)
1.	Nagarjunasagar Tail Pond Dam Power House	Andhra Pradesh	2x25=50
2.	Singur Hydro-electric Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	2x7.5=15
3.	Renovation & Upgrading Hydro Projects of Koyna, Machkund, Hirakud Units 3 & 4	Power Finance Corporation	—
4.	Environmental Upgradation Projects of TPS—Parli, Bhusawal, Chandrapur & Durgapur Projects Ltd.	Power Finance Corporation	—
5.	Rehabilitation of Coal fired station, Chandrapur	Power Finance Corporation	—

In addition, a proposal has been made for utilisation of undrawn balance of the external assistance of the following projects of NTPC constructed with German assistance, for the purpose of retrofitting dry ash collection systems etc.:

1. Singrauli STPP St. II
2. Korba STPP St. II
3. Ramagundam STPP St. II
4. Farakka STPP St. II

A.I.R. Stations in Karnataka

5631. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of full fledged stations, relay centres, auxiliary centres of A.I.R. in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal for the upgradation of some of these Radio Stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the proposals for expansion of All India Radio service in the Karnataka State during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) There are 12 full fledged A.I.R. Stations in the State of Karnataka.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The power of existing 10 KW MW transmitter at Gulbarga is being upgraded to 20 KW MW.

(d) For expansion of A.I.R. services in Karnataka, the following schemes have been taken up during the Eighth Plan:

Places	Schemes
1. Bijapur	Local Radio station with 2x3 KW FM transmitter, M.P. studio.
2. Bangalore	Provision of 4x500 KW SW transmitter for external services.
3. Gulbarga	20 KW MW transmitter in place of 10 KW MW transmitter.
4. Bangalore	2x5 KW FM Transmitter for stereo transmission.

Telephone Bills in Delhi

5632. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subscribers of telephones in Delhi do not get their tele-

phone bills in time and sometimes they do not get bill at all; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Delhi Telephones issues about 3.5 lakh bills every month by post. There are some instances when the subscribers have complained about non-receipt or delayed receipt of bills.

(b) In case, the telephone bills are not received by any subscriber the following steps are taken:—

- (i) Duplicate bill can be obtained free of charge from the Customer Service Centres located in each Area Office.
- (ii) Corrective action is taken whenever any instance of non-receipt of telephone bill due to incomplete address or any other reason is noticed.
- (iii) In case of any delay in despatch of bills, the pay-by-date is suitably extended.

Visas to Indian Pilgrims Visiting Pakistan

5633. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian pilgrims who had been granted visas by Pakistan High Commission in Delhi to visit gurudwaras in Pakistan on the occasion of Baisakhi during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of 3000 Indian pilgrims who had applied to

the Pakistani High Commissioner in Delhi for visas to visit gurudwaras on the occasion of Baisakhi this year, about 1,100 pilgrims were denied visas without assigning any reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the National Sikh Organisation of India had approached his Ministry for assistance in the matter;

(e) if so, whether the matter was taken up with the Pakistan Government/ High Commission in Delhi; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (f). Pursuant to the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines signed between India and Pakistan in 1974, it was, inter-alia, agreed that 3,000 Yatris would be permitted to visit specified Gurudwaras in Pakistan on the occasion of Baisakhi every year. Government are aware that 2925, 2049 and 1915 Yatris passed through Attari checkpoint on their way to Pakistan, in the year 1992, 1993 and 1994 respectively on the occasion of Baisakhi.

Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi is not required to communicate to Government detailed information regarding the number of visas granted to Indian nationals to visit Gurudwaras in Pakistan. However, the Pakistan High Commission in a press release issued on 11 April, 1994 claimed that "as per visa policy", of which Government of India are aware, Indian yatris intending to visit Pakistan are required to submit their applications six weeks prior to the commencement of the pilgrimage and that since this was not fulfilled by the Indian Yatris desirous

of travelling to Pakistan for the Baisakhi this year, it was able to grant 1969 visas only.

Government would clarify that the Pakistan High Commission's contention is not acceptable. Government have brought this to the notice of the Pakistani authorities through diplomatic channels. Government have also conveyed its regret that only 1969 Yatris were granted visa facilities by Pakistan for this year's Baisakhi.

On various pretexts in the recent years Pakistan has been resiling from its commitments under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines. Pakistan's negative approach in this regard hurts the sentiments and devotion of the various communities in the two countries for the historic and sacred shrines in the other and adversely affects people-to-people contacts between India and Pakistan.

Copper Mines

5634. PROF. M. KAMSON: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the location of all the copper mines in the country;

(b) the quantum of copper mined from these mines annually;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce advanced technology to make copper extraction more cost effective;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of copper mines closed down during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), a Public Sector Enterprise of the Central Government, and Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGML), a Public Sector Undertaking of the State Government of Karnataka, operate the following copper mines in the country:—

HCL: 1. Khetri

2. Kolihaan
Rajasthan

3. Chandmari

4. Dariba

5. Mosaboni

6. Pathargora

7. Surda
Bihar

8. Kendadih

9. Rakha

10. Malanikhand
Copper Project Madhya Pradesh

HGML: 1. Chitradurga

2. Kalyadi
Karnataka

In addition to above mines, Sikkim Mining Corporation (SMC), a joint venture of Government of Sikkim and Government of India, also produces copper concentrates from polymetallic ore mined from their mine at Bhotang, Sikkim.

(b) The production of refined copper (cathode) of HCL during the last three years is as under:

(in tonnes)

	Cathodes
1991-92	45495
1992-93	45275
1993-94	39002 (Prov.)

This includes copper produced out of the copper concentrates received from HGML & SMC as they do not have smelting facility.

(c) and (d): The copper mines of HCL and HGML are by and large mechanised. HCL has formulated a re-vamping plan consisting of expansion of the smelting capacity at Khetri from 31,000 tonnes to 1,00,000 tonnes per annum of refined copper with imported high grade feed stock copper concentrates, rationalisation of work-force, capital restructuring of the Company development of promising mines, etc. The revamping plan, when implemented, would make copper production by HCL cost effective.

(e) No copper mines were closed during the last three years.

Minorities in Pakistan

5635. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem regarding alleged conversion of Hindus as appeared in Pakistani monthly News Line, March 1994 issue;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the tribulations of the minorities including Hindus in Pakistan, particularly in Sindh region;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the large number of minorities population including Hindus want to come to India from Sindh;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action at the Diplomatic level to reduce the harassment of minorities including Hindu in Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen reports to the effect that minority communities in Pakistan, including Hindus, are victims of discrimination and persecution.

(c) There have been a few incidents of members of the Hindu community in Sindh attempting to cross the international border to India.

(d) and (e). Government have consistently taken the view that it is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to protect the rights of its citizens, including those belonging to the minority communities.

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges In Orissa

5636. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the progress made so far with regard to expansion and conversion of various telephone exchanges into electronic ones in Orissa, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) envisages to provide Telephones practically on demand in rural and tribal areas and to contain the waiting period for telephone connections in large telephone systems to maximum two years by the end of the Plan period.

To meet the above objective the department has planned to add about 93 lakh lines of net switching capacity in the country during the 8th Plan period. As per annual Plan (1994-95) about 23.1 lakh lines of net switching capacity are proposed to be added in the country.

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

Arrears Outstanding Against D.T.C.

5637. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has not paid arrears to public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the public sector oil companies have threatened to stop supply of oil/diesel to DTC; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the outstanding arrears payable to the various Oil Companies as on 31-3-1994 are given below:—

Name of the Oil Company	(Rs. in crores)
Indian Oil Corporation	18.62
Bharat Petroleum Corporation	1.28
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation	1.79
Total	21.69

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have approved the provision of additional funds to DTC to liquidate its outstanding liabilities including payment of arrears to Oil Companies.

Development of Ports

5638. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any delegation had visited foreign countries during last three years to conduct a study with regard to development/expansion of ports;

(b) whether the delegation included any person from Maharashtra also;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any long-term policy for development/expansion of ports in the country on the basis of that study; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. In January '94 a delegation visited the Ports of Singapore and Malaysia to study privatisation and containerisation there.

(b) and (c). Yes. The delegation included four Officers of Bombay Port Trust, Maharashtra. They are:

1. Sh. K.G. Apte, Secretary.
2. Sh. R.D. Joshi, Docks Manager.
3. Sh. R.K. Khattar, Additional Chief Mechanical Engineer.
4. Sh. T.V.P. Raman, Additional Chief Engineer.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Pak's Encouragement to Terrorism
in India**

5639. SHRIMATI BHAVNA

CHIKHLIA:

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have shown the evidence of encouraging terrorism in India by Pakistan to the ambassadors and journalists of foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have shown documentary and visual evidence of Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism in India. Detailed briefings have been held about weapon seizures and the terrorists' own admissions regarding the training and assistance that they have received in Pakistan. Foreign Ambassadors and journalists have met arrested terrorists including Pak nationals and mercenaries and have held meetings with the victims of terrorist violence. Special press conference, with evidence of the material seized, have been organised when specific events, such as the recent arrest in Delhi of Pak trained saboteurs, take place. Visits of twenty five resident Heads of Missions in Delhi have been organised

to Jammu & Kashmir to see, at first hand, the effects of terrorism on the State.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Secondary Steel Industry

5640. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the secondary steel industries have been affected adversely on account of foreign capital investment under the new liberalised economic policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this adverse impact on these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). No, Sir. As per the available information, secondary steel industry has not been affected adversely on account of foreign capital investment under the new liberalised economic policy.

Excise Concessions

5641. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recommended to the Finance Ministry to grant excise concessions to food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any recommendation has been made this year to reduce Central Excise on diesel fuel used by the deep-sea fishing industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). For development of various food processing industries, this Ministry recommends to the Finance Ministry from time to time to grant fiscal concessions and modifications in the tax structure in respect of food products, capital goods, ingredients for the food products, packaging materials for food products, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Air India Bombing, 1985

5642. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH
(DEORIA):
PROF. PREM DHUMAL:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Canadian T.V. documentary about U.S. Intelligence Agencies allegedly withholding vital information from the Canadian authorities investigating into 1985 Air India bombing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have received adequate cooperation from US Agencies in matters pertaining to terrorist activities targeting India. Government have no evidence to conclude that information as alleged in the Canadian T.V. documentary was available with the US Government.

SC/ST Posts in Tamil Nadu Post Office

5643. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the posts reserved for SCs/STs have been filled up in the above offices according to the reservation policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of post offices functioning in Tamil Nadu is 2,849 as on 31.12.1993.

(b) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Siachen Glacier

5644. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the US in regard to Siachen Glacier; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Closure of Sharavathi Bridge

5645. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of National Highways has ordered the closure of Sharavathi bridge in Karnataka to heavy vehicles;

(b) if so, when it was ordered;

(c) whether the Central Electro Chemical Research Institute has investigated the weak areas of the bridge and submitted its report;

(d) if so, whether the National Transport Planning and Research Centre has also undertaken the geo-technical survey for the bridge;

(e) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision to strengthen the existing bridge or to construct a new bridge;

(f) the amount released during 1993-94 for the above work;

(g) whether there is any proposal to entrust the construction of a new

bridge to the Konkan Railway Corporation; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 17.7.1991.

(c) Yes, Sir, for representative spans.

(d) Yes, Sir, for the proposed new bridge only.

(e) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to strengthen/rehabilitate the existing bridge as well as to construct a new bridge.

(f) Funds to states are allocated for National Highways as a whole and not work-wise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Representation by Fishermen

5646. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from the Shri Porbandar Machimmar Boat Association and the Association of Traditional Fishermen in Gujarat and other States regarding unregulated movement of sophisticated deep sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to protect the interests of the traditional fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The fishermen alleged that the operation of deep sea fishing vessels under Charter & Joint Ventures on the West Coast, affects their fishing operations adversely, specially in Gujarat and Saurashtra Coast. Fishermen have demanded that deep sea fishing vessels may be allowed to fish only beyond 24 nautical miles from the Shore. The fishermen also demanded cancellation of permissions given under the deep sea fishing policy, among other things.

(c) The matter has been reviewed and an Expert Committee has been constituted for making an indepth study in consultation with the concerned State Govts. and to suggest remedial measures.

[Translation]

Multinationals in Soft Drink Industry

5647. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL
KATHERIA:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRI SANT RAM SINGLA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from multinationals in 1992-93 and 1993-94, for the setting up of soft drink units in the country;

(b) whether the Coca-cola project is expected to generate direct and indirect employment in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Pepsi-cola and Coca-cola sold in the country are of poor quality, as compared to International standards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The number of applications received during the reference period is one.

(b) and (c). The Coca-cola Project is expected to generate substantial employment both directly and indirectly. As reported by the company, on an average, approximately 5000 people could be employed per bottling plant in India.

(d) No such complaints have been received.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Mineral Exploitation in the Exclusive Economic Zone

5648. DR. GUNWANT RAMBHAU
SARODE:
SHRI V.S. VIJAYA-
RAGHAVAN:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-
THALA:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:
DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has developed a comprehensive programme for the selective exploitation of minerals and other marine non-living resources within the EEZ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan is being implemented for the commercial exploitation of precious minerals in the sea-bed within the EEZ;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are seeking cooperation from foreign countries and the domestic private sector in marine survey and exploration; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has a comprehensive programme for Sea-bed survey within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of India. It has been carrying out systematic reconnaissance seabed survey within the EEZ of India in the Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea, Arabian Sea and within the territorial waters along east and west coast.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Junk Food in India

5649. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD

PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open the Indian market to multinationals selling "junk food";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to protect the domestic market from invasion by these multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). While there is no clear definition as to what could be called as "junk food", the Government have approved investment proposals of foreign companies for manufacture and selling of various food products based on cereals, meat and poultry, fish, milk, etc. These companies have to operate within the framework of Indian laws and have to compete with the others in the market.

[Translation]

Underground Mining

5650. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita production of underground mines had been decreasing over the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to increase the productivity of these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI

BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

De-Reservation of SC/ST Posts

5651. SHRI BRAHMANAND
MANDAL:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN
SINGH:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:
SHRI KARIYA MUNDA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government's orders issued through the Department of Personnel on de-reservation of SC/ST posts at the time of giving promotion to general category employees from 1991 to 1993 have been violated or have not been implemented by the IRCC (Indian Road Construction Corporation);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the relevant details in this connection including the number of posts created for promotion and the number of persons promoted in different cadres, category-wise and the number of posts got de-reserved and the number of SC/ST employees promoted from 1991 to 1993 after completion of the eligibility period;

(d) the details of the Agenda item 119/16 of the IRCC as approved compared to the Department of Personnel orders; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the SC/ST employees in IRCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e). The details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Road Accidents in Delhi

5652. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
DR. SAKSHI JI:
SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR
REDDY:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:
SHRI GANGADHARA
SANIPALLI:
SHRI SYED SHAHABUD-
DIN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loss of human lives in road accidents has been on the increase during the last decade;

(b) if so, the figures thereof during the last five years, including 1993-94, State-wise, metropolitan city-wise and year-wise;

(c) the number of persons killed in road accidents in the country every minute and the annual financial loss suffered as a result thereof;

(d) the comparative figures of fatality per lakh of population for the different metropolitan cities;

(e) whether a National Workshop was organised recently for road safety management; and

(f) if so, the subject discussed and the measures recommended by the participants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In some States/Cities there has been a decline as is evident from *Statement-I & II* giving State-wise, Metropolitan City-wise and Year-wise figures of persons killed in Road Accidents.

(c) Based on 1992 figures, 0.1124 person is killed in one minute in road accidents in the country. The total annual financial loss is estimated at over Rupee Five thousand Crores.

(d) Based on 1991 figures, comparative figures of fatality per lakh of population for the different metropolitan cities is given in *Statement-III*.

(e) No, Sir. However, Seminar on Road Safety was organised on the 5th January, 1994.

(f) The subjects on which papers were presented in this Seminar related to:

- (i) Road Accident Scenario in India and Safety Management Strategies;
- (ii) Road Safety—Education and Enforcement;
- (iii) Bus Accidents in the Cities;
- (iv) Towards Developing a Road Safety Culture problems and prospects;
- (v) Safety of vehicles, pedestrians, passengers and drivers;
- (vi) Development of Road Safety Culture, steps required to be taken and the difficulties;
- (vii) Road Engineering in Road Safety—The need for years ahead.
- (viii) Unified Road Traffic Management System— Strategy for Road Safety.

Some of the important measures suggested by various speakers in the Seminar are given in the *Statement-IV*.

STATEMENT-I

Persons killed in Road Accidents State-wise/Year-wise

States	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
1. Andhra Pradesh	4091	4458	5211	5598	6037
2. Arunachal Pradesh	95	59	97	83	175
3. Assam	881	895	904	867	940
4. Bihar	2401	2183	2151	2304	2013

States	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
5. Delhi	1474	1583	1670	1820	1727
6. Goa	161	169	174	177	208
7. Gujarat	2973	3509	3722	3979	4000 (E)
8. Haryana	1587	1819	1969	1916	1800 (E)
9. Himachal Pradesh	386	469	465	414	365
10. Jammu & Kashmir	563	491	371	392	443
11. Karnataka	3168	3655	3901	4079	3449
12. Kerala	1653	1737	1793	1803	2101
13. Madhya Pradesh	2649	2709	2793	3398	3667
14. Maharashtra	5133	5785	5427	6160	6776
15. Manipur	108	129	106	111	106
16. Meghalaya	87	98	133	129	118
17. Mizoram	53	38	38	29	27
18. Nagaland	60	42	64	57	78
19. Orissa	1038	1171	1193	1330	1300 (E)
20. Punjab	908	819	1133	1141	1200 (E)
21. Rajasthan	1898	3023	3465	3736	3862
22. Sikkim	49	38	26	34	44
23. Tamil Nadu	5791	6299	6663	6406	7073
24. Tripura	113	136	113	95	125
25. Uttar Pradesh	6728	7111	7639	7806	7600 (E)
26. West Bengal	2286	2094	2600	2559	2700 (E)

UNION TERRITORIES

27. A. & N. Islands	12	15	17	5	14
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States	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
28. Chandigarh	91	76	80	72	96
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13	10	18	11	11
30. Daman & Diu	7	9	16	7	11
31. Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	1
32. Pondicherry	104	82	106	107	132
All India Total	46561	50711	54058	56625	59089

E—Estimated

STATEMENT-II*Persons killed in Road Accidents in Metropolitan Cities*

Cities	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Delhi	1474	1581	1670	1820	1727
Bombay	520	444	400	365	406
Calcutta	425	468	463	452	472
Madras	390	413	507	461	467

STATEMENT-III*Fatalities per lakh of population in different Metropolitan Cities*

Cities	Per lakh of population
Bombay	2.90
Calcutta	4.10
Madras	8.50
Delhi	21.62

STATEMENT-IV

Remedial steps suggested in the Road Safety Seminar held on 5th January, 1994 to minimise road accidents are as follows:—

- (i) Audio, visual, leaflets etc. relating to 'do' and 'don't' for different categories of road users should be made and presented in more improved style.

- (ii) Ministry of Education by means of enactment should make 'traffic education' a part of prescribed curricular for school children.
- (iii) All Motor Driving Schools which have mushroomed must be regulated and controlled by the State agencies. These Driving Schools should have proper infrastructure facilities and qualified instructors.
- (iv) Since pedestrians and cyclists are major victims of road accidents, special education campaign is required towards educating them in road discipline.
- (v) Improvement of geometrics along the hill sections.
- (vi) Provisions of guard rails on approaches to bridges and high embankments, etc.
- (vii) Signalising the unmanned railway level crossings and providing warning signs and rumblers.
- (viii) Removal of speed breakers on national and State highways and conforming to international standards where speed humps are absolutely necessary.
- (ix) Better street lighting in urban centres and along the main ghats.
- (x) Improving the quality of driver education and training, and stricter control over the driving licence.

- (xi) To have each road provided with proper road markings so as to induce proper lane discipline.
- (xii) To maintain and provide sufficient pedestrian facilities.
- (xiii) To improve road lighting system on a systematic basis.

[English]

Indian Workers In Gulf Countries

5653. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any data of Indians working in UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Kuwait; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on information collated by our Missions, the details are as follows:

United Arab Emirates: There are approximately 5,00,000 Indians engaged mostly as workforce on time bound contracts. The majority are in the Emirates of Dubai (2,00,000), Abu Dhabi (1,00,000) and Sharjah (75,000). Approximately 40% are in construction and service industries, 30% are clerical staff, 20% are professionals and 10% are businessmen.

Saudi Arabia: There are approximately 10,50,000 Indian nationals residing in Saudi Arabia of which 8,50,000 are

employed as labourers (skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled) and the remaining 2,00,000 are professionals and their families.

Oman: There are about 3,01,000 Indian nationals in Oman. Most of them are engaged in skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled jobs; about 8% are in professional jobs.

Kuwait: There are about 1,72,000 Indian nationals in Kuwait.

Bisra Limestone Company

5654. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to close down Bisra Limestone Company Limited, Birmatrapur;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide alternative employment to the workers;

(c) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to modernise this Company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Government is extending financial assistance to the Company for carrying out additions, modifications and

replacements to its existing plant and machinery.

Earthquake Prone Areas in Andhra Pradesh

5655. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India have identified earthquake prone areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken by the Union Government to minimise damages in these regions in the event of a quake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

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

Post Office Buildings in Bihar

5656. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the programme for construction of departmental buildings for sub-post offices in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sub Post Offices for which the departmental buildings attached are to be constructed are given in the *Statement*.

(c) Construction will be taken up after all the pre-requisite formalities are completed, subject to availability of resources.

STATEMENT

The Sub-Post Offices for which the departmental buildings are to be constructed are given below:—

1. Gulzarbagh
2. Patliputra
3. Bhagalpur City
4. Bausi
5. Hajipur Industrial Area
6. Mirzapur
7. Manigachi
8. Jamui
9. Chousa
10. Majhulia
11. Ramgarhwa
12. Adapur
13. Banmankhi
14. Manihari
15. Nawabganj

16. Chas
17. Govindpur
18. Chakulia
19. Dehri Onsona
20. Ganwan
21. Jarmundi
22. Hiranpur
23. Kotalpohar
24. Barharwa
25. Chandwa

ADB Assistance for Highway in Karnataka

5657. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sent any proposal for Asian Development Bank assistance for the construction of four-way Highway between Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the above project;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to get financial assistance from ADB for that project;

(d) whether the Government have not declared for the last 20 years any State Highway as National Highway in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to get the ADB assistance early for the aforesaid proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Do not arise.

Committee on Joint Deep Sea Ventures

5658. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted by Government to assess the joint venture proposals in deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of proposals cleared by the Committee during 1993-94;

(c) whether there is any proposal to wind up the Committee; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Joint Venture Proposals in deep sea fishing are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

(b) All proposals involving foreign equity investments, including proposals in the areas still covered by Industrial

Licensing, proposals for foreign equity augmentation and for 100% export oriented units are processed through Foreign Investment Promotion Board. Nine proposals for Joint Ventures in deep sea fishing have been cleared by the Committee during 1993-94.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Visvesvaraya Plant

5659. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA: SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement a comprehensive plan for the modernisation of the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). There is, at present, no comprehensive plan for the modernisation of Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Limited (VISL). However, VISL Management has recently constituted an Internal Committee to finalise a modernisation-cum-capacity utilisation enhancement plan in accordance with a decision taken in a joint meeting held between Ministry of Steel, SAIL and Government of Karnataka.

Lifeless Telephones

5660. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Lifeless phones and merciless cuts" appearing in the State-ment dated February 4, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As per the news item, nine telephone numbers were reported to be lying faulty. All these numbers have been set right to the satisfaction of the subscribers except in one case, where the connection had been disconnected due to non-payment of outstanding bills.

[Translation]

Power Royalty to Bihar

5661. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sought royalty from the Union Government for the generation of power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Promotions in IRCC

5662. SHRI LALIT ORAON:
SHRI KARIA MUNDA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether D/O Pers and Trag Order No. AB/14017/22/89-Est. (RR) dated May 15, 1989 is applicable or Agenda Item 119/16 as approved by IRCC Board on SC/ST;

(b) the number of general employees promoted just after completion of eligibility period and number of eligible SC/STs not promoted from 1991 to 1993 and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of grievances sorted out by MOST/IRCC from 1991 to 1993 out of total grievances as per D/O Pers and Trag orders; and

(d) if so, the details of benefit given and if not, the reasons therefor and corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). The details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Sub-Ways on National Highway No. 8

5663. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

the places where sub-ways are proposed to be constructed on National Highway No. 8?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): At present, there is no proposal to construct sub-way at any place on National Highway No. 8. However, feasibility studies for some projects have indicated need of cattles/pedestrians crossings at a few locations.

Telephones to Panchayats in U.P.

5664. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats having telephone facility in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats still without such facility at present, district-wise;

(c) whether any concrete steps have been taken to provide this facility to the remaining panchayats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The district-wise details of Panchayat villages having telephone facility and without telephone facility are given in the *Statement*.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government have adopted a policy of providing telephone facility to all Panchayat villages progressively by March 31, 1995 subject to availability of resources. However, the number of remaining Panchayat villages in U.P. without telephone facility as on 31.3.1994 is 56,145, which is quite large, and, therefore, a separate strategy is being worked out within the framework of available resources and technology to cover the remaining Panchayat villages within the shortest time.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of Panchayat Villages in Uttar Pradesh with & without Telephone facility as on 31.3.1994

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total Panchayat Villages	Panchayat Villages with Telephone facility	Panchayat Villages without telephone facility
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agra	797	640	157
2.	Aligarh	1498	612	886
3.	Allahabad	2366	637	1729

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Almora	1360	282	1078
5.	Azamgarh	2400	328	2072
6.	Bahraich	1631	276	1355
7.	Ballia	1077	410	667
8.	Banda	807	170	637
9.	Bareilly	1324	272	1052
10.	Barabanki	1556	313	1243
11.	Basti	2220	303	1917
12.	Bijnore	1127	308	819
13.	Budaun	1415	167	1248
14.	Bulandshahar	1293	397	836
15.	Chamoli	632	174	458
16.	Dehradun	252	159	93
17.	Deoria	2602	389	2213
18.	Etah	1200	229	971
19.	Etawah	1129	336	793
20.	Faizabad	1840	315	1525
21.	Farrukhabad	1177	253	924
22.	Fatehpur	1035	128	907
23.	Ferozabad	645	97	548
24.	Ghaziabad	608	494	114

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Gonda	2213	394	1819
26.	Ghazipur	1287	198	1089
27.	Gorakhpur	1260	234	1026
28.	Hamirpur	691	139	552
29.	Hardoi	1483	230	1253
30.	Hardwar	327	145	182
31.	Jalaun	669	134	535
32.	Jaunpur	2052	336	1716
33.	Jhansi	602	141	461
34.	Kanpur City	192	69	123
35.	Kanpur Dehat	1317	323	944
36.	Lakhimpur	1213	327	886
37.	Lalitpur	448	83	365
38.	Lucknow	646	415	231
39.	Maharajganj	1400	119	1281
40.	Mainpuri	647	186	461
41.	Mathura	714	277	437
42.	Mau Nath Bhanjar	703	295	408
43.	Meerut	786	786	-
44.	Mirzapur	973	130	843
45.	Moradabad	1822	322	1500

1	2	3	4	5
46.	Muzaffarnagar	762	527	235
47.	Nainital	779	383	396
48.	Pauri	1241	187	1027
49.	Pilibhit	736	74	662
50.	Pithoragarh	827	175	652
51.	Pratapgarh	1530	156	1374
52.	Rae Bareli	1334	234	1100
53.	Rampur	696	119	577
54.	Saharanpur	934	445	489
55.	Shahjahanpur	1409	139	1270
56.	Siddharthnagar	1491	117	1374
57.	Sitapur	1556	209	1347
58.	Sonebhadra	586	108	478
59.	Sultanpur	1738	475	1263
60.	Tehri	822	139	683
61.	Unnao	1420	400	1020
62.	Uttar Kashi	337	47	290
63.	Varanasi	2194	640	1554
TOTAL		73741	17596	56145

New Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra

5665. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Maharashtra during the current year;

(b) if so, the details with location and capacity thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Location and capacity of small sized exchanges is decided on the basis of registered paid demand of 10 subscribers at a place. The tentative proposal is to set up about 95 new small sized exchanges during 1994-95.

(ii) Details with locations and capacity of large exchanges are given in the *Statement*.

(c) Progressively by 31st March, 1995.

STATEMENT

Details of location with capacity where new telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Maharashtra during 1994-95

Sl. No.	Location Name	Capacity in Lines	Type of Exchange
1.	Nagpur	10000	SIEMENS
2.	Nagpur	10000	SIEMENS
3.	Pune	20000	FETEX
4.	Pune	10000	FETEX
5.	Pune	10000	FETEX
6.	Nasik	10000	OCB-ITI
7.	Solapur	4000	E-10B RLU
8.	Margaon	5000	E-10B MAIN
9.	Nasik	5500	E-10B MAIN

Sl. No.	Location Name	Capacity in Lines	Type of Exchange
10.	Amrawati	5000	E-10B RLU
11.	Aurangabad	5000	E-10B RLU
12.	Bombay	16000	OCB-MODI
13.	Bombay	65000	OCB-MODI
14.	Bombay	50000	OCB-ITI
15.	City-I Main	12000	E-10B MAIN
16.	Guregaon Main	3000	E-10B MAIN
17.	Essor	10000	E-10B RLU
18.	Powai	8000	E-10B RLU
19.	Mazgaon	7000	E-10B
20.	Chembur-II	7000	E-10B RLU
21.	Gan Devi	6000	E-10B RLU
22.	Worli/Byculla/Panvel	6000	E-10B
23.	City-IV	9000	E-10B RLU

[English]

Steel Production at IISCO

5666. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the factors responsible for the increase in steel production by IISCO, during 1993-94;

(b) the production target fixed for 1994-95; and

(c) the latest position of the modernisation of IISCO's Burnpur Steel Works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There was no increase in Saleable Steel production in IISCO during 1993-94. In fact, Saleable Steel production declined by 16% as compared to the previous year 1992-93. In 1993-94 IISCO produced 3,33,200 tonnes of Saleable Steel as against 3,98,000 tonnes produced in 1992-93.

(b) The Saleable Steel production target of IISCO, Burnpur Works for the year 1994-95 is 2,87,000 tonnes.

(c) Government have proposed to allow private sector participation in the equity and management of IISCO for the purpose of ensuring expeditious modernisation of its Bumpur Steelworks. Government proposed to introduce a Bill for empowering Government to allow Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to transfer its shareholdings in IISCO to private persons for this purpose. The Bill was under consideration of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry which has presented its report to Parliament recently.

Violence in Films

5667. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has recently given a directive to Film Certification Boards not to give certificates to film projecting scenes of excessive violence;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the Supreme Court directive;

(c) whether any efforts are being made to control projection of horror and violence on the small screen by private companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government have seen news

reports in which it has been reported that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in one of its judgements has asked the Censor Board not to release sex and violence soaked films and ensure that only such films are cleared which do not affect the values of life.

(b) All films intended for public exhibition in India are required to be examined in the light of the guidelines issued by the Government under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. According to these guidelines, while examining films for certification, the Board shall, *inter-alia*, ensure that—

- (i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified;
- (ii) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitising or dehumanising people are not shown; and
- (iii) human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity.

An applicant for a certificate who is aggrieved by any order of the Board, has a right of appeal to the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal. Further, he can go to any High Court or Supreme Court with a writ petition in respect of a film as 'freedom of screen' falls within the domain of 'freedom of expression' and only reasonable restrictions can be imposed thereon.

(c) and (d). Feature films telecast on Doordarshan are previewed and

selected by a Committee of outside members of repute. Doordarshan programmes are also telecast after pre-view. The programmes are reviewed on regular basis and suitable changes carried out wherever warranted.

Telecast of Cricket Matches

5668. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan have not telecast live the cricket matches between India and New Zealand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a policy to cover National/International level games on electronic media; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The telecast rights were not available with Doordarshan.

(c) and (d). Doordarshan has been undertaking such telecasts for many years now and would continue to do so in the future too subject to availability of telecast rights, resources and technical feasibility.

Mining in Bihar

5669. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all the gold and copper mines in Bihar, where mining by Government has been stopped since 1957;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to resume the functioning of these mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Bridges on National Highways in U.P.

5670. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges proposed to be constructed on the national highways in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94;

(b) the number of bridges on which repair work has been going on for the last three years; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Three.

(b) and (c). Sixteen. A sum of Rs. 47.86 lakhs has been allocated during last three years.

[English]

SAARC

5671. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-
THALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC has
achieved the purpose for which it was
set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if
not, the reason thereof;

(c) whether India is thinking of
forming any new economic grouping of
Asian and Pacific countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). The
SAARC was established in 1985. The
objectives as enshrined in the Charter of
SAARC are:—

- (i) to promote the welfare of the
peoples of South Asia and to
improve their quality of life;
- (ii) to accelerate economic growth,
social progress and cultural
development in the region and
to provide all individuals the
opportunity to live in dignity
and to realise their full poten-
tial;
- (iii) to promote and strengthen col-
lective self-reliance among the
countries of South Asia;
- (iv) to contribute to mutual trust,
understanding and apprecia-
tion of one another's problems;

(v) to promote active collaboration
and mutual assistance in the
economic, social, cultural, tech-
nical and scientific fields;

(vi) to strengthen cooperation with
other developing countries;

(vii) to strengthen cooperation
among themselves in interna-
tional forums on matters of
common interest; and

(viii) to cooperate with international
and regional organisations with
similar aims and purposes.

Cooperation among SAARC Mem-
ber Countries to achieve these objectives
is an on-going process and new areas
for cooperation continue to be identified
at the various meetings of SAARC held
from time to time. SAARC has, in eight
years of its existence helped in increas-
ing the knowledge and understanding
between the Member Countries in var-
ious selected technical fields.

Some of the important achieve-
ments of SAARC are:—

- (i) Establishment of SAARC Food
Security Reserve.
- (ii) Signing of SAARC Regional
Convention on Suppression of
Terrorism.
- (iii) Signing of SAARC Convention
on Narcotic Drugs and Psy-
chotropic Substances.
- (iv) Establishment of SAARC Re-
gional Institutions, such as,
SAARC Agricultural Informa-
tion Centre, SAARC Tubercu-
losis Centre, SAARC Meteoro-

logical Research Centre and SAARC Documentation Centre.

- (v) Establishment of the SAARC Fund for Regional Projects, in 1991, to make available credit on easy terms for the identification and development of regional studies. The fund would be utilised only for pre-feasibility/feasibility studies.

- (vi) At the 7th SAARC Summit at Dhaka, in April, 1993, the framework agreement on the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement was signed with the aim of expanding economic cooperation within the region.

- (vii) Cooperation amongst Member States on issues relating to Poverty Alleviation.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Disconnection of Telephones

5672. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided not to disconnect telephones without prior notice for non-payment of telephone bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The department gives telephonic reminder to the subscriber for payment of the outstanding telephone bills. A registered Notice giving seven days time to the subscriber for payment of the bill is also issued before effecting the disconnection of the telephone.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Delhi

5673. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones from various telephone exchanges in Delhi under various categories sanctioned during March 1994;

(b) the latest position of clearance of waiting list;

(c) whether the officials of telephone exchanges, on the plea that they are busy with new connections, do not attend to public complaints as a result of which telephones remain dead for a number of days;

(d) the number of telephones remained dead under Paschim Vihar and Rajori Garden telephone exchanges during March 1994 and the period for which telephones remained dead;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) the action taken against officials for not attending to public complaints promptly;

(g) whether the Government propose to give relief to those subscribers in bills whose telephones remained dead for over one week period; and

(h) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of telephones from various Telephone Exchanges in Delhi under various categories released during March 1994 is as under:—

OYT/G	479
OYT/S	27
Special	38
Genl.	12560
Total	13104

(b) The latest position of clearance of waiting list as on 1.4.94 is given in *Statement*.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) 20683 faults in Rajouri Garden Exchange and 3815 faults in Paschim Vihar exchange have been recorded during March 1994. Most of these faults were cleared within 24 hours, remaining were cleared on the following days. Only 177 faults were delayed for more than 7 days in RG Exchange.

(e) Most of the delayed faults were due to cable fault. There were lot of digging activities in RG exchange area by MCD-specially due to construction of subway in Titarpur area.

(f) No lapse on the part of any official has been noticed.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Rebate is allowed to the customer if his telephone remains faulty for more than 7 days continuously. Rebate for 177 cases is under process.

STATEMENT

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited: New Delhi: No. of Periods on W/L & D/O/Clearance Statement as on 01-04-1994

Level	Exch.	Conn. Released upto OYT-S	No. of persons on W/L	Conn. Released upto OYT-G	No. of persons on W/L	Conn. Released upto 'SS'	No. of persons on W/L	Conn. Released upto 'Spl'	No. of persons on W/L	Conn. Released upto 'Genl'	No. of persons on W/L	Total
CENTRAL												
31, 34, 35, 374, 373	QA	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	15-3-94	111	111
461/3/9, 69, 462/3	JB	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	05-1-90	5325	5325
331/2, 371/2/3/4/5	KBN	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	15-3-94	160	160
38, 378	RP	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	15-3-94	26	26
301, 379	SBN	30-9-92	107	30-9-92	66	Current	—	30-9-92	11	30-3-88	511	695
436 (Lodi Road)	CG	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	31-12-93	14	14
EAST												
325, 326, 327, 328	DG	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	15-3-94	280	280
751/2/3, 777, 73/52	ID	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	06-3-90	12390	12390
220/1/2/3/4, 241/2/5	LXR	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	12-5-89	34273	34273
226, 227	YVR	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	15-3-91	6803	6803
228, 229	SHR	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	30-9-92	3948	3948
225	MVR	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	31-3-89	5163	5163

Level	Exch.	Conn. Released upto OYT-S	No. of persons on W/L	Conn. Released upto OYT-G	No. of persons on W/L	Conn. Released upto 'SS'	No. of persons on W/L	Conn. Released upto 'Spl'	No. of persons on W/L	Conn. Released upto 'Genl'	No. of persons on W/L	Total
SOUTH												
60, 67, 687/3, 611	CHY	23-3-94	6	23-3-94	33	Current	—	23-3-94	10	17-9-92	3303	3352
65, 66, 685, 686, 6857	HK	23-3-94	2	23-3-94	41	Current	—	23-3-94	1	09-5-89	12035	12083
641/2/3/4/5/6/7/8	NP	01-11-92	187	01-11-92	30	Current	—	01-11-92	359	08-10-87	29671	33218
689	VKJ	31-10-93	6	09-12-92	276	Current	—	19-8-93	13	12-8-90	4039	4334
63, 682/3/4/7 (Okhla)	OKH	28-2-93	43	28-2-93	650	Current	—	01-1-93	152	14-4-88	14627	15472
680	CPR	23-3-94	—	23-3-94	2	Current	—	23-3-94	1	24-8-90	1297	1300
681	TKH	30-6-91	33	30-6-91	295	Current	—	30-6-91	50	07-12-87	1011	1389
Asiad	Asiad	30-9-92	1	30-9-92	3	Current	—	30-9-92	—	31-3-88	—	4
NORTH												
720	ALP	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	14-10-91	733	733
729	BDL	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	19-12-89	3135	3135
23, 251/2, 291/2/3	TH	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	31-7-91	6682	6682
741, 742, 714, 711/ 2/3, 721/2/3/4/5	SK	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	31-5-91	15405	15405
728	NRL	15-3-94	1	15-3-94	1	Current	—	15-3-94	2	09-4-90	1731	1735

718/9, 7102/3/4/5	KPM	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	27-3-91	2643	2643
726 (Rohini Sec-IX)	RHS	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	17-8-92	1331	1331
727 (Rohini Sec-III) 716, 717.	RHN-I	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	30-6-88	12760	12760
WEST												
550, 555, 559, 552/553	JKP	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	31-12-90	14533	14533
321	Cant	15-3-94	26	15-3-94	47	Current	—	15-3-94	35	05-7-88	1930	2039
571/2/3/4, 85756/7/8/99, KB 5751/2/3/4/5	KB	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	01-2-93	2359	2359
5562/6/7	NJF	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	27-2-89	2331	2331
547	NGL	30.9.92	7	30.9.92	284	Current	—	30.9.92	43	14-1-88	5831	6165
50,53,59,541/2/3/4/ 5/6/7/8	RG	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	31-3-88	30324	30324
570	SPR	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	30-12-90	1292	1292
558,5572/3	BPR	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	19-11-90	4709	4709
3295	PIM	30-11-93	—	30-11-93	—	Current	—	30-11-93	—	30-11-93	2	2
5452	KITC	30-11-93	—	30-11-93	7	Current	—	30-11-93	—	30-11-93	30	37
5363	SML	30-6-92	2	30-6-92	56	Current	—	30-6-92	6	31-3-88	252	316
540	HNG	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	Current	—	04-10-90	2030	2030
Grand Total		421	4762	—	684	245034	250901					

Allocation from C.R.F.

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard?

5674. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) details of the C.R.F. share allocated, distributed and received by the States during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether any discrepancies have occurred in the distribution/allotment of these fund; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A *Statement* showing the state-wise and year-wise allocation of funds to states under Central Road Fund during the last five years is given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.49	5.00	50.00	33.00	50.00
2.	Assam	31.50	—	25.00	60.00	40.00
3.	Bihar	—	—	20.00	100.00	40.00
4.	Delhi	6.00	5.40	5.70	12.00	100.00
5.	Goa	—	—	—	1.00	5.00
6.	Gujarat	100.00	150.00	60.00	70.00	80.00
7.	Haryana	15.00	50.00	10.00	39.00	35.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6.00	9.81	—	—	15.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.00	—	20.00	50.00	15.00
10.	Karnataka	6.024	7.00	45.00	80.00	50.00
11.	Kerala	135.016*	150.00	40.00	20.00	55.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	30.00	50.00	60.00	50.00	45.00

Sl. No.	Name of State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
13.	Maharashtra	19.01	4.50	90.00	100.00	110.00
14.	Manipur	5.00	10.50	1.00	—	10.00
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	20.00	25.00	10.00
16.	Mizoram	—	—	10.00	35.00	—
17.	Nagaland	1.96	1.96	—	—	10.00
18.	Orissa	—	—	30.00	7.00	40.00
19.	Rajasthan	161.00	207.00	—	25.00	5.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	10.00	—	60.00	50.00	80.00
21.	Tripura	—	—	5.00	11.00	5.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	315.00	250.00	—	79.50	100.00
23.	West Bengal	50.00	5.00	34.00	40.00	20.00
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	20.00
25.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	60.00

* Includes Rs. 35.016 lakhs for Cochin Port Trust towards Central Share.

Renewal of Passports

5675. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any directive for renewal of passports from the original issuing authorities only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from the public and NRIs for reconsideration of the directive; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some NRIs had sent representations based on a wrong interpretation of the relevant instructions, as it was misconstrued that they would either have to go back to India to the original passport issuing authority for renewal of their passports, or that they would have to send their passports back to the original passport issuing authority for renewal.

(d) Our Missions have been asked to clarify the position to the Indian community to the effect that they are not required to come back to India for renewal of their passports or to send their passports back to India.

Expenditure on G-15 Summit

5676. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by the Government in regard to recent G-15 Summit, itemwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): The expenditure incurred by the Government of India on the G-15 Summit Conference, held in New Delhi from March 28 to 30, 1994, has been Rs. 1,27,26,091. This expenditure is based on bills received/processed till April 27, 1994.

The item-wise expenditure is as under:—

Sl. Item No.	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1. Arrangements at Airport	1,36,744
2. Boarding & Lodging Charges etc. at Maurya Sheraton Hotel	53,29,413

Sl. Item No.	Expenditure (in Rs.)
3. Expenditure incurred for the Retreat (Rashtrapati Bhavan)	50,600
4. Hiring of Transport	14,91,690
5. Hiring of Office Equipment & Personnel	28,45,005
6. Communications	2,73,093
7. Payments made to CPWD	43,970
8. Purchase of stationery & gifts	3,86,531
9. Access Control	72,433
10. Payment made to IB/Delhi Police	1,61,750
11. Arrangements at Vigyan Bhavan	2,38,598
12. Catering by ITDC at Vigyan Bhavan	7,92,244
13. Setting up of Media Centre	8,92,980
14. Miscellaneous	11,040
Grand Total	1,27,26,091

Note: A few more bills, not exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs, are expected.

[Translation]

Profit of PFC

5677. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased

to state to profit earned by the Power Finance Corporation during the last three years, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): The profit earned by the Power Finance Corporation during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 was as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93 (Prov.)
Profit before tax	100.88	156.94	206.74
Profit after tax	73.18	108.21	143.45

[English]

T.V. Programmes in Rajasthan

5678. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan programmes in some areas of Rajasthan are not clearly visible;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government had any scheme to set up TV transmitters in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH

DEO): (a) and (b). While Satellite signals of Doordarshan are available throughout the country, the terrestrial transmission is available wholly or partially, to all the districts of Rajasthan. An estimated 38.8% area & 61.6% population of the State, subject to terrain conditions, is covered by Doordarshan's terrestrial transmission.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 7 High Power, 21 Low Power and 10 Very Low Power TV Transmitters are under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the State.

[Translation]

Doordarshan, Ahmedabad

5679. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan, Ahmedabad have received several complaints against the news-readers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). Complaints relating to speed of news reading, wrong pronunciation, false punctuations, etc. are received from viewers from time to time and remedial action is taken by Doordarshan whenever found necessary.

[English]

**Civil Construction Work in Bhadrak,
Orissa**

5680. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of civil construction works are being taken up in Bhadrak Postal Division of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific amounts earmarked for each of the projects thereof; and

(d) the details of the time-frame envisaged for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Construction of departmental building for Bant Sub Post Office.

(ii) Construction of 6 type-III Quarters at Head Post Office Compound, Bhadrak.

(c) the funds earmarked during 1993-94 for the project mentioned in part (b) of the question is as under:—

(i) Bant Sub Post Office building—Rs. 6 lakhs

(ii) Construction of 6 type—Rs. 7 lakhs III Quarters at Head Post Office compound Bhadrak.

(d) The time frame envisaged for completion of both the projects is July, 1994.

[Translation]

Power Generation Capacity

5681. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generating capacity of the country and the average power generating capacity of power projects at present; and

(b) the details of the scheme regarding increasing power generating capacity of various Thermal Power Plants of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The total installed capacity of Generation in the country as on 31.3.1994 was 76718.21 MW. During the year 1993-94, the Plant Load Factor of thermal power stations in country was 61.0%. Generation from Hydro and Gas stations depends upon the availability of water, gas and system load conditions.

(b) Various measures being taken for optimum utilisation of the installed capacity in the country include Renovation and Modernisation of old units, assistance to Electricity Boards in undertaking plant betterment programmes, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, training of operation and maintenance personnel and strengthening of Transmission and Distribution System.

[English]

Nuclear Non-Proliferation

5682. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news report appeared in Hindustan Times dated April 1, 1994 stating that the US would seek from India a commitment similar to, but separate from that sought from Pakistan, relating to nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the said statement given by the spokesman of the US state department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) US Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott conveyed during his visit to Delhi that the US proposal to transfer F-16 aircraft to Pakistan by a one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment in return for a verifiable capping of Pakistan's production of fissile material was a bilateral one between the two countries. The US Government would, however, prefer that the concept of a cap on nuclear capabilities was also expanded to other countries.

(c) Government's consistent position has been that India would support non-proliferation measures which are universal, comprehensive, Non-discriminatory and verifiable. India's deep concern at the proposed transfer of F-16s to Pakistan was conveyed to Mr.

Talbott. It was also explained that the transfer of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan would necessitate that India reappraise its own defence capabilities and take adequate steps to safeguard its security.

Construction of Bridge in U.P.

5683. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a bridge over river Ganga in Chunar, district Mirzapur of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government of India is primarily responsible for development of National Highways. All other roads are the responsibility of the respective State Governments. The bridge in question does not fall on any National Highway. Moreover, there is no proposal to construct such a bridge under any Centrally-sponsored scheme.

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

Welfare of SCs/STs in IRCC

5684. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) Group-wise/post-wise number of SCs/STs made ineligible by the Indian Road Construction Corporation after passing Agenda Item No. 119/16;

(b) whether Agenda Item is applicable keeping in view of Supreme Court Judgement (AIR 1994 SC 55) and D/o Pers. and Trag orders on SC/ST employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the time by which eligible SCs/STs are likely to be benefited with retrospective effect;

(e) the total number of grievances submitted by the SC/ST IRCC Employees Welfare Association during the last three years till date; and

(f) the details of the benefits given against these representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (f). The details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan to MTNL

5685. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a leading Industrial House has provided loans to MTNLs in Metropolitan cities for infrastructural leasing and financial services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loans provided for the purpose till March, 1994 and proposed to be provided during 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). MTNL has signed agreement for procuring digital local telephone exchange switching equipment on lease finance basis in Indian Rupees from the following suppliers:—

Name of the firm	Lease Finance Amount (In Rs.)
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M/s. Alcatel Modi Network Systems Ltd., for 1,00,000 lines equipment on the basis of sub lease signed with MTNL.	46,72,99,964.00
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M/s. Ericsson Telecommunications Pvt. Ltd. for 50,000 lines equipment on the basis of direct lease signed with MTNL.	22,21,68,662.00
--	-----------------

M/s. Fujitsu India Telecom. Ltd. for 70,000 lines equipment on the basis of direct lease signed with MTNL.	30,03,06,408.00
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Total Lease Finance Amount	98,97,75,034.00
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(Rupees Ninety Eight Crores Ninety Seven Lacs Seventy Five Thousand Thirty Four only).

(c) Total amount of Bonds raised by MTNL from April, 1986 till March 1994 from Financial Institutions and PSU Banks etc. is to the tune of Rs. 5578.84 crores (Rupees five thousand five hundred seventy eight point eighty four crores).

MTNL has so far issued 10 series of Bond aggregating to Rs. 5578.846

crores out of which Rs. 4767 crores were raised for Department of Telecommunications (Government of India). Balance amount of Rs. 811.846 crores has been retained by MTNL.

The decision on the future plans for borrowing has not so far been taken.

Telephone Connections from M.P.'s Quota in M.T.N.L.

5686. PROF. M. KAMSON: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some out of turn sanction orders for telephone connections from MP's quota have been received in M.T.N.L. from different Telecom offices of the country during January to April, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of telephone connections out of them released so far;

(d) the reasons for not releasing the remaining numbers; and

(e) the time by which the said connections are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2260 sanctions in MTNL, Delhi and 351 in MTNL Bombay have been received during the period 1st January 1994 to 25th April 1994.

(c) 1141 sanctions in MTNL Delhi and 147 in MTNL Bombay have been released so far out of (b) above.

(d) Remaining 1119 sanctions of MTNL Delhi and 104 of MTNL Bombay could not be released mainly due to the following reasons:—

(i) Registration particulars not available.

(ii) Registration particulars received in sanction do not tally with those available actually in registration.

(iii) Actual address varies with those available in sanction letter.

(iv) Request for change of address received from customer.

(v) Dispute in respect of Names/ Party/Firms etc.

(e) The connections will be released soon after the completion of all formalities by the applicants.

Karnataka Re-Rolling Unit

5687. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka re-rolling units are facing severe problems because of lack of raw material availability;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to revitalise these re-rolling units and to provide adequate quantity of raw material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI

SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). No report has been received regarding shortage of raw material being faced by re-rolling units in Karnataka.

(c) There is sufficient capacity in the country to meet the requirement of re-rollable material of the re-rolling industry. Availability of re-rollable scrap from Ship Breaking Industry has also increased. Import of semis is freely allowed and import duty has also been reduced to 30%.

Modification of Mining Leases

5688. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal for the modification of mining leases granted before the commencement of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which the modifications are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). A proposal pertaining to 21 such mining leases has been received by the Controller of Mining Leases. Of the 21 mining leases, 8 leases relate to major minerals and 13 to minor minerals.

Consequent to the enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1994 (25

of 1994) the modification of 8 leases of major minerals is under process by the Controller of Mining Leases. Mining Leases (Modification of Terms) Rules, 1956, are also being amended so that the required modification can be carried out for minor mineral leases also.

Censor of Scenes on Cruelty to Animals

5689. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations not to pass the scenes depicting cruelty to animals in films;

(b) if so, whether any directions have been issued to the Central Board of Film Certification in this respect; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the C.B.F.C. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Guidelines for certification of films have been issued by the Central Government under section 5B of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. These guidelines, *inter-alia*, provide that the Board shall ensure that scenes showing cruelty to, or abuse of, animals, are not presented needlessly.

(c) The Board examines films in the light of these guidelines and deals with what is shown on the screen in a film and its impact on the viewers. All visuals violative of these guidelines are deleted before certificate is granted to a film.

Telephone Connections In Himachal Pradesh

5691. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced that the telephone connections will be made available on demand in the Northern region;

(b) if so, the details of waiting list in Himachal Pradesh district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (c). No Sir, However, the department of Telecom has formulated 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) which envisages to provide telephone connections practically on demand in rural and tribal areas. To restrict waiting period to two years in large telephone systems. Plans are being drawn accordingly for Himachal Pradesh. 18039 telephone connections have been provided during 1992-1994 period against the plans of 56400 to be provided during 1992-97 for meeting the above objectives. However, attempts are being made to raise funds for purchase of equipments on leasing basis and on availability of such funds additional lines will be installed so that telephones are made available on demand by next year.

(b) The district-wise detail of waiting list as on 31.3.94 is given below:—

1. Bilaspur	781
2. Chamba	392

3. Hamirpur	2251
4. Kangra	3249
5. Kinnour	131
6. Kullu	1531
7. Lahul & Spiti	36
8. Mandi	2565
9. Sirmour	162
10. Shimla	1077
11. Solan	2054
12. Una	1186

[Translation]

Isanbarg Agreement with Hissar TPP

5692. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to sign any agreement to set up Thermal Power Plant at Hissar with the collaboration of Isanbarg Company; and

(b) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Entrusting power project for execution to private promoters is within the competence of the State Government.

[English]

Ship Building and Repairing Factory at Paradip

5693. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a ship building and repairing factory at Paradip in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the factory is likely to be set up in collaboration with private sector;

(d) if so, the capacity of the factory and the private companies participating in it; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e). A private company has indicated its desire to set up a ship repair facility at Paradip in Orissa. The proposal is at a preliminary stage only. No Detailed Project Report has been received by the Government.

Branch Post Offices in Bihar

5694. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI BRAHMANAND
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of Branch Post Offices sanctioned and actually opened in different postal divisions of Bihar during the last two years separately and the number of such offices proposed to be opened during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): The number of Branch Post Offices sanctioned and actually opened in different postal divisions of Bihar during the last two years is given in the *Statement*. The number of Branch Post Offices proposed to be opened during 1994-95 in Bihar as well as in other States has not been finalised so far.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Postal Division	Branch Post Office Sanctioned and opened in 1992-93	Annex. Branch Post Offices Sanctioned and opened in 1993-94
1.	Aurangabad	1	1
2.	Begusarai	2	2
3.	Bhagalpur	1	2
4.	Bhojpur	1	4
5.	Champaran	-	2

Sl. No.	Name of the Postal Division	Branch Post Office Sanct- ioned and opened in 1992-93	Annex. Branch Post Offices Sanct- ioned and opened in 1993-94
6.	Dhanbad	-	1
7.	Darbhanga	1	2
8.	Gaya	2	6
9.	Giridih	1	1
10.	Hazaribagh	-	2
11.	Madhubani	1	1
12.	Munger	1	3
13.	Muzaffarpur	1	5
14.	Nalanda	1	1
15.	Palamau	-	3
16.	Patna	-	2
17.	Purnia	1	4
18.	Ranchi	21	16
19.	Rohtas	1	2
20.	Saharsa	3	5
21.	Samastipur	1	2
22.	Santhal Parganas	14	7
23.	Saran	3	3
24.	Singhbhum	10	7
25.	Sitamarhi	2	2
26.	Siwan	-	2
27.	Vaishali	1	2
Total		70	90

Post Office Buildings in Assam

5695. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Assam functioning in rented buildings;

(b) the total amount being paid per annum as rent for those buildings;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct Government buildings for such post offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 436 (Four hundred and thirty six)

(b) Rs. 25,66,500/- per annum.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(d) Forty seven (47) projects have been approved, including seven (7) on-going projects.

Telecast of Sharjah Cup

5696. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

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

(a) whether there was persistent demand for the telecast of Sharjah Cup, 1994 cricket matches by Doordarshan and A.I.R.; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not covering the cricket matches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doordarshan telecast the highlights of the matches played in this tournament whereas AIR noticed the results in its news bulletins.

Scrap the Two Part Tariff System

5697. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to scrap two part tariff system in the power sector;

(b) if so, the reasons lead to take such decision;

(c) the steps are being taken to meet the additional requirement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

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

India's Role In West Asia Peace Process

5698. SHRI SANT RAM SINGLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has any role to play in the West Asia Peace Process; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India participates in the multi-lateral track of the Middle East Peace Process and has attended all the meetings of the five Working Groups on regional issues—Economic Development and Cooperation, Refugees, Arms Control and Regional Security, Water Resources, and Environment—held so far between May 1992 and April 1994 at different venues. Indian delegations made presentations outlining India's experience in the respective fields.

Agreement on Terrorism with Poland

5699. SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement is proposed to be signed with Poland in regard to prevention of terrorism, crime etc; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the time by which it is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) Yes, Sir. In January 1994 the Polish side proposed entering into a bilateral agreement on prevention of terrorism, crime, illegal trafficking in narcotics, etc.. The Polish draft was examined and a counter draft (Memorandum of Understanding)

was proposed from the Indian side. The Polish response to our counter draft is awaited.

(b) The agreement under negotiation is expected to provide for bilateral cooperation in the fields of combatting international terrorism, illicit production, consumption and traffic of narcotics and psychotropic substances, organised crime, forgery, smuggling, etc. Further negotiations on the agreement will take place after we receive the comments of the Polish side.

[Translation]

National Highways in M.P.

5700. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highways passing through Madhya Pradesh and the length of these Highways passing through Ghat areas;

(b) whether allocation of funds is made keeping in view the condition of National Highways; and

(c) the details of the new construction works executed on National Highway No. 12 during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Length of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is 2946 km. Part sections of N H Nos. 3, 6, 7, 12, 16, 26, 27 & 43 pass through ghat areas.

(b) Yes, Sir. Subject to availability of funds.

(c) Three new development works amounting to Rs. 213.24 lakhs have been sanctioned for National Highway No. 12 in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years.

[English]

Turnover from Passport Offices

5701. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether turnover from the passport offices has since been increased after the increase in passport fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of passport applications received and passport issued after the increase in fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Passport fees were revised w.e.f. July 10, 1993.

The figures for fresh passport applications received and passports issued for the period before and after revision of fees are as follows:

	January- July 9, 1993	July 12- Dec., 1993
Applications received	Approx. 12.57 lakhs	Approx. 9.30 lakhs
Passports issued	Approx. 13.91 lakhs	Approx. 13.18 lakhs

(c) The passports issued were approximately 141.72% of the passport applications received after the increase in fee.

Courier Services

5702. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of privately owned express courier services have come up all over the country to deliver the letters/parcels from one place to another;

(b) if so, the number of such courier services in the country;

(c) the quantum of revenue loss caused to the postal service as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the postal services in the country to meet the challenge posed by these courier services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The Government is aware that some privately owned express courier services are operating in the country. However, information on the number of such couriers is not available since there is no provision to licence or register courier services in the country.

(c) It is not possible to ascertain/quantify the loss of revenue on this account.

(d) Various steps have been taken by the Govt. of improve postal service to meet the challenge of the couriers

including introduction of EMS Speed Post in 1986. Special arrangements for collection, sorting and delivery of inter-Metro letters covering New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad in order to ensure delivery within 48 hours have been introduced with effect from 2nd April, 1994. It is proposed to make similar special arrangements for letters between New Delhi and other State capitals in a phased manner.

Manufacture of Equipments

5703. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a precondition making it incumbent upon the tenders to manufacture the Switch line equipments in the country;

(b) whether in the recent tender for large switches for which orders are being placed by DOT, the tenders (MNC's) are importing goods in finished form and not manufacturing the same in the country;

(c) whether it violates the tender norms and lead to outflow of foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The tenders for the items which are available from indigenous sources have got a clause of eligibility mentioning that the companies registered to manufacture tender equipment in India and having obtained clearance from Reserve Bank of India in case of foreign collaborations are eligible for bidding. Also they should have type approval from the Department for the

items. In case of global tenders of the cases where imports are considered necessary, such restriction is not imposed.

(b) The tender was open only for the vendors who were registered to manufacture Switching Equipment in India and who had the RBI clearance to do so. This was a tender in Indian Rupees. The only stipulation in the tender was that the parties should have obtained RBI clearance for manufacturing equipment in India.

(c) There is no violation of tender norms as the tender condition was that companies should be registered to manufacture the equipment in India. There is no foreign exchange outflow as far as DOT is concerned as the tender was in Indian Rupees.

(d) In view of (c) above, no action arises.

National Highways in Tamil Nadu

5704. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to the State Government of Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years of original and repair works of National Highways separately and the amount demanded by the State Government on this account during the above period; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to make additional funds available to the State for the maintenance of existing National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The funds provided and demanded by

the State Government of Tamil Nadu for original and repair works of National

Highways during last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Original Works		Maintenance Works	
	Amount Demanded	Amount Allotted	Amount Demanded	Amount Allotted
1991-92	2049.00	1422.00	1189.96	979.91
1992-93	2245.00	1600.00	1379.07	1134.69
1993-94	4848.20	3200.00	2650.934	1643.67

(b) Efforts were made to get higher allocations for maintenance and additional funds released to the State.

New Mineral Deposits In Orissa

5705. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has discovered huge deposits of minerals in the sea-bed in Orissa between Malud and Gopalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to exploit these mineral deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). As a result of preliminary investigations carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) in the Gopalpur Malud sector off Orissa coast, an inferred resource of 17.28 million tonnes of Ilmenite, 6.8 million tonnes Sillimanite, 4.86 million tonnes garnet and 1.62 million tonnes of Zircon, Rutile and Monazite (Combined)

has been estimated in the nearshelf domain areas. Further work is in progress.

(c) Exploitation of the deposits is dependent upon their economic viability.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds from CRF

5706. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide funds to the states out of the Central Road Fund to construct roads in the villages and to connect them with main roads by constructing link roads and small bridges;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the amount provided to Rajasthan out of the Central Road Fund since 1989-90, year-wise; and

(c) whether only partial amount has been given to Rajasthan out of this fund so far and the time by which the remain-

ing amount is likely to be given to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The funds are allocated under Central Road Fund to States for the State roads including roads in villages. A Statement showing statewise allocation of funds since 1989-90 is enclosed.

(c) Funds against approved works under Central Road Fund are released to States taking into account the total cost of schemes approved for the State, total funds released previously, requirement projected by the State Government and availability of budget provision. However, since 1989-90, an amount of Rs. 398 lakhs has been released so far to Rajasthan Government as their share under Central Road Fund.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.49	5.00	50.00	33.00	50.00
2.	Assam	31.50	—	25.00	60.00	40.00
3.	Bihar	—	—	20.00	100.00	40.00
4.	Delhi	6.00	5.40	5.70	12.00	100.00
5.	Goa	—	—	—	1.00	5.00
6.	Gujarat	100.00	150.00	60.00	70.00	80.00
7.	Haryana	15.00	50.00	10.00	39.00	35.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6.00	9.81	—	—	15.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.00	—	20.00	50.00	15.00
10.	Karnataka	6.024	7.00	45.00	80.00	50.00
11.	Kerala	135.016 *	150.00	40.00	20.00	55.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	30.00	50.00	60.00	50.00	45.00
13.	Maharashtra	19.01	4.50	90.00	100.00	110.00

Sl. No.	Name of State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
14.	Manipur	5.00	10.50	1.00	—	10.00
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	20.00	25.00	10.00
16.	Mizoram	—	—	10.00	35.00	—
17.	Nagaland	1.96	1.96	—	—	10.00
18.	Orissa	—	—	30.00	7.00	40.00
19.	Rajasthan	161.00	207.00	—	25.00	5.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	10.00	—	60.00	50.00	80.00
21.	Tripura	—	—	5.00	11.00	5.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	315.00	250.00	—	79.50	100.00
23.	West Bengal	50.00	5.00	34.00	40.00	20.00
24.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	20.00
25.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	60.00

* Includes Rs. 35.016 lakhs for Cochin Port Trust towards Central Share.

Widening of N.H. 7

5707. SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Jabalpur, Maihar, Rewa, Mangavan, Hunumana Banaras road route of the National Highway Number 7 in Madhya Pradesh into a four lane route and to repair the damaged bridges falling on the said route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). There is no proposal to widen National Highway No. 7 in Madhya Pradesh to four lines due to resource constraints. A flood damage repair estimate amounting to Rs. 68,000/- has been sanctioned for repair of Tailwara Ghat Bridge over River Narmada in April, 1994.

[English]

Installation of Power Projects By M/s. Siemens Ltd. (Germany)

5708. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Siemens Ltd. of Germany has been allowed to instal power projects in the country;

(b) the places where these power projects are planned to be installed; and

(c) the details of equity participation by State Governments, Union Government and public sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). M/s. Siemens Limited figure as equity partners in a Gas Based Power Project of 615 MW in Gujarat and a Lignite based project in Tamil Nadu of 1500 MW. The project in Gujarat has been given techno-economic approval of CEA and as at present the details of equity participation are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Foreign:

Siemens, NRIs and other	217
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Domestic:

(a) Indian Promoters (Torrent & GPCL)	269	
(b) Indian Public, IFIs etc.	171	440
(Total)		657

In the case of the project in Tamil Nadu the Project proponents have been advised to tie up inputs regarding mining as well as power project components.

[Translation]

Telecast of Films on Doordarshan

5709. SHRI JANGBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindi and regional language films telecast on Delhi

Doordarshan during 1993-94 separately; and

(b) the percentage of Haryanvi films out of the regional films telecast.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The number of films in Hindi, Regional language/dialects telecast on Delhi Doordarshan 1993 and 1994 (upto 31.3.94) is as follows:—

Language	1993	1994 (upto 31.3.94)
Hindi	202	72
Others	52	15

(b) The percentage of Haryanvi films works out as follows:—

1993	2.77%
1994	15.38%

[English]

Calicut Bypass

5710. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for slow progress of work going on for construction of Calicut bypass; and

(b) the steps taken or proposal to be taken to expedite the construction work of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANS-

PORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The work of Calicut bypass is being taken up in 4 phases. Work of land acquisition in Phase-I has been completed. Construction work in Phase-I has been sanctioned in July, 1993 for Rs. 17.34 crores and the work will start after fixing the agency. In the remaining three phases, work of land acquisition sanctioned in February, 1990 and March, 1991 is in progress. The pace of work is not slow considering that the land acquisition is a time consuming process.

T.V. Transmitters/AIR Stations in Meghalaya

5711. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the places where T.V. transmitters/AIR stations are functioning at present in Meghalaya, their capacity and area covered by these centres;

(b) the places identified for establishing high power TV transmitters in the State and progress made in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the construction of T.V. transmitters are likely to be completed alongwith their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) As given in the *Statement* attached.

(b) and (c). Whereas there is no approved scheme at present to set up additional high power transmitters in Meghalaya, a very low power (10W) TV transmitter is under implementation at Baghmara in the State. As per present indications, the transmitter at Baghmara is expected to be commissioned during the later half of the current financial year, subject to availability of ready built accommodation and timely supply of the equipment on order.

STATEMENT

Details of T.V. Transmitters/A.I.R. stations at present functioning in the State of Meghalaya

Sl. No.	Transmitter	Power	Estimated area covered (in 1000 Sq. Kms.)
DOORDARSHAN			
1.	Tura	10 KW	19.7
2.	Shillong	1 KW	11.8
3.	Jowai	100 W	2.0
4.	Williamnagar	100 W	2.0
5.	Nongstoin	10 W	0.2
ALL INDIA RADIO			
6.	Shillong	100 KW MW 50 KW SW	22.2 Entire Meghalaya & North East
7.	Tura	2x10 KW MW	5.6

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in M.P.

5712. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone exchanges set up in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1992-93, district-wise;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the year 1993-94;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the districts where these telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) District-wise details of telephone exchanges set up in Madhya Pradesh during 1992-93 is given in the *Statement*.

(b) and (c) (i) Targets are fixed for large capacity exchanges only. For Madhya Pradesh no such exchanges were proposed to be set up during 1993-94 and only replacements/upgradation were proposed.

(ii) No targets have been fixed for small capacity exchanges, as installation of small capacity exchange depends on minimum 10 registered paid demand at a place. Tentatively 187 exchanges were proposed to be set up during 1993-94. District-wise details are as per Annexure. However, the actual numbers installed during 1993-94 has been 383.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of Telephone Exchange in Madhya Pradesh

Sl District No	Number of Exchanges set up during 1992-93	No. of Exchanges proposed to be set up during 1993-94
1. Balaghai	8	3
2. Basiar	15	4
3. Betul	9	2
4. Bhind	6	2
5. Bhopal	3	3
6. Bilaspur	21	8
7. Chhatarpur	3	2

Sl District No	Number of Exchanges set up during 1992-93	No. of Exchanges proposed to be set up during 1993-94
8. Chhindvara	8	4
9. Damoh	-	1
10. Datia	4	2
11. Devas	11	3
12. Dhar	14	10
13. Durg	7	5
14. Guna	12	6
15. Gwalior	7	7
16. Hoshangabad	30	15
17. Indore	11	7
18. Jabalpur	12	6
19. Jhabur	7	2
20. Khandva	17	8
21. Khargone	19	5
22. Kakdir	5	2
23. Kandsrur	14	12
24. Korexr	10	1
25. Harsinghpur	4	3
26. Panna	3	1
27. Raigarh	12	4
28. Raipur	11	6
29. Raisen	9	4

Sl District No	Number of Exchanges set up during 1992-93	No. of Exchanges proposed to be set up during 1993-94
30. Rajgarh	6	2
31. Rajnand Gaon	6	5
32. Railak	8	4
33. Rewa	6	4
34. Sagar	5	2
35. Sarguja	5	2
36. Satna	4	3
37. Sehore	8	1
38. Seohi	5	3
39. Shahdol	4	2
40. Shajapur	13	4
41. Shivpuri	6	2
42. Sidhi	5	4
43. Tikamgarh	3	1
44. Ujjain	8	5
45. Vidisha	11	5
	395	187

**Code and Conduct for
Advertisements**

5713. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any code of
conduct to check the exposure of body
in advertisements;

(b) if not, whether the Government
propose to prepare any code of conduct
for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government are
aware of the adverse effect on youths
of such exposures; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Gov-
ernment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH
DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Code for com-
mercial advertising on Doordarshan re-
quires the advertiser to ensure that the
portrayal of the female form is tasteful

and aesthetic and is within the well established norms of good taste and decency.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government shares the concern expressed in this regard in different quarters.

[English]

Funds for National Highways

5714. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether different State Governments have requested Union Government to allot additional funds in the current year to keep the tempo of construction of National Highways in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). The final allotment of funds to the different States for the current year has not yet been decided because the demand for grants is yet to be approved by the Parliament, although a few States have been requesting for enhanced funds.

[Translation]

Seabed Resource Evaluation

5715. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the depth at which minerals are explored in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal;

(b) the total quantity of nodules extracted through seabed exploration during the last three years;

(c) whether the Central Mechanical Engineering Institute, Durgapur has developed a new device called 'Remotely Operated Vehicle' for seabed mining and oil exploration; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the structure, functioning and usefulness of this vehicle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Seabed mapping and Mineral exploration have been carried out upto water depths of 4300 metres in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.

(b) A total of about 12.5 tonnes of nodules have been collected from Indian Ocean during the last 3 years for experimental purposes.

(c) and (d). Central Mechanical Engineering institute, Durgapur (CMERI) is in the process of development of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for operation upto water depth of 200 metres. The first prototype of the same is under trial in shallow basin of 5 metres depth. The vehicle will primarily be used for in-Situ inspection of off-shore structures, pipelines and mapping etc.

Indian Telephone Industry, Mankapur

5717. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the expansion of Mankapur (Gonda) unit of the Indian Telephone Industries in view of the increasing demand for electronic telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ITI Ltd. is creating a manufacturing capacity of 5,00,000 lines of Digital Subscriber Inter-face Unit (CSN) at Mankapur Unit with the collaboration of Alcatel, France. This project is an upgradation of existing E10B Technology at the cost of Rs. 31.41 crores. In addition, to meet the metal parts, coils and transformers, connectors required for OCB/CSN Project, an additional investment of Rs. 10.85 crores is sanctioned to Mankapur Unit.

(c) The production of CSN has commenced from Feb. 94 and the component project is also under implementation and is likely to be completed by end 1994.

(d) In view of (a), (b) and (c) above, does not arise.

[English]

Visit of King of Sweden

5718. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation led by King of Sweden visited India for strengthening relations between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the main subjects discussed with the delegation and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The King of Sweden paid a State visit to India from 10-18 October, 1993.

(b) In the delegation level talks, held between the accompanying Swedish Foreign Minister and EAM, views were exchanged on regional developments in Europe and in South Asia, disarmament issues, terrorism and human rights. The talks resulted in greater understanding of each other's concerns and perspectives. Prospects for enhancing bilateral economic relations have also improved as a result of the interaction between the accompanying high-level Swedish business delegation and their Indian counterparts.

US Mediation in Relations with Pak

5719. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has offered its good offices to negotiate between India and Pakistan to have better relations between the two countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). The US

Government has supported the resolution of disagreements between India and Pakistan in a bilateral framework as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. The US is willing to help if so desired by both sides.

Government have conveyed that issues between India and Pakistan can be resolved peacefully only through a bilateral dialogue as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. Government have consistently rejected internationalisation of such issues or third party mediation.

Production and Export of MICA

5720. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

Year	Export		
	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. '000)	Unit value/ Tonne (Rs. '000)
1991-92	34,882	5,54,995	15.91
1992-93	27,743	3,83,475	13.82
1993-94*	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

(Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta)

* Figures of export for the year 1993-94 are not available yet.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per information of Indian Bureau of Mines the total number of mica mines which have been closed in the country during last 3 years are as follows.

Year	No. of closed/ inoperative mines
1991-92	55
1992-93	57
1993-94	62

(a) the average FOB export price of standard mica, year-wise for 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether steps have been taken by the Government to promote the internal consumption and export of mica; and

(c) the number of mica mines which have been closed during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The quantity and value of mica and its products, exported during the last three years is as under:—

Linking of Cargo Centres with Seaports

5721. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of cargo handled by each of the major port during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the quantum of country's international trade presently handled by major ports and minor ports;

(c) whether the Indian Shipping Industry has recently called for linking cargo generating centres in the country to these seaports to boost export and give fillip to coastal trade;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received any communication/memorandum from the Shipping Industry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A *Statement* is given below.

(b) The quantum of country's international trade handled by major ports during 1993-94 provisionally estimated as 131 million tonnes. Minor Ports fall within the jurisdiction of the State Governments.

(c) and (d). No such proposal has been received in the Ministry.

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

STATEMENT

(a) *The volume of cargo handled by the Major Ports during last three years is as under:—*

<i>(Million Tonnes)</i>			
Port	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (P)
Calcutta	4.2	5.2	5.2
Haldia	11.8	13.2	13.3
Paradip	7.3	7.6	8.3
Visakhapatnam	21.5	22.8	25.6
Madras	25.0	25.3	26.5
Tuticorin	5.9	6.2	6.7
Cochin	7.5	8.0	7.6
New Mangalore	8.3	7.1	8.6
Mormugao	15.1	16.3	18.7
J.L. Nehru	2.8	3.0	3.4

Port	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (P)
Bombay	27.2	29.0	31.1
Kandla	21.0	22.9	24.5
Total	157.6	166.6	179.5

(P) : Provisional.

Advertisements to Newspapers of U.P.

5722. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2208 on December 7, 1992 and state:

(a) whether the norms for giving advertisements to small newspaper were enhanced during 1992 or thereafter;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties of Small Newspapers in Hilly underdeveloped border areas in Uttar Pradesh, as regards the number of copies required to be sold for qualifying for advertisements;

(d) whether the Government propose to review these norms and bring these back to pre-1992 days, as far as U.P. Hills are concerned;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the rates for advertisement in these areas, as a special case; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. In pursuance of the recommendations of a Committee set up by the Government, the minimum circulation criterion for empanelment of a newspaper with DAVP was revised from 1000 paid copies to 2000 paid copies.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. Keeping in view the difficulties of the small newspapers in hilly and underdeveloped border areas, advertising policy guidelines already provide relaxation to newspapers/journals published in backward, border or remote areas or in tribal language or primarily meant for tribal readers and those published from J&K. The minimum circulation criterion in their case is 500 paid copies per issue.

(e) and (f). The advertisement rates formula is applied uniformly, to all publications irrespective of their area of publication.

[Translation]

Contract Labour System

5723. SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether project work is still being undertaken under contract labour system in the corporate offices under his Ministry in various States;

(b) the details of those States where works are being executed through contractors;

(c) the States where contract labour system has since been abolished;

(d) whether the Government have any scheme to liberate the labourers from the contract system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Memorandum on Indo-US Relations

5724. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the memorandum submitted by the delegation of Indo-American coalition to White House in regard to Indo-US relations recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the memorandum;

(c) whether the US Administration responded to the memorandum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government are aware of a proposal by the "Indo-American coalition" to submit a communication to the White House.

(b) to (d). It appears that the communication was eventually not submitted.

Multinationals in Prawn Production

5725. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI DATTATRAYA
BANDARU:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for increasing prawn production, in view of its increasing global demand;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to enter into a collaboration with some multinationals in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have assessed the impact of the entry of multinationals, on the domestic prawn producers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir. Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Brack-

ish water Fish Farm Development, Brackish water Fish Farmers' Development Agencies have been sanctioned for establishment in 37 coastal districts. Moreover, a scheme to augment Shrimp production through aquaculture is being implemented by Marine Products Export Development Authority.

(b) and (c). No. multinationals are directly involved in Prawn farming in India at present. However, technical assistance has been availed by a few Indian private entrepreneurs from some multinational firms.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Up-side Unfurling of National Flag

5726. DR. LAXMINARAYAN
PANDEYA:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian national flag was unfurled up-side down during one day international cricket match held in Wellington recently;

(b) if so, whether any Indian officials have been found involved in the incident; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The National Flag was unfurled upside down during the One Day International Cricket Match held in Wellington on March 30, 1994. Immediate action was taken to rectify the mistake by the officials of the Wellington Cricket Association when it was pointed by the officials of the Indian High Commission and those accompanying the Indian Cricket Team.

It was a genuine mistake for which the Wellington Cricket Association immediately offered a public apology on their public address system as well as through the electronic media.

[English]

Bauxite Deposits in Visakhapatnam

5727. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received in 1993-94 for setting up processing plants based on the bauxite deposits in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of bauxite deposits in the country and particularly in Koraput district of Orissa and the value thereof;

(c) whether the bauxite reserves in the country are fast depleting;

[Translation]

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

(e) whether under the New Liberalisation Policy the private sector is allowed to explore bauxite reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPT at Bonai in Orissa

5728. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the installation of Low Power T.V. transmitter at Bonai in Sundargarh district of Orissa; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). A Low Power TV Transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Bonai in Sundargarh district of Orissa. The normal lead time for implementation of the project of this nature is about 2 years after the scheme is formally approved by the competent authority. However, being an under-developed tribal area, efforts are being made to expedite its installation.

Import of Steel Wire

5729. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to do away with the canalisation of import of mixed steel wire rods of all types and non bulkable wire rods and impose restriction on the import of carbon steel wires and certain types of mixed steel wires;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). As per the current export-import policy, import of all steel items including wire rods is freely allowed and import of no steel item is canalised. At present, there is no proposal to restrict the import of any item of steel.

National Highways

5730. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the criteria laid down for the widening of the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): The basic criterion for widening of National Highways from single lane to two lanes is when the daily traffic volume exceeds 1,000 PCUs (Passenger Car Units) and

from two lanes to four lanes when the daily traffic volume exceeds 15,000 PCUs.

[English]

Advertisements for Conservation of Fuel

5731. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on advertisements for conservation of fuel during each of the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated for this purpose during 1994-95;

(c) whether any evaluation has been made to assess the impact of these advertisements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) On behalf of the Ministry of Power, the Energy Management Centre (EMC) organises awareness campaigns for Energy Conservation. During the last three years, the expenditure incurred by EMC on awareness campaigns for Energy Conservation was as under:—

1991-92	Rs. 101.53 lakhs
1992-93	Rs. 105.71 lakhs
1993-94	Rs. 20.30 lakhs

(b) A provision of Rs. 16 crores has been made for Energy Conservation

Programmes including awareness and publicity programmes for the year 1994-95.

(c) and (d). In 1992, the Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) had evaluated the awareness campaigns undertaken by EMC in 4 major metros i.e. Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and found the campaign to be quite effective and useful.

Rourkela Steel Plant

5732. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earned annually by Rourkela Steel Plant from the export of steel pipes during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the exports of pipes during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There has been no export of pipes from Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last three years.

(b) Export of steel items including pipes is dependant on conditions such as demand, prices and quality etc. in the international market. Government have now freely allowed export of all items of iron and steel. Liberalisation of trade policy provisions, including the provisions for duty free import of raw materials for export, convertibility of the rupee on trade and current account, etc. will help in the export of these items. SAIL have

also taken a number of steps to reorient its marketing strategy, including exports.

L.D.P.T. in Gujarat

5733. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of long distance public telephones functioning in Gujarat as on date;

(b) the number of such telephones opened during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(c) the target fixed for 1993-94; and

(d) the achievement made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Number of Long Distance Public Telephones functioning as on 1st April, 1994 is 4179.

(b) Long Distance Public Telephones opened during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are as under:—

Year	LD PCOs Opened
1991-92	456
1992-93	749
1993-94	2060

(c) No separate Target for LD PTs was fixed for 1993-94. There was target to provide telephones to 4500 Gram Panchayats during 1993-94.

(d) During 1993-94, telephone facility to 3370 Gram Panchayats were provided out of which 2050 were Long Distance Public Telephones.

Advertisement Arrears

5734. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

SHRI BOLLA BULLI

RAMAIAH:

SHRI TARA SINGH:

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

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

(a) whether advertising agencies, public sector units and Government departments owe Doordarshan crores of rupees for commercials;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on March 31, 1994; and

(c) the concrete measures being taken to recover those outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As on 31.3.94, an amount of Rs. 12.81 crores for the period upto 1992-93 was outstanding.

(c) Doordarshan is taking recourse to all the contractual provisions to ensure timely payment of dues, including encashment of bank guarantee/ deaccreditation of errant agencies, arbitration and legal action.

AIR/Doordarshan Coverage In Gujarat

5735. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of population covered by Doordarshan and Akashvani network in Gujarat;

(b) whether any schemes have been formulated to cover the tribal areas of the State during the Eighth Plan Period; and

(c) the details of the schemes prepared to cover centpercent population of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The entire State of Gujarat is covered by All India Radio transmission. Doordarshan transmission is available to 77% of the population of the State.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. During Eighth Plan Period, Doordarshan proposes to set up 4 High Power Transmitters, 16 Low Power Transmitters and 2 Very Low Power Transmitters in the State of Gujarat including the rural, tribal and remote areas, as given in *Statement*. Further expansion of TV coverage would depend upon availability of resources and interse priorities.

Though, the State is fully covered by All India Radio, a Local Radio Station at Vadodara, a Relay Centre at Junagarh and a 2x5 KW FM Transmitter at Ahmedabad are being set up to further strengthen the radio coverage in the State of Gujarat.

STATEMENT

Sl. Scheme No.	Place
1. High Power Transmitters	Bhuj Vadodara Surat Palitana
2. Low Power Transmitters	Khambhat Morbi Dharangadra Mahuva Naktarana Rapar Mangrol Idar Palitana Deesa Rajula Sanjeli Khambalia Amod Jhagadia Mangrol (Surat)
3. Very Low Power Transmitters	Netrang Devgarh

[Translation]

News In Punjabi

5736. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
PROF. PREM DHUMAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to telecast news-bulletin in Punjabi; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started and the duration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan Kendra, Jalandhar is already telecasting news bulletins in Punjabi.

(b) Does not arise.

Fruits and Vegetables

5737. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of fruits and vegetables available in the country as raw material for food processing industries are much more as compared to the International market;

(b) the factual position in this regard; and

(c) the position of our country in the world regarding the production of fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). While the prices of certain fruits and vegetables in the country as raw material for food processing industries compare favourable, the prices of some other fruits and vegetables are higher as compared to the international market.

(c) India is a second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the World.

[English]

International Film Festival

5738. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for selection of films for International Film Festivals;

(b) the names of the Indian films selected and exhibited in the 25th International Film Festival held in Calcutta; and

(c) the special features of the festival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The criteria for selecting films for International Film Festivals of India is given in *Statement-I*.

(b) The details of Indian films selected for exhibition in 25th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held at Calcutta from January 10-20, 1994 are given in *Statement-II*.

(c) The special features of IFFI'94 are given in *Statement-III*.

STATEMENT-I

Criteria for selecting films for International Film Festivals of India

(A) FOREIGN FILMS

Foreign films for the International Film Festivals of India are selected in accordance with long-established guide-

lines, most of which are common to the international film festivals of the world. Broadly speaking, these are:

1. Films are selected keeping in view the overall aim of the Festival, as spelled out in its Regulations every year, as given below:

"The Festival aims at providing a common platform for the cinematographies of the world to project the excellence of their film art; contributing to the understanding and appreciation of the film cultures of different nations in the context of their social and cultural ethos; and promoting friendship and cooperation among different peoples of the world".

2. For the main, official "Cinema of the World" Section, feature films of high quality which have been entered in, or have won awards at other International Film Festivals, or are of extraordinary merit, can be accepted for exhibition. Usually, films which are not more than two years old at the time of the Festival are accepted, although this criterion can be relaxed in exceptional cases. It is also usual to include only films which have not previously been released in India commercially or screened publicly in theatres prior to the Festival.
3. All foreign films which are in languages other than English are required to have subtitles in English.
4. No censorship is applied to films entered in the Festival.

5. In addition, the special packages of films for the Focus, Retrospectives, Tributes etc., are selected keeping in view the suggestions, if any, of the Advisory Committee/ Organising Committee. Care is taken to concentrate on the cinema of a country from Asia, Africa or Latin America in the Focus Section in each Festival, in keeping with the practice of highlighting the cinema of Third World countries. Retrospectives and Tributes featuring major film makers of the world from different countries are arranged, alongwith some theme-based or anniversary-related packages of quality films from time to time.

(B) INDIAN FILMS:

SELECTION OF INDIAN PANORAMA FILMS:

The Indian Panorama films are selected by a jury of eminent film personalities and artistes nominated by the Government of India. Films of cinematic, thematic and aesthetic excellence are selected. Usually 21 feature films with English sub-titles and a maximum of 21 non-feature films, produced between 1st September of the immediately preceding year and 31st August of the year in which the Indian Panorama films are being selected and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification are eligible for exhibition. Also according to the provisions of Indian Programme Regulations, in the event of the number of films selected in a particular year falling short of the prescribed maximum permissible limit, in either category, the Director, Directorate of Film Festivals, may recommend for consideration to the All India

Panel (the Panel which made the original selection of the films), such films as are of exceptional merit in his/her judgement, even when these have been certified upto 4 calender months beyond the due date.

II. SELECTION OF FILMS FOR MAINSTREAM INDIAN CINEMA SECTION:

In this Section, the feature films are recommended by Film Federation of India.

III. SELECTION OF FILMS FOR INDIAN RETROSPECTIVE SECTION:

For this Section, the films are recommended by the Organising Committee of the Festival.

STATEMENT-II

The Indian films were screened in the following Sections:

(A) INDIAN PANORAMA

Feature Films

1. Abartan/Dr. Bhabendranath Saikia/ Assamese
2. Antareen/Mrinal Sen/Bengali
3. Bhagavad Gita/G.V. Iyer/Sanskrit
4. Chinnari Mutha/T.S. Nagabharana/ Kannada
5. Deivathinte Vikruthikal/Lenin Rajendran/Malayalam
6. Gouri/Sivaprasad/Malayalam

7. Ilayum Mullum/K.P. Sasi/ Malayalam
8. Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa/Kundan Shah/Hindi
9. Lavanya Preeti/A.K. Bir/Oriya
10. Magrib/P.T. Kunhimohammed/ Malayalam
11. Patang/Gautam Ghosh/Hindi
12. Sambal Vangma/K. Ibohal Sharma/Manipuri
13. Shilip/Nabyendu Chatterjee/ Bengali
14. Suraj Ka Satvan Ghoda/Shyam Benegal/Hindi
15. Sunya Theke Suru/Ashoke Vishwanathan/Bengali
16. Uttoran/Sandip Ray/Bengali
17. Vidheyan/Adoor Gopalakrishnan/ Malayalam
18. Woh Chokri/Subhankar Ghosh/ Hindi.

Non-Feature Films

1. A house and A Home/ Sanjay Kak/English
2. Anubhav/Suresh Kumar/No language
3. Anukampan/Balaka Ghosh/Hindi
4. Bazar Sitaram/Neena Gupta/ English

5. Colours of Absence/Arun Khopkar
6. Fearless: The Hunterwali Story/Riyad Vinci Wadia/English
7. Freedom/Shaila Paralkar/No language
8. Hyderabad: A place in the Heart/Zafar Hai/English
9. In Search of Indian Theatre/Abhijit Chattopadhyaya/English
10. Lai Haraoba/Aribam Shyam Sharma/English
11. Moksha/Pankaj Butalia/Bengali
12. On the Wild Trail/Rajiv Mehrotra/English
13. Ordinary Love/Anand Subramanian/Hindi
14. Rashtriya Dariyai Udyan/Neerav Parekh/Gujarati
15. Sunday/Pankaj Advani/Hindi
16. The Second Page/Sanjivan Lal/Hindi
17. The Splendour of Garhwal & Roop Kund/Victor Banerjee/English
18. Tragedy of an Indian Farmer/Murari Nair/Music only
19. Wangle—A Garo Festival/Bappa Ray/English.

(B) INDIAN RETROSPECTIVE**FILMS BY LATE VIJAY BHATT:**

1. Baiju Bawara

2. Ram Rajya
3. Goonjh Uthi Sehnai
4. Hariyali Aur Rassta.

FILMS OF LATE UTPAL DUTT:

1. Bhuvan Shome
2. Agantuk
3. Jhor
4. Padma Nadir Majhi
5. Datta.

(C) MAINSTREAM CINEMA

1. Walter Vetrivel (Tamil)
2. Yejaman (Tamil)
3. Aranmanakili (Tamil)
4. Allari Priyadu (Telugu)
5. Aakash Dhoothu (Malayalam)
6. Ranjita (Kannada)
7. Tomar Rakte Amar Sohag (Bengali)
8. Swet Patharer Thala (Bengali)
9. Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke (Hindi)
10. Khal Nayak (Hindi)
11. Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman (Hindi)
12. Zapatiela (Marathi).

STATEMENT-III

A total of 157 feature films and 23 short or non-feature films were screened at the 25th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Calcutta. 118 feature films and 4 short films were foreign films, while 39 feature films and 19 short/non-feature films were from the Indian cinema. Forty countries participated in the festival. Four countries namely, Israel, Armenia, Estonia and Lithuania participated in the festival for the first time.

Most of the foreign films screened in the festival had participated in other International Film Festivals as well, a factor which indicates their level of excellence. In addition there were retrospectives of and tributes to great film personalities from abroad, viz. the Italian film-maker, Michelangelo Antonioni, the Oscar-winning Dutch Director, Fons Rademakers and his wife Lilli, Swedish Director Ingmar Bergman, the actress Greta Garbo and the great Italian film-maker Federico Fellini and from India, two famous film personalities, namely Utpal Dutt and Vijay Bhatt who had recently passed away.

The best of recent Indian cinema was screened in the Indian Panorama Section and some of the most popular Indian films in the Mainstream Indian cinema section. In all, 408 shows in 10 theatres were held during the festival. The festival was attended by over 2,800 press and film delegates. Amongst them were 84 foreign delegates. Apart from Antonioni and Fons and Lilli Rademakers, the festival witnessed personal appearances by a large number of foreign film personalities.

Pulse Rate from Delhi to Firozabad

5739. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD pulse rate from Delhi to Firozabad is 8/16/32 while from Firozabad to Delhi is 4/8/16;

(b) if so, the reasons for the difference; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that pulse rates between two places remain uniform?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The correct pulse rate both ways is 8/16/32.

(b) and (c) Pulse rate between two stations was so far being decided by Radial (Aerial) distance between two stations by calculating, through X, Y coordinates.

In 1992 since the STD services spread to villages, concept of L.D.C.C. was created wherein distance was calculated on the basis of HQ. to HQ of LDCCs.

Firozabad earlier was charging on the basis of distance between Delhi-Firozabad. In the revised scheme Agra became the Nodal point for Agra SSA and charges from Delhi was on the basis of distance between Agra/Delhi.

There was time gap in implementing the same at two places and hence the complaint. The anomaly has since been corrected.

Energy Conservation Scheme

5740. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adopted any norms to save energy conservation in the various departments and Ministries;

(b) whether any progress has been made in the implementation of this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details of energy saved during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). While no specific norms have been prescribed, various Departments/Ministries are conscious about the need to conserve energy. Matters relating to energy conservation are also discussed in meetings with Ministries/Departments concerned with energy intensive sectors of the economy and ways and means explored to effect significant savings. However, it is too early to make an overall assessment of the energy savings expected at this stage.

Export of Steel

5741. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the steel import and export figures for 1991-92, 1992-93 & 1993-94 and the projected figures for 1994-95;

(b) whether the Ministry has forwarded any recommendation to the Ministry of Finance regarding reduction of excise duty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The quantity of steel imported and exported during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 was as follows:—

<i>(In million tonnes)</i>		
Year	Import	Export
1991-92	1.04	0.39
1992-93	1.11	0.89
1993-94 (Prov)	0.98	1.61

Import of steel is now freely allowed. Import of steel depends upon the specific requirements of importers in order to supplement indigenous availability both in terms of quantity and quality.

Steel is exported by the main producers as well as secondary producers. Main producers have tentatively projected their steel exports during 1994-95 at 1.52 million tonnes.

(b) and (c). Representations have been received from different sections of steel industry such as the Electric Arc Furnace units, Induction Furnace units, rerolling industry, etc. against the increase in excise duty on iron and steel products. These are under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

5742. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target was fixed for setting up electronic exchanges with STD facility in Bihar during 1992-93;

(b) if so, the details thereof with locations where such exchanges have been set up and the achievements made so far in this regard; and

(c) the details of proposal for setting up such exchanges in near future in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir, no definite targets are fixed for setting up of electronic exchanges with STD facility. The exchange gets STD facility as and when suitable transmission system is installed to connect the exchange into the STD network. However, 90 numbers of such exchanges were set up during 1993-94 as per details given in the *Statement* and total 308 numbers of such exchanges have been set up in Bihar so far.

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

STATEMENT

Name of Electronic Exchange set up with STD facility during 1992-93

Sl. No.	Name of Station
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1.	Barajamola
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2.	Chakradharpur
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3.	Ghatsila
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4.	Jadugora
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Sl. No.	Name of Station
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5.	Jhinkpani
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6.	Maghataburu
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7.	Noamundi
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8.	Saraikela
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9.	Naugachia
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10.	Kahalgau
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11.	Arwal
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12.	Bharthauli
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13.	Charki
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14.	Daudnagar
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15.	Deo
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16.	Dobhi
-----	-------

17.	Goh
-----	-----

18.	Kako
-----	------

19.	Rajhauli
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20.	Sherghati
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21.	Tekari
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22.	Bahadurganj
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23.	Barsoi
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24.	Sonauli
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25.	Piro
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Sl. No.	Name of Station
26.	Koilwar
27.	Biraul
28.	Phulparas
29.	Banipur
30.	Dalsingsarai
31.	Jainagar
32.	Kapan
33.	Lakminia
34.	Maheshkhut
35.	Manjhaul
36.	Tajpur
37.	Baghmara
38.	Baliapur
39.	Balidih
40.	Chanrapura
41.	Gomia
42.	Govindpur
43.	Kandra
44.	Katras
45.	Loyabad
46.	Bochaha

Sl. No.	Name of Station
47.	Deoria
48.	Desri
49.	Karanaul
50.	Kurhani
51.	Mahnar
52.	Riga
53.	Sonbarsa
54.	Turki
55.	Vaishali
56.	Bihariganj
57.	Pipra
58.	Raghopur
59.	Triveniganj
60.	Udakishanganj
61.	Banjari
62.	Bikramganj
63.	Barachakia
64.	Bagha
65.	Narkatiaganj
66.	Bikram
67.	Hilsa

Sl. No.	Name of Station	[English]
68.	Kankerbagh	Power Purchase Agreement
69.	Masaurhi	5743. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
70.	Patliputra	SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
71.	Patelnagar	Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:
72.	Patna City	
73.	Rajendranagar	(a) whether the State Electricity Boards had been urging the Union Gov- ernment for laying down sets of guide- lines for Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to be followed by the SEBs for facilitating and expediting private parti- cipation in power sector;
74.	Simra	
75.	Bakhtiarpur	
76.	Poonpoo	
77.	Jamalpur	(b) if so, the details and the rea- sons therefor;
78.	Lakhisarai	
79.	Sheikhpura	(c) whether the Union Government have finalised the guidelines/model norms for Power Purchase Agreement to be followed by the SEBs;
80.	H. Kharagpur	
81.	Rajmahal	(d) if so, the details thereof; and
82.	Japla	
83.	Latehar	(e) the time by which the guidelines are likely to be announced?
84.	Itki	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (e). Govern- ment of India have issued tariff Notifica- tion dated 31.3.1992 as amended on 19.1.1994, giving the guidelines for de- termining the tariff for purchase of power by the State Electricity Boards from the generating companies. The Power Pur- chase Agreement for bulk sale of power by a generating company to the State Electricity Board is a matter to be finalised between the Company and the SEB.
85.	Tamar	
86.	Simdega	
87.	Ishribazar	
88.	Kuju	
89.	Madhuban	
90.	Rahdhanwar	

[Translation]

**Stealing of Parcels in Bihar and
Uttar Pradesh**

5744. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2600 on December 20, 1993 and state:

(a) whether the Government have since collected the information in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The information in respect of Unstarred Question No. 2600 of 20th December, 93 has since been collected and Assurance given has been fulfilled on 3.3.1994.

(c) Does not arise.

Mineral Exploration in Maharashtra

5745. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey during the last three years in Maharashtra to explore minerals and metals in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the places where the survey was conducted and the estimated reserves of minerals and metals found; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to exploit these deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted survey for exploration of gold, copper, tungsten, Manganese and Platinum Group of Elements (PGE) in parts of Nagpur, Bhandara and Thane districts of Maharashtra during the last three years. Preliminary assessment has indicated a resource of about 1.37 lakh tonnes of gold ore with average grade of 2.3 to 8.4 g/t of gold and a tentative resource of 1.5 lakh tonnes of copper ore with 1.99% copper.

(c) Exploitation of the deposits is dependent upon their techno-economic viability.

Chronically Sick Units of SAIL

5746. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has decided to sell-off all its chronically sick units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of all profit making units under Steel Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 31.3.93, the profit making units under SAIL were as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of Unit	Cumulative Profit as on 31.3.93 (Rs. Crores)
1.	Bhilai Steel Plant	1014
2.	Rourkela Steel Plant	318
3.	Bokaro Steel Plant	1644

Widening of Roads in U.P.

5747. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh in respect of which work has been going on for the last two years to widen them; and

(b) the work completed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Haryana border to Mathura Section of National Highway No. 2 in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Physical progress as on 31.3.94 is about 12%.

[English]

Relations with Central Asian Republics

5748. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen further the bilateral relations with Central Asian Republics;

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

(c) whether any agreements including trade agreements have been signed with these countries; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government proposes to continue dialogue with the leadership of the Central Asian Republics through exchanges of bilateral visits and meetings at other international forums. The Government are planning to open our resident missions in the remaining two Central Asian capitals, namely Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) after the recent opening of the Indian resident mission of Ashgabat (Turkmenistan). The second sessions of the Joint Commissions with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are also proposed to be held. The first session of the Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission is expected to take place in New Delhi soon. With the opening of our missions in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan) we expect to have joint commissions with these countries also.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) **Uzbekistan:** The agreements/protocols/MOUs signed between India and Uzbekistan provide for cooperation in the following areas: economic, commercial, scientific and technical, culture, arts, education, diplomatic and consular rela-

tions, establishment of inter-Governmental commission on trade, economy, S&T cooperation sports, provision of \$10 million credit by India, cooperation between two foreign ministries, science and technology; postal and related matters, tourism, mass media, air services, avoidance of double taxation, telecommunications, Indo-Uzbek Science & Technology Centre and principles of inter-State relations.

- (ii) **Kazakhstan:** The agreements/protocols/MOUs signed between India and Kazakhstan provide for cooperation in the following areas: declaration of basic principles and direction of inter-Governmental relations, trade, economic relations, science and technology, culture and arts, education, mass media, sports, inter-Governmental commission on trade, economic and S&T cooperation, provision of \$10 million credit by India, science and technology, cooperation between the two foreign ministries, air services, diplomatic and consular relations.

- (iii) **Kyrgyzstan:** The agreements/Protocols/MOUs signed between India and Kyrgyzstan provide for cooperation in the following areas: Declaration of principles and directions of cooperation, trade, economic relations, science & technology, culture, arts, education, science, mass media, and sports, inter-Governmental commission on trade, economic, scientific & technological cooperation, economic and technical coop-

eration, cooperation between the two foreign ministries, diplomatic and consular relations and air services.

- (iv) **Turkmenistan:** The agreements/protocols signed between India and Turkmenistan provide for cooperation in the following areas: Declaration of principles and directions of cooperation, trade, economic, culture, arts, education, science, tourism, sports, mass media, economic and technical cooperation, air services, diplomatic and consular relations.
- (v) **Tajikistan:** The agreements/protocols/MOU signed between India and Tajikistan provide for cooperation in the following areas: Declaration on principles and directions of cooperation, trade, economic and technical cooperation, culture, arts, education, science, mass media, sports, cooperation between the national banks, cooperation between the two foreign ministries and air services.

TV Transmitters In Border Areas

5749. SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWLE:

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken steps, besides setting up high power transmitters, in sensitive and border areas, to counter adverse propaganda

against India by neighbouring countries there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to present factually correct information in different formats/languages so as to sustain the interest of viewers in these areas and dispel erroneous/misleading claims by forces inimical to our national interest.

High Power Delegation to Counter Pak Propaganda

5750. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which have so far backed India's stand on Kashmir and opposed the internationalisation of the issue;

(b) the names of foreign countries where the Government have sent high-power delegations to counter Pakistan's adverse propaganda in those countries about India and particularly about Kashmir; and

(c) the result of the visit of these delegations to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c). Government during the course of usual Ministerial, Official and diplomatic exchanges with other countries have apprised them of the true facts regarding the situation in Jammu & Kashmir and of Pakistan's

support to trans-border terrorism. Government are committed to seek the resolution of all differences with Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations within the framework of the Simla Agreement. This has been conveyed to Pakistan and to other countries.

There is appreciation for India's stand and support for a process of bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan as the best way forwarded to resolve all differences between India and Pakistan, including Jammu & Kashmir.

Extension of time to Submit Pilot Prints

5751. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan have received representation from producers for extension of time to submit pilot prints of sponsored serials;

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter;

(c) the details of problem faced by the producers in submitting pilot prints brought to the notice of Doordarshan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF, THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doordarshan granted an extension of three months.

(c) The extension of time sought by the producers was diverse on grounds such as non availability of technical crew, requests for increase in the number of sanctioned episodes, non-receipt of permissions from local authorities etc.

(d) Doordarshan decides such requests on the merit of each case.

[Translation]

Relations with France

5752. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen further relations with France;

(b) whether France has offered assistance/cooperation in any areas/ developmental works; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Government are taking various steps to strengthen relations with France. Regular exchanges of high-level visits have imparted momentum to bilateral relations. From the Indian side these have included those of the Prime Minister (September '92); the Minister for Urban Development (October '92); the Agriculture Minister (February '94); and the External Affairs Minister (February '94); and from the French side those of the Minister for Research and Space (October '92); the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications (November '92); the Defence Minister (December '92); the Minister of State for Trade (November '93); and the

Foreign Minister (April '94). Economic and commercial relations between India and France have also expanded significantly over the last few years. Trade with France has increased from Rs. 1242.35 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 3053.67 crores in 1992-93. A meeting of the Indo-French Joint Economic Commission at Ministerial level is scheduled to be held later this year and a visit of a high-level French business delegation to India is also envisaged in late 1994. French direct investment approvals in India increased from Rs. 88.8 million in 1990 to Rs. 1283.09 million in 1993. Government have also agreed to the French request to conclude a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement to further encourage French investments in India. An Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research has been established in New Delhi jointly funded by India and France; under the aegis of the Centre, collaborative research projects in various scientific fields are being undertaken. A bilateral dialogue on terrorism and drug trafficking has been initiated and steps are being taken to conclude various consular agreements of mutual interest. A Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1993-95 is currently under active implementation.

(b) and (c). Since 1989, France has been providing bilateral assistance to India which has mainly been utilised for French project exports. The French Government have conveyed their desire to conclude a Financial Protocol for 1994 for which suitable projects are to be identified.

B.B.C. Telecast on Alleged Atrocities

5753. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a report published in a Gujarati daily, "Janmabhoomi" dated 11.3.94 published from Bombay stating that the BBC under its series "Document from abroad" had telecast a film, produced in India, which carried reports about the alleged atrocities being committed on Indian women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of these reports the Swedish Government propose to stop the financial assistance to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The report is dated 10.3.94.

(b) The report probably relates to the BBC programme 'Let Her Die' in BBC's 'Assignment' series on gender discrimination in parts of India which was telecast on the BBC World Service.

(c) The Government of Sweden has not conveyed any decision to stop financial assistance to India on the basis on such reports.

(d) Does not arise.

Direct Reduced Iron Technology

5754. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to use Direct Reduced Iron in the steel melting process, in all the public sector steel plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). Public Sector Integrated Steel Plants have been set up based on coke-iron ore-sinter-blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace/open hearth furnace process routes where molten iron (hot metal) is used for steel making. The plants are not designed to use Direct Reduced Iron in large quantities which are normally used in Electric Steel Making Process.

However, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant which has 100% Continuous Casting Technology uses a small amount of Direct Reduced Iron as coolant in the converters of Steel Melting Shop. A maximum quantity of 60,000 tonnes of Direct Reduced Iron can be used by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant per year.

Branch Post Offices in Gujarat

5775. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branch post offices functioning in Gujarat particularly in Chhota-Udaipur areas of the State at present; and

(b) the branch post offices proposed to be opened in the state during 1994-95, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of branch post offices functioning in Gujarat and Chhota-Udaipur is 7499 and 67 respectively.

(b) Circle-wise targets for Branch post offices have not yet been finalised.

[English]

Sub-Post Offices in Orissa

5756. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sub-post offices in Bhadrak Postal Division of Orissa have been sanctioned during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the location thereof particularly at Dungure;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be sanctioned and opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Post Offices are opened/upgraded subject to fulfilment of departmental norms in this regard and availability of resources. Dungure extra departmental branch post office could not be considered for upgradation to departmental sub post office since it did not fulfil the departmental norms.

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

Chakma Refugees

5757. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to send a team to Bangladesh to make an on the spot study of the Chakma refugees who have returned actually to Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which team is likely to visit Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). A team comprising eleven tribal refugee leaders has visited are Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh from April 25-29, 1994 for making an on the spot study of the rehabilitation of the refugees who returned to Bangladesh in February 1994. The team was accompanied by three officials of the Government of Tripura.

[Translation]

Separate Channel for Educational Programmes

5758. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI RAM SINGH
KASHWAN:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to allot a separate channel for educational programmes so that students may take full benefit of the channel during their course of study; and

(b) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to a variety of reasons including constraints of resources and manpower.

[English]

TV Transmitter at Badalpur

5759. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the residents of Badalpur in Thana district to set up a TV transmitter there;

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Representations have been received from time to time for establishment of a TV transmitter at Badalpur in Thane district of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c). With a view to improve TV service in the area, a survey is being carried out to ascertain the feasibility of setting up of a transport at Badalpur. The normal lead time for implementation of the project of this nature is about 2 years after the project is formally approved by the competent authority.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication

5760. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Centre of Indian Institute of Mass Communication in Southern part of the country; and

(b) if so, the place selected for the above Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The branch of the Institute is proposed to be located at Kottayam in Kerala.

Projects under Central Road Sector in Bihar

5761. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of externally aided projects in the Central Road Sector being implemented/proposed to be implemented in Bihar, amount involved and targeted date of completion; and

(b) the progress made in the project for four laning of Bihar-West Bengal Border National Highway-2?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). 4-laning of NH 2 from Barwa Adda to Barakar has been included in the Asian Development Bank-III loan assistance. It is too early to indicate the target date of completion.

Ties with Kuwait

5762. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kuwait is very keen to strengthen further its ties with India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve its bilateral relations with Kuwait?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Kuwait has shown interest, which we fully reciprocate, in strengthening its ties with India.

(b) In pursuance of this objective, there have been frequent exchanges of visits in order to enlarge mutual understanding through high-level dialogue. Economic ties have been strengthened *inter alia* by an agreement on joint economic cooperation and another agreement on the avoidance of double taxation. Recently a high-level multi-disciplinary economic delegation from Kuwait visited India on April 11-16 to explore possibilities of boosting bilateral economic relations in number of fields.

[Translation]

Production and Consumption of Steel

5763. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and supply of steel during the last three years; and

(b) the per capita consumption thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The total assessed demand and the production of finished steel both from the Main and Secondary Producers during the last three years was as under:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Assessed Demand	Production
1991-92	16.35	14.33
1992-93	17.76	15.20
1993-94 (Provisional)	18.95	15.13

(b) The per capita apparent consumption of Crude steel in India in 1992 was 21.7 Kg.*

[English]

Prizes by Various TV Serials

5764. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMA-

* Source: Statistical Year Book, 1993, IISI, Brussels.

TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the winners declared successful in various programmes on Metro Channel are not given prizes in time;

(b) if so, whether in time-slot allottees on Metro Channel are cheating the public at large; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). Doordarshan has received only two complaints in this regard. The concerned producers have been asked by Doordarshan to take corrective steps to redress the grievance of the complaints.

Wayside Amenities in Assam

5765. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade travellers rest houses etc. situated on National Highways in Assam and particularly on National Highway No. 31 and 52; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DTC Buses used for Smuggling Purposes

5766. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inter State Bus Services of D.T.C. are allegedly being used for smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, on 10-3-1994, a passenger travelling in DTC Bus No. DHP-2689 on Tanakpur-Delhi route was apprehended by the Custom Authorities at Banbasa for alleged possession of Computer parts.

(c) The staff on duty with Bus No. DHP-2689 on 10-3-1994 have been placed under suspension by DTC for alleged connivance with the passenger. DTC have also issued instructions to its Inspectoral Staff to carry out checking of buses operating on Inter-State route so as to avoid such incidents in future.

[Translation]

National Highways in M.P.

5767. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects related to the national highways in Madhya Pradesh which were to be completed by the end of the Seventh Five-Year Plan;

(b) the projects which were completed during the prescribed time-period and the projects which are still lying incomplete;

(c) the projects which have not been started so far;

(d) the details of the funds allotted for these projects; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on each of these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the State Government.

[English]

T.V. Serial on Shivaji

5768. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast TV serial depicting life of Shivaji;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Doordarshan is not telecasting serials on great patriots on Prime Time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) details of serials of patriots planned for telecast during 1994-95 at Prime Time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Currently serials on Mahadji Scindia and Akbar are being telecast.

Films Purchased by Doordarshan

5769. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Cinematographic Films purchased by Doordarshan during the last three years, year-wise, alongwith the names of suppliers of those films;

(b) the amount paid for each film, the dates of their application and telecast on Doordarshan;

(c) the policy of the Government to purchase films for Doordarshan;

(d) whether the Government has set up a Committee of professionals for the purchase of quality films in Hindi, English and regional languages for the current/next year, and if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total number of films proposed to be purchased during the next year and funds allocated for the purpose;

(f) whether the Government have received representation regarding favouritism and irregularities in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No Cinematographic film was purchased by Doordarshan during this period.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Government policy for the purchase of films by Doordarshan.

(d) to (g). Do not arise.

New Channels

5770. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start 21 new channels of the Doordarshan in the near future;

(b) whether the existing five Channels are telecasting programmes of inferior quality; and

(c) the reasons for increasing the number of Doordarshan Channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. There are a number of proposals on which Doordarshan is experimenting on the 5 transponders of INSAT 2B.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The new channels of Doordarshan were introduced in order to

provide programming to cater to the diverse interests of the widest cross section of its viewers.

Staff Strength In Regional Passport Offices

5771. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been consistent demand for increase in staff strength of Regional Passport Offices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the increase in the work load of approximately 160% since 1980 when the cadre strength was last revised, the need for a proportionate increase in staff strength has been felt. Four hundred additional posts were sanctioned in 1992. This does not, however, meet the entire need for additional staff for Passport Offices. It is intended to propose the creation of further additional posts shortly.

Import of Switching Equipment

5772. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOT had floated a tender for importing two lakh lines of switching equipment on a one time import basis during 1991-92;

(b) whether nearly one million lines have been ordered against this tender on direct payment basis and leasing/deferred payment basis;

(c) whether any norms have been violated in import of these lines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) DOT did not float a tender for importing 2.0 lakh lines of Switching Equipment. A tender was floated for procuring 2.0 lakh lines of Switching Equipment from the companies registered to manufacture the equipment in India and had RBI clearance to do so and the tender was in Indian Rupees.

(b) No orders were placed for import of Switching Equipment. Against the tender enquiry as given in (a) above, 4.4 lakh lines have been ordered on direct purchase basis. Equipment taken on lease was against a limited tender floated for that purpose and not against tender of 2.0 lakh lines.

(c) The above procurement does not amount to violation of tender norms. The tender was for 2.0 lakh lines of Switching Equipment and the vendors had quoted for this quantity. None of the vendors who were short-listed for commercial supplies got quantities more than this quantity i.e. 2.0 lakh lines. The direct orders placed were about 1.0 lakh lines per vendor. As such, there is no violation of tender norms.

(d) No decision was taken to violate the tender norms.

Programme Telecast by Madras Doordarshan

5773. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be please to state:

(a) whether the programmes telecast by the Madras Doordarshan Kendra are not upto the mark; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Roads in Orissa

5774. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State roads in Orissa proposed to be modernised and expanded with the World Bank aid;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of assistance provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Constitutionally, the Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country and all other

roads are the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. However, re-construction of six damaged bridges on State roads in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs. 58.35 crores has been included in the 2nd World Bank aided National Highway Projects for which the loan agreement provides for an assistance of about US \$ 12.9 million.

Operational Deficiencies of Ports

5775. SHRI BOLLA BULLI

RAMAIAH:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether operational deficiencies have been noticed in the ports;

(b) if so, whether any policy has been worked out in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the handling of goods in major ports have not been up to the mark;

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

(g) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). Improvement of port operations is an on-going process. Steps are taken by

various ports to remove the operational deficiencies, whenever they are noticed. Constant attempts/efforts are made to improve the performance of various ports by upgrading the skills of port personnel, installation of modern equipment, better coordination with the labour and other users.

(e) No, Sir. During the last financial year i.e. 1993-94. All Major Ports handled approx. 5.6 percents more cargo than the target fixed for them.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Commission on STD/PCO

5776. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of commission being paid to the STD and PCO holders on each call;

(b) whether the Government propose to accord permission to STD/PCO holders to charge two Rupees as service charges for STD call; and

(c) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The STD/PCO franchisees are entitled to 20 paise per call unit upto 10,000 call units, 15 paise per call unit in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 call units and 10 paise per call unit beyond 20,000 call units as commission for the total no. of calls made over a period of one month. Local PCO franchises are entitled to a commission of 40 paise per local call.

(b) The franchisees have been permitted with effect from 18.1.94 to collect a maximum of Rs. 2/- as service charges per STD/ISD call. No, service charge is leviable in case of a local call.

(c) Service charges have been allowed as an additional revenue to the unemployed educated youth a PCO holder as the investment of the PCO holder for providing booth and other facilities is substantial.

[English]

Closure of Kumar Dhubi Fire Bricks Silica

5777. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the closed Kumar Dhubi Fire Bricks Silica (K.F.S.);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). Kumardhubi Fire Clay and Silica Works (KFSW) Limited being a loss making company, has been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Re-construction under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (SICA) Act, 1985. A decision on the future of KFSW will be taken by BIFR.

Agreement on Drug Trafficking with Neighbouring Country

5778. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries to curb drug trafficking; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Information, country-wise, is as under:

SHRI LANKA

The Government have not signed any agreement with Sri Lanka to curb drug trafficking. However, the authorities concerned in the two countries continue to cooperate closely in this area. At the last round of Indo-Sri Lanka Talks on Anti-smuggling and related matters held in New Delhi recently, both sides agreed to further step up cooperation to curb this menace.

MYANMAR

India and Myanmar signed an Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters on March 30, 1993. The Agreement has been signed with a view to developing channels for exchange of intelligence and information, and cooperation with the Government of Myanmar in the method of combating illicit traffick in drugs.

PAKISTAN

Pursuant to a decision taken at the meeting of the Home Secretaries of India and Pakistan at Lahore on 20-21 December 1986, to address the problems relating to drug trafficking and smuggling

across the Indo-Pakistan border, an India-Pakistan committee to control drug trafficking and smuggling was set up. This committee has already met 5 times.

NEPAL

No, Sir. Government have not entered into any such agreement with Nepal.

BHUTAN

No, Sir. Government have not entered into any such agreement with Bhutan.

CHINA

No, Sir. Government have not entered into any such agreement with China.

HPT at Kozhikode, Kerala

5779. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up high power TV transmitter at Kozhikode in Kerala; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whereas the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Calicut at a reduced power of 1 KW (interim set up) is to be commissioned shortly, the permanent set up at full radiating power of 10 KW is expected to be ready in 3-4 years after commencement of civil works at site.

Telephone Connections In Meghalaya

5780. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people in Shillong are in the waiting list for telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on December 31, 1993;

(c) the prospects of providing telephone connections to those people; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the allotment of telephone connections in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, Only 733 applications were pending as on 31.12.1993.

(b) and (c). Advice notes for providing Telephone connections to all persons registered upto 28th February, 1994 have been issued.

(d) Underground cable laying works and installation of line concentrators is in progress to make more non feasible areas feasible.

AIR/Doordarshan Coverage in Rajasthan

5781. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the AIR & Doordarshan coverage in Rajasthan as on December 31, 1993;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand AIR and Doordarshan coverage in the State during 1994-95;

(c) if so, the target set therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The State of Rajasthan was

covered by All India Radio to the extent of 90% areawise and 98% populationwise as on 31.12.93. Doordarshan coverage during this period was 38.8% areawise and 61.6% populationwise subject to the terrain conditions.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. As given in the *Statement*.

(d) All the schemes are at various stages of implementation and their progress is being closely monitored.

STATEMENT

List of AIR/Doordarshan Schemes for the year 1994-95 under implementation alongwith their target dates of completion

I. ALL INDIA RADIO

Sl. No.	Scheme	Target date of completion
1	2	3
1.	2x3 KW FM transmitter at Mount Abu with Multi-Purpose Studios.	March, 1995
2.	2x3 KM FM transmitter in place of 1 KW MW transmitter at Jodhpur	—do—
3.	20 MW MW transmitter in place of 10 KW MW transmitter at Udaipur	—do—

II. DOORDARSHAN

1.	Barmer	High Power Transmitter	1994-95
2.	Jaisalmer	—do—	—do—
3.	Baran	Low Power Transmitter	—do—
4.	Barisadri	—do—	—do—

1	2	3
5.	Bhadra	Low Power Transmitter
		1994-95
6.	Gangapur (Sawai Madhopur Distt.)	—do—
7.	Hindon	—do—
8.	Ratangarh	—do—
9.	Rawatsar	—do—
10.	Sridungargarh	—do—
11.	Sujargarh	—do—
12.	Makrana	—do—
13.	Karauli	—do—
14.	Phalodi	—do—
15.	Rajgarh (Churu Distt.)	—do—
16.	Mount Abu	—do—
17.	Pratapgarh	—do—
18.	Nohar	—do—
19.	Basava	—do—
20.	Nokha	—do—
21.	Shahpura	—do—
22.	Chirawa	—do—
23.	Nimaj	—do—
24.	Amet	Very Low Power Transmitter
		—do—

1	2	3
25. Chaumehla	Very Low Power Transmitter	1994-95
26. Deogarh	—do—	—do—
27. Fatehpur	—do—	—do—
28. Gangapur (Bhilwara Distt.)	—do—	—do—
29. Kumbelgarh	—do—	—do—
30. Laxmangarh	—do—	—do—
31. Bhim	—do—	—do—
32. Rajgarh (Alwar Distt.)	—do—	—do—
33. Lalsot	—do—	—do—

Besides above, 5 additional High Power Television Transmitters at Anupgarh, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Nathdwara and Bikaner are also envisaged to be set up subject to the approval of the schemes.

[Translation]

Functioning of Rural Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

5782. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of post offices in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh at present and the total number out of them without departmental buildings;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints about the unsatisfactory working of these post offices; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the postal services in rural areas and the construction of departmental buildings in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As on 31-3-94, total number of post offices in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh is as follows:—

Departmental post offices	432
Extra departmental post offices	10136
Total	10568

Out of 432 departmental post offices, 415 are without departmental buildings. For extra departmental post offices, the Department does not provide any accommodation.

(b) and (c). Complaints regarding slippages in service are sometimes received and remedial action is promptly taken on such complaints. However, there are no major complaints indicating unsatisfactory working of such offices in general.

[English]

Clearance of Telephone Backlog

5783. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assured that telephone backlog would be cleared by December, 1994 and also not to raise the telecom/postal tariff; and

(b) if so, the plans of Government to fulfil the assurances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

As per 8th Plan objective, the waiting period for telephone connections is not to exceed two years in large telephone systems & telephone practically on demand in rural and tribal areas by the end of 8th Plan period (1992-97). The plans are being drawn to meet the above objective accordingly. However efforts are being made to raise funds for purchase of equipments on leasing basis in case such funds are available, backlog of waiting list may be cleared earlier than envisaged in the Plan.

However, there is no proposal to raise the Telecom/postal tariff at present.

Change of Places for Telephones

5784. PROF. M. KAMSON: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some norms have been fixed for permitting registered persons for telephone connections for change of names and place of installation before and after release of connections;

(b) if so, the details of formalities to be undertaken separately in Non-OYT, OYT and Special Category with charges fixed for the same;

(c) whether some norms have also been framed to provide commercial telephone connections at residential places;

(d) if so, the details of formalities to be undertaken separately in each category with charges to be deposited in each case;

(e) whether any norms have also been fixed for getting more than one telephone connection at their premises; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with formalities to be undertaken in this regard, category-wise and charges to be deposited therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The required information is given in *Statement-I & II*.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

STATEMENT-I

*Change of name and place before
the telephone is released*

Change of name is permitted as follows:

(a) Change of name without change of person

- (i) Change of name due to marriage of applicant.
- (ii) Change in the name of the applicant, firm, company, association, institution, organisation.

Change of name without change of person is permitted for applicant registered under Non-OYT, OYT and Special categories.

(b) Change of name when person changes

- (i) Due to death of applicant

In case of death of applicant registered under Non-OYT & OYT category change of name is permitted as per will of the deceased and in the absence of it to the legal heir or to close relations but in case of Special category, change of name is not permitted.

The applicant may apply for change in the name to the competent Telephone Authority of the area in the prescribed form enclosing the relevant documents in

support of changing the name. The Telephone Authority will issue a demand note for Rs. 50/- (Rupees fifty only) if the documents are in order. On receipt of proof of payment, the case is processed and the applicant is duly informed of approval.

For change of place of installation before the release of the telephone, the applicant may apply on plain paper to the Telephone Authority of the area for change of place within the same exchange area in single exchange or multi-exchange telephone system without any charges.

STATEMENT-II

*Change of name and place after the
installation of telephone*

Policy of Shift

In multi-exchange areas, the shifts from one exchange area to another should normally be allowed either if the date of initial application for the new telephone connection falls within the release period of the specific category pertaining to the exchange to which it is required to be shifted or if the telephone has worked for a period of at least three years in the exchange area from where it is required to be shifted whichever is earlier. This is also applicable for shift of telephone from one city to another city on All India basis.

In case of shifts in single exchange telephone system or within the same exchange area within multi-exchange system, shift of telephone will be straight-away ordered on receipt of application from a subscriber, unless the area is non-feasible.

Procedure for Shift

1. Application for shift will be submitted by a subscriber in writing in a prescribed application form to the Telephone Authority concerned.
2. Wherever feasible, shifts will be effected within a period of fifteen days of the receipt of the application. Special watch will be kept on cases which are likely to be delayed beyond the period.
3. In cases where it is found that the outstanding amount is due to a lapse on the part of the Department like non-issue of a Bill e.g. 40% rent for safe custody cases, amount wrongly included in the bill etc, the shift and commissioning of the telephone will be carried out immediately.
4. If the shift cannot be effected promptly within the period or is not permissible within the policy of the Department or for want of cable pairs, the party should be informed in time and it will be ascertained from the applicant whether the telephone at the old place could be closed pending shift to the new place.
5. A telephone working in the name of a subscriber can be shifted to the business firm or a company of which the subscriber is a sole proprietor/partner/director.
6. After ascertaining the admissibility of the shift, Advice Note will be issued. Shift will be carried out immediately if it is technically feasible.
7. In cases of shifts from one exchange area to another in multi-exchange system, two Advice Notes will be issued—one for closing the existing telephone and another for opening of new telephone on shift. Shifting will be carried out immediately if it is technically feasible.
8. The bona fides of the request for shift should be checked only at the time of actual carrying out the shifting of the telephone.
9. The subscriber can be permitted to carry the telephone instruments with him from the old premises to the new premises if he desires to do so. Such option will be indicated by him in the application itself.
10. Payment of 'current arrears' before shift of a telephone in the name of an individual need not be insisted upon. However, in the case of an office, company or organisation, clearance of outstanding dues is necessary before shift is effected.
11. Pro rata refund of rental is allowed for the period the telephone service remains suspended due to delay in shifting for departmental reasons beyond a period of 15 days.

Withdrawal of application before shift

If a subscriber withdraws his application after issue of Advice Note out before actual shift of telephone, he will be required to pay the actual expenses incurred up to that date as determined by the District Engineer.

Telephone closed under shift

If a telephone is closed at the request of the subscriber and kept under safe custody till the telephone becomes eligible for shift under the rules, full rental will be charged for the period the telephone remains disconnected, up to the date it becomes eligible for shift. However, if the telephone could not be shifted within 15 days after the eligibility date, pro rata rebate in rental may be given as per (ii) above.

Shifts obtained on Third Party Transfer

For the sake of determining the eligibility of the telephone for a shift, the date of initial application for the telephone connection will be taken into consideration and the duration of working of the telephone in the exchange area from where the shift is required will be reckoned including the period for which the telephone has worked for the transfer also.

Shifting of telephone on All India basis

On application in the prescribed form from the subscriber, the telephone authorities of the existing telephone will treat the telephone as closed and furnish a certificate to the subscriber who will apply to the telephone authorities concerned at the new station enclosing the

certificate and the telephone connection will be provided. In case of OYT concession, the balance amount of deposit will be refunded to the subscriber along with a certificate. This balance amount has to be deposited by the subscriber at the new station and the subscriber will continue to be treated as on OYT subscriber.

Transfer of telephone

A telephone connection may be transferred in the name of another person under the sanction of Telecom District Engineer or the Heads of Telecom Districts or a Divisional Engineer nominated by the Heads of Districts for the purpose.

Transfers under different circumstances

(a) *During the life-time of the subscriber*—During the life-time of the subscriber, the transfer may be permitted to the near relatives, viz., father, mother, wife, husband, son or daughter, brother and sister including stepbrother and step-sister but not cousin irrespective of the category under which the telephone was originally obtained. The telephone ought to have worked for a period of not less than one year. If it was a special or a priority connection, the original hirer may not get any new connection under that category for a period of further five years.

(b) *Death of subscriber*—In the name of the person to show the property is bequeathed as per the will of the deceased. If the property is bequeathed to more than one person, to one person by mutual consent by others. In the absence of a will, the telephone may be transferred to the widow/widower of the deceased; Otherwise to the legal heir or

successor. When there are more than one legal heirs or successors, to one of them by mutual consent of all the heirs or successors.

(c) *Change of name of the subscriber*—On account of any change in the name of the subscriber for any reasons.

(d) *Change of name of Company or Firm*—A telephone in the name of a Firm or Company or of an Institution or Organisation or Association or any similar body, on account of any change in the name of constitution or both of the said Firm, Company, Institution, Organisation, Association or similar body.

(e) *Transfer of SSI category phones*—Transfer of a Telephone provided under Special Categories in the case of a Small Scale Industry could be permitted if the hirer is prepared to convert it into OYT category by depositing the requisite amount of OYT, only if the original date of installation of the telephone is covered under the ceiling up to which the OYT is current. The fact the telephone was obtained on priority under special category prevents transfer under the rules.

In the case of registration under Special Category, transfer is not permissible.

TRANSFERS

(f) *Use of telephone of a landlord by tenant*—Use of a telephone subscribed by a landlord of a building by the tenant living in the same building may be permitted by the authority. This will be restricted to telephone connections other than falling under special category. Some conditions are stipulated, in this regard.

A permission fee of Rs. 500 will be charged. Every new tenant's request is to be regulated separately and afresh. This provision is restricted to residential connections only.

General conditions governing transfers

(a) Application for transfer must be submitted duly signed by both the transferer and the transferee except in case of death of hirer when it will be signed by transferee only.

(b) Application must be accompanied by certificates indemnifying the Telecom Department against future claims and agreeing to pay all previous dues, etc. Transferee should undertake to pay all dues against the telephone including any pending dues pertaining to the period prior to the date of transfer.

(c) (i) The telephone connection must have worked for at least one year from the date of installation if sanctioned under OYT General or Non-OYT General category; if sanctioned under 'Tatkal Scheme', it should have worked for three years from the date of installation.

(ii) The application for transfer is to be made within one year of occurrence. Competent authorities will have discretionary powers to relax this limit of one year in individual cases on merits.

(d) Transfer fee is payable as set out in Rule 434(3) of Indian Telegraph Rules, i.e., the present fee is Rs. 100 for each stage of transfer.

(e) All transfers will be effected in the same premises. Any shifting required will have to be taken up separately by the transferee after the transfer has been effected and such a request will be processed as per the rules applicable to requests for normal shift. Crucial date for reckoning will be the date of installation and not the date of transfer.

(f) Transfer of telephones standing in the name of an individual can be transferred in the name of the firm of which he is the sole proprietor and vice versa.

(g) Transfer is permissible along with accessories.

(h) Advertising in the newspapers by brokers/agencies cannot be taken exception of. The Department will deal with transferer and transferee only and not with Brokers/Agencies.

(i) Transfer fee in respect of registration is Rs. 50 for each transfer and transfer of registration is processed on the same analogy of the guidelines for transfer of working connections.

(j) Transfer of registration from OYT category to the Non-OYT General Category is not permitted. The applicant can get the refund and register under Non-OYT category.

(k) Transfer of registration from OYT General to OYT Special may be allowed either from the date of original registration or from the date of entitlement for registration under special category whichever is later.

(l) Transfer of registration from Non-OYT Special or Non-OYT General category to OYT category may be al-

lowed only from the date of receipt of the difference in deposit prescribed.

(m) Transfer of registration from Non-OYT General category to Non-OYT Special category may be allowed if conditions are satisfied. Similarly Non-OYT Special category can be restored to Non-OYT General category if need be.

Further Restriction on Transfers

Once a telephone has been transferred under these rules, no further application for transfer will be entertained except in cases of (i) Death of hirer (transferee), (ii) Change of the name of the hirer (transferee), (iii) Transfer of telephones due to constitutional changes, etc., (excepting transfer due to change of Proprietorship to individual and vice versa) and (iv) Transfer of telephones from amongst the Government and allied Organisations, for a further period of five years.

Third Party Transfers

A subscriber will be permitted to transfer his telephone to any person, firm or company after one year of installation of the telephone. Telephones sanctioned under OYT General and Non-OYT General categories only will be permitted to be transferred to third parties.

The balance of amount at the credit of the transferer shall be refunded to him after deductions of outstanding dues upto the date of transfer. The transferee will be liable to pay any old outstanding dues even after the date of transfer of the telephone to him. The transferee is required to pay:

- (i) Rs. 8,500/- where total lines in an exchange do not exceed 1000 lines;

(ii) Rs. 10,500/- exceeding 1000 lines but not 10,000 lines; and

(iii) Rs. 15,500/- exceeding 10,000 lines,

Out of which Rs. 500/- will be appropriated as a transfer fee and Rs. 8,000/-, Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 15,000/- as an OYT Deposit and the connection will be treated as a fresh OYT connection from the date the transfer is effected.

In cases where the Department detects any third party use of telephone, an option will be given to the party to transfer the telephone to the user as a third party transfer.

Transfer is effected at Site only. For the purpose of determining the eligibility of the telephone for a shift, the date of initial application will be the criteria and the duration of working from the beginning in that exchange area alone is reckoned.

No further transfer application will be entertained for a further period of five years.

Shifting Charges

(i) In an exchange system of less than 500 lines—Rs. 150/-

(ii) In an exchange system of 500 lines and above—Rs. 600/-*

*Rebate of Rs. 300/- is allowed if internal wiring is done by subscriber.

Transfer Charges

The subscriber is permitted to transfer his telephone to any person, firm or company after one year of its installation.

The details of charges for transfer of telephone are as under:—

(i) Where total lines in an exchange do not exceed 1000 lines—Rs. 8,500/-

(ii) Exceeding 1000 lines but not 10,000 lines—10,500/-

(iii) Exceeding 10,000 lines—Rs. 15,500/-

Out of the above mentioned amounts Rs. 500/- is treated as transfer fee and Rs. 8,000/-, Rs. 10,000/-, Rs. 15,000/- as an OYT deposit and the connection be treated as a fresh OYT connection. No transfer application will be entertained for a further period of five years.

M.T.N.L. Services

5785. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services provided by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi to its subscribers are too poor, inefficient and troublesome as the telephones go out of order frequently and not attended to promptly and satisfactorily and complaint numbers remain constantly engaged, if the telephone complaint is to be lodged from other areas etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to ensure that the complaint numbers will not remain engaged for long and it would be easier for the subscribers to get them;

(d) the steps taken to make the service more effective and meaningful;

(e) the number of complaints received about rendering of poor service by MTNL in each of the last twelve months; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The services rendered by the MTNL in Delhi are satisfactory. Complaints regarding telephones reported faulty are attended regularly. A watch is also exercised on the quality of repairs so that repeat faults are averted. However, the fault repairs effort has been affected due to staff unrest, cable thefts etc. Sometimes, a caller may get the complaint number genuinely busy. Continuous supervision in this regard is, however, exercised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The traffic pattern is constantly monitored and steps are taken to increase the complaint circuits, wherever necessary.

(d) To further improve services, computerisation of Fault Repair Service is being done progressively in all exchanges along side various steps like laying underground cable in ducts, pressurisation of junction primary and secondary cables, large scale induction of PCM systems and phasing out of old and outmoded equipment in the network.

(e) The information is given in the *Statement*.

(f) Every complaint is properly investigated and after taking corrective

action, the customer is informed of the same.

STATEMENT

Month	No. of Complaints Received
April, 93	304
May, 93	343
June, 93	314
July, 93	959
August, 93	1191
September, 93	1667
October, 93	709
November, 93	318
December, 93	91
January, 94	160
February, 94	164
March, 94	67

[Translation]

Expansion of Post and Telecom Facilities

5786. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any new scheme for the expansion of existing post and telegraph/communications services with a view to provide assistance to the entrepreneurs is setting up industries under the new industrial policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b).

Post Offices:

Government's objective is to provide post offices in those areas where such facility does not exist, subject to the fulfilment of departmental norms in this regard and availability of resources. In urban areas, departmental sub-post offices are accordingly being opened in newly developed project areas, industrial estates, industrial townships, satellite colonies developed in the periphery of cities, etc.

Telecom Services:

Yes, Sir. The Government propose to introduce new schemes for expansion of telecom services to provide infrastructural assistance to the entrepreneurs in setting up industries. As per Eighth Plan objectives, industrial growth centres have been declared as special focus areas in providing priority for Telecom facilities.

[English]

Privatisation of Coal Based Power Projects

5787. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for privatisation of the coal based Thermal Power Plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the stage at which the proposal is pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. An MOU has been signed between the Government of Orissa with CEA, USA Inc. in respect of the Talcher Thermal Power Station (460 MW).

(b) Such decisions are taken by the State Governments/SEBs concerned. The MOU states that the proposal has been mooted to increase the reliability and plant load factor of the Thermal Power Station and to obtain as much additional generation capacity and corresponding energy from the Power Station as quickly as possible and at a reasonable cost.

(c) and (d). The MOU has been entered into in order to establish a framework for further investigation by CEA, USA Inc. regarding the technical and financial feasibility of O&M management, acquisition, ownership, renovation and modernisation of the Thermal Power Station.

Indore Bypass

5788. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the '4-laning of Indore section' and the 'Indore Bypass' are to be constructed with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expected financial assistance and the latest estimates of the cost;

(d) whether the construction work has started; and

(e) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon till 31st March 1994 and the name of the executing agency of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Construction of Indore Bypass and 4-laning of Indore-Dewas Section of NH 3 have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 102.97 crore. The loan agreement provides for the assistance of about US\$ 33.5 million for these works.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Production and Import of Copper

5789. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of copper concentrates imported during the last three years annually;

(b) the copper production target set forth in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the estimated production at the end of the Eighth Plan;

(d) the cost differential between imported and indigenous copper concentrates; and

(e) whether the Government propose to protect domestic producers by

erecting adequate trade and tariff barriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), a Public Sector Enterprise of the Central Government, is the sole unit in the country, which has both mining and smelting capacities to produce refined copper out of copper concentrates. No copper concentrates have been imported by HCL during the last three years.

(b) and (c). The target set for 1996-97, the terminal year of VIIIth Five Year Plan and estimated production of copper by HCL during that year is 45,000 tonnes.

(d) Presently, imported copper concentrates are cheaper compared to the indigenous copper concentrates.

(e) Presently, there is no proposal to provide for protective tariff in favour of HCL.

Screen Violence and Vulgarity

5790. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Screen violence distorts child mind" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated April 4, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Government have the report studied by eminent psychologist, Prof. Elizabeth Newson, referred to therein;

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

(d) the steps Government propose to take to check the screen violence and vulgarity on the TV Screen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). Government have seen the news item. According to the news item, a group of leading British child psychologists has concluded that there is definite link between violence portrayed in video films and on television and aggression among youngsters.

No such study has been made in India. However, all films intended for public exhibition in India are required to be examined by the Central Board of Film Certification in the light of the guidelines issued by Government. According to these guidelines, while examining films for certification, the Board shall, *inter-alia*, ensure that—

- (i) anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified.
- (ii) scenes showing involvement of children in violence as victims or as perpetrators or as forced witnesses to violence, or showing children as being subjected to any form of child abuse are not presented; and
- (iii) pointless or avoidable scenes of violence, cruelty and horror, scenes of violence primarily intended to provide entertainment and such scenes as may have the effect of desensitising people are not shown.

Doordarshan programmes are telecast after preview. The programmes are also reviewed on regular basis and

suitable changes carried out wherever warranted.

(d) It has been decided to conduct a sociological study about the impact of films on viewers.

Business Planning Groups in SAIL.

5791. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India has recently decided to constitute a separate Business Planning Group to diversify its business and chalk out its future marketing strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating *inter alia* the reasons for diversifying activities, products and business in SAIL, composition and the objectives of the Business Planning Group;

(c) whether similar business planning groups are proposed to be constituted in each steel plant of the SAIL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) when the aforesaid business planning groups are likely to start functioning in the SAIL and its plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). SAIL has constituted a Business Planning Group at the corporate level. The primary focus of the Business Planning Group would be on policy issues and evolving business strategies covering all the areas and business Planning Group would have a multi-disciplinary composition. In addition to evolving comprehensive integrated strategies in the steel business, the Business Planning Group would also analyse the diversification opportunities. The criteria for diversifica-

tion have been specified as follows:—

1. It should be able to exploit the existing strength of SAIL and allow the optimal use of own resources.
2. It should be related to the existing business of SAIL.
3. There should be harmony in the size of operations.
4. It should be a profitable business.

(c) and (e). it has been decided to establish a Business Planning Department in each plant whose responsibilities would be to undertake business planning for the medium term. In addition the Department will be responsible for integrating various product market strategies and assist the Managing Director in Technology Planning, Investment Planning and Strategy Planning.

Corruption Charges

5792. SHRI RAMESHWAR
PATIDAR:
SHRI CHANDRESH
PATEL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints of corruption, high handedness and loot, by some Inspectors of Transport Authority, from some transporters as well as from their Unions/Associations during January 1, 1993 to February 15, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of the enquiry conducted in the matter; and

(c) the action taken against the persons found responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). During the period from 1.1.93 to 15.2.94, 13 complaints were received and enquired into by the Transport Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. In one case the concerned person was placed under suspension and one complaint was found baseless. The remaining complaints are still under investigation.

French Defence Minister's Statement on Kashmir

5793. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.)
BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Pakistani newspaper "News" dated January 16, 1994 regarding views of French Defence Minister on UN resolution on Kashmir;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government have ascertained from the Government of France their views on the subject; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The views attributed to the French Defence Minister in the news item do not reflect the stand of the French Government on Kashmir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The French Government supports the resolution of Indo-Pak issues through a bilateral dialogue.

A.I.R. Station at Rourkela

5794. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in setting up the All India Radio Station at Rourkela in Orissa and the scheduled date for its commissioning; and

(b) the reasons for delay in completion of the Radio Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The Local Radio Station at Rourkela in Orissa is in the final stages of completion and is likely to be technically ready in June, 1994.

(b) Delay has been caused due to non-availability of permanent power supply and water supply.

SSI Products

5795. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban advertisements of small scale industries products on the electronic media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Such a ban is not considered necessary.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Modern Food Industries

5796. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a former Union Minister has written a letter dated February 16, 1994 and levelled charges against irregularities prevailing in Modern Food Industries;

(b) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry through CBI or a high level enquiry committee in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

A.I.R. Stations in Gujarat

5797. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new All India Radio Stations in Gujarat during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such stations nearing completion in the State;

(c) the frequency and range of the proposed stations and the total area to be covered thereby; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The details of schemes to set up new All India Radio stations in Gujarat, which have been taken up for implementation during the Eighth Plan, are given in *Statement*. All these are expected to be completed during the Eighth Plan period.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Details of schemes to set up new A.I.R. Stations in Gujarat which have been taken up for implementation during the Eighth Plan period

Sl. No.	Place	Schemes	Frequency	Range (In Sq. Kms.)
1.	Junagarh	2 x 3 KW FM Transmitter	101.7 MHz.	60
2.	Vadodara	2 x 3 KW FM Transmitter	102.7 MHz.	60
3.	Ahmedabad	2 x 3 KW FM Transmitter	103.7 MHz.	65

Use of Official Language in Indian Missions

5798. PROF. (SMT.) SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any norms to implement official language policy in Indian missions abroad;

(b) if so, whether Hindi Educationists/Teachers are deputed to these missions for imparting and propagating Hindi Language; and

(c) if so, names of the missions, where Hindi has been adopted as official language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No separate norms have been prescribed in respect of our Missions for the implementation of our Official Language Policy. Norms generally followed in Government of India are applicable to the Missions, subject to local conditions.

(b) Hindi officers are deputed in the Missions like Georgetown, Paramaribo, Port of Spain, Port Louis, London and Kathmandu where opportunities for propagating Hindi exist.

(c) As missions are offices of the Government of India, they are bound by general Government policy in respect of Hindi as the official language.

Visakhapatnam Port

5799. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects undertaken by the Visakhapatnam port in 1993-94 have not been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount allotted during 1993-94 was insufficient to meet the requirement of the port;

(d) the amount allotted or proposed to be allotted during 1994-95 for the purpose;

(e) whether the port authorities have requested for the grant of more funds to meet the reorganisational plan of the port; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Only one project viz. procurement of a 30 Ton B.P. Tug was scheduled for completion in 1993-94. It is now expected to be completed by August, 1994.

(c) No, Sir. It was found adequate.

(d) The amount allotted for Plan schemes during 1994-95 is Rs. 40 crores.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telegrams in Bihar

5800. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incoming and outgoing telegrams in hilly areas of Bihar, particularly at Harua, Varsaliganj, Rajouli and Govindpur are generally delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time limit fixed by the Government for sending or receiving telegrams in those areas;

(c) whether telegrams are sent by post at several places and if so, the district-wise number of such post offices in eight districts in Uttaranchal; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to ensure timely despatch of telegrams in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. Telegrams in these areas are not generally delayed.

(b) The target is to transmit telegrams with least possible delay and the delay is monitored on the basis of 12 day light hours from booking to delivery.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) To ensure timely despatch of telegrams in the eight districts of Uttaranchal, the Department will shortly be installing Nine numbers of electronic key boards which will be linked to store & forward message network. In addition it has also been decided to open telecom centres at places where daily average traffic is 50 telegrams or more.

Post and Telegraph Offices in Maharashtra

5801. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra at present separately, district-wise;

(b) whether the number of such offices in the State are not adequate in view of the requirement of the public; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of Post and Telegraph Offices and telephone exchanges in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). **Post and Telegraph Offices:** The number of post and telegraph offices in Maharashtra at present is given in *Statement*.

Telephone Exchanges: Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). **Post Offices:** Post offices are opened as per justification progressively under Annual Plans, subject to availability of resources.

Telegraph Offices: The present number of telegraph offices is according to the requirements.

Telephone Exchanges: The number of telephone exchanges allotted to Maharashtra Telecom. Circle for installation during the year 1994-95 are given below:—

Sl. No.	Type of telephone exchange	No. of units allotted
1.	64 P MILT	160
2.	128 P CDOT	50
3.	256 P CDOT	100
4.	512 P CDOT	30
5.	1000 L CDOT	26
6.	1200 L CDOT	6

STATEMENT

Details of the number of post and telegraph offices in Maharashtra, district-wise.

Sl. No.	District	No. of Post Offices	Number of Telegraph Offices
1.	Ahmednagar	642	90
2.	Akola	393	70
3.	Aurangabad	358	42
4.	Amravati	446	73
5.	Beed	319	27
6.	Bhandra	299	57
7.	Bombay	274	81
8.	Chandrapur	300	120
9.	Buldhana	346	158
10.	Dhule	451	45
11.	Garchiroli	217	67
12.	Jalna	165	15
13.	Jalgaon	512	213
14.	Kolhapur	537	86
15.	Latur	286	26
16.	Nagpur	340	82
17.	Nanded	455	111
18.	Nasik	662	82
19.	Osmanabad	273	30

Sl. No.	District	No. of Post Offices	Number of Telegraph Offices
20.	Parbhani	302	106
21.	Pune	786	236
22.	Raigad	320	118
23.	Ratnagiri	337	69
24.	Sangli	423	99
25.	Satara	654	186
26.	Sindhurg	353	134
27.	Sholapur	531	109
28.	Thane	434	106
29.	Wardha	185	110
30.	Yeotmal	369	122

Indian Classical Music

5802. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA
GAUTAM:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to promote Indian classical music through All India Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). All India Radio has since its inception played a pivotal role in the promotion of Indian music including classical music. At present it broadcasts approximately 191 hours of classical music per day. In addition, AIR radio stations also broadcast music lessons, music magazine and music appreciation programmes with a view to promoting classical music.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of President of Maldives

5803. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Maldives had visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues on which discussion was held between the President and Indian leaders and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements have been signed during the visit; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof agreement-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The President of Maldives visited India from 21st to 24th March, 1994.

(b) Discussions between President Gayoom and our leaders related to a review of recent bilateral cooperation covering such diverse fields as health, education, environment, technical assistance and countering drug trafficking as well as identification of areas for future cooperation. They expressed satisfaction over the state of bilateral relations and committed themselves for their further consolidation in future. They also discussed regional developments including SAARC-related matters.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

[English]

Re-Structure Capital Base of SEBs

5804. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to restructure the capital base of the State Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Section 12-A of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 provides that the State Government if it considers expedient so to do, notify State Electricity Boards as a body corporate with capital not exceeding Rs. 10 crores as the State Government may specify from time to time. It is further provided therein that the State Government may from time to time with the approval of the State Legislature, increase the maximum amount of the capital referred to above to such extent, as that Government may deem fit.

In order to improve the financial performance of the State Electricity Boards, two Working Groups were constituted by the Government, one by the Ministry of Power and the other by the Planning Commission to suggest ways and means of strengthening the finances of the State Electricity Boards. Introduction of equity participation was one of the major recommendations of these Working Groups. The recommendations of the Working Groups were accepted by the Government. The State Governments/State Electricity Boards have been requested to initiate action for implementation of the Working Groups' recommendations.

Indian/Foreign Companies In Power Sector

5805. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the need for installed power is being exaggerated in order to justify foreign investor owned power plants;

(b) whether no purposeful reforms are being made in the State Electricity Boards to make them commercially viable;

(c) whether in the absence of competitive bidding, the foreign investors are charging the Indian consumer unreasonably high economic rents on capital resources, equipment and fuel etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A process of improving the commercial viability has been initiated by many State Electricity Boards.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Guidelines for ISD/STD/PCO Booths

5806. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines prescribed by the Telecommunications Department for allotting ISD/STD/PCO booths in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) whether these guidelines are being followed strictly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any checks have been conducted to find out whether any ISD/STD/PCO booth is functioning there unauthorisedly and illegally; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The required information is given in *Statement* below:

(b) Yes, Sir. The details are strictly followed.

(c) Does not arise.

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

STATEMENT

General Guidelines for Allotment of ISD/STD/PCOs

1. Eligibility

Only educated unemployed persons are eligible to apply for allotment of STD/ PCOs. They should produce an unemployment certificate from their local MPs/MLAs/Revenue authorities of the rank of Tehsildar and above/employment officer/Chairman or Member of Zilla Parishads/Panchayat or Village Pradhan or Secretaries of recognised Social Organisations like Rotary Club/Lions Club etc. who have jurisdiction over the locality where the applicant resides. The educational qualifications for the applicants are:

(i) for rural areas: 8th or middle school pass and above.

- (ii) for urban areas: atleast matriculate or High School and above.

Application is to be submitted in the prescribed proforma enclosing the unemployment certificate and agreeing to the terms and conditions prescribed by the Department of Telecom for the operation of STD PCOs.

2. Selection of bonafide persons

A Committee with a composition as given below will select the applicants for allotment of STD/PCOs after proper scrutiny and verification of bonafides. As a check against possible frauds, photocopy of the unemployment certificate may be sent by registered letter to the issuing authority with a covering letter requesting for getting it verified. The Committee will allot the available number of PCOs giving preference to following categories of persons:

- (a) Handicapped including blind persons
- (b) SC/ST applicants
- (c) Ex-servicemen/War Widows
- (d) Retired DOT employees or their dependants
- (e) Dependents of Freedom Fighters
- (f) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals

The committee will be fully authorised to allot STD/PCOs and also decide the location of the new PCOs.

Composition of Committee

(a) The Committee for allotment of the new STD pay phones would consist as under:

- (i) Head of the SSA Chairman
- (ii) An Officer from the Finance & Accounts Wing of the Department working under the SSA Head such as AO/CAO etc.—Member
- (iii) Three Non-official members would be nominated by the Ministry for a tenure period of two years.

3. Procedure for allotment

The committee will meet atleast once every month depending on the amount of work relating to allotment of STD/PCO to scrutinise and select the applications from the eligible persons for STD PCO allotment.

4. Loan facility to STD PCO allottees

SSA Head will issue a certificate of allotment of STD PCO to the allottee to enable him to seek loan etc. from scheduled banks. SSA Head will also provide all assistance in this regard.

5. Extent of provisions

Upto 5% capacity of the exchange lines is to be reserved for allotment of PCO (STD and Local)

6. Type of Exchange to which STD PCOs should be parented

STD PCOs should normally be parented to an Electronic Exchange only.

in a place which is served by electro mechanical exchanges, a new 128P C-DOT electronic exchange or an electronic exchange of a higher capacity with 16 KHz home metering capability can be opened and all STD payphones may be parented to this electronic exchange. The call loggers working with these STD PCOs should be operated on 16 KHz cycle pulse from the parented electronic exchange.

7. General conditions

- (i) One applicant should be provided with only one STD Payphone. However, the existing bulk franchisees will continue to operate as per terms and conditions of their existing agreement.
- (ii) All STD Payphones should be so installed that they face public road/lane to allow free access to public.
- (iii) The opening hours of such public telephones would be atleast from 6.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m.
- (iv) Terminal equipment used by the allottee should be interface approved and they should not be programmable locally. Simple call loggers. Charge indicators manufactured by Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd. or other manufacturers which are interface approved by the department should be used. Use of stop watch will not be permitted (List of approved charge indicators is being circulated separately).
- (v) The allottee of STD PCO will be entitled to 20 paise per call

unit upto 10,000 call units, 15 paise per call unit in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 call units and 10 paise per call unit beyond 20,000 call units as commission for the total number of call units made over a period of one month.

- (vi) The security deposit should be deposited in cash in one instalment or in the form of a Bank Guarantee.
- (vii) Rates of pulses should be displayed prominently by the allottee of STD PCO for all important stations in the country and all stations within 200 kms.
- (viii) The applicants have to apply in the prescribed form for the allotment of STD PCOs.
- (ix) The applicant should sign an agreement in the prescribed form with the Telecom. Authority when an STD PCO is allotted to him.
- (x) Incoming call facility will be allowed on all STD PCOs.
- (xi) Shifting of STD PCOs within the local area is permitted. Normal shifting charges applicable to DEL will be levied.
- (xii) Periodical surprise checks should be done to see that the allottee charges customers as per the guidelines given by the Department of Telecom.
- (xiii) Guidelines for applying for PTs and rules governing them

should be published in the commercial information pages of the telephone directory.

- (xiv) Periodical advertisements may be inserted in local newspapers, when sufficient number of applicants are not forthcoming.

II. RURAL

Apart from the general conditions the following guidelines have to be followed in respect of rural STD PCO operation. The rural STD PCO is defined for this purpose as one working in an exchange system which has a total capacity of 512 lines and less;

1. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month in the case of rural STD PCOs is fixed as Rs. 100/-
2. A security deposit of Rs. 600 based on six months guaranteed revenue of monthly average revenue whichever is higher has to be deposited by the allottee of the STD rural PCO. This average revenue is calculated on the basis of the revenue of the previous six months.
3. Weekly billing cycle would be followed for recovery of STD PCO charges.

III. NON-RURAL (URBAN)

Apart from the general conditions mentioned above, the guidelines detailed below have to be followed in respect of

the STD PCOs scheme in Non-rural (Urban) areas:—

1. Atleast one STD PCO may be made available for about every 100 dwelling/Business Premises.

2. STD PCO Location:

While selecting the location for allotment of PCO, the SS Head will consult the local bodies like Municipality, Public Institutions etc. to allocate convenient places for the PCO Booths. The important places given below should invariably be covered while selecting the location of PCO booths:

Commercial Housing Societies

Resettlement Colonies

Government Colonies

Family Quarters of Defence Personnel

Student's Hostels

Bus Stands

Tourist Centres

Airports

Pilgrim Centres

Railway Stations

Charitable Institutions

Hospitals

Educational Institutions, Public Libraries etc.

4. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month to the Department in the case of Non-rural (Urban) STD PCOs is fixed as Rs. 1600/-

5. The amount of security deposit will be Rs. 5000/- or an amount equal to the average monthly revenue whichever is higher. The average monthly revenue will be calculated on the basis of previous six months' revenue.
6. Fortnightly billing cycle will be followed for recovery of STD PCO Charges. If the charges are heavy, weekly billing may be resorted to by local telecom authority.

Advertisement by PSUs

5807. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether differential rates are being followed for advertisements given by public sector undertakings and the Government in the newspapers;

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

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to the public sector undertakings to route their advertisements through the Directorate of Advertisements and Visual Publicity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure the compliance of such instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d). The same advertisement rates are followed in the case of Government advertisements and public

sector undertakings' advertisements which are routed through DAVP. However, it is not mandatory for Public Sector Undertakings to release their advertisements through DAVP. They are free to handle their publicity campaigns on their own according to their needs.

Government has been writing to the Bureau of Public Enterprises from time to time emphasising the desirability of releasing advertisements of commercially non-competitive public sector undertakings on DAVP's rates.

Shifting of Telephones in Gujarat

5808. SHRI N.J. BATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Gujarat particularly in Chhota Udaipur without telephone facility and the number of such post offices from where telephones have been shifted to the Panchayat Bhavans;

(b) whether any irregularities have been reported in shifting of such telephones;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the number of village panchayats with and without telephone facility, separately;

(e) the amount spent for this purpose during 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(f) the time by which telephone connections are likely to be provided in all post offices and Panchayats Bhavans in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SUKH RAM): (a)

- (i) The number of Post offices in Gujarat without telephone facility is 5983.
- (ii) The number of Post offices in Chhota Udaipur without telephone facilities is 40.
- (iii) The number of post offices in Chhota Udaipur from where telephones have been shifted to Panchayat Bhavans is Nil.

(b) No, Sir. No such report has come to Government's notice yet.

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

(d) As on 1-4-1994, the number of Panchayat villages with telephone facility is 9078 and without telephone facility is 4343.

(e) The details are as under:—

Year	Approx. amount spent in Crores
1990-91	17.55
1991-92	15.76

(f) Post Office/Panchayat Bhawan is one of the suggested locations only and as such there is no proposal to provide Public telephones at all the Post Offices/ Panchayat Bhawans. All Panchayat villages are proposed to be covered by 31-03-1995.

Increase in Installed Capacity of Food Processing Units

5809. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the installed capacity of food processing units has increased over the last two years;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof with special reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether small and medium entrepreneurs will be given subsidy for setting up food processing units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). Food Processing Units are both in the Organised and Unorganised sectors and information in respect of all such Units Statewise is not maintained centrally. However, as per the available information the installed capacity of Food Processing Units in the Sectors of Grain Milling, Fruit and Vegetables Processing, Meat and Poultry Processing and Fisheries has been increasing steadily.

(c) and (d). Under the developmental Plan Schemes of the Ministry financial assistance is provided to State Government Organisations/cooperatives/voluntary agencies/Joint Sectors etc. for setting up or enlarging Food Processing facilities.

Tender for Pay Phones and Cards

5810. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has scrapped the global tender for the supply of pay phones and cards two years ago;

(b) if so, the number of applications received; and

(c) the reasons for scrapping the tenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Global tender was not floated for the supply of pay phones and cards. However, tender was floated to procure these items from indigenous sources.

(b) Ten.

(c) On a review, it was decided to franchise the service of card pay phones and as such the tender was cancelled.

T.V. Transmitters In Assam

5811. SHRI FROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Assam where the Government propose to set up new T.V. transmitters during 1994-95.

(b) the capacity of each T.V. transmitter proposed to be set up in the State; and

(c) the time by which these transmitters are likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). Seven Low Power (100 W) TV Transmitters (LPTs) one each at Bongaigaon, Haflong, North Lakhimpur, Sonari, Lumding, Hojai and Tinsukia and a Very Low Power (10 W) Transmitter (VLPT) at Digboi are under implementation in Assam. These transmitters are scheduled for commissioning, in phases, during the year 1994-95 subject to availability of infrastructure and timely supply of equipment. A High Power (1 KW) TV Transmitter (HPT) is also envisaged to be set up at Tezpur. The lead time in completion of a project of this magnitude is approx. 3-4 years.

[Translation]

Development of National Highways in M.P. and Rajasthan

5812. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for the development of National Highways submitted to the Union Government by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Governments during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the proposals accorded approval out of them and the amount sanctioned therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether the construction work of some approved projects in both the States has been delayed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the effective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The details of the proposals for the development of National Highways submitted to the Union Government by the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

Governments during each of the last three years are given below:—

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Madhya Pradesh	43	33	15
Rajasthan	54	28	17

(b) Details of proposals approved during last three years are as under:—

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	No. of Proposals	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Proposals	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Proposals	Amount Sanctioned
Madhya Pradesh	*20	*10904.50	**13	**11699.77	02	189.31
Rajasthan	28	11224.76	11	2106.78	03	78.25

* This also includes three works administratively approved for Rs. 10484.0 lakhs and sanctioned during 1992-93 for Rs. 11499.24 lakhs.

** This includes three works administratively approved in 1991-92.

(c) to (e). Some projects have been delayed due to slow progress in land acquisition, contractual problems etc. Periodic monitoring of the on-going works is taken up to resolve these difficulties to accelerate the tempo subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Funds for National Highways in Goa

5813. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vehicular traffic in Goa has increased tremendously in recent years while the existing road network in the State is not in commensurate with the traffic load;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide adequate funds to cope with the increasing traffic load during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) the details of funds allotted during the Eighth Plan period for the construction of bye-passes to National Highways, development and extension of National Highways, construction and repair of the bridges on National High-

ways along with other proposals submitted to the Union Government by Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Vehicular traffic has been increasing on National Highways including those in Goa. The existing National Highways are kept in traffic worthy condition commensurate with the funds available for this purpose. The 8th Five-Year Plan provides for improvement works for an amount of Rs. 56.10 crores covering bypasses, widening and strengthening of roads and construction of Bridges.

Production and Export of Alumina

5814. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great demand of the Alumina, produced in Damanjodi plant in Koraput district, in the International market;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of such high grade Alumina; and

(c) the details of the programme drawn up for the year 1994-95 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Alumina produced by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) in the Alumina Plant at Damanjodi in Koraput District of Orissa

is of international standard and is acceptable in the world market.

(b) The Company has planned expansion of its alumina capacity from 0.8 million tonnes per annum to 1.35 million tonnes per annum.

(c) In 1994-95, the alumina production is targetted at 0.8 million tonnes which is its rated capacity and the export of alumina during the year is targetted at 4 lakh tonnes.

DAVP Advertisements

5815. SHRI BRAHMANAND
MANDAL:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN
SINGH:

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

(a) the total number of advertisements released by DAVP to various newspapers in the country and the number of advertisements out of them awarded to newspapers published from Bihar during 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(b) the total value of advertisements released during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). The information is given below:

Year	Total No. of advertisements issued	Total No. of advertisements issued to publications of Bihar State	Total value of advertisements released (in Rs.)
1992-93	1,84,260 insertions	5,017 insertions	29,86,27,428.00
1993-94 (1.4.93 to 28.2.94)	1,81,843 insertions	5,416 insertions	27,23,20,964.00

Permission to Foreign Banks for Advertisements on Doordarshan

5816. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan propose to increase revenue through advertisements by granting permission to foreign banks and financial institutions to telecast the advertisement of their services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Code for Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan has been recently modified to allow telecast of advertisements relating to the following:

- (i) Jewellery or precious stones;
- (ii) Matrimonial agencies;
- (iii) Astrologers/Numerologists;

(iv) Mutual funds approved by SEBI;

(v) Hair dyes;

(vi) Foreign products;

(vii) Foreign banks including financial services.

Inventory Management by DOT

5817. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the type of inventory management practices being followed by DOT;

(b) the average time taken by DOT between procurement of equipment and installation;

(c) whether an E 10 B exchange has been lying in Allepey (Kerala) for over two years and has not yet been installed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether DOT has an inventory exceeding Rs. 2000 crores; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The stores are received by the Telecom Circles. The inventory management is done at the Telecom Circle level as well as in the Unit levels under the Circles.

(b) The average time taken between the procurement of equipment and installation varies depending on the type of equipment. (1) for Exchanges of old technology, it is 12-18 months, (2) for Exchanges of new technology, it is around 6-10 months and (3) for Transmission Equipment such as Microwave System, Optical Fibre Systems, etc. it is 6-12 months.

(c) No, Sir. No E-10B Exchange is lying in Allepey (Kerala) pending commissioning.

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

(e) and (f). No, Sir.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities in Industrial Areas

5818. SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecommunications facilities have been provided in all industrial areas of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the steps being taken to provide these facilities in the remaining industrial areas of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir except for a few places in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The details area as under:

State	No. of Total Industrial Areas	No. of Industrial areas with Telecom facilities
Gujarat	104	104
Uttar Pradesh	99	94
Bihar	19	19

(c) Telecom facilities in the remaining 5 Industrial areas of Uttar Pradesh are proposed to be provided during 1994-95.

[English]

US Offer of LCA

5819. SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has offered India Light Combat Aircraft to push through NPT; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Jaipur Doordarshan

5820. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL
BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INFOR-
MATION AND BROADCASTING be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Jaipur Doordarshan
telecast a programme entitled
'Swatantrata ke veer sipahee' every
Sunday;

(b) if so, the criteria being followed
in selection of characters for the
programme;

(c) whether the interview with the
soldiers of freedom telecast on February
6, 1994 was shown incomplete; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH
DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Participants are selected
from amongst the Tamra Patra recipients
and the list of freedom fighters supplied
by the State Government and the Asso-
ciation of Freedom Fighters.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bauxite Mines in Bihar

5821. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will
the Minister of MINES be pleased to
state:

(a) whether bauxite is mined from
Gumla, Lohardaga and Palamau districts
of Bihar and supplied to industries out-
side Bihar;

(b) whether the Government have
received complaints from the Members
of Parliament that private companies are
not setting up bauxite based industries
in these areas despite an agreement
signed with the State Government of
Bihar in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Gov-
ernment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI
BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has received some
representations from Members of Parlia-
ment for setting up of Alumina/Aluminium
plant in Chhota Nagpur area of Bihar by
private parties based on bauxite deposits
in the State. Government of Bihar has
granted mining leases to a Private
Company and is understood to have held
discussions with them for setting up
bauxite based industry in Bihar State.

(c) The matter falls within the
purview of State Government of Bihar.

T.V. Transmitters in Bihar

5822. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI:

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

(a) whether some low power T.V.
transmitters are not functioning in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total area in Bihar being covered by these transmitters; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to convert low power T.V. transmitters into High power transmitters so as to cover the entire area of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d). All the TV Transmitters in Bihar are reported to be functioning. Doordarshan transmission covers approximately 92.3% of the State of Bihar by area. For improvement in coverage of the State, 4 Studio centres, 2 HPTs, 12 HPTs and one VLPT are under implementation/envisaged to be set up. LPTs at Jamshedpur and Bettiah are under consideration for replacement with HPTs. On commissioning of these projects, the coverage of the State will increase at 96.3% by area and 95.4% by population.

[English]

STD/PCOs in Kerala

5823. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications regarding allotment of STD/PCOs pending in Kerala as on January, 1994; and

(b) the steps taken to provide these PCOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 8990 applica-

tions for STD/PCOs are pending in Kerala as on 31.1.1994.

(b) STD PCO Allotment Committee meetings are being periodically organised to clear the pending applications. Action is also being taken as per plan proposals to expand the capacity of Exchanges and augment STD Junctions facilitating technical feasibility of STD PTs from various exchanges.

Widening of National Highway from Shillong to Guwahati

5824. SHRI PETER G. MARBAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the National Highway from Shillong to Guwahati;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National Highway from Shillong to Guwahati is already 2-lane and adequate for present traffic.

New Power Policy

5825. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-SAHAB TOPE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA
VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representation from Members of Parliament and other public forums regarding revision of the new power policy adopted by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government have examined the points raised in the representation; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The private power policy has been widely debated in the media and other fora. The points raised about the policy at various fora have been addressed by the Ministry of Power from time to time. Recently Ministry of Power has brought out a booklet titled 'The Legal and Policy Framework of Private Power Development—Facts and Clarifications' which addresses all the issues raised about the policy. The document has been given wide publicity and has also been circulated among Members of Parliament.

Nathpa-Jhakari Power Project

5826. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revoked the letter of intent issued to the

French multi-national Cegelec for supply of equipment to the 1500 Mega Watt Nathpa-Jhakri power project in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the contract was awarded a few months ago;

(c) if so, the reasons led to the revocation of the contract; and

(d) the details of present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d). In September, 1993, a Letter of Intent was issued by M/s Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited (NJPC) to the consortium of M/s CEGELEC comprising CEGELEC France; Neyrpac, France; Alstom Jeumont France, CEGELEC Power, instrumentation and Control, U.K.; Neyrpac Projects Ltd., U.K.; and GEC Alstom Large Machines Projects Ltd., U.K. in respect of electro-mechanical equipment package of Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project (1500 MW). The NJPC subsequently revoked this Letter of Intent in December, 1993 due to non-compliance of stipulated conditions. Thereafter, NJPC has signed a contract on 24th March, 1994 subject to Government's approval with the consortium of M/s EUCONA comprising of ABB Kraftwerke Aktiengesellschaft, Germany; Kvaerner Energy a.s., Norway; Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, Germany & Sulzer-Escher-wyss Ltd., Switzerland and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. India.

Teleprompter Facility to Delhi Doordarshan

5827. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Teleprompter facility
has been provided to Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the cost involved in
providing this facility;

(c) whether the Government pro-
pose to provide such facility to Bangalore
Doordarshan Kendra also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH
DEO): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Whereas
Teleprompter facility has already been
provided at Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi
at a total cost of Rs. 11.60 lakhs, a
similar facility will also be provided at
Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore, shortly.

[Translation]

**Telephone Advisory Committees In
Madhya Pradesh/Gujarat**

5828. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR
SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-
CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the areas in
Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat where
telephone advisory committees have been
constituted;

(b) the names of the areas in both
the States where these committees have
not been constituted till now;

(c) whether the local representa-
tives are also consulted while constituting
these committees; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The
required information is given in *State-
ment*.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

*The areas where TACs have been
constituted*

Madhya Pradesh	Gujarat
1. Indore	1. Ahmedabad
2. Jabalpur	2. Bhuj
3. Bhopal	3. Bulsar
4. Raipur	4. Jamnagar
	5. Rajkot
	6. Surat
	7. Baroda

*The Areas where TACs have not
been constituted*

Madhya Pradesh	Gujarat
1. M.P. Circle TAC	1. Gujarat Circle TAC
	2. Bhavnagar
	3. Junagarh
	4. Mehsana
	5. Nadiad.

Newsprint to Newspaper

5829. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of national level newspapers in the country as per the records compiled by the office of the Registrar of Newspapers of India by the end of 1993-94 (till January, 94);

(b) the monthly quantity of newsprint allocated by the Government to national newspapers at concessional rates;

(c) whether the Government propose to allocate more quantity of newsprint at concessional rates to encourage regional newspapers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Such categorisation of newspapers is not done by the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India while compiling the data about the newspapers in the country.

(b) Newsprint is not allocated at concessional rates to any newspaper by the Government.

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

[English]

US Offer on India-Pak Talks

5830. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US official on recent visit to India has offered to host India-Pak talks on Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Power Generation Capacity and Supply of Power

5831. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to improve the power supply in the Southern States;

(b) the additional generating capacity proposed to be added during the Eighth Five Year Plan in the Southern Region; and

(c) the new projects proposed to be set up for achieving this objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in the country (including Southern States) include (i) expediting commissioning of new generating capacity (ii) implementation of short gestation projects (iii) improving the performance of existing power stations (iv) reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses (v) Implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures

and (vi) arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

(b) it is envisaged to add 4428.6 MW of additional generating capacity during the 8th Plan in the Southern Region (including Central Sector Projects).

(c) Details of the power projects which are envisaged to yield benefit in the 8th Plan in the Southern Region are given in the *Statement-I*. Details of the power projects which have been commissioned/ rolled during the first two years of the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-93 and 1993-94) are given in *Statement-II*.

STATEMENT-I

Capacity addition in the VIIIth Plan

SOUTHERN REGION

Sl. No.	Project	Thermal	Hydro	Nuclear	Gas
STATE: KARNATAKA					
State Sector					
1.	Varahi (Mani Dam)	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Ghatprabha	0.00	16.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Mallarpur	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Sharavati Tailrace	0.00	240.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Kalinadi-II	0.00	270.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Brindawan	0.00	12.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Bhadra	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Shivpuri	0.00	18.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Raichur Unit-4	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Diesel Sets	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.00
11.	D.G. Sets Bangalore	0.00	0.00	0.00	128.00
Sector Total		210.00	580.00	0.00	206.00

Sl. No.	Project	Thermal	Hydro	Nuclear	Gas
Central Sector					
1.	Kaiga	0.00	0.00	440.00	0.00
	Sector Total	0.00	0.00	440.00	0.00
	State Total	210.00	580.00	440.00	206.00
STATE: KERALA					
State Sector					
1.	Kailada	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Muvattupuzha	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Lower Periyar	0.00	180.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Kakkad	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Peppara	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Poringalkuthu	0.00	16.00	0.00	0.00
	Sector Total	0.00	271.00	0.00	0.00
	State Total	0.00	271.00	0.00	0.00
STATE: PONDICHERY					
State Sector					
1.	Karaikal GT	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.50
	Sector Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.50
	State Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.50
STATE: TAMIL NADU					
State Sector					
1.	Lower Bhavani RBC	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Sathanur Dam	0.00	7.50	0.00	0.00

Sl. No.	Project	Thermal	Hydro	Nuclear	Gas
3.	North Madras	630.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Basin Bridge GT	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.00
	Sector Total	630.00	15.50	0.00	120.00

Central Sector

1.	Neyveli-II Extn.	420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Neyveli Zero Unit	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sector Total	630.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Total	1260.00	15.50	0.00	120.00

STATE: ANDHRA PRADESH**State Sector**

1.	Penna Ahobilam	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Upper Sileru	0.00	120.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Guntur Canal	0.00	8.60	0.00	0.00
4.	Srisailem LBPH	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Muddanur	420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Vijaywada-III	420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Singur	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
	Sector Total	840.00	463.60	0.00	0.00
	State Total	840.00	463.60	0.00	0.00

Southern Region
Total

2310.00

1330.10

440.00

348.50

STATEMENT-II

*Details of the Projects Commissioned/Rolled in the Southern Region
during 1992-93 & 1993-94*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/State	Type	Capacity
1992-93			
1.	Varahi-I, Karnataka	H	4.5
2.	Varahi-II, Karnataka	H	4.5
3.	Ghatprabha U-2, Karnataka	H	16
4.	Bangalore DG Sets U-6, Karnataka	T	21.32
5.	Shivpur U-1, Karnataka	H	9
6.	Shivpur-U-2, Karnataka	H	9
7.	Neyveli St. II U-6, Tamil Nadu	T	210
1993-94			
1.	Penna Ahobilam U-1, Andhra Pradesh	H	10
2.	Penna Ahobilam U-2, Andhra Pradesh	H	10
3.	Upper Sileru U-1, Andhra Pradesh	H	60
4.	Mallapur U-1, Karnataka	H	4.5
5.	Mallapur U-2, Karnataka	H	4.5
6.	Kallada U-2, Kerala	H	7.5
7.	Yelahanka DG-1, Karnataka	T	21-32
8.	Yelahanka DG-2, Karnataka	T	21.32
9.	Yelahanka DG-3, Karnataka	T	21.32
10.	Yelahanka DG-4, Karnataka	T	21.32
11.	Yelahanka DG-5, Karnataka	T	21.32
12.	Neyveli U-7, Tamil Nadu	T	210.00
13.	Royal Seema U-1, Andhra Pradesh	T	210.00
14.	Vijayawada-5, Andhra Pradesh	T	210.00

Educational Exchange Programme with Myanmar

5832. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme is being formulated for the exchange of Teachers, Professors, Educationists and Scientists under the Educational Exchange Programme with Myanmar;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While at present no formal programme of educational exchange of teachers, professors, educationists and scientists between India and Myanmar exists, the question of encouraging such exchanges remains under the Government's consideration.

Haj Cell

5833. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has set up a special Haj Cell;

(b) if so, its composition and contribution to pilgrims journeys during last three years alongwith the assistance/facilities offered by it to Haj pilgrims in India and abroad;

(c) whether the Haj pilgrims are being discriminated against, this year as Air India is not organising flights for them; and

(d) the difference between the charges of services being rendered by the cell and the actual expenditure incurred by the Haj Pilgrims on their journeys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir. There is a Haj Cell in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The Haj Cell has an Officer on Special Duty, a Section Officer, two Assistants and a clerk. Its strength and facilities are augmented during the Haj season. There is a Joint Secretary in charge of the Haj Cell whose activities are overseen by Secretary and at the Ministerial level.

Haj Cell is the nodal point in the Government of India for coordinating all arrangements for Haj. It liaises with the Central and State Haj Committees, various Ministries of the Government of India like Civil Aviation, Surface Transport, Home Affairs and Finance, and our Missions in Saudi Arabia for making arrangements for the Haj pilgrims.

Assistance and facilities offered to pilgrims include fixation of Haj quota, release of foreign exchange, carriage of pilgrims by air/sea, accommodation in the two holy cities in Saudi Arabia, pre-departure immigration/health formalities, work connected with the Haj Goodwill Delegation, despatch of Building Renting Delegation and Building Selection Team, medical/administrative contingents to Saudi Arabia, supply of medicines for the

benefit of pilgrims, despatch of Khuddam-ul-Hajjaj (Haj volunteers) from various States and review of the arrangements with a view to improving facilities and services.

(c) No. Sir.

There is no discrimination against Haj pilgrims. Air charters are being organised by Air India which is unable to provide them on its own without disruption of its own flights due to capacity constraints. The charter services are upto acceptable international standards.

(d) The cost of the charter is not fully passed on to the pilgrims. For Haj, 1994, as against charter cost of Rs. 17,000/- per pilgrim the Haj fare has been fixed at Rs. 12,000/- For sea pilgrims, difference between operating cost and Haj sea-fares (which range from Rs. 3725 to Rs. 8750 depending on the category of accommodation) is absorbed by the Government and is estimated at Rs. 5.95 crores this year. In addition, expenditure of Rs. 8.64 crores is expected to be incurred on back up arrangement in lieu of M.V. Nicobar as a result of its diversion from A&N Island services.

T.V./A.I.R. Transmitters in the Country

5834. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of T.V. and Radio transmitters installed in the country till date and the location thereof;

(b) the locations where T.V. and Radio transmitters are proposed to be installed during the current financial year;

(c) the details of those T.V. transmitters against which complaints have been received by the Government their irregular and bad functioning; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) As given in *Statement-I*.

(b) As given in *Statement-II*.

(c) and (d). Maintenance and up-keep of the transmitters is a continuous exercise. Complaints received from time to time regarding malfunctioning of the transmitters are duly attended.

STATEMENT-I

Locations of AIR/TV Transmitters Installed in the Country till date

I. **ALL INDIA RADIO:** Total No. of Transmitters (171)

Sl. No.	Place	State
1	2	3
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Adilabad	"
3.	Vijayawada	"
4.	Visakhapatnam	"
5.	Cuddapah	"

1	2	3
6	Kottagudam	Andhra Pradesh
7	Warangal	"
8	Nizamabad	"
9	Tirupathi (Int Set up)	"
10	Anantapur	"
11	Kurnool	"
12	Merkapuram (Int Set up)	"
13	Passighat	Arunachal Pradesh
14	Tawang	"
15	Tezu	"
16	Itanagar (Int Set up)	"
17	Guwahati	Assam
18	Silchar	"
19	Dibrugarh	"
20	Jorhat	"
21	Haflong	"
22	Nowgong	"
23	Patna	Bihar
24	Ranchi	"
25	Bhagalpur	"
26	Darbhanga	Bihar

1	2	3
27	Jamshedpur	Bihar
28	Sasaram	"
29	Purnea	"
30	Chaibasa	"
31	Hazarbagh	"
32	Daltonganj	"
33	Panaji	Goa
34	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
35	Vadodra	"
36	Bhuj	"
37	Rajkot	"
38	Godhra	"
39	Surat	"
40	Ahwa	"
41	Rohtak	Haryana
42	Kurukshetra (Int Set up)	"
43	Simla	Himachal Pradesh
44	Kasauli	"
45	Hamirpur	"
46	Dharamshala	"
47	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir

1	2	3
48	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir
49	Leh	"
50	Kathua	"
51	Bangalore	Karnataka
52	Bhadravati	"
53	Dharwad	"
54	Gulbarga	"
55	Mangalore/Udipi	"
56	Mysore	"
57	Chitradurg	"
58	Hassan	"
59	Hospet	"
60	Marcara	"
61	Raichur	"
62	Karwar	"
63	Alleppey	Kerala
64	Calicut	"
65	Trichur	"
66	Trivandrum	"
67	Cochin	"
68	Cannanore	"

1	2	3
69	Idukki	Kerala
70	Ambikapur	Madhya Pradesh
71	Bhopal	"
72	Chhatarpur	"
73	Gwalior	"
74	Indore	"
75	Jabalpur	"
76	Jagdalpur	"
77	Raipur	"
78	Rewa	"
79	Khandwa	"
80	Bilaspur	"
81	Betul	"
82	Shivpur	"
83	Chindwara	"
84	Raigarh	"
85	Shahdol	"
86	Balaghat	"
87	Guna	"
88	Sagar	"
89	Aurangabad	Maharashtra

1	2	3	1	2	3
90.	Bombay	Maharashtra	111.	Kohima	Nagaland
91.	Jaigaon	"	112.	Cuttack	Orissa
92.	Nagpur	"	113.	Jeypore	"
93.	Parbhani	"	114.	Sambalpur	"
94.	Pune	"	115.	Keonjhar	"
95.	Ratnagiri	"	116.	Baripada	"
96.	Sangli	"	117.	Berhampur	"
97.	Sholapur	"	118.	Bolangir	"
98.	Beed	"	119.	Bhawanipatna	"
99.	Ahmednagar	"	120.	Jalandhar	Punjab
100.	Nanded	"	121.	Bhatinda	"
101.	Akola	"	122.	Patiala	"
102.	Kolhapur	"	123.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
103.	Yavatmal	"	124.	Kota	"
104.	Satara	"	125.	Ajmer	"
105.	Chandrapur	"	126.	Bikaner	"
106.	Dhule	"	127.	Udaipur	"
107.	Imphal	Manipur	128.	Jodhpur	"
108.	Shillong	Meghalaya	129.	Alwar	"
109.	Tura (Int. Set up)	"	130.	Suratgarh	"
110.	Aizawl	Mizoram	131.	Nagaur	"

1	2	3
132.	Banswara	Rajasthan
133.	Chittorgarh (Int. Set up)	"
134.	Barmer	"
135.	Swai Madhopur (Int. Set up)	"
136.	Churu	"
137.	Jhalawar	"
138.	Jaisalmer	"
139.	Gangtok (Int. Set up)	Sikkim
140.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
141.	Madras	"
142.	Madurai	"
143.	Tiruchirapalli	"
144.	Tirunelveli	"
145.	Nagarcoil	"
146.	Agaratala	Tripura
147.	Belonia	"
148.	Kailashar	"
149.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
150.	Almora	"
151.	Allahabad	"

1	2	3
152.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
153.	Rampur	"
154.	Kanpur	"
155.	Mathura	"
156.	Gorakhpur	"
157.	Najibabad	"
158.	Agra	"
159.	Faizabad	"
160.	Bareilly	"
161.	Jhansi	"
162.	Obra	"
163.	Calcutta	West Bengal
164.	Kurseong	"
165.	Siliguri	"
166.	Murshidabad	"
167.	Port Blair (A&N Islands)	Union Territory
168.	Chandigarh	"
169.	Delhi	"
170.	Pondicherry	"
171.	Kavarati (L&M Islands)	"

II **DOORDARSHAN:** Total No of Transmitters 567 & 11 (other than Primary Channel)

State/ Union Territory	HPT	LPT	VLPT	Transposer
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	Adilabad		Vijaywada
	Hyderabad	Adoni		Vishakhapatnam
	Tirupati	Amalapuram		
	Vijaywada	Atmakur		
	Vishakhapatnam	Bhadrachalam		
		Bheemadolu		
		Chittoor		
		Cuddapah		
		Gadwal		
		Giddalur		
		Guntakal		
		Jagtial		
		Kakinada		
		Karimnagar		
		Khammam		
		Kothagudam		
		Kurnool		
		Mehboobnagar		
		Nalgonda		
		Nandyal		
		Nellore		
		Nizamabad		
		Ongole		
		Produtur		
		Rajamundry		
		Ramagundam		
		Siddipet		
		Srikakulam		
		Warangal		
		Yellandu		
		Hyderabad (DD II)		
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Passighat	Along	
		Tezu	Anini	
			Basar	
			Bomdilla	
			Changlang	
			Daporizo	

1	2	3	4	5
			Dirang Hayullang Khonsa Miao Namsai Raga Roing Seppa Tawang Ziro	
Assam	Dibrugarh Guwahati Silchar	Dhubri Diphu Goalpara Golaghat Jorhat Kokrajhar Nagaon Nazira Tezpur		Guwahati Haflong
Bihar	Daltonganj Katihar Muzaffarpur Patna Ranchi	Begusarai Bettiah Bhagalpur Bokaro Buxar Chaibasa Darbhanga Deoghar Dhanbad Dumka Forbesganj Gaya Ghatshila Giridih Gopalganj Jamshedpur Jamui Khagaria Madhepura Madhubani Motihari Munger		Ramgarh Hill

1	2	3	4	5
		Saharasa Sasaram Sitamarhi Siwan		
Goa	Panaji			
Gujarat	Ahmedabad Bhuj (Int.) Dwarka Rajkot	Ahwa Ambaji Amreli Bhabbar Bharuch Bhavnagar Chhota Udaipur Dediapara Dhorajee Dohad Godhara Jamnagar Junagarh Kevadia Colony Kosamba Mehsana Navsari Palanpur Patan Porbander Songarh Surat Surendranagar Tharad Vadodara Valsad Veraval	Kakrapar	
Haryana		Bhiwani Hissar Jind Narnaul Sirsa		
Himachal Pradesh	Kasauli	Bilaspur Dharamshala Kullu	Chamba Hamirpur Kalpa	Raigarh Solan

1	2	3	4	5
		Manali Mandi Shimla	Keylong Una	
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Poonch Srinagar	Kargil Leh	Bhadarwa Daskit Doda Dras Kilhotran Kishtwar Kupwara Nyema Padam Pahalgam Rajouri Ramban Sankoo Timsogam Udhampur	Surankot
Karnataka	Bangalore Dharwad Gulbarga Shimoga	Athani Bagalkot Bantwal Belgaum Bellary Bidar Bijapur Chickmaglur Chikodi Chitradurga Davangere Gadag Betgari Hassan Hospet Karwar Kolar Gold Field Mandya Mangalore Medikeri Mysore Raichur Ranibennur Sandur Sirsi		

1	2	3	4	5
		Tiptur Udipi		
Kerala	Cochin Trivandrum	Calicut Cannanore Changanacherry Idukki Kalpetta Kasargod Kayamkulam Mallapuram Palghat Pathanamthitta Shoranub Tellicherry Trichur		
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal Gwalior Indore Jabalpur Jagdalpur Raipur	Ambikapur Bailadilla Balaghat Betul Bhind Bilaspur Burhanpur Chanderi Chhatarpur Chhindwara Damoh Dungargarh Guna Harda Itarsi Jaora Jhabua Kanker Khandwa Khargaon Korba Kurasia Kurwai Malanjkhand Mandla Mandsaur Manindergarh		Singrauli

1	2	3	4	5
		Murwara Nagda Narsimhapur Neemuch Panchmarhi Panna Raigarh Rajgarh Rajhara Jharandili Ratlam Rewa Sagar Satna Seoni Shahdol Shajapur Sheopur Shivpuri Sidhi Singrauli Tikamgarh		
Maharashtra	Ambajogai	Achalpur		Aurangabad
	Aurangabad	Acot		
	Bombay	Ahmednagar		
	(Ch # I)			
	Bombay	Akola		
	(Ch # II)			
	Nagpur	Amalner		
	Pune	Amravati		
		Barshi		
		Bhusawal		
		Bid		
		Buldana		
		Chandrapur		
		Dhule		
		Diglur		
		Garhchiroli		
		Gondia		
		Hingoli		
		Ichalkaranji		
		Jalgaon		
		Jalna		

1	2	3	4	5
		Karad Khamgaon Kinwat Kolhapur Malegaon Manmad Nandeb Handurbar Nasik Osmanabad Pandharpur Parbhani Pusad Ratnagiri Sangli Satara Shahad Sholapur Wadha Washim Yavatmal		
Manipur	Imphal	Ukhrul	Chandel Senapati Tamenglong	
Meghalaya	Shillong Tura	Jowai Williamnagar	Nongstoin	
Mizoram	Aizawal		Lunglei Saiha	
Nagaland	Kohima	Dimapur Tuensang	Mon Wokha Zunheboto	Kohima
Orissa	Bhawanipatna Cuttack Sambalpur Cuttack (DD II)	Anandpur Angul Balangir Baleshwar Baliapal Bargarh Baripada Berhampur		Sunabeda

1	2	3	4	5
		Bhadrak Bhanjanagar Bhuban Brajrajnagar Deogarh Dhenkanal Jeypore Joda Kamakhya Nagar Keonjhargarh Koraput Malkangiri Navarangpur Padampur Padampuram Phulbani Puri Rayagada Rourkela Sundergarh Parlakhemundi		
Punjab	Amritsar Bhatinda Jalandhar	Fazilka Firozpur Gurdaspur Pathankot		Talwara
Rajasthan	Bundi Jaipur	Ajmer Alwar Anupgarh Banswara Barmer Beawar Bhilwara Bikaner Chittaurgarh Churu Deeg Dungarpur Ganganagar Hanumangarh Jaisalmer Jalore	Rawatbhata	Jamua Ramgarh Lalsot

1	2	3	4	5
		Jhalawar Jhunjhunun Jodhpur Karanpur Khetri Kotputli Nagaur Nathdwara Pali Pilani Raisinghnagar Salumber Sardarshahr Sawaimadhopur Sikar Sirohi Suratgarh Tonk Udiapur Villabhnagar		
Sikkim		Gangtok	Gyalshing Mangan Namchi	
Tamil Nadu	Kodaikanal Madras (CH-I) Madras (CH-II)	Coimbatore Coonoor Courtalam Cuddalore Dharampuri Kumbakonam Mayuram Nagapattinam Nagarcoil Neyveli Rameshwaram Salem Thanjavur Tindivanam Tiruchendur Tiruchirapalli Tirunelveli Tirupattur Tiruvannamalai		Dindigul Kanchipuram Udhagamandalam

1	2	3	4	5
		Tuticorin Vaniyambadi Vellore Villupuram		
Tripura	Agartala			Bellonia
Uttar Pradesh	Agra Allahabad Bareilly Gorakhpur Kanpur Lucknow Mussoorie Varanasi	Akbarpur Aligarh Azamgarh Bahraich Ballia Balrampur Banda Basti Deoria Etawah Faizabad Farrukhabad Fatehpur Gauriganj Gonda Hardoi Haridwar Jagdishpur Jhansi Kashipur Lakhimpur Lalganj Lalitpur Mainpuri Mathura Mau Moradabad Nainital Obra Orai Pauri Pilibhit Pithoragarh Puranpur Rae Bareli Rampur Rasra	Almora Bhatiari Dharchula Gopeshwar Halswani Kausani Mankapur Munsiari Ranikhet Uttarkashi	Churk Mussoorie New Tehri Srinagar

1	2	3	4	5
		Sambal Shahjahanpur Sitapur Sultanpur Tanakpur Tirwa Lucknow (DD II)		
West Bengal	Asansol Calcutta (CH-I) Calcutta (CH-II) Kurseong Murshidabad	Alipurduar Balurghat Bardhaman Contai Darjeeling Jhargram Kalimpong Kharagpur Krishnanagar Maldah Medinipur Puruliya Shantiniketan	Egra Jhalda	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands		Car Nicobar Port Blair	Campbel Bay Diglipur Hutbay Mayabunder Bancowry Rangat	
Chandigarh		Chandigarh		
Dadra & Nagar Haveli			Silvassa	
Daman & Diu		Daman	Diu	
Delhi	Delhi (CH-I) Delhi (CH-II) Delhi (CH-III)	Delhi (DD IV) Delhi (DD V) Delhi (DD VI)		
Lakshadweep			Agatti Amini Andrott	

1	2	3	4	5
			Chetlat Kadmat Kalpeni Kavaratti Kilton Minicoy	
Pondicherry		Pondicherry	Karaikal Mahe Yanam	

Transmitters (Other Than Primary Channel)

	HPTs	LPTs	Total
Delhi	2	3	5
Maharashtra	1	0	1
West Bengal	1	0	1
Tamil Nadu	1	0	1
Orissa	1	0	1
Uttar Pradesh	0	1	1
Andhra Pradesh	0	1	1
	6	5	11

Statewise TV Transmitters as on 19.04.1994

Sl. No.	State/U.Ts.	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Trans- ponders	Total
1.	Assam	3	9	0	2	14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5	30	0	2	37

Sl. No.	State/U.Ts.	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Trans- poners	Total
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	16	0	19
4.	Bihar	5	26	0	1	32
5.	Goa	1	0	0	0	1
6.	Gujarat	4	27	1	0	32
7.	Haryana	0	5	0	0	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	6	5	2	14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	2	15	1	21
10.	Kerala	2	13	0	0	15
11.	Karnataka	4	26	0	0	30
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6	48	0	1	55
13.	Meghalaya	2	2	1	0	5
14.	Maharashtra	5	40	0	1	46
15.	Manipur	1	1	3	0	5
16.	Mizoram	1	0	2	0	3
17.	Nagaland	1	2	3	1	7
18.	Orissa	3	29	0	1	33
19.	Punjab	3	4	0	1	8
20.	Rajasthan	2	36	1	2	41
21.	Sikkim	0	1	3	0	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	2	23	0	3	28
23.	Tripura	1	0	0	1	2

Sl. No.	State/U.Ts.	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Trans- ponders	Total
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8	43	10	4	65
25.	West Bengal	4	13	2	0	19
26.	Delhi	1	0	0	0	1
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	2	6	0	8
28.	Daman & Diu	0	1	1	0	2
29.	Pondicherry	0	1	3	0	4
30.	Lakshadweep Islands	0	0	9	0	9
31.	Chandigarh	0	1	0	0	1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	0	1
Total		69	393	82	23	567

STATEMENT-II

Places where Radio/TV Transmitters are proposed to be set up during current financial year

II. ALL INDIA RADIO

Sl. No.	Place	State
1	2	3
1.	Ziro	Arunachal Pradesh
2.	Diphu	Assam
3.	Tezpur	"
4.	Kokrajhar	"

1	2	3
5.	Dhubri	Assam
6.	Dhanbad	Bihar
7.	Junagarh	Gujarat
8.	Hissar	Haryana
9.	Kinnaur	Himachal Pradesh
10.	Kullu	"
11.	Bhadawah	Jammu & Kashmir
12.	Kargil	"
13.	Poonch	"
14.	Bijapur	Karnataka
15.	Nasik	Maharashtra
16.	Osmanabad	"
17.	Churachandpur	Manipur
18.	Jowai	Meghalaya
19.	Lungleh	Mizoram
20.	Saiha	"
21.	Mokokchung	Nagaland
22.	Rourkela	Orissa
23.	Puri	"
24.	Jharonda	"
25.	Mount Abu	Rajasthan
26.	Ootacamund	Tamil Nadu
27.	Kodaikanal	"
28.	Tuticorin	"
29.	Longtherai	Tripura

1	2	3
30.	Chamoli	Uttar Pradesh
31.	Pithoragarh	"
32.	Uttarkashi	"
33.	Pauri/Srinagar	"
34.	Mussoorie	"
35.	Aligarh	"
36.	Asansol	West Bengal
37.	Maldah	"
38.	Darjeeling	"
39.	Daman	Union Territory of Daman & Diu
40.	Karaikal	Pondicherry

II. **DOORDARSHAN**

State/ Union Territory	HPT	LPT/VLPT
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool Nandyal	Alagadda Bheemavaram Hindupur Kadiri Kavali Kulpam Madnapali Medak Nagar Karnul Nirmal Tandur Bellampally Markapur Kamareddy Mandassa

1	2	3
		Yamangannur Tamblapally L.R. Pally Vizag Madhira Pasra Paderu Wanaparthi Korangal Kosgi Pedanandidadu Sriselam Parwatipuram Icchapuram Santapilly
Arunachal Pradesh		Miao Pipu Dipu Yomcha Tali Minyong Kalatang
Assam		Bongaigaon Haflong North Lakhimpur Sonari Lumding Hojai Tinsukia Digboi
Bihar		Aurangabad Godda Gumla Hazaribag Lohardaga Nawada Raxaul Supaul Noamundy Kodarma Phoolparas Saratkela Simdega

1	2	3
Goa		
Gujarat		Dharangadhra Idar Khambat Mahuva Mangrol (Junagarh Distt.) Morvi Nakhtarana Rapar Deesa Palitana Rajula Sanjeli/Santrampur Khambhalia Amod Mangrol (Surat Distt.) Jhagadia Netrang Devgadh-Baria
Haryana		Rewari Meham
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sujanpur Sunder Nagar Rampur Dalhausi Ajhu Fort Dalash Khara Pathar Palampur Shivbadar Bharathi Joginder Nagar/Chaterbhuj Jahalma Baijnath/Majheran Bharmour Sarkaghat Diar Daslani/Dasni Holi Parwanoo Bandla Veer Kandaghat

1	2	3
Jammu & Kashmir	Leh	Riasi Thanamandi Kathua Katra Poonch Surankot Tithwal Uri Buddhal Kalakot Baramulla Dawar Samba
Karnataka		Gangavati Gokak Jamkhandi Mudigere Pavagada Ramadurg Kumta Bhatkal Hariamhalli Basava Kalyan Sagar Hungond Arsikere Hattihal Sakleshpur
Kerala	Calicut (Int.)	Kanangarh Thodupuzha Chengannur Munnar Kanjirapalli
Madhya Pradesh		Datia Gadarwara Kukdeswar Sironj Ashoknagar Khurai Maihar Bijapur Lahar

1	2	3
		Bhandar Kelaras Sakti Alirajpur Parasia Singrauli Kondagaon Budhni Jashpurnagar Pakhanjore
Maharashtra		Akluj Chiplun Hinganghat Kankauli Sangamner Umerga Shirpur Mehekar Morshi Wani Deorukh Chikhli Khamgaon/Mhasle Adyal Tekdi Junnar Karjat Khid Rajapur Chikaldhara
Manipur	Churachanderpur	Moreh Kangpokpi
Meghalaya		Baghmara
Mizoram	Lunglei	Saiha Chamdhai
Nagaland	Mokokchung	Phek Satakha
Orissa		Baudh Lutherpunk

1	2	3
		Nayagarh Nuapara Pallahara Rairangpur Redhakhol Sonapur Talcher Paradeep Hindol Ath Mallik Mohana Kuchinda Banapur Raj Ranapur Baligurha Tushara Bhubaneshwar Narsinghpur Khandpara Dasrathpur Kabisuryanagar Durgapur Tangi Thuamal Rampur Bonai Pathagarh G. Udaigir Aul
Punjab		
Rajasthan	Barmer (Int.) Jaisalmer	Chirawa Baran Bari Sadri Bhadra Gangapur Hindaun Ratangarh Rawatsar Sridungargarh Sujangarh Makrana Karauli Phalodi

1	2	3
		Rajgarh (Churu Distt.) Mt. Abu Pratapgarh Nohar Basava Nokha Shahpura Nimaj Amet Chaumahlia Deogarh Fatehpur Gangapur Kumbhalgarh Laxmangarh Bhim Rajgarh (Alwar Distt.) Lalsot
Sikkim	Gangtok	Singtam Rangpo Zorethang
Tamil Nadu	Rameshwaram (Int.)	Arani Arcot Gudiyatam Pattukottai Rajapalayam Shankaran Kovil Attur Udagamandalam Puddukkottai Krishnagiri Udumalpet Mettupalayam Valparai Valliur Vaza Padi
Tripura		Kailasahar Teliamura Dharmanagar

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	Mau	Almora Auriya Champawat Ganj Dundwara Haldwani Kotdwar Mahoba Mau Ranipur Muhammadabad Naugarh New Tehri Sikanderpur Rudauli Kasganj Karan Prayag Nan Para Etah Lalganj (Rae Bareli Distt.) Bageshwar Chamoli Chaukhatia Didihat Joshimath Devprayag Lansdown Pratapnagar Binsar Basot/Bhikhiasen Kaljikhali Saahiya Gajja Fateh Parbat Khait Parbat Rajgarhi Sairakota Vaikuantham
West Bengal		Farakka Ranaghat Kamarhati/Rayna Kalna
A. & N. Islands		Great Nicobar Havelock Ratchal Baratang

1	2	3
Chandigarh		
Dadra & Nagar Haveli		Silvassa
Daman & Diu		
Delhi		
Lakshadweep		
Pondicherry		Karaikal

Note: Commissioning of above transmitters is dependent on timely construction of building and towers; available of ready built accommodation for low power & very low power transmitters; timely supply of equipment by the manufacturers; availability of infrastructural facilities and requisite resources.

Bhubaneshwar Doordarshan Kendra

5835. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether old and outdated equipments have been installed in newly established Bhubaneshwar Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the mismanagement and irregularities in Bhubaneshwar Doordarshan Kendra are on the increase; and

(d) the steps taken to revamp and make this Doordarshan Kendra more effective and corruption free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to improve the working of all Kendras and make their working more effective and corruption free.

Cheques Missing from Doordarshan Kendras

5836. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officials of Doordarshan have been recently found involved in stealing cheques meant for film directors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being adopted to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (e). The Complaint of alleged encashment of cheques issued by Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi in January, 1992 by some persons came to the notice of the Government. An FIR was lodged on 2.4.1992 with the concerned police authorities by Doordarshan. The case has also been handed over by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to the Central Bureau of Investigation for inquiry and report. The report of the CBI is awaited, upon which further measures, if any are needed, will be considered.

Fleet Strength of Indian Merchant Marine

5837. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total fleet strength of Indian Merchant Marine with their total tonnage;

(b) the number of vessels and tonnage utilised for coastal shipping; and

(c) the estimated tonnage target of the country at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan on the basis of 50 per cent of foreign trade being transported in Indian vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). As on 1.4.94, the total fleet strength of Indian Merchant Marine was 442 vessels, aggregating to 6.28 Million GRT. This includes 204 vessels having a tonnage of 0.644 Million GRT which are registered for coastal shipping.

(c) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages a target of 7 Million GRT at the end of the Plan. No target for tonnage has been fixed on the basis of 50% of foreign trade being transported in Indian vessels.

Performance of Hindustan Shipyard Limited

5838. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss suffered by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited;

(b) the reasons for these continued losses;

(c) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has failed to take delivery of three bulk carriers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether as a result of this the shipyard has put on sale the three vessels; and

(f) if so, the response to it from the intending buyers and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a)

The accumulated loss suffered by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) till 31.3.93 is Rs. 569.12 crores.

(b) The reasons for these losses are attributable to the following:—

- (i) Cost-price gap.
- (ii) Low productivity.
- (iii) Time over-run in completion of ships.
- (iv) Huge interest burden on borrowings from banks etc. to finance working capital requirements.
- (v) Poor order book position.
- (vi) Higher prices of indigenously produced materials and components.

(c) No, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India has already taken delivery of one bulk carrier, while the other two are still under construction.

(d) to (f). In view of the reply to Part(c), these questions do not arise.

Trading Block Among G-15

5839. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up any special trading block among G-15 countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However the 4th G-15 Summit held in New Delhi in March 1994 set-up a Committee on Trade, Investment and Technology which is expected to work towards evolving transregional arrangements in these areas.

US Report on Human Rights Practices, 1993

5810. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

SHRI B.N. REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has published two reports on human rights practices for 1993 one on India and another on Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined these reports;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the matter was taken up with the US Assistant Secretary of State who visited India recently; and

(e) if so, the clarification given by the US official?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) On 1 February, 1994, the US State Department released the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights for 1993, including sections on India and Pakistan. This is mandated under US law.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Report on India focuses on alleged human rights abuses in Kashmir and Punjab, and specifically mentions reprisal killings by security forces in Kashmir, Punjab police "hit teams", custodial abuse and misuse of special security laws to hold people without trial. The Report mentions that there were no convictions of terrorists in Kashmir or Punjab during 1993 due to threats by militants against Judges, witnesses and their family members.

The Report also mentions human rights abuses by Kashmiri militant groups and includes examples illustrating that militants in Kashmir threaten, ban and even burn premises of newspapers who refuse to carry their publications.

The Report specifically takes note of legal provisions to safeguard human rights and Government's dialogue with international human rights organisations, human rights training for police and army personnel and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It also takes note of the constitutional and legal rights guaranteed to Scheduled Castes and Tribes and to women, but concludes that enforcement is inadequate. The Report states that the Indian Government does not allow independent monitoring of prisons by NGOs. It contains sections on differences of ethnicity, religion and caste in the Indian Society.

It is Government's consistent policy not to react to comments on the human rights situation in the US State Department's Annual Report.

The State Department Report on Pakistan refers to the lack of electoral representation for people of Northern areas, problems faced by the minorities

in Pakistan, arbitrary detentions, arrest, torture and other abuses of prisoners and detainees, discrimination and persecution of non-Muslims by religious zealots who base their activities in part on discriminatory legislation with Pakistan Government doing little to curb these activities. The Report also notes that traditional social and legal constraints kept women in a subordinate position, significant restraints remained on workers' rights, use of child and bonded labour remained widespread.

(d) and (e). It was conveyed to the US Assistant Secretary during her visit to India that certain statements emanating from Washington impacted adversely on the ground situation in J&K. The US Assistant Secretary conveyed US Government's appreciation of the role played by the National Human Rights Commission and steps taken by Government to protect human rights, India's policy of transparency in J&K and its permission to international human rights organisations and diplomats to visit J&K.

Indo-Argentina Cooperation

5841. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the bilateral cooperation further with Argentina; and

(b) if so, the specific areas in which Indo-Argentina Cooperation is proposed to be established and expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit of President Dr. Carlos Saul Menem of the Argentine

Republic in March, 1994, detailed discussions were held towards strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields. Specific measures to achieve this included signing of agreements for annual bilateral consultations and abolition of visas on diplomatic and official passports. The Exim Bank of India and its Argentine counterpart organisation also undertook to cooperate in facilitating bilateral economic and trade exchange. It was also agreed that a Cultural Exchange Programme should be finalized early.

Study of Asian Institute on Transport Development

5842. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Institute on Transport Development has made a study of the country's total international trade;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the recommendation of the study; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Income and Expenditure of D.T.C.

5843. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the income earned and the expenditure incurred by the Delhi Transport Corporation during 1993-94; and

(b) the action Government propose to take to improve the performance of the Corporation and condition of buses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The income earned and expenditure incurred by DTC during 1993-94 was as under:—

	(Provisional) Rs. in lakhs
Income	15480.16
Expenditure	23931.29

(b) Government have been continuously monitoring the performance of DTC with a view to improve its functioning. Increase in fuel efficiency and tyre life, reduction in the number of breakdowns by better maintenance practices and economy in expenditure have been some of the measures undertaken. Plugging leakage of revenue is another measure which DTC undertakes through effective checking. Speedy disposal of scrap, route rationalisation are other steps being taken to augment the DTC revenues.

Rationalising the size of DTC fleet to 3500 buses and withdrawal of DTC buses from loss making routes after STA, Delhi has issued permits to private operators on these routes, are amongst the proposals contained in the Inter-connected package being finalised by the Government for rehabilitation of DTC to ensure its long term viability.

[English]

Relations with Belarus

5844. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Belarus have signed any agreements recently for laying foundations of bilateral ties;

(b) if so, whether the agreements include setting up of joint ventures in food processing and defence sectors; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The following agreements were signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of Belarus to India from 12-15, May, 1993.

- (1) Declaration on Principles and Directions of Cooperation.
- (2) Agreement on Visa-Free Travel of Government Officials.
- (3) Agreement on Tourism Cooperation.
- (4) Agreement on Cooperation in the Spheres of Culture, Arts, Education, Mass-Media, Sports and Tourism.
- (5) Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology.
- (6) Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

(7) Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Related Technical Cooperation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Article IX of the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation states that "the Contracting Parties shall encourage investment and technological cooperation between them, inter alia, through establishment of joint ventures in their territories, for their domestic markets as well as the markets of third countries." During the discussions which took place at the time of the visit of the Prime Minister of Belarus, the Belarus side identified the following areas for substantive cooperation; the establishment of joint ventures in Belarus particularly in the field of pharmaceuticals, processing of agricultural products, and small scale industries. The MOU on Defence cooperation provides for the promotion of cooperation between the Defence industries of the two countries in various areas of mutual interest.

Pak's Proposal for Fact Finding Mission to Kashmir

5845. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan have made any proposal to send a fact finding mission to Kashmir.

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Pakistan also attempted to move a resolution on human rights

in Kashmir in the recent meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva; and

(d) if so, in what terms and the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d). Pakistan tabled a resolution at the recent 50th Session of the UNCHR on alleged human rights violations in J&K which included a call for despatch of a fact-finding mission.

India took a range of measures to bring the facts regarding the situation in J&K to the attention of the International Community particularly Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs by aiding and abetting terrorism in India and in violating the Simla Agreement. The External Affairs Minister wrote to his counterparts in all members states of the Commission on Human Rights, envoys of member states of the UNCHR were briefed at several levels on the situation in J&K and India exercised her right of reply during the UNCHR session to effectively rebut all of Pakistan's allegations. Further, intense lobbying of UNCHR members was also done through our Diplomatic Missions to put across India's case and this was reinforced by Indian policy of transparency which included visits to J&K by two batches of envoys including ES TROIKA. The measures taken by Government of India were effective in isolating Pakistan at the UNCHR Session, so much so Pakistan voluntarily and unconditionally withdraw the resolution.

Arbitration Boards

5846. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up the Arbitration Boards to settle the disputes between service providers and subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has also been decided to segregate subscribers into business and non-business categories for charging higher tariff from the former group and lower from the latter group; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d). The Government has decided to segregate subscribers into business and non-business categories. However, no decision has been taken to charge differential tariff for the two categories.

[Translation]

Foreign Post Offices

5847. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA
MAURYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be please to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some more foreign post offices in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However 2 "Export Extension Windows" have been opened, one at Surat and the other at Kanpur so as to facilitate Customs Clearance of outward foreign parcels.

ISD/STD/PCOs In Rajasthan

5848. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ISD/STD/PCOs allotted to unemployed youths in Rajasthan during 1993-94; and

(b) the proposal for 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 938 ISD/STD/PCOs have been allotted to unemployed youth in Rajasthan during 1993-94.

(b) About 2500 STD/ISD/PCOs are planned to be provided during 1994-95.

[English]

US Sanctions Against I.S.R.O.

5849. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:
SHRI UDAYSINGRAO
GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has set any preconditions for

withdrawal of sanctions against the Indian Space Research Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to certain reports that the US has no objection to the sale of cryogenic engines to India by Russia;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether ISRO and Glavocosmos have entered into a modified contract for the sale of cryogenic engines to ISRO;

(f) if so, the number of engines proposed to be obtained from Glavocosmos; and

(g) the time by which such engines are likely to be developed indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The U.S. Government have offered to waive trade sanctions against ISRO subject to the following conditions;

Foregoing any further imports from Russia of production equipment of technology;

Providing Russia with assurances that cryogenic stages obtained under contract will be used only to launch satellites on the Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicles; and Affirm, as a matter of policy, commitment to implement and enforce missile export controls consistent with MICR guidelines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) US Government have stated that they acquiesce to the Indo-Russian Agreement to the sale of a few engines but not the technology.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) It is proposed to obtain seven engines from Glavkosmos.

(g) According to the present plan, the first indigenously built cryo stage is expected in 1998-99.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, recently at a Seminar which was organised by the Indian Chambers of Commerce and FICCI, there was a statement from a Member of Planning Commission that the Eastern parts of India are going to be very badly hit by the new Economic Policy. A reference was made in particular to the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Eastern U.P. I would like to point out that all the States which have been mentioned are, in fact, ruled at the moment by non-Congress (I) Governments. It has been said that an estimated 70 per cent of the work force in the organised sector in the Eastern region will be rendered jobless as a result of this Policy. It has also been said that of the 2.2 million persons employed in the public sector at least four lakh people would lose their jobs from the Eastern region.

MR. SPEAKER: At this hour some urgent matters should be discussed. It is a matter of long-term continuous policy.

We have just discussed the Budget. If I give you a chance, you should take it properly. Just now we have completed the discussion on the Budget.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: This is not a matter of discussion in the Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: What is it then?

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: It is an urgent matter for the working people of the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and entire Eastern region. I want a statement from the hon. Minister as to whether they have calculated the effects of the new Economic Policy on the Eastern region and whether they have taken into account this statement made by the Member of Planning Commission. And if so, they should come forward to help these Eastern States.

SHRIMATI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, now the Finance Bill will be discussed. That particular thing will not be discussed.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR (Khandawa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards non-payment of salary to employees and workers of all N.T.C. mills in Madhya Pradesh which is causing a lot of harassment to workers and resentment among them. There is an unrest prevailing in the area. In none of the N.T.C. mills in the entire State, prevailing state of affairs can be deemed as satisfactory cotton is not available in any mill and therefore the workers have been rendered idle and they are unable to run the mill. All the mills have been closed down and the

workers and officials are not getting even their salaries. Electric bills worth lakhs of rupees are outstanding against the mills and the Madhya Pradesh Electric Board has served notices on them to disconnect the electricity connections. The paper mills are more or less facing the same music. The electricity connections have been disconnected in Neapanagar Newsprint Paper mill and cotton mills for the last three days resulting in unemployment of thousands of workers and they are facing starvation. This has breded unrest among them since they are not getting employment in both types of mills. Through you I would like to urge upon the Government to provide sufficient financial assistance to these mills and make such an arrangement in N.T.C. mills and paper mills as may save the mills from closure and enable the workers to continue their jobs. There is a large quantity of production piled over there because exported newsprint is available at relatively cheaper prices.

12.04 hrs.

RE: PRIME MINISTER'S
FORTHCOMING VISIT TO U.S.A.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I had given you a notice for Adjournment Motion and I have come to know that you have not admitted it. I would like to urge upon you to reconsider my request. I did not want to raise it during the Zero Hour. Adjournment Motion for which I have given a notice pertains to overall unfavourable U.S. policy in regard to us.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That was discussed yesterday and a comprehensive statement was made by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: As regards statement, it is a different issue. But the Prime Minister is making full preparation to visit the U.S.A. and different types of news are coming about his U.S.A. visit. Earlier he was proceeding on a State visit but now he is proceeding on a business visit. I would like to know what type of business visit it is for which the Ministry of External Affairs is busy in getting different types of news published. In all we are being denigrated in the whole world. We are very much worried about it and would like to have discussion in the House on this subject.

We would raise this issue here and ask the Prime Minister not to visit there. In my opinion, the statements being given by the U.S.A. regarding 'Agni' missile are not justified. The spokesmen of America are saying as if India is destabilising South Asia by introducing its Agni Missile programme. It means that the matter regarding the security of the country is no more in our hands. The Government has stopped Agni missile programmes at the instance of the U.S.A. In this manner, the Government is bowing down at every step. Hence we are raising this issue in the House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will feel disturbed if no action is taken in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today issue of super 301 is in the air. Two days ago our Ambassador said that an information was given by Micky Kent that now it was not a matter of super 301. It will be considered after two months. It means that they have postponed the issue of 301 till the Prime Minister returns back. They have hung a damocles sword on his head just to keep pressure on him. In this way they will successfully black-

mail you. We are observing that similarly our Government is succumbing in every sphere. It has come during discussion in the House of Commons. I know it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that we are being denigrated in the worst manner in the world. But in the Parliament it has been said that there is nothing to worry. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): That is a routine talk going on.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is not a routine talk. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to argue with these people. I request you. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): What is this going on, Sir? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. If you want to reply, I shall give you an opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion which was held in London, that is *infra dig*. This discussion took place in the Parliament and you say it is nothing significant. The High Commissioner to U.K. said in Bombay that nothing is happening to cause worry. Such type of incidents have occurred several times. Then it was informed that some discussion was going on. Finally, the people of America said that serious matters are being discussed. Missile making is our project. What does

the U.S.A. expect from India as regards missile project? Negotiations are going on in this regard. Secret negotiations are going on with U.S.A. on the security of our country.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that my notice for Adjournment Motion may kindly be admitted for consideration in the House. We would like to censure the Government on this issue. Besides, I would like to urge upon the Prime Minister to postpone his visit to the U.S.A. and avoid denigration of the country. Sovereignty of the nation should not be allowed to be suppressed in this way. This is my humble submission..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Sewan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sentimentally we are at one with Shri Georgeji on this issue while supporting him we would like to request you to consider his notice for Adjournment Motion.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are entirely right that this issue had been raised initially by me. Yet again it was raised on a second occasion, and on the second occasion, the hon. Minister had replied. But I shall tell you where the difficulty lies, and very briefly I shall point them out. The difficulty lies on five or six points. Firstly, the hon. Minister... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When you have a discussion in the House, something appears next day in the newspapers. Again would you like to have a discussion?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, Sir, it is not on that count.

MR. SPEAKER: So, there should be some finality.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I agree, Sir. But the responsibility for finality lies with the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: They made a very categorical statement on certain of the points raised by you. Even after that, something appeared in the newspapers. Again you raised it on the floor of the House. You are not relying upon the Government's statement but are relying upon something which appeared outside the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am relying on the Government's statement. It is the discord in the Government's own voice that I bring to your attention.

MR. SPEAKER: I would say that whatever has been said by the Minister on behalf of the Government, on the floor of the House, has the finality.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, may I submit that the hon. Minister had said that there is no change so far as our NPT policy is concerned? That is not the issue. Secondly, the hon. Minister of State for External Affairs says in the other House: Yes, we have met in London and we have talked about non-proliferation. May I submit that non-Proliferation Treaty is but an aspect alone of the total question of non-proliferation, what the Minister said here is in discord with what the Minister said in the other House. That is one point. Now, what are the additional issues. The United States of America says that we have met in London to talk about capping fissile material.

For us it is a very big matter not only from the point of view of non-

proliferation but from the point of view of our nuclear power programme. Our entire nuclear power programme is dependant on India's attempt to achieve self-sufficiency in fissile material. Therefore, what is it that the Government is talking about?

Thirdly, the Government has not said it. Correct. But the representatives of the United States of America speaking from London had said that they would like also to cap India's missile programme.

MR. SPEAKER: Those are the statements which you are reading through the newspapers without having the extensive verbatim report of their statements.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Of course, because there was no reference made by the Minister.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir, if these reports had not been there, we would not have known that there is a meeting in London shortly before the Prime Minister's visit. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should appreciate that the Prime Minister is going to Washington and it is against that backdrop that these things are happening.

MR. SPEAKER: We are trying to keep the ambience right.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: No Sir. The manner in which the whole thing has been done is a disgrace for the country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I was about to complete. The other point is that the details into the capping are not simple. They are not being content with simply suggesting that the fissile material

be capped. They are talking about capping of the missile programme in the country. It is a very worrisome aspect. Reports have also appeared that the hon. the Minister of External Affairs of Pakistan now says that the United States of America is to supply the F-16 unconditionally to Pakistan. If these were altogether unrelated aspects, we would not unduly worry. They are all inter-related. They are threaded together by the Prime Minister's impending visit to the United States of America and our difficulties arise because the Government is speaking discordantly. It is attempting to speak directly to the United States of America but not take this House into confidence. What one Minister says here is refuted by another Minister saying something in the other House.

That is why the importance of the subject is sharpened. It is sharpened in the context of the Prime Minister's visit and it is sharpened on account of the total confusion that prevails on an issue of vital security interests of the country in this Government.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, I should begin by congratulating our scientists. This Agni missile is comparable or even superior to the Patriot missile in the course of next few years. And what is involved in is not N.P.T. but a cap on these missiles, because the United States perception is that if we can develop these Agni missiles, then in the course of next few years India is going to become a place wherefrom any place in the world can be targeted. And it is this statement of the Prime Minister, as you are telling him, is there. On the one hand he makes statement that we will not surrender our N.P.T. and at the same time he says that there has to be a give and take. And

this give and take is on Agni missile programme.

And, Sir, newspapers are important. Today's newspapers indicate, let us remember, that it is a package of pressure on India.

There was a threat day before yesterday about the imposition of Section 301 of the Trade Act. And then they say it is postponed for two months, let the Prime Minister visit the United States in the meantime. The threat is kept hanging, the pressure is on and as we know from our other experiences it will not be enough to say that the Government has issued a statement.

Sir, the entire Uruguay Round of discussions indicated that our stance had gradually changed from 1986 to 1993 surrendering one position after another, despite the Government's statements to the contrary. So, Sir, this has become once again a threat to our sovereignty from another direction and that is why, we demand that the Government should make a statement on the total perception about the negotiations. The fact that the negotiations were being held in secrecy itself is an act of condemnation which the House should pass its judgment on. Therefore, I want that the Government should come out with a statement.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that an event which should have been welcomed by all sections of this House is rather being distorted and blown out of proportion. In today's world inter-dependence on each other is necessary. We should have all welcomed that the Prime Minister is going to the United States for some mutual discussions. That is a very normal exercise and

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

during the last many years the Prime Minister has visited many other countries and the Heads of States from various other countries have visited India for talks.

Sir, today, unfortunately an impression is being created by making statements that the Prime Minister should not visit the United States as if his very visit is going to compromise with our national interests. The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has repeatedly assured this House that there is no question whatsoever of compromising our well-known policy on NPT. If something appears in the newspapers today and if we rush to make statements on that, I, with all humility, would like to say that this is not furthering our national cause.

Sir, I have no right to cast aspersions on anybody's thinking. They have every right to express their views, but to link different things is not correct. We have been talking of GATT all this time. It has been assured that 301 will never work against us. (Interruptions) Sir, today if the Trade Representative of the United States makes a statement that the United States is putting off action on 301 for two months, does it mean that India is being singled out? Does it mean that pressure is being built up on India? Does it mean that India is being blackmailed? Does it mean that our Prime Minister would be pressurised there and he would succumb to the pressure as some of them would do if they go out?

Sir, I do not want to repeat what had happened earlier. Shri Vajpayee is here. He knows what treatment was meted out to India when he visited China. Never has that happened again. What are we talking about? What do we want to tell the world today? We have occa-

sions to discuss various other matters either under discussions under the Demands for Grants of different Ministries or by raising substantive issues. But during the Zero Hour a demand is being made about the Adjournment Motion as if that is the only concern of the House.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sovereignty is the most important issue before the Parliament.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Yes; proudly I can say that none other than the Congress has safeguarded the sovereignty of our country. What do they feel? Their perception is not really going to cut ice with the people. I can only say that our friends on the other side are trying to outgoebbel Geobbels himself today. We must resist that tendency. Only then we can further our national interests and today we must give the necessary support to the Prime Minister. When he visits the United States he should be able to tell that the entire country is with him. This matter should cut across the party lines. Tomorrow if something happens they have every right, as they have been doing earlier also, to rush to the well of the House, but that is only after something substantial has happened.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you preaching?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am making my point. They are simulating a situation. Nothing exists, but they are saying that 301 is being promulgated against India.

They are saying that our nuclear capability is being capped. Wherefrom are they making all these inferences?

Ultimately I would only request our hon. Members to extend necessary sup-

port which every citizen of the country is expected to do when the head of the country, when the Prime Minister of even when a Minister visits a foreign country. Only then, we can safeguard our interests.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack):

It is not that the Opposition is not interested to extend full cooperation so far as our sovereignty is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us understand what is meant by "sovereignty". How much of it is available, whether it is available in the form in which it was considered 200 years back.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: It is not that the spokesman of Washington has said about capping of missile programme, Agni. The Minister of Defence, on Thursday, has replied in this House to a written question that the Government of India made an experiment and the experiment was successful and there it ends. Subsequently after two days, the statement comes from Washington that it should be capped. We are worried because of that. All the scientists in DRDO are worried as to what is going on in London; what is going on in Washington. And the answer of the Defence Minister reveals that they have already agreed to cap it. That means, you are going to cap the missile programme. This is an answer to a written question. (*Interruptions*)

That is why, we demand a detailed statement as to what has happened in London, whether it was a routine talk before the Prime Minister's visit to America or it was a discussion to cap the missile programme of the country. Let the Government make a categorical statement in this House.

SHRI A.C. CHARLES (Trivandrum):

We do appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Members on that side. But we on this side are not less patriotic. We are equally concerned about the future of the nation. In all seriousness, anguish and agony, I would say, for the last one or two years, the whole information that is being conveyed by this august House has totally demoralised 850 million of our countrymen.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: It is 850 crores or 850 millions?

SHRI A.C. CHARLES: It has totally demoralised 850 millions of our countrymen.

I am capable of convincing you also. Regarding the GATT, there is a specific clause. If at some stage, we want to go out of the GATT, all that we have to do is, to give six months' notice. May I throw a challenge to the Opposition who are now unanimous that if they come to power, they will go out of the GATT within six months? This is a challenge I am offering. What is the alternative?

On this issue also, an attempt to demoralise the Prime Minister, to demoralise this Government is taking place. It is shaking the entire moral power of this nation. 850 millions of our countrymen are unanimous. I congratulate the Opposition for the unanimous resolution we have passed on the Human Rights Commission and that has sent the message. Let us be unanimous and not to demoralise the country.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY

(Katwa): Sir, we came to know about the meeting through the Press. It is not that the Government came to the House or the Government has taken the leaders

[Shri Saifuddin Choudhury]

of the Opposition into confidence that for the preparation of the visit of the Prime Minister, certain agenda has been fixed and they are discussing that way. U.S.—India relations are a concern for everybody. We know certain issues really mar our relationship. One of them is NPT.

Now the Government is saying, "We did not discuss NPT; we did not discuss Agni; we did not discuss fissile materials; we did not discuss F-16 to be supplied unconditionally to Pakistan". What did you discuss at London? Is it menu for the Prime Minister and that too in a third country? (*Interruptions*)

Your mishandling is really creating all sorts of problems in this country and that is creating suspicion. One day they say that this meeting is not linked with the Prime Minister's visit. Next day, they say that it is only preparatory to the Prime Minister's visit. Is there no contradiction? US officials say "It is a private talk. We do and we should continue to do it." Will they come out with what really did they talk in London and take us into confidence? They should take the House and the Leaders of the Opposition into confidence. Let them do it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has accepted the invitation of the President of U.S.A. The dates of his visit to America have also been fixed according to his convenience. The heads of the two nations i.e. the President of USA, Mr. Clinton and our hon. Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao have never met each other earlier. Therefore, this summit between the two heads assumes great significance. However, it is necessary that the apprehensions being expressed

about this meeting must be removed by the Government. Though, the Government has tried to allay these apprehensions, yet it is not sufficient. Had this visit not been fixed, the USA would have continued to put pressure on us. This pressure will, however, mount more in the future. This pressure is not connected with the issue of N.P.T. because this treaty is due for revision. We have told the Government that such discriminating treaty is not acceptable to us. The pressure will increase more because USA wants India to equate with Pakistan. However, the security obligations of India are quite different.

China is our neighbour. It has a large stockpile of atomic weapons. It is good that our relations with China are improving. We should try to improve these relations further. Shri Bansal was referring to my China visit. In fact, the chain of improvement in relations with China had started at that time and it was agreed then that there should be peace on the border. They attacked Vietnam but not India. However, due to political reasons it was made a big issue to ruin the success of my visit to China. Anyway, I do not want to go into those reasons.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our apprehension regarding the security are not concerned with Pakistan only. If Pakistan acquires F-16, our forces can give a befitting reply to it. But the question is that why America is giving F-16 to Pakistan? If there is a strike in Lockheed or if it is running into losses, they go ahead with selling the aircrafts and give it to our neighbours. The aircrafts and other weapons supplied to our neighbours so far have been used against us only and not against communism. Though the arms were supplied to fight against Russia but they were actually used against us.

For whom Pakistan wants to acquire F-16? America says that if we want to purchase arms from them, they are even ready to sell F-16 to India. In this way, there will be a race for acquiring more and more weapons in this continent. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the actual issue of dispute is that whether NPT is a matter concerning South Asia only or the world as a whole? The USSR has disintegrated and with this the atomic weapons have also dispersed. Some new republics have emerged in Asia and they possess atomic weapons. There are other countries in the world which possess the capability to produce atomic weapons or which are on the verge of acquiring this capability and these countries are called threshold countries. America emphasises only on this point that either India and Pakistan should settle their dispute themselves or they should be compelled to do it. Neither China is ready to sign any disarmament treaty nor any country is ready to pressurise China on this point. America is ready for trade with China even by putting at stake the question of human rights. It is not acceptable to us that China plays a role of mediator. However, America is putting pressure that we should come to a compromise on the issue of South Asia. Though the Government is opposing it, yet it seems to me that the Government may change its policy under US pressure. In the discussion regarding non-proliferation, those countries should also be invited, which are standing on the threshold. The countries like North Korea and Israel should also come under discussion. The countries of Latin America, who openly claim that they have developed atomic weapon technology, should also be involved in the discussion. But, America is not concerned over these developments. When the hon. Prime Minister will visit Washington, a strong pressure is likely to be put on him but we hope that it would be

warded-off befittingly. After all, the hon. Prime Minister has to reply to the Parliament after returning from his visit to America. This House will ask a reply from him. Our apprehensions have increased to such an extent that even it is being suggested that the hon. Prime Minister should cancel his visit but I do not think that the hon. Prime Minister can do so. Now the things have gone out of hand. I had already given an interview to 'Voice of America' that the hon. Prime Minister should not go there at this juncture. But, now when the invitation has been received, the dates have been changed and the preparations are going on in full swing, we would have to say to the hon. Prime Minister that Parliament as well as the whole country extend their support to him. However, we want to convey it to the hon. Prime Minister that he should not budge from the policy of India on such important matters. Shri Chatterjee Saheb has given a good suggestion that to allay the apprehensions in this regard, the Government should make it abundantly clear that it sticks to its stand. A detailed statement should also be made in the House before the hon. Prime Minister departs so as to satisfy the House and allay the fears in the minds of the people.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, let me assure the House that Government of India and the Prime Minister will never come under pressure and will not make any compromise under pressure. So, there is no question of doing anything under pressure from any country. We are answerable to this hon. House and to the people of India and that the only pressure that we will accept is from this House and from the people of India. We have good

[Shri Vidyacharan Shukla]

understanding between us. In case the Prime Minister feels it necessary and if it is considered to be appropriate, I will convey the feelings of this House and the hon. Members to him. He will take a proper decision on this matter. But I can reassure the House that there is no question of Government of India changing its policy under pressure from any quarters from the world. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): If I have correctly understood, he said that there is no question of any threat. It is true? What is the perception? I would like to know whether there is a very serious threat. Let the Minister comment on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, on this important issue, I think the House has tried to put a correct perspective. Let us follow that perspective, please. It has come from the responsible leaders of the parties. Let us follow that perspective. The intention of the Members shall certainly be borne in mind by all who are going abroad to see that there are good relations between countries and to see that the interest of the country is protected.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Sir,... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharadji, please take your seat. First, you please listen to me. We have been able to discuss only two ministries during this session. It is a matter of great pleasure that the Standing Committees have examined the demands of all the other Ministries and in my view, they have submitted good reports. We hope that the hon. Ministers of the concerned

Ministries as well as their officers would examine it carefully and implement the suggestions made therein. If you still have to speak more in this regard, you can do so even tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. A half-an-hour limit was fixed and don't let it be extended further.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the meantime, I could have made my point.

MR. SPEAKER: Look, Sharadji, you are the leader of your party and you should cooperate with me. You should try to understand my intention.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I am sorry to say that time and again I am reminded that I am the leader.

MR. SPEAKER: What else I can do when you fail to understand without reminding.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: You did not remind anyone else except me. It is not fair. You have not done so for once.

MR. SPEAKER: This issue can be taken up tomorrow also.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I could have concluded up till now.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, please go on.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report of P.A.C. which was laid on Friday, is astonishing and it seems that in every walk of life in the country there is anarchy. Today we are surrounded by apprehensions. Just now my friend has expressed one apprehension about which all have expressed their views. Mr. Speaker Sir, see how much corruption is rampant throughout the

country and how the public property is being misused and destroyed. I do not want to speak much on the report of PAC but one can see how Rs. 3000 crore have been wasted. What has been said in PAC report about the Finance Secretary, the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Minister of Industry is very much significant and serious. CAG has submitted its report on this issue six months back but nothing has been done by the Government on it till date.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report is before you. It is a serious issue about the misuse of Rs. 3000 crore. Please try to bring it under the purview of discussion any how and the hon. Prime Minister should give the reply of the discussion and he should disclose their names who are at fault.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not say any-how but you should give me the notice first and mention the rule under which it should be discussed.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I will give the notice, if you permit.

MR. SPEAKER: Then it will be my responsibility to decide whether it can be discussed or not. Alright, please take your seat now.

12.37 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1994

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI

BALRAM SINGH YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions, published in Notification No. G.S.R., 345(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1994 under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act, 1957.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT
5827/94]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. Guwahati for 1989-90 and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESS-
ING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN
GOGOI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1989-90.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1989-90, 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 the Library. See No. LT 5828/94]

12.38 Hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 22nd April, 1994:

- (1) The Punjab Gram Panchayat, Samities and Zilla Parishad (Chandigarh Repeal) Bill, 1994.
- (2) The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 1994.

12.39 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need to review the norms for establishment of Primary Health Centres and sub-centres in Tribal and Rural Areas with a view to improve Medical Facilities**

At present, primary health sub-centres are sanctioned on the basis of 1981 population figures. The Government of India have, however, not permitted new sub-centres for 1991-92 and 1992-93. Due to substantial increase in the population in this decade, the sub-centres need to be sanctioned on the basis of 1991 population figures and not on the basis of 1991 population. The Government of India should also now review its orders and permit setting up of new sub-centres. According to the norms prescribed by the Central Government, a sub-centre is to be established in the non-tribal area for every 5,000 population and primary health centres for every 30,000 population. These norms are relaxed in the case of tribal area in which sub-centre is established for every 20,000 population. In Maharashtra especially in Nasik which is tribal, hilly and non-accessible area, population is scattered due to the geographical conditions. This leads to more area coverage for primary health centres and sub-centres. It is becoming more and more difficult for the field workers to cover such a long distance for their routine visit. In view of the above facts, both population norms and area should be reconsidered by the Central Government.

I urge upon the Government to take the necessary steps to improve the medical facility in rural area.

- (ii) **Need to expedite appointment of candidates belonging to SC/ST who have been selected for the posts in classes III and IV by Ministry of Defence in 1990**

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik): I rise to raise this matter of public importance under Rule 377.

SHRI P. P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore): Under special recruitment

drive, 2,000 candidates belonging to SCs and STs were selected to the posts of Class III and Class IV by the Defence Ministry in the year 1990. Police verification and medical examination of the selected candidates were completed. But no appointment orders have been issued for them for the last three years. Since they stand selected, their names have been removed from the live register of job-seekers that are being maintained in the office of Employment Exchange. They have also crossed their age limit prescribed for the recruitment. Hence they have been left in a lurch.

It is said that a restriction is imposed on certain category of jobs in the Ministry of Defence and this has affected the jobs that are to be filled up under special recruitment drive for SCs and STs. At the same time candidates selected by the U.P.S.C. for the posts of Asst. Development Offices (Engineering) were filled up despite the restrictions. The backlog in filling up of the posts from the SCs and STs quota is considerable. These 2,000 dalit youths are indigent and they are being driven to starvation.

Hence I urge upon the Government of India to consider the sufferings of these 2,000 dalit youths compassionately and appoint them by avoiding further delay.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to evolve a scheme for the welfare of the Children Involved in begging

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Phillaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Poverty, illiteracy and economic imbalances have given birth to so many evils which

have become the burning problems in the country today. The anti-social elements take advantage during these unfavourable circumstances.

12.42 hrs. --

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

Neither, to be hungry is a sin nor begging is a curse. It is shameful that the orphan and helpless children are being forced into beggary. No improvement can be brought to the orphan and miserable children involved in begging by giving 5 or 10 paise to the orphan and miserable children involved in begging at public places like the railway station, bus stop, temple and mosque if their habits are not changed rather it leads their life to ruin.

Therefore, I would urge the Central Government to evolve a welfare scheme for these poor and orphan children and make them self-reliant and thereby protect the future of our country.

[English]

(iv) Need to upgrade Post Office in Hailakandi Town, district Hailakandi, Assam

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): The Post Office in Hailakandi Town, District Hailakandi, Assam is still a Sub-Post Office although the town is a District Headquarters. In respect of financial affairs the town is totally dependent on Silchar General Post Office. As a result of this, town-dwellers and others are suffering a lot of inconvenience due to delay in encashment of money. This

[Shri Dwaraka Nath Das]

[English]

has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Communications several times with a request to upgrade the Hailakandi Post Office, but to no avail.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to upgrade the Hailakandi Post Office at a very early date so that people get facilities of a full-fledged Post Office.

[Translation]

(v) Need to include the names of Bangla-deshi refugees settled in Nainital and Pilibhit Districts of U.P. in the voters' list

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI (Nainital): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hindu refugees came in lakhs from Bangladesh after the partition and they were rehabilitated in Nainital and Pilibhit districts under a Government sponsored scheme. They have been continuously participating in the general elections and exercising their franchise since then, but all of a sudden the Government has decided to exclude their names from the voters' list. Consequently, most of them could not cast their votes in the last Assembly elections. A domicile certificate is being demanded from them now to include their names in the voters' list. Most of them dwell in huts/jhuggies and their certificates have been damaged by fire or flood. It is an injustice to ask domicile certificate after so many years because in case of those refugees who came from Punjab and Sindh at the same time and settled there certificate was not demanded. Their names are included in the voters' list.

Therefore, I request the Government to include, the names of Bangladeshi refugees in the voters list at the earliest.

(vi) Need to convert manually operated telephone exchange at Dhupguri in Jalpaiguri District of West Bengal into an Electronic Exchange

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): It has been a long standing demand of the people of Dhupguri in the district of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal to convert manually operated telephone exchange to electronic one. Dhupguri is a very important, thickly populated block headquarter. It is the nerve centre of the Duars in regard to business. A large number of applications for telephone connections have been pending for years together. This block is surrounded by a number of tea gardens.

I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps for conversion of the said exchange into electronic exchange at an early date.

12.46 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(GENERAL) 1994-95**

**Ministry of Human Resource
Development—Contd.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Shri Chinmayanand Swami was on his legs. He has already spoken for four minutes. I call upon him to take the floor.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Badaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion

on the Budget of the Ministry of Human Resources was started on 29th April, Initiating the debate on the subject I had pointed out in the House that we should have an education policy of our own. Policies on different matters were, of course, formulated. The Government should have accorded priority to the formulation of education policy. Then only other policies should have been formulated. But undue delay was caused in this regard.

Steps in respect of education were first initiated in 1986, and the Bordia Committee presented a document of the education policy. But it was not considered to be up to the mark. As a result, the Ram Murty Commission was set up. But the report presented by this commission was also not considered to be adequate. Thereafter, the Yashpal Committee was set up followed by another committee. Thus one committee after the other has been set up, but no specific policy has been finalised so far. The country is now facing the evil effects of not having an education policy of its own. Today, there is a complete lack of national values in the country and my opinion is that the only reason behind it is the absence of an education policy. Had it been formulated, moral values which strengthen our cultural heritage would not have degraded and become a matter of dispute. Today, the country is entangled in issues of caste, communalism, language and class. So much so that the issues of economic development have become of secondary importance. Had the education policy been wisely formulated focussing on the development of the nation in accordance with the spirit of the constitution of India, aged and senior politicians would not have got any chance to make uncalled for comments in regard to the natural heritage and national leaders. If at all they do so, they

would have lost public support. The people would not have tolerated then. But it is unfortunate that we are unable to decide so far as to who were the actual great leaders, who symbolise our cultural heritage and national faith? Who propagated national integrity? Was the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi not a national leader? If he was, then the nation must bow before him. In what context derogatory statements are being made against him? Had our education policy been proper and clear, nobody would have dared to speak against this great luminary. There is a provision in the constitution to penalise those who speak against the President and the Constitution but there is no such law to punish those who speak ill of the Father of the Nation. The underlying factor of all this is absence of a clear education policy. There are some elements who condemn Mahatma Gandhi and glorify Mahmood Ghazanavi. Why is it happening? Had the history been taken in right earnest, there would not have been such a chaos in the country as it is happening today. Our education would have imparted high moral and character to us so that every person in this country bowed his head with reverence before every great leader and would not have spoken even a word against him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, democracy guarantees freedom of expression to everybody. But paying no regard to national values since independence suggests that our education policy is not clear. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit that we neglected primary education and concentrated on higher education. If the report submitted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development is taken as the basis, it will be seen that development of primary education has not taken place as that of the higher education. The Government set up the University Grants

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

Commission to provide grants to universities. Provision to give scholarships to students studying in these universities was also made. No specific policy was formulated. But with regard to primary education under which basic education is given, I feel that it was as important as bread and butter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been stated in the report of the Ministry of Human Resource Development that as compared to the number of 2 lakh 20 thousand primary schools in 1950-51, the present number has gone up to 5 lakh 72 thousands in 1992-93. It is true that the number has increased two and a half-times, but our population has also increased at the same rate. It means that we are still there where we were. There is no change in it, though we claim to achieve hundred per cent literacy by the year 2000. If we evaluate the position from 1947 to 1993, we would find that only a miracle could help in achieving hundred per cent literacy by the year 2000. Is any miracle going to take place? We should have not only concentrated our attention to primary education but also think about books. Books are becoming a curse today. We have accepted that all the knowledge come from books and we can gain all knowledge only through books. This is adding only to the burden of children.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Yashpal Committee Report has expressed concern that the weight of books the children carry is more than their own weight these days, and this burden is likely to prove a curse not only to their physical development but also to their mental development. The number of books should be reduced a little. If books teach everything.

What are the teachers and schools therefor? If the schools and teachers cannot reduce the burden of books, then what for they are there? I do feel that if books are the only means to teach children, then there is no need of teachers. Therefore, the number of books should be reduced. Mahatma Gandhi had favoured the idea of 'learning by doing'. In other words children can be taught by engaging them in practical experiences. We have not developed the technique of learning from environment, from our family and from the surroundings around us.

[Translation]

Had we developed any system, our children would have not been overburdened with books today and an educationalist like Shri Yashpal ji would have been constrained to comment that overburden of books is proving to be a curse on our new generation. We should be worried about it but more worrying will not solve the problem. We have to find out a system by which we can impart firsthand knowledge to the children about the rivers or the mountains. It is amazing that we take the children to laboratory to teach them about agriculture but we never think of taking them out to the open laboratory of nature. We are worried about computer. We should also accept it that the growing need of computer is an universal challenge but whatever we learn from it that would be utilised for scientific and technical education. Agriculture is the means of livelihood for 80 per cent people of our country. Therefore, instead of putting more stress on the relevance of computers in imparting agricultural education it would be more useful for us if we develop a system in which our children get acquainted with practical work of agriculture, animals, fishes, trees, moun-

tains, rivers and other various aspects of the nature. There is neither any mention about it in the new education policy nor in the document provided to us by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

As yet educational work is being carried out by the Central Government with the assistance of State Governments. A scheme named "Operation Black-Board" was started in 1987.

I think, that was a good scheme. For its effective implementation, the use of assistance given by the Centre to the States should have been monitored by the Centre. But it was not alone as a result of which today this scheme has become a mockery. In the area, which I represent, this scheme is merely on papers. The operation Black Board scheme has not benefitted the rural people, tribals and the people living in remote areas for whom it was formulated. In that area the Chief Minister of Bihar has launched a pilot scheme named 'Charwaha Vidyalaya' which is a good thing and no one can have any doubt about it. Arrangements have been made for the children to learn while doing their other works. But more thinking is not enough. Had there been a strong will power behind it, it could have been run effectively but it did not happen so. The schemes, which are formulated, should have wider scope so that the people living with animals and birds could also be taught. We have a private organisation named "Vidya Bharati" under which Vidyalayas are being run in each tribal area. There is only one teacher in a school who lives with the tribals mingles with them and teachers them in their leisure. This scheme was started two years back and during these two years the strength of such teachers has risen

to 750 in Santhal Pargana district. You can well imagine how we have achieved success in making this scheme extensive. If the Government support this scheme, we can make
13.00 hrs. operation Black Board more effective. It can be done but the problem is that the Government scheme becomes merely an instrument of Government employment and the teachers engaged in it earn their livelihood, through it but they do not realise their responsibility towards the children to the extent they should realise.

Madam the condition of schools functioning under Operation Black Board scheme is such that the students take admission in them but later on the number of drop-outs is very high. Their number goes on decreasing constantly because there they find no attraction at all. These schools should be made attractive and interesting so that the children may like them more than their homes. So long as children do not have attachment with the teacher it is doubtful if they would learn any thing from them. We can easily learn from a person with whom we have some sort of attachment. But today the relation between the teacher and the student has become rather professional. Teaching has become only a means of livelihood for the teachers and that has nothing to do with the human values.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: As the hon. Member will be continuing his speech after Lunch, we may now adjourn for Lunch.

The House stands adjourned to re-assemble at 2.05 p.m.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then re-assembled after Lunch at Thirteen Minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE in the Chair]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS- GENERAL 1994-95-CONTD.

Ministry of Human Resource Development-Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chinmayanand Swami may continue now.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Badaun): Madam, I was speaking on primary education. Before lunch, I have submitted that the work which should have been done under operation Black Board has not been done and the scheme has not reached the areas and the people for whom it was formulated. That is why we are not getting desired results. I think, had this scheme been reviewed from time to time by the Centre and the States and monitored properly, it could have been made more effective.

It can be said about this scheme that something more can be thought about it and something more can be

added to it. I have given two examples—one about the Charwaha vidyalaya started by Bihar Government and another about one teacher School started by a private organisation. There are two experiments of similar nature. While formulating the scheme Operation Black Board. If these two experiments also had been viewed jointly it could have become extensive and effective scheme. In this very context I was saying that the need of books in primary education should be minimum and that too to such an extent that they are not felt essential while teaching the students.

The books should be only a general and accessorial means of education. If this had been the case, then, undoubtedly the teachers would have taken interest in students and *vice-versa* and both of them together would have made education interesting. The students would attend schools regularly and that would put an end to the complaint that the number of students in schools is decreasing and that small children do not come to schools.

There is one more reason. The small children for whom the Operation Black-Board has been launched, belong to those families in which the heads of the families force their children earn a living and engage them in earning meals. As a result thereof, the child gives more importance to eking out livelihood than to education and devotes himself to earn to his bread and butter. The children who are engaged in earning a living present a very sorry state of affairs. They are seen collecting coal, some collect waste papers, while some others are begging on roads and railway platforms in the country. While in the process of earning a living for themselves, they get deprived of essential education. If while making

this scheme an arrangement was ever made to provide food to these children then it had not proved effective. Had they been provided meals then they would have surely attended those schools regularly and their life would have been ameliorated.

I would like to add something more in this regard, that, on one hand, the Government is launching schemes like Operation Black-Board, etc., but on the other hand, some private organisations run convent schools and some other kind of private schools where education proves to be very expensive. Without mentioning the name, I would like to mention a school. A school in Mussoorie charges Rs. 72,000 per annum. Only those children pay Rs. 72,000 and go to this school who do not have to worry about earning a living. Is it not a matter of concern that there are two types of educational system in one country and that too at the primary level? The people of this country do not worry about that. But they should. Because if this aspect is ignored, then, the students passing out from these the different kind of schools will be having different mentality. Would the students passing out from one school will talk of prosperity in the country and the students passing out from the other will be frustrated by the menace of poverty and it will be difficult to predict their actions.

Why are we having this dual education policy? I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Human Resources Development for his efforts to increase the provision made for education from the 3.5 per cent of the total budget to 6 per cent in the Eighth Five Year Plan. I feel that he will try further to fulfil their requirements. What per cent is spent on the primary education. If a big amount is not spent on the Primary Education,

then, the outcome would be disastrous from the proportional point of view. So, the primary education should be taken as an elementary education and as a national requirement. It should not be completely left to the responsibility of the States. I am distressed to say that some States do not recognise the importance of the primary education, instead they grossly neglect it. The need of the hour is that the Ministers of States do something in consultation with each other and recognise the importance of the primary education.

Madam Chairman, now, I come to secondary education. Generally in most of the districts we have only one or two Government colleges for secondary education and the rest are run by private organisations. So far as our State Uttar Pradesh is concerned, there are one or two Government colleges in each district and the rest are run by private organisations which get grants or assistance from the Government. And so far as the secondary education is concerned, nobody seems to be bothered as to whether the syllabus prescribed for the secondary education is in consistent with the adolescent minds and whether through it they can identify themselves with the society and the nation and fulfil their requirements and to what extent they can accept commercial challenges. Here, vocational education has been introduced after the approval of the new educational policy. Technical education has been introduced in some schools under vocational training. I would like to mention about Uttar Pradesh. In our State, approval was accorded to the proposal of introducing vocational training in schools in 1991 but today the year 1994 is at its end but the grants approved by you are yet to be fully disbursed. Even the classes have not been started as yet the vocational education specified to be in-

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

roduced in schools includes only photography, typing, etc., as if they are being groomed to be clerks or labourers. At the time of considering the commercialisation of education they should have thought of agriculture also. How many districts have secondary schools teaching agriculture? There are several cities, districts which do not have agriculture as a subject in secondary education. I know that there is not even a single such school in my district. Agriculture has ever been a sector posing challenges for our country. Agriculture should be introduced as a subject in consistent with the local circumstances with a view to boost of agricultural produce. The educational system needs to be streamlined. Similarly, the arrangements, for imparting educational training in fruit preservation and flower preservation apart from Agriculture in Secondary education, should be made in backward forest and hilly areas. The rural children can learn the local professions of manufacturing traditional items and start their own business. This way they would neither have the need of having high-school certificates nor would they depend on Employment Exchanges. You should consider this aspect as well.

Before talking about higher education, I must say one thing that from education point of view human development takes place in three dimensions—physical, mental and intellectual. Body, mind and intellect constitute a person, we should be worried about the physical development of a child right from his childhood. These days, three year old children are admitted to convent schools under the present dual educational policy. They are packed off to school in manner Modern bread is packed. They do not know what's the

pleasure in playing about in the fresh breeze. They do not know anything. They are only aware of a limited number of sports, cricket, and Badminton, etc. because these are played at international level. But the yoga education, which develops the physique of a person, was not included in educational curriculum though it has been included in the new education policy, I remember that many Yoga Instructors had been appointed in Kendriya Vidyalayas and other schools a long time back. This scheme seems to have been abandoned. How many schools have Yoga Instructors today? I do not think that any school in our district has a Yoga Instructor. Though, Yoga Instructors were supposed to be appointed in Kendriya Vidyalayas. Could the hon. Minister tell us the number of Yoga Instructors working in Kendriya Vidyalayas? Would you make arrangements to ensure a complete development of human beings through the natural, Indian system.

If we link yoga education with the development of children then undoubtedly they will have healthy physical as well as mental disposition and their intellect will also continue to sharpen. We should attach importance to yoga education. The provision made in the Budget for yoga education for this year is equal to that of last year, it has not been increased.

Madam, Chairman, the third important thing is how can we include sports as a compulsory subject in the secondary school curricula in order to create patriotic feelings in the hearts of adolescents. There are several schools in villages which do not have a PTI or a sports teacher. It is good to construct stadia, impart sports coaching etc. exclusively but can we not prepare our schools as playgrounds also? Can sports not be

included in every school's curricula as a compulsory subject? I am of the opinion that it should be done at the primary level only.

Madam, Chairman, several programmes have been launched by some Government aided organisations to inculcate national awareness among the youth. But I would like to cite an example as to what kind of national awareness is being generated through these programmes of these Organisation. The Government's Department of Youth Affairs and Sports has submitted the annual report which has a picture on page 28, of a programme organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra with the National Flag hoisted upside-down. It goes to show that the funds provided to these centres for such programmes are ill-spent. It is an official report in which the National Flag was printed and this report is submitted by the Department of the promising hon. Minister Wasnik ji with reverse order of colours. But they have brazenly disclosed this incident. A few days back a furore had been created in the House by the introduction of a poster by centrally sponsored organisation 'Sahmat.' I appreciate that the hon. Minister has accepted that it was mistakenly brought out. But will the hon. Minister also state as to what led to it. Is any attention paid to whether the funds provided to the organisations are spent fruitfully or not and how much national character is built up by that.

Madam, what is the condition of education in the Universities? A reply sent by the hon. Minister reads that 32 fake universities are functioning in a district. It is no secret to guess as to what these fake degrees can do and what impact do these have on the young generation. What kind of nation-building and character-building can take place

with such degrees? Can we not put an end to it? Can we not take action against them? It is a very sorry state of affairs to find that the Government is aware that 32 fake universities are functioning yet, it is not being checked. The situation is that university examinations are not being held as per schedule. The examinations for the year 1989 were held in 1991 and for the year 1990, these were held in 1992. Two to three years are taken to hold examinations. Only occasionally some university may be holding exams as per schedule. Why there is no mechanism to regulate it? Examination are inter-related. I would like to tell you that now even education is being politicised. The normal question of holding examination has now been Politicised Examination is the ultimate test of education and unless examination is unpoliticised we cannot have proper education. The education system cannot be disciplined unless examinations rules are not strictly adhered to. Education requires intellect but now it seems to need copying in examinations. Now it needs to decide whether the examinations will be based on intellect or copying. If intellect is to be used in examinations that the examinations need to be certified/ authentic and if these are to be based as copying/ cheating, then, you may hold the examinations in any way you like.

Madam, Chairman, I would like to say one more thing about the universities. There was a proposal to construct a Dr. Ambedkar Central University in Uttar Pradesh for which the State Government had provided a requisite piece of land also. I would like to know what action is being taken by the Central Government in this regard. I would like the hon. Minister to state in his reply as to the latest position about Dr. Ambedkar Central University in Uttar Pradesh and why it has not been constructed?

[Shri Chinmayanand Swam]

Madam Chairman, I would like to repeat that education should be a means to build characters and it should be seriously taken up as a national programme.

In the end, I would like to say something about the curricula. The Government should give it a serious thought. A national policy should be formulated about the contents published in Books throughout the country. This national policy should decide as to what the students are to be taught and when, where, in how many number and at what price the books are to be made available. Today, several agencies individually publish books and many organisations have started publishing books at higher rates and it becomes difficult for a common man to buy these books. I mean to say that there should be a national policy for books, curricula examinations etc. and I am sure that the hon. Arjun Singh who is regarded as the most responsible person among the present cabinet members and is incharge of this Department, will pay a serious attention to these points as he does to other issues. I agree that he has done a lot about Cultural policy and educational policy but the outcome is yet to be viewed. A discussion is going on to decide a cultural policy but nothing has been finalised as yet and the proposal to have a policy on Education is also in hang up at present. I would like the hon. Minister to formulate a policy for the nation during his tenure. It is imperative to formulate a Cultural policy and an educational policy for a country whose cultural legacy has been a matter of pride but unfortunately for the last several years it has been getting along without any educational policy. I am sure that the hon. Minister of Human Resource Devel-

opment will try to satisfy us by replying to all our questions.

With these words I conclude and thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik): Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of Human Resource Development.

HRD subject is a very vast subject. I am on my legs to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

As it is a vast subject, I will just restrict myself to youth activities and sports. As far as the Budget allocation for the year 1994-95 is concerned, there is only a marginal increase of about Rs. 10.48 crore. In fact, the youth population is increasing as per the Census Report. But, the Budget allocation is not proportionate to that.

Under youth and sports activity, a very good activity, NSS, had started in the year 1969. Now we are celebrating the Silver Jubilee Year. This is covered in about 159 Universities and about seven thousand and odd Colleges. Under this activity, personal development, promotion of national integration and values are especially taught to the students and they are very important. But there has to be a monitoring system for this NSS. We are having about 12 lakh NSS volunteers in our country and still all the colleges are demanding that there should be more volunteers and there should also be more grants. So, I request the hon. Minister to see that this activity is

strengthened and more Budgetary allocation is provided to this activity.

About NYKs, I would like to say that this is catering to the need of non-student population. There are about 448 Kendras all over the country. They are doing a good job.

This year is the 50th birth anniversary year of our late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and to celebrate the 50th birth anniversary, the Ministry has properly planned the youth festivals all over the country starting from the block level, then to the State level and then at the national level. The 12th January of every year is the National Youth Day, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. NYKs still need to be strengthened in the tribal area and in the rural area. The budgetary allocations should be more for this and this scheme should be strengthened for giving good results.

The other activity of the Youth Department is to help the voluntary organisations who are planning the youth programmes. There are very good organisations which are devoting their time and organising the youth activities. The youth is the hope of our country and if we guide them properly, they will definitely take part in the nation-building. The allocation for these voluntary organisations is about Rs. 55 lakhs. This has also to be substantially increased so that the voluntary organisations get some promotion for organising these youth programmes.

Madam, I would like so say something about scouting and guiding. This is really a 'Catch Them Young' programme for the young students, boys and girls in the schools. This scouting and guiding is catering about eighty thousand stu-

dents all over the country and this also should be further strengthened. A number of schools have recently been opened and their is still a demand that this scouting and guiding unit should be given to all the schools.

Madam, I would now come to the Sports. The Sports is in the State List. I think that should be brought on the Concurrent List because the Central Government's duty is restricted only to just give them some grants. There is no accountability in the Sports Department. All the Federations are managing their own programmes and have their own selections. There is fighting and infighting in all the Federations. If something goes wrong and if there are no medals, everybody blames the Central Government, that is the Sports Minister. But he does not have any power to control that and to bring in accountability in the sports field. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to bring this subject on the Concurrent List and have a maximum say in the activities of the sports. I will quote one example. We are giving support to have the infrastructural facilities. In our Capital, the Indira Gandhi Stadium is there. I think it is under the Sports Authority of India. A maximum investment has already been done for that stadium. Nearly 1500 students can stay there. But now the problem in front of the Government is how to manage all the stadiums. An amount of Rs. 6 crore has been sanctioned for maintaining the stadiums and out of that Rs. 3 crore is being paid to the State Governments by way of taxes. Now, the Central Government has brought out a scheme that if any industry invests in the sports activity, it will get hundred per cent exemption. But State Governments are imposing their taxes. So, something has to be done. We should urge upon the State Governments that they should not tax the stadiums or the infrastructural facilities of the sports

[Dr. Vasant Niwrutti Pawar]

and they can also contribute to the activities of sports. I came to know that there are about 1500 rooms in the Indira Gandhi Stadium. Now the question is how to manage them. So, they are thinking that it should be converted into a hotel.

Now again the idea is changing and they are thinking that instead of a hostel, let there be a hospital over there. If such things are going to happen, then I think even if we create the infrastructural facilities, they will not be of any help to the youth of our country.

The budget for Sports is about Rs. 71 crore, which is not at all enough. I thank the hon. Prime Minister for having declared that in the next Plan, this budget for Human Resource Development will be six per cent of the GDP. But, at the same time, the budget for sports activities must also be improved. For the rural sports tournaments, the budget is only Rs. one crore. How will the rural youth take part in these tournaments? I do not know how they will organise tournaments in such a vast country with just Rs. one crore. The budget for the Playing-Fields Developments Programme is also Rs. one crore and the condition is that every school will get Rs. one lakh for the development of its playing-field. That means only one hundred schools, out of the thousands of schools in our country, will get only Rs. one lakh each for the development of their playing-fields. What about the remaining schools? So, we have to think in a proper direction so that the infrastructural facilities for the rural sports are definitely increased.

For sports, there are so many awards and the people are getting the

awards. Programme for international exchange of youth is also there. We are giving grants for the youth hostels also and these hostels are doing well. But I think the Government should have a consistent plan for creating a sports *mahol*. Let the students be tempted to have sports as their career. The students are not at all ready to have the sports as their career because they are seeing the hardships being faced by the ex-sportsmen. Those who have retired from the sports, are not being treated properly. They are starving. So, we have to think seriously on these lines so that we shall have good sports *mahol* in our country and we shall be able to guide the youth in our country to build the nation in this manner.

With these few words; I support the Demands for Grants. Thank you.

[Translation]

SMT. GIRIJA DEVI (Maharajganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Education and Culture are the parametres of the development of a country. Ours have been a glorious past, the story of which can be linked from Ancient age, Medieval age to the period of our independence. Today what has happened to this glorious past of ours which was once rich with scientific knowledge and cultural heritage. A period of 47 years has since gone when we had formed our own Government. This Government had given priority to the literacy of the masses. I consider that literacy is something different than being educated. Sometimes or the other we read in the newspapers that such and such district has achieved the target of total literacy. I am sure enough, if the hon. Minister get it inquired through an investigative agency he will find that all such claims infact happen to be tall claims. The name of Ministry of Education has been re-

named as Ministry of Human Resources Development. In its changed approach towards education it says that for the total development of the people it is very essential to provide such education which may prove beneficial for their physical and mental development besides making them able to earn their livelihood. It sound good at the level of imagination to which I also do not oppose. A dream has been woven that by the end of the century each and every person in this country will be educated. Many drafts are prepared for this purpose and it is claimed that it would prove a mile-stone but I feel if the money being spent on the propagation of this idea is diverted on opening of schools in villages then we would be able to make a number of districts literate. They invite foreigners instead of our own educationists. I also have been invited to participate in this meeting. What I feel is that all this paraphernalia is not going to help. If you really want to literate people then you should accepted those suggestions. The Government, itself set up a committee and thereafter rejected its recommendations and has kept these in a library like a dead person is kept in a mortuary.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Department has been divided into four parts. Previously, there used to be only one Minister but now this number has risen to four so that the all-round development could be achieved. Primary education is the most important in the sense that it teaches us the basics of everything. Even the hon. Minister admits that he wants to give such an education which will accumulate employment, culture and physical education but we cannot even make universalization of education. Our schools have produced outstanding personalities like Ramanujam, Radhakrishnan, musicians like Pt. Onkar Nath Thakur and Vishnu Digambar

Paluskar, who are the project of our ancient education policy and its edifice. They have earned prestige for the nation on several occasions. All of them are the product of ordinary schools.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Navodaya Vidyalaya are being run in the name of quality education. It was planned to open a Navodaya Vidyalaya in every district to educate 80 students only but due to extravagance these are proving white elephants. A Navodaya Vidyalaya is also in my district. If it is run properly it may prove beneficial. Operation Black board was the brainchild of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi but schools even lack black-boards. If you want to pay him our tributes through this programme then we are ready to cooperate. We will participate in it with all our might by considering it as our first duty.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 1600 villages in my constituency and even half of them do not have a school. The number of voters is 12.50 lakh and there is only one Navodaya school for them. How you will accommodate all these children? You need a number of Navodaya Vidyalayas for them. How you will be able to make literate all of them by the year 2000 A.D.? Since 1947, we have only been able to achieve a target of hardly upto 50-51 per cent of literacy and so far as women are concerned, only 19 per cent women are literate in my constituency. The people very well know about these facts. In such a situation if we claim of providing quality education there it seems as totally unjustified. The story of quality education goes like this. 40 years ago, the idea of Navodaya Vidyalayas was conceived. Our hon. Minister has also admitted that at the time of setting up of Navodaya Vidyalayas, it was thought of providing every type of co-education through them and these

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schools were considered as an effective means of National Integration, but the present situation is as such that 30 per cent Hindi Speaking students are sent to non-Hindi speaking areas, where Hindi teachers have not been appointed till date. As a result of that our children can not take benefit of three language formula. I fail to understand that what is the use of sending children there in such circumstances?

Two years after passing their sixth class examination our children are of a age of 13-14 years. If children of north go to non-Hindi speaking areas then how they will cope-up with the language there. There was a provision in the draft of this plan underwhich such teachers were to be appointed but by not doing so and merely blowing great guns cannot be anything except hollowness of our mentality. This is a sheer injustice to education, and the poor students studying in these schools, to their guardians as well as to the society as a whole.

I, therefore, want to submit that first of all we should talk of standard education, opening of schools in each and every village and a black-board for every class room. Most of our schools which are upto seventh standard have only one teacher for the last 20 years. You can well imagine that how a single teacher can handle seven classes himself. I feel that no other policy of any other Department is so hollow as this policy is in the name of education.

The same situation prevails in the field of Secondary Education. If the thinking of our future generation suffers internal injury then how they will make

progress? If one does not get proper education at primary level then one cannot cope up with the study at secondary level. Besides lack of school buildings, books and poverty among people in my constituency also stop them from being educated ones. If we really want to implement a proper education system for poverty stricken children then first of all we will have to establish such schools in each and every village which have produced scholars and thinkers, then only we will be able to spread light of education in the villages. One or two modernized schools cannot spread the light of education.

Before me, one of my colleagues drew our attention towards the hollowness of education at the varsity levels. There are many fake varsities running in the country. The grant being given to the varsities is so uncertain that every teacher asks there that when they are going to get this month's wages. He does not ask whether the research work on such and such topics has been completed or not. This draft paper prepared by the hon. Minister is an illustration of the vacuum prevailing the field of education.

However, in our country, it is talked about imparting free education to all. Earlier, there were eight universities but their number has now gone up in thousands. Despite this, the standard of education has been deteriorating continuously. There are many educational institutions or central universities which are functioning under direct control of the centre. Banaras Hindu University is one among them. I know the state of affairs of that university. There was no vice-chancellor for many days there and this resulted in turning that university into a racial battlefield. Today that world famous university is fighting alone against this racial battle.

There are several posts of lecturers lying vacant, which are yet to be filled. I would like to speak on Art Faculty. In this faculty too, the process of filling up the post of lectures has not started yet. It is the direct responsibility of the Department of Education at the Centre. You have flatly refused to set up a Central University in my constituency and I do not know, what is the harm of a Central University is opened in my constituency. Had you recognised Patna University as a Central University, there would not have been a storm and the sky would have not fallen? It would also have not proved a costly affair. The existing teaching staff would have been sufficient. A mere formality of displaying the board of Central University was required to be completed. Although you release grant to these universities, yet you should have also worked towards upholding their prestige. The number of teachers, who are working there at present would have been sufficient for its smooth functioning. Shri Vidhanchand Rai was a student of this University. Even today, we can produce another Vidhanchand Rai but the fact is that nowadays the teachers do not get due regards. They look forward to Delhi for the grant to be approved so that they would be able to get their due.

So far as UGC is concerned, it has also recommended to increase the grant by 15 per cent. To escape from the severe blow of the price rise, the dearness allowance is also being increased every year. However, the increase in demand does not match the great provided by you. Therefore, you should keep the education away from politics and let it remain confined to the field of education.

There is Department of Culture under your Ministry. If the Greek say that

they have the oldest culture, we can claim ourselves to be belonging to the Culture much older than theirs because Mohanjodaro and Indus Vally Civilization are much older than their civilization. But today, nobody can deny from or ignore this vacuum and the dominance of Western culture in our society. It is because of our ancient culture that foreign students come here in search of peace and do spiritual performance and improve their standard of life. But, on the other hand, our youth have gone astray and they are outclassing one another in the race of drugs and westernisation.

Madam Chairman, the Government has prepared a draft on culture but even after two years of its finalisation, the Government have not yet laid this paper on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Madam, Chairman, I have been listening to the hon. Members for quite some time but it would be factually wrong if I do not tell the House that the Approach Paper on Cultural Policy has already been laid on the Table of the House and whenever the hon. Speaker, Sir, allows, a discussion can take place in the House.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Madam Chairman, I accept my mistake but if the paper is laid on the Table of the House and no discussion takes place on it, it becomes dead. I hope you would also agree with my view. My permission is not required to hold discussion on this paper. It is with your permission that the discussion would take place and a consensus would be arrived at for this. You would agree that there is continuous deterioration in the field of culture.

[Smt. Girija Devi]

15.01 hrs.

You have distinctly divided our culture on a large scale but there is no use of doing it. In this country, music has been recognised a true form of our culture. Earlier, 'Paierthagaiyas' had also accepted this truth. Even our republican Pluto have also agreed that music must be made compulsory for all and it could bring "Satyam, Shivam Sundaram" in our society. You too are learned people but if you ignore this deterioration, the coming generation will never forgive you.

There is generally a discussion about Westernisation. The primary education, which you claim a milestone, is not a origin of your mind. It looks justified if you get loan from foreign countries for generating employment opportunities but if you get loan for education, we cannot claim that education policy of our own. The money lender who gives us loan, puts his own conditions. I donot know about the conditions agreed upon for getting loan from foreign countries. Further, nobody knows that how much it would be recognised by foreign countries and how much by our own country. I would, therefore, request that there should not be any foreign invasion of our education and it should be confined to the country only. You can get loan for other fields but for improving the standard of education, you should mobilise the resources available with you. You should close down those political centres where there is widespread looting. You are doing all this through NGOs. Having faith in NGOs, I would say that in some cases you become more liberal but you start shrinking when the time for its inquiry comes. It is also through these NGOs that many people are being pleased. Therefore, it would be better if you rise above party politics and give the primary education a real shape.

[SHRI P.C. CHAKO in the Chair]

Now the situation is that when there was British rule in India, there were our own schools in every area and our children used to study in Hindi medium. But today, we have our own Government but the schools in villages are being neglected. In Union Territories, I have myself seen that by the side of every Government school, there is an English Medium School and their members are increasing day by day. As one of our colleagues has said that the culture of consumerism is ingressing our schools. The people think that if they do not impart education to their children in a foreign language, their children will lag behind in the field of proper education. In the race of westernisation, the culture of education has lost its entity. To do away with this westernisation, the appropriate step would be to close down all the secondary schools for a certain period in those areas where there are reports of looting and well-equip them during that period.

If on the lines of "Netra Hata" schools, where our hon. Prime Minister had gone to know about the system of Navodaya Vidyalaya, new schools are opened at suitable places, it would not only be a difficult task but would prove economical too.

It is being said with great zeal that after industrialisation, you are going to formulate an employment oriented educational policy based on this system. But, you have still not set any criteria as to how to implement this scheme. As regards vocationalisation, the people from north to south part of India are being guided by their own discretion and they are plundering at their will.

I have not risen to criticise your policy. I have the draft of the paper with me. As I have said earlier, all district headquarters may be directed that in each school, the education may be imparted according to the system of "Netra Hata" so that it could help in improving the standard of education.

So far as vocationalisation is concerned a very appropriate and economical system has been adopted by opening "Charwaha Vidyalayas". On hearing the name of "Charwaha Vidyalays", the people laughed over it. But, Charwaha Vidyalaya truly imbibes the concept of education where the child never gets cut-off from his culture and environment. It rather brings more closer to the child towards his culture, vernacular and occupation. When he grows up, he is able to earn his livelihood through his skill and technique. To escape from the increasing number of unemployed persons, we should completely disband their uneconomical and dual education policy and adopt the policy based on Charwaha Vidyalaya, which could help in making education available to all.

In the regions dominated by women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the girl child does not go to school for the fear of social insecurity and some other reasons like non-availability of educational facilities. If she does go to school, she leaves it after 5 or 6 years. You should also think over this point. Your thinking should be sharp. If a class of the society remains backward, there could not be overall development. If you are not able to open schools for them within a walking distance, you would not be able to feel the impact of their becoming literate in the future. A woman becoming literate means the whole family becoming literate. You should at least know the essence of Vivekanandji's teach-

ings that if five children of a family are imparted education, there will be only five literate members. But on the other hand, if five women are imparted education, they would be able to educate five families. Thus, the light of knowledge will spread and the society will become well cultured and educated. Only 30 per cent reservation for girls in Navodaya Vidyalayas will not prove adequate. However, if any scheme is to be formulated for imparting education to women it could be possible only by opening primary schools within walking distance.

There are many things linked with our culture. Here, the artists are ignored and they have to reel under poverty. The art should be viewed in a broader perspective. We should inculcate a feeling of security in the minds of the artists. Earlier, an artists progeny used to flourish their tradition, which they inherited from their ancestors. But now they like their progeny to be a doctor or an engineer or atleast a teacher of a primary school, instead of grooming him as an artist. This is the result of our social or political negligence. Today, our society is sustaining the blow of this negligence. The coming generation would not be able to inherit the heritage of our ancient matters. They admit that the arts of our artists are becoming extinct in their funeral pyre.

One does not lose anything while honouring their arts. Today you can see that postage stamps are released in the names of eminent personalities. But we have to find out that how many of them are artists or how many of them belong to political field. It is only one aspect of the realm. Even art institutions are not named after the artists. They are rather named after such persons who cannot even appreciate the tradition or the school to which a particular singer or artist belongs. Prizes

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are awarded to commemorate such persons and we are reduced to mute witnesses to all this state of affairs. The prevailing situation is no more different from the situation in which Shri Gatha Gadgil felt himself helpless. Prior to independence, perforce we used to eulogise the rulers and that alone helped us in earning our livelihood. Even today we cannot earn our livelihood in a respectable manner. It is, therefore, my humble submission that the field of arts should not be made an arena of politics, otherwise the hooliganism and pandemonium witnessed in the institute established by Rukmani Arundale are likely to be witnessed in the whole length and breath of the country. Still there are some artists, though only a few could be counted on tips, with whom the cultural heritage of this country is intact. You should protect this heritage at any cost. For this purpose, you may even setup archives and maintain video cassette libraries. You are aware of some such artists who had have heart attacks twice or thrice but no help was rendered to them. I must thank you for your benign deed that Pandit Ravi Shankar has been allotted a piece of land for setting up an Ashram which will be run in accordance with the "Guru Shishya" tradition. There are many other persons who deserve the same honour but I would not like to mention their names here. We should try to preserve and protect our classical music by patronising our eminent artists such as the singer of eastern or western school of singing or the singer of Dhrupad, which have almost become a thing of past. You have the resources available with you. Therefore, you should preserve them so that these may serve as a beacon for posterity.

What a miserable life the eminent sport-person lead when they leave the sports field. One hockey player, who brought honours to this country at inter-

national level, was so much fed up with the miseries of his life that he was even prepared to commit suicide.

Pension was sanctioned to him only after the matter was raised in the House. I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Minister for this. Had his talent been timely recognised by conferring awards etc then the country would have definitely benefited.

I have got other points to submit too. The issue relating to setting up and expansion of libraries of often raised in the House. There is a library in Rampur which has not only costly books but rare books too. I would like to submit that steps should be taken for protecting the books from termite and insects etc. The same is true of 'Khudabaksh' library which also has mostly priceless Urdu books. I had undertaken research on 'Indian Muslims and Music'. During this research work, I had visited the library a number of times and had a chance to meet Sagri Sahib. There are such rare books and other things which symbolise the blend of Hindu-Muslim cultures. The Government should try to preserve these books and articles.

The Department of Archaeology is also under the charge of the hon. Minister. However, I want to point out that smuggling of idols out of the country has become regular phenomenon. Through a letter to the hon. Minister I had drawn his attention towards this and probably within a few days I might get reply too. There is a place called Chiran in Saran district, which is famous as the capital of Mordhwaj. After carefully examining the excavated site it might turn out to be older than Mohanjodaro civilisation. Further the story of the generosity of legendary 'Mordhwaj' is also associated with it. Through a question I had tried

to draw the attention towards Eintkhori. However, it was not allowed by saying that it is a state subject.

I agree that Bihar is a poor state and it does not have enough funds for the upkeep of its denizens. Bihar is becoming poor day by day because the Centre does not allocates sufficient funds to the State. However, it is not the heritage of Bihar alone but of whole of the country. The Centre should take over archaeological remains of Eintkhori, Chiran, Monghyr, Nalanda and Vikramchila and also get these places properly surveyed. If this is done then posterity will remember the hon. Minister for a long time.

A delegation of Budhists from there had paid a visit to many foreign countries alongwith the relics of Budhism. The place of origin of Budhism is a neglected site these days. Politics has creeped into the temple of Bodhgaya. The Government should take over Bodhgaya region to free it of politics and should pay attention towards the place of Budha, who is known for advocating the cause of peace for humanity and devoted his life for the upliftment of humanity. This act of the Government will be highly appreciated.

Smuggling of idols from India has been going on for a long time. Books have also been smuggled out of India. However, Rahul Sankratyayan has been the only person who brought the books into the country. Rahul Sankratyayan was never shy of changing names and embracing other religions for this cause. He devoted his life to bring books from anywhere. However, his books are in a state of neglect. Nothing is being done in his name. The Government should pay attention towards this.

Sir, I thank you for giving me the time to speak. I would also like to remind the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development that while making arrangement for education for all, villages should not be ignored. Education should be linked with employment and culture. For this parameters are available in India itself.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank the hon. Members for having given very good suggestions. Once again, I thank the Members of the Standing Committee who have given very constructive suggestions at the time of discussion. I have gone through various suggestions that they have given. They have taken lot of interest in the women and child welfare programmes. I would like to give replies to a few of the suggestions that they have given.

First of all, I would like to tell about the programmes that we have been doing during the year 1993-94. The major programme in our Department is the Integrated Child Development Programme. It was started in the year 1975-76 with 33 projects. As on today, we are having 3,378 projects including the World Bank Ad project and also State projects. It covers about 1.61 crore children of which 32 lakh are women including pregnant women. We want to universalise this programme. That was one of the suggestions in the Standing Committee. But we need a huge amount of

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Rs. 1166.27 crore during the Eighth Plan for universalising this programme. The States also have to spend Rs. 1379.96 lakh for the nutrition. Last year we got a sanction for 300 projects and this year we have again got a sanction for 200 projects. Last year's projects have already been sanctioned and we have distributed the money to various States. I have written letters to the Members concerned wherever such projects are there.

One more concern expressed by the Standing Committee was that there should be proper cooperation and coordination. I do agree that there should be proper cooperation and coordination while implementing the ICDS programme. Once the panchayat elections are over and once the lady members get elected in the panchayats, we want to entrust them with the job of monitoring the work of *anganwadi* workers, CDPOs and supervisors and to monitor all our programmes which are concerned with the women and child development and for which we have already constituted *Bal Vikas Samithis*. These *Samithis* will look after the monitoring of such programmes. There is a good monitoring system as far as their health, nutrition, immunisation and attendance and everything else are concerned. We are getting monthly and quarterly reports. And in that way, we are monitoring the whole system of ICDS. I think that once these panchayati raj institutions start working and once the lady members constitute these *Bal Vikas Samithis*, there will be more monitoring of these programmes at the grass-root level.

The second thing which I would like to say is regarding the SAARC Declaration. We have been a signatory to the SAARC Declaration which is for the

survival, protection and development of the girl child. Consequently, we have constituted a National Plan of Action. In that direction, we have worked out various programmes for development of the girl child. Amongst the various programmes which we have worked out, one of the programmes relate to adolescent girls. We have already started this programme in 507 blocks covering about 2 lakh children in the adolescent sector. We are giving them good nutrition, education health check ups and training in various skills. We are also giving them food; we keep them in our *anganwadis* and we look after them well; and we send them back to home after their work is over. In that way, this programme is being implemented in 507 blocks in various parts of the country.

Regarding creches, I would say this is an old programme. As on today, we have stopped opening up more creches. But this year, we are going to start under National Creche Fund. This Fund has been started with Rs. 19.90 crore which we got from the Government of India. We are going to start more and more creches during this year. There was a remark made by the Standing Committee that we have provided only Rs. 1 lakh in the Budget, but how is it that we are going to have so many creches during this year? This is a corpus fund which generates interest with which. We are going to run more and more creches. And at the time of starting more creches we want to convert 40 per cent of these in *anganwadis* converting them into creche centres so that our *anganwadi* also will be benefited out of this.

Some of the Members have mentioned about Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP). We are not going to see that these BNP are stopped. They will be

protected as we are protecting them till now. And the same amount will be given to these BNP. Another thing as far as creches are concerned is that this creche programme will continue during this year.

Some Members have mentioned about *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh*. This is a new programme. *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh* will give money to the informal sector, to those persons who are already working in various jobs, whether it is a new job or whether it is an existing job in which they are working in the informal sector like the vegetable vendors, mat weavers, fish sellers, flower sellers etc. They are finding it very difficult to get money from the banks. They would not get the credit and even if they get the credit, it will be at a high rate of interest. We thought that one person should be responsible for these borrowings. Last year, we got Rs. 31 crore from the Government of India. We have kept it in the bank and from the interest which we are getting on it, we are running this *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh* through our NGOs. There are various NGOs in our country who are very much well-versed in this credit and thrift programmes. They are experienced in these kinds of programmes. They are already implementing such programmes. We are giving priority to those NGOs who are well-versed in this programme for a period of 3 years and they will get the money from the *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh*.

We give them at the rate of 8 per cent and they give it to borrowers for 12 per cent. I think only short term and medium term loans have been given. In the short term loans Rs. 2500 and in the medium term loans about Rs. 5000 we are giving to each borrower. That will be repaid within a period of fifteen months and three years respectively. This programme is going very well in this

country. This Kosh is working very well. It has already covered more than 37,000 women and Rs. 4.39 crore has been distributed in 1993-94. It was a little bit delayed. We had planned to spend Rs. 8 crore during 1993-94. But we could not reach this target for various reasons. The reasons are it was started only recently, registration and other things took a little bit time. Very recently we have included small organisations like Women Development Corporation. Other umbrella organisations are also entitled to get such money from the *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh*. Another thing is, in the *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh* somebody asked why this amount cannot be increased. I do not think for the present we need to increase this corpus amount which itself will generate a lot of funds. Till now we have not taken a review because the programme was started only recently.

The second point which the Committee recommended is regarding *Mahila Samruddhi Yojana*. Very recently our Prime Minister launched this programme. This is a programme wherein a woman can save something from her income. Wherever she gets some income, she has to save something. In that way she saves and to get passbook from the post offices. There are 1.32 lakh post offices in the country. They are the operating agencies; we are only the nodal agency. They are supposed to distribute the passbooks and the forms. We were told in the Committee that forms and passbooks are not distributed at the grassroot level, hence deposits cannot be made so far. It is a fact that initially post masters were not given training. Now many of them have been given training. The money has also been given to the Post Masters General and all the Post Masters General have printed the forms and also the passbooks. They have distributed them to all the post offices at the grassroot level. I think by this time

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nine lakh accounts have been opened. This is a scheme wherein a woman can deposit up to Rs. 300 and she will get 25 per cent incentive on it, that is Rs. 75 she will get after one year. There was a suggestion as to why not ladies from the urban areas also be included in this programme. At present we have not included urban women—whether they come from slum areas or not. Anyhow after the review is taken up we will take into consideration whatever suggestions that have been given by this Committee.

Regarding working women hostel many suggestions have been given. At present we have sanctioned 687 working women hostels covering some thousands of ladies. We have got a programme to cover 3,000 women during this year. Whatever amount we have provided during this year was not sufficient to cover all the working women because there is a great need for opening more and more working women hostels. For constructing a hostel we will give 50 per cent of the land cost 75 per cent of the building cost and per head we are giving Rs. 40,000. Everybody is saying that due to high cost and rise in prices this is very insufficient. As far as cosmopolitan cities are concerned, they are finding it very difficult to get the land. In that way the proposals are not coming. Even then some of the universities and NGOs, some of the good institutions have come forward. We have sanctioned more than 30 new hostels during this year. Many proposals are coming. We will definitely sanction the working women hostels because it is one necessity for women as far as their security is concerned and they are supposed to have this security.

There were complaints that their stay would be extended from three years

to five years and again even some women would like to stay for ever. I will tell you on the floor of the House that at the Centre, we have taken a decision that even upto an income of Rs. 500 girls can stay and their stay would be extended from three years to five years. Even in some cases, we allowed them to stay for some more period because of special difficulty they are worried about their security because their husbands may be working in some part of the country and the ladies may be working in some other part of the country. That way, they would like to stay in our hostels. This is all that I would like to say about the working women hostel.

Regarding Indira Mahila Yojana, some Members are very much concerned about this. We have committed that this Indira Mahila Yojana will be started as early as possible. The correspondence on this has been going on since the last three years. We wanted to bring this programme under one umbrella. But, for various reasons, many Ministers could not even agree to bring their own programmes under one umbrella. Now, at least we have come to the conclusion that awareness generation and income generation could be given to this programme. We have been insisting on the Planning Commission to give us at least 200 blocks during this year, to start with. But still, the Planning Commission has not cleared our proposal and tentatively an amount of Rs. 8 crores has been earmarked for this Indira Mahila Yojana. I hope this Yojana will be considered during this year and we will get the sanction as early as possible.

There are so many atrocities committed on women. We have been seeing in the papers about child rape, atrocities, infanticides, etc. So many things are going on. Now, we have set up a

National Commission for Women which will look after the atrocities and other things. They are even examining the various laws which are existing as of today. There are 14 laws. Already they have given suggestings for amendments to the clauses of two Acts—Dowry Act and Sati Praveention Act. We are examining how best we can bring in the amendments so that more punishment can be given to the culprits. So also, wherever such cases are brought to their notice, they will interact with them; they will give their advice to the State Government; and they will contact the police. Thus, they will see that the culprits are booked as early as possible.

As far as the atrocities are concerned, we want that awareness generation must be the criterion for bringing down the atrocities. As far as awareness generation is concerned, we are printing all the legal literacy manuals in regional languages with the aid of UNICEF; We have tried our best to see that they reach the grass-root level. We have informed the State Governments. We have informed the Women Development Corporation. We have distributed them to the Family Counselling Centres so that they will reach the grass-root level. Once awareness generation comes into the minds of the women, atrocities on women will be reduced as far as possible.

Regarding political empowerment, we have reserved 33 1/3 per cent for the women in Panchayati Raj System. I think, we should appreciate our hon. Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao for having amended the Constitution and having given 33 1/3 per cent reservation for women. This is our primary duty to see that women in Panchayati Raj are being given training at the grass-root level. Without giving training at all the three levels, I do not think that they will

be in a position to work effectively. Therefore, we have started the training programme. Wherever the NGOs or other institutions or the universities come forward to give such training to such women who get elected from the Panchayati Raj institution, we could give them Rs. 10,000 from the Central Social Welfare Board. The Boards are constituted and they are working. I have written so many letters to hon. Chief Ministers stating that whenever they give allotment to the fair price shops or dairy development corporation or gas agencies, the priority should be given to ladies. I am very happy that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister had immediately responded and he had given priority to ladies in the case of fair price shops. The Karnataka Government has also come forward to give priority in the allotment of fair price shops to the ladies at the grass-root level.

The second point is about the nutrition component. Nutrition is a major part of our ICDS programme. As far as nutrition is concerned, we want to expand our activities. Very recently, we found that the State Governments were giving nutrition to the extent of only 50 paise in some States, 60 paise in some States. 75 paise in some other States. We have told such States that until they gave Re. 1 per child per day for nutrition, we are not going to sanction any new project. Many States have come forward to give Re. 1 per child for nutrition of the children under the ICDS programme.

We want to start a national resource centre for women to look after research and gender sensitization training and networking, we are going to start this programme this year. Today, we have got child research centre wherein they give training. As far as supervisors and *anganwadi* teachers are concerned, training is being imparted. Like that, we

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wanted to make an indepth study of the women as far as women are concerned. These are various programmes which we have undertaken during this year.

You know that very recently, we had an earthquake in Maharashtra. At the time of earthquake, so many international agencies on our behalf have come forward. They have donated much. We also sent a team of officers to Latur. We have opened more than 135 creches there to see that abandoned children are taken care of. We have also sanctioned short-stay homes for women. We have also started some income-generating programmes. The World Bank has come forward to give Rs. 6 crore to the State Government for the benefit of children and widowed women. These are the various programmes which we have taken up.

Another suggestion was made in the meeting that the staff was insufficient. Though the programmes has been expanded very much, the staff is insufficient. I do agree that the staff, at present, is very insufficient even though we have expanded so many programmes during the last year like Mahila Samridhi Yojana and National Creche Fund. We are going to start all these programmes. I hope the Government will take into consideration and see that sufficient staff is given to us.

Another suggestion in the Standing Committee was that we were not giving much attention to the old programmes and we were giving importance to new programmes. That is not our idea. We are going to give sufficient funds to all the programmes which have already started. We are strengthening them. we

are giving much publicity as far as old programmes are concerned. As far as new programmes are concerned, we are giving publicity through various agencies like TV, Doordarshan and wall painting etc., etc.

By all these programmes, I think, there will be social empowerment among the women. For economic empowerment for them, we have income-generating projects wherein we give training not in the traditional way but in the non-traditional ways like computer science, electronics, beauty parlours, etc., etc. We are giving them training. For that, we give 90 per cent grant. Such income-generating programmes are going on even in the Rural Development Department and also our Department. Such programmes will definitely give training and income to the ladies. After this income generation, they will save something.

After this social empowerment, comes the economic empowerment. We are giving that through our income-generating programmes.

The third one is the political empowerment which our Prime Minister has given through the Panchayat Raj institution. With these empowerments, the women in our country will rise to the occasion. As far as income is concerned, they will become independent and would see that there would not be any school dropouts among their children. They will be in a position to look after their girl children and thereby there will be an improvement in the education of all our children throughout the country.

With these remarks I conclude my speech and I thank you very much once again.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Since the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development stretch over a large area, I will keep myself confined only to some pointed remarks in some specific areas which will be illustrative of the overall tendency in the Budget.

The Government have, on several occasions, emphasised the importance that they give to the universalisation of elementary education. In the Presidential Address at the beginning of this Session, there was the promise to achieve 'Education for All' by the turn of the century. It was also stated that in the Ninth Plan, the outlay for Education would be increased to six per cent of the GDP. However, we find that while in 1993-94, the outlay was only 3.5 per cent of the GDP, there has not been any step up in 1994-95 at all. Now, the Ninth Plan will begin in a couple of years' time and there will have to be a massive step up at one go. If there is no increase year after year, can we believe that when we come to 1996-97, there will be a sudden jump? So, in order to fulfil the promise which has been made before the Parliament, the Government should have really stepped up the share of Educational Outlay in this Budget itself, which of course has not been done.

In 1991, we find that there has been some development and some progress in literacy. 52.19 per cent of the people over the age of seven have now some kind of literacy. And yet, there is such a lot to catch up with. We find that while there is 64.20 per cent literacy among males, literacy of women is still lagging behind. In spite of the fact that the rate of female literacy has gone up, only 39.13 per cent among females are now literate. One can see that while certain schemes and projects are taken

up, but at the same time, the target keep on receding in the distance because of a continuing backlog. Unless this continuous backlog is made away with, I think the target can never be reached. The target has to be approached from two ends. One is the universalisation of primary education for children and the other is reducing illiteracy among adults.

Let us take a look at primary education. The number of primary and upper primary schools has, of course, increased when we see the comparison made in the report between the Fifties and the Nineties. Between 1950-51 and 1991-92, there has been an increase in the number of schools in comparison. We find that there are now 7,17,863 primary and upper primary schools and 2,70,000 non-formal education centres which together enrol 136 million children. And, yet, as the Government has pointed out in this book which is brought out during the 'Education For All Summit', a high level access does not necessarily lead to a higher level of enrollment. That is, just if schools are there it does not mean that children will go to the schools. This is exactly what is happening. The number of schools has increased but the enrollment has not increased to that extent. Also, the gross enrollment ratio is found to be varying very substantially from one region to other. Even today, 24 million children between age group 6-14 are out of school. The drop out rate is very high, 45 per cent, between classes 1 to 4 and, it is appalling, that is 60 per cent if we take classes 1 to 8. So, the question is, if schools are there why children are not sent to schools; why is the retention rate so low and why are there so many drop outs. All these questions will have to be tackled by the Government. These are not easy questions. Unless there is a serious political

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will, I do not think this problem will be solved. Even, a certain amount of money—that is being spent on it—is being sent down the drain because the targets are continuously being pushed back.

Let us look at Operation Blackboard Scheme. There has been an enhancement in this in the present Budget and yet we find that so far as the Operation Blackboard is concerned, there has been a failure to reach targets. As per the 'Programme of Action, 1992', by March 1992 Operation Blackboard covered 4.14 lakh schools in 5,385 community development blocks and 11,000 municipal areas. The schools that have been covered are only 77 per cent of the target. The Report says that owing to resource constraint all the primary schools of the country could not be covered, as envisaged. Only about 70,000 teachers have been appointed as against 1.52 lakh single-teacher schools identified for coverage. I think this figure is slightly outdated. By now the number of teachers appointed would have increased to 1.02 lakh and not 70,000. But, even then one can see there is a great lag between the targets that were set for enhancing the number of teachers and the actual number of teachers recruited.

Same is the case with regard to construction of classrooms. Only 43 per cent of the total target has been reached. I am not going into the misuse of money that has been alleged or the corruption that has been alleged, but even the targets that had been fixed have not been reached. Operation Blackboard Scheme is lagging behind. While there are still a large number of single-teacher schools, the Department surprisingly has decided to introduce three-teacher schools without consolidating two-teacher schools.

The Department is also going for the expansion of Operation Blackboard to Upper Primary level.

I think what should be done is the consolidation of the work that had been started instead of going a step forward without having accomplished the targets. We also find that in the Operation Blackboard Scheme there has been a certain lack of flexibility. People who do not need teachers but needed school rooms were told to appoint teachers. Those people who did not need rooms but needed teachers could not do that. So, I think in this kind of a scheme in consideration of the variety that we find in the educational situation across the country, a certain flexibility has to be introduced into this scheme otherwise there is going to be this misuse or underutilisation of funds.

There is also this District Primary Educational Programme which is meant for decentralisation and district level participation in educational planning. This was also mentioned in the President's Address. Of this 85 per cent is to come from external resources and 15 per cent from Government resources. Although it was announced with such fanfare we find that this external assistance is yet to come to this very important scheme. I consider this scheme to be very important. The money that is needed for its implementation is not there. Therefore, I would suggest that there should be pilot projects where a strong Panchayat system is there and with that it should start acting. But I feel that there is a certain lack of political will once again in this discrepancy between the plan and the mobilisation of resources.

There is also I think a certain contradiction between the stated National Policy of Education—Goal for Free and

Compulsory Primary Education and the emphasis that is being given to non-formal education at the primary level. I would like to quote briefly from the national policy about the relationship between formal and non-formal education.

"NPE envisages free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality should be provided to all children up to 14 years of age..."

"The NPE admits that the school would not reach all children, particularly, millions of girls and working children whose participation in school system is thwarted by socio-economic parameters."

Now, you are saying that you are going to have free compulsory primary education in this country. Of course compulsory education does not mean that you can drag children to schools and submit them to an educational system. In order to implement compulsory education, certain infrastructural facilities have to be there. It has to be seen why children do not come to school; now they may be made to come to school; and now working children can be relieved from the burden under which they work and brought to the school system. So either you say that you are going to have free compulsory primary education by such and such a date or you say that it would not be possible to give compulsory education to all the children of school-going age. So, we have to have this non-formal education. It seems to me that non-formal education should only be there for children within a certain time frame only as long as the implementation of compulsory primary education is not worked out.

· And that is projected at the end of the century. So, there is not much time

left. We have also to see how non-formal education can be conduit to the formal system. This is mentioned in some of your Reports; this is what NFE should try to do. Non-formal education should be a step for these children who did not have any access to education to move over to formal schooling; and for this, of course, formal schooling itself has to be changed; it has to be made more flexible; it has to be made more open; it has to be made more accessible. So, it has to be a two way process. But you cannot consign the whole generation of children, particularly girl children only to non-formal education just because they cannot have socio-economic access to school.

For total literacy campaign, the budget has been considerably enhanced. We also feel that this National Literacy Mission is on the right track, it has done some good work in certain areas; and it has been successful in reaching total literacy in certain areas. Some of the districts of West Bengal have reached total literacy. Dongarpur in Rajasthan has reached total literacy. Kerala, of course, has reached that before.

However, we find that actually the Department had demanded Rs. 180 crores to extend total literacy programme to 60 new districts. Instead of Rs. 180 crores, they have been given only Rs. 154.75 crores. Post-literacy programmes have not really taken off so far as is evident from the budgetary picture. The budget estimate for 1993-94 was Rs. 13.50 crores, but the revised estimate was only Rs. 8 crores. So, is it likely that this total literacy programme is being slowed down? Is it going to be slowed down for want of funds? On the whole, we find that there has been no substantial increase on education; the promised increase on education is not there. We feel that the total literacy

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programme will suffer unless there is enhancement of allocation.

Kendriya Vidyalaya do not have any planned budgetary support and yet there is a tremendous demand for them, because education is becoming very expensive in the private sector. It is not in every State that you find State-run schools. That is why, there is a demand for Kendriya Vidyalayas and yet we find that in the Kendriya Vidyalayas the ratio of teachers and students has gone down; between 1992 and 1993, the number of schools remained the same, but the number of students went up, which means that some schools are becoming over-crowded. Infrastructure is not there. So, unless some plan support is given to them, I don't think it will be possible for them to serve their purpose.

Navodaya Vidyalayas, as you know, are meant to be pace-setting institutions. Are they pace-setting institutions today? There have been two reviews of Navodaya Vidyalayas.

16.00 hrs.

The second report says that it has to be continued but there are some notes of warnings that are sounded. The scheme may be followed but three things must be kept in mind—constant review to keep the scheme as cost effective as possible; ensuring continued validity and reliability of the admission test; and more particular attention to be paid to the pace-setting role of these institutions. The question is whether these things are being done?

Some Navodaya Vidyalayas in certain area, I know, are running quite well.

But there are a large number of Navodaya Vidyalayas in different parts of the country where a completely different picture emerges. We find that the percentage of students passing out at the senior secondary stage is quite low. The latest figure that we have is 2738 students passed out of 4097. It is not a very good record. These students were chosen for excellence. They were chosen because they are considered to be specially talented students. We have also to find out not just the percentage of students but the quality of their results.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have consumed the full time of your party.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I am only on education now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is only a caution for you, you may start winding up now.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I will be as brief as possible.

What they are doing when they are passing out, whether the results that are shown by the Navodaya Vidyalayas warrant these centres for excellence; whether the same results could not have been achieved by upgrading and improving the existing ordinary schools? Why Navodaya Vidyalayas were necessary for this? What particular excellence is being achieved here? These are the questions which come to our minds.

Vocationalisation, in comparison has not been sufficiently paid attention to. There has been an enhancement in allocation, no doubt, but we find that this enhancement is only marginal when we compare it with the need that there is for vocationalisation. This is one of the

most important areas in education and it is really a matter of regret that so far vocationalisation has not made much progress.

So far as higher education is concerned, I would just say this that there has been enhancement in the Budget of the UGC. Yet we are told that this additional investment will not spread over the country in the colleges and universities under the UGC, but a large part of this additional investment is for the engineering college and two central universities to be set up in Assam. I think, it is very important that an engineering college should be there. You can talk of one central university being there in Assam. But when we are unable to finance central universities that we have, why does the Government go in for two universities in the same State at a go? Is it going to help the people of Assam in any way? This is something, I do not understand. Would not the people benefit much more if the ordinary colleges and the States universities were strengthened and improved instead of being given two universities at one go? This is a question, I would like to ask.

Sir, I will take a few minutes to speak on Women and Child Development. Just now the hon. Minister has spoken on this. I would just like to point out that there is no lack of schemes in this department, and the department in fact, has got a substantial rise in allocation. However, what is rather disturbing is that schemes had started, but then after a point they do not seem to be getting on.

Indira Mahila Yojana immediately comes to our mind. This was announced in 1991 and it was proposed to allocate Rs. 1785 crore for the Eighth Plan. Nothing came of it. Now there is a

revised plan for Rs. 78 crore for the rest of the Eighth Plan. Even this has not yet been approved by the Planning Commission.

The National Plan of Action for children is another scheme. We know that it is the different departments which are expected to spend money for this. But Women and Child Development Department is the nodal department and it is strange that in the Budget of this nodal department we do not find any indication as to whether this National Plan of Action for Children has progressed, how far has it progressed, whether it has progressed or not.

Then the next scheme is Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. What we find is that an amount of Rs. 31 crore has been sanctioned for the Fund. But this year only a token provision of Rs. 1 lakh has been made. We do not know why. If there is no planning for the channelisation for the money then why was this corpus fund laid out, holding money in that direction I do not know.

The ICDS, these days is being seen as an umbrella organisation, a kind of a single window scheme which would provide for the needs of women and children in this country. This was to include early childhood education, Balwadi Programme, Day Care Centres, everything. The ICDS schemes are doing very good work in many parts of the country. I have no doubt in saying this, whatsoever. And yet, while at the end of 1993, we find that a number of blocks have been covered, out of 5,239 blocks 2,119 blocks yet remain to be covered, and if on an average 200 blocks are covered every year, even then to cover the entire country would require ten years. It would require ten years! At the same time, we find that all the schemes have been

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included in it—Creche, Day Care, Early Childhood—all those are within this basket. There is no additional allocation for these schemes, whereas the separate schemes that there had been for these things had been made non-expanding schemes; they are in fact, drying up. Therefore, I would suggest, that as long as ICDS scheme is not sufficiently strong, to include these other schemes, the other schemes should be continued. There should be no drying up of these.

Just a few more minutes on the Department of Culture. Culture is an area where Government intervention may or not have a positive effect. I mean, that here, simply by giving money positive effects cannot be achieved. One has to ask very carefully for what purpose is the money being spent, for whom is the money being spent. Today we find a massive commercialization of culture.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister was here just now, I am sorry he is not there any longer. Only today, before I was leaving my house I heard that the 10 o'clock English news on the Metro Channel today was postponed! Do you know the reason Sir?

It was because Doordarshan proposed to broadcast a live fashion show, Pierre Cardin fashion show. And for this reason, the 10 o'clock Metro Channel English News had to be postponed. Where are we? Sir, the Government self is talking of cultural invasion on the one hand and promoting this cultural invasion on the other hand. I think, where the Government actually should give impetus is for alternatives to the people, particularly the urban and the rural poor because today the kind of cultural invasion that we witness is becoming the

opium for the people; a kind of a debased culture is becoming the opium for the people. So, the Government has to provide an alternative to this commercialisation of culture. I am sorry to say that in spite of the fact that many of us have been saying this for a long time, there is yet no separate allocation for folk and tribal culture. These are living forms in our countryside, which are surviving a lot of neglect from us, elite people. Even without yielding them over to market places, by encouraging them at the local, at the grass-roots, where they thrive, a new impetus may be given to them. And the benefit of Government assistance should go to the artistes and people and not just to the intermediaries, through whom funds are channelled.

On the one hand while the people are starving of culture, on the other hand we find that the resources of the Culture Department have not been fully utilised for the last few years. So, instead of huge cultural complexes, where most people would have no access whatsoever, I would suggest that smaller cultural centres both in urban and rural areas, with ample scope for regional varieties, may be formed. In the Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts work has been delayed for years. It gets a substantial share of our Culture Department's budget. And yet, this multi-cultural complex, which Indira Gandhi Centre was supposed to build up, is still not built and now we have another scheme for another big multi-cultural complex. This is not the kind of a thing, which can lead to a proper allocation of resources at the grass-roots.

Finally, Sir. I welcome the scheme for District Museums and rural libraries. I think, this is a very good scheme. It has to be worked out properly. I hope that it will be implemented very soon.

As for one library in our country, it deserves a great deal of our attention and that is the National Library. I should say that the administrative problem there has been allowed to go out of hand for a very long time while readers are suffering. Therefore, I would say that there should be stern administrative measures against all indiscipline, flouting of authority, hooliganism up to the highest level and no one should be spared. A Committee must be formed immediately to go into the problems of the National Library as a whole and the national importance of the National Library must be restored to it.

Thank you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to participate in the important discussion because ours is a vast country and HRD is a very important and a big Department.

Sir, as you are aware, there is a proverb, "a tree is known by its fruit". Building up of the country depends upon its education. A country is known by its education, its tradition and its values.

16.15 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY *in the Chair*]

Today I quote Rabindra Nath Tagore who said:

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; where knowledge is free; where the world has not been breaking up fragments by narrow domestic walls; where the words have come out from the depth of truth; where the clear stream of reasons has not

lost its way into dreary desert sands of dead habit; where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection; where the mind is led forward by thee into that ever widening thought into action, Oh my father, let my country awake".

Today, I quote Shrimati Indira Gandhi who said:

"I cannot understand how anyone can be an Indian and not be proud".

Today, I also remember Shri Rajiv Gandhi who had started this 'Operation Blackboard', the 'Literacy Mission' and the other programmes for this country so that our education system can reach the grass-root level and also our education system can build up our moral character. I quote Swami Vivekananda who said:

"We have to build up our moral character. We have to start our character building programme."

We are not doing today. That is lacking today. That is why, I think, I should not concentrate myself on the other subject but I should concentrate myself on the Education itself because earlier I had not got that much scope. I feel that Education is a very important area and our Government is giving more emphasis and more thrust to this area. But the main problem is that we have so many schemes and so many programmes. The main problem is education is a State subject. Indian sports is a State subject. Government is giving money. Government is having some schemes also. There State Governments—I am not telling about all the States—are doing very well. I must congratulate the Government of Kerala

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in this regard. Their literacy rate is so high there. Even the Maharashtra Government is doing well. *(Interruptions)* The Governments of Karnataka and other States are doing very well. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY
(Katwa): What about West Bengal?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am coming to West Bengal. I have all the papers with me.

Madam, you will appreciate that Education is the most important area and we should not politicise atleast the Education system; we should not destroy the educational institutions. Due to political interference and due to political brain washing of our system should not be spoiled. Education is not only to make some study but the good education will give us the healthy body, healthy mind and healthy soul. But what is happening today? I am not going to discuss this in detail because it is already mentioned in the budget papers and in the Standing Committee's Report.

Firstly, I am coming to the issue of National Library. We are proud of our National Library. Of course, we are proud of our heritage; our own tradition and our own values. I do not know for which reasons or pressures from which political party this institution is being destroyed. Who are responsible for this? There are Members in this House who say that they do not want politics in education. These are the very people who are interfering unnecessarily in the institution's affairs. That is why the present situation has arisen. What are the far reaching consequences of all these interferences? What is the fate of that institution? Earlier there were no disputes or quarrels. But

this time because of the political interference, far-reaching consequences have occurred. The internal rivalry creates much more serious and adverse affects on the day-to-day administration of the institution. I am quoting from the Ministry's note itself.

It says:

"The developmental programmes of the Library, such as, computerisation programme, micro-filming programme, purchase of books and journals, etc. have practically come to a standstill, as the Library authorities find no time for such constructive activities. Accordingly, a large portion of plan budgets have remained unspent from year to year. Even the Rs. 42 crore project of construction of Bhasha Bhawan appears to have slowed down appreciable."

Why? Because when the earlier Director was there, there was no dispute or anything. Madam, you will appreciate that since we are a democratic country, there must be some rival union everywhere, in every industry. It is not for any particular institution, everywhere the employees have the right to form unions. But that does not mean that the union people, with the help of the politicians, will destroy the situation. I do not know how this Department has humiliated and how this department has insulted. I am just showing you the papers. Now, why is it happening in the National Library? It is happening because of some promotion, because of some recruitment, because of some appointment on compassionate grounds. Since this Library is in my constituency, I met several times my hon. senior Minister, Arjun Singhji, and told him that it should not be closed down. If there is any dispute, these two

unions can sit together. The Director himself can convene a meeting or somebody can go from Delhi. They can sit together and decide the things. But nothing has happened. What is happening is that after the present Director*.... was appointed, these disputes have started*.... I want to ask the Minister.

Madam, you will appreciate that on 6.9.93, for a particular promotion, Shri D.N. Banerjee has written that Shri Safulla Kumar Nandi of Calcutta is promoted to the post of Assistant Librarian (Oriya). I tell you that this is a departmental function. Again a letter came on 4.10.93, saying that the Office Order No. 538 of 1993-94 dated 6th September, 1993 is not to be implemented till further direction of the Department of Culture. Then again another letter came on 9.10.93. This again is from Shri D.N. Banerjee. In that letter he has written that there is no need to hold a Review DPC in respect of this item, that is, that this man should be promoted. Then again another letter came from Shri N. Shakhdar on 26th October, 1993. In this letter he has written:

"As already clarified in our letter of even number dated 20th September, 1993, the recommendation under item No. 3 of the minutes of the said DPC for the promotion of Safulla Kumar Nandi, to the post of Assistant Librarian, is in order."

Then again, another letter came on 3.1.94 saying that on 3rd August, Shri Nandi was promoted to the post of Assistant Librarian, so his seniority will be fixed as per the rules.

Now, Madam, the Departmental Promotion Committee is giving him proper promotion. Fourth time they are

giving him the promotion and one time they have said: No, it should be kept in abeyance. After giving him promotion for four times, again the Department is writing on 21st February, saying;

"Till the report is received, the salary of Shri Safulla Kumar Nandi is to be released in the Library on the Information Assistant's post. The promotion of Shri Nandi to the post of Assistant Librarian and Information Officer, vide office order No. 990 of 1993-94 dated 3.1.1994, is kept in abeyance."

So, it is kept in abeyance after giving him promotion for four times vide orders issued by the Department itself.

Then again, on 21st March, 1994, the Director is writing. How he became a Director, I do not know. I do not know whether a Director of an institution can write like this. This is order No. 1217 of 1993-94, which says:

"Due to various news appeared in the media on 18.3.94 regarding appointing a committee by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to look into the affairs of the National Library...

I continue to quote.

"It is considered that all the controversy and pending issues may be kept pending including the case of Shri Safulla Kumar Nandi till the report of the said Committee is received."

This Director observed the news from the media and he is giving the office

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

order. This is the functioning of that person. This is the type of functioning there. When it goes on like this, then not only the National Library but all the important institutions will be destroyed. May I request the hon. Minister to look into this?

The Director issued a letter on 21st March. Again on 20th March a letter came from Shri Ashok Bajpai, Joint Secretary that Shri Safulla Kumar Nandi and other should get salary according to their promotion. Regarding one promotion so much has happened.

There are two unions there; one is NLEA and the other is NLSA. One is, of course, supported by the ruling party in the State and the other is an impartial union. (Interruptions) You are telling now. I may tell that you are destroying the institution. (Interruptions) When you got the opportunity why did you not speak? You got time. Why did you not utilise it when you go to say something? (Interruptions) What I am saying is based on the documents.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): You raised the question. She is answering. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam, this is most unfortunate. I am not supporting any union. What I am saying is that if anything happens in the dispute, then the Director should take action against both the unions. But, Madam, the Director with the support of the CPI(M) party is doing this. he is reacting in this way. This is the document here. I am showing it to you. (Interruptions) I appreciate it. (Interruptions) When the person was humiliated they have complained and action has been taken.

One member has been terminated from service and three members have been suspended. Hon. Member Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee is here. I am not telling about former political outlook. You ask her about an incident. One Shrimati Kalpana Dasgupta is a Librarian there. She is a very noted person. In front of the Iranian delegation, she was humiliated and she was heckled like anything. Why was it done? In this case nobody was suspended. I am asking why no action was taken against the people concerned in this case. This is a matter of shame. I submit that if there is any punishment, both sides should get the punishment. Shrimati Kalpana Dasgupta was a noted lady. She was the Lady of the Year last year. She was humiliated like anything. She complained against it. She also lodged a F.I.R. with the police station. But nobody was arrested in this case. These things are going on in the National Library. All the development activities there have stopped. My request to the hon. Minister is to look into this with all seriousness. I am not going to support any union because my interest is for the people; my interest is for the readers; my interest is for the nation and my interest is for the country. That is why I request the hon. Minister that whoever may be the Director of a particular institution he should work impartially and he should work without taking help from a political party and he should work for the greater interest of the institution. That is my submission. Government should try to ensure this. Otherwise this type of a thing will spoil the institution. This type of institution will be spoiled. That is why I wanted to raise this issue in this House.

Madam, I am coming to the point of literacy programme of the Government. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi started the "Operation Blackboard" and literacy programmes. I think the Government

must go through in great detail about the Operation Blackboard programme. They should see which are the States which are utilising the grants for this programme in a proper manner and which of the States are not utilising properly. Whatever money is going from the Centre is not spent properly due to the lack of the communication system and due to the lack of monitoring on the part of the Government. That money is not properly utilised. I have visited several places. I have seen that in the name of Operation Blackboard there is no blackboard in many places. That is the situation. I do not know how they will teach and operate without blackboard. I think the Government should monitor the programme and there must be some evaluation of these programmes also.

As far as the Literacy Programme is concerned, of course, I must congratulate our Government. Our Government is trying its best to give thrust to the Literacy Programme and some States have achieved total literacy also.

Madam. I want to mention about three books which are taught in the Literacy Programme. If the Minister wants I can hand over these books to him also. I think the Government should implement the Literacy Programme through some reputed organisations like Ramakrishna Mission. I do not know about other States and Members from other States will raise points about their own State. So, I would like to say as to what is happening in my State under Literacy Programme. In our State of West Bengal, in the name of Literacy Programme they are politicising the programme. I want to mention something which is mentioned in a book which is taught in the Literacy Programme of our State. It is in Bengali and I know that most of the Members here will not understand Bengali. So, I

will give the English translation of some portions from that book. It says: "Our country's capital is Delhi. The Government does not want to accept all our demands if the demand is coming from the common people or from the State. They are ruling this country. They do not want to accept our demand. They are not giving anything to us because they are self-gaining. They do not want to listen to this."

Madam, this is what they are teaching in the Literacy Programme and this is how they are brainwashing the illiterate people of the State of West Bengal. Then, in another place they mention about hammer and sickle. Their election symbol is hammer and sickle and they are telling the people like this: "If you want a life, you strengthen the hammer and sickle."

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY: I think Ox, Bulls and all kinds of animals are also there.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If you are willing then I will send it to the Election Commission. They will be very happy and they will give you the reward also. This is the type of Literacy Programme that is going on in the State of West Bengal.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Hammer and sickle symbolise *mazdoor* and *kisan*.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am not against *mazdoor* or *kisan*. But you are brainwashing the children and you are brainwashing the illiterate people so that they can vote for you. The standard of the Literacy Programme has gone down because of this kind of politicisation.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Madam, in literacy level earlier West Bengal's position was second in the entire country, but now our position is 18th in the country. So, what I want to say is, Literacy Programme should not go as a political programme. We should educate our people and we should educate everybody. We should follow the principle of "Each One-Tech One". We should give proper education to the people instead of giving this kind political education. But, Madam, everybody depends on the document.

In the document you will see that the officers have said, there is cent per cent literacy. If you go for a sample survey, without informing the State Government and the concerned agency there, you will come to know what is the rate of literacy there. They claim, in Burdwan, there is cent per cent literacy. You visit Nigom village, Aousgom village, or Purwa Sthali. You will come to know that this is a farce.

That is why, I think, it is my moral duty to raise this issue inside the House so that the Central Government should know what is going on in the name of education. In our State, they have not allowed any model school to set up. What is the problem? For classes I to V, there is no English teaching in the Government schools. They have changed the system in the last 17 years. Now common people are going to send their children to the English medium schools. Now so many English medium schools have been set up in the State. If a particular parent wants to send their child to a English medium school in maximum cases he has to pay a donation of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 1 lakh for each seat. The parents are bound to do it because they know that their children have to learn English. Otherwise, they cannot

compete in the higher education. This is the situation.

I do not know why our State Government has not allowed the model schools, Navodaya Vidyalaya to be set up. If the State Government has allowed Navodaya Vidyalaya, at least 50 schools to 60 schools would have been set up and 50,000 to 60,000 children would have got opportunity to study in those schools. Due to politics, they do not allow these schools. I would request the Minister to look into this so that Navodaya Vidyalaya are set up in our State. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was a man who wanted talented children from the rural areas, from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community. They should get proper education through Model School.

I am raising another point regarding education for the Scheduled Castes and for the minorities. I met some minorities people. In my State, they said, 150 *Madarasa* schools are asking the Government for the recognition. But out of them no *Madarasa* school has been recognised till now. One Urdu Academy is to be set up in West Bengal. The foundation-stone is there. I do not know how much time it will take at least for setting up one Urdu Academy in West Bengal. At the time of vote, they will ask the minorities that their Party is doing so many things. But it is a matter of shame that you have no recognised one *Madarasa* and have not set up one Urdu Academy in West Bengal.

There is the 15-point programme for the welfare of minorities but no point has been implemented by the State Government.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): For your information, there is *Madarasa* Board in West Bengal.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: In a small area, they want to set up *Madarasa* like a primary school. There are about 400 *Madarasas* which are awaiting recognition. You give education to minorities also. Forty per cent of the people are Muslims in some areas and we have to look after their education system also.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY: Do not confine them to *Madarasa*. Let them go to general schools also. Let them come out of their shell. There is need for reform of *Madarasa* education. Minority children will go to *Madarasa*. But that system is also not reformed for many years. There has to be a overall look to this problem.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If some people want to study in the general school, we do not have any objection. We encourage them. But Urdu language is not given recognition, is not taught in any Government school.

You have to appreciate that Urdu language is not available in every institution. I am talking about the language.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.
(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Please let me clarify. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You try to conclude now. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: When they are giving a running commentary, how can I complete my speech?

I want that there must be some model school to be set up in our State. I do not want to suppress their welfare.

Some new school like Central School or Navodaya school should be set up so that all people can come up to the school. But, at the same time, you will appreciate that Urdu speaking people want that *Madarasa* should be set up because they want to learn their own language.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Hon'ble Member may request H.R.D. Minister to ascertain from West Bengal the real position with respect to the position of the minorities.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: That is why, I am raising this point. There is no problem for those who are willing to have general education system. But I am talking about the problem of the Urdu speaking people. Many Urdu speaking people are there even in the adjacent Calcutta. They do not know even Bengali. They know Hindi. You have to appreciate the language problem also. That is why, I raise this issue Government should take up this matter with the State Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many other Members to speak. Please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am not going to speak in detail about other things.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: (Jadavpur): Urdu language is allowed as a medium in Secondary examination in West Bengal.
(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: How many times they have interrupted while I am speaking?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not interrupt now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I seek your protection. A good number of Members are interrupting. But my voice is for my people. I am alone. But I can fight with these people because my voice is louder than anyone.

I wanted to raise this issue in the House. If my information is wrong, the Ministry can send from here a team who without informing the State Government and without informing the concerned agency can go direct and approach the people. They will ask the people what happened. I know the Muslim Institute is one of the important Institutes in Calcutta and you also know the Muslim Institute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I want to raise this important issue. Shrimati Basava Rajeswari has already spoken on this. So, I do not want to speak in detail.

Regarding the National Commission on Women and regarding the State Commissions, of course, the Government had set up this National Commission on Women and some State Governments have already set up the State Mahila Commissions. Our State Government also set up this Commission. I feel that due to lack of infrastructure, due to lack of communication between the Commission and the Administration, this Commission is not able to work in a proper manner. That is why, my request to the Government is that Government should see that the matter is pursued seriously so that National Commission on Women or the State Commission on Women should work in a proper manner. I do not know whether it is a fact or not that out of six Commission Members, two Members already resigned from the National Commission. If it is true, you tell

me how the Body can function when two Members resigned out of six.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): One Member has already resigned and another Member has given resignation letter.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: In these circumstances, what will be the position of this National Commission on Women?

This is a very highest body and this is an important body. The members of this body should have to look after the grievances of women. I have seen so many times that the members of the National Commission on Women went to some States for inquiry. But the administration were not listening to them. Even they were not able to meet the people. If this is going on, then there will be no value of this National Commission on Women or the State Women commission. We have got the State's Women Commission. The members of the Commission are not from my party but they are from their party. They wanted to visit one lady called Alpana Banerjee. Even the Superintendent of the Hospital did not allow the women members of the State's Women Commission to see the victims. Then, they personally met the Superintendent and said: "We are the State's Women Commission members. If we are not allowed to meet, then how will we find out the details for the victims? What is this?" So, things are going on like this. Therefore, my request would be that the Government should take up this matter with the Home Ministry also.

Next, the Gender Sensitisation Programme is there. Some States are

trying to implement this programme and some States are not implementing this programme. Then, there is the issue of atrocity on women. If there is any atrocity on women, people will say that this is a law and order matter and the Home Ministry will look after the matter. But the fact of the matter is that the Human Resource Development Ministry have set up this Commission. Due to communication gap, they are not able to function. I do not know what is the reason. The Ministry can find out the details. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter seriously. I would also like to plead for Youth Affairs and Sports. The Government should attach much importance to this Department because our youth are talented sportsmen. They should get the opportunity through this Department. If we want to build up the character building programme, then this Department should get more funds to evaluate this programme.

With these words, I conclude. Madam I think you for having given me this opportunity. I must also thank my friends from the Opposition because they have encouraged me to speak on these things.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur):

Mr Chairman, Sir, we are having discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. For the last few days I have been trying to lay my hands on the report of the Standing Committee pertaining to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. On enquiring from the Members of the Committee I came to know that the report was submitted to the Ministry a long back, but it is yet to be distributed. The Committee has made valuable recommendations regarding the function-

ing of the Ministry in the report after taking great pains. However, probably report has not been distributed. The hon. Minister should inform us about the reasons therefor during the course of his reply on the Demands for Grants. I have with me the last year's report; i.e. for May, 1993. This Department is quite big. Though the hon. Minister is quite active, yet due to unknown reasons the report has not been received.

Sir, for achieving 100 per cent literacy there is the need to bring about qualitative changes in education. Under Article 45 of the Constitution there is a provision for free education of children between the age groups of 6 to 14 years. Though all parties and all the Governments make announcements and promises in this regard yet the work has not been accomplished.

I would like to quote from the last year's report available with me. In the report attention has been drawn towards two-three points under 'Operation Black-board':—

1. Need to construct atleast all weather two rooms buildings with separate toilets for boys and girls in the same compound.
2. Provision of atleast two teachers in each school out of which one should be a lady teacher.
3. Arrangement of necessary teaching aids like blackboard, maps and other equipment.

Emphasis has been laid mainly on the aforementioned three points in the report and the report further mentions that lady teachers have been found to

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be more competent. In comparison to gents teachers, lady teachers more often make use of the teaching aids. Thereby, it justifies the rationale of arranging the teaching aids under operation Black-board. The Committee further stresses in one of its recommendations that it should be ensured that atleast 50 per cent of the teachers appointed are women.

One year has passed but this year's report is yet to be made public. I urge the hon. Minister that while giving reply he should also dwell on the steps taken for the implementation of recommendations of the Committee, contained in the report. I would like to know whether the vacancies for Lady Teachers have really been increased?

A little while ago an hon. Member from West Bengal dwelt on the Adult Education. I myself have not fully understood the rationale behind Adult Education. I hail from a rural area. Objective behind it must have been good *i.e.* to make everyone literate, but a lot of money is being spent on it. I urge the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to get an evaluation done as to how many persons have been made literate so far. In common parlance, Adult Education is known as fraud education in rural areas. I fully endorse the views of Kumari Mamataji. I have myself observed that when any inspection is made regarding the number of persons enrolled, then people are made to come with the temptation of food and entertainment. Organisations entrusted with the task of Adult Education organise cultural programmes and song festivals.

I visited a place in my state where a large Panchayat Convention was being organised. A member of the Block Samiti

in his speech mentioned that even if adults have not become literate but walls, stones and buses have definitely become literate as everywhere slogans have been pointed. When I enquired from the Panchayat members whether education is also being imparted, I was told that they were helpless because people argue that at the age of 60-65 years a person could learn nothing except putting his signatures. Therefore, I urge that more emphasis should be laid on primary education.

I visited a school located on a hillock. Five classes were being conducted there by a single lady teacher. When I enquired as to how classes are conducted I was told that when one class is taken, the students of other classes make noise and when the other class is taken students of former start making noise. The Government can very well imagine as to how a single teacher can impart education to five classes. I would like to stress the need to pay greater attention to primary education and recruitment of more teachers for it.

I fully endorse the views of Kumari Mamataji that black boards, chalks and mats are not available even though it is the responsibility of the State. I urge the Government to issue directions for improvement and also intervene in the matter because it is a concurrent subject. I think that if the standard of primary education improves, a solid base will be created and standard of children will improve.

A few months back a Convention attended by nine nations on "Education For All" was organised in Delhi. 95 crore illiterate live in these countries. While dwelling through the statistics I found that out of 95 crore illiterates 2/3rd are women. In the countries where literacy

among women is high productivity is good, birth rate is low and mortality rate during child birth is low. In these countries there is vast difference in the average life span of women and men. Even in India girls educated upto the tenth standard earn one and a half times more than illiterate girls. These are educated only upto the tenth standard and earn one and a half times more. Therefore, I urge you to lay emphasis on women education.

One more question is connected with it. The Government has announced that by the year 2,000, the goal of education for all will be achieved. For this huge funds will be required. But where from these funds will come? A resolution was adopted at the Convention that to educate all by the year 2,000 developed countries should make available funds. European Union has urged to make available Rs. 600 crore to India. Apparently it seems to be a big assistance but in fact it is a loan. One condition attached with it is that 1/3rd of the amount is required to be spent on the officials posted here. An apprehension is being expressed that naturally these officials will remain loyal to those masters, who are making funds available, but these officials will have to be looked after well as per the preconditions. They will not be interested in improving the education system and in fact will cause more harm instead of doing good. Therefore, education need to be imparted in Indian perspective. Need of the time is not to accept such conditional aid.

Though nine nations made a declaration that by the year 2,000 all will be made literate yet you will be surprised by the amount being spent by these countries. As per the Gross National Product figures available with us. Bangla Desh is spending 2 per cent of GNP on

education, Brazil 4.5 per cent, China 2.3 per cent, Egypt 6.7 per cent, India 3.5 per cent, Indonesia 0.9 per cent, Mexico 4.1 per cent, Nigeria 1.7 per cent and Pakistan 3.4 per cent.

The Hon. Prime Minister has announced that allocation for education will be raised to 6 per cent. For this I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development. I favour early allocation of the same. Some hon. Members have expressed doubts whether it will be increased or not. If it is increased in the later years the maximum benefits will not be reaped. I hope the hon. Minister in the coming years will properly utilise the funds so that objective for education for all is achieved.

A submission was made regarding *Madarsas*. Probably There was some confusion in it. Some Members are saying that permission for 150 *Madarsas* has not been given while others are saying that it has already been given. I would like to draw the attention towards the educational institutions being run by the minorities. In the Constitution it is enshrined that the minorities are totally guaranteed freedom to run their own educational institutions. It is good but some people are running these on commercial lines. There are some educational institutions being run by the minorities which refuse to approve of anything connected with Indian culture. If any student or teacher does the same then he or she is reprimanded.

17.00 hrs.

In this very Parliament the issue had been raised even in the past. An 11 year old girl called Ritu studying in a special school in Bombay was applied Mehendi on her palms on the occasion of the marriage of her sister. When the

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girl attended to school the Principal expelled her. An hon. colleague mentioned about similar incidents in Ranchi and Jamnagar too. Even Court could not intervene in the matter as protection has been granted to those schools under the Constitution. Thereafter all the members of the Parent Teacher Association met the principal and told him that it was a custom in their community to apply Mehendi in the occasion of marriage. The eleven year old girl had applied Mehendi on the eve of the marriage of her elder sister. Madam, you know that the colour of Mehendi fades slowly and the Principal ordered that she can attend school provided she pays fine of Rs. 75 per day till the colour of the Mehendi fades completely. Is such high-handedness permissible? This is the treatment meted out to the minority communities? The Government should not let such institutions go scot-free on the pretext that it does not provide them any aid. The Government must deal with such cases sternly. I leave it to the hon. Minister Shri Arjun Singh in whom I have confidence to deal with this case as he deems fit.

The committee had given one more suggestion which was related to the orientation programme. Before joining the service the teachers undergo through B.Ed. or J.B.T. course. But they must be imparted better in service training in education in the light of the latest developments and additions in the syllabi.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. The Kendriya Vidyalaya concept was launched in the academic year of 1963-64. There were certain objectives and its first objective

was to meet the educational requirement of children of defence personnel who have transferable service including those of Central Government employees. Its second objective was to develop these schools as model schools in the context of meeting the national target of education. Its third objectives was to launch and promote new experiments in the field of education in collaboration with other bodies and promote national integration. This committee had also recommended that the Government should explore possibilities for opening new Central Schools in the areas where there is concentration of Central Government employees and adequate educational amenities are not available.

I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for opening a Central School in my area which was pending for a long time. During this period I urged all the Ministers of Human Resources Development but it was Shri Arjun Singh who was kind enough to agree with the proposal which was prepared by the ex-servicemen. Teaching has already started there since last year. Correspondence with the concerned department is being made from there constantly to create two separate sections for each class but no affirmative reply has been received so far in this regard. I would like to bring this matter into the notice of the hon. Minister. Probably a long list of Central Schools was issued and it seems most of them are located in Madhya Pradesh because perhaps inadvertently against the name of the school in my area it was shown as located in Madhya Pradesh instead of Himachal Pradesh. There was a large number of person working in army, para-military force in two districts, Una and Bilaspur in my State. They are posted in Leh, Ladakh leaving behind

their families. No Central School has been opened in these two district as yet. I would like to request the Government to consider the opening of a Central School in Una and Bilaspur—another Bilaspur is in Madhya Pradesh also—and issue orders accordingly. There has been no principal in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Hamirpur for last two years. If these schools remain understaffed and do not have buildings how can we attain our objective of giving ideal education. The State Government has already provided land for Kendriya Vidyalaya in Hamirpur and I have been continuously writing to the Government for the last several years yet the construction work is not being undertaken. I would like to request the hon. Minister to provide better accommodation for Kendriya Vidyalayas and adequate staff so that the problems facing these schools may be solved. Education has been the most neglected field since Independence. I want that the hon. Minister should make untiring efforts to bring about some improvement in education so that his name is written in golden letters in history.

I would like to say a few things about the Navodaya Vidyalaya. In its report the committee has also stated that the number of the Navodaya Vidyalaya in view of the growing rural population is inadequate. At least one Navodaya Vidyalaya should be opened in every district. We send students of class ninth from one state to another in these schools. The objective is that they may indicate positive virtues like feeling of nationalism. The objective of every programme is good in the beginning but it needs to be monitored later on. I would like the hon. Minister to monitor and study the activities of students after they leave these schools and ensure whether they are successful in all walks of life. Regarding the Nehru Yuvak Kendras I

would like to submit that these centres have been opened for the development of the youth who do not get education in any institution. The hon. Minister also is aware that so many complaints are being received against the Nehru Yuvak Kendras and they have become the dens of vices. Somewhere the youth of these centres have been involved in party politics an enquiry was conducted into it and I hope that the report must have been submitted by now. I want that action should be taken against those found guilty.

I want to say a few words on teaching of Sanskrit. It has been acknowledged internationally that from technical point of view Sanskrit is the best language for computer. I want that in order to improve the quality of education in Sanskrit the Ministry of Human Resource Development should provide more facilities therefor. Sanskrit should be made a compulsory subject up to class tenth at least in the Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalayas. This will enable to the promotion of Sanskrit.

Lastly, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to ensure that the facilities announced for the education for women and handicapped should really reach these deserving people. The issue of delinking degree from employment is often raised but it should not remain merely an announcement. Education upto the level of 10+2 should be linked with work and the aptitude of the child should be developed.

The issue of bogus Universities has been discussed here. The UGC had issued a list of 27 bogus universities last year. That time the hon. Minister had given assurance that the case is being probed. I would like to

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know whether the inquiry has been completed. The Bill regarding these universities is yet to be passed. The Government should expedite the matter and take initiative in this direction for punishing the people running bogus universities.

Madam, Complaints have been received from some States that some educational institutions want to affiliate themselves with the Central Board of Secondary Education. Some States like Rajasthan have already agreed to allow them to affiliate with the Central Board of Secondary Education. But there are still some states where the State Government is insisting on no objection certificate from these institutions and coercing them to affiliate with state Education Boards rather than affiliate themselves with the Central Board of Secondary Education. Madam, there are 3-4 universities in your state you might be aware of different syllabi of different universities. People want that a national level syllabus should be prescribed in all the universities within a State so that the student undergoing a course may participate in any competition. Therefore it is urged that the Government should intervene in this matter and take an early decision. The educational institutions should have freedom of opinion either to affiliate with the State Board of Secondary Education or with the Central Board of Secondary Education. I would like to request that the representatives of all the States should be included in the University Grants Commission so that the States which have never been represented in the UGC get a chance to do so. With these words I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Madam, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion uptill now. I am also grateful to those hon. Members who have contributed some important suggestions about the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Before I begin, I would like to put one doubt at rest. There is a generally felt doubt that the allocation made for sports this year has been reduced. This reduction in the allocation is going to adversely affect our sports promotion endeavour.

If we look at the budget estimates for 1993-94, we can see that the allocation for sports was Rs. 62.56 crore which was revised subsequently and was raised to Rs. 76.91 crore. And for this year, the budget estimates show a figure of Rs. 71.33 crore. The difference in these figures is because last year, we had taken up a proposal with the hon. Prime Minister that we wish to prepare ourselves properly for the coming Asian Games. We felt that to prepare properly and effectively, we would require some additional allocation. There was a request from the Indian Olympic Association. Several representatives from the sports federation had also met us. On their request, we from the department had taken up the proposal with the Prime Minister who had readily accepted to allocate one-time grant of Rs. 20 crore to prepare the Indian contingent to participate in the Asian Games which would be held later this year in Hiroshima. There Rs. 20 crore were adjusted last year. About two-third were allocated in the revised estimates.

About two-thirds was allocated in the Revised Estimates and the remaining has been allocated in the Current Year. Therefore, this difference is felt.

I would like to assure the hon. Members that though the funds at our disposal are very limited, we are trying our best to see that sports are promoted and promoted effectively. About two years back, in 1992, a plan of action for sports promotion was tabled in this House and there were three or four important areas where we had decided to concentrate our energies and resources. These areas are (1) greater involvement of industry in the promotion of sports; (2) integration of sports, physical education and yoga with learning process; (3) creation of a proper and suitable sports environment and (4) easy availability of sports equipment.

I am happy to state here that last year while presenting the Budget proposals, the hon. Finance Minister had amended the Income Tax Act and now under Section 35(a) (c), investment which is made by industry in some sports promotion projects is made eligible for one hundred per cent tax exemption. During last year, since the time when this amendment was made, there have been a few proposals which have been cleared. One was the Lala Ram Gupta Charitable Trust to set up a sports centre at Agra which would cost about Rs. 75 lakhs. The second one was the Greater Cochin Development Authority Project for the construction of an international stadium at Cochin which would cost around Rs. 10 crore. And the third one was an Indoor Badminton Players' Association Project to set up a badminton academy at Jalpaiguri. These three proposals were cleared during the last year. We, from our side, have met a number of representatives from the industrialists. I personally had meetings with the

Federation of Indian Industry in Delhi, Bangalore, Calcutta, Hyderabad and a number of other places. We are trying to make the industrialists more and more aware of the fact that there is a need for their greater involvement in sports promotion. It is not only going to be advantageous as far as sports are concerned, but it is going to be advantageous to the industry itself.

The second important area which I mentioned was regarding the integration of sports, physical education and yoga with learning process. Hon. Arjun Singhji, in the beginning of this year, had felt that this particular aspect which has been covered in the National Policy on Education has not been properly implemented up till now. Therefore, he decided to set up a Sub-committee of the Central Advisory Board on Education to go into the matter and make recommendations as to how we can properly and effectively integrate sports and physical education with learning process. There are a few important recommendations of this Committee which were placed before the CAB in the first week of March where the Members had generally accepted the recommendations. Now, we are trying to pursue this matter with the State Governments so that these are made applicable and implemented as soon as possible.

Madam, the CAB Committee had mentioned a few areas. They had stated that:

1. Physical education and sports be made a compulsory part of the school curriculum and assigned at least 40 minutes every day in school time table.
2. A system of evaluation should be prescribed to assess the fitness

[Prof. Prem Dhumal]

and average participation of children in physical education and sports throughout the year.

3. Subject teachers be trained as physical education teachers through pre-service and in-service training courses.
4. Central Government and State Governments should make contribution to the Sports Fund for creation of sports infrastructure in colleges and schools.
5. Mass participation activities and sports competition should be organised by all State Governments regularly for schools and colleges.
6. Special weightage may be given to the students, at the time of admission, who have excelled in sports.

We feel that unless and until sports and physical education is integrated, we will not be in a position to broaden our base of the playing population. Till the time we are not able to do that, we will not be in a position to get excellence at the top. Therefore, we are giving a lot of attention towards this and we are trying to see that this is implemented as soon as possible.

There seems to be a greater activity in schools and colleges these days, but we would still pursue to see that this is made compulsory and is made an integral part of our curriculum both at the school and college level.

As far as creation of sports environment, or sports consciousness in the

country is concerned, I am happy to mention here that recently Doordarshan as well as All India Radio have started giving more programmes on Sports. Earlier we used to see only cricket or tennis. We will now see Kho-kho, Kabaddi, Malkhamb and many other games which we could not see a few years back. So, the changes which have been made, as far as the programme content of Doordarshan and All India Radio is concerned, I am sure are going to increase the consciousness towards sports. It will create a proper environment which will motivate youngsters to go for sports in larger number.

17.23 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

We have also recently started a scheme to give pension to our meritorious sports persons. Those persons who got medals in Olympics or Gold Medals in Asian Games are now entitled to a pension of Rs. 2000 per month and Rs. 1500 per month respectively. This is definitely going to help in our endeavour.

Another important area is availability of sports equipment. We have taken care of this and I do not think that this is going to be a problem area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Standing Committee which has examined the Budget proposals of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports has made several important recommendations. I am happy to mention here that some of the recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted by the Department. A few of them I would like to mention here.

NSS, which is one of the largest youth organisation in the country having

1.1 million volunteers, this year is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. It was felt by the Committee that only a few schools have been covered under the NSS and they felt that schools should be involved in larger numbers. We have accepted this recommendation of the Committee and whenever we expand the scheme, we will try and see that schools are involved in larger numbers.

One more suggestion which was made was regarding Bharat Scouts and Guides and All-India Boys Scouts. We have been giving substantial grants to Bharat Scouts and Guides and some grants to All India Boys Scouts. It was felt by the Committee that we should pay some more attention towards the All India Boys Scouts. These schemes which we are implementing should be evaluate from time to time. We will evaluate this scheme and we will also try and pay more attention towards All India Boys Scouts.

As far as exchange of youth delegations representing the country is concerned, it was felt that the criteria of selection, their achievements abroad, their participation there should be spelt out in the various documents of the Department. We will do that and we will incorporate this in the Department's Annual Report.

It was also felt by the Committee that to the extent possible there should be even distribution of youth hostels all over the country. We have also accepted this suggestion and we will try and advise the State Governments about these developments so that wherever we set up new youth hostels, we will keep this in mind.

Two important suggestions were made as far as sports was concerned. One was regarding a need to evolve a mechanism to evaluate the various sports schemes which are being implemented by the Sports Authority of India and the Department. Presently, an independent study is being conducted by the Tata Consultancy Services who are going into various objectives of the schemes which we are implementing—how is the management of all these schemes; what are its technical details—and they will make a thorough study of past evaluation and resource efficiency. The schemes which are under this study are the National Sports Talent Contest. The Army Boys Sports Company, Sports Project Development Area, National Coaching Scheme and the Sports Hostel Scheme. Around 15th May, we would be receiving their Report and after we received their Report and recommendations we will try and see what more we have to do to see that these schemes are made much more effective.

Another suggestion was regarding more representation to professionals in the General Body and the Governing Body of the Sports Authority of India. We have decided that this has to be done. More former sportspersons, sports administrators should be given representation these bodies and we are undertaking an exercise to see that both these bodies are reconstituted to see that more representation is given to the professionals.

I would not like to go into various other areas but before I conclude I would just like to mention a few other important things. Mr. Vasant Pawar had mentioned about the rural sports programmes. We have revised this scheme and to the extent possible we have enhanced the financial assistance which we used to

[Shri Mukul Wasnik]

give at the district level to organise the district sports competitions.

Similarly, there has been an enhancement at the State level and the national level. A new scheme to assist youth clubs, sports clubs working in rural areas have also been evolved.

And we would be giving about Rs. 30,000 to a sports club in the rural area in a non-tribal block; while in the tribal block, we will be giving about Rs. 45,000. In the subsequent two years, we will also be giving about Rs. 5000 per year to these sports clubs.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:
Is there any matching grant from the State Government?

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: There will be no matching grant from the State Government. We will be giving this money. But there will be only one thing that this will be done only under what is available with us. So, we will not be able to cover a large number of sports clubs, but a few sports clubs. We will definitely be in a position to assist them properly so that they are able to work effectively in those areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): You have to invite Mr. Mukul Wasnik to get the grant.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:
(Azamgarh): We never invite anybody.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: We are evolving different systems to see that proper sports clubs should be given the financial assistance. This can be seen in the rural sports tournaments or there can

be various other means to find out. A few days ago, I had mentioned about the incentives to the coaches also. We have started this as a new scheme. Those coaches, who are responsible for the performance of the medal winners in the Asian Games will also get special cash awards for their contribution in promoting sports.

As far as youth affairs is concerned, an Institute called "Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development" is being set up in Sriperumbudur. The foundation-stone was laid by the hon. Prime Minister last year. The architectural competition is in progress; and very soon, we will be finalising the details of that. This will be an important Institute for the training of youth organisations, for research activities; and it will be an apex body in the country for all activities in this regard.

A National Youth Festival Scheme has also been decided upon to start this year. A National Youth Festival will start from the block upwards upto the national level; and we will be assisting it directly starting from block level to the national level. This will give an opportunity to the talented young people who are involved in different activities; whether it is music, dance, drama or any other area. So, this will also be an important activity during this year; and it would be continuing.

There is one more important thing which I would like to mention. This is the setting up of the National Adventure Award. There used to be some problem previously, because Arjuna Award was basically for sports and the adventure activists used to find it difficult because their performances were not suitably recognised at the national level. Therefore, we decided to set up the National Adventure Award which will be at par

with the Arjuna Award; and we will be having the first programme of giving away the National Adventure Award very shortly. A Committee on National Youth Programme has also been constituted with representatives from various youth organisations, political parties at the national level, representatives of minorities, the SC & ST; and this Committee is being chaired by the Prime Minister and would be discussing about the implementation of the youth programmes and need to have different of more number of activities to see that we are able to tap the energy of our young people.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would request the hon. Members to give their support to the Demands for Grants of this Ministry.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): May I just seek one clarification? So far as the Nehru Yuvak Kendras are concerned, in my State, West Bengal, in a number of districts, the District Coordinators have not been appointed. We also find that in some of the districts the performance of these Kendras is not at all transparent, is not connected with the locality, with the local people, local institutions. Is the Government aware of this?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Madam Chairman, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that quota reserved for sportspersons in Central Government jobs has not been filled up for the last 3-4 years. Besides, the quota is already very meagre and it was fixed

15 years back. Would the hon. Minister raise this quota.

[English]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: As far as the functioning of the Nehru Yuvak Kendra in West Bengal is concerned, I would like to mention that wherever vacancies are there, we are going to fill up those vacancies very soon.

Another point has been raised about transparency in the functioning of the Nehru Yuvak Kendras. In this regard, I would like to mention that at the district level we have district organising advisory committees, set up under the Chairmanship of the District Collector for Nehru Yuvak Kendras and whatever major activities are to be undertaken by Nehru Yuvak Kendras, are normally discussed in this advisory committee, where there are representatives from certain voluntary organisations and some non official members are also there in that committee. Therefore, I do not think there is anything in the NYK activities which are to be hidden. (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Panigrahi, this will not be allowed. The hon. Minister will give the final reply to the debate. Please keep your points in your mind and whenever you get an opportunity, please put them forth. I had allowed some members as an exception, but it does not mean that it will be applicable in each case. You are an experienced Member. You may please take your seat and discuss it with the hon. Minister later. Except the speech of Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh nothing will go on record.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to express my thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Education is an important matter, but it is included in the State list also. The importance of education has not been understood in its proper perspective in our country as yet. We are still adopting the Western model of education whereas our social structure is quite different from that of other countries. Our necessities are of different kind. The reason for low literacy rate in India is that proper attention has never been paid either to primary education or secondary education.

Today the standard of education is deteriorating continuously. Through education we can change the social structure and also bring about social change. The people belonging to backward castes are being particularly deprived of social benefits because of lack of education.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that education has been made commercial in our country and the elite group of our society are opening private schools and making it more or less an industry. There is mushroom growth of Public schools today and they are taking lot of money for imparting education.

The practice of getting admission in private medical colleges by paying hefty sum of money as donation is prevalent on a large scale. The Government is aware of all these shortcomings in the present educational system.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to state that the Government spends a lot of money on the medical and engi-

neering education whereas it spends a meagre amount on primary and secondary education. Students in primary and secondary schools do not even have any proper building. They are forced to hold classes under the open sky or shady trees whereas the Government spends extravagantly on higher education.

Even the children of the rural affluent do not want to attend the schools in rural areas. Only those students attend such schools who cannot afford to attend schools outside the village. Today the students prefer to attend those schools which have a good building and equipments. The rural affluent are under the impression that good education can be imparted by spending a large amount.

Therefore, instead of sending their children to schools in rural areas they prefer to send them to prestigious schools in urban areas.

Sir, I want to submit that our present hon. Minister for Education is very competent and considerate. If improvement in education does not take place in his tenure it will be never done. He has an unshakable faith in the country. I, therefore, through you submit that improvement should be made in education and the dual policy of education should come to an end. Only one uniform education policy should be adopted.

Sir, even during the ancient times language region and location were no hurdle for education but today the situation is somewhat different. The hon. Member who spoke prior to me rightly pointed out that the scheme of adult education is confined to papers only. The Government funds are going down in drain without the desired results. The officers employed for this task are cor-

rupt and the entire money meant for those schemes is being pocketed among themselves. Why does the Government not monitor it? Why does it not send the monitoring team to Bihar to find out the reality? If it is done, it will be revealed that the crores of rupees being spent by the Government on adult education is going waste. The Government should not think that its duty is over merely by spending the funds. It should monitor whether the money is being spent properly or not.

May it be the State Government or the Central Government, the money should be used aptly.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there are hundreds of villages in my constituency, Jahanabad, which do not have a school even. It has been mentioned in the Constitution that the children between the age group of 6 to 14 years will be given free and compulsory education but, how will they get education when there are no schools. What is the importance of compulsory education? Therefore, the basic thing is also to be taken into consideration. The basic thing has been left aside. There are many villages which have the population of 600 to one thousand and which do not have schools, then what is the use of the compulsory education for the children there. What will they make out of this compulsory education. Will not the people of that area think that neither the Union Government nor the State Government pays heed to their problems? How can we educate our children? The law has been enacted but the schools have not been brought closer to the people. Those children of six years of age are still the bread earner for their parents. You might have seen the children of age group of 5 to 6 years engaged in petty works. The children work in the bus factories. They make the

carpets. The law is just for name-sake. The law has been amended twice in this House. We would like to know the benefits of these amendments. The Government has just enacted the law that it is a severe crime, if the small children are made to work.

Yesterday, I visited an officer's house, there also a child of six years brought tea for me. People are involved in the crime even after the law has been enacted. What arrangements will be made for their education? My suggestion is that a survey should be conducted regarding all those children and give them education accordingly. Will the parents not like that their children should get good education and become officers. Such children belong to Schedule Castes and Backward Classes.

The syllabus is so vast that they can not buy even the books. The Central Government should keep an eye over the aid given to the State Governments, whether the money has been utilised or not.

You talk about Operation Black-Board. My submission is that there may be any party's rule in the State but the Central Government should check whether the work is going on there or not. If the State Government fails to do so, the Central Government should ask the State Government to explain the reasons for it. My suggestion is that the schools should be opened in the areas which have the population of 500-1000. The primary schools should have at least six rooms. Sufficient materials for imparting education to the children should also be available.

New system of education has been introduced in the educational institutions

[Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

of Bihar i.e. the officiating teachers in the educational institutions depute a person who has passed matriculation; in their place on rupees 100 per month. Besides it such teachers give rupees 100 to the inspectors even for administrative protection. The person deputed by the teacher in his place teaches but the teacher does some other work. This new method has been evolved and corruption is on the increase day by day. Severe steps should be taken to save the country from corruption.

Today the condition in our country are very bad due to the anarchy prevailing in the educational institutions. The whole case should be investigated. Arrangements should be made to construct buildings for every school and the teachers should be appointed in time. With these words, I conclude.

DR. S.P. YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman Sir, the demands for grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development are being discussed. This Ministry was set up in 1985. The aims, at which this Ministry was set up have not been achieved. This Ministry was set up for the development of women education, child development, art, culture and youth programmes. Hon. Shri Arjun Singh, is the Human Resource Development Minister of the 10th Lok Sabha. He is making every effort to make up the deficiencies of Congress. Please, pay attention to eradicate corruption and irregularities found in the field of education. Today, education has become a subject of the State only. Education should be brought in the concurrent list and this should be handed over to the Central Government so that there can be an equal education system throughout the country.

One can see that in Uttar Pradesh, primary education, junior high school education and secondary education are different from the other States. Every State has its own syllabus. We have failed to provide equal education even after independence. The irregularities are due to it. The primary education and the junior high school education are far away from reality. There are two types of education today—the one is the primary education in the cities and the other is the primary education in the villages. We write a number of letters to the hon. Minister regarding the city primary education. We write to the hon. Minister to recommend a child's admission in Central School or in some other school. The arrangements have not been made till date for the admission of the children whether the child lives in Delhi, Patna, Lucknow, or in some other city. The problem of admission is severe. Letters of many hon. Members are received by the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister has formed the system since last year that an hon. Member can recommend only two children for admission. Where the others will go in this case? A number of people approach us for it. If arrangements can not be made for the education of the people then leave the idea of educating them.

No attention has been paid towards the schools in rural areas. If there are 300 children then the teachers are just one or two. There is no proper seating arrangements for them and the buildings are not sufficient for studies. I am sorry to inform you that last year the roof of a three storey school building had collapsed in Moradabad. The third floor roof collapsed so the second and first floor collapsed in chain. Four hundred boys and girls trapped in the debris and were died. This major accident took place in that school in Moradabad. The manager

of that school was arrested but he was granted bail on the very next day. Ask the parents of those little school children, who have died. Shri Rajesh Pilotji had gone there and he brought few children and got them admitted in the All India institute of Medical Sciences. Even then around 400 children died there. When the people were removing the debris from there, they were lathi charged by police and were asked to be away from the debris on the pretext of fear of fanning Hindu-Muslim riots. A little girl came in between two pillars, she peeped from a hole asked for a glass of water. The pillars were cut down and removed and the girl was rescued.

Neither the Central Government nor the State Government is bothered about the plight of the rural areas and the small towns. It is obvious that since 1989 the demands of the Ministry of Human Resource Development have not been discussed. This discussion is going on for the first time. When there will be no discussion how the hon. Members will be able to put forth their problems.

My submission is that in the primary schools in rural areas, there is the problem of mattress, building and admission. The Government should be aware of these problems and these should be removed. I would like to submit one more thing that our primary education and the secondary education are dominated by politics. Conduct a survey of the problems of the rural and urban areas then a number of parents would come to Delhi and will say that their children have not been given admission. When they are not given admission, how will they get education. This is the responsibility of the Government to make arrangements for the education of each and every child.

I would like to draw your attention towards one more thing. Some of the our colleagues were saying as to whether education is on the Central list or on the Concurrent list. I would like to know from you that during 1991-92 the B.J.P. was in power in Uttar Pradesh and they had issued an anti copying ordinance. I think that they had issued the ordinance because the tendency of copying was at its peak in Uttar Pradesh, the hon. Minister may not be knowing that there were contracts from the process of filling up of forms to the conducting exams and the examining of the copies. Both the Management as well as the Principal were involved in it. I had welcomed that ordinance in the House. I had also said that a formula should have been evolved by consulting the educationists so that the children-both, girls and boys of the age group of 15-16 should not have sent to jails. Only the Principal of that college should have been given punishment. The principal in whose college the incidents of copying or mass copying take place, would be given 6 months imprisonment. I know that if the Principal does not desire there will not be any incidents of copying in that college. If one person is cheeked from doing wrong, the whole college will be streamlined.

It was unfortunate that elections took place again in 1993 in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yadav ji, your speech will continue tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 3, 1993/Vaisakha 13, 1916 (Saka)