

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. XXXVIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Thursday, March 23, 1995/Chaitra 2, 1917 (Saka)

<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
1/10	(Mayiladurai)	(Mayiladuturai)
3/20	force	from
8/16 110/5 119/13	Shri M.V.V.S.Murthi	Shri M.V.V.S. Murthy
22/17(from below)	Shri Lal Babu Rai	Shri Lall Babu Ra
30/8 (from below)	(Shri P.M.Sayeed)	(Shri P.M.Sayeed)
33/17 106/13	Prof.(Smt.) Savithri Lakshmanan	Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan
38/29	Shrimati Bhavna Chikhalia	Shrimati Bhavna Chikhlia
39/15	Shri Ramchandra Ghangare	Shri Ramchandra Marotrao Ghangare
39/29	Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey	Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya
48/3 97/15 120/12	Prof.(Smt.) Rita Verma	Prof. Rita Verma
154/12	put fourth	put forth
160/33	Dr. Kartikeshwar Patra	Dr. Kartikeswar Patra

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 23, 1995/Chaitra 2, 1917 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Koderma): Sir, it is highly objectionable that again the dates have been rescheduled in Bihar... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladurai): Sir, I am on point of order under the rules relating to the organisation of the business of the House and the rules relating to the holding of Joint Sessions of the two Houses.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in Question Hour.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: If we do not raise the point of order now, during Zero Hour you will say that there is no point of order at that time. I wish to raise the point of order with regard to the organisation of Business. I would like to seek the instructions of the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, democracy is being murdered in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, please give me a minute, I will explain what I have to and then I will sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura):(Interruptions) The people of Bihar are suffering due to postponement of election dates every now and then. They are making fun of democracy and we are doing nothing in this House. Election Commission had notified on 16th January that the elections will be held on 7, 9 and 11 of this month but later on these were changed to 11, 15 and 19. The dates were changed once again. Elections were held on 11th but other dates were again changed. For the last 3 months tractors, buses and other vehicles have been seized in the State. Vehicles are being seized not only once but four time and even then, it is being said in the whole country that Election Commission.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot raise it like this. It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise it after Question Hour and it will go on record also.

*(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my colleagues have mentioned the name of the Governor and that is why I am reacting to it; they have also brought in the Central Government. Sir, the elections in any State are held in consultation with the State Government and the Chief Election Commissioner. We have an elected Government in Bihar. The Central Government have only one role, that is, on the request of the Chief Election Commissioner and the State Government, they provide paramilitary forces to maintain the law and order which will be in addition to police force of the State. We have no other role in that. The dates are fixed in consultation with the State Government. And today, we have an elected Government there. So, it is a matter between the CEC and the State Government. It has nothing to do with the Central Government. Let me put it on record here that it is a matter between the State Government and the CEC; we have nothing to do with it.

I share your feelings. (Interruptions) I share the feelings of the hon. Member that when the extension is done like this, it is a burden on the candidate. We all have fought elections. We all feel that when they extend the dates to that degree, there is a burden on the party, there is a burden on the candidate and there is a burden on the common man. I agree with you that tractors and buses are acquired or requisitioned in advance. There is no doubt about it. But Bihar's case has been so much in the limelight that 800 companies, which were never given to any State in our history, were provided there because the Chief Election Commissioner said that he would not hold the elections till paramilitary forces of this quantum were given to him. We have pulled the forces from Assam, we have pulled the forces from Manipur. So, let me assure you that we have nothing to do with this.

(Translation)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek this much clarification from the hon. Minister. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, his statement will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now Shri Rajesh Pilot has said that it is a matter between the State Government and C.E.C. but I would like to say that these elections have been postponed on the basis of the Governor's report received by the Central Government direct. That report should have been sent through the State Government. There is a Government in the State and the matter relates to it. It has been clearly stated by the Election Commissioner that the Governor's report clearly recommended the extension of the election dates. I am not saying that Governor should not have sent the report but he should have informed the Bihar Government. Had he

asked the State Government to postpone the elections, it would have done so. I would, therefore, like to know as to whether you constitutionally approve the act of the Governor of the State? Whether you consider it appropriate that Election Commissioner should postpone elections on the basis of Governor's report.

It is my submission that the whole House wants election reforms but election reforms do not mean such actions. CEC's duty is to hold elections. Tenure of the Legislative Assembly in Bihar is expiring on 15th March. Bihar Government has written about the shortage of police force and has shown the anxiety as to whether the requirement of police force could be met if elections are held for the whole country. Elections have been held earlier also in spite of shortage of force but it does not mean that rigging took place in earlier elections. I would like to say that Bihar Government itself has asked for more police force as there is shortage in the State and has told that free and fair elections cannot be held with insufficient force. It is not a demand force CEC only. This aspect should have been considered before deciding the dates as how much police force will be required. Expenditure on elections by the Government as well as the candidates will waste and it will increase the burden on common man, State Government and farmers. Though it is the harvest time, tractors are being seized four times. All the buses have also been seized. 70 lakh persons have come to the State from outside....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: From now onwards it will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: This is Question Hour. You cannot hold the House to ransom ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to have your say after the Question Hour. It will be recorded also. Others also have a right to ask questions in Question Hour. You are obstructing others.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: You can suspend the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not suspending. I can facilitate it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: It is the most crucial matter. I have already given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Heavens are not going to fall if you raise it at 12 o'clock.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I have already given the notice for suspension of Question Hour. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct. I am not suspending the Question Hour. I am allowing you to raise it at 12 o'clock.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: This is a serious matter. It can happen in other State also. Therefore, please suspend the Question Hour. We have already given a notice. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot do this. Let the House decide about it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We have given notice for suspension of Question Hour. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not accepting that. You give the notice. I will accept it. You give the notice and ask for the vote. I will do that. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Many times in the past, you have suspended the Question Hour. Please suspend the Question Hour now also.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not suspending it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The entire people of Bihar are agitated because they are deprived of exercising their franchise. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are trespassing on the rights of the other Members to ask questions. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please call the Marshals and throw them out of the House.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: If you want to throw us out of the House, we are ready for that.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to do that. I am not going to oblige you that way. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Why are you afraid of elections? Why are you postponing elections time and again? We are demanding election. (Interruptions)

11.14¹/₂ hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Mumtaz Ansari and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: Let it be recorded that this is a very unruly behaviour in the House which we do not appreciate.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at Twelve of the Clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Integrated Tribal Development Programme

*141. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribal areas having a population of 3000 come under the Integrated Tribal Development Programme;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to extend this programme in all the tribal areas irrespective of their population;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) To cover the tribals outside ITDPs, Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) has been adopted. MADA pockets are identified as pockets of concentrations of ST population containing 50% or more ST population within a total population of 10,000/- For still smaller pockets of tribal concentrations, "Cluster" approach has been adopted. The clusters are identified pockets of tribal concentration containing 50% or more ST population within a total population of about 5,000. The ST population left uncovered by ITDPs/MADA pockets/Clusters are covered by the programmes for dispersed ST population for whom beneficiary-oriented anti-poverty programmes are implemented.

Mentally Retarded Persons

*142. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
DR. MUMTAJ ANSARI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for setting up of a National Trust for the welfare of persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (d) A proposal to set up National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy is under consideration. Efforts are being made to set up the Trust at the earliest.

[English]

Cess on Crude Oil and Natural Gas

*143. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cess is levied on production of crude oil and natural gas;

(b) if so, the total amount of cess accrued during the last three years;

(c) the amount of cess released to Oil Industrial Development Board (OIDB) for programmes connected with the exploration, production, refining and marketing of petroleum products during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the cess was used for meeting budget deficit; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

- (a) Cess has been levied on production of crude oil but not on natural gas.
- (b) Total amount of cess accrued during the last three years i.e. 1991-92 to 1993-94 comes to Rs. 6850 crores.
- (c) An amount of Rs. 95.00 crores was released to the OIDB during 1991-92. No amount has been paid in 1992-93 and 1993-94.
- (d) Proceeds from the cess form part of the general and cash balance of the Government, out of which
- (e) Government has been financing, inter-alia development of oil industry, which includes, besides petroleum and petro-chemicals, fertilizer industry also.

Payments for Films

*144. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the charges being paid by Doordarshan for telecast of Hindi, English and various regional language films on Doordarshan, separately;

(b) whether there is any difference in charges for films being telecast on different channels and on different days;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to remove the anomalies, if any;

(e) whether many films are repeated by Doordarshan more than once in a year;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) Doordarshan pays royalty for feature films on a differential basis depending upon the channel/timeslot concerned. The details are enclosed to the statement.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. Doordarshan resorts to the re-telecast of feature films on its national network only in exceptional cases depending upon its programme requirement from time to time.

STATEMENT

Rate Structure of Royalty for Telecast of Feature Films on the National Network

1. Hindi/Regional (Colour)	A	Rs. 8.00 lakhs
	B+	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
	B	Rs. 4.00 lakhs

(i) If the film is in Black & White 25% less

(ii) First repeat — 70% of the grade

(iii) Second & Subsequent repeats — 50% of the grade.

2. Premier telecast of Hindi/Regional feature — Rs. 8.00 lakhs films

3. Children's film

Category	Upto 90 minutes & above	Upto 60 minutes
A	Rs. 4.00 lakhs	Rs. 2,65,000
B	Rs. 3.00 lakhs	Rs. 2,00,000

For Hindi films telecast from Delhi and linked LPT's

Grade 'A' films	— Rs. 2.40 lakhs
Grade 'B' films	— Rs. 1.80 lakhs
Grade 'C' films	— Rs. 1.30 lakhs

For Regional Kendras

The royalty rates for telecast of feature films from various Doordarshan Kendras are as under:—

Category of film	Delhi & linked transmitters	Bombay Calcutta Hyderabad Madras & Bangalore (with their linked transmitters)	Ahmedabad Bangalore Cuttack Jalandhar Lucknow Trivandrum	Guwahati Srinagar
A	1,30,000	65,000	52,000	32,500
B+	1,00,000	50,000	40,000	25,000
B	70,000	35,000	28,000	17,500

Satellite Regional Language Services (SRLS)

Grade 'A' films	: Rs. 35 lakhs
Grade 'B+' films	: Rs. 30 lakhs
Grade 'B' films	: Rs. 25 lakhs
(i) First repeat	: 30% less
(ii) Second repeat	: 50% less
Black & White : 25% less	

[Translation]

Demand of Coal

*145. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of coal during each of the last two years;

(b) the extent to which the demand was met;

(c) the estimated demand of coal during 1995-96; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to bridge the gap between the demand and production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) & (b) The projected demand of coal for years 1992-93 and 1993-94 and actual materialisation was:

(in million tonnes)

	1992-93		1993-94	
	Projected Demand	Materialisation of Demand	Projected Demand	Materialisation of Demand
Raw Coal	256.70	241.69	268.80	253.00

(c) & (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (c) & (d) in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *145 for answer on 23rd March, 1995 regarding Demand of Coal.

(c) Demand assessed for the year 1995-96 is 288.00 m.t.

(d) Against the demand for 1995-96 production of raw coal in the country is estimated to be 274.50 m.t. The gap between demand and production will be met by importing 6 m.t. of coking coal for purpose of blending and by draw-down of pit-head stocks to the extent of 7.5 m.t.

[English]

Petroleum Products Import

146. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee to look into the issue of decanalisation of petroleum products import;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to give its report;

(d) whether any representations have been received seeking changes in the present system;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) to (f) Review of Export and Import Policy is a continuing process and changes are made as and when considered necessary. Under the EXIM Policy 1992-97, only five petroleum products are not decanalised. Further, out of these, the Government has also permitted the import of Aviation Turbine Fuel, Bitumen (Asphalt) Paving Grade and Furnace Oil (except LSHS & LSWR) against Special Import Licences.

Revenue Earned by D.D.

*147. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):

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

(a) the amount of revenue earned by Doordarshan through telecast of advertisements during the current year so far;

(b) the projected revenue earnings for 1995-96;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to use this revenue earnings for the improvement in the quality of T.V. programmes; and

(d) the expenditure incurred by the Government for providing infrastructural facilities to Doordarshan during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The gross revenue earned by Doordarshan during April 1994 to February, 1995 is Rs. 332.11 crores.

(b) Rs. 455 crores.

(c) Improvement in the quality of programmes, in-house as well as through outside producers, is a continuous endeavour of Doordarshan.

(d) Expenditure under Capital and Revenue Plan segment is as under:—

1. 1992-93	Capital (including charged)	132.69
	Revenue	43.56
	Total	176.25
2. 1993-94	Capital (including charged)	117.82
	Revenue	50.40
	Total	168.20
3. 1994-95	Capital (including charged)	*171.06
	Revenue	*84.94
	Total	256.00

*Anticipated expenditure.

[Translation]

Advertisement Policy

*148. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any guidelines regarding telecasting of commercial advertisements on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have banned advertisements relating to liquor, cigarette, Pan Masala, etc. on the Doordarshan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Advertisement over Doordarshan are governed by the Code for commercial Advertisement of Doordarshan which inter-alia provides that advertisement shall be so designed as to conform to the laws of the country and should not offend against morality, decency and religious susceptibilities of the people.

(c) & (d) Advertisements relating to liquor, cigarettes, and Pan Masala are not aired on Doordarshan.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Coal Washeries

*149. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to hand over the coal washeries in new areas to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which agreement in this regard is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) With the recent amendment of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, setting up of coal washeries in private sector has been allowed.

Coal India Limited (CIL) have invited tenders for setting up of four washeries for a total input of 21.20 million tonnes per annum in phase I on 'Build-Own-Operate' basis.

Agreement between the selected tenderers and CIL will get finalised after long-term commitment from the consumers (mainly power houses) for purchase of washed coal is available.

Gas Leakage

*150. DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

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

(a) whether there was an extensive leakage of natural gas from the wells of ONGC in Tripura in the recent past;

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered as a result thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. However, there was a minor leakage of gas on 16.1.1995. in Well No. Ad-D at Agartala Dome area.

(b) The loss suffered is negligible since the leakage was so small.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. It was found that the leakage was due to tampering of the master valve and the theft of X-mas tree valves and accessories. The security measures around the well sites have been stepped up.

Agreement with China

*151. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have agreed to constitute a task force for overseeing and reviewing cooperation programmes in the coal sector;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the agreements signed between India and China in regard to coal;

(d) whether China has shown interest in setting up coal washeries in India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the Chinese technology would be utilised in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Task Force has been agreed upon to monitor the progress of implementation of projects taken up with Chinese co-operation. The Task Force comprises of representatives of Ministry of Coal, Government of India, Ministry of Coal Industry of People's Republic of China, China National Coal Mining Engineering Equipment Group Corporation and concerned Enterprises, Coal India Limited, Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Jessop and Company and Andhra Pradesh Heavy Machinery and Engineering Corporation Limited.

(c) The Singareni Collieries Company Limited has signed an agreement with China National Coal Mining Engineering Equipment Group Corporation, for the purchase of two sets of longwall equipment and one trunk belt conveyor system. So far as Coal India Limited is concerned, draft agreements have been finalised for introduction of Longwall Mining in Churcha West, Rajendra, Balrampur, and New Kumda Underground projects of CIL. Jessop and Company Limited, an Indian public sector undertaking have also signed a co-manufacturing agreement with Chinese National Coal Mining Engineering Equipment Group Corporation for underground longwall equipment to be manufactured in a phased manner.

(d) and (e) yes, Sir. China has been informed that they may participate in the global tenders invited by Coal India Limited for construction of washeries.

(f) The areas identified for Indo-China cooperation in the field of coal mining inter-alia include introduction of mechanised longwall mining under difficult strata conditions; mine construction works like shaft sinking; construction of washeries and utilisation of coal in form of briquettes etc.

Planning Process

*152. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reorient the planning process;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated by the Planning Commission in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) The Eight Five Year Plan proposes an increase in share of private sector investment in some of the key sectors of the economy, a very selective role of public sector in coverage of activities and a shift in allocation of Government expenditure in favour of Social sectors. In line with this reorientation of planning process, the private sector share in Gross Capital Formation has increased from 55.9 per cent during the Seventh Plan to 58.3 per cent in 1993-94 (Quick Estimates) and the component of budget support for social sectors in the Central Plan has increased from 28.0 per cent in the Seventh Plan to 46.4 per cent in 1994-95 (Budget Estimate).

Ground Water

*153. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has prepared a national perspective plan to increase the availability of ground water in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A study has been carried out by the Central Ground Water Board on the concept of recharge of ground water by utilising surplus monsoon runoff in the country.

(b) The study is only an internal technical exercise on the possibilities of ground water recharge based on macro-level consideration of the geological formations in various river basins.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign Missionaries

*154. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign missionaries working in India as on January 1, 1994 and January 1, 1995, State-wise;

(b) whether any foreign missionaries were asked to leave the country;

(c) if so, the details including the grounds on which they were asked to do so;

(d) whether there are any laws under which the activities of foreign missionaries are monitored; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (e) Information regarding registered foreign missionaries in India (State-wise) is available as on 1.1.1994 and is enclosed as statement. Figures as on 1.1.95 are under compilation.

Activities of foreigners including missionaries are regulated by the State Governments/Union Territory Governments/Administrations who have been delegated powers under the Foreigners Act, 1946 to regulate/monitor their entry, registration, stay and exit. As per available information recently two U.S. missionaries working in District Jalaun, U. P. were asked to leave India as they came to adverse notice.

STATEMENT

Statewise Report of Registered Missionaries As On. 1.1.1994

Sl. No.	State/UT	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	113
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	8
4.	Bihar	143
5.	Goa	16
6.	Gujarat	142
7.	Haryana	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	24
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8
10.	Karnataka	—
11.	Kerala	284
12.	Madhya Pradesh	42
13.	Maharashtra	263
14.	Manipur	—
15.	Maghalaya	51
16.	Mizoram	10
17.	Nagaland	—
18.	Orissa	40
19.	Punjab	—
20.	Rajasthan	2
21.	Sikkim	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	529
23.	Tripura	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	129
25.	West Bengal	258
26.	A & N Islands.	—
27.	Chandigarh	5
28.	Dadra & Ngr. Havell	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—
30.	Delhi	38
31.	Lakshadweep	—
32.	Pondicherry	20
TOTAL		2126

ONGC

*155. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has expressed grave concern over the financial crisis in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC);

(b) if so, whether the policy regarding pro-private investment in the oil sector is mainly responsible for this crisis;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has also shown unhappiness over 40 p.c. equity participation by ONGC in joint ventures; and

(d) if so, the steps suggested by the Planning Commission to ONGC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is now possible for ONGC to go to capital market for raising resources. The Corporation's internal resources position has also improved following increase in the price of domestic crude oil produced by ONGCOIL since 1992. It is therefore felt in Planning Commission that in the changed context, it would be desirable to review the decision to award the work of development of already discovered oil fields to private parties with 40% equity participation of ONGC. Development of such fields by ONGC on their own would enable the Corporation to reap the benefits of the risk investment already incurred by them in discovering new reserves and also improve their financial position further from the sales revenue of the oil and gas produced from these fields.

Electronic Barbed Wire System

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import sensor attached electronic barbed wire system from Israel;

(b) whether a high level Indian delegation has recently visited Tel Aviv in regard thereto;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the areas identified where such barbed wire system is proposed to be installed; and

(e) the extent to which the infiltration is likely to be curbed as a results thereof;

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. A high level delegation has visited Israel on 18th and 19th January, 1995 to study various border security systems.

(d) No specific areas have yet been identified for this purpose.

(e) No such assessment has been made in view of (d) above.

Power plants

*157. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has expressed its serious concern over the slow progress in setting up of private power plants;

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

(c) whether any directives have been issued in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) As per the assessment, only about 20000 MW is expected to be added during the Eighth Plan against a total targetted capacity addition of 30538 MW. Out of the Eighth Plan capacity addition target, about 1472 MW is likely to be added in the private sector against the earlier estimate of 2810 MW during the Eighth Plan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Identification of Foreigners

*158. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since evolved the criterion for the identification of foreigners in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether different State are pursuing different methodologies to detect the foreigners, particularly in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Assam;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to work out a single set of criterion for all the States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (e) The legal criteria for identification/ detection of foreigners in the North Eastern States, as in the rest of the country, are quite clear. The definition of a foreigner, entry of foreigners into India and their departure therefrom is governed by the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 which are universally applicable in all the States including the North East. However, a special procedure for detection/ expulsion of illegal migrants entering Assam on or after 25.3.1971 has been provided under the illegal Migrants (Determination of Tribunals) Act, 1983, which came into force in that State on October 15, 1983. Since a foreigner is one who is not a citizen, the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 also apply. In Section 6A of this Act, special

provisions as to the citizenship of persons covered by the Assam Accord have been made for the State of Assam (which means territories included in that State immediately before the commencement of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985). The Central Government had also issued clear instructions in September, 1972 with regard to illegal migrants from Bangladesh that only those refugees who were forced to leave Bangladesh and take refuge in India after 25.3.1971 would be returned to Bangladesh for re-settlement. Considering that the impact of the foreigners problem varies from one State to the other in the North-East, the States have been finding local responses to the identification of foreigners, and Government of India is seized of the matter.

[Translation]

Poverty Eradication Schemes

*159. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some proposals regarding poverty eradication schemes from various State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance sought by each State Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The Union Government has not received any fresh proposal regarding poverty eradication schemes from any State Government. However, the major on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Poverty Alleviation being implemented in the rural and urban areas of the country are: (i) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (ii) The Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY); (iii) The Employment Assurance Schemes (EAS); and (iv) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Per Capita Income

*160. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita income during 1992-93, 1993-94, and 1994-95, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the States which have per capita income below the national average consistently since the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(c) the reasons for low per capita income of these States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate growth process in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The State/Union-

Territorywise Per Capita Income (Per Capita Net State Domestic Product) at Current Prices for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given in the enclosed statement. Figures for 1994-95 are not available.

(b) The States which have per capita income (Per Capita Net State Domestic Product) below the per capita income of the Nation (Per Capita Net National Product) as a whole, consistently since the Sixth Five Year Plan are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) The per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) differ among the States for various reasons like historically uneven development of infrastructure, industrial and entrepreneurship development in various regions, variation in rainfall, drought and floods and population growth.

(d) The State Governments are implementing development plans for increasing income. The Central Government provides Central Assistance for State Plans accordingly to a formula in which higher weightage is given to the States which have lower per capita income.

STATEMENT

Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices

STATE/U.T.	YEAR	
	1992-93 (P)	1993-94 (Q)
1. ANDHRA PRADESH	5767	6489
2. ARUNACHAL PRADESH	7389	8172
3. ASSAM	5056	—
4. BIHAR	3280	—
5. GOA	11294	11658
6. GUJARAT	7586	—
7. HARYANA	9171	10359
8. HIMACHAL PR.	—	—
9. J&K	4212	—
10. KARNATAKA	6443	7029
11. KERALA	5713	6009
12. MADHYA PR.	4733	5485
13. MAHARASTRA	9628	10984
14. MANIPUR	—	—
15. MEGHALAYA	5769	5926
16. MIZORAM	—	—
17. NAGALAND	—	—
18. ORISSA	3963	—
19. PUNJAB	11106	12319
20. RAJASTHAN	5035	5009
21. SIKKIM	—	—
22. TAMILNADU	6205	—
23. TRIPURA	—	—
24. UTTAR PRADESH	4280	—
25. WEST BENGAL	5901	—

STATE/U.T.	YEAR	
	1992-93 (P)	1993-94 (Q)
26. A&N ISLANDS	6751	—
27. DELHI	—	—
28. PONDICHERRY	9314	—

Q: Quick Estimates

P: Provisional

—: Not made available by the concerned state Government.

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective Governments through CSO.

Note: 1. The figures are not strictly comparable owing to difference in source material.

2. Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep do not prepare these estimates.

[Translation]

Assessment of River Water Flow

*1386. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has accurately assessed the river water flow in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(e) whether advance warning regarding flood in rivers was given by the Central Water Commission;

(f) if so, the total annual expenditure incurred on the forecasting during the last three years; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to enhance the accuracy of flood forecasting in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) Central Water Commission is measuring river water flow at 27 sites and making inflow forecast at 4 sites in Gujarat.

(e) Flood forecasting facility has been provided by the Central Water Commission in the State of Gujarat at 10 sites including 4 inflow forecast sites. Advance warnings are issued regularly during the flood period.

(f) During 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 expenditure incurred on flood forecasting are Rs. 91.8 lakhs, Rs. 87.6 lakhs and Rs. 89.8 lakhs respectively.

(g) Accuracy of forecast issued during the year 1994 was 96 percent. However, enhancement of accuracy is a constant endeavour.

[English]

Revision of Pay Scales

1387. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing unrest among the employees in Coal section

over non-revision of pay scales and other emoluments overdue for revision since January 1, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time bound action plan has been worked out to revise pay structures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d). Revision of scales of pay of executives of Coal India Limited has become due since 1.1.1992. As per the practice prevailing in the coal industry, revision of pay scales of executives is taken up after the wages of workers are revised. Though wage revision in respect of workers has become due w.e.f. 1.7.91, the same is yet to be finalised, as the negotiations between management and workers for this purpose could not be held till November, 1994, on account of stay orders of the Calcutta High Court.

Supply of LPG in Gujarat

1388. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the efforts made to ensure smooth supply of LPG in Gujarat; and

(b) the extent of demand and the supply of LPG in Gujarat during last three year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). The demand of existing consumers of LPG in Gujarat, who are enrolled with the distributors, is by and large being met in full. Temporary backlogs that may arise are cleared by augmenting LPG supplies through operation of Bottling Plants during extended hours and on holidays and by arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas.

The LPG sales in the state of Gujarat during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given below:—

	Figures in thousand
1991-92	233.9
1992-93	258.1
1993-94	267.2

Oil Exploration

1389. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some US based oil drilling multinational majors have shown keen interest in the Indian oil exploration projects and other activities in the hydrocarbon sector;

(b) if so, the details of the US based companies indicating the projects and the activities with which they desire to be associated in India;

(c) whether any memoranda of Understanding has been signed recently for horizontal drilling;

(d) if so the details thereof;

(e) whether one of the US based company is also interested in marketing the equipment and services to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL); and

(f) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Various US companies have on their own or as part of consortia submitted bids for exploration/development and speculative surveys of blocks/fields offered to pvt. companies from time to time. Govt. has so far approved the award of contracts for the blocks KG-OS-99/1, GK-ON-90/2 and CY-OS-90/1 for which US companies had submitted bids. Further govt. has also approved award of contracts for development of medium sized field Mukta, panna and Mid & South Tapli to a consortium led by Enron Exploration company of USA. M/s Joshi Technology International Inc. USA and Petrodyne Inc USA are members of two consortia with whom contracts have been signed for development of small sized fields Dholka and Wavel and Asjol respectively. Approval has also been accorded for formation of Joint Venture Co. between Caltex Petroleum Corp. USA and IBP Co. Ltd. of India for manufacture and marketing of lubricants. IOC have also entered into Joint venture with Mobil International Petroleum Inc USA for blending and marketing of Mobil brand lubricants. In addition to the above Exxon Corp. of USA through its affiliates have entered into an MOU with HPCL for transfer of technology and marketing of lubricants.

(c) to (f). Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in Refinery Capacity

1390. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of petroleum products is much costlier than crude; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to increase the refining capacity with special reference to the revised industrial policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The import of crude oil and petroleum products is done both under term contracts with the National Oil companies and spot purchases at market related prices which are influenced by demand and supply situation and hence are subject to wide fluctuations. The prices of crude oil and petroleum products are not directly comparable to each other.

(b) Government have allowed private investment in the oil refining sector. As against the present refining capacity of 56.40 MMTPA, the total refining capacity in the country as per the Letters of Intent issued is expected to be around 144 MMTPA including EOU refineries after all projects are

implemented. This capacity would be sufficient to meet the projected demand in future, with the demand in the year 2001-2002 estimated to be approximately 102 MMTPA.

Hydel Power Project at Farakka Barrage

1391. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for construction of a hydel power project at Farakka Barrage has been approved by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for inordinate delay; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d). Farakka Barrage Hydro Electric Project with an installed capacity of 5 × 25 M.W. is under consideration of the Government. The Project will be approved after obtaining all statutory clearances.

[Translation]

Demand of Natural Gas

1392. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has demanded gas to set up gas based power plants during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the quantum of gas demanded by the Government of Gujarat;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the quantum of gas likely to be given for these power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d). The Government of Gujarat has demanded gas to set up gas based power plants including the proposed plant at Pipavav. 7.55 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to power plants in Gujarat. As the gas projected to be available is fully allocated, it is not feasible to consider any further allocation at present.

Exploration Activities

1393. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase oil exploration activities in collaboration with foreign oil companies;

(b) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has received any proposals from the Government of Kuwait to undertake joint oil exploration; and

(c) if so, the reaction and response of the Indian Government to the proposal of Kuwait?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): A delegation from Kuwait visited India in January 1995. They expressed willingness to participate in exploration programme in India. However, no formal proposal in this regard has been received from Kuwait so far.

Closure of LPG Agencies

1394. SHRI LAL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

" (a) the number of gas agencies closed down in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor and the number of agencies out of them which have been allowed to restart; and

(c) the details of agencies against whom the enquiry has not been completed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Four LPG distributorships were closed (terminated) in Bihar during the last three years.

(b) Three distributorships were terminated due to various malpractices and one distributorship was terminated in pursuance of Court orders.

(c) None, Sir.

Oil Selection Board, Bihar

1395. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the members in the Selection Board for Bihar;

(b) whether Government have issued any directives to the Board regarding recommendations to be made for the dealership of petrol;

(c) if so, whether the recommendations of Board are obligatory;

(d) the total number of recommendations made by the Board so far for the dealership of petrol in Bihar; and

(e) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (e) Oil Selection Boards (OSBs) have been constituted by the Government for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products on the basis of interviews of the eligible candidates who apply in response to the advertisements of the Oil Marketing Companies. Recommendations of the OSBs are not referred to the Government for consideration. These are sent by them to the concerned Oil Companies for issue of Letters of Intent. Composition of the OSB for Bihar is as under:

1. Justice B. Prasad—Chairman
2. Dr. Faguni Ram—Member-I
3. Shri Shamim Hashmi—Member-II

Till January, 1995, the OSB (Bihar) has recommended merit panels for 131 retail outlet dealerships.

Central Assistance

1396. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Union Government to increase the Central assistance for the current financial years

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRDHAR GAMANG): (a) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested Special Central Assistance of Rs. 300 crores for the current financial year—of which Rs. 200 crores is for minimum needs programme and Rs. 100 crores for the development of backward areas of purvanchal and Bundelkhand in the State.

(b) and (c) The proposal of the State Government does not give any details. State Government have been requested to furnish details of their proposal.

[English]

Recruitment of Sub-Divisional Engineers

1397. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the various sources for filling up the post of Sub-Divisional Engineer in the Department of Engineering, Union Territory, Chandigarh and the quota rule including reservation for SC/ST;

(b) whether representations have been received about disparity having been crept in over the years between different categories of candidates eligible for being promoted/recruited to the post of SD;

(c) if so, the whether any appraisal has been conducted about the present position; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The various sources are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) A number of representatives have been received from Junior Engineers for promotion to the post of Sub-Divisional Engineers against promotion quota, but the request made therein is for the posts in excess of the percentage laid down for them in the Rules. On appraisal, it has been found that Sub-Divisional Engineers against promotion quota from the various sources are in excess of the number of posts worked out for them as per the percentage laid down in the rules.

STATEMENT

1. Under the service rules applicable, the posts of Sub-Divisional Engineers in Building and Roads, Public Health and Electrical Wings of the Engineering Department of Union Territory of Chandigarh are filled up from the following sources:—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Direct/Deputation | 65% |
| (ii) Promotion from the Members of Sectional 20% Officers of the Engg. Department, Union Territory of Chandigarh. | |

(iii) Promotion from Draftsman Members of the 5% Engg. Department, Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(iv) Promotion from Members of the Union 10% Territory/Sectional Officers of Engg. Department and Draftsman Members of the Draftsman and Tracers Service, possessing AMIE Qualification

2. Recruitment of Sub-Divisional Engineers in the Electrical Wing of the Engineering Department is made as under:

By Direct Recruitment	57% a4(i)
(ii) By Promotion	43%
(a) Non-Diploma Holder	12%
(b) Diploma Holder	10%
(c) Drawing Establishment	3%
(d) AMIE (during service)	9%
(e) AMIE (at the time of joining service)	9%

3. As per policy of the Government, reservation for Scheduled Castes for direct recruitment and promotion is as under:

(i) In Direct Recruitment	14%
(ii) In Promotion	15%

[Translation]

Reservation For Backward Classes

1398. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the reservation benefits meant for the backward classes are being swallowed mostly by the children of the senior backward class officers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to provide employment to the needy persons of the backward classes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of persons belonging to backward classes appointed after implementation of Mandal Commission Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANKGKA BALU): (a) and (b). The Other Backward Classes are provided 27% reservation in Civil Posts and Services under the Government of India with effect from 8.9.93 subject to the exclusion of socially advanced persons/sections known as "Creamy Layer".

The exclusion principle of "Creamy Layer" will apply to those candidates whose parents or parent are/is Class-I officers or either of the parents become Class-I Officer before the age of 40; or where both parents are Class-II officers.

The children of Senior Officers (Class-I officers or both parents are Class-II Officers) are thus excluded from the benefit of reservation. The Government is not aware of any instance where reservation benefits have been utilised by the Children of Senior Backward class Officers.

(c) & (d). The Government has set up the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation on 15th January, 1992 with the main object of providing financial assistance to Backward Classes to enable them to set up self employment ventures. Only those persons from the OBCs are eligible for receiving financial assistance from the NBCFDC whose family income from all source is below double the poverty line income as defined by the Planning Commission from time to time.

(e) No centralised data is available regarding the number of persons belonging to Backward Classes appointed after implementation reservation.

LPG Agencies

1399. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from the Government of Bihar for opening additional new LPG agencies in every district headquarters of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which those proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). No such proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar. Under the existing policy of the Government of India, LPG facility is extended to Distt. Hqrs. as also towns having a population of 20,000 and above in a phased manner.

Changes in Lucknow DD Programmes

1400. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lucknow Doordarshan Kendra has recently brought some changes in its programmes to make the programmes more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the new popular programme started so far;

(d) whether any initiative has been taken to introduce educational programmes for the farmers, women and students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) (b) & (c). Yes, Sir. The following new programmes have been introduced by Doordarshan Kendra, Lucknow with effect from 9th May, 1994:

1. Shaam Sinduri (Variety entertainment programme) — Weekly.
2. Yoga (Programme on Yogic Exercises) — Weekly.
3. Kopal (Programme on Kitchen Gardening) — Fortnightly.
4. Teesri Ankh (Programme on Public Grievances) — Weekly.

(d) and (e). Besides relaying the ETV on the National network, including the UGC programme, the Kendra incorporates the input on non-formal education in a number of special audience programmes telecast by it viz. Disha Sanket, Vigyan Jagat, etc.

Annual Plan

1401. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Plan outlay sanctioned for 1994-95 to Bihar and the amount actually spent therefrom in various sectors;

(b) the reasons for the huge gap between outlay and expenditure; and

(c) the impact of the outlay utilised in different sectors particularly on the actual target areas of rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c). The approved annual plan outlay for 1994-95 for Bihar is given in the *Statement attached*. Figures of actual expenditure for a year are reported by the States at the time of discussion of the annual plan in the next financial year. Therefore, the actual expenditure for 1994-95 will be reported by the State of Bihar when the Annual Plan for 1996-97 is discussed.

STATEMENT

Approved Outlay 1994-95 — Bihar

(Rs. Crores)	
Major Heads of Development	Approved Outlay
1. Agriculture & Allied Activities	158.02
2. Rural Development	230.13
3. Special Area Programmes	103.72
4. Irrigation & Flood Control	558.60

(Rs. Crores)

Major Heads of Development		Approved Outlay
5.	Energy	402.85
6.	Industry & Minerals	71.31
7.	Transport	254.55
8.	Communications	—
9.	Science, Technology & Environment	2.58
10.	General Economic Services	78.42
11.	Social Services	506.63
12.	General Services	33.39
GRAND TOTAL		2400.00

LPG under PDS

1402. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell LPG under Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). Government Oil Companies viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited are already marketing LPG through Public Distribution System in terms of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1993, as amended from time to time.

LPTs in MP

1403. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complain that some of the low power transmitters installed in Madhya Pradesh are not functioning satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to instal the high power transmitters in place of low power transmitters in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details including the cost likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). Though the overall performance of the Low Power TV Transmitters (LPTs) in Madhya Pradesh is reported to be satisfactory, recently reports were received regarding breakdown at LPT Alirajpur (due to frequent power supply failure) and LPT Chattarpur (equipment failure due to power supply fluctuations). The reports of malfunctioning of the LPTs as and when received are duly attended.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. It is envisaged to replace 4 existing LPTs at Ambikapur, Guna, Sagar and Shahdol by High Power TV Transmitters (HPTs), subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities for the purpose. The normal lead time involved in implementation

of a project of this magnitude is approx. 3 years and each project costs approx. Rs. 10.00 crores.

Supply of Sub Standard Coal

1404. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that sub-standard quality of coal is being supplied to the Bandel Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c). Generally the complaints regarding quality of coal being supplied to the power houses relate to the presence of extraneous material in coal as also supply of over-sized coal. These complaints are examined on merit of each case and corrective action is taken to reduce the grievances of the consumers.

Steps like installation of feeder breakers, segregation of stones at the time of loading of coal, better supervision and encouraging the consumers to post their representatives at the loading point for quality loading are taken by the coal companies.

As a result of steps taken the quality of coal supplied to the Bandel Thermal Power Station in the recent past has been satisfactory.

LPG Agencies in M.P.

1405. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of the LPG agencies allotted during each of the last three years, in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): 38 LPG distributorships were commissioned in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years as under:—

1992-93 — 2
1993-94 — 12
1994-95 — 24

[English]

Central Sponsored Irrigation Projects

1406. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored irrigation projects completed during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of projects abandoned during the above period and the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are no Centrally Sponsored Irrigation Projects.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Central Assistance

1407. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised Gadgil Formula provides as 7.5 percent weightage in the normal Central Assistance to States to sort out their special problems;

(b) if so, the definitions of these special problems and the States in which they exist alongwith the norms laid down to identify these problems;

(c) whether per square kilometre average population in Madhya Pradesh is less than the national average due to which more investment is required for providing extra infrastructure facilities and services;

(d) whether in view of this 7.5 per cent weightage in Central assistance is likely to be provided to Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (e). Under the present revised Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula approved by the National Development Council in December, 1991 the criterion of "Special Problems" has a weight of 7.5 per cent. The special problem have not been specified under this Formula. In the past special problems like drought-prone areas, desert areas, flood-affected areas, densely populated areas, urban slums, environmental problems, special financial difficulties for achieving minimum reasonable plan size, etc., were considered in the allocations of Central assistance to the State (including Madhya Pradesh) under this criterion. The allocations have been made on the basis of the discussions between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Ministers/Governors of the States.

Smuggling of Arms and Ammunitions

1408. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arms and ammunitions being sent into India on a large scale by foreign nationals from Myanmar to instigate sabotaging and violent activities in North-Eastern areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.N. SAYEED): (a) to (c). Arms have been smuggled into the North East by some in Surgent/militant groups. These arms have been procured in third countries and smuggled via Bangladesh and from across the Indo-Myanmar border. Several co-ordinated steps including diplomatic initiatives have been taken to curb and prevent such flow of arms and ammunition. A close watch continues to be maintained.

[English]

Irregularities by NGO's

1409. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3364 on August 18, 1994 regarding irregularities by NGO's and state;

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

A Statement showing the complaints against non-Governmental Organisations and action taken on the complaints, referred to in reply to part (b) of the question.

S. No.	Field of activity	No. of NGOs against whom complaints were recd.	The details of action taken
1.	Drug Abuse Prevention	2	The State Govts. of Kerala & Maharashtra have been requested to investigate and submit report to the Ministry of Welfare.
2.	Scheduled Caste Dev.	2	Enquiry conducted by Ministry. Complaint found to be not correct.
3.	Scheduled Tribes Dev.	1	Complaints regarding misuse of funds received. Director, National Commission for SC/ST, Calcutta, who enquired into the matter did not point out any specific misappropriation. However, the report mentioned that out of the approved amount of Rs. 6.31 lacs only Rs. 3.38 lacs was spent for construction of school buildings. The Ministry has requested Director, National Commission for SC/ST, Calcutta to conduct a fresh inspection. Further grant has not been released.
4.	Handicapped Welfare	2	Grant stopped.
5.	Welfare of Aged	3	Complaints about financial irregularities were received against these organisations which are located in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana. The State Governments concerned were requested to send their comments on the complaints. On the basis of favourable comments received from the State Governments, further grant-in-aid was resumed.

Restructuring of State Electricity Boards

1410. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up by National Development Council (NDC) on Restructuring of State Electricity Boards has submitted its report;

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

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

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Report of the NDC Committee on Power has been submitted to the Chairman of the National Development Council. The same is yet to be discussed in the National Development Council (NDC).

Laws for Reservation

1411. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to include the laws relating to reservation in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) Proposals for inclusion of laws relating to reservation in the Ninth Schedule as and when received from the State Government are considered on merit. The Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of seats in Educational Institutions and of appointments or posts in the services under the States) Act, 1993 has been included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

Fortification of Indo-Nepal Border

1412. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposals to fortify the Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total border area which is likely to be fortified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c). As at present, there are no proposals to "fortify" Indo-Nepal border. However, keeping in view the activities of anti-national elements, the State Governments and all the concerned agencies have been sensitised to have better surveillance, coordination and sharing of the information and to remain in high state of alertness.

Forestry/Agro Forestry Projects

1413. PROF. (SMT.) SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tribal Cooperative Marketing and the Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) had surveyed the areas for implementation and monitoring of forestry or agro forestry projects of commercial importance, particularly in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated for these TRIFED projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The questions do not arise.

[Translation]

Repatriation of Tamil Refugees

1414. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the talks regarding repatriation and rehabilitation of Tamil refugees have been held with the newly formed Government of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the tentative phases for repatriation of such refugees and the time by which such repatriation is likely to be completed; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on the welfare of the refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) & (b) Talks regarding repatriation and rehabilitation of Tamil refugees have not yet been held with the newly formed Government of Sri Lanka. However, the repatriation process is going on well. After the new Government took over in Sri Lanka, one round of repatriation of those refugees who had given their willingness to return took place in September 1994 when 4,572 refugees were sent back. Repatriation again resumed on 27th February, 1995. From 27.2.1995, in the current phase of repatriation, more than 10,000 refugees

have been repatriated. The effort of the Government is to expedite this process and to send back the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees as early as possible.

(c) From July, 1983 to February, 1995, an amount of Rs. 108.34 crores has been incurred on providing relief facilities and accommodation to these refugees.

Irrigation System

1415. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Sinchayi Ka Prabandh Kisano Ke Haathon mein' appearing in the 'Amrit Varsha' dated February 2, 1995;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the loopholes and failures in the arrangements in maintenance, management and cost recovery of irrigation system;

(c) whether it has been recommended during an International Conference on Irrigation held last year to hand over the responsibility of organising and maintenance of irrigation system to the users;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve full target of irrigation successfully?

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

(b) The Planning commission, Government of India had constituted a Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan in October, 1991. This Committee has, inter-alia, studied the loopholes and failures in arrangement in maintenance, management and cost recovery of irrigation systems.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a National Seminar Jointly organised by the Union Ministry of Water Resources and World Bank on farmers participation in irrigation water management from 21st to 25th June, 1994 at Water and Land Management Institute, Aurangabad has, inter-alia, recommended the handing over of the operation and maintenance of irrigation systems to the water users associations in a phased manner.

(e) A number of policy and programme initiatives have been taken by the government to achieve better utilisation of irrigation potential. These include (i) adoption of National Water Policy in 1987, (ii) implementation of Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme since 1974-75, and World Bank assisted National Water Management Project since 1987 in selected major and medium irrigation schemes in the country, and (iii) emphasis on research and developmental efforts in water management etc. Recently the Ministry of Water Resources has formulated the "Irrigation Management Policy" which has been approved by the National Water Board and is included in the agenda of the next meeting of the National Water Resources Council for its adoption. The above mentioned steps are aimed to achieve full utilisation of irrigation potential/facilities in the country.

Handicapped Persons

1416. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of handicapped persons in proportion to the total population in the country;
- (b) the percentage thereof during the First Plan;
- (c) whether the Government propose to conduct survey or any survey is being conducted regarding increase in the population of handicapped persons in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check such increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) During 1991 National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a survey to ascertain the number of handicapped persons in the country which indicated that about 1.9% of the total population of the country have physical and sensory disabilities which include visual, speech and hearing and locomotor disability. A separate survey of children between 0-14 years of age with delayed mental development indicated that 2.95% of the children had developmental delays which are usually associated with mental retardation.

(b) No official survey was conducted for the disabled during the First Plan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) For disability prevention and control, several programmes have been initiated by the government such as, maternal and child health care programmes including prevention and early detection, pre-natal and post-natal care, national programme for control of blindness, national goitre control programme, national mental health programme, leprosy eradication programme, etc.

Pension to freedom fighters in Rajasthan

1417. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of freedom fighters in Rajasthan who are getting pension;
- (b) the number of applications from freedom fighters of Rajasthan for pension are pending for approval;
- (c) the number of dependants of freedom fighters in Rajasthan who are getting this facility; and
- (d) the number of applications pending in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Freedom Fighters' pension has been sanctioned to 782 persons including 595 ex-I.N.A. personnel in the state of Rajasthan. No record is kept regarding deceased freedom fighter pensioners.

(b) All timely applications from persons in Rajasthan for grant of freedom fighters' pension have been considered and decisions already communicated to the

applicants. Review petitions/representations and delayed applications are received from time to time. Receipt and disposal of such review petitions/representations is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) The procedure for transfer of pension in the name of eligible dependants (widow/widower; unmarried/unemployed daughters; mother/father) of freedom fighter pensioners has been decentralised. The disbursing officers have been authorised to transfer family pension in their name at their level after completion of certain formalities. Dependants of freedom fighter pensioners who still apply to the Central Government for transfer of pension in their name, are advised to approach the concerned Disbursing officer in the matter immediately.

[English]

Anti-National Activities

1418. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up three Committees for indepth study of the problems of anti-national activities being faced by North-Eastern States and suggest ways and means to redress their grievances;

(b) if so, the composition of these Committees; and

(c) the time by which the reports are likely to be submitted by these Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) A Committee under the chairmanship of the Home Minister and including eight other Central Ministers was constituted in January, 1994 to look into the problems of tribal communities in the North Eastern States. The Committee had decided to visit all the North Eastern States in three separate Groups led by the Home Minister, the Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister respectively. The first Group headed by the Home Minister and including Shri P.A. Sangma, the then MOS (Labour) and Smt. Margaret Alva MOS (Personnel) visited Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya from 21-24 June, 1994. The second Group headed by the Finance Minister and including Shri A.K. Antony, the then Minister (Civil Supplies) and Shri P.M. Sayeed, MOS (Home) visited Tripura and Mizoram from 22-24 June, 1994. The third Group headed by the then Commerce Minister and including Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, MOS (Steel) and Shri Arvind Netam, MOS (Agriculture) visited Manipur and Nagaland from 7-9 July, 1994. During the visits these Groups exchanged views with a cross section of the people including representatives of political parties, non-governmental organizations, prominent citizens and the Press.

(c) The Committee has since submitted its report.

Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Nigam

1419. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN:

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Nigam Limited went on a fast on December, 12, 1994 in response to call of the NPCC Employees joint Forum;

(b) if so, the details of the demands; and

(c) the reaction of the government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) and (b) Some of the employees have claimed to have observed fast on 12.12.94 while on duty in support of their demand on "Give Work and Give Salary."

(c) Some of the employees are not gainfully deployed due to lack of working fronts and consequently it has not been possible for the Nigam to disburse salaries/wages to its employees regularly. A sum of Rs. 6.89 crores as loan has been released to the Nigam in March, 1995 to meet short-term working capital requirement. The Nigam has bagged works amounting to about Rs. 120 crores till end of February, 1995 during the current year.

Infiltration of Pakistani Nationals

1420. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has been sending deaf and mute persons across the Wagah border to find out security loopholes at the border for infiltrating Pakistani nationals for anti-India activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Analysis of information received and study of each case of apprehension of Pak nationals, it has come to notice that Pakistan ISI has started using mentally retarded/deaf and dumb persons to test the alertness of our security forces on the border. Details of mentally retarded/deaf and dumb Pakistani nationals apprehended, while trying to infiltrate into India, are as under:—

Year

1993	—	7
1994	—	5

(c) Government have initiated all necessary and appropriate steps to check anti-national activities including strengthening and deployment of para-military forces, their intensified patrolling, issue of sophisticated border surveillance equipments, gearing up State intelligence network and ensuring close coordination between various agencies, opening of new check-posts and conducting of surprise checks, monitoring the activities of anti-social and anti-national elements etc.

[Translation]

Declaration of Backward Area

1421. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to declare the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh as backward area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed by the Union Government to remove backwardness of this area; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) and (d) The development of backward areas in a State is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. In this the States are assisted by the Central Government through Special Central Assistance under some programmes. The Government of Uttar Pradesh receives Special Central Assistance under Hill Area Development Programme for designated areas in the State under Hill Area Development Programme. This amount is an additionality over and above the normal State Plan outlay, in order to address the specific problems of these areas of Uttar Pradesh.

Hostel for SCs/STs in Gujarat

1422. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe students in Gujarat at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct some more hostels during the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) As per information furnished by the Government of Gujarat in November, December, 1993, there are 1181 hostels for SC/ST students in Gujarat.

(b) & (c) The Government propose to construct 17 hostels for SC/ST Girls/Boys students during the current financial year 1994-95 under the centrally sponsored schemes at the following locations:

- 1) Vidhyandhi Ashram Ramnagar, Ahmedabad.
- 2) Government Kumar Hostel, Rajkot.
- 3) Government Kumar Hostel, Palanpur.
- 4) Government Kumar Hostel, Junagadh.
- 5) Government Kumar Hostel, Bhavnagar.
- 6) Government Kumar Hostel, Jamnagar.
- 7) Government Kumar Hostel, Idar.
- 8) Government Kumar Hostel, Patan.
- 9) Government Kumar Hostel, Bhuj.
- 10) Government Kumar Hostel, Ahmedabad.
- 11) Kanya Chhatralaya Bamanvel Dt. Valsad (Addl. Construction).

- 12) Kamla Nehru Kanya Chhatralaya Mota Kantharia Dt. Saharkantha (Addl. construction).
- 13) Vatasalay Dham Kanya Chhatralaya Madhi Distt. Surat (Addl. construction)
- 14) Smt. M.R. Mehta Kanya Chhatralaya Sanali Dt. Banaskantha (Addl. construction).
- 15) Vanvihar Kumar Chhatralaya Dalpura, Dt. Banaskantha.
- 16) Veer Bhagatsinh Kumar Chhatralaya, Mora Dungi. Ta Pavijelpur, Dt. Vadodara.
- 17) Nilamkumar Chhatralaya Amodhara Ta. Chikli, Dt. Valsad.

[English]

Denationalisation of Coal Mines

1423. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines denationalised from January 1, 1994 to February 28, 1995;

(b) the reasons for their denationalisation; and

(c) the number of employees retrenched in the above process and the alternate employment given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No coal mine has been denationalised during the period in question.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Backward Tribal Areas

1424. SHRI BHAWANI LAL VERMA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding development of backward tribal areas in Bilaspur district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have accorded administrative approval to the scheme; and

(d) if so, the time by which financial approval is likely to be accorded and the amount to be provided to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

An Integrated Tribal Development Project proposal for Bilaspur Division of Madhya Pradesh was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for obtaining financial assistance from International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome.

The proposed project was for comprehensive development of 45 Tribal development Blocks in the Districts of Sarguja, Bilaspur and Raigarh in Bilaspur Division of Madhya Pradesh. The main components of the project are development of land, agriculture, and crop husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, sericulture, rural energy

management, health and sanitation, development programme for women, training and social mobilisation. The tentative total cost of the project indicated in the proposal is Rs. 450 crores.

(c) and (d) The project has been recommended to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for posing the same to International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

However, a definite time frame cannot be indicated for approval of the project as this depends upon sponsors/ external funding agency.

Oil Refinery Projects

1425. SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

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

(a) whether any negotiation is going on with Kuwait for setting up of oil refinery projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places where these are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Kuwait have shown interest for Joint Venture partnership with IOC in Eastern India Refinery Project and with CRL for a grass-root refinery project in the country. Negotiations for finalising the Memoranda of Understanding between these companies are in progress.

[English]

Kannada News Bulletin

1426. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Business and Corporate News Bulletin and market guidance programmes in Kannada on Bangalore Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be introduced; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No time frame can be indicated at present as the proposal is in a formative stage.

Development Commission

1427. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a Development Commission for the development of North Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Commission is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c). There is no proposal under consideration in the Planning Commission for constitution of a Development Commission for the development of North Gujarat.

[Translation]

National Co-ordination & Liaison Centre for Disabled Persons

1428. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a National Coordination and Liaison Centre to make disabled persons self-reliant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) No, Sir.

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

New DD Programmes through Satellite

1429. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any scheme to telecast new programmes on Doordarshan through satellite;

(b) if so, the number of new satellite channels introduced by the Government so far;

(c) the percentage of population being benefited by these programmes; and

(d) the number of Satellite channels proposed to be introduced during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). From 15th August, 1994 Doordarshan introduced 10 satellite regional service channels (DD-4 to DD-13), the programmes of which can be received all over the country through an appropriate dish antenna.

(d) No firm date can be indicated for a further increase in the number of channels.

[English]

Shortage of LPG

1430. SHRI A. CHARLES:

DR. P.R. GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute shortage of LPG in Kerala, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh;?

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make up this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). According to the LPG marketing oil companies, the demand of existing customers of Kerala, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh for LPG is being met by and large in full. There is no backlog in supplies of LPG in the States of Kerala and Delhi. There is a marginal backlog in few markets of Uttar Pradesh, as a result of annual maintenance shut-down of ONGC, Hazira and GAIL, Bijapur, fractionalisation plants.

(c) The backlogs are cleared by augmenting supplies through operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays for meeting the full demand of LPG in the affected markets.

Sardar Sarovar Project

1431. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

SHRI LOKA NATH CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the auxilliary structures of Sardar Sarovar Dam were extensively damaged during last year monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof;

(d) whether any inquiry into the causes of damage to the structures has been made by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) Due to unprecedented flood in the first week of September, 1994, there has been some damage to the stilling basin of Sardar Sarovar Dam which is located on the downstream of the dam. About 65,000 cubic metres of concrete was washed away and the estimated loss is of the order of Rs. 10 crores.

(d) to (f). All aspects of the damage to the stilling basin including its cause, repairs and further construction of the dam have been examined by an independent Dam Safety Panel comprising experts on different disciplines. The Dam Safety Panel has mainly recommended the following measures:

(i) repair of the damaged portion of stilling basin

(ii) unfinished top of various spillway blocks to be kept at same level atleast in each bay as far as possible and the differential height between bays not to exceed 2.0 metres and

(iii) top of spillway blocks to be finished in steps of suitable dimensions to facilitate acceptable hydraulic flow conditions, by conducting suitable model tests. The recommendations of the Dam

Safety Panel are under implementation by the Project Authorities.

Attacks on old persons

1432. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

DR. K.D. JESWANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of attacks on elderly citizens/couples in Delhi have been increasing;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last six months; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nineteen cases of murder, three of assault and one of rape of elderly citizens have been reported in Delhi during the six months from 1.9.94 to 28.2.95 as against fourteen cases of murder and two cases of assault reported during the corresponding period a year ago.

(c) The steps being taken in this regard are as under:—

(i) A Senior Citizens' Security Scheme is in vogue whereby all senior citizens have been identified, beat-wise and division-wise, in every police station. Beat Staff of the Police Stations frequently visits these senior citizens to offer them advice on security steps to be taken by them and to reassure them. They are advised in these visits to install home security devices like magic-eye, door-chain burglar alarm, to raise the height of boundary walls, to fix iron grills on doors and windows and to have the antecedents of their servants/domestic help verified etc.

(ii) During the beat and division patrolling special vigil is maintained around the residences of senior citizens.

(iii) The antecedents of servants and other domestic help, working with old persons, are verified.

(iv) The Chowkidars of the area have been briefed to keep an eye on the residences of this category of persons.

Assistance for Modernisation of Police

1433. SHRI YELLAI AH NANDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any central assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for modernisation of police in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided during each of the last three years; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Union Government in the modernisation of para-military forces during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme for Modernisation of Police Forces, being implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs, an amount of Rs. 139.500 lakhs, Rs. 104.780 lakhs and Rs. 230.511 lakhs was released on 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Since no separate scheme for modernisation of para-military forces exists, there is no distinct classification of expenditure under this head.

[Translation]

DD Programmes

1434. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI TARA SINGH:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

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

(a) whether any study has been conducted to know the impact of the advent of foreign channels like Zee TV, MTV etc. on the popularity of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken/proposed any steps to review the quality of Doordarshan programmes with a view to facing the challenges posed by foreign TV networks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Doordarshan has commissioned a study on the impact of television including satellite and cable television on the historical, cultural, social, political environment, sports, education and intellectual aspects. The report of the study is awaited.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan reviews its programmes on a continuing basis. It also endeavours to bring about a qualitative improvement in its programmes in order to sustain the interests of its viewers.

(e) Does not arise.

Terrorism Infested States

1435. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to accord the terrorism infested States a status similar to the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal.

[English]

Construction of Bridge

1436. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had convened a meeting of Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry in connection with the construction of 42 crore rupees bridge on the river Goutami between Yanam and Edurlanka in East Godavari District in the month of February, 1995;

(b) if so, the shares in the proposed expenditure by the respective Governments for the said bridge; and

(c) the time by which the said bridge is likely to be taken up for execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a meeting would be convened by Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to discuss ONGC's contribution towards development activity in the K.G. Basin.

[Translation]

Supply of Additional Gas

1437. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to supply additional gas to the gas-based plants in Uttar Pradesh particularly to Aonla; and

(b) if so, the quantum of additional gas proposed to be supplied during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) 1.755 MMSCMD has been allocated for the expansion of the IFFCO Fertilizer Plant at Aonla.

Implementation of Projects

1438. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "C.M.I.E.: Poor Growth in Project Implementation" appearing in 'The Times of India' dated January 10, 1995;

(b) if so, whether progress of on-going projects are not satisfactory despite sufficient capital investment in the country;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to bring reforms in administrative system to remove the hurdles arising in implementation of the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The C.M.I.E. Report covers the projects in private sector, State Public Sector and Central Sector Projects. The Department of Programme Implementation monitors only central sector projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above. The analysis of the implementation of projects in the last 3 years on the DPI's monitor shows increased investment in new projects and also increased expenditure in ongoing projects.

(c) to (e) To remove the hurdles arising in the implementation of central sector projects, a Group of Ministers have recommended various corrective measures. The recommendations of the Group of Ministers are under active consideration of the Government.

(English)

Central Advisory Council on Culture

1439. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has decided to constitute a Central Advisory Council on Culture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Council is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) In a meeting held on 20.2.1995 in the Planning Commission, eminent artists, painters, scholars, anthropologists and administrators were of the view that a Central Advisory Council on Culture need to be formed for inter-ministerial linkage and consultation so as to promote documentation and conservation of folk, tribal and traditional art forms and heritage. However, decision is yet to be taken in this behalf as well as the modalities involved.

Custodial Deaths

1440. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of under-trials died in custody in Tihar Jail during 1994 and 1995, so far;

(b) whether inquiries have been conducted in these cases;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the personnel found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Twenty five undertrial prisoner died in the year 1994 and ten undertrial prisoners died in 1995 (upto 19.3.95) in judicial custody in the Central Jail, Tihar.

(b) to (d) Inquest proceedings have been conducted by the sub-Divisional Magistrate u/s 176 of the Cr. P.C. in each of these cases.

Foul play was detected only in the case of custodial death of Shri Raj Kumar and a case u/s 308 IPC has been registered in respect of it at Police Station Hari Nagar, New Delhi.

[Translation]

Reservation for Backward Classes

1441. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to provide reservation for backward classes in the educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for inordinate delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) This issue is under consideration.

(c) The reason for the delay is that the consultations with the political parties on various issues relating to reservation including this one have not been completed as yet.

Ration Allowance

1442. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a prolonged demand for ration allowance to the Delhi Police Staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal of the Delhi Administration regarding grant of ration allowance to non-gazetted personnel of Delhi Police was rejected in June, 1994 on account of financial constraints.

[English]

Joint Venture Companies

1443. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are working out a new policy framework for joint venture companies in the petroleum sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Shortage in Coal Stock

1444. PROF. (SMT.) RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any dead line was fixed to complete the action on the report of R.N. Mishra committee appointed to inquire into the shortage in stock of coal in Bharat Coking Coal Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the process of taking action against the guilty officers of BCCL was completed by that date as per recommendations of the Committee;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (e) Implementation of the Committee's Recommendations against individual officers of BCCL, a subsidiary of the CIL, is required to adhere to the procedural requirements of the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules, 1978 of the CIL and such requirements are of quasijudicial nature. Since the Committee has recommended action against about 200 officers, no deadline was possible to be fixed to complete the process. As per the latest information received from CIL, the position regarding action taken so far is given below:

	General Manager	Manager	Agent	Proj. Officers
Removed	1	-	4	-
Demoted	-	3	6	-
Reduction to lower scale	-	1	2	-
Stoppage of increment	-	-	2	1
Censured	-	1	1	-
Cautioned	1	4	4	1
Exonerated	1	7	11	-

Infiltration of ISI

1445. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Intelligence Organisation ISI has started infiltrating in Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya and Garhwal;

(b) whether ISI is also assisting training to insurgent groups;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) There are reports of certain insurgent groups in the North Eastern Region being supported by Pak ISI agents in Bangladesh for the provision of safe

havens, training, weapons, etc. This has given a new dimension to the problem of insurgency and terrorism in the North East.

(d) A series of measures have been taken for coordinated action to counter such activities. Simultaneously, Government have strongly urged Pakistan on several occasions and at all levels to stop its support to subversion and terrorism. Government have also apprised the international community of the dangers inherent in the support extended by Pakistan to terrorism. The attention of the Government of Bangladesh has also been drawn to the support being received by the terrorist/insurgent groups from the soil/territory of Bangladesh. Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to counter support to terrorism from any source and to safeguard the unity and integrity of the nation.

Gas Authority of India

1446. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) when was the Gas Authority of India Limited set up;

(b) the main functions of this organisation;

(c) whether proper norms are being following by this organisation for distribution of natural gas to fertilizer and industrial units in the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The Gas Authority of India Limited was set up in August, 1994.

(b) The main objectives of Gas Authority of India Limited are the transportation, treatment, processing, fractionation, distribution and marketing of natural gas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Oil Projects

1447. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have sent some oil projects to the Union Government for approval;

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

(c) the details of the projects approved by the Union Government so far, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

LPG Agencies

1448. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies sanctioned in Gujarat during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the number of applications for allotment of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies pending in the State for the last two years; and

(c) the time by which these applications are likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) to (c) During the period 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto Feb' 95) 46 retail outlets and 47 LPG distributorships were allotted through OSB (Gujarat). Selections for 51 retail outlet dealerships and 57 LPG distributorships are underway through OSB (Gujarat). It takes about 6—12 months for allotment of dealership/distributorship after advertisement.

Area Coverage by DD/Air

1449. DR. K.D. JESWANI:

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI P.C. CHACKO:

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

(a) the number of lower power transmitters, high power transmitters, very low power transmitters and transposers functioning in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the locations of LPT, HPT, VLPT and transponders set up/proposed to be set up during 1994-95 and 1995-96, State/UT-wise;

(c) the area covered by DD and AIR in the country, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the details of the area covered/proposed by DD and AIR during 1994-95 and 1995-96, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) As given in Statement I & II.

(b) As given in Statement III.

(c) and (d) As given in Statement IV & V.

STATEMENT I
Statewise TV Transmitters as on 20.3.95

S.No.	State/U.T.s	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Tr.s	TOTAL
01.	ASSAM	3	12	0	1	16
02.	ANDHRA PRADESH	5	45	3	1	54
03.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1	2	16	0	19
04.	BIHAR	5	33	0	1	39
05.	GOA	1	0	0	0	1
06.	GUJARAT	4	35	2	0	41
07.	HARYANA	0	7	0	0	7
08.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	2	5	6	2	15
09.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	3	3	18	1	25
10.	KERALA	3	13	0	0	16
11.	KARNATAKA	4	30	1	0	35
12.	MADHYA PRADESH	6	53	1	1	61
13.	MEGHALAYA	2	2	1	0	5
14.	MAHARASHTRA	5	48	3	1	57
15.	MANIPUR	1	1	3	0	5
16.	MIZORAM	1	0	2	0	3
17.	NAGALAND	1	2	3	1	7
18.	ORISSA	3	43	2	1	49
19.	PUNJAB	3	4	0	1	8
20.	RAJASTHAN	2	46	6	2	56
21.	SIKKIM	1	0	3	0	4
22.	TAMILNADU	3	26	0	2	31
23.	TRIPURA	1	0	0	1	2
24.	UTTAR PRADESH	9	47	10	4	70
25.	WEST BENGAL	4	14	2	0	20
26.	DELHI	1	0	0	0	1
27.	A. & N. ISLANDS	0	2	6	0	8
28.	DAMAN & DIU	0	1	1	0	2
29.	PONDICHERY	0	2	2	0	4
30.	L'DWEEP ISLANDS	0	1	8	0	9
31.	CHANDIGARH	0	1	0	0	1
32.	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL		74	478	100	20	672

STATEMENT II
Statewise TV Transmitters as on 20.3.95
(Other than Primary Channel)

S.No.	State/U.T.s	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	TOTAL
1.	ASSAM	0	1	0	1
2.	ANDHRA PRADESH	0	1	0	1
3.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	1	0	1
4.	BIHAR	0	0	0	0
5.	GOA	0	0	0	0
6.	GUJARAT	1	1	0	2
7.	HARYANA	0	0	0	0
8.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	1	0	1
9.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	0	2	0	2
10.	KERALA	0	1	0	1
11.	KARNATAKA	0	1	0	1
12.	MADHYA PRADESH	0	1	0	1
13.	MEGHALAYA	0	0	0	0
14.	MAHARASHTRA	1	0	0	1

S.No.	State/U.T.s	HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	TOTAL
15.	MANIPUR	0	0	0	0
16.	MIZORAM	0	0	0	0
17.	NAGALAND	0	0	0	0
18.	ORISSA	1	1	0	2
19.	PUNJAB	0	1	0	1
20.	RAJASTHAN	0	2	0	2
21.	SIKKIM	0	1	0	1
22.	TAMILNADU	1	0	0	1
23.	TRIPURA	0	0	0	0
24.	UTTAR PRADESH	0	1	0	1
25.	WEST BENGAL	1	0	0	1
26.	DELHI	1	2*	0	3
27.	A. & N. ISLANDS	0	0	0	0
28.	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	0	0
29.	PONDICHERRY	0	0	0	0
30.	L'DWEEP ISLANDS	0	0	1	1
31.	CHANDIGARH	0	1	0	1
32.	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		6	19	1	26

*LPTs FOR PARLIAMENT COVERAGE.

STATEMENT III

TV Transmitter Projects Tentatively Scheduled for Commissioning during 1994-95 and 1995-96

	HPT PROJECTS	LPT & VLPT PROJECTS
	1	2
ANDHRA PRADESH	KURNOOL NANDYAL	TANDUR* ALAGADDA* BHEEMAVARAM* HINDUPUR* KADIRI* KAVALI* KUPPAM* MADNAPALLI* MEDAK* NAGAR KARNUL* NIRMAL* BELLAMPALLY MARKAPUR KAMAREDDY YAMANGANNUR* TAMBLAPALLY L.R. PALLY VIZAG* MADHIRA* PASRA PADERU*** WANAPARTHY* NARAYANPET KOSGI PEDANANDIPADU CHINTAPALLI MANDASSA* SRISAILAM* PARWATIPURAM ICCHAPURAM*
ARUNACHAL PRADESH		MIAO PIPU DIPU YOMCHA TALI MINYONG

	1	2
ASSAM	—	KALATANG ITANAGAR (DD II)* BONGAIGAON* HAFLONG* NORTH LAKHIMPUR* SONARI LUMDING HOJAI TINSUKIA GUWAHATI (DD II)* DIGBOI
BIHAR	—	AURANGABAD* GODDA* GUMLA* HAZARIBAG* LOHARDAGA* NAWADA* RAXAUL* SUPAUL NOAMUNDY KODARMA PHOOLPARAS SARAIKELA PATNA (DD II) SIMDEGA
GUJARAT	BHUJ (INT)* (PMT. SET UP ON 300 M TOWER) AHMEDABAD (DD II)*	GANDHINAGAR (DD II)* KHAMBAT* DHARANGADHRA* IDER MAHUVA* MANGROL (JUNAGARH DIST.)* MORVI RAPAR* DEESA PALITANA* RAJULA SANJELI* KHAMBHALLIA AMOD MANGROL (SURAT DIST.) JHAGADIA NETRANG DEVGADH-BARIA* DANDI*
HARYANA	—	MEHAM* REWARI*
HIMACHAL PRADESH	SHIMLA*	SUJANPUR SUNDER NAGAR RAMPUR DALHAUSI SHIMLA (DD II)* AJHU FORT* DALASH (THANEDAR) KHARA PATHAR PALAMPUR SHIVBADAR BHARATHI JOGINDERNAGAR JAHALMA BAJNATH BHARMOUR SARKAGHAT DIAR DASNI HOLI PARWANOO BANDLA VEER KANDAGHAT

	1	2
JAMMU & KASHMIR	LEH	RAJOURI RIASI* KATHUA POONCH* SRINAGAR (DD II)* THANAMANDI TITHWAL URI BUDDHAL KALAKOT BARAMULLA DAWAR* SAMBA* KUD BATOT SANJHI CHHAT NAGROTA (TRANSPORER) JAMMU (DD II)*
KARNATAKA	—	GANGAVATI* GOKAK JAMKHANDI MUDIGERE* PAVAGADA* RAMADURG* KUMTA BHATKAL HARPANHALLI BASAVA KALYAN SAGAR HUNGOND ARSEKERE HATTIHAI BANGALORE (DD II)* SAKLESHPUR*
KERALA	CALICUT (INT. SET UP)*	KANANGARH THODUPUZHA CHENGANNUR PUNALUR* ADOOR TRIVANDRUM (DD II)* MUNNAR KANJIRAPALLI
MADHYA PRADESH	—	ALIRAJPUR* DATIA* GADARWARA KUKDESHWAR SIRONJ ASHOKNAGAR KHURAI MAIHAR BIJAIPUR* LAHAR* BHANDER KELARAS SAKTI UJJAIN* BHOPAL (DD II)* JAORA* PARASIA* SINGRAULI KONDAGAON BUDHNI JASHPURNAGAR PAKHANJORE
MAHARASHTRA	BOMBAY (DD III)	AKLJJ* CHIPLUN* HINGANGHAT* KANKAULI* SANGAMNER*

		1	2
			UMERGA* SHIRPUR MEHEKAR MORSHI* WANI* DEORUKH CHIKHILI KHAMGAON/MHASLE ADYAL TEKDI JUNNAR* KARJAT* KHED RAJAPUR CHIKMANGRA*
MANIPUR	CHURACHANDPUR		MOREH KANGPOKPI
MEGHALAYA	—		BAGHMARA
MIZORAM	LUNGLEI		SAIHA CHAMPHAI
NAGALAND	MOKOKCHUNG		PHER SATAKHA
ORISSA	CUTTACK (DD II)*		BAUDH* LUTHERPUNK* NAYAGARH NUAPARA* PALLAHARA* RAIRANGPUR* REDHAKHOL* SONEPUR TALCHER* PARADEEP* HINDOL ATH MALLIK* MALKANGIRI* THUAMAL RAMPUR BHUBANESHWAR (DD II)* BHUBAN* MOHANA KUCHINDA BANAPUR* RAJARANAPUR* BALIGURHA TUSHARA* NARSINGHPUR KHANDAPARA* DASRATHPUR KABISURYANAGAR DURGAPUR TANGI/SOHELA PATNAGARH* PADUA BONAI* G. UDAIGIRI* AUL KENDRAPARA
PUNJAB	FAZILKA (INT)		JALANDHAR (DD II)* ABOHAR
RAJASTHAN	BARMER (INTERIM) JAISALMER		CHIRAWA* BARAN* BARI SADRI BHADRA* HINDAUN RATANGARH* RAWATSAR* SRIDUNGARGARH* SUJANGARH* MAKRANA KARAUJI

	1	2
		GANGAPUR (SAWAJ) MADHOPUR (DIST.) PHALODI RAJGARH (CHURU) MT. ABU PRATAPGARH NOHAR NOKHA* SHAHPURA NIMAJ JAIPUR (DD II)* BASAVA* AMET* CHAUMAHLA* DEOGARH* FATEHPUR GANGAPUR (BHILWARA DIST.) KUMBHALGARH* LAXMANGARH BHIM RAJGARH (ALWAR)* LALSOT KOTA (DD II)*
SIKKIM	GANGTOK*	SINGTAM RANGPO ZORETHANG GANGTOK (DD II)*
TAMIL NADU	RAMESHWARAM (PMT) MADRAS (DD III)	ARANI ARCOT* GUDIYATAM PATTUKOTTAI RAJAPALAYAM* SHANKARAN KOVIL ATTUR UDAGAMANDALAM* PUDUKKOTTAI* KRISHNAGIRI UDUMALPET METTUPALAYAM VALPARAI VALLIUR VAZA PADI MARTHANDOM
TRIPURA	—	KAILASAHAR TELIAMURA DHARMANAGAR
UTTAR PRADESH	MAU*	ALMORA AURAIYA CHAMPAWAT* GANJ DUNDWARA HALDWANI KOTDWAR* MAHOBA MAU RANIPUR MUHAMMADABAD* NAUGARH NEW TEHRI SIKANDERPUR* RUDAULI KASGANG KARN PRAYAG NANPARA ETAH* BARAKOT LALGANJ BAGESHWAR CHAMOLI CHAUGHATIA DIDHMAT

1		2
		JOSHIMATH DEVPRAYAG LANDSDOWN PRATAPNAGAR BINSAR BASOT KALJIKHAL SAHIYA GAJIA FATEH PARBAT KHAIT BARBAT RAJGARHI SR. VAIKUNTHAM FARAKKA RANAGHAT* RAYNA KALNA GREAT NICOBAR HAVELOCK KATCHAL BARATANG CHANDIGARH (DD II)* SILVASSA KARAIKAL* KAVERATTI* RAJYA SABHA* LOK SABHA*
WEST BENGAL	CALCUTTA (DD III)	
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	—	
CHANDIGARH	—	
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	—	
PONDICHERRY	—	
LAKSHADWEEP	—	
DELHI	DELHI DD III	

(a) HPT—High Power Transmitter

(b) LPT—Low Power Transmitter

(c) VLPT—Very Low Power Transmitter

* Projects since commissioned
(during 1.4.94 to 20.3.95)

*** Augmentation of power to LPT is under implementation.

STATEMENT IV

TV Coverage in States/Union Territories

Sl. No.	States/ U.T.s	Present Coverage achieved on (As on commissioning of 20.3.95)transmitters presently under implementation/ envisaged to be set	Coverage expected* to be achieved on transmitters presently under implementation/ envisaged to be set
		Area%up	Area%
STATES			
01.	Andhra Pradesh	72.4	87.9
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.0	18.2
03.	Assam	74.0	80.3
04.	Bihar	92.8	96.6
05.	Goa	100.0	100.0
06.	Gujarat	69.0	95.3
07.	Haryana	96.6	100.0
08.	Himachal Pradesh	38.9	59.8
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	26.7	32.9
10.	Karnataka	60.4	76.9
11.	Kerala	84.0	99.3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	64.6	77.5
13.	Maharashtra	71.9	83.1
14.	Manipur	31.3	66.3
15.	Meghalaya	94.6	94.6

Sl. No.	States/ U.T.s	Present Coverage achieved on (As on commissioning of 20.3.95)transmitters presently under implementation/ envisaged to be set	Coverage expected* to be achieved on transmitters presently under implementation/ envisaged to be set
		Area%up	Area%
16.	Mizoram	42.1	68.8
17.	Nagaland	43.4	68.5
18.	Orissa	77.6	85.2
19.	Punjab	100.0	100.0
20.	Rajasthan	41.8	90.1
21.	Sikkim	77.4	77.4
22.	Tamilnadu	91.2	96.2
23.	Tripura	93.3	93.5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	79.1	84.2
25.	West Bengal	95.4	99.9
UNION TERRITORIES			
01.	A & N Islands	23.0	26.2
02.	Chandigarh	100.0	100.0
03.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	40.0	65.2
04.	Daman & Diu	100.0	100.0
05.	Delhi	100.0	100.0

Sl. No.	States/ U.T.s	Present Coverage (As on 20.3.95) Area%	Coverage expected* to be achieved on com- missioning of trans- mitters presently under implementation/envis- aged to be set up Area%
06.	L'dweep Islands	99.0	99.0
07.	Pondicherry	100.0	100.0
NATIONAL AVERAGE		68.0	83.2

NOTE: 1. Coverage Figures are inclusive of fringe areas (elevated antennas & boosters are required for satisfactory reception in fringe areas).
2. Terrain conditions not taken into consideration.
3. Based on 1981 census.
* Does not include incremental coverage (if any) of the transmitters which could not be traced in S.O.I. maps.

STATEMENT V

All India Radio Statewise Coverage During Day Time

Sl. No.	States/ Union Territories	Existing radio coverage Area %	% coverage expected by the end of 1995-96 Area %
I. STATES			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98	98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	98	98
3.	Assam	86	98
4.	Bihar	99*	99*
5.	Goa	99*	99*
6.	Gujarat	99*	99*
7.	Haryana	99*	99*
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50	70
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	31.5	32
10.	Karnataka	94	95
11.	Kerala	94	98
12.	Madhya Pradesh	95	95
13.	Maharashtra	98	99
14.	Manipur	99*	99*
15.	Meghalaya	98	96
16.	Mizoram	82	92
17.	Nagaland	95	96
18.	Orissa	97	97
19.	Punjab	99*	99*
20.	Rajasthan	92.5	93
21.	Sikkim	44	70
22.	Tamil Nadu	99	99*
23.	Tripura	99*	99*
24.	Uttar Pradesh	88	93
25.	West Bengal	99*	99*
II. UNION TERRITORIES			
1.	A & N Islands	80	80
2.	Chandigarh	99*	99*
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	99*	99*
4.	Delhi	99*	99*
5.	Daman & Diu	99*	99*
6.	L & M Islands	99*	99*
7.	Pondicherry	99*	99*
NATIONAL COVERAGE		89.7	91

*Coverage in these States can normally be taken as 100% i.e., without taking into consideration the special requirement of certain situations.

[English]

Supply of Coal

1450. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited is not supplying adequate and quality coal to SAIL;

(b) whether SAIL had lodged any complaint for non-supply of coal by CIL with the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c). There had been shortfall in demand and supply of both coking as well as non-coking coal from Coal India Ltd. (CIL) sources to Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL). The position of demand and supply during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Coking coal (Washed and direct feed) (million tonnes)		Non-coking (Boiler coal) (million tonnes)	
	Target	Supply	Target	Supply
1991-92	9.50	9.22	6.00	4.24
1992-93	9.90	9.88	6.00	4.24
1993-94	9.96	9.50	6.24	3.94

At times there have been complaints about the quality on account of ash content in washed coking coal.

(d) The steps taken/being taken for improving the quality as well as quantity of coal supplied to SAIL are as under:—

i) Expediting completion of modernisation of the existing washeries for improving quality and quantity of washed coal.

ii) Two new coking coal washeries with a total annual raw coal capacity of 5.1 million tonnes are under construction for augmenting availability of washed coking coal.

iii) Tenders have been invited by CIL for setting up washeries in the private sector under Build-Own-Operate Scheme.

iv) Close liaison with Railways is maintained to improve the availability of wagons for despatch of coal to steel plants of SAIL.

Oil Reserves

1451. SHRI ANANT RAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the life of reserves of India's oil wells at the present production rate; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance the recoverable reserves from the oil fields currently under production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The present reserve to production ratio is about 23 years based on current rates of production.

(b) In order to enhance the recoverable reserves from the fields under production following steps are being taken:—

(i) Judicious use of Reservoir Management techniques including pressure maintenance through water/gas injection.

(ii) Commercial application of enhanced oil recovery methods like Insitu combustion, Polymer flooding etc.

(iii) Horizontal well completion, drain hole drilling and infill drilling etc.

[Translation]

Gas from Tapti Gas Project

1452. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has applied for supply of gas to the industries of Gujarat from Tapti gas project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the industries which have asked for gas from Tapti gas project;

(d) the quantum of gas each industry has asked for and the details of the industries which have been supplied gas till date; and

(e) the time by which the remaining industries will be supplied gas and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (e) The Government of Gujarat have requested for allocation of at least 1.5 MMSCMD of gas from Tapti for a power project at Pipavav.

It has been decided to take the gas from mid and South Tapti fields to Hazira to meet the existing commitments ex-Hazira and along the HBJ pipeline.

[English]

Construction of Barrages

1453. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal had agreed to the construction of barrages over rivers coming to India in order to control floods;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the time by which construction on the projects is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Construction of barrage on rivers coming from Nepal is not under consideration between India and Nepal. However, cooperation on some water resources projects are under consideration between the two countries. The actual progress of the projects depends on the cooperation that would be forthcoming from Nepal.

Pension to Political Prisoners

1454. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to enhance the rate of pension for the ex-Andamans political prisoners;

(b) the number of pensioners in this category still surviving;

(c) whether the widows of these pensioners will be eligible for an equivalent amount;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The Government have enhanced the rate of freedom fighters' pension for the ex-Anadaman Political Prisoners from Rs. 1250/- to Rs. 1750/- per month effective from 02-10-1994. In addition, they also get a special allowance of Rs. 250/- per month.

(b) According to the information readily available, the number of surviving ex-Andaman Political prisoners is 78 of whom four are residing abroad.

(c) to (e) The widows of the deceased ex-Andaman political prisoners will not get the enhanced amount as it is the policy of the Government that widows of all categories of freedom fighters should be given pension at the same rate. Presently, the rate of pension admissible to spouses of deceased freedom fighters is Rs. 1500/-.

LPG Agencies

1455. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies sanctioned under discretionary power of the Government in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Allotment under discretionary powers of the Government is made on compassionate grounds in deserving cases. Retail outlets and LPG distributorships allotted during the last three years on compassionate grounds are indicated below:

	RO	LPG
1992-93	19	64
1993-94	52	55
1994-95	75	62

LPG Agencies in A.P.

1456. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies in Andhra Pradesh as on December 1994; and

(b) the places selected for allotment of LPG agencies during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) 393 LPG distributorships were functioning in Andhra Pradesh as on 31.12.1994.

(b) 73 LPG distributorship have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 for Andhra Pradesh. In addition to the above, 40 LPG distributorships were included in the current LPG Marketing Plan 1992-94, selection for which is underway through OSB (Andhra

Pradesh). It normally takes about 1-2 years for commissioning of distributorship from the date of advertisement.

Royalty to A.P.

1457. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited propose to increase royalty payments to Andhra Pradesh for exploration of oil and gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Royalty rates are fixed by the Government. These would now be revised once the well-head price of oil for the block 1993-96 is available.

Natural Water Management Project

1458. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the World Bank for implementation of the Natural Water Management Project in Tamil Nadu during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the details of the on-going schemes under the National Water Management Project in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the details of its imputed schemes under the National Water Management Project in Tamil Nadu and their impacts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) The details of sub-projects taken up in Tamil Nadu under the credit agreement with the World Bank for National Water Management Project are enclosed as statement. It is reported that Water management and distribution, maintenance and irrigation efficiency have improved in six sub-projects nearing completion.

STATEMENT

B: Projectwise expenditure during 1992-93, 93-94 & 94-95 (Upto Sept. '94), Cumulative expenditure and Disbursement Upto Sept., 1994 and likely date of completion under National Water Management Project (NWMP)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Date of clearance	C.C.A. In ha.	Estimated Cost Revised	Expenditure		Cumulative (Up to Sep. 94)		Likely date of completion	
					1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 upto Sep., 94	Expenditure		Amount of Disbursement Received from World Bank
I. Schemes Investment										
1.	Sathanthu	13.4.88	18810	455	77.98	90.10	11.21	444.29	356.91	31.3.95
2.	Kodiyar	13.4.88	38836	1351	360.77	350.73	184.27	1390.51	1049.49	31.3.95
3.	Thambapami	13.4.88	48282	1661	468.93	158.71	90.13	1300.18	991.85	31.3.97
4.	Amravathy	6.12.89	22384	821	174.96	100.75	151.61	817.02	628.80	31.3.96
5.	Cumbum Valley	07.2.90	8098	297	65.94	45.23	28.52	329.03	260.28	31.3.95
6.	Marudhanadhi	21.3.91	2665	98	63.75	4.30	11.49	97.90	64.94	31.3.95
7.	Sethiathope	07.2.90	19466	714	1217.47	338.26	167.86	765.23	525.39	31.3.96
8.	Tholudur	26.7.91	14915	547	109.16	352.69	21.45	483.30	409.79	31.3.97
9.	Chittur	23.6.92	9614	353	—	109.47	98.47	207.92	3.36	31.3.95
10.	Manjalur	04.2.93	2189	83	—	27.24	38.49	66.53	29.03	31.3.95
	Sub-Total (I)		179670	6380	2538.91	1583.48	803.50	5901.91	4319.84	
II. Establishment etc.										
	Total (I & II)				243.78	269.69	142.25	2789.26	1482.85	
					2782.69	1853.17	945.75	8691.17	5802.69	

[Translation]

Annual Plan of Delhi

1459. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the annual plan outlay approved by the Planning Commission for Delhi for 1995-96;

(b) whether the Government of Delhi has requested the Union Government to increase annual plan allocation for 1995-96;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Annual Plan outlay approved for the NCT of Delhi for 1995-96 is Rs. 1720.00 crores.

(b), (c) and (d) This outlay has been finalised in a meeting between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister, Delhi. There is no request to increase this outlay.

Vehicles in police stations

1460. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vehicles lying in various police stations of Delhi as on January 31, 1995 which are involved in any crime;

(b) whether adequate safety is not being provided to these vehicles as a result of which the costly parts of the vehicles are removed; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) This number is 1592.

(b) and (c) No incident of removal of the costly parts from vehicles involved in crimes and lying in police stations of Delhi has been reported. All SHOs have been directed to ensure safety of all such vehicles.

[English]

Dialogue with AAPSU and AASU

1461. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to hold dialogue with the student bodies (AAPSU and AASU) of Assam and Arunachal and the Chakmas for working out a settlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Chakmas who came to India in 1964 are entitled for Indian Citizenship; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The grant of citizenship to the Chakma refugees who came to India before 25.3.1971 and were settled in the then North East Frontier Agency (now Arunachal Pradesh) is covered by section 5(1)(a) of the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955. However, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has expressed certain difficulties due to local considerations in making the necessary report required under the Citizenship Rules.

LPG Connections

1462. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG connections have been released on the basis of bogus priority vouchers during 1993-94 and 1994-95 in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken/ proposed against defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) During 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 31-1-1995), 63 LPG connections were detected to have been released on the basis of bogus priority vouchers in Gujarat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In established cases, FIRs are lodged with the police against the defaulters, cylinders and regulators are seized and security deposit of equipment is forfeited.

Supply of Sub-standard Coal

1463. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the substandard coal is being supplied to the Gujarat State Thermal Power Stations during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) There are some complaints from Gujarat State Thermal Power Stations regarding quality of coal being supplied to them. They mainly relate to presence of extraneous materials in coal as also supply of over sized, sticky and muddy coal. Although sale of coal takes place at pithead in the presence of consumers representative these complaints are examined on merits of each case and corrective action is taken to reduce the grievances of consumers.

(c) In the process of mining of coal especially in opencast mines some stones/ shales/ extraneous materials

may get mixed with coal. Following steps are being taken up by coal companies to improve the quality of coal sent to consumers including power houses:—

(i) An action plan for installation of feeder breakers and coal handling plants is being implemented to ensure quality of coal.

(ii) Stones are being segregated at the time of loading of coal.

(iii) Wherever feasible slow moving picking belts are being provided in coal handling plants for manual picking of shale and stone pieces.

(iv) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain the quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at railway sidings.

(v) All consumers including consumers in Gujarat are encouraged to post their representatives at loading points to ensure quality of coal despatches.

Disappearance of Tribes

1464. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribes in the country which have disappeared after the first census;

(b) the number of tribes facing extinction; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent this tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) No Scheduled Tribe in the country has disappeared during 1961—1981 Census. Population of individual Scheduled Tribes is available since 1961 for only those tribes which find mention in the Presidential Orders and Acts in force at the time of relevant Census in different States and Union Territories relating to Scheduled Tribes. Tribe-wise population in each State/UT for 1991 Census have not yet been tabulated by Registrar General of India.

(b) No, Sir. However, a statement indicating the decline in population of nine Scheduled Tribes as reflected in 1981 Census in relation to 1961 and 1971 Census is laid on the Table of the House. According to the Registrar General of India, the decline of population is due to physiological effect of inbreeding, high infant mortality, high death rate, mal-nutrition, migration of some groups to other areas where the tribes in question have not been declared as Scheduled Tribes and wrong enumeration.

(c) Various socio-economic programmes under Tribal sub-Plan are taken up for the protection and development of the tribes. The Government of India makes special allocations for Primitive Tribal Groups and does not insist even on the principle of supplementation. Important programmes for the Primitive Tribal Groups are taken up on 100% grant basis. Under Special Central Assistance (SCA), the funds are earmarked for Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) separately.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Sch. Tribes	Name of the State	Population according to		
			1961	1971	1981
1.	Bharwad	Gujarat	806	531	519
2.	Khamaba	Arunachal Pradesh	23	848	342
3.	Howa	Arunachal Pradesh	—	703	625
4.	Kota	Karnataka	81	103	75
		Kerala	8	—	41
		Tamil Nadu	833	1,188	804
5.	Malayekandi	Karnataka	3580	46	129
		Tamil Nadu	—	497	70
6.	Maleru	Karnataka	1166	1,321	966
7.	Ongé	A & N Islands	129	112	97
8.	Yobin	Arunachal Pradesh	—	929	5
9.	Zakhring	Arunachal Pradesh	—	23	14

Import of Crude Oil

1465. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to permit refineries to import crude oil and petroleum products directly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH

KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Para Military Forces

1466. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Rajasthan where group Headquarters of various Para-military forces are located;

(b) whether the Union Government are considering any proposal to transfer any headquarter of Para-military forces outside of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Among the various para-military forces, only CRPF has the concept of Group Centres. In Rajasthan, one Group Centre approved for Ajmer is functioning there. Another Group Centre is temporarily located at Ajmer. Shifting of this Group Centre to another location is being considered.

Allocation for Irrigations

1467. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated/proposed to be allocated to Government of Madhya Pradesh for small irrigation schemes during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) whether the Union Government have provided adequate funds to Madhya Pradesh for the implementation of these schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Ministry of Water Resources is not allocating any funds for implementation of small irrigation schemes in the States.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Production of Paraffin Wax

1468. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industry (S.S.I.) units in the country are capable of producing paraffin wax type-II from slack wax of IOC, Barauni;

(b) whether the ICC Barauni is not releasing slack wax to the SSI units;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total quantity of slack wax released to SSI units during 1993-94, separately for paraffin wax type-II and III?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) Presently slack wax in the country is produced by the refineries at Barauni, Haldia and Madras. The slack wax produced is supplied to all authorised slack wax processing units registered with Director of Industries to produce type III paraffin wax, which is also certified by BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards). The bulk of quantity is supplied from Barauni Refinery and

to a limited extent from MRL and Haldia. For the year 1993-94 the following quantity of slack wax was released to eligible units:

(In MT)

Slack Wax	Barauni	Haldia	MRL
1993-94	31109	11651	198

Oil Projects in Gujarat

1469. SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects in oil sector for drilling have been undertaken in Gujarat by ONGC and OIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds involved in these projects; and

(d) the progress made so far on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Drilling operations have been undertaken by ONGC in a number of proved and producing fields in the Cambay basin of Gujarat State. In this basin drilling activities were taken up/continued in 38 fields during the period 1.4.94 to 31.12.94.

Oil India Ltd., have not taken up any drilling activities in the State so far.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 476.34 crores and 463.25 crores has been incurred by ONGC on drilling activities in the State of Gujarat during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94, respectively. An expenditure of Rs. 527.50 crores is envisaged on this activity during the year 1994-95.

(d) During the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto Feb' 95) ONGC have drilled 636 wells with a total metreage of about 12.85 lakh metres in the State of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Private Company in Supply of LPG

1470. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private companies which have started the work of LPG supply on large scale in the country;

(b) whether the supply of LPG is as per the guidelines issued by the Government;

(c) if not, the action taken/proposed against defaulters; and

(d) the names of the companies which are in the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) Under the Parallel Marketing System, private agencies have been allowed to import LPG by using/setting up their own facilities and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG at market determined

prices. No permission is required to be obtained from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking parallel marketing. So far, 12 parties have imported LPG as per details given below:

1. M/s. Essar World Trade.
2. M/s. Hindustan Domestic Oil and Gas Co.
3. M/s. Jay Cylinders.
4. M/s. Bharat Shell.
5. M/s. Shri Shakti LPG.
6. M/s. Aegis Chemicals.
7. M/s. Kabsons Industries Ltd.
8. M/s. Palril.
9. M/s. Bhoomi Gas.
10. M/s. SPIC.
11. M/s. Pal Refinery Ltd.
12. M/s. Feena.

Most of the LPG imported by the above parties has been sold in bulk to industrial and commercial consumers.

[English]

Inter-state river Disputes

1471. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Inter-State river disputes pending with the Government;
- (b) since when these are pending;
- (c) the number of irrigation projects held up due to the pending disputes; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to solve these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Under the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes act, 1956, two disputes namely, sharing of surplus Ravi & Beas waters and sharing of Cauvery Waters have been referred to the Tribunals in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. The Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal has given its report in January, 1987 and the Government of India and party states have made further reference as envisaged under the Act to seek explanation/guidance of the Tribunal on its report. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an Order on 25.6.1991 granting interim relief to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The Central Government gazetted the Order of the Tribunal on 10.12.1991 thereby making it binding on the parties to the dispute.

On allocation of Yamuna waters upto Okhla, an over all agreement has already been signed on 12.5.1994.

(c) A total of 51 irrigation projects are pending with C.W.C. due to Inter-State Disputes.

(d) The Central Government persuades the concerned State Government to resolve the inter-state issues through mutual discussions. However, in specific cases, at the request of the concerned State Government, the Central Government also helps in resolving these issues through

the Standing Committee set up by the Ministry of Water Resources under Union Minister of Water Resources.

Cess on Imported Petro-Products

1472. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to impose cess on the imported petro-products; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal at present.

Shortage of Tear-Gas Shells

1473. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received some complaints from the Heads of the State Police forces about shortage of tear-gas shells; and
 - (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed in this regard?
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.

Revenue Earned by Metro Channel

1474. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the revenue earned by Metro Channel during each of the last three years and current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): The gross revenue earned by Metro channel which commenced its service in 1993 is as under:

1993-94	Rs. 25.30 crores
1994-95	Rs. 68.54 crores

(Upto Feb. '95)

National film Awards

1475. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some rules relating to National Film awards have been amended recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the various amendments made; and
- (c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The following are the important changes made in the rules relating to the National Film Awards:—

- (1) The cash prize of best child artiste has been

enhanced from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- so as to bring it at par with the cash award of the best actor and best actress.

(2) In order to give encouragement to the producer whose film has been adjudged as the best non-feature film, the cash prize of Rs. 15,000/- to such a producer has been enhanced to Rs. 20,000/-.

(3) The earlier rules provided that film-makers submitting an entry for the awards were not eligible for nomination as a jury member. To enable technical persons like cameraman associated with an entry also being precluded from being nominated to the jury, the following provision has now been made:

"Any person directly or indirectly associated with the films entered for competition in feature or non-feature category, shall not be eligible to serve on any of the jury panels.

(4) The rules provided that films produced in India and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification between 1st January and 31st December are eligible to be considered. To facilitate entry of films produced in the calendar year should there be a delay on the part of the Central Board of Film Certification to issue certificate just because of holiday on 31st December, the following provision has been added:—

"In case 31st December is holiday, the next official working day shall be considered as the last date".

(5) The last date for receipt of entries has been changed from 28th February to 31st March as it is found necessary to give adequate time to the film producers to submit their entries.

Fire Incidents In NLC

1476. DR. P. VALLABH PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire incidents which took place in the Nayvali Lignite Corporation during the last three years;

(b) the extent of loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The number of fire incidents at Nayvali Lignite Corporation Ltd. during the last three years are indicated below:—

year	Major Incidents	Minor incidents	Total incidents
1992	4	34	38
1993	3	41	44
1994	6	37	43

(b) The extent of financial loss suffered during the above period are as under:—

Year	Amount Lost (Approximately)
1992	70.81 lakhs
1993	79.00 lakhs
1994	33.49 lakhs

(c) Despite several precautionary and preventive steps, the incidents of fire have occurred in different units from time to time during operation. Since this is essentially an issue related to operation of different units, the primary responsibility of taking corrective steps in this regard lies with the company who have, inter-alia, taken the following steps:—

(i) Constitution of Safety Cell with safety executives of each unit.

(ii) Holding drills and fire fighting training periodically.

(iii) Monthly meeting of Safety Cell members of all the units for detailed deliberation.

(iv) Adoption of dust suppression method in power station and in B & C plant.

(v) Adequate publicity for creating safety awareness through posters etc.

However, depending upon the gravity, Govt. have also in the past, conducted enquiry and consequently issued detailed instructions, essentially emphasising safety awareness, strict adherence to preventive maintenance, imparting safety education, etc.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas

1477. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the contracts for oil and gas exploration and development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to cut delays in awarding oil and gas exploration contracts and accelerate the negotiation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). The details of contracts finalised so far by Government of India for exploration and development of oil and gas are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A separate cell has been set up in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for carrying out negotiations expeditiously.

STATEMENT
Contracts signed under Exploration Bidding

Round	Block	Consortium with whom contract signed/approved	Status
Fourth	1) KG-OS-90/1	(i) Albion India Inc., USA. (ii) Coplex (India) Ltd., Australia (iii) Niko Resources, Canada (iv) Hindustan Oil Exploration Co. India (HOEC)	Signed 19.2.93
	2) GN-ON-90/3	(i) HOEC, India (ii) Mafatlal Industries, India	Signed 29.3.93
	3) CY-OS-90/1	(i) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA (ii) HOEC, India (iii) Tata Petrodyne Inc., India	Signed 30.12.94

Small and Medium Sized Fields for which contracts have been signed (1992)

(A) S.No.	Small Sized Field	Oil/Gas	Name of Consortium	Date of Signing
1.	Cambay	Gas	(i) Gujarat State Petro-Chemical Corp. Ltd., India. (ii) Niko Resources, Canada	23.9.94
2.	Matar	Oil		
3.	Sabermati	Oil	(i) HOEC, India (ii) Petrodyne Inc., USA (iii) GSPCL, India	3.2.95
4.	Bhandut	Oil		
5.	Hazira	Gas		
6.	Asjol	Oil		
7.	Dholka	Oil	(i) Joshi Technologies, Inc., USA (ii) Larsen & Toubro, India	20.2.95
8.	Wavel	Oil		
9.	Indrora	}	Selan Exploration Technologies, New Delhi.	13.3.95
10.	Bakrol			
11.	Lohar			
(B) S.No.	Medium Sized	Oil/Gas	Name of Consortium	Date of Signing
1.	RAVVA	Oil	(i) Videocon Petroleum Ltd, New Delhi. (ii) Command Petroleum India Pty, Ltd. Australia (iii) RAVVA Oil (Singapore) pte. Ltd., Singapore.	28.10.94
2.	Mid & South	Gas	(i) Consortium of Reliance, India (ii) Enron, USA	22.12.94
3.	Tapli	Oil		
4.	Mukti Panna	Oil		

[Translation]

Modernisation of Prison Administration

1478. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Gujarat for Central Assistance under the scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Gujarat have submitted a proposal for a period of three years i.e. 1994-97 seeking central assistance for various schemes such as strengthening security and communication arrangements, repair and renovation of old prison buildings, work-programmes

medical care, sanitation and hygiene staff training and facilities for women offenders etc.

(c) An amount of Rs. 3319 lakhs has so far been released to the Government of Gujarat for the current financial year 1994-95.

Unauthorised LPG connections

1479. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unauthorised LPG connections detected in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have regularised such unauthorised LPG connections;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a): The number of unauthorised connections detected in the country during the last three is as under:—

1992-93	2
1993-94	1174
1994-95	10

(upto Dec. 1994)

(b) As per the existing policy, regularisation of unauthorised connections (without valid document) is not permitted.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The regularisation of unauthorised connections is not permitted since it may lead to:

- (1) Increase of unauthorised connections.
- (2) Denial of LPG connections to the wait listed persons.
- (3) Increase in entry of spurious cylinders in the network.
- (4) Theft of LPG cylinders.
- (5) Irregularities by the distributors.

National Water Management Project

1480. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sub-plans sanctioned for Bihar under the National Water Management Project during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) the funds allocated for these sub-plans (during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 60 lakhs was approved for providing 25 diesel generating sets for Bihar Tubewell Project during 1994-95 under the National Water Management Project.

Sharing of Water

1481. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to sharing of water received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh pending with the Union Government;

(b) since when these are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) Two irrigation projects received from Government of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government on account of sharing of water and other related inter-State issues.

(b) Date of receipt and the details of inter-State issues involved if these projects are mentioned in the Statement enclosed;

(c) No time limit can be given as settlement of inter-state matters depends on mutual agreement between the concerned State Governments. The Central Government, in 1990, has also set up a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources to resolve such disputes by discussions with the concerned State Governments.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State involved	Estt. Cost in Rs. lakhs	Date of receipt in CWC	Position of appraisal	Details of Inter-State Issue
1.	Kanhar Irrigation Project (Major-New)	U.P. Bihar and M.P.	17427	9/94	Under correspondence with the State Government	Government of U.P. is to obtain concurrence of Bihar state for utilization of remaining 0—1 MAF Kanhar sub-basin waters under Sone Pump Canal on main Sone River. This proposed utilization is against Bansagar agreement of 1973. Govt. of U.P. is also to obtain concurrence of Bihar and M.P. states for submergence of land in their Territories.
2.	Tons Pump Canal	U.P. and M.P.	1851	6/89	Under correspondence with State Government.	Mutual agreement required between Governments of U.P. and M.P. on submergence of land in the Territory of M.P. due to construction of broad crested weir by U.P.

Prices of Oil

1482. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been fall in the prices of oil in the international market;

(b) if so, the extent to which these prices have fallen;

(c) the estimated decline in import expenditure incurred on imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market have generally shown an upward trend during the current year 1994-95 as compared to the prices prevailing in 1993-94.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Allocation of Funds

1483. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANDGE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allocate more funds for the development of small scale industries in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount allocated for this purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan is less than that allocated in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) There is no specific proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for allocation of more funds for the development of Small Scale Industries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Plan allocations are made depending upon the availability of resources and also relative inter-sectoral priorities. Accordingly, Rs. 105.87 crores was the agreed outlay for the Village and Small Scale Industries in the State of Madhya Pradesh for the Eighth Plan which is more than the actual expenditure of Rs. 76.38 crores for the same sector during the Seventh Plan. The Seventh Plan outlay for the Village and Small Scale Sector was Rs. 108.69 crores.

[English]

Crimes In Delhi

1484. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of murder/theft committed by domestic servants, particularly Nepali in Delhi have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested during the last two years, as on date;

(c) the number of cases in which punishment has been given; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to check recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (c). The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The following measures have been taken to check such crimes in Delhi;

(i) Servant verification drives have been launched to get their antecedents verified;

(ii) Employers have been briefed to take precautions for the safety of their jewellery and valuables.

(iii) Meetings with Residents' Welfare Associations are held where preventive measures are discussed and areas of cooperation between public and police are identified.

(iv) All the police personnel have been briefed/directed to exercise special vigil in this regard.

STATEMENT

Years	1993			1994			1995 (upto 28.2.95)		
Crime	Cases reported	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons convicted	Cases Reported	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons convicted	Cases Reported	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons convicted
Murder	7	7	—	4	2	—	1	1	—
Theft	64	47	8	47	21	1	11	6	—

Swaminathan Committee

1485. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether M. S. Swaminathan Committee appointed by the Government to boost up agricultural production and create more jobs in rural areas for removal of poverty has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation made by the Committee and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Government of India had

not appointed M. S. Swaminathan Committee for boosting agricultural production and create more jobs in rural areas. However, International Commission on Peace and Food under the leadership of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan has brought out a Report entitled "Prosperity 2000—Strategy for Generating 100 Million jobs in India in 10 years through Accelerated Development of Commercial Agricultural and Agro-based Industries".

(b) The Government of India have decided to implement selected pilot projects in 12 districts adopting a Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium approach to boost agricultural production and create additional employment opportunities.

Reduction in FCT

1486. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reduced the Free Commercial Time (FCT) available for producers of sponsored programmes on Doordarshan;

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

(c) whether the Government have received some representations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quantum of Free Commercial Time (FCT) has been reduced in certain categories by 30 seconds in order to maximise Doordarshan's commercial revenue.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The date of application of the revised commercial rate card has been extended to 1st April, 1995.

TV News-Readers

1487. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the recruitment norms fixed for full-time and part-time T.V. news-readers on Delhi Doordarshan, separately;

(b) whether the Government propose to appoint more T.V. news-readers for Hindi and English news on Delhi Doordarshan on full-time and part-time basis;

(c) if so, the details with the selection formalities to be fulfilled; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan has not been recruiting news readers on a regular basis for many years now. For being considered for empanelment as a casual/contract news reader in Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi a candidate must be a graduate with journalistic experience, between 21-35 years of age and a resident of Delhi. Eligible candidates have to undergo interviews for assessing their command of the language, correct accent and diction, knowledge of current affairs, overall personality and being photogenic.

(b) there is no such proposal at present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Gas Shortage in Tripura

1488. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tripura is not getting necessary gas for its fertilizer industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Tripura has sent any project report for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) 0.5 MMSCMD has been earmarked for a fertilizer plant in Tripura.

(c) and (d) No such project report has been received.

Pakistani in Indian Jails

1489. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large number of Pakistanis in Indian Jails; and

(b) if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The information is not centrally maintained.

Kelkar Committee

1490. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the Kelkar Committee;

(b) the decision taken by the Government on the recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The Kelkar Committee in its report submitted to the Government in August, 1988 suggested taking of short term and long term measures to streamline the allocation of newsprint to newspapers and to achieve self-sufficiency in production of newsprint in long run. Most of the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented. The report has also been scrutinised by the Estimates Committee of the Tenth Lok Sabha as reflected in their 18th report (1992-93) presented to the Lok Sabha on 12.8.1992.

Compensation of Revenue

1491. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any scheme to compensate the loss of revenue to the State Governments due to imposition of prohibition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States who have sought such compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) At present there is no scheme under implementation to compensate the loss of revenue to the State Governments due to imposition of prohibition.

(c) Recently the Government of Andhra Pradesh have represented to the Central Government for reimbursement of loss of revenue on account of imposition of prohibition in the State.

[Translation]

Coal Production

1492. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal production in the country is as per domestic demand;

(b) whether some companies are importing coal in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the companies permitted to import coal during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Except for low ash coking coal and high grade non-coking coal the indigenous production of coal is adequate to meet the domestic coal requirements.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Coal can be freely imported under present export and import policy and as such there is no need for any licence/permission from Government of India for its import.

[English]

Collection and Transmission System

1493. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Statistics has been assigned the role of an apex nodal coordinating agency for development of standards and modernisation of data collection and transmission system; and

(b) if so, the target achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) There is no formal notification of the Department of Statistics as the apex nodal coordinating agency in the field of statistics.

However, in the light of the business allocated to it, this Department has been taking up some initiatives towards coordination in an advisory capacity. This is done through the forums provided by the National Advisory Board on Statistics, the Biennial Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations, and the Technical Advisory Committees of Central Statistical Offices. It is not obligatory for the State Governments or the Central Statistical Offices to submit their plans and programmes for technical clearance by the Department of Statistics.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sindh Project

1494. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Advisory Committee has completed the techno-economic examination of Sindh Phase-II irrigation project of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Advisory Committee in its meeting held in December, 1992 found the Sindh River Phase-II Project of Madhya Pradesh envisaging annual irrigation of 1,62,100 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs. 510.94 crores acceptable subject to the condition that the State Government obtains forests clearance and accords Financial approval.

(c) The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 50 crores for the project for VIII Plan.

Memorial of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

1495. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert 26 Alipur Road, Delhi as Dr. Ambedkar memorial;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be converted as a memorial; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Delhi Administration has already been requested to initiate necessary acquisition proceedings in this regard. They had indicated an amount of about Rs. 9.80 crores for the acquisition cost which is being arranged. An amount of Rs. 8.00 crores has already been proposed for the B.E. 1995-96. At this stage, a likely time limit cannot be indicated for converting the property as a memorial.

[English]

New Power Projects

1496. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned by the Planning Commission to Gujarat for new Power Projects during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) the amount released out of the sanctioned funds during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) The details regarding approved outlays and expenditure for new power generation projects for the State of Gujarat for the Annual Plan 1992-93, 1993-94, and 1994-95 are as follows:

Rs. lakhs

1992-93		1993-94		1994-95
Approved	Actual Expenditure	Approved	Anticipated Expenditure	Approved Outlay
2731	0	1600	3000	4250

Radio Paging

1497. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Government have introduced radio paging through the FM transmitter of All India Radio, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details including the main purposes of this radio paging;

(c) whether similar service is proposed to be introduced in other parts of the country also;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The service is available round the clock to subscribers within a radius of 50-60 kms. The RDS Paging Service provides Numeric and Alpha-numeric messages to the subscribers.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A similar service was started at Nagpur from 6th March, 1995. It would also commence from 15 other cities later this year.

LPG Agencies

1498. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Bihar included in the marketing plan 1992-97 by Oil Industry for allotment of L.P.G. agencies in the State;

(b) the number of L.P.G. agencies awarded to those places included in the marketing plan; and

(c) the time by which these agencies are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) 29 LPG distributorships have been included in the marketing plan 1992-94 for Bihar. Selection of distributors is in progress through the Oil Selection Board. In addition to the above, 76 LPG distributorships have been included in the marketing plan 1994-96 for Bihar.

Life Imprisonment

1499. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have slashed the upper limit of life imprisonment period from 14 to 10 years;

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to amend the relevant law to bring down the life imprisonment upper limit from 14 to 10 years throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No State Government have amended section 433A Cr. P.C., 1973 to bring down the upper limit of life imprisonment.

(b) and (c) No proposal is under consideration of the Government of India to amend section 433A Cr. P.C., 1973 to bring down the life imprisonment upper limit from 14 to 10 years.

[Translation]

Programmes for Children

1500. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the number of children programmes telecast/broadcast by Doordarshan and All India Radio during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the children programmes to be telecast/broadcast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All India Radio and Doordarshan shall continue to broadcast/telecast programmes for children from their stations/kendras keeping in mind their overall programme requirements from time to time.

Relaxation to Backward Class Candidates

1501. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered to exempt from payment of fees and to increase opportunities and relax the age limit for the candidates belonging to backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government have relaxed upper age limit for direct recruitments by three years in respect of Other Backward Classes with effect from 25-1-95. The number of attempts permissible to Other Backward Classes candidates, who are other wise eligible, shall be seven in Civil Services Examinations. Decision regarding exemption from payment of fees is under consideration.

[English]

Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Nigam

1502. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain units of Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Nigam Limited have been closed;

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

(c) the number of employees who become unemployed as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide employment to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Nigam Ltd. is a contracting Agency for execution of civil and structural works established under Companies Act, 1956 and its field units are opened/closed from time to time depending upon availability of works.

(c) The Nigam has not retrenched any of its employee during the last five years.

(d) The Nigam has bagged works amounting to about Rs. 120 crores during the current year.

Ship Carrying Arms

1503. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to a news-item captioned 'Ship carrying arms heading for Gujarat', appeared in the Indian Express dated February 10, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said ship has since been intercepted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Government have seen the news-item. All the relevant details are being ascertained from the Government of Gujarat and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Installation of Tubewells

1504. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tubewells installed with the World Bank assistance during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount of assistance thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have submitted any proposals to the Union Government seeking World Bank assistance for additional tubewells proposed to be installed during 1995-96;

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

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The World Bank assisted Tubewells Projects were taken up in Bihar and West Bengal. The details are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The Government of Bihar has submitted proposal for Bihar Public Tubewells Project phase-II at an estimated cost of Rs. 1128.76 crores for implementation with World Bank assistance during 1994-95 to 2001-02. The State Government has been advised to obtain clearance from the Planning Commission and also to give firm commitments on providing matching funds and to utilise the credit in a timely manner to avoid commitment charges.

Government of West Bengal has submitted proposal for West Bengal Minor Irrigation Project-II at a estimated cost of Rs. 271.5 crores. Project proposal, *inter-alia*, envisages for construction, modernisation and rehabilitation of tubewells. The World Bank have suggested the State Government to consider Water Resources Consolidation Project, which could also include installation of Tubewells.

STATEMENT

Sl. No. Particulars	Energisation			World Bank assistance (in US \$ million)		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
(A) Bihar Public Tubewells Project (Bihar)						
1. New Tubewells	6	34	38	0.989	4.370	0.339
2. Modernisation	12	260	295			
3. Rehabilitation	197	1673	364			
(B) West Bengal Minor Irrigation Project (West Bengal)						
1. High Discharge Tubewells	142	263	101	15.447	1.659	11.632
2. Medium Discharge Tubewells	59	58	38			
3. Low Discharge Tubewells	182	311	196			
4. Shallow Tubewells	378	693	348			

[Translation]

Oilfields to Private Sector

1505. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have handed over Panna, Mukta and Tapti Oilfields of Western Coast and Ravva Oilfields of Eastern Coast to the private sector organisations for future operation;

(b) if so, whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has already spent a large amount and time on these projects for their development;

(c) if so, whether there is a report regarding successful maximum production by these projects;

(d) if not, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether any criterion has been fixed by the Government to hand over the oilfields of the country to the private organisations;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Government have signed production sharing contracts for the development of these fields with ONGC and pvt. companies.

(b) to (d) ONGC had partially developed the Panna, Mukta and Ravva fields. Mid and South Tapti fields have not been developed yet.

(e) and (f) The criteria adopted for selection of successful bidder for awarding of the fields are:

—Technical and financial competence of the company

—Minimum work programme given by the company

—Commercial terms offered to Govt.

—Past experience of the bidders.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Custodial Deaths

1506. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of custodial deaths have come to light during the past six months in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Only one case of custodial death has been reported during the past six months in Delhi.

One Rajesh @ Montoo @ Suresh died while in police custody at Police Station Mangolpuri. A case u/s 304 IPC at police station Mangolpuri has been registered six police officials have been placed under suspension, one of who was arrested by the Crime Branch.

(c) Instructions have been reiterated that persons in custody shall be treated in accordance with the law and that resort to coercive method shall not be made. Strict action, including criminal prosecution, is taken whenever any police official is found indulging in torture or held responsible for a custodial death.

Special inputs have been introduced in the "induction" and 'in-service' training programmes to sensitize police officers about using scientific methods of investigation.

Interrogation rooms are being relocated to make them more visible and bring them close to the reporting rooms so as to minimise scope for violation of these instructions.

[Translation]

Petroleum Products

1507. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign companies have been given permission to sell petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the names of these companies; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to assess the quality of the petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Government have decanalised the import of lubricants and lube oil base stocks and removed all controls on their pricing, thus fully opening lube marketing to private parties including foreign companies. The imports of LPG and kerosene have also been decanalised, and the relevant control orders have been amended to enable private parties including foreign companies to import and market these products at market determined prices.

Some foreign companies have formed joint venture companies with Indian private and public sector companies for marketing superior quality lube oils and parallel marketing of LPG. The names of the foreign oil companies entering into marketing of petroleum products are given below:—

LUBRICANTS:—

1. MOBIL
2. EXXON
3. SHELL INTERNATIONAL
4. CALTEX
5. IDEMITSU
6. MOTUL
7. PENNZOIL
8. MENKIN, GARMANY
9. GULF OIL
10. FUCHS
11. ELF FRANCE
12. C. ITOH
13. LIQUIMOLY, GERMANY
14. TOTAL, FRANCE
15. MITSUBISHI

L.P.G.:—

1. SHELL INTERNATIONAL
2. CALTEX

(c) The quality of the petroleum products have to conform to the provisions of the relevant control orders issued by the Government and BIS specifications.

Outstanding Dues

1508. PROF. (SMT.) RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount of Bharat Coking Coal Limited under the coal head;

(b) the establishments against which the amount is outstanding under the coal head;

(c) the total amount outstanding against different establishments, separately;

(d) the disputed and undisputed outstanding amount against the different establishments, separately; and

(e) the reasons for disputed outstanding amount against different establishments separately and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY

OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The total coal sale dues of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. outstanding as on 28.2.1995 were Rs. 917.58 crores (Provisional).

(b) to (d) The consumer-wise details of disputed and undisputed coal sale dues of BCCL as on 28.2.1995 are given below:

Data Provisional

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of Consumers	Undisputed	Disputed	Total
Bihar State Electricity Board	—	5	5
Badarpur Thermal Power Station	6855	14542	21397
Durgapur Project Ltd.	1658	1059	2717
Damodar Valley Corpn.	2587	4411	6998
Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking	—	556	556
Gujarat State Electricity Board	663	565	1228
Haryana State Electricity Board	—	1019	1019
National Thermal Power Corporation	—	61	61
National Capital Power Plant (NCPPL)	26	646	672
Punjab State Electricity Board	—	10556	10556
Rajasthan State Electricity Board	981	1089	2070
Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	(—)383	417	34
Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	3915	4256	8171
Unchahar TPS	394	—	394
West Bengal State Electricity Board	1755	249	2004
West Bengal Power Development Corporation	5215	40	5255
Steel Authority of India Limited	1700	20113	21813
Tata Iron & Steel Co.	—	314	314
Indian Iron & Steel Co.	1249	1917	3166
Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI)	958	297	1255
Controller Defence Accounts (CAD)	—	63	63
Delhi Small Industries Development Corpn. (DSIDC)	—	51	51
P.K. Mukherjee & Co. (PKM)	—	76	76
Railways	393	1011	1404
Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC)	—	459	459
TOTAL	27966	63792	91758

(e) The disputed outstanding dues are on account of disputes over short receipt of coal, statutory levies, under loading charges, demurrages, freight etc. Which are required to be settled with the consumers.

*[English]***Old and Outdated Collieries**

1509. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to fill up the old and outdated collieries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of collieries under this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Restoration of land and implementation of environmental safeguards in old worked out mines has been identified as one of the thrust areas during the 8th Five Year Plan period. An amount of Rs. 75 crores has been provided in the overall outlay for the 8th Plan period for undertaking the environmental restoration and subsidence control measures in the coalfield areas.

Allocations of Gas

1510. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any priority is given for allocation of gas based on its usage;
- (b) if so, the criteria being adopted in this regard; and
- (c) whether this criteria is being strictly followed in allocation of off-shore gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Allocations of gas are based generally on the Imputed Economic Value of natural gas use subject to preference being given for the power and fertiliser sectors.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

Cable T. V. Connection

1511. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has extended the facility of free installation of Cable T. V. connections in the houses of its managerial staff all over the country; and

- (b) if so, the rationale behind granting such facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) As a welfare measure and with a view to providing information, education and recreation to staff and their families, cable TV facility was provided in 1992 to Management Staff living in company quarters or in a cluster of houses in close proximity. Since provision of this facility on restricted basis created disparity with other Management Staff who were not staying in company quarters, the company decided in 1994 to extend this facility to all Management staff on a reimbursement basis as a welfare measure.

Advertising Facility

1512. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to review its present policy on advertising in AIR/DD;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether viewership of T.V. varies according to the time of the programme;
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to have a different set of advertising facilities for T.V. according to the time allotted for each programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Review of the policy covering advertisements on the electronic media is an ongoing process.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

- (d) and (e) Doordarshan already has a differential tariff structure for commercial advertising.

Safety Equipments

1513. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Oil India Limited has any proposals for procurement of safety equipments for its workers and staff deployed in various oil installations;
- (b) if so, the details therefor; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1995-96 Oil India Limited plans to procure various types of safety equipment towards stock replenishment such as safety helmets and belts, gloves, ear muffs, face masks, safety boots, shoes etc.

- (c) Does not arise.

L.P.G. Connections

1514. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has decided to release 10 lakh new LPG connections during 1995;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether any criteria for releasing LPG connections to the States has been set out; and
- (d) if so, the total demand made by the State and how much out of it is likely to be met in 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) Allotment of new LPG connections is not made on State-wise basis. New LPG

connections are released to the waitlisted persons according to the serial order of registration with the distributor concerned depending on new customer enrolment allotted to the distributor, which is made keeping in view the slack available with the distributor, waiting list and product availability. There is a target of 20 lakh new enrolment for the whole country during 1994-95, out of which IOC's share is 10 lakhs which they have already achieved. The State-wise release of connections during 1994-95 by IOC is as per enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

S.No.	States	1994-95 Figs. in '000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.8
3.	Assam	43.1
4.	Bihar	71.8
5.	Goa	0.3
6.	Gujarat	53.9
7.	Haryana	15.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	59.1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.0
10.	Karnataka	59.4
11.	Kerala	83.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	50.1
13.	Maharashtra	24.9
14.	Manipur	6.2
15.	Meghalaya	4.3
16.	Mizoram	5.0
17.	Nagaland	5.8
18.	Orissa	22.6
19.	Punjab	25.2
20.	Rajasthan	22.2
21.	Sikkim	0.3
22.	Tamilnadu	58.4
23.	Tripura	3.9
24.	Uttar Pradesh	169.5
25.	West Bengal	78.9
Union Territories		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.0
2.	Chandigarh	4.7
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.0
4.	Daman & Diu	0.0
5.	Delhi	27.8
6.	Lakshadweep	0.0
7.	Pondicherry	0.0

Oil Fields to Foreign Companies

1515. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proven oil fields are now being contracted out to foreign companies for oil production;

(b) if so, the number of such oil fields leased out so far, and their locations;

(c) the terms and conditions for such leasing; and

(d) whether ONGC is likely to get a stipulated share in the oil product or in the profits accruing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT

CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contracts for development of 11 small sized and four medium sized oil and gas fields have been signed so far as per details given below:

Location	No. of small sized fields
Gujarat	11
	No. of Medium sized fields
Krishna Godavari Offshore	1
Bombay Offshore	3

(c) The medium sized fields will be developed under production sharing agreements between the Government of India, companies and ONGC. ONGC has participating interest of 40% in these ventures. The joint venture will develop the field under production sharing arrangements with royalty, cess and income tax being payable to Government apart from a share of the profit petroleum from the project coming to Government. The pricing of gas has been based on internationally accepted principles. International price for oil would be paid to the constituents of the contractor, which includes ONGC, for their share of oil sold to the Government. However, Govt. have the first right of refusal in respect of contractor's share of oil.

The small sized fields would be developed by the companies on their own with no participation by ONGC/OIL, under production sharing contracts with the Government of India. The companies would have to pay statutory levies like royalty and cess. Payment for the companies share of oil would be at international market price.

(d) Since ONGC has 40% participating interest in the joint ventures for the medium sized oil and gas fields, ONGC would be entitled to proportionate share of profit oil accrued to the consortium.

[Translation]

New Jail on Delhi

1516. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a new jail in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Jail Nos. 5, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D are under construction in the Tihar Jail complex.

Construction of Jail Nos. 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D with a total capacity of 1800 inmates are in various stages of construction.

Plans are underway to construct jails at Mandoli, Rohini, Narela and Dwarka.

[English]

Pre-Censorship Advice

1517. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Film Certification has sought the views of the film industry associations/film producers on the questions of getting pre-censorship advice from the Board before script/lyrics of song sequences are filmed; and

(b) if so, the response from the film industry associations and film producers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Film Certification has been advised to take up the matter with the film industry associations. The reactions of the Board are awaited.

Crisis Management Team

1518. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has a permanent crisis management team to anticipate blow-outs, fires, various explosions and accidents at its various operations;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) whether this team is proposed to be expanded and strengthened; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC has a permanent Crisis Management Department and five Regional Crisis Management Teams consisting of dedicated Officers to carry out fire fighting and blow out control operations.

(c) and (d) ONGC have also set up a Committee to provide further inputs for strengthening the Crisis Management Teams. In addition, they have acquired additional sophisticated equipments for fire fighting and blow out operations.

TV Production Centre, Chandigarh

1519. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work for setting up of a TV Production Centre at Chandigarh has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) The foundation stone for the Programme Generation Facility Centre at Chandigarh has been laid on 5.8.1994. However, the implementation of the project has got delayed due to reasons such as delay in getting requisite approval of the building plans from Chandigarh Development Authority and overall resource constraints. A project of this nature takes about 3 years to complete from the date of commencement of civil works at the site.

Scheduled Tribe Areas

1520. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for determining a community as Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the areas proclaimed as Scheduled Tribes areas in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether there is area restriction for identification of Scheduled Tribe;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Padhu Palappattu, Palaya Palappattu and Kallipattu villages of Sankarapuram taluk of Villupuram Ramaswamy Padayatchiar district of Tamil Nadu have been proclaimed as Scheduled Tribe areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) The criteria for determining a community as Scheduled Tribe is indication of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with community at large and backwardness.

(b) No areas have been declared as Scheduled Tribe areas in Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Area restrictions have been imposed in respect of following Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu:

1. Kammare (excluding Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district).
2. Kanikaran, Kanikkar (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district).
3. Kota (excluding Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district).
4. Kurumbas (in the Nilgiris district).
5. Malayali (in Dharmapuri, North Arcot, Pudukottai, Salem, South Arcot and Tiruchirappalli district).
6. Toda (excluding Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district).

(e) No, Sir.

Children's Programme on Sunday

1521. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the children's programme on Sunday being telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the programme which is likely to replace the children's programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

English News on Metro Channel

1522. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether direct telecast of evening English news bulletin now has been started on commercial metro channel of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, since when and terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the reasons for telecasting this news bulletin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The National evening news bulletin in English in the national programme on DD-1 has been relayed for over one year now on the DD-2 channel. This has been done on the basis of Doordarshan's overall programme requirement on these two channels.

[English]

TADA cases

1523. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Review Committee have found a number of false TADA cases registered in Bombay and other places; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the observations made by the Review Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Review Committee constituted by the Government of Maharashtra have reviewed 269 cases involving 1582 persons. The provisions of TADA were dropped in 92 cases and 450 persons were released.

Inclusion of Non-tribals in ST list

1524. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-tribals are being included in the Scheduled Tribes category;

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to prevent this practice;

(c) whether development funds allotted for the tribals are being diverted to other fields;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) The communities which fulfil the prescribed criteria are taken into consideration for their specification as Scheduled Tribes.

(c) No specific instance of diversion of development funds allotted by the Ministry for the tribals to other fields has come to notice.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Supply of Naptha

1525. PROF. (SMT.) SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Spectrum Power Generation for supply of Naptha to the 208 MW Combined Cycle Power Station to be set up at Kakina; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), HPCL will supply 30,000 MT of Naptha per annum to M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Ltd. (SPGL). Additional quantities may also be supplied. In addition, HPCL shall assist SPGL in the import of Naptha in case of any shortfall. The MOU dated 24-2-1994 was converted into an agreement on 19-7-1994.

Rehabilitation Plan for Jhunjhra Coal Mines

1526. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a British Company has submitted a rehabilitation plan for Jhunjhra coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Government of India had approached Government of U.K. for giving assistance for refurbishing and eventually deploying damaged longwall equipment of Churcha and Dhemo main at Jhunjhra project in ECL. In response the U.K. Government has commissioned consultant for preparation of a Business Plan for this Project. The findings of study undertaken by the consultant have not been received by the Government so far.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Integrated Tribal Development Programme

1527. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the population of tribals specified for the area to be covered under the Integrated Tribal Development Programme;

(b) the states where the above said developmental programme is being implemented;

(c) the reasons for not launching this programme so far in other States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for implementing this programme properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) The Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) are generally contiguous areas of the size of a Tehsil or a group of Blocks in which the ST population is 50% or more of the total population.

(b) The ITDP are in operation in 18 Tribal Sub-Plan States and 2 UTs namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Daman & Diu.

(c) The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and UTs of Lakshadweep and D&N Haveli are tribal majority States and the entire plan of these States/UTs are primarily meant for the ST population constituting the majority. As such, the ITDPs are not launched in these States/UTs. The remaining States/UTs namely Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Goa, Pondicherry, Chandigarh do not have Scheduled Tribe population.

(d) In order to ensure proper implementation and utilisation of the programmes relating to Tribal Development the Govt. have been taken the following steps:

(i) The State Governments/UT Adms. are required to formulate the Tribal Sub-Plans. (ii) They are to quantify funds for Tribal Sub-Plan proportionate to ST population out of their Plan budgets. (iii) Special Central Assistance is given to the Tribal Sub-Plan States after getting. (iv) Utilisation Certificate from the State Govts./UTs. Funds are sanctioned mainly for family oriented income generating schemes and for infrastructural development incidental thereto. (v) At ITDP level a project level committee is responsible for Planning and overseeing the implementation of tribal development programmes.

[English]

Freedom Fighters' Pension

1528. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications for freedom fighters' pension are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several panels or special screening

Committees have been set up to scrutinise the cases of freedom fighters since 1972;

(d) if so, the details of those panels and committees together with their performance; and

(e) the time by which all the pending applications are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) All timely applications received for grant of freedom fighters pension have been considered and decisions already communicated to the applicants. Only five fresh claims received recently were pending consideration with the Government as on 1-3-1995.

(c) and (d) The following Committees were set up to scrutinise the pension claims and to make recommendations on the genuineness or otherwise of the claims, for consideration of the Government:—

1. Hyderabad Special Screening Committee.
2. Arya Samaj Committee.
3. I.N.A. Non-official Screening Committee.
4. Sindh Committee.
5. Punjab Non-official Screening Committee.
6. Eastern India Committee.
7. Jammu & Kashmir Non-official Screening Committee.

All Committees, except the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee which has been constituted to scrutinise the claims for pension based on the sufferings in the border camps set up in connection with the Hyderabad Liberation Movement, have already completed their work. All these Committees taken together recommended 12,377 cases for grant of pension.

(e) Efforts are made to ensure that decision in respect of all claims for pension is communicated to the applicants in the shortest possible time. However, receipt and disposal of claims for pension during the currency of the Scheme being a continuous process, it is difficult to prescribe any definite time schedule for their disposal.

[Translation]

Steam Coal to U.P.

1529. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of steam coal required for industries and other sectors in Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95;

(b) whether the demand of steam coal of the State Government is being fulfilled; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) The requirements of coal are not assessed State-wise. They are assessed Industry/Sector-wise for the whole country. Coal India Ltd. supplies coal to consumers based on the programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring

authorities. During the period April 94 to February 1995 about 7.40 lakh tonnes of steam coal was supplied to the industries in Uttar Pradesh by rail.

According to information received from Coal India Ltd., coal supplies have been as per the demand excepting in certain specific sources in Raniganj field of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and certain sources such as Bird Saunda and Sirka Colliery of Central Coalfields Ltd. In view of the limited availability of coal from such specific sources, the demand of the consumers is accepted on pro-rata basis and the balance coal, if any, is offered from alternative sources.

[English]

Plan Expenditure

1530. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of plan expenditure sanctioned for Gujarat for the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and proposed for 1995-96;

(b) the contribution of the State in the Annual Plan expenditure for 1993-94, 1994-95 and proposed for 1995-96; and

(c) the amount spent by the State in various schemes during the year 1993-94, 1994-95, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) The outlay approved by the Planning Commission for the Annual Plan 1993-94, 1994-95 as well as the contribution of the State's Own Resources in financing of the approved plan outlay for these two years is given in the enclosed Statement. The outlay for the Annual Plan 1995-96 of Gujarat is yet to be finalised.

(c) The State Government has reported an expenditure of Rs. 193086 lakhs during the Annual Plan 1993-94 and Rs. 79552 lakhs upto December, 1994 during Annual Plan 1994-95 on the various State Plan Schemes.

STATEMENT

Original approved outlay and the share of State's Own Resources in financing the Annual Plan 1993-94 and 1994-95 outlay of the State of Gujarat.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Annual Plan	Original Approved Outlay	Share of State's Own Resources in financing the Annual Plan outlay
1993-94	213700	135813
1994-95	224000*	136378

*Subsequent to the Annual Plan finalisation, an additional Central assistance of Rs. 82.77 lakhs was approved for Pigot and Baldeva Irrigation schemes of the State.

[Translation]

Apprehension of ISI Agents

1531. SHRI VILASRAO MAGNATHRAO

GUNDEWAR:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of ISI agents operating for Pakistan's Intelligence Services were nabbed in January, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No specific instances of Pak ISI agents operating for Pak Intelligence Services having been nabbed in January, 1995 have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Fencing of Indo-Pak Border

1532. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Government so far for fencing Indo-Pak borders;

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

(c) the time by which the remaining fencing work is likely to be completed and the amount estimated to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The details of fencing, so far completed, along Indo-Pak borders are as below:

Border State	Fencing in Kms.
(i) Punjab	451
(ii) Rajasthan	333

Further, fencing work in 267 Kms., out of 387 Kms. sanctioned, is also in progress in Rajasthan.

(c) The sanctioned work is scheduled to be completed by 31st December, 1996. The amount estimated thereon is Rs. 86.05 crores.

Loans to Backward Classes

1533. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation has recently liberalised the sanctioning of loans to members of the backward classes and also introduced some innovative schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments and the nationalised banks have been involved in any way in the liberalised loan schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANKGA BALU): (a) Yes sir.

(b) The following liberalised decisions have been taken by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC).

(I) ENHANCEMENT OF TERM LOAN

In order to enable the beneficiary to procure an asset of higher value NBCFDC term loan limit of 85% of project cost has been enhanced from Rs. 85,000 to 5,00,000 per beneficiary. For project costing upto Rs. 25,000 the NBCFDC can now sanction loans upto 95% of the project cost and in exceptional circumstances upto 100%.

In order to cover the maximum number of beneficiaries 75% of the term loan sanctioned in any financial year to SCA shall be for those project where loan component is below Rs. one lakh.

(II) ENHANCEMENT OF MARGIN MONEY LOAN

NBCFDC has enhanced the Margin Money loan assistance from 25% subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000 to 40% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakh per beneficiary.

(III) INCREASE IN SERVICE CHARGE TO STATE CHANNELISING AGENCIES

(i) Term Loan

The service charges allowed to the State Channelising Agencies has been increased from 2% to 3%.

The revised rate of interest from NBCFDC to State Channelising Agency for beneficiaries living below the poverty line will be 4.5% p.a. which can be further advanced to the beneficiaries at a rate not exceeding 7% for loan upto Rs. 1,00,000.

For beneficiaries below double the poverty line but above the poverty line the rate of interest from NBCFDC to SCA will be 7.5% repayment which may be further advanced at rate not exceeding 10% to the ultimate beneficiaries.

For term loan in excess of Rs. 1,00,000 the NBCFDC loans shall carry interest of 7.5% p.a. and the SCA's may further lend the same at a rate not exceeding 10% p.a.

For transport sector loans above Rs. 1,00,000 NBCFDC rate of interest will be 9.5% p.a. and SCA's may further lend at an interest of 12% p.a. to the ultimate beneficiaries.

NBCFDC provides 0.5% rebate on rate of interest for timely repayment.

For term loans exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 no distinction is made between the beneficiaries living below the poverty line and above the double the poverty line.

(ii) Margin Money Loan

The service charges allowed to the State Channelising Agencies has been increased from 1% to 2% p.a.

The rate of interest for Margin Money Loan assistance

from NBCFDC to SCA's upto Rs. 40,000 shall be 1% p.a. and SCA's may advance it to the ultimate beneficiaries at a rate not exceeding 3% p.a.

In cases where Margin Money assistance is above Rs. 40,000 NBCFDC rate of interest will be 2% p.a. and SCA's may further lend at a rate not exceeding 4% p.a.

(IV) COMPUTERIZATION OF STATE CHANNELISING AGENCIES.

NBCFDC has also decided to provide soft loan assistance to SCA's in order to equip them with Computers for efficiency improvement and monitoring of implementation of NBCFDC schemes. The amount of loan to one Channelising Agency shall not exceed Rs. 5,00,000 in a financial year and the loan will carry rate of interest 2% p.a. recoverable in 16 quarterly instalments.

(V) INCREASING MOBILITY OF EMPLOYEES OF STATE CHANNELISING AGENCIES

In order to improve operating efficiency of employees of SCA's (excluding deputationists) engaged in the implementation of NBCFDC schemes, vehicle loans will be granted to officers of State Channelising Agencies through the Agencies. The limit of vehicle loans will be Rs. 1.5 lakh for car/jeep and Rs. 30,000 for two wheelers. The rate of interest for such loans would be 5% p.a. recoverable in 36 quarterly instalments with interest from SCA to NBCFDC.

(VI) INCREASING COMMUNICATION LINKS WITH STATE CHANNELISING AGENCIES THROUGH ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE.

Keeping pace with the fact technological exchange in the sphere of communications and office technology aimed at better work and economy in expenditure, NBCFDC and SCA's would be linked with Electronic Mail Service. NBCFDC will give 90% of the total cost, involved in installation of this facility, as grant, balance 10% coming from State Corporation.

(c) and (d) These proposals emanated from the discussions in the Regional Conferences held during 1994-95 in which State Welfare Secretaries and Managing Directors of State Channelising Agencies participated.

The State Channelising Agencies and banks are involved in the implementation of the revised schemes in the manner indicated below:—

(i) The Channelising Agencies also finance 5% to 10% of the project cost as loans because NBCFDC sanctions loan upto 85% of the project cost only.

(ii) Banks are involved in Margin Money Loan scheme only where NBCFDC grants loans upto 40% of the project cost, with about 45% to 50% coming from Banks.

Irrigation Projects

1534. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the World Bank aided irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Tamil Nadu is one of the participating States in the on-going World Bank supported multi-state National Water Management Project and Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Project. The present status of sub-project is as follows:

(i) In Tamil Nadu 14 sub-projects, at an estimated cost of Rs. 62.97 crores, have been taken up for implementation under National Water Management Project. For the project as a whole, the World Bank have provided an assistance of US \$ 127.27 million, against which an amount of US \$ 125.582 million has been utilised by the participating States. The World Bank assistance is scheduled to close on 31st March, 1995.

(ii) Under World Bank supported Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Project, eight Dams have been identified in Tamil Nadu for Rehabilitation. An amount of Rs. 70.6 crores have been provided for Tamil Nadu Component of Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Project in the Staff Appraisal Report of the World Bank. For the project as a whole, the World Bank have provided an amount of US \$ 153 million as credit/loan for implementation of this project, against which an amount of US \$ 16.813 million has been utilised by the participating States. World Bank's assistance to this project is scheduled to close on 30th September, 1997.

[Translation]

Petrol Retail Outlets in Bihar

1535. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places in Bihar where scheme of setting up of new petrol retail outlets have been sanctioned as on January 31, 1995;

(b) the number of places where such outlets have been opened as on date;

(c) the places for which the advertisement was published;

(d) the places for which applicants were interviewed;

(e) whether the final permission/sanction have been granted to the successful candidates for opening of petrol retail outlets;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (g) During the period January 1993 to January, 1995, 273 locations were advertised in Bihar for retail outlets dealerships. Letters of Intent have been issued for 190 retail outlets dealerships out of 191 interviews conducted by OSB (Bihar). Out of the above, 116 retail outlets dealerships have been considered.

Oil Refinery in Bihar

1536. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an oil refinery in Bihar

(b) whether any foreign assistance has been sought for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the location where the refinery is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Supply of Coal

1537. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly requirement of coal in Madhya Pradesh for domestic and industrial consumption;

(b) the quantity of coal allocated to the State during each of the last twelve months;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the coal allocation to Madhya Pradesh in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The requirements of coal are assessed Industry/Sector-wise for the whole country. They are not assessed State-wise. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) supplies coal based on programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to Power and Cement Industries are made based on short-term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) for these sectors.

(b) According to information furnished by CIL, the total quantity of coal supplied by them to Madhya Pradesh during each of the 12 months during 1994 was as under:—

Months	(In 000 tonnes) Data Provisional Quantity
January, 94	3326.0
February, 94	3122.0
March, 94	3422.0

Months	(In 000 tonnes) Data Provisional Quantity
April, 94	3231.0
May, 94	2817.0
June, 94	2619.0
July, 94	2889.0
August, 94	2611.0
September, 94	2832.0
October, 94	3283.0
November, 94	3491.0
December, 94	3750.0

(c) and (d) Instructions have been issued to coal companies to ensure adequate availability of coal to all consumers, including those located in Madhya Pradesh to meet their full requirements. However, any requests for additional allocations of coal/coke are considered/examined in each case on merits. CIL is presently in a position to meet almost the entire non-coking coal demand in Madhya Pradesh except for soft coke/hard coke. In addition, coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Schemes (LSS) under which scheme, coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships. Under this scheme, coal is also being supplied to Whole Sale Traders/Mini Traders who in turn meet the requirements of small consumers.

Coal dues against CCI

1538. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the coal payable by the Cement Corporation of India till December, 1994

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken for its recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) According to the information received from Coal India Ltd., their total undisputed dues payable by Cement Corporation of India (CCI) as on 31.12.94 were Rs. 15 crores. This amount has accumulated because Coal India Ltd. agreed to supply some coal to CCI without insisting on pre-payment. CCI is being persuaded by Coal India Ltd. for making early payments.

Technical Assistance for Oil Refineries

1539. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation is seeking some technical assistance from the multinational oil companies for its oil refineries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Centre for High

Technology, (CHT) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, had entered into technical services assistance agreement for oil refining technology for all the public sector refineries in the country, including those of IOC, with the multinational oil companies namely, M/s. Caltex Services Corporation, (CSC) USA and M/s. British Petroleum, (BP) U.K. for a period of one year in June, 1992 and April, 1993 respectively. CHT have now decided to have fresh agreements with M/s. CSC, USA and BP, UK, for this purpose for two more years.

[English]

Drilling Operations in K.G. Basin

1540. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether major ONGC drilling operations are concentrated in the Krishna-Godavari basin of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a demand to locate the headquarters of ONGC at Rajahmundry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Presently, 7 onland rigs and 2 offshore rigs are deployed in the Krishna-Godavari basin.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, there is a demand to locate the regional office at Rajahmundry. ONGC are taking steps in this regard.

International Film Festival

1541. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 26th International Film Festival was held in Bombay in January, 1995;

(b) if so, the contribution made by his Ministry administratively, financially and technically;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the presentation of this Festival;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government have noticed some irregularities therein;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The organising committee constituted by the Ministry formulated the concept and size of the programme in consultation with the Government of Maharashtra. 26 functional units were set up to implement the decisions taken by the organising committee. A budget of Rs. 115

lakhs was sanctioned for the festival amongst others, theatre and technical committees were set up to ensure that projection facilities were of international standard.

(c) to (g) Action to undertake a detailed review of the presentation of this festival has been initiated. However, the festival itself was one of the largest and most comprehensively representative events of its kind in the world, which successfully attracted the participation of 223 films representing 44 countries. A total of 465 film shows were held in 11 of the best theatres in Bombay. In addition, 4 shows demonstrating the pre-cinematic technique of the "Magic Lantern" were also held in a twelfth theatre.

More than 450 film critics and other media persons from all over the country and abroad were specially accredited for the festival and about 2,900 official film delegates were registered for the festival. This was also the first film festival in the world to be held in the year of the centenary of cinema.

The selection of international films was largely appreciated by the film critics and personalities, as they included some of the most highly lauded new films from across the world.

No serious irregularities have been noticed with regard to the organisation of the festival. However all efforts will continue to be made to monitor and streamline the organisation of such festivals in future.

It may be added that the programme "Cinema Cinema 100" organised by the National Film Development Corporation Limited was not part of the International Film Festival of India 1995.

[Translation]

Public Sector Projects

1542. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of public sector projects are running behind the schedule;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether any directions have been issued to ensure the timely completion of the projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) As per the information available with the Department of Programme Implementation, as on 1.1.1995, out of 356 projects (costing Rs. 20 crores and above), 181 projects are running behind schedule with respect to their latest approved dates.

(c) and (d) Directions have been given to all the concerned project authorities for timely completion of projects. They have been asked to set up Task Force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems,

fixing of responsibilities for delays, application of latest management tool and techniques for implementation and monitoring and release of matching funds based on physical progress.

Desiltation Programme

1543. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of desiltation programme of the main rivers in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal for desiltation plan for downstream of Damodar river; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) At present there is no proposal for desiltation of main rivers in the country.

(b) and (c) Scheme entitled "Lower Damodar Drainage Scheme" involving deepening of river Roopnarain near Pansuli for a length of 3.75 KM at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.40 crores was cleared by the Planning Commission in June, 1989.

Fencing of International Border

1544. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposals under consideration for fencing the international border alongwith Jammu frontiers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total area for which fencing is proposed to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The proposal to fence the International Border in the Jammu Sector is at an advanced stage of consideration. A total length of 180 kms. is proposed for fencing.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Air/DD

1545. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI R. ANBARASU:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:

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

(a) whether the Government had appointed a high level committee to conduct a study of the matter concerning the privatisation of Doordarshan and

Akashvani;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the report submitted by the Committee; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Polavaram Multipurpose Project

1546. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to include the Polavaram Multipurpose Project in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested to the Union Government to seek external assistance for this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No specific request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for inclusion of polavaram Multipurpose project in the IX Plan. However, a modified project report at an estimated cost of Rs. 3030 crores was received in the Central Water Commission in July, 1990. Hydrological studies of the project have been finalised and the State Government is required to sort out other techno-economic issues, obtain environment, forests, rehabilitation & resettlement plan clearances and concurrence of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa for submergence in their territories.

(b) No proposal for external assistance for Polavaram Project has been received in this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Coal Production

1547. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India units have been asked to fulfil the targets set for production, productivity, despatch and profitability as reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 12, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the underground productivity in coal sector has remain stagnant during April-December, 1994 at last year's level; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to bring improvements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target fixed for production, productivity and profit for year 1994-95 are given below:

	Target 1994-95
Production (in million tonnes)	223.00
Productivity (output per manshift) (in tonnes)	1.53
Despatch (in million tonnes)	228.18
Gross Margin (profit before depreciation, interest and tax) (PBDIT) (Rs. in crores)	1730.00

(c) and (d) The labour productivity in underground mines of CIL is higher by about 1.9% during the period April-December, 1994 as compared to similar period last year. The steps taken to further improve underground productivity inter-alia include:—

(i) Mechanisation of Bord and Pillar workings by introduction of load haul dumpers (LHD) and side discharge loaders.

(ii) Improving performance of all equipments including power support longwall equipment by providing necessary inputs as well as system improvement.

(iii) Improved manpower planning including redeployment as well as rationalisation of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme, already in vogue.

(iv) Improved management of spare parts etc.

(v) Improvement in working conditions by providing better ventilation, better lighting and improved communication system in underground mines.

(vi) Improvement in power supply particularly in the coal mines of eastern region through construction of direct feeders to obtain power from DVC and setting up of captive power plant in selected locations.

(vii) Improvement of communication between managers, supervisors and workers through regular Joint Consultative Committee, operating in different coal mines.

[Translation]

Loading of Coal

1548. PROF. (SMT.) RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal loaded in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCCL) manually during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) the amount incurred on loading of coal manually during the above period;

(c) the number of labourers whose services were hired for loading of coal manually during the said period; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on per ton loading of coal manually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) According to the information received from Coal India Limited and quantity of coal loaded manually in Bharat Coking Coal Limited during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 was as under:—

(Figures in '000 tonnes)
(Data Provisional)

Year	Quantity of coal loaded manually
1991-92	4209.37
1992-93	3928.49
1993-94	3444.22

(b) The expenditure incurred on loading of coal manually was as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)
(Data Provisional)

Year	Expenditure incurred on loading coal manually
1991-92	686.36
1992-93	765.93
1993-94	796.37

(c) Coal India Limited have intimated that the loading work was done by the existing departmental workers.

(d) The expenditure incurred per tonne loading of coal manually are given below:—

(In Rupees per tonne)
(Data Provisional)

Year	Expenditure incurred
1991-92	16.31
1992-93	19.50
1993-94	23.12

[English]

Supply of Coal

1549. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the agreement between the State Electricity Boards and the coal India Limited regarding supply of coal;

(b) whether there is any variation of agreement;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government; and

(d) the amount outstanding for payment to Coal India Limited by the State Electricity Boards, State wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Coal India Ltd. had entered into agreement with State Electricity Boards in the year 1984-85 for supply of coal the validity period of which agreements ranged from 1 year to 3 years. According to Coal India Ltd., all these agreements have since expired.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

(d) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd. (CIL), the amounts outstanding for payment to CIL by State Electricity Boards (State-wise) as on 28.2.95 was as follows:

Data Provisional
(Rs. in Crores)

State Electricity Boards	Disputed	Undisputed	Total
Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	17.29	12.31	29.60
Bihar State Electricity Board	19.52	20.43	39.95
Gujarat Electricity Board	48.30	73.58	121.88
Haryana State Electricity Board	129.48	21.40	150.88
Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	23.19	45.99	69.18
Maharashtra State Electricity Board	355.54	68.39	423.93
Orissa State Electricity Board	16.87	5.53	22.40
Punjab State Electricity Board	199.03	59.28	258.31
Rajasthan State Electricity Board	30.16	12.27	42.43
Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	136.70	55.14	191.84
Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	113.99	248.22	362.21
West Bengal State Electricity Board	2.02	255.10	257.12
TOTAL	1092.09	877.64	1969.73*

*Note:— The above amount does not include overdues of Coal Companies from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Power Utilities/consumers other than State Electricity Boards.

Bombay FM channel

1550. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private parties to which Bombay FM channel of AIR has been leased out;

(b) the increase in the income of Bombay FM channel as a result thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the quality of programmes of Bombay FM channel has been due to its leasing out to private parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Three private parties have been allotted time slots on AIR's FM channel at Bombay.

(b) The details of the revenue earned by AIR from the licence fee paid by the private allottees are as follows:—

1993-94	Rs. 93.12 lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 91.25 lakhs
(estimated)	

(c) The programmes of the private allottees have been responsible, to a significant extent, for the growing popularity of this channel.

Minimum Needs Programme

1551. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance being provided to Maharashtra under the Minimum Needs Programme has been curtailed;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the details of the specific scheme for which it has been curtailed; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) Central assistance to States is provided in the form of block loans and grants and not for individual programmes/projects/ sectors/ Minimum Needs Programme components. The outlays under Minimum Needs Programme form part of the States Annual Plan outlays and they are earmarked. Proportionate cut in Central assistance to States is made when expenditure falls short of Plan outlays in earmarked sectors.

During the current year (1994-95) Rs. 312.97 crores has been approved for the Minimum Needs Programme of Maharashtra and there will be a cut in Central assistance to Maharashtra this year only if the expenditure falls short of the earmarked outlay.

Kids Film Complex

1552. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have dropped the proposal of setting up of kids film complex in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent so far on the project;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to reconsider its decision; and

(e) 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) A sum of Rs. 6,04,675.75 has been spent so far.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Gas from Bangladesh

1553. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement is likely for supply of natural gas from Bangladesh to India;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether any technical collaboration for this purpose is likely with M/s. British Gas of U.K.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Tungabhadra Right Bank Canal

1554. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to release 2.03 TMC water from the Tungabhadra right bank canal; and

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

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

(b) An emergency meeting of the Tungabhadra Board was held on the 5th March, 1995 at Bangalore for considering the availability of water and the total requirement of water for both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. It was decided to release 1.6 TMC of water through the High Level Canal to Andhra Pradesh.

Funds for Irrigation and Flood Management Programme

1555. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have proposed to allocate more funds to Kerala under the Irrigation and Flood Management Programmes during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) Under the Constitution, Irrigation including Flood Control and Command Area Development is a State subject and thereby the responsibility of planning, formulation, funding, execution and management including maintenance of irrigation schemes including flood control rests primarily with the concerned State. The financial size of State's Annual Plan 1995-96 has been fixed at Rs. 1550 crore and for that the State Govt. has proposed an outlay of Rs. 177 crore for Irrigation sector including Rs. 16. crore for Flood Control and Anti-Sea Erosion schemes against the approved outlay of Rs. 163.5 crore and Rs. 15 crore for Irrigation sector as a whole and Flood Control including Anti-Sea Erosion schemes respectively for the Annual Plan 1994-95.

Coloured Kerosene

1556. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of kerosene meant for domestic consumption being diverted to commercial use;

(b) whether the Government have recently reserved its decision of setting kerosene, through PDS, in two colours to a uniform colour;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to check diversion of kerosene to black-market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No specific data is available about the quantum of kerosene meant for domestic consumption being diverted to commercial use as the distribution of kerosene from the wholesalers to the retailers and further to the consumers under the Public Distribution System is the over-all responsibility of the State Governments.

(b) and (c) The Government have no proposal to reverse the decision to supply only blue-dyed kerosene for the Public Distribution System.

(d) In order to check diversion and black-marketing of kerosene, steps such as furtural doping of kerosene, blue-dyeing of kerosene meant for the Public Distribution System, sample testing by mobile laboratories and

surprise inspections by field officers of oil companies and State Authorities are taken.

[Translation]

Jawans killed in Extremist Violence

1557. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of C.R.P.F. jawans killed in Uttar Pradesh in the course of extremist violence during the last two years;

(b) whether any compensation has been given to the next to the Kin Victims;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No CRPF jawan was killed in Uttar Pradesh in the course of extremist violence during the last two years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Infiltration through Gujarat

1558. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether extremists have infiltrated recently through Gujarat border using fake passports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested and action taken against them; and

(d) the remedial measure taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) One person was apprehended in 1994 by our security forces while infiltrating through Gujarat border and was handed over to the police for further action.

(d) Government have initiated all necessary and appropriate steps to check anti-national activities including strengthening and deployment of para-military forces, their intensified patrolling, issue of sophisticated border surveillance equipments, gearing up State intelligence network and ensuring close coordination between various agencies, opening of new check-posts and conducting of surprise checks, monitoring the activities of anti-social and anti-national elements etc.

[English!]

LPG Terminals

1559. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation is setting up an Infrastructure Development Joint Venture with IBP Co.

Ltd. for building LPG terminals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SC/ST Finance and Development Corporation

1560. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where State Level Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation are functioning; and

(b) the estimated number of persons benefited by this Corporation, State/UT-wise so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) The names of States/UTs where Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporations are functioning are given in enclosed Statement I.

(b) The Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) have benefited 78.52 lakh persons so far since inception as per details at enclosed Statement II. The State/UT-wise detail from 1991-92 onwards are given in enclosed Statement III.

STATEMENT I

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Assam
3.	Bihar
4.	Gujarat
5.	Goa
6.	Haryana
7.	Himachal Pradesh
8.	Jammu & Kashmir
9.	Karnataka
10.	Kerala
11.	Madhya Pradesh
12.	Maharashtra
13.	Orissa
14.	Punjab
15.	Rajasthan
16.	Tamil Nadu
17.	Tripura
18.	Uttar Pradesh
19.	West Bengal
20.	Chandigarh
21.	Delhi
22.	Pondicherry
23.	Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli

STATEMENT II

Number of beneficiaries covered since inception of the Scheme

S.No.	Plan	Beneficiaries (in lakhs)
1.	VI Five Year Plan (1980-85)	28.69
2.	VII Five Year Plan (1985-90)	29.22
3.	1990-91 (Annual Plan)	5.42
4.	1991-92	4.52
	1992-93 *	5.35
	1993-94	5.32
Total		78.52

* State/UT-wise details are in Statement III

STATEMENT III

S.No.	Name of States/UTs	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97,147	1,17,739	1,32,011
2.	Assam	5,543	3,500	3,368
3.	Bihar	4,358	6,111	1,907
4.	Gujarat	21,624	24,025	33,600
5.	Haryana	11,518	12,875	14,296
6.	Himachal Pradesh	7,219	5,673	8,681
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,308	2,147	3,147
8.	Karnataka	13,316	17,452	23,761
9.	Kerala	1,886	1,909	5,148
10.	Madhya Pradesh	22,044	43,285	50,900
11.	Maharashtra	29,889	39,786	56,315
12.	Orissa	10,853	12,783	14,853
13.	Punjab	28,696	32,669	N.A.
14.	Rajasthan	49,510	58,524	59,350
15.	Tamil Nadu	649	2,036	1,545
16.	Tripura	995	1,337	N.A.
17.	Uttar Pradesh	95,774	98,257	62,844
18.	West Bengal	45,910	52,369	56,943
19.	Goa	X	X	X
20.	Chandigarh	405	43	445
21.	Delhi	1,510	2,046	2,419
22.	Pondicherry	649	702	813
23.	Daman & Diu & Dadra & Nagar Haveli	X	X	X
		4,51,803	5,35,268	5,32,408

Note: X Newly established Corporation.

ISI Activities in U.P.

1561. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'ISI may find its home in Western U.P.', appearing in the Hindustan Times dated March 6, 1995;

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

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Union Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (e): Government is not aware of any increase in the activities of Pak ISI in Western Uttar Pradesh. Instances of ISI sponsored activities have been coming to notice even in the past. Government is aware of the designs of ISI of Pakistan to carry out aspoionage, subversions and sabotage in India in a clandestine manner and is taking all necessary steps to combat and frustrate such objectives by gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by the concerned central and state agencies strengthening the deployment of para-military forces at strategic locations, intensified coastal as well as inland patrolling construction of border fencing and flood-lighting in vulnerable stretches of the Indo-Pak border. A number of Pak intelligence agents have also been apprehended from different parts of the country.

[Translation]

Hostels for SCs/STs

1562. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels constructed for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the number of hostels proposed to be constructed during 1995-96; and

(c) the financial assistance provided/proposed to be provided by the Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the House.

DD Advertisements through Private Agencies

1563. SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan propose to involve private marketing agencies in obtaining advertisements; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions on which these agencies are likely to be involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The services of private marketing agencies are already being utilised by Doordarshan in the case of special events. Such arrangements are done on the basis of a minimum guarantee and revenue sharing.

Prime Coal

1564. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which price for prime coal given to the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) by the Coal India Limited (CIL) is determined;

(b) whether the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries is claiming at least Rs. 300 crore from SAIL to recover dues arising from underpriced despatches of coking coal during 1994-95;

(c) the reasons why coal was being supplied by CIL to SAIL at unremunerative prices;

(d) the SAIL's reaction to this claim being lodged by the CIL;

(e) whether the price of prime coal to be supplied to the SAIL during 1995-96 has since been determined; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is supplying raw coking coal as well as washed coking coal to Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). The price of raw coal is charged to SAIL according to the Govt. notification. The washed coal price is mutually negotiated between CIL and SAIL taking into account normated cost of washed coal production computed on administered price of coking coal plus 12% return on equity calculated at 50% of networth.

(b) to (d) According to CIL sources against the calculated weightage average price of Rs. 1581 per tonne claimed for washed coal from Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) washeries for the year 1994-95, the SAIL is paying @ Rs. 1257 per tonne. Hence there is a gap of Rs. 324/ per tonne in case of BCCL and in case of Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) supplies, the corresponding gap is Rs. 122 per tonne of washed coal. CIL and SAIL are discussing bilaterally the issue of fair price of washed coking coal. Besides one of the terms of reference of the current study on coal price by Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) is the study on price of washed coal.

(e) : No, Sir.

(f) : Does not arise.

[Translation]

Letters from MPs

1565. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the numbers of letters from Member of Parliament received in his Ministry for allotment of dealership/distributorship and LPG connections during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) A large number of letters are received from MPs and other VIPs for allotment of dealerships/distributorships and for release of LPG connections. The locations recommended are got surveyed for setting up dealerships/distributorships. If found feasible, these are included in the marketing plans for selection of dealers/distributors as per the prescribed procedure i.e. advertisement of locations, selection through OSBs, etc. Requests for release of LPG connections are also examined keeping in view the recommendations of the MPs/VIPs, product availability and the entitlement of the distributors.

[English]

De-control of Petrol and Diesel

1566. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift controls on price and distribution of petrol and diesel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) A 'Strategic Planning Group' on restructuring the National Oil Industry with members comprising of top management from public and private sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes, has been formed. The group has not yet submitted its report.

[Translation]

HBJ Pipeline

1567. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the cost of the scheme formulated for the expansion of HBJ pipeline project was initially estimated

to Rs. 1,427 crore;

(b) if so, the year in which the estimate was made;

(c) whether the technical and economic report pertaining to the project had been received by the Government in November, 1990;

(d) if so, whether final approval to this project was accorded in February, 1994;

(e) if so, the reasons for delay in according approval and project has since escalated due to delay in its construction; and

(f) the cost of construction of the project likely to be incurred now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project cost at the TEFR stage was Rs. 1,427 crores at November, 1990 prices.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The approval of the project took time as the availability of gas for the upgradation had to be examined in detail. There is no cost escalation due to delay in construction.

(f) The approved project cost is Rs. 2,376 crores.

[English]

Coking Coal

1568. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has any proposal to recover coking coal from slurry and tailings waste at its washeries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the details of washeries identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited (CIL) has floated a global tender for setting up fine coal recovery plants in some existing washeries under build-own-operate scheme. Tender documents have been issued to three qualified bidders.

(d) The details of the identified fine coal recovery plants are given below.

Name of the existing Coal Company washeries where recovery plants are proposed.		Estimated capacity (TPH)
Dugda	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	100
Sudamdih	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	45
Bhojudih	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	45
Moonidih	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	30
Patherdih	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	75
Kargali	Central Coalfields Limited	30
Kathara	Central Coalfields Limited	100
Gidi	Central Coalfields Limited	100
Rajrapa	Central Coalfields Limited	75

Coal Washeries

1569. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up some central coal washeries to provide good quality of coal to the cement units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has proposed to set up a coal washery at Sasti (2 million tonnes per annum capacity) in Maharashtra under Western Coalfields Limited under 'Build-own-Operate' Scheme to supply washed coal to cement units. Offers received against the global tender floated are under negotiation with the selected parties.

CIL has also floated a global tender to set up a washery at Raigarh (1 million tonne per annum capacity) in Madhya Pradesh under South Eastern Coalfields Limited under 'Build-own-Operate' Scheme to cater to the needs of cement and sponge iron industries.

[Translation]

Central Assistance for Project

1570. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to increase Central assistance for their projects during current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for provision of Central assistance for their Pigut

and Baldeva irrigation schemes during the current financial year, and has approved an additional Central assistance of Rs. 82.77 lakhs under the State's Annual Plan 1994-95 for their Pigut and Baldeva irrigation schemes.

Hostels for SC/ST Students

1571. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students set up in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of students benefited therefrom during the said period;

(c) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent any proposal to the Union Government seeking assistance for construction of hostels in the State particularly in Mathura;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) 76 hostels for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students have been sanctioned to benefit 3906 students in Uttar Pradesh under the centrally sponsored schemes of Girls/Boys hostels for SCs/STs during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent proposals to the Union Government seeking assistance for construction of 6 hostels for Scheduled Castes with 50 inmates each and for construction of another 39 hostels for Scheduled Caste boys with total 1950 inmates including one hostel with 50 inmates at Mathura during the current financial year 1994-95.

(e) The proposal of the State Government has, however, been received on 5.3.95 when funds under the scheme for 1994-95 have already been exhausted. It is, therefore, not possible to release Central Assistance therefor during the current financial year. The proposal shall be considered during 1995-96.

[English]

Petrol Retail Outlets

1572. SHRI S.M. LAJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new petrol retail outlets in Andhra Pradesh sanctioned by the Oil Selection Board for 1993-94 have been allotted to the concerned allottees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Oil Selection Board, Andhra Pradesh had recommended panels for 41 retail outlet dealerships during 1993-94. Letters of Intent in respect of all the dealerships have been issued by the concerned oil company.

(c) Does not arise.

Compressed Natural Gas

1573. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI:

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

(a) whether the Government have studied the possibility of running all Government owned vehicles on compressed natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Elections to Local Bodies in Delhi

1574. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

DR. MAHADEEP SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when where the last elections of local bodies in Delhi held;

(b) whether the duration of these local bodies has been extended several times;

(c) if so, the dates on which the duration had been extended and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the elections to the local bodies in Delhi are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The last elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi were held in 1983.

(b) and (c) Since the Government was considering the question of reorganisation of the administrative and municipal set-up of Delhi, the term of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, which was due to expire on 7.2.87, was extended thrice. The last extended term was to end on 7.2.90.

(d) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi was superseded w.e.f. 6.1.90. The period of supersession has been extended several times since then; the last extension, valid up to 31.5.95, was notified on 28.2.95.

At present, it is not possible to indicate the specific date for holding of elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in view of the instructions issued by the Chief Election Commissioner in the light of the Supreme Court Judgement of 6.2.95, directing that Electoral Registration Officers should review all cases of non-inclusion/deletion of names of persons on grounds of suspected citizenship.

[English]

Gas Leakage

1575. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas leaked from a pipeline of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and caught fire at Chiloda village in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) There was a leakage from a gas pipeline being operated by Gas Authority of India Limited at Chiloda village in Gujarat in January, 1995. The leakage took place from a blow down valve. The gas did not catch fire.

(c) The leaking valve was immediately replaced. The frequency of maintenance checks of the valves has been increased to restrict recurrence of such incidents.

[Translation]

Pending Serials From Gujarat

1576. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of serials for local channel sent by the Government of Gujarat for clearance during the last three years and current year so far;

(b) whether the Committee constituted for the purpose has since evaluated and approved these serials;

(c) if so, the details of the serials that have been cleared; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be telecast from Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) While Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad did not receive any proposal directly from the Government of Gujarat. Two proposals for serials were received from the Film Development Corporation of Gujarat Ltd., Gandhinagar in October, 1994.

(b) to (d) The proposal for a serial 'Katha Gurjari' could not be accepted by the Kendra in view of the large number of sponsored serials pending for telecast. The Kendra's offer to accommodate the other serial on a children subject in its children's programme did not evoke any response from the Film Development Corporation of Gujarat.

Agricultural and Rural Development

1577. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh for agricultural and rural development during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the amount sought by the State Government and approved by the Planning Commission for this purpose during the above period; and

(c) the reasons for allocating less amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The Planning Commission does not make per capita allocations. However, the per capita amount sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh under State Plan for agriculture and allied activities and rural development during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 works out as follows:—

	(Rs.)		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Agriculture & Allied Activities	26.49	21.57	24.91
Rural Development (IRDP, JRY EAS and DPAP)	21.25	19.50	27.50

(b) The amount sought by the State Government and approved by the Planning Commission are as follows:—
(Rs. Crores)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
<i>Agriculture and Allied Activities</i>			
(a) Sought by State Govt.	411.97	279.20	365.41
(b) Approved by Planning Commission	377.51	312.94	367.68
<i>Rural Development</i>			
(a) Sought by State Govt.	301.20	302.44	405.64
(b) Approved by Planning Commission	302.88	282.85	405.84

(c) The amount approved by the Planning Commission in respect of Agriculture and Allied Activities and Rural Development were more than those sought by the State Government except for Agriculture and allied activities for 1992-93 and Rural Development for 1993-94. It was because of the priority assigned to different sectors during 1992-93 and 1993-94 and the over all resource availability during these period.

Raids on Petrol Retail Outlets

1578. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether raids were conducted on certain petrol/diesel retail outlets in the Western States particularly in Gujarat, recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the State-wise, number of petrol retail outlets raided upon during each of the last three years and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

State-wise number of retail outlets raided during the last three years in the Western States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa.

Year	Gujarat	Maharashtra	Goa
1992-93	16	7	Nil
1993-94	8	4	Nil
1994-95	9	9	Nil

Irregularities like density variation in petrol, failure of samples to meet the specifications, discrepancies in records, unauthorised decantation of petroleum products, stock variation, adulteration, etc. were detected in some of the retail outlets. In proven cases, action such as warning, suspension of sales and supplies, suspension of selling licences, etc. was taken by the oil companies/State Authorities.

[English]

Mathura Refinery

1579. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adopted any measures to check the increasing pollution of smoke being emitted from Mathura Refinery; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Mathura Refinery gaseous emissions are well within the prescribed environmental limits/standards.

Oil Refineries

1580. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposals to farm out oil refineries from the public sector to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) whether any public sector refineries are incurring losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

11.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): The TADA is the major and important issue.... (Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee came and sat on the floor near the Table. ... (Interruptions)

12.01 1/2 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Saroj Dube and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

12.03 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee went back to her seat.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m.

12.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No election, no House.... (Interruptions)

14.02 1/2 hrs.

(At this stage, Shrimati Saroj Dube and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Papers to be laid on the Table.

[English]

14.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

The Ministers' (Allowance Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1995 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): On behalf of Shri S.B. Chavan, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the draft Notification (Hindi and English versions) containing the Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1995 under sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952. (Placed in Library See No. LT 7151/95)
- (2) A copy of the Special Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 9th January, 1995 issued by the President authorising Governor of Tamil Nadu for additional expenses during 1993-94 under Hospitality and Office expenses, Maintenance and Repairs of Furnishings and Contract Allowance of Schedule II under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982. (Placed in Library See No. LT 7152/95)

Review on the working of and Annual Report of National scheduled castes and scheduled tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi for 1993-94 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri, 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, 1965:—
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the Working of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon (Placed in Library. See No. LT 7153/95)
 - (b) (i) Review by the Government of the Working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1993-94.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7154/95]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 1993-94.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7155/95]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned

at (5) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT7156/95]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay, for the year 1993-94.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7157/95]

Annual Report and review on the working of Regional Computer Centre, Calcutta for 1993-94 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Computer Centre, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Regional Computer Centre, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7158/95]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 1993-94.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7159/95]

Annual Report and review on the working of Oil Industry Development Board for 1993-94 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): On behalf of Captain Satish Sharma, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board for the year 1993-94.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7160/95]

Annual Report Annual Accounts and review on the working of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune for 1993-94 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): On behalf of Shri K.P. Singh Deo. I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 1993-94. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7161/95]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young people, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7162/95]

- (3) A copy of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 729(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 1994, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Bill, 1994. [Placed in Library. See No. LT7163/95]

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2.35 p.m.

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Message from Rajya Sabha. Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1995 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd March, 1995;

14.35-12 hrs.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL

As Passed by Rajya Sabha

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1995, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 1995. (Interruptions)

[English]

14. 36 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Chhedi Paswan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned to meet at 4 p.m.

14.37 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.

[English]

1600 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Sixteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

RE: POSTPONMENT OF ELECTIONS IN BIHAR

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Sir, so far as Bihar election is concerned, whatever things are going on in that State, you know better because it was scheduled to be held in the month of February. Since December, after the notification was issued by the election Commission, every development work has been just stopped. No development work is taking place in that State after that. It was scheduled to be held in the month of February. Again, it was rescheduled on one pretext or the other. It was scheduled to be held in the month of March, namely, 5th March, 7th March and 9th March. It was again deferred. Again, rescheduling took place—at whose behest, at whose instance, we do not know exactly. After that, it was deferred to 11th March, 15th March and 19th March. We were very much satisfied earlier with whatever the Election commission was doing. We were hoping against all hopes that the elections would be held and a Government would be formed in Bihar before 15th March, because this was the deadline, this was the expiry date. After that, the Government would not have existed. We waited with all patience and perservance. We hoped that the Election Commission would do justice to that state...⁴

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ansari, you please hear me first. I am allowing you. Please express your views in such a fashion that if there is some grievance it is redressed. We are all Constitutional authorities, Parliament, Election Commission and others. We shall do it in such a fashion. That portion is not going on record. I will look into it.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: With all respect, I am speaking, Sir. The dates have been shifted again and again, time and again. This has made a mockery of the entire democratic process. We also hoped that the elections would be held within the scheduled time and a Government would be formed. But the people who were afraid of the elections and the parties which were afraid of the elections were making all sorts of frivolous and baseless charges against our Government which was running for the last five years with normal law and order situation and with all normalcy, without any sort of disturbance or without any sort of problems. Now, the people are raising all sorts of voices against the Government which was democratically elected by the people. Now, the Election Commission has also taken a view. That is why, I am telling you that this shows the intention of the Election Commission. I am not mud-slinging against the Election Commission; I am not accusing the Election Commission; I am not blaming the Election Commission. But, at the same time, I must say unequivocally in clear terms that this shows the intention of the election Commission. Our Government and the Chief Minister challenged in the Supreme Court that the identity cards were going to be foisted on the State. I am telling you the truth. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ansari, you may please understand. There is a nice balance which you should maintain. I will go into the record and that portion which cannot go into the record will not be allowed to go on record. You may please weigh every word you speak because we are in Parliament.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may please hear me first. We are in Parliament; we have a duty to protect the Constitution and whatever is there in the constitution. Why do you not speak in that fashion?

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): I am maintaining a nice balance, Sir. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can do it in a very very fine manner and in an effective manner without using something which goes against the spirit and the words of the Constitution.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: I am presenting the facts, Sir.

⁴Not recorded.

(Interruptions) The Election Commission postponed the date of the election after the 15th of March also. We came here; we asked and we requested; we saw the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, through you, Sir, and asked him that a request must be made to the Election Commission not to postpone further the dates; and finally, it was assured on the floor of this House, before you, Sir, that this date will be preponed from the 21st of March....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I must set the record correct that no such assurance was given.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: A feeling was expressed by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that it will be preponed from the 25th of March, but nothing has happened. Anyhow, we were satisfied....

MR. SPEAKER: This is going off the record.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: The Election Commission was in full knowledge and it was within the information of the Election Commission that after the 15th of March, the life of the Government will expire. Again, the Election Commission knows fully well that after the 31st of March, there will be a need for financial help and before that date, the Financial Bill and the Budget have to be passed. In spite of all this information and in spite of all these facts....

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Again, from whatever news is trickling through and whatever telephonic messages are coming from Bihar, we come to know this. After 25th of March, it has been just postponed to the 28th of March. It has been told by the election Commission that the date will again be postponed to the 1st of April....

MR. SPEAKER: It is going off the record.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: One fact which is very important is that in Central Bihar, at least from 10 Constituencies where the election was completed and where the polling was held, at least 5,000 people are being invited by the Election Commission—to Delhi—and they will be just called here on the 2nd of April; and they will have an interaction with the Election Commissioner; they will have personal interviews with the Election Commissioner. This will include not only the candidates, but also the polling agents and a large contingent of persons....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, why do you put up a candidate like this?

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: They have been invited. (Interruptions) Now, on this plea or the other, the Election Commissioner is telling that the paramilitary forces were not supplied to him; they were not given to him. On the

other hand—just now, a few hours back—the Minister for Internal Security said that never, in any part of the country, such a large contingent of paramilitary force was requisitioned by any State Government. But, in the justice and fairness of the Election Commission, for ensuring free and fair poll, our State Government and the Chief Minister of Bihar called for a larger contingent of paramilitary forces. Again, these paramilitary forces were not sent to that state; a large number of contingent has been deployed....

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: There is a caretaker Government. Reports are being sent by the Governor of that State directly to the Home Minister without any consultation and without any consent by the caretaker Government, without any consultation with the Chief Secretary and without any consultation with different officers....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ansari, you should please understand what is provided in the Constitution. If you have to allege anything against any constitutional authority, you shall have to give 14 days' notice. Without understanding these niceties, if you speak, that will not be allowed to go on record. If you are given an opportunity, you should make use of that opportunity in a proper manner.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Sir, I am speaking the truth.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not speaking....

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: The election was peacefully held.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are neither understanding the Constitution nor understanding what I am saying.

(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: No, Sir. We do understand a bit of the Constitution. And we are speaking within the framework of the constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Please make use of this opportunity to make the point.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: So, thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Thank you.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): It is not our intention to stall the proceedings of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, I have no objection. If you have a strong feeling, you have to demonstrate it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We are recording our protest. We are concerned about it.

MR. SPEAKER: We understand your feelings.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): We came to know that election to the Bihar Assembly scheduled for 25th again been put off to 28th. It has been phased out. Again,

the information is coming that the election proposed to be held on 28th is being postponed to 1st or 2nd April. Nobody knows whether it will be held in the month of April or it may go to May or June. Or it may go up to the Monsoon Session.

The whole problem is that we are interested that the election should be held there immediately. The schedule fixed up to 25th March was also changed four times. First, it was scheduled for 5th, 7th and 9th March. It was again changed to 11th, 15th and 19th March. Then, it was again changed to 21st and 25th. And now, it has again been changed to 25th to 28th March. And from 28th March, we are told, it is again being shifted to the month of April.

This matter was raised last time also. We asked the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, that is, the Union Government that they should at least request the Election Commission to avoid President's Rule in the State and prepone the election. Instead of 25th March, they can hold it on 19th and 21st March. But nobody listened to us. We do not know what exactly is the position. Has the Government of India taken up this matter with the election Commission or not? That was also not told to the House.

You know that Bihar is being discriminated. First, the election Commission's request to the Union Government was that the Central Budget should not be placed because that might influence the elections which were going to be held.

MR. SPEAKER: On that point, let me make it clear that the Budget can be presented on date. It could have been presented on date. But because some members had expressed that they would not be able to participate in the election, probably some adjustment was done. But nobody would be in a position to direct this House to take up the Budget on the date or not.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Thank you for that position which you and the House have taken. But the Election Commission took this decision that the Central Budget should not be placed before the Assembly elections were over.

After that, the Budget came but the elections to the Bihar Assembly could not take place. The Election Commission's view was that it might influence the electorate of different States if the Central Budget were to be placed before the elections were held. He did not react. The Budget was presented. That was also not taken care of by the Election Commission.

Apart from the Central Budget, the counting was also postponed. The election results were not declared because it might influence the other States. But in the case of Bihar, the Election Commission asked for the results of other States and these were also announced.

Subsequently also, we wanted that whatever may happen, there should be elections. We are only interested that the election date should not further be postponed. But to everybody's surprise, the elections are being shifted from one date to another date. And nobody knows what kind of para-military forces are required by the Election Commission. The elections have been peaceful wherever

these have been held. Even the National and the international Press have been covering the elections in Bihar. The elections to 200 seats have already been over. About 124 to 130 Assembly seats have been left. There is no incident. Even in States where the elections have already been held, some kind of incident of violence had been reported. But from Bihar, no report of violence has been reported in the newspapers.

So, normal and smooth elections could have been held. In spite of all that, elections are being put off and nobody knows for how long will the election process continue. Therefore, the whole issue is a constitutional crisis. The Election Commission is supposed to hold the elections. The Election Commission is not there to just debar the right of the common citizens to exercise their franchise. Therefore, we are all concerned about this matter. That is why, it should be taken up immediately. Let the Government of India say as to what is their position. Why did the Election Commission not hold the elections when the life of the Assembly was over? Even when the life of the Assembly was over, before the 15th of March, elections were not held. They announced the rescheduled dates. Even now we are doubtful whether the elections will be held on the 28th or not. That is the position and that is why, we are all concerned. What to do at this juncture when the whole parliamentary democracy is at stake in the hands of the Election Commission? What to do now? The highest body of the nation is the Parliament. We are interested that there should be some code of conduct for the Election Commission. There is code of conduct for us. Sir, you were always cautioning us that we must maintain our code of conduct always.

MR. SPEAKER: You leave that. You have made your point.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We are maintaining our code of conduct but the Election Commission is violating its code of conduct. If the Election Commission violates whatever has been given in the Constitution, then what will happen to the parliamentary democracy of this country? That is our concern. That is why, we are agitating on this issue since morning.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I am not happy with the frequent postponements of elections in Bihar. I would like to start with this. But I would like to remind the House about the reasons as to why we have reached this state of affairs today. If we look back, to my mind, there are two major reasons. The first reason was that the CEC had planned the elections well in time in February and he had given adequate time but the Central Government and the State Governments took it upon themselves to take obstructive attitude on identity cards. And consequently, the first postponement was because of the identity cards problem.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): The Central Government has no say in it.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: The Central Government is the major culprit, according to my view. I am saying this because the CEC

had said, one-and-a half years back, that he would have these elections only if identity cards were made. Why did you people sleep over it for one-and-a-half years? If you had to take any action, if you had to go to the court, you could have done that. That is the first contributory reason.

The second contributory factor was the non-imposition of President's rule on the 15th of this month. Mr. Ansari talks about democratically elected Government. Is there any democratically elected Government in Bihar today? It is a caretaker Government which has no public mandate. It is a Government other than people's mandate. Therefore, Sir, while I agree and strongly convey my views that frequent postponements are not good because it creates hardship for the common man and therefore, it ought not to be done, at this point of time, I am not in a position to give the reasons as to why the CEC has done so...
....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bijapur): What should be done now? You may give your suggestions.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: I will, if you allow me. (Interruptions)

[English]

I will give you my view. You are very learned people and experienced parliamentarians. Therefore, Sir, I agree that frequent postponements should not be there. But today, are we in a position to say why these postponements, including even this latest postponement, have come about? We do not know; I also do not know. But I do hope and expect that CEC had very good reasons to do it. We do not know the reasons.(Interruptions) I am saying that I do hope— I am not condoning the postponement of elections and if there are no justifiable reasons for postponement, we should hold elections and there must be a method of doing it. I suggest that such frequent postponements are creating hardship and therefore, I request him— and this House also should request him — to kindly consider this hardship and if possible and justifiable, further postponement should not take place.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is very unfortunate that even at this very important juncture of our Constitutional history, this House cannot speak in one voice. Speaking for myself, it is very unfortunate because it is an extraordinary situation that has developed in this country, really for the first time, when regular elections could not be held on time. We all know that this is not a case where elections are to be held after a sudden dissolution. It was known that the Bihar Assembly was going to be dissolved on the 15th of March automatically as per the normal Constitutional provisions. And today, on the 23rd of March, we are discussing as to when, how and whether at all, elections will be held in one of the States of this country! Let me explain why I feel we have a duty to the people of this country as also to the posterity. I am asking myself whether the Parliament of India has a role or not. I also request the hon. Members here on all sides of the House to kindly advert to this question. For the

functioning of our Constitution should the Parliament of India sit as a mute spectator, waiting for somebody's decisions and good wishes, however high a Constitutional authority he may be? I want to know whether the question as to how democracy should function, will be depending on 'a', 'b' or 'c', or whether it will be the conjoint wisdom of all the Constitutional bodies and authorities of this country.

This is my submission. I say this has to be answered. Such a situation has never arisen in the past. Last week also, we were agitated on this aspect. There is no doubt about it. The Prime Minister had to intervene and he did say that till that time, they had not decided about the declaration of President's Rule and that he had not closed his options. But today, what are we finding? Is nobody to give any reasons for this postponement? On the subjective determination of one individual, however high an authority he may be, can the entire democratic process come to a halt? The very basis of our Constitution and Parliamentary Democracy is elections with adult franchise. Everybody has a right to express his views through a ballot paper. But how do the people of Bihar exercise this right of theirs? Why should they have a Government in caretaker form? Everybody knows in this country, maybe rightly, that even before the declaration of elections itself, all developmental activities come to a halt. Really speaking, normal governance of the State itself comes to a standstill. We are all aware of this fact.

Secondly, we have all participated in elections and we know how the very process of elections in this country is dependent on various factors. There has to be some organising and there has to be campaigning because the people have to be reached. This is the normal feature of elections. Whether you spend or do not spend too much money, certain campaigning has to be done, people have to be approached and people have to be told about the programmes and manifesto of my party. I have to explain to them about all these aspects. This cannot be extended indefinitely in this manner. Therefore, according to us, a very explosive situation has now developed. And our friends from Bihar rightly remind us that there is a complete standstill so far as the developmental activities in that State are concerned. Not only that. Normal life in Bihar is disrupted. Tension is being created among political parties, among the candidates and amongst the people themselves. Will it be dependent on one single authority, however high he may be? I respectfully submit and I request my friends on all sides of the House. Please let us not do politicking on this. The Parliament of India cannot just be sitting idle here, indifferent to whatever is happening to this country. Our Constitutional framework is being decimated its very foundation is being weakened; and people's right to participate in elections is being postponed indefinitely. As everybody knows, after 31st March, there will be a complete breakdown of the Constitutional machinery because not a single paisa can be spent. This House has to intervene them.

Sir, is this the way this country is to be governed? Therefore, I appeal to all sections of this House, let us unanimously express our greatest concern about this

postponement. We must express our unanimous view that there should be no further postponement. As it is, we — this Parliament, this House of the People of India — did make a request that the elections had to be advanced to an earlier date from the rescheduled date of 25th of March. In spite of our request, instead of advancing the date, it is again being postponed. This is the respect shown to this House, this Parliament of India!

Sir, therefore, I am saying, let it be made categorically clear to every authority in this country that enough is enough; hold elections; let the Government there come into existence.

Sir, the CEC or the Election Commission will have absolute authority to cancel the polls, but in anticipation they cannot go on postponing the elections. If anybody wants to exercise authority *bona fide*, he can do it. I am saying, that power is there. He will not be without power, without any remedy; but today, in anticipation, elections are being postponed and today it has come perilously near the last possible date. This will be a tragedy in our constitutional process in this country.

Therefore, I submit that we should unanimously pass a Resolution saying, let there be no further postponement; let elections be held. I beseech you, Sir, occupying the highest position in this House that you express the views of the Members of this House; thus far no further postponement of elections; elections must be held come what may so that the results could be announced and whatever is the Government there, can be formed well before the last date so that the Parliament does not have to intervene for the purpose of passing the financial business of the Bihar Assembly.

Therefore, I request, let that be made absolutely clear that we cannot be mute spectators of the total dismantling of the constitutional process.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir according to the Constitution, the elections must be held before the expiry of the term of the State Assembly. The Election Commission is the creation of our Constitution. I think, the Election Commission has failed in its duty in not holding the elections before the stipulated time.

Sir, this election has been postponed in Bihar so many times. This arbitrary action of the Election Commission has destroyed the basic structure of our Constitution. Today, the passing of the Vote on Account is also in question. It has created so many problems. We cannot keep quiet on this. The Government cannot sit idle on this very vital issue. This is a very serious situation. So, we must find a way out to solve this crisis and take action to see that elections are not postponed further. We must find a way out to solve this problem.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker Sir, I heard with great attention and great respect my eminent colleague, a renowned constitutional authority Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I claim to know such a distinction, but I must, in all honesty differ in some aspects of his plea to the Parliament. Sir, as I have to carefully phrase what I

have to say, I would beg your indulgence, not normally done, to actually read out a few lines that I have written here.

Sir, Shri Narayanan said that the basic structure of the Constitution is being broken and that it is the CEC's responsibility to ensure that elections are completed by the scheduled date etc. Therefore, I think, I must respond to this very briefly.

Sir, the constitutional scheme of things to my way to looking at it and understanding, this arrangement of responsibility between the various organs of the Republic is a delicate and finely balanced arrangement. Each of the organs has to be extremely mindful of the undefined territorial demarcations and none must encroach upon the territory of another.

Therefore, Sir, I submit to you, as a reflection, that the overriding requirement of all the Constitutional authorities, I repeat all Constitutional authorities, is of restraint both in the interpretation of the responsibilities and in the discharge of those responsibilities. This applies as much to this assembly in which we have the honour to sit as to those that are not part of this assembly. To my understanding, the Constitution enjoins upon of the Chief Election Commissioner the responsibility for a proper supervision and conduct of elections. That is very specific and that is an area or a territory in which no other organ of the Republic can encroach. Indeed I am of the view that the Executive has a bounden duty to assist the CEC in every respect; in the discharge of the CEC's Constitutional obligation of supervision and conduct of elections in the manner in which the Constitution had demanded.

What then, Sir, is the role of the Parliament, because that is the substance of what my eminent colleague Somnathji has said? What is the role of the Parliament if we find a situation as we find ourselves in today? What is the situation in which we are placed at present? We are talking of a particular State of the Union, an important State and State which is going to elections after completion of its scheduled period of elected life. That scheduled period or elected life, to my understanding, ended on 15th March. It was the responsibility of the Executive, both of the Government of Bihar, indeed more of the Union Government, to ensure that whatever the Chief Election Commissioner of the Office of the Chief Election Commissioner wanted for a proper conclusion of elections before the 15th of March was made available to him. Why the Chief Election Commissioner found it necessary to go beyond the date of 15 March is an aspect that the Government of India alone can answer because they alone are in consultation or ought to be in consultation with the CEC because the CEC must have told the Government of India what his requirement was.

The second responsibility of the CEC is proper supervision and conduct of election. The sacrosanctity is not of the date of 15th March. Even by 15th March, for whatever reasons inclusive of natural calamities, the elections could not have been completed, then another Constitutional obligation which would have fallen on the

Union Government, the Governor of Bihar, indeed of the State of Bihar was the imposition of the President's Rule. Had the President's Rule been imposed on the 15th of March, all these attendant difficulties about payment, vote-on-account, money, etc. would not have arisen. Therefore, these two cannot be equated.

As a consequence of elections, we are in the Parliament. Each and everyone of us knows intimately what elections are all about, including—if you permit my saying so—you, Sir because you too are the consequence of elections. If we have to go through a process of elections which is undefined, which is indetermined, which keeps on prolonging itself, the consequences are not upon those of us that finally get elected, the consequences are far widespread. The society at large of that particular region or State has also got to pay a price and that has to be taken into account because we represent that society. We become the distillate of that society. In this context, we say that we are greatly concerned at this frequent and repeated postponements of elections in Bihar. It is not a matter that can be treated lightly. I have no doubt in my mind that the Office of the CEC, the autonomy of the CEC is mindful of the difficulties if frequent postponements take place. No doubt the Office of the CEC has applied its mind to this aspect of frequent postponements. We do not know why postponement had taken place. Indeed, some of us pleaded that when the dates of election coincide with Holi, they will cause enough self-evident difficulties. So, that resulted in postponement. Our State Unit as of yesterday or today had made a demand that in the final phase of the election because of the absence of suitable security arrangements, the elections must be spread out. Therefore, a decision was taken by the office of the CEC that yet another round will take place on the 28th March. Now, these are matters of detail and on each and every action of the CEC if the Parliament were to sit upon judgement, then I submit to my hon. colleague in all humility that the Parliament would be grossly over-stepping its territory. You leave alone the CEC, if the Parliament starts sitting upon judgement on each and every action of an autonomous organ of the Republic, then the Parliament would not fulfil its obligations constitutionally. The Parliament could well turn around and say, you are on error viz., Mr. Jaswant Singh's interpretation of the Parliament's role is not what it ought to be. It is possible. But that is the interpretation that I subscribe to. The Parliament's function is to permit the autonomous organs of the Republic to function autonomously. No doubt, Sir, each organ of this Republic must be inspired by a sense of restraint.

There are three or four aspects which I would like to submit now. What are the constitutional obligations of the CEC? On the question of the caretaker Government, I had even on an earlier occasion said and I say it without meaning any disrespect to the committed and stated political positions of all sections of the House that; if after all on 15th March, the Constitutional life of that elected Assembly and the Government of Bihar had expired, then Heavens would not fall if this Government of Bihar had

resigned for ten days or fifteen days or whatever it is, and if it had...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): The Election Commission has its own convention and its own prerogative(Interruptions).. The Chief Minister submitted his resignation to the Governor who in turn submitted his report to the Government and we urged that election process should be completed in Bihar under the caretaker Government of Lalooji....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I agree that he submitted his resignation. I would like to put fourth my opinion here before my friends that though he submitted his resignation, yet the Central Government did not take the action, it should have taken. It was a political manoeuvring on the part of the Centre which gave rise to this situation and in spite of all this, the Central Government is not being blamed for it.(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Now you are demanding that the date of 15th should be fixed. Prior to this, you demanded imposition of President's rule there.(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is true.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: The Government of Bihar moved the Supreme Court in connection with the identity card issue and the Court gave its verdict in favour of Bihar saying that elections can be conducted in the absence of identity cards as well. Shri Seshan got annoyed with this move and is trying to defer elections in Bihar on one or the other pretext. This is indicative of his malafide intentions and with a feeling of vengeance, he is trying to stall election process there until President's Rule is imposed. That way, he is himself bringing his office into suspicion in the eyes of the people which is harmful for democracy.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh has yielded that the non-imposition of President's Rule in Bihar should not become a matter of prestige.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Sir, I agree with my friend that it is not a matter of prestige.

[Translation]

I agree with you. You are right in saying that our party had demanded that elections in Bihar should be conducted after imposing President's rule there. This has been our political stand and we are not backing out from it even today. I would like to submit that now there is no need of going into the details and analysis of the reasons which prompted us to raise such a demand. I will conclude in just two minutes.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Then elections should be conducted under President's rule throughout the country.(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is also true. Somnathji had also said that you should not insist on conducting elections after the imposition of President's rule because

that will be a wrong precedent and, then, this should apply to the whole country.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any such provision in the Constitution?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: In Bangladesh they are demanding that the existing Government should go and a caretaker Government should be formed to conduct elections.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: With your permission, I would like to put forth my view for a minute. It is true that we demanded and were of the opinion that under the present circumstances it would be prudent to conduct elections in Bihar under President's rule. There is no need of going into its analysis. I would like to submit very seriously before my friends that we may in the heat of moment say something about the imposition of the President's rule but I must say that Janata Dal has ruled Bihar for a more 5 years but do you forget that the present state of affairs in Bihar owes its origin to the 45 year long Congress rule that has ruined it and pushed the state to its present miserable condition. Why were you sleeping over it for so long? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your speech is now touching new points.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I will make a final point. My hon. colleague, Shri Somnathji with great and his usual compelling.....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Somnathji has said whatever he wanted to say without crossing an inch beyond the Constitutional limit.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I know. If I have somewhere.....

MR. SPEAKER: No, Not at all. Only that your area of speech is expanding little more.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is expanding because of the comments being made.

[English]

One final point. Mr. Somnathji has said that postponement of elections is denial of democratic rights. I submit that if postponement of elections is treated as denial of democratic rights, democratic rights being equated to fair and proper elections, fair and free election under the present arrangement being not possible, then unfair and improper elections are also denial of democratic rights and it is better to postpone elections till you can have fair and proper elections. The only Constitutional authority that can determine the method and the time for the fair and proper elections is the Chief Election Commissioner. My appeal to this entire House is that let us not transgress the territory which is not Constitutionally our territory.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He took my name eight times. I should be allowed to speak. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I never attributed any motive to any authority here. What I say is let us not assume infallibility of anyone in this country. Mr. Jaswant Singh because of the company he keeps, forgets good and relevant things. The decisions of the Constitutional authority have been set aside by the Supreme Court of India and I hope you accept that authority's decisions.

Therefore, why must we always say that somebody is infallible in this country. What I said is that Parliament should not be a mute spectator. Let her express its own opinion. I have never said 'dictate', I have never said, "we command or we force any authority in this country to do a particular thing in a particular manner or not". As we cannot dictate to the Supreme Court, we cannot dictate to the Election Commission or the C&AG either. These are the constitutional authorities whom we cannot dictate. But in Parliament let us express our views. It is for him to decide whether to pay heed or not or what decision ultimately to take.

I am saying that let us express our views, let us not divide the House for narrow political reasons. That is my appeal to you. That appeal has been rejected. Then, let us express our views at least. If I am not misunderstood let at least the more democratic section of the House express its views.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems to me that the canvas of the debate has been widened beyond, what I would say, the desirable limit in the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: I think let us apply the paint, colours only to the limited area.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Therefore, I would like to be very brief. First I would take up one point which Shri Somnath Chatterjee made just now. Yes, the decisions have been upset by the constitutional authority, namely, the Supreme Court. So long as that is not done that decision stays.

It is always open for anybody to challenge a given decision of the Chief Election Commissioner. That has not been done. Therefore, under our jurisprudence a person is innocent unless he is proved guilty. I am not acting as an advocate of Mr. Seshan. But this is what occurred to me just now.

There is no doubt that the Constitution sets down that it is the prerogative and the responsibility of the Chief Election Commissioner to conduct the elections. On that we have no doubt at all. I think everybody accepts that.

Now, what has happened in Bihar is that due to the very complex situation obtaining in Bihar the elections have been staggered in various phases and some phases have been postponed. Yes, today the only thing that we have is that a particular area of Bihar which was also to go to polls on 25th is now to go to polls on the 28th of March.

As far as I understand, the reasons is very simple. In view of the experience of the elections that have been held so far it has been found necessary that every single booth,

without exception, should be manned by a minimum force of one plus four. That has been the direction of the Chief Election Commissioner in his wisdom and I personally stand by that knowing the situation in Bihar. But that is a decision of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Therefore, the Executive authorities concerned worked out and found that they could not possibly conduct the elections in this entire area on one single day. They made a request that it should be staggered and that request was supported and recommended by the Governor of Bihar. On that the Chief Election Commissioner has taken a decision. I see nothing wrong in the procedure.

A postponement of election in a limited part of Bihar for three days does not upset the apple cart of democracy in any sense of the term. It is not such a revolutionary thing that should have given rise to the explosion of the dimension that we have witnessed today on the floor of the House.

Sir, I submit to you that in Bihar there is an abnormal situation. I would not like to make any allegation, but anybody in Bihar knows that this is an unprecedented situation and therefore, certain extraordinary measures have to be taken. We had never heard of ballot papers being misprinted. That is simply beyond our imagination. We had not heard about a *Chowkidar* guarding a booth. It might have been done but then those days were different and the system had credibility. Today that has no credibility at all. Therefore, free and fair elections do demand that a certain minimum force be deployed and if the Chief Election Commissioner is doing that I see nothing wrong in that. He is basing himself on his experience and I am sure he must be giving a written order. I am sure it is not just something that he has done in a huff.

Sir therefore, I would say that our friends.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You do not know who will be the next victim. (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I know the logical limits of the procedure adopted and I have said here on the floor of the House that there may come a time, and I hope it does not, in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country on a given date, the Chief Election Commissioner has to requisition the services of the entire Armed Forces of India. I hope that day does not arise.....(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): He may even demand U.N. Force.....

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: That will be beyond his competence. For that, the Government of India will have to plead their inability to provide enough force and requisition it from friendly countries. That is different matter altogether.

All I am saying is that this particular postponement in some parts of Bihar does not create a situation which threatens the survival of democracy. I do not see why our friends on the Janata Dal should feel so perturbed about it.

Sir, I would like to make only one final point. It was well understood that, when we last debated the matter that the President's Rule will have to be imposed in Bihar because even if the elections are held as scheduled on

that particular date and completed by the 25th, even then it would not have been possible to constitute the House and to hold the first sitting of the Assembly in order to pass the Vote on Account. This was pointed out by myself as well as my learned colleague, Shri Jaswant Singh, and several other speakers and, therefore, that again is not a new development. The President's Rule has to come there some time before the 31st March in order to vest the authority in this Parliament in which we are sitting so that we can keep the administration of Bihar going. Therefore, as a matter of fact, I would say that nothing earth-shattering has happened today which could have caused this reaction. I, however, express my hope—I hope and desire, and I do feel that perhaps the entire House is in agreement with that hope and desire—while we have no right to direct or instruct the CEC that the electoral process in Bihar shall come to a peaceful end on the 28th March and that the elections shall be held on that date.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is precisely we are saying.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I am supporting it. Without casting any aspersions on the CEC, on the conduct of the CEC or even going into the details of the situation that has arisen in Bihar and that it exists in Bihar, it is my Party's hope and desire that the electoral process should be completed on the 28th March. There is no doubt in my mind that the people of Bihar, because of this prolonged duration of the electoral process, have been under tremendous hardship and have suffered a lot of inconvenience. Normal life in Bihar has almost come to an end. The development process has come to an end. The normal administrative process I has come to an end. Therefore, I do hope that this electoral process shall come to an end on the 28th March. Whatever might happen as a result of these elections, after all that would be over on the 28th March, as things stand today.....(Interruptions) We cannot change it, I do hope that Bihar, after these elections are over, shall have a Government which shall restore development, peace and prosperity to the people of Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us be very brief please.

SHRI LOKNATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Nobody should challenge the authority of the Election Commissioner. But the Election Commissioner has also certain obligations. If the Election Commissioner will not have some obligations, if he will not take the entire things into consideration, then there will be serious crisis.

Sir, because of the way the Bihar elections have been postponed and are being conducted, the Election Commissioner should have been aware of what constitutional difficulties it will create. So, he is not becoming conscious of the constitutional crisis that was coming. And his taking actions independently will be definitely very much harmful to our democratic process.

Sir, the democratic process has also some features. It is not for the day-to-day happenings. Whenever you do something, you must think as to what will be its outcome in future. So the way the election is conducted in Bihar today,

puts a big problem before the whole country and the Parliament. Therefore, that requires further considerations. I am not going to say it now but this should be considered seriously. But one thing at this stage—I am not going to blame—the Election Commissioner could have recommended the postponement of the dates. But he was not aware of the possible problems that would arise out of the shifting of the date of election. Moreover, he was also not aware of the tremendous hardship it has put to people. The people were not taken into consideration. The immediate hardship that will cause to the people by the shifting of the date of election, that was not taken into consideration. Neither the different organs of State was taken into consideration nor were even the people taken into consideration. So the whole actions indicate that something can be done by a single person. It is a very bad practice. Nobody in this House will appreciate this. We are all committed to democracy. So a time comes when the interest of a particular group or Party in the Parliament may be affected. But even then they will not cross over the barrier and come to an understanding. If that happens, then that will be harmful, that means killings the system itself. So with these considerations, Sir, as Mr. Somnathji has said, no politicking should be there. If anybody is trying to politicking it, that would be more worse than the action taken by the CEC that has created so many constitutional problems. So, naturally, the whole House should, at this stage, express one opinion that the election date should not be further changed and that the election should be completed on 28th. This message should go from the House to the public, to the country and to the Election Commission, and not dictating the Election Commissioner, but giving a message, the feeling of the highest body of this country, the Parliament, on this issue. So my submission is that let the election be completed by 28th March and let it not further be extended which will be harmful.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. It is not necessary to repeat the same thing again and again.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOWDHURY: I am not repeating. I am only emphasizing my point. Emphasizing a point does not mean always repeating. So, Sir, now there is a crisis. What has happened in Bihar is not a matter to end here. There should be introspection. There should be corrective measures to see that what has happened in Bihar is not repeated again in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will only make 2-3 points because I am neither a constitutional expert nor an I.A.S or I.P.S. officer. We found our way to Lok Sabha while reading and playing in Patna University (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This goes off the record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHIR CHHEDI PASWAN: Previously elections to the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assemblies were conducted in 21 days but today they are being conducted after 44 days and these too have been rescheduled and extended to nearly 50 days. We fail to understand how the electoral code of conduct is talked about. The election expenditure of the candidates is increasing. All transport and developmental activities in Bihar have come to a standstill. The result is that the prices of all the commodities are rising. The marriages of would-be brides have been stalled and we are talking about code of conduct.

17.00 hrs.

There is no question of code of conduct there. The main question is that Congress has been wiped out from the face of Bihar, the BJP is maintaining a low profile and Samata Party does not exist at all. The people of the State who were exploited and oppressed for years have awakened now and have learnt to exercise their franchise. Those oppressed people knew nothing about booth capturing. That was the business of the higher castes so far. Today, they are not able to capture booths and that is why their hearts are burning with jealousy and the Election Commission is extending the dates, like Hanuman ji extended his tail. The exploited poor and downtrodden people of Bihar have awakened today and that is why election dates are being postponed. Through you, I would like to demand that the Parliament should unanimously pass a resolution to the effect that elections should be conducted on the scheduled dates. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

DR. KARTIKESHWAR PATRA: Sir, experts differ and in this House also, from what I hear, the hon. members also do differ. One thing is, I only object to the criticism of the Central Government by some hon. Members of the Opposition Parties. Nothing more.

One thing is very clear here. Earlier, discussions had taken place here and the Government clarified the matters. We have nothing to do. This Government has got nothing to do with it. It is clear that some Members want the President's Rule to be promulgated in Bihar. Some Members are of the opinion that immediate elections should be there. Some are of the opinion that the caretaker Government should not behave as a real democratic government in Bihar. This is the situation.

It is also clear that in different States elections were conducted fairly freely. Only in the case of Bihar it is being questioned here in this House as to why the CEC had shifted the dates from one to another. This is the opinion expressed and this House is much more seriously concerned about the postponement of the election from one date to another.

One cannot say what the situation was and why the caretaker Government had asked for more paramilitary forces for conducting free and fair elections in Bihar. Here

* Not recorded.

some Members are criticising that the Central Government is callous and that it is an onlooker. That is not a fact. Whenever and wherever the requirement is there, central assistance is given. There is no dearth of central assistance of paramilitary forces and other things.

The CEC can say why the elections are postponed from one date to another. He can justify it. If the Central Government promulgates the President's Rule there, there may be some hurdles on the question of payment or incurring of expenditure there in Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: Are all these details necessary?

MR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: The election in Bihar should not be distorted or disturbed by the Union Government. So, the Union Government is very much clear on this point. Heavens will not fall if the election takes place on the 28th March. So, let us wait and see what is going to happen on the 28th March. This House also is a constitutional authority and a protector of the Constitution. The CEC is also constitutional functionary. The House should wait till 28th March.

This is my submission.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I rise to express my deep agony over the present stage to which the Bihar election process has come to. It is unfortunate that this should happen after discussion in this House which is the highest law making body of this country where the hon. Members from all sides have expressed their opinions and all of these had expressed one view last time that the election process should come to a close in Bihar as early as possible probably by 25th March itself. Unfortunately, now this has been a part of the election which has to take place on 25th March but is now shifted to 28th March.

What I want to submit is that though the Chief Election Commissioner's office is a constitutional authority, the framers of our Indian Constitution have thought of checks and balances and none is supreme. The Chief Election Commissioner's Office is there to conduct the election but not to postpone the election and the State Government has requested the Chief Election Commissioner to conduct the election much earlier itself. Today an unprecedented situation has arisen where even the framers of our Constitution have not visualised that the Election's Commissioner's Office will behave like this.

In these circumstances, the imperative on the part of the Government is to consult all the political parties and constitutional experts as to how such a situation should not be allowed to take place in future because the Chief Election Commissioner — whoever he may be, I am saying this with all due respect to that Office — cannot simply act in such a way. Justice should not only be done but it should also appear to have been done.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: He should not give an opportunity to people to come to such a conclusion. So, I appeal to the Election Commissioner through you, Sir, that the election process should be completed positively by 28th March and no further

postponement should take place under any circumstances. (*Interruptions*). It should be through a resolution on behalf of the entire House. We request you to convey our feelings that democracy should be protected because this is the highest constitutional body.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, we have understood everything. Please conclude.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Yes, Sir. Thank you for the opportunity given to us. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let those who have studied the Constitution speak. Otherwise, it will create problems.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to speak, even briefly, on this matter of grave importance to the future of our democratic policy. We face a situation which is truly grave and tragic. I agree with Shri Somnath Chatterjee that the Parliament cannot be a mute spectator to what is happening in the country today. Indeed, it is time for all of us to pause and ponder.

Sir, I am conscious of the fact that the Chief Election Commissioner or the Election Commission alone is charged with the responsibility of holding elections and ensuring that these are free and fair. I am also conscious of the fact that under Article 324, the Chief Election Commissioner enjoys vast powers of supervision, control and direction.

Nevertheless, the Chief Election Commission has to function within the totality of the Constitutional schemes of things. This scheme of things has not been adhered to. He should have seen to it that the elections were conducted before the Assembly completed its tenure. He should have moved heaven and earth, come to the Central Government and invited all the political parties to ensure that this process was completed in due course of time.

Now the question is, does Parliament have a say in this matter? I venture to submit that we, in Parliament, have taken the oath to uphold and preserve the Constitution. Therefore, we have a responsibility to express ourselves in such grave matters. Infact, the Parliament is authorised, in absolute cases, where a Chief Election Commissioner may go to the other extreme and do things which are not right and are contrary to the Constitution, even to impeach the Chief Election Commissioner. I am not talking in terms of impeachment, I am surely saying that this Parliament should express its concern that elections have been postponed unnecessarily and we should see to it that these elections are not postponed further. Therefore, I would venture to plead that all of us, from all sides of the House, should express ourselves unitedly in favour of ensuring that elections are not postponed any further and that the democratic process is completed as quickly as possible.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before Shri Shukla rises to speak, I would like to bring one thing into your notice. It should be decided first as to how long should be the electoral process. Will it be a continuous process or will it be confined to a set time frame? Please leave aside the issue of the Janata Dal.

The matter is regarding the limitation of period only. Our constitutional institutions which we hold in great esteem should run the democracy properly. My submission is that electoral reform is being discussed everywhere. We have been involved in electoral reforms for several years. Democracy is not an abstract thing. It raises its voice through political parties. I want to know as to why Janata Dal itself has been instrumental in bringing almost 95 per cent electoral reforms. *(Interruptions)* I am speaking it very deliberately I want to submit that the people of Bihar have been involved in electoral work for three months. Everybody knows that the election in the country is a very painstaking exercise.

I want to know again as to why 95 per cent electoral reforms are taking place at the cost of the Janata Dal. In the context of the Government of any other party, nobody said on any occasion that President's Rule should be enforced there. But now when the Janata Dal is in power there, Several parties have unanimously raised their voice to impose President's Rule there. I do not talk in favour or against that Government. Now poll date has been extended to 28th which makes it certain that President's Rule will be imposed there. Ultimately, it has been decided that the Presidents Rule is the only option left there.

It is the duty of the Election Commission that prior of fixing the dates for elections, it should ensure that it has made all out arrangements for free and fair elections in the scheduled time. After announcing poll dates in Bihar, the people are being harassed by a key constitutional institution by involving them in poll works continuously for four or five months. At the same time in the States which are governed by the non-Janata Dal parties, elections are held as per the original schedule. Such step-motherly treatment should not be meted out to the 9 crore people of Bihar. It exposes the Election Commission about the electoral reforms. This august House is the supreme Body. It was constituted before the poll reforms were announced. So many elections have been held here. I myself have been elected in parliament for five times. It will be criticised all over the world that free and fair elections are not held in India. It is in our country, that suit is filed against a sitting Prime Minister or the country and decision is given against him. Our people view emergency from a different angle.

I would like to submit to the Government that Bihar is in the mainstream. The contribution of Bihar in National movement is conspicuous. But the issue of Bihar is being propagated all around and it is being slandered. The Government strives a lot in the areas where people are not in the mainstream. But the people in Bihar are in the mainstream. 70 lakh persons from Bihar living outside in different parts of the country had come to cast their vote. But with the postponement of the election these 70 lakh people have gone back to their working places with a heavy heart. They might have been hurt that they are treated as second class citizens. Thus the people in Bihar are being harassed because elections process is going on there for last three months.

I am proud to say that Bihar is the pride of India. The political awakening found in Bihar can hardly be seen elsewhere. The movement for social reforms and

movement to eradicate inequality have been launched there together. Now the on-going conflicts have multiplied. But it is very distressing that 9 crore people of Bihar are being harassed frequently and hon. Members of the House are silent. Even if you allow the Members here to speak and they express their opinions, that also will be of no avail.

Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that it was not our strong desire to do what we did in the morning in this august House. But it was our essential duty. You had requested us to continue the proceedings of the House and express our opinions. Therefore, we have come with great hope that the President's Rule will not be enforced in Bihar. I do not want to say whether we will lose or win the elections. But my only submission is that those innocent 9 crore people of Bihar want to cast their votes and form a Government of their choice. The Government to be voted to power is in the womb of future. Therefore, I cannot predict as to who will be able to form the Government. But nobody has right to humiliate those innocent people.

Has ever the Chief Election Commissioner, the head of such a great institution, proposed to talk to all political leaders of the country? Poll-dates have been rescheduled four times. Such decision is taken unilaterally and in camera. This should not be allowed. Political parties are not untouchables. Ours is a public life. We entertain the grievances and problems of the public. It is not proper to deny holding of any talks and to defer elections there in a arbitrary manner. If we announce our decision not to contest elections there, Bihar will be on the heap of gunpowder. Then the situation will be out of control and irreversible. Therefore, Bihar should not be drifted away so remote from the mainstream, otherwise the situation will continue to deteriorate. This impression should not be created among the poor that the administration is depriving them of their right to cast votes. Otherwise, it will harm the country. The writ of an individual irrespective of his stature, cannot run in a democratic set up. This nation can run with the cooperation and support of all of its citizens. With these words I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very distressing situation has arisen in the State of Bihar because of the frequent postponements of election there. We can very clearly appreciate and also sympathize with various political parties which have been put to a lot of inconvenience and trouble because of frequent postponements. There could be reasons, there could be non-reasons and there could be various motives attributed to this. But the sum total of this is that it has been a very difficult period and a very distressing period for not only the political parties, but also for the people of Bihar, as Sharadji was saying. I do not think, Sir, that this matter has relevance to any particular political party. Janata Dal is the ruling party in Bihar and therefore, they may suffer a little more than the others. But I think that every political party

has had its share of suffering in this matter.

Sir, the process of electoral reforms was initiated by us in this House about two years ago. Unfortunately, because of various reasons we had not been able to achieve the butt of this. I would appeal to all the political parties, Sir, to ponder nowover in the light of the experiences that they have had in the last six months as to how we can avoid these traumatic situations and traumatic experiences in future and take such measures as to avoid this, as far as possible, in a constitutional manner and in such a manner that it enhances the prestige and glory of Indian democracy.

Sir, I have, with great respect, heard the feelings of the Members of this House and I will convey strong feelings of the House to the Election Commission and we will also hope that such things will not be repeated in future. The unanimous feelings of the House, I am sure, will have a salutary effect on the functioning of the Election Commission.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time while discussing the preponement of elections from 25th to 21st it was also requested that the Government should convey the feelings of the House to the Election Commission. But we do not know whether it was conveyed or not.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: It was conveyed that very evening.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Even if you had conveyed it last time, let the House pass a Resolution now and you can send it to the Election Commission.

[Translation]

What is the problem if it is sent through you? I do not know whether you informed about the developments last time or not.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: We had sent it that very evening. The Ministry of Law had sent it.

[English]

It was conveyed to the Election Commission that very day. When we had discussed it, the wishes of the House were conveyed that very day to the Election Commission by the Law Ministry who deals with them. Now, we shall convey it again in a very appropriate manner to the Election Commission. I do not think the adoption of a formal Resolution is necessary, because the hon. Members have expressed their views very clearly and candidly. We shall enclose the entire proceedings of this afternoon along with our forwarding letter so that he can be enlightened with the opinion of the hon. Members of various political parties which are functioning in this House.

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: It will not be proper. Last time the opinion was conveyed through the Ministry of Law. There was no subsequent preponment, but rather post-ponment did take place. What does such conveying means. You atleast keep the honour of the House.

[English]

We should not humiliate ourselves. We have already humiliated ourselves once. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it necessary for me to say anything in this matter? I think it is proper.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: It is not necessary. But we could adopt a Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I think, on that point I may say something.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Yes I think, that is the only point. Otherwise I have already agreed to convey the entire feelings of the House.

SHRI INDER JIT: Sir, the Resolution is not necessary.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): It will not be proper to send a Resolution. It will set a bad precedent. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I must say that the Members have expressed their views in a very restrained manner. Excepting for one or two sentences here and there, the Members have expressed their feelings in an appropriate and proper manner on the floor of the House. The matter is complicated and it is constitutional also. We should understand the feelings of the Members and the constitutional position also. The feelings of the Members can be conveyed to the appropriate quarters for appropriate action as per the spirit and words of the Constitution for proper consideration. I think you know that if something has happened in some quarters, probably the Parliament being the highest body has the responsibility of not only working here as per the Constitution but has the responsibility of seeing that the constitutional authorities outside the Parliament also are allowed to function in such a fashion. I had suggested if we could pass a Resolution, but I also think that it may not be proper in the present circumstances to pass a Resolution. We have expressed our views.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is an unprecedented situation. At least that feeling should go. You should say that.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the strong feelings which Members have expressed in the appropriate fashion should be communicated to the appropriate quarters in an appropriate manner to have appropriate results.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But not with appropriate delay.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: We will do it right-away.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank all the Members. We understand their agony and they understand the constitutional position, and probably we have conducted ourselves in a constitutional manner. Thank you.

17.28 hrs.

[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Eighty-Sixth Report

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Sir, I beg to present the Eighty-Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) on Action Taken on 71st Report of the Public Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on Production of an armoured vehicle 'Z', its gun and ammunition.

17.29 hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Twelfth Report

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on "Exploration, Production, Distribution and Conservation of Oil and Gas."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think we may not take up 'Matters under Rule 377' today because we shall have to pass this Ordinance, and I think the Members will cooperate in seeing that the Ordinance is passed.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I am on a point of order and also on a point of information.

[Translation]

Discussion on President's Address was one of the items included in yesterday's list of Business but in today's agenda, discussion on General Budget has been included. Two months have passed since the President delivered his Address and I think it is not proper to present a Motion of Thanks on President's Address so late. To my mind, the Budget should be passed quickly and the House should be informed as to what are you going to take up next...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All this has been done after holding discussions with the party leaders and we expected that the leaders must have conveyed this to you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, this should be conveyed to the House also ... *(Interruptions)*, Moreover, I am not raising any objection ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Look, this is such a delicate point as might get derailed if you raised it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question but the President should also... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will explain to you. We shall have to pass the J&K Budget, Vote on Account (Railways) and Vote on Account (General), we have to complete the general discussion on the Budget and only then the Budget will go to the Standing Committees. The time is not available for these things. And one of the most important considerations was—we have the highest respect for our Rashtrapathiji who is part and parcel of Parliament, without him Parliament is not complete—if we start discussing the Motion and then break the discussion and take up something else in between, that also does not look nice; there has to be some continuity also. It was because of these physical constraints and the paucity of time, all the leaders in their wisdom came to the conclusion that this way of dealing with the business before the House would be more appropriate. So, we came to that conclusion.

SHRI RAM NAIK: If it was decided that way, then we have no objection.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, what will happen to 'Matters under Rule 377'? Will you take it up tomorrow?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Sir, what will be the fate of 'Matters under Rule 377'?

MR. SPEAKER: That we will take up tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, we requisitioned four times the Budget for Jammu and Kashmir from the publication counter but we have yet to receive it.

MR. SPEAKER: You just start speaking anything. You will definitely get a copy thereof when J&K Budget is taken up.

17.34 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE; AND BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING) AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava may speak now.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, my submission is that the Government has brought in this Banking Companies Ordinance in order to streamline the banking system in the country which is in keeping with the Government's policy of economic liberalisation but the Government has come to rule through ordinances. Yesterday also, I had registered my protest and had said that 434 ordinances have been brought and since June alone, 39 ordinances have been brought in. Sir, I had opposed this tendency of running the Government through ordinances and that the Government is not taking the

Parliament into confidence. That is why I moved a resolution of disapproval of this ordinance before you.

Sir, I must say that the Government's basic intention is to bring in this Banking Companies Bill and thereafter shape it according to the dictates of the World Bank. In the process, the Social objects clause has been totally and grossly ignored. Similarly, there is no mention about the benefits likely to be accrued to the weaker sections of the society. My second point is that there was nationalisation of Banks which gave hope that banks could earn profit then but things went otherwise. The principal banks of India have incurred a loss of 8500 crore of rupees during the last two years.

A loss of Rs. 8500 crore is quite astonishing, unique disquieting and tends to raise apprehensions in the minds of people. The latest example of this loss is the New Bank of India which has been merged with the Punjab National Bank because it had incurred a loss of Rs. 400 crores. Another point of concern about which I would like to know is that how is the Government going to make up this loss after the merger or is the Government going to write off this amount? You are going ahead on the path of liberalisation but the banks will have to become self-reliant, come into the open competition and we shall also have to ponder over the foreign banks' capital. How far can we pull along with the help of these crutches? What I mean to say is that we shall have to consider all pros and cons of regulating the foreign banks also. What will be their policies and what conditions shall be enforced on foreign banks coming to India? Will the foreign banks also work towards social objects, give loans to the farmers and the labourers? My submission is that the foreign banks should be asked to open their branches in the backward areas so that our banks can stand in competition with them; otherwise Indian Banks will be lost and relegated to the background against the foreign banks, which are well equipped with the computerised systems and ultramodern facilities.

Besides, our banks do not provide satisfactory services, the loan disbursement procedure is faulty and there is inefficiency. We shall have to make up all these lacunae. Some private sector banks like the UTI banks, the Industrial Bank, the Global Trust bank etc. have also emerged on the scene. We should scrutinise their half yearly report to see whether they have functioned properly or not? The money that will be granted to make up the loss of banks or to write it off will be earmarked from the public money realised in the shape of individual taxes. This point has also to be considered.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ordinances were brought with two objectives in view. The banks having surplus funds may lessen their equity base and circulate the money in the open market and sell their shares at higher prices. The second aspect was that the losses of those banks who were running in losses, may be written off cumulatively and when balance sheets of both types of banks become equal, they may come into the market and sell their shares. Therefore, all these aspects should be considered.

As I said earlier that the Vasal Commission submitted its report in 1988 with regard to the merger of New Bank of India with the Punjab National Bank but the Government slept over the matter for 7 long years and did not consider it. Thereafter, the matter was brought again on September 4, 1993 but the PNB had not set its balance-sheet right. Then, the issue was again brought on January 4, 1995 but the PNB paid no attention to it upto March, 1994. Someone should be made answerable for all these mistakes. Attention should also be paid to the non-performing assets worth Rs. 35000 crores outstanding against big people and also, how to carry on the development of the country?

Lastly, I would like to submit that the Directors of the banks should be able and experienced people and not the favourites and sycophants.

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill is with regard to accounting alone.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I am submitting about the banking system.

MR. SPEAKER: Accounting does not mean everything related to the Bank.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I am not talking about everything related to banks. How can, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we stand on a firm footing in comparison to foreign banks? My submission is with regard to that. Once again opposing this tendency of bringing ordinances time and again and this gap of 7 years', I thank you for giving me time and this opportunity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister to speak.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): My name is there, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that if we do not complete this business, we shall be required to work on Saturday because we have no time left. Otherwise, we would have allowed you to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to all those Members who have participated in the discussion. Many hon. Members have expressed their unhappiness over the issue of the Ordinance. I wish to make it very clear that the Government resort to Ordinances only in unavoidable and extraordinary situations. The Parliament was not in session when this proposal was before the Government. And then the Government decided to resort to issuing the Ordinance. Today we are discussing about replacing that Ordinance.

I would like to restrict my comments only to the aspect of amendment to the Banking Bill. Many of the Members, including Prof. Raza Singh Rawat, Shri Bhargava and others, have expressed their views that the priority lending is going to be reduced. I wish to inform those members that the majority of the banks have achieved their targets

in priority lending. And in the recent Budget also, we have provided for deposits with the NABARD for meeting any shortfall in the targets of the priority sector. This is a very limited amendment. Banks and corporations in private sector are governed by the Companies Act. After we took over the Government in 1991, to maintain the capital adequacy norms, we as owners of these banks, provided and contributed to the banking industry. In 1993 we had contributed about Rs. 5,700 crores and a provision has been made for Rs. 5,600 crores during the year 1994-95. The present case is about the merger of the New Bank of India with the Punjab National Bank. As I have already pointed out, the nationalised banks do not have this facility. To provide this, we have come before this House with this amendment. The New Bank of India has been amalgamated with the Punjab National Bank since 4th September, 1993. A special audit by the Reserve Bank of India showed that as on 4.9.93, the erstwhile bank had accumulated a loss of Rs. 433.22 crores.

The New Bank of India had a negative net worth of Rs. 238.7 crore which represent the liabilities of the Bank of India which are in excess of its assets. The Punjab National Bank was not able to finalise their Audit Report and the Balance Sheet. As per the new provisions, the negative worth can now be adjusted against the capital of Punjab National Bank under their Balance Sheet. I wish to inform some of the hon. Members who spoke about the foreign banks that all these banks including the foreign banks are controlled by the stipulations of the Reserve Bank of India. Many of the hon. Members have suggested that the foreign banks should open their branches even in the rural areas. It is very difficult for them to do it because they have no rural branches. That is why they feel that providing rural credit would be very difficult for them. Foreign banks should also adhere to the norms and the guidelines set out under the priority sector and the export credit is also included in the definition of the priority sector for the foreign banks. There is a stipulation of advances for small scale industries advance. They should advance at least not less than ten per cent of the net bank credit. If there is any shortfall they should deposit the same with the SIDBI. As I already pointed out, the RBI has considerable control over the foreign banks.

As I have already replied many of the important points, I would request the Mover of the Resolution and the hon. Members of this House to pass this Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): He has given his name also. He will be very brief.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, I will allow him to speak at the time of consideration of the Bill.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): I have given my disapproval to this Ordinance. As the hon. Minister has stated, the problem arose with the amalgamation of two banks, that is, the New Bank of India and the Punjab National Bank. The matter came to the fore in 1933.

MR. SPEAKER: You must have spoken on this, I suppose.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I am just going to point out: Was there any necessity of bringing an Ordinance? Was there any extraordinary situation? It is the misuse of the power. It is the non-functioning of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: That point you must have made when you moved the Resolution.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: It indicates the non-functioning of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: You have just moved the Resolution, you have not spoken!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are also admitting.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: They have admitted. So, naturally this the process of amalgamation of sick banks with the healthy banks. I do not know what this process will be aimed at: Whether the sick banks will affect the healthy banks or the healthy banks will have overall effect on the sick banks? It is a question which requires the critical observation by the Government. You know what has happened in our banking system. I am not going to repeat that which has already been told here. But, one point I want to tell. Yesterday, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi has said that waiving of the loan to the extent of Rs. 10,000 crore to the agriculturists is mainly responsible for the crisis. I want to stress that now there is a bad loan to the tune of Rs. 38,000 crore.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Please do not put words into my mouth. I did not say that. I said loan waiver also created a situation wherein this crisis has arisen. I used the word 'vitalised the atmosphere of loan recovery'. That is what I said.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: There is Rs. 38,000 crore bad loan, out of which Rs. 28,000 crore belongs to the corporate sector. This is not a big amount. This is a small amount. This shows that big people have an influence on the banks. What I want to stress is that they can make Rs. 28,000 crore bad loan - Rs. 38,000 crore is the total out of which Rs. 28,000 crore belongs to the corporate sector-but if for poor people a loan up to Rs. 10,000 is waived it does not affect the whole thing. This is only an outlook. The very outlook of not looking to the poor people, of looking to the big people and giving them the facility is not the attitude of the Government, it is the attitude of the banks. That is exactly the attitude of the banks. They always like to advance loans to the people with assets. That has become a practice where our banks have failed. Even in respect of poverty alleviation programmes, loans are not given. The practice actually that is taking place is that money is not going to those people who are taking loans. This is a very big thing. Therefore I want that the Minister should monitor that the banks do

advance loans to the people whom the Government or the different institutions want to give, that is the poor people, for the purpose of poverty alleviation. He should see that it reaches the poor. This is being pickpocketed by the bank employees; I say bank employees and the bank officers. They pickpocket a major portion. That is a major problem. This is a big thing because the Government is going to depend upon this. The present Budget also indicates that more money should be spent on poverty alleviation programmes. I would only request that one practice that is there so far should be corrected. If it is not corrected, there would be further crisis in the banks. Because who do not take even fifty per cent of the loans, actually they would not be able to pay it back, they would not be able to create assets and that will create a crisis. Then they will come to a conclusion that giving money to these people under poverty alleviation programme or JRY or Prime Minister's Plan was wrong. You will come to that Conclusion.

With my experience I must rather suggest that the Minister must create a monitoring cell at some level, so that the money really reaches the people for whom it is meant.

Lastly, I oppose the Ordinance and I stick to my Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Ordinance, 1995 (No. 4 of 1995) promulgated by the President on January 21, 1995."

The motion was negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we shall take up the Consideration motion. Prof. Susanta Chakraborty may speak.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Speaker Sir, from my party my name was given, but because of constraint of time you did not allow me to speak. I am sorry, Sir. But since you have given me this opportunity, I shall take three or four minutes time, only to register my protest against the culture of ordinance that has been so fondly developed by this Government, carefully and in a calculated manner.

So far as the Bill is concerned, the object is very limited. It is only to extend the prudential norms in the case of private sector banks. In the particular case, the New Bank of India was amalgamated with the Punjab National Bank as early as in 1993. Now because the New Bank of India made losses, the Government had no alternative but to apply these prudential norms in this case.

Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to consider one thing. What shall be the position of the employees of the new bank after this amalgamation? What benefits will they get? Will the past benefits be allowed or not? I would like him to consider these things.

As to the loss of the New Bank, some questions arise in my mind. Did the Government ever before consider whether there is failure of proper audit in banks? I would like to know whether the Government would agree for the

audit of the banks and the financial institutions by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

Why are there arrears in the reconciliation of inter-branch accounts of banks, because of which we do not get the true picture of the performance of the banks? I would like to know whether the steady erosion of equity over the years was due to poor accountability of those in charge? There are defaulters. What is the harm in publishing the names of the defaulters? What measures have the Government taken to punish those defaulters? The functioning of the banking system in our country shall never improve.

Lastly, the Finance Minister, in his last budget speech, assured us that the Regional Rural Banks would be restructured. Now, these Regional Rural Banks cater to the needs of the weaker sections of our country. They are situated in the far-flung districts of our country. So, these banks require restructuring. The restructuring of these Regional Rural Banks has been taken up only in phases. How long will it take to finish the restructuring? In the meantime, there has been a direction by the Reserve Bank of India that in the name of development plans, all the Regional Rural Banks have been asked to lay more stress on profitability than on the coverage of weaker sections. This is a deviation from the original aim of establishing RRBs. This means, the Government is not prepared to exclude even the institutions catering to the needs of the weaker sections from the market forces. So, in the interest of the weaker sections of our country, may I ask the hon. Minister to expedite the restructuring process and see that the banking system in our country does come out of the ills that it is suffering.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good points. If you want, you may reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Every point deserves a reply.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: The restructuring of the Regional Rural Banks is before the Government and it will take shape shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the House agrees to complete the business of this Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): On this Bill, yes, Sir. But SEBI is an important Bill and there are a number of speakers. The Security Bill, if you consider our request, can be taken up tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow is Friday.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We will finish it tomorrow. There is plenty of time for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, we will do that. But tomorrow the only thing is that this unlisted business time should be limited.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Basudebji is saying that half-an-hour would be enough, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very reasonable suggestion.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, our banks as well as the Regional Rural Banks will continue to lend to the needy and poor sections in the rural areas and

to the poverty alleviation programmes. The RBI will closely monitor and supervise these leadings.

18.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you!

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title Stand Part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is: "That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: We thank Shri Basudeb Acharia!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 24th March 1995 at 11 A.M.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 24, 1995/Chaitra 3, 1917 (Saka)
