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Monday, May 29, 1995
Jyaistha 8, 1917 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 29, 1995/Jyaishta 8, 1917 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at four minutes past
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Trade Barriers

*741. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had warned the other participating countries of the threat of imposition of new trade barriers by the developed countries during the recent meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers held at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reaction of other member countries thereto; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions held in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) During the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in New Delhi, on 30 April- 1 May, 1995 the External Affairs Minister of India, in his capacity as Chairman of the Council of Ministers had, in his opening remarks, spoken about the new challenges in the wake of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the establishment of the World Trade Organisation and that protectionism against the exports of developing countries continues to be intensified with new barriers in the name of environment and other non-trade issues. These concerns are shared by Member States and other developing countries and reflect NAM and G-77 positions.

These concerns were also reflected in the Delhi Declaration issued at the end of the 8th SAARC Summit of the Heads of State or Government held in New Delhi on 2-4 May, 1995.

The Heads of State or Government, "Called for a reduction of trade barriers and promotion of expanded access to global markets.....They called upon countries to refrain from erecting trade barriers in the guise of promotion and protection of workers' rights. They deplored the tendency to impose any conditionalities on international trade, whether as a "social clause" or as the "environmental clause", while reiterating their commitment to ensuring workers' rights as well as protection of the environment".

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a conference of the SAARC Nations was recently held in Delhi in which international trade and all their problems were widely discussed. In this, conference, there was agreement on some of them. To achieve these goals, decisions were taken through mutual co-operation. Keeping in view the trade, it was decided to implement SAPTA during this year, which is an important achievement in the area of trade. This will result in the expansion of the trade of the SAARC countries and cooperation from the international trade will also be available. In addition it will bring relief from the trade dependence of the developed countries. I, therefore, want to know from the Hon. Minister the various commodities selected for trade under SAPTA with concessions and Which articles have been decided by India for according concession and to what extent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think these details are filled in by the commerce Ministry. They agree upon the principles.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: As a result of mutual discussions, it has generally been decided that we shall allow special tariff to SAARC countries so as to encourage mutual trade and the items to be included, are being looked into by the Commerce Ministry to find out which countries can trade in which items.

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, the various issues relating to social and environmental barriers which were discussed during the meeting by the Ministers of SAARC countries and will adversely affect the trade between the SAARC countries as well as international trade. This organisation has been in existence for 10 years but we have not succeeded in achieving its real purpose. I am of the opinion that our mutual differences are the reasons for this. Here I would like to ask about the role played by India in the discussions held by the organisation for removal of such mutual differences.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Amongst the decisions taken mutually by us, one is to expand trade with one another. It is right that this organisation has been in existence for 10 years but in these 10 years, we have reached the first stage where we have mutually agreed on SAPTA. All the countries will ratify it by 8 November and after that trading activities will start. As for the second question relating to discussions on international trade and other things, I would

like to say that there was a general discussion on the trade of developing countries with other countries expressing concern over the matter. They are seeking protection and adopting such ways as will hamper the trade with developing countries. Generally, these issues belong to NAM or G-77 but still we have expressed our views here and have highlighted this concern in our Delhi Declaration.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian Govt. has been very active at world level in promoting the economic interests of the developed countries and have many achievements. With this very aim, regional organisation SAARC was constituted but due to practical difficulties, SAARC has not been very successful in achieving its objectives. I do not agree that Indian Government is much responsible for this. However, I would like to know that in relation to recently formed world-wide WTO, what difficulties the Government of India feels in defending the interests of the developing countries in free flow of trade with developed countries—especially G-77 countries and what initiative did the Indian Government take to remove those difficulties during the SAARC conference and with what result?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: As I have already told, this issue did not figure in the SAARC agenda but since India was the Chairman of this conference, our Foreign Minister mentioned about all these issues in his speech. And these were discussed also and it was decided to form public opinion as is done in NAM and G-77 where it is discussed as to how protectionism adopted by the developing countries should be faced by them. This issue was discussed and suggestions were also received. All these issues have been given in detail in the Delhi Declaration issued by us.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I would like to know through you from the Minister what is the reaction of the developed countries with regard to our SAPTA Declaration, the one that you have given us in the answer. What role has the Government of India, as the leader of this convention, played in removing those hostile reactions, if there were any?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: The attitude of the developed countries is well-known. So, in order to meet their objection, we have discussed among ourselves and we have taken a common attitude. As I said, we have already taken a common attitude in G-77 also and the same thing is reflected in the Delhi Declaration.

[Translation]

Functioning of Thermal Power Projects

*742. **SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target fixed for power generation is not achieved due to inefficient functioning of the Thermal Power Stations;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government at the central level to ensure the proper functioning of the Thermal Power Plants and to take other corrective measures to achieve the target of power generation?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

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

STATEMENT

(a) & (b) Energy generation target vis-a-vis actual generation during 1994-95 is as per details given below:-

Category	(Figures in Million Units)		
	1994-95		
	Target	Actual	(%)
Thermal	274700	262897	95.7
Nuclear	8300	5605	67.5
Hydro	69000	82518	119.6
TOTAL	352000	351020	99.7

The actual shortfall in energy generation during 1994-95 was marginal, at only 0.3 per cent of the target.

The shortfall in the overall energy generation during 1994-95 was mainly due to lower nuclear generation because of prolonged outage of atomic power Stations, as well as lower Thermal generation due to inadequate quantity and quality of coal to some of the thermal power Stations.

(c) Various measures being taken for optimum utilisation of the installed capacity in the country include—Renovation & Modernisation of old units, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, vigorous implementation of preventive maintenance schedules, early stabilisation of newly commissioned units and training of operation and maintenance personnel.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Power about the position of power, specially in respect of Bihar. The minimum demand of power in Bihar as on date is 2400 MW whereas the power

available with it is only 550 to 600 MW. The thermal power plants running in Bihar are beset with many difficulties. I would, therefore, like to know the share of power for Bihar in the augmented power supply which will take place due to privatisation of power generation in India or due to other steps taken up by the Government in this direction. Further, is the Govt. of India going to help Bihar in easing up the position of power supply in the state? As per the latest report available with me, despite the fact that Bihar has plenty of coal, no new thermal power generation plant has been planned for the state. I would like to know the steps which the Government of India proposes to take to remove this deficiency.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Of course, there is shortage of power in Bihar for which we have planned to generate 1765 MW of power and this job will be completed by the end of this year. Out of this, 161.60 MW will come from hydro electricity, 1603.50 MW from thermal electricity and the rest will be taken from the central grid.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would specially like to know from the Hon. Minister whether India has gained anything from the agreement concluded sometime ago between India and Nepal for building dams on the border of Bihar. As per this agreement, dams would be built on all the rivers flowing through Bihar for generation of electricity. I would also like to know if whether or not any steps have been taken by the Government of India to implement the above agreement.

[English]

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Sir, I need a separate notice for this question.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: It is the fourth time that we are getting the same reply i.e. the reply would be given later on.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of thermal power and you are relating it to hydel power. It is a problem concerning the entire country and you want to confine it to Bihar only. It is not like this...(interruption)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: It is the fourth time that we getting a reply like this.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to ask anything about Bihar, you are welcome but you cannot first frame the question relating to India and then try to confine it to Bihar only.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country has been independent for 50 years but neither there is adequate power...(interruption).

MR. SPEAKER: All the Hon. Members may please speak after due consideration.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Diesel is not available. We are announcing about industrialization but which industry will be coming up in India and how? Power is not available. I have two questions for the Hon. Minister. Firstly, what is the shortfall of power in the country and when will this shortfall be made up?

MR. SPEAKER: Good question. Now please sit down. After asking such a nice question, please do not prolong it.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: My second question is what is the plant load factor of the world? What is the plant load factor for thermal units in the country?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Both the questions are good.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: In 1947, the power produced was 1362 MW but today we are producing 60 times of this figure. Today we are producing 81,164.41 MW of electricity. If you want its break-up this can be given. 58,110.37 MW is thermal, 20,829.04 MW is hydro and 2225 MW is nuclear power, which is produced in the country. Its PLF is over 60 per cent.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I got no reply as to what is the country's requirement.

MR. SPEAKER: His main question was-what is our total requirement of power and how much are we producing?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Reply to this has been included in the answer to the main question.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: That reply relates to the target of production.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the requirement of electricity? And, what is the shortfall?

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: What is the total requirement of the country?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Sir, the shortfall is nine per cent of the requirement. The actual requirement is 351.020 million units and the target for 1995-96 is 30.698 million units.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a crisis of power in our country because power plants have

not been set up according to our power needs during last 50 years. Now there is a beginning in this direction. I, would like to know, through you, from the Hon. Power Minister whether the Govt. have chalked out any plan to meet the shortfall in power by the year 2000, which is still 5 years away. What will be the requirement of power in the country by the year 2000 and to fulfill the same, how many thermal power plants, hydel power plants and nuclear power plants we planned to be set up by the Govt? Are the foreign companies being invited for the job? Does the Govt. propose to allow private companies in India to set up some of these plants? I would like the Hon. Minister to tell us in detail about the steps being taken to make up the shortfall in power. It would be nice if the Hon. Minister gives reply to my question.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: I have already told about the planning made in this regard. Right now, 81164 thousands of MW are being produced and to meet the shortfall in production, we are encouraging the private projects. Till date, 196 agencies have expressed their intention out of which we have signed MOUs with 123 agencies. These include domestic as well as foreign agencies.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the reply to my question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question and the Government has an opportunity to explain it to the entire country as to what is being done in this respect.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): I shall endeavour my best, Sir, The base of your question is not correct because since 1947, there has been continuous growth in our generation capacity. In 1947 we produced 1362 MW...*(interruption)*.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: We did not say this. We said that power plants have not been set up at the required rate during the last 50 years. Now you appear to be concerned about it. We want to know whether your concern is genuine and if so, what steps are being taken in this direction.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I am coming to that. I thought the Hon. Member was conveying that nothing has been done during the past. It is not like that. Much has been done during the past few years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The main thrust is this.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Yes, Sir. What is the shortage

and what steps have been taken to remedy the shortage.

MR. SPEAKER: That is right. He has also given a time limit.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: We have done some perspective planning and I will give the figures. At the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the 'requirement shortage' was about eight to nine per cent and the 'peaking shortage' was about 14 to 15 per cent. That was also answered to a question by hon. Member Shri Chauhan. It was considered that if we bring about an incremental generation capacity of 42,000 MW in the Eighth Five Year Plan, by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan, we would be self-sufficient. Due to constraint of resources, the Planning Commission toned it down to 30,537 MW. On account of constraint of resources, we are not likely to go beyond 20,000 MW. As a result of that, the shortage in terms of requirement in peak will increase at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Best efforts have been made by us to supplement the public sector undertakings by bringing in private sector into the picture. But it is not easy to get private sector into the picture. It takes quite some time; we are struggling against time. We have received 190 proposals so far and in respect of 123 proposals MOUs have been signed; and the proponents have shown interest for 76,000 MW. There are fast tract projects and there are other projects which we are monitoring continuously. We expect that this is the projection of the Central Electricity Authority by the year 2007, we would need an incremental generation capacity of 1,42,000 MW, to be able to meet the shortage of the country. These are mind-boggling figures which need US \$ 150 billion to US \$ 160 billion, that is, Rs. 5,00,000 crore to Rs. 6,00,000 crore. The only way out is this. The public sector cannot go beyond 20,000 MW in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

In the Ninth Plan, the target is projected to be 57,000 mw. So, we have to find 36,000 mw in the private sector. We are doing our level best to encourage the private sector to come. So far, the response is very good. We are endeavouring our level best in the matter. The growth in demand has already outstripped the supply and the way it is going about, I cannot paint the very bright picture, all that I can assure is that we are doing our level best because such massive investments cannot come either from the Central Government or from the State Governments. It is not to come from the private sector, and for that purpose we are also inviting the multinationals.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated in his deposition that now we are running short of electricity, the power. He has said that they can produce 20,000 mw of power through the public sector. But at the same time, according to his statement the present deficit is almost equal to that of the maximum the

public sector can produce. Naturally, they are inviting multinationals. These projects are also having difficulties and many barriers to cross.

So, I would like to know whether the Government has considered these problems to see that in case the multinationals are coming, they will come on conditions favourable to our country regarding how to maintain our capacity. I would also like to know whether the Government has any contingency plan, or thinking in that respect.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, the multinationals are coming.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: They are coming on conditions unfavourable to us.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: No, Sir,

I am unable to agree with the assumptions of the Hon. Member that the multinationals are coming to the detriment of the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I have never said this. I have said, 'the conditions that the favourable to us and not to them'.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: If the multinationals are to come, they will come for business. They are not coming for charity. It is for us to protect our interests and we are trying our level best to ensure that the capital cost is reasonable and the generation cost is reasonable. I have got those figures with me. The next question is coming immediately after this Starred Question, and I will be giving the figures.

At any rate, there cannot be any contingency plan because we need money to generate power. It is a very highly capital intensive industry. The Centre at present does not have that much of money and therefore, we have to depend on the private sector. As and when the difficulties come, we will have to tide over them from time to time, and we will be able to do so, I have no doubt or fear about that.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, my question relates to part (b) and this is very important question. In the reply that has been given it has been stated that due to supply of inadequate quantity and quality of coal to power centres, thermal power generation has suffered. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the reason for short supply of coal to your department because Coal India says they have sufficient deposits of Coal and the Railways say that they have sufficient number of wagons. The second point which I would like to know is whether the coal supplied by the Coal India to the thermal power plants

contained earth and stones and also, if quality of the coal was low.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the coal required was 177 million tonnes. However, the coal supplied was 162.5 million tonnes and due to short supply, production suffered. There are two problems relating to supply of coal—first relates to its low quality and second is its non supply in time.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Please tell us the reasons for this. Did Coal India fail to supply coal due to non-availability of wagons?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: The reasons is that in some places coal supply is not timely and sometimes, the non-supply of coal is due to non-availability of wagons.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Is the non-supply of coal due to both the reasons?

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Yes, it is because of both the reasons.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: O.K. I wanted to know only this.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Mr. Speaker Sir, the main reason for the shortage of electricity in this country is that there is no sufficient power generation. But even within the quantity of power that is generated, transmission losses are comparatively very high in this country. May I know from the Hon. Minister as to what is the total percentage of transmission loss?

MR. SPEAKER: No, Mr. Charles. That is a different question.

SHRI A. CHARLES: But it has a bearing on modernisation.

MR. SPEAKER: That goes to all other things. You concentrate on the main topic which is a very important one. If you have side issues, please reserve them for some other time.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know something in the context of Goa. Just now a question was raised by an Hon. Member about Goa. It has been said that in Goa, steps are being taken towards utilisation of the installed capacity of the plants through their renewal and modernisation, by supply of required quantity of good quality coal and by speedily implementing remedial measures and through newly started units.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you reading it?

SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not reading it. I am pointing out that it contains three points, due to which production has suffered by 3 per cent. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that if the shortage in production has been suffered due to these reasons, what action has been initiated for the training of staff in the collieries in order to augment the production capacity of Coal mines.

[English]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: We have taken various measures to improve the performance of the thermal power stations. They, inter alia include renovation and modernisation of old units; assistance to Electricity Boards for undertaking plant betterment programmes; supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal; training of operation and maintenance personnel; implementation of various systems improvement schemes; and strengthening of transmission and distribution systems. These are some of the measures which we are taking.

I want to submit through you for the consideration of the Hon. House that so far as the Central sector is concerned, we have an extremely satisfactory performance rate of over 75 per cent. But 70 per cent of power generation is in the States. It is for the States to cooperate with us and more importantly they must cooperate with themselves to ensure that they would better their performance so that even at the existing capacity, generation will not go down.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no reply has come to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: They have not given its reply. Please read this, you will recollect the same.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has said about the nuclear power. You will see that there is a shortfall of 32.5 per cent in power production, going by the target. This is totally in the Central Sector. I would like to know the reasons for shortfall in production of nuclear power. The Hon. Minister said that this shortfall was due to its closure for a long period. What are the reasons for its closure for such a long period. What action is being taken to ensure that this does not recur?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is too technical a question, we don't expect him to reply to it.

[Translation]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Mr. Speaker, the question is in order but it does not relate to our Ministry.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This question was raised in the House and it was properly replied to by the Minister who is dealing with this Ministry. Now, we do not expect this kind of a question to be replied to by the Minister who is dealing with Thermal power and not even hydel power. That is too technical a question. I know the answer and I will give you the answer in my chamber...

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The answer that has been given is a little bewildering, if not intriguing. First let me explain-why? Then I would seek some clarifications on this. In reply to the earlier question, the deficit has been stated as only 0.3 per cent. The shortfall is 'only' 0.3 per cent as compared to the target.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, compared to the target.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, now, the Minister has given figures which show that the Department asked for some Rs. 40,000 crore, they were granted some Rs. 35,000 crore and the actual is Rs. 20,000 crore. Just imagine the difference in 'asking', 'granting' and the 'actual'. Despite that, the deficit in terms of target has been shown as only 0.3 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nirmal Kanti Ji, we are here to explain and not to confuse. Really speaking, what is actual requirement is different, what is targeted is different, and what is produced is different. He is saying about the difference between the targeted and the actual production.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am talking about the target.

MR. SPEAKER: The actual requirement is much more. He has already said that. We get confused when you say all these things.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, firstly he said that there was shortage of funds. The second part of the reply pertains to certain renovations of outdated units in certain nuclear and thermal power stations etc. That has led to this situation. When you talk about this...

MR. SPEAKER: The hydel power has helped them a lot. They have done more than what they were expected to do.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, you will be able to help us in explaining that in doing all these things they do not need private capital, what they need is additionality of the requirement. Does it mean that our targets for the Eighth Five Year Plan are less than the requirement?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. It is natural.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I want to be clear about that.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what he has said—paucity of funds.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, I have already explained that in terms megawatt, we needed 42,000 mega watt to take care of the totality of the shortage. It was pruned down to 30,000 mega watt by the Planning Commission for constraints of resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Not only by the Planning Commission but also by the Government.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, they are exaggerating the demand. The same thing is true about the telecom sector also.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, I have nothing to gain by exaggerating. One way or the other, my target...(Interruptions)

I have to give honest information to this House. My submission is that in the answer that we are giving is the shortage as compared to the target, which we have mentioned as 0.3 per cent. But he is talking about...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is about the actual requirement.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, I have already explained about the actual requirement and the shortage.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has just said out of that the companies which are coming forward for power production, 123 have signed MOUs. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the financial arrangements made in this regard as well as of the follow up steps taken after signing of the MOUs. You just said...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No. No. It is not with that.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, you just bear with me.

MR. SPEAKER: No. I can't I

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: He has said that out of those, many projects have been placed on first track. I would like to know what is first track. What facilities are being accorded for this and what are the plans in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may please explain—what is a first track?

[Translation]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: First track projects are those projects for which we have accorded counter-guarantees. There are 8 such projects. After that, there are other projects that are in advance stage of finalisation. Out of these BIB has been cleared. There are some projects, the data for which are not available with me. I shall send the same to him.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Counter guarantees are much talked about and you have differences about counter guarantees...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, No, Mr. Minister, you are not expected to respond.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has talked about technological improvement supply of good quality coal to thermal power stations in order to improve power generation but he knows, and also admits, that there is financial crunch and that State Electricity Boards are running in losses. There are some states in the country, where power consumption in agriculture is very low and this was 26 to 28% in 1976. This is required to be supplied to the farmers at highly subsidised rates in Punjab, Haryana, U.P. etc. which produce foodgrains to meet the needs of the entire country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

[Translation]

This question relates to power and not to foodgrains.

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Finance is needed to introduce latest technology, to supply good quality coal in time to State thermal power stations but that money is used to supply power to the farmers at highly subsidised rates to the extent of 60 to 62%. Will the Hon. Minister frame a policy keeping in view the needs of different sectors in the country so that Electricity Boards do not run in losses in a particular State. This will ensure that they face no difficulties in improving their thermal power plants.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please tell what is your question? You are making a speech.

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: My question is whether the Hon. Minister is thinking of chalking out a policy to grant special financial assistance to power plants in States where farmers have to agitate day after day for adequate power supply so that full power generation is achieved in those plants?

MR. SPEAKER: It is O.K. please; sit down. I shall ask your question. He wants to know if there is any special arrangement to help the farmers in the supply of power for agriculture.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a meeting of State Energy Ministers was held in 1993 in which it was decided that for agriculture, a minimum rate of 50 P. Per KW hour will be charged but that rate is not being charged by many states. If agriculture is to be subsidised, it is for the State to act. They continuously run the State Electricity Boards in losses, with the result that neither their financial performance nor fiscal performance is upto the mark. This relates to the States and it is for States to decide.

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Food-grains are procured by the Centre, then why should the States suffer for this?

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: This question relates to financing of thermal power projects. In part 'A' the question asked was whether thermal power plants are not running efficiently due to which the target fixed for power generation is not being achieved. In your reply, only target for thermal power generation and actual production have been given, which is 95%. In the prevailing atmosphere in the country, if the efficiency is 95.7% per cent, it is quite a good efficiency. Reply to Part 'A' should have been in the negative. This is not due to this reason. You agree there is efficiency but the data seems to be incorrect. I would like to know from you, whether the target given by you relates to the rated capacity of the projects of this is the target fixed by you keeping in view the short-comings of the plants. I hope my question will be clear now.

[English]

When you talk of the rated capacity of all the thermal plants, is this the rated capacity or is it a target fixed by you or the bureaucrats considering all the problems?

[English]

When you talk of the rated capacity of all the thermal plants, is this the rated capacity or is it a target fixed by you or the bureaucrats considering all the problems?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: By 'rated capacity', perhaps what you are referring to is PLF.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a little bit of confusion. You may please inform about the target.

[English]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, the targets are not fixed by the Ministry. They are fixed by the Central Electricity

Authority keeping in view the limitations of the plants of the Centre and the States. The Central Public Sector Undertakings are doing very well but the State Public Sector Undertakings are not doing so well. Therefore, keeping in view their efficiency, their capacity, a certain target is fixed by the Central Electricity Authority. So, what you are referring to as efficiency is actually the Plant Load Factor which my colleague has already pointed out that it is 60 per cent. It is over 75 per cent in the Central Public Sector Undertakings. As far as the State Public Sector Undertakings are concerned, it differs from State to State.

Privatisation of Power Generation

*743. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the privatisation of power generation is likely to leave the State Electricity Boards weaker;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the privatisation would make the power costlier to the consumers; and

(c) if so, the specific plans contemplated to make the privatisation attractive to the consumers as well as SEBs also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

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

STATEMENT

(A) No, Sir. On the contrary, private sector participation in power generation is likely to benefit the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) for various reasons, inter alia, including:-

(i) Bringing in the much needed additionality of resources to augment the efforts of the SEBs for capacity addition, thus releasing funds for other crucial sectors such as transmission and distribution, renovation and modernisation etc.

(ii) Entry of private sector enterprises is expected to induce SEBs to bring in prudent financial, economic and commercial practices in order to abide by the stringent payment regime.

(iii) Private sector participation would bring in state of art technology.

(iv) Private sector participation would also act as a spur to necessitate hastening of the much needed reforms of SEBs.

(B) No, Sir. It is observed that the cost of power from new private power projects is comparable with the cost of power from similar projects in the public sector in a similar period. Addition of new power projects, whether in the

public or the private sector, is, therefore, likely to marginally push up the pooled tariff of the SEB grid.

(C) Adequate mechanisms have been provided to keep a check on the costs of the private sector projects, through Central Electricity Authority's scrutiny of the cost estimates. Moreover, Government of India has made competitive bidding mandatory with effect from 18.2.1995 which would entail advantages of competition and impart greater transparency. Ministry of Power has also circulated guidelines for negotiating Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and assists the State Governments to hire consultants, if necessary, so that professional expert advice is available to SEBs while negotiating PPAs for equitable risk allocation.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister, in his Statement, has already stated that private sector participation will benefit the State Electricity Boards and also the consumers.

In view of this I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government has formulated a policy or criteria for getting private sector participation and the coal-linkage arrangement which all the State Electricity Boards are enjoying and whether the said arrangement will also be provided to the private participants.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Sir, the country is having an installed capacity of 70,000 M W. Every year, the demand is increasing by 8 per cent. It is assumed that it will be increased by 9 per cent during the post-liberalisation period.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: This is no reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Let her formulate her answer please.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Sir, planning has already been done for the Eighth and Ninth Plans. I could not get your second part of the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhakta, please repeat your second part of the question.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: My question is that the Government has agreed that the private sector participation will benefit the State Electricity Boards and also the consumers. In view of this, I wanted to know whether the Government has formulated any policy for private sector participation and if so, please give the salient features. I also want to know whether coal linkage will be there for the participants from the private sector as is being done in the case of State Electricity Boards.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: The private parties have to manage all their fuel requirements.

MR. SPEAKER: No. This is a question to be decided by the Ministry of Coal. Yet, he would like to know whether

you are going to give the same facility which you are going to give to the power producing units.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): Firstly, we have evolved a policy. For the first time in 1991, the Electricity Act was amended and the private entrepreneurs, the private investors were allowed to participate in the power sector after Independence. The power sector was closed after Independence for private investment. It has been opened now. We have given various incentives, both for thermal and hydel. For thermal we have given what is known as two-part tariff formula. In place of that, we have assured 16 per cent return only on equity. An incentive for generating 68.5 per cent Plant Load Factor has been assured. The two-part tariff formula comprises the fixed cost and the variable cost. The entire fixed cost covers 68.5 per cent Plant Load Factor.

Likewise, for hydel power also we have given so many incentives. As far as coal linkage is concerned, it is to be given to the private sector in the same way as is being given to the public sector.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is considering allowing private parties in the transmission and distribution of power. So, even the private parties are going to generate power and the State Electricity Boards will buy this power in a fixed rate. The Government will give guaranteed prices. I would like to know what are the methodologies, the mechanisms by which the Government will fix the prices for this purpose and how many such price fixation agreements have been made with the parties and the names of those parties.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, power purchase agreements by the private investors are entered into between the generating company and the State Electricity Boards. I may not be able to give you the precise number of power purchase agreements which have been entered into, but quite a few power purchase agreements have been entered into. The Government of India has given counter guarantee only in respect of eight projects in terms of which the Government of India would be liable to pay the generation charges, the bills which are unpaid to the generating company. In case the Government of India is called upon in terms of counter guarantee to make good the bills which are remained unpaid by the State Electricity Boards, the Government of India would be entitled to recover such money out of the devolutions in the current account.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: What is the mechanism to fix the price?

MR. SPEAKER: The State and the power generating company are deciding the price.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: The Government of

India is giving the counter guarantee. The Government of India is certainly aware of the mechanism.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: This counter guarantee is the real crux of the problem. The Hon. Minister has said that there are only eight projects which are called first track projects. I do not know what is second track and third track projects. I do not know how you will define the other 23 MoUs which you have already signed. About this first track project, what prompted you to go for this kind of 30 per cent guarantee, 16 per cent of equity and above 68 per cent, one per cent of each percentage growth. That means, NTPC's plant load factor is 75 per cent as the Minister said. So, normally any new plant will go, from day one, from 75 onwards. That means we are giving 30 per cent of counter guarantee for these eight projects. Why this is so? Why this discrimination for other projects which are coming up? Why, ultimately you have gone in for open tenders? Why not for those eight projects? What prompted you to go in for agreement for those eight projects? Why not for other projects?

MR. SPEAKER: If you go on repeating, then you will not get the reply.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: When the NTPC gives power at Rs. 2, these power projects are going to give power at the cost of Rs. 5. This is also another gap. Apart from this gap of Rs. 5 and Rs. 3 cost in the generation, there is also a counter guarantee of benefit. It is a bonanza. It is not seen anywhere in the world. Let the Power Minister explain the position to the House categorically.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: The very assumption of the Hon. Member that we have guaranteed return is incorrect. We have not guaranteed the return. All that we have guaranteed is that in case the bills remain unpaid to the generating companies...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: What is this 16 per cent? What are you talking?

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear him first.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: All that we have guaranteed, the counter guarantee, is in respect of unpaid bills, if there are any. If the State Electricity Boards pay their bills regularly, then we have nothing to give to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: If there are any losses, if they do not make any money, they will not get any return. That is not our business. There is no privity of contract between the Government of India and the shareholder. Only privity of contract between the generation company and us is the States and the State Electricity Boards. But in case the bills remain unpaid for the power supplied by the generating

company to the State Electricity Boards and thereafter if the State Electricity Boards do not pay, then only we shall come into the picture. So, returns are not-repeat not-guaranteed by us. Whatever may be the returns that is for the company to decide...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to ask the question once more. But please understand clearly what he is saying.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, I have repeated so many times in this House that we do not guarantee return on equity. 16 per cent is not guaranteed by us, 20 per cent is not guaranteed by us and 30 per cent is not guaranteed by us. All that is guaranteed by us is payment in case of the bills unpaid either by the State Electricity Boards or by the States.

Secondly, why did it become necessary? It became necessary, as I had mentioned earlier in answer to one of the Supplementaries, because for the first time the power sector was open to the private investors and private investors were very reluctant to come to India only for one reason. They found that the track record of State Electricity Boards did not inspire enough confidence into people coming with such massive investment—a very high capital intensive investment requiring billions of dollars—that they come and put up a plant here to generate power, to sell power and that they do not get paid for that. That was the record of the State Electricity Boards. Even now the central public sector undertakings are supplying power to the State Electricity Boards and we do not get fully paid for it. So that was the apprehension.

The Government of India had to show that they believe in the State Electricity Boards and they agreed, therefore, initially for eight projects. Thereafter, it was considered that when we were getting adequate response, we did not think it necessary to continue with the counter guarantee.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow Shri Jena to ask one more question.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I will not contest the other part. From 18th February, 1995 the policy of the Government is to go in for tenders. Why was that not applicable when you signed for eight projects? That was precisely my second part of the question.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, all over the world both MoU route and the tendering route are considered...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, not like this.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Initially we were not getting any response, whatsoever. If they know, you are going in for tendering...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, in 1993 I went to Japan and when I talked to the investors there, they said: "We have three questions, Mr. Minister, to ask you. Is our investment safe? Is our return safe? Are our lives safe?"

That is where we started. How could have we started with no bidders coming in? Now that we have adequate number of bidders coming in and more importantly I have enough supporters now to enable me to take care of the shortages, from 18th June, 1995 onwards we are going to direct them that any proposal, any scheme which will come to CEA will only be considered if it is through the bidding route. Therefore, it is to be understood that because we were new to the entire matter of investment to private power development we had to go by MoU route. I want to submit that after we have said, there is a bidding, not a single proposal is coming because States find themselves in serious difficulties.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is 16 per cent return guaranteed on the project, but I will not labour on that point

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Not on the labour cost I

SHRI JASWANT SINGH. I will not labour on that point. My question is specifically about counter guarantee. There are sovereign counter guarantees offered. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, whether it is not correct that these sovereign counter guarantees have been granted by the Government of India despite objections from the Ministry of Finance; and that in the Dabhol Power Company project you have offered counter guarantee when initially the DPC did not actually even ask for a counter guarantee.

Is it true that the Dabhol Power Company initially did not ask for a counter guarantee and that the Government offered it. My first question really arises from this. The Government gave sovereign counter guarantee to these first track projects despite the objections of the Finance Ministry, why?

MR. SPEAKER: His question is whether it was given without their asking and secondly, whether it was given in spite of the opposition by the Finance Minister. That question, I do not know whether he would be able to answer on the floor of the House.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I will answer it, Sir.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the Finance Ministry has returned the file to the Power Ministry 64 times...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What happened between the Ministries, the final would be put before the House.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Let the file come before the House...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: How many times you would like to ask? If you have asked a question, get the reply also.

12.00

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, it is the Finance Ministry which has processed the counter-guarantee and not the Power Ministry, so far as the first part of his questions is concerned...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I am also well aware, which Ministry...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: They have Central...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is not the Central Electricity Authority whose guarantee...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: In the meanwhile some negotiations go on...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is the Government of India that has to guarantee, Sir, He is evading my question to say that it is the Ministry of Finance because that is precisely...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us understand it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I have understood it...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaswant Singhji, your question was why this guarantee, which you call 'sovereign guarantee', was given and why this guarantee was not given by the State Electricity units and was not accepted. He has explained that they were not ready to depend on the guarantee given by the State Electricity Boards.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I request the Hon. Minister to review my question. My question was that in the case of sovereign counter guarantees, there was a difference between the demands of the Ministry of Power and the views of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance advised against it and despite that, sovereign counter guarantees were given. Secondly, in the case of Dabhol Power Company, initially that Power Company did not even ask for sovereign counter guarantee...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Finance Ministry would also be very careful in investment and they would not say 'yes' at the first instance...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The final decision would be given to us and not the discussions between the Ministries. Otherwise, you know, nothing will be secret...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Absolutely..

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If finally also they have said 'no' and if the Power Ministry has done it, then the Power Ministry would be responsible. But ultimately if the Finance Ministry has agreed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I be permitted please. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. Our intention is to explain and not to confuse.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I am not confusing. I am asking for that which is a fact. The Committee on Energy has examined this very aspect. The Committee on Energy has found that what I have just asserted is correct. I am merely asking the Ministry to confirm what is correct, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please reply...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There are two parts in my question, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, I have replied and you have so well expounded and if the Hon. Member is not willing to understand, I am helpless...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I am merely objecting to that. I accept that in comparison to the Hon. Minister for Power, who has very great acumen when it comes to legal matters, my powers of understanding are, of course, nowhere near him. When I have stated something, I have stated it factually correct based on the findings of the Standing Committee on Energy and I am asking for a clarification, which is in the national interest. That is why I am asking a question that it does exist a difference between the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed to be asked. Otherwise, what is Cabinet secret?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is different. If you disallow me...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this has come up in the Committee and I have documentary evidence....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaswant Singhji, what cannot be allowed is asked on the floor of the House. And when it is not allowed, if you say that it is not allowed, then also it is wrong. If there is a discussion or if there is a talk between the two Ministries, we are not bothered about it. We would like to know what is their final conclusion. Otherwise, there would not be any Cabinet secret at all.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is not a matter of a Cabinet secret. Sir, it is a matter of the Committee's

findings and it is not a question that we are not bothered. We are bothered about the Government's malfunctioning and it is our duty to establish the malfunctioning of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have to project the correct picture before the people also. If the Government have committed any mistake, we will certainly hold them accountable. But we would not like to present it in such a fashion that there is a misunderstanding about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, there is no misunderstanding...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Definitely it was a great mistake...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Issue of Passports

[Translation]

*744. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any time limit for the issue of passports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases where issue of a passport took more than two months time during the last two years, passport office-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) For functional and practical reasons, it has not been found possible to fix a time limit for the issue of a fresh passport. The issue of a passport involves several steps including scrutiny of the application and required documentation; processing; police verification; and, preparation and issue of the passport. The number of applications received in a given office also has a bearing on the time taken for the issue of a passport; as also the availability of infrastructure including staff strength. Keeping in view MHA's concurrence that a passport may be issued if police verification report is not received in three week's time, the endeavour of the Passport Offices is to issue a passport in a period of about one month. Currently, 17 out of 23 Offices are issuing passport in 6-8 weeks. A number of steps have been taken to upgrade office facilities including computerisation of

Passport Offices. A review of systems and procedures is continuously carried out. Regular inspections and follow up action is undertaken.

Details of total pendency and pendency over-one-month during calendar years 1992, 1993 and 1994 are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

The Total Number of Fresh Applications pending and the Number of Applications pending for more than a month in each Passport Office at the end of each year

S.No.	Office	1992		1993		1994		As on 31.1.1995	
		Total Pendency	Pending over one month	Total Pendency	Pending over one month	Total pendency	Pending over one month	Total pendency	Pending over one month
1.	Ahmedabad	40437	25408	16897	14126	13133	3256	12517	4551
2.	Bangalore	18504	-	23730	11675	24365	15575	23147	17848
3.	Bareilly	11092	7580	1793	1781	5982	3075	5560	1834
4.	Bhopal	3188	995	3345	327	2570	718	2391	860
5.	Bhubaneswar	2978	1530	1956	245	1542	915	1385	915
6.	Bombay	47349	20729	49827	16215	14555	1994	19782	3504
7.	Cuttack	23483	20011	14707	4601	10801	5479	11407	5951
8.	Chandigarh	82499	74590	59912	49900	26281	20223	22976	17842
9.	Cochin	62679	50072	8912	6225	9975	1984	8261	2076
10.	Delhi	34024	19564	33355	10464	21445	13656	11275	3486
11.	Goa	2074	533	2350	97	1191	266	1563	364
12.	Guwahati	3563	3018	3071	1977	2348	1848	2225	1397
13.	Hyderabad	37459	20901	23254	9222	13939	4204	16890	5257
14.	Jaipur	50861	40379	8988	1583	8560	3040	8535	3658
15.	Jalandhar	116026	91246	75547	67032	36134	27631	33486	24164
16.	Kozhikode	168942	147605	24509	18077	26137	14927	23753	15077
17.	Lucknow	87406	78588	68231	66301	21952	14481	13860	7760
18.	Madras	65417	40893	13376	12919	11034	2919	8932	3120
19.	Nagpur	827	80	1143	54	982	211	1094	287
20.	Patna	42993	40171	42979	36536	7322	3490	5928	2383
21.	Trichy	157081	132772	36040	24471	9672	161	11467	628
22.	Trivandrum	83853	72654	12655	1161	7999	743	8279	1405
23.	Jammu					9940	844	8967	8270
		1142835	889309	532739	354890	287859	141640	263670	132648

It would be seen that the over-onemonth pendency has declined from 8.9 lakhs in December 1992 to 1.32 lakhs as on 31.1.1995. This sharp reduction in pendency in two years' time indicates that the measures taken in this period have been instrumental in achieving the desired result.

Setting up of F.P.I.

*745. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA:

SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:

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

(a) the number of food processing industries set up/sanctioned by his Ministry in each State during the last three years and the number of proposals received during 1994-95 from the States particularly to set up Makhana Processing Industry in Bihar

(b) whether the number of food Processing Industries set up so far is adequate to meet the increasing demand,

(c) if not, whether the Government have drawn up any plan to bridge the gap between demand and supply,

(d) the details of food processing Industries set up with Central assistance, State-wise; and

(e) the employment potential of the above mentioned units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) This Ministry does not set up food processing industries in the States directly. As per the Industrial Policy of 1991, the requirement of industrial licence or Government permission was done away with in all food processing industries except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages, animal fat, items reserved for small scale sector and sugar. For industries which are delicensed, the intending entrepreneurs are required to file Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) and a second Memorandum is to be filed by them at the commencement of commercial production. Since liberalisation, the Government have received 3101 IEMs for setting up of various food processing industries in different States. Out of these, the second Memoranda have been received in the case of 403 cases indicating start of commercial production.

The Government approval, however, is required in the cases of setting up of 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU), units requiring industrial licence (IL), and units having foreign collaboration (FC) joint venture (JV). Since liberalisation, the Government have approved 587 such proposals of which 69 proposals have been implemented. State-wise distribution of number of IEMs received and implemented and projects approved and implemented are given in the enclosed statement. No proposal for Mukhana processing has been received.

Although there are number of food processing industries already operating in the country, there is an ample scope for setting up of more number of units to meet the increasing demand; because with the increase in population, increase in per capita income, and possibilities for exports, the future demand for processed food is likely to grow. With a view to meet the demand, the Government have taken steps to attract investments in this sector which inter alia included according high priority for development of most food processing industries, delicensing of most food products, providing various incentives including fiscal incentives and taking promotional measures. The Ministry, under its Plan schemes, is also providing assistance for setting up food processing units and so far have provided assistance to 48 units.

The project proposals contained in the IEMs received and the proposals approved in the organised sector envisage a total direct employment of 6.63 lakh persons of which in the projects implemented so far, direct employment of 1.08 lakh persons has been generated.

STATEMENT

Statewise distribution of No. of IEMs received and implemented and Projects approved and implemented

S No	State	Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda	Projects Requiring Approvals (EOUs/ILs) JV/FC)		
			Field	Implemented	Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	197	39	115	8
2	Assam	3	0	-	-
3	Bihar	21	1	4	-
4	Gujarat	217	58	25	3
5	Haryana	352	21	39	4
6	Himachal Pradesh	36	1	12	2
7	Jammu & Kashmir	10	1	-	-
8	Karnataka	79	7	20	6
9	Kerala	26	1	36	5
10	Madhya Pradesh	268	62	15	-
11	Maharashtra	436	81	113	11
12	Manipur	0	0	0	-
13	Meghalaya	1	0	0	-
14	Nagaland	1	0	0	-
15	Orissa	15	2	5	1
16	Punjab	261	19	14	5
17	Rajasthan	298	18	28	2
18	Tamil Nadu	113	20	41	2
19	Tripura	0	0	-	-
20	Uttar Pradesh	610	63	38	8
21	West Bengal	74	2	10	1
22	Sikkim	1	0	1	-
23	Andaman Nikobar	1	-	3	-
24	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0		
25	Chandigarh	2		0	

1	2	3	4	5	6
26. Dadar & Nagar Haveli	11	-	0	1	
27. Delhi	42	2	2	1	
28. Daman & Diu	7	1	1	-	
29. L.M. & A. Islands	0	0	4	-	
30. Mizoram	0	0	-	0	
31. Pondicherry	12	0	2	-	
32. Goa	7	4	17	10	
33. Exact location not specified/units proposed are in more than one state		-	42	-	
	3101	403	587	69	

PRODUCTION IN SAIL

*746 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production in steel Authority of India Limited during the last two years;

(b) the value of the exports made by the Steel Authority of India Limited and the amount received through domestic sales during 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(c) the value of foreign exchange earned during the said years and the projected value of foreign exchange to be earned during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV).

STATEMENT

(a) Production of saleable steel by the four integrated and two special steel plants of SAIL during the last two years was as under:

UNIT: Thousand Tonnes

1993-94	8518
1994-95	8841

(b) The values of exports and domestic sales of SAIL during 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given below:

	Rupees Crores	
	1993-94	1994-95
	(Provisional)	
Exports	561	629
Domestic Sales	11,110	13,238

(c) The value of foreign exchange earned by SAIL during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is given below:

Rupees Crores	
1993-94	1994-95 (Provisional)
564	632

The above includes earnings from exports of steel, other export income as well as professional fees, royalty etc.

The projected value of foreign exchange earnings in 1995-96 is expected to be more or less the same as in 1994-95.

[English]

Humanitarian Assistance to Iraq

*747. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps at the UN and at other international fora in regard to lifting of economic sanctions imposed against Iraq, on humanitarian grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have supplied propose to supply life saving drugs and food to the people of Iraq who are suffering due to economic sanctions.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government are having adequate level of contacts with Iraq; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) India has consistently taken the view that a phased lifting of the UN sanctions should be undertaken in tandem with Iraq's compliance with the UN Security Council Resolutions.

(c) to (e) India has supplied humanitarian items, including life saving drugs and food, worth Rs. 3.86 crores in 1991, excluding the cost of transportation, which was borne by us. The Government of India is assisting ongoing humanitarian efforts by an Indian Non-Governmental Organization to send approximately 60 tonnes life saving medicines to Iraq.

(f) and (g) Both India and Iraq currently have accredited resident Ambassadors in each others' capitals. In addition, a number of official level visits have also been exchanged between the two countries.

**Production and Joint Venture
Programme of Nangal Unit of NFL**

*748. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing capacity utilisation, turn over and profits of the Nangal Unit of National Fertilizers Limited (N.F.L.);

(b) the targets set and actual production achieved of urea and methanol, during the last three years;

Product	Installed Capacity (MT)	Production (MT)	Capacity Utilisation (%)	Turn-over (unaudited) Rs. Crores	Profit (Unaudited) Rs. Crores
Urea	3,30,000	3,75,545	113.8		
CAN	3,18,160	2,06,749	65.0	367.06	20.29
Industrial Products	-	27,369	-		
Methanol	16,500	20,312	123.1		

(The overall capacity utilisation in terms of nitrogen was 97% during 1994-95).

(b) The targets and actual production achieved in the Nangal Unit for Urea and Methanol during the last three years were as follows:

(Figure in MT)

Product	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
	Target	Actual Production	Target	Actual Production	Target	Actual Production
Urea	3,15,000	3,54,464	3,30,000	3,51,143	3,30,000	3,75,545
Methanol	19,000	19,202	18,000	19,801	18,200	20,312

[Translation]

Talks with Pak Delegation

*749. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral talks were held with Pak delegation headed by the President of that country during the recent SAARC Summit;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome of the talks;

(c) whether both the countries have reiterated their commitment for the peaceful solution of Kashmir issue; and

(c) whether the NFL has signed an agreement with the Government of Syria for setting up a gas-based urea plant in that country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) The installed capacity, actual production, capacity utilisation, turn over and profits of the Nangal unit of National Fertilizers Ltd. during 1994-95 were as follows:

(c) and (d) NFL is currently exploring the possibility of setting up a gas-based ammonia-urea plant in Syria as a joint venture. However, no agreement has been signed in this regard with the Government of Syria.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to have further bilateral talks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The President of Pakistan met Prime Minister on May 2, 1995, during the Eighth SAARC Summit held in New Delhi. The meeting was essentially in the nature of a courtesy call. Matters relating to SAARC figured in the discussions. Bilateral issues did not come up for substantive discussion.

(c) The President of Pakistan reiterated Pakistan's stand that until the Kashmir issue is resolved, tensions in bilateral relations would persist. Prime Minister conveyed our concern about continued support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and indicated that the two sides resolve their differences peacefully and through dialogue.

(d) Government are committed to resolve all

differences with Pakistan peacefully and through a process of bilateral negotiations as stipulated under the Simla Agreement. We reiterated to Pakistan our readiness to enter into a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue.

[English]

SAARC Convention on Terrorism

*750. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to enact necessary legislation for implementing the SAARC convention on suppression of terrorism which was signed in 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): The steps taken by the Government to enact necessary legislation for implementing the SAARC Regional Convention of Suppression of Terrorism are as follows:

The SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 1992.

The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 30th March, 1993

Two amendments to the Bill made by the Lok Sabha were passed by the Rajya Sabha on 31st March, 1993. These two amendments were:

(i) page 1, line 7:

43rd years of the Republic of India was changed to 44th year of the Republic of India;

(ii) Clause 1 at page 1 line-10;

1992 was changed to 1993.

The above two amendments had to be made because the Rajya Sabha had passed the Bill on 26th November, 1992, while the Lok Sabha considered the Bill and passed it on 30th March, 1993.

The Bill received the assent of the President on 26th April, 1993, and became an Act.

The SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act, 1993, was published in the Gazette of India as No. 36, of 1993, dated 26th April, 1993.

The SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism was also published in the Gazette of India as a schedule of Act 36 of 1993.

Revenue Generated from National Highways

*751. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the Criteria laid down for the allocation of revenue

to different State Governments out of the revenue being generated by the National Highways; and

(b) the details of allocation made, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The only source of revenue generated on National Highways is the fees levied on permanent bridges costing more than Rs. 100 lakhs. The criterion for allocation to the various States of the amount so collected is that it shall, as far as possible, be equal to the fees collected in the respective States.

(b) The details of allocation made to the State Governments during the first three years of VIII Plan are given in enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Allocation of Funds from the Bridge Fee Fund during 1992-93 to 1994-95.

		(Rs. in lakhs)
S.No.	Name of States/UTs	Amount allocated
1.	Andhra Pradesh	878.00
2.	Bihar	401.00
3.	Goa	99.40
4.	Gujarat	1848.00
5.	Haryana	150.00
6.	Karnataka	1086.00
7.	Kerala	624.95
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1040.89
9.	Maharashtra	1218.92
10.	Manipur	6.93
11.	Orissa	438.55
12.	Punjab	159.80
13.	Rajasthan	798.88
14.	Tamil Nadu	300.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1720.68
Total		10772.00

Fertilizer Subsidy

*752. DR. MAHDEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

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

(a) the existing system and criteria adopted by the Government to provide subsidy to fertilizer manufacturers;

(b) whether Government propose to compensate those manufactures whose subsidy claims are pending;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS), the difference between the retention price (i.e. cost of production plus reasonable return on networth as assessed by the Government) and the notified sale price minus the distribution margin is paid as subsidy to the indigenous manufacturers of controlled fertilizers. The retention price is fixed unit-wise on the basis of a combination of norms and actuals with respect to the various elements of cost; it varies from unit to unit depending upon the capital cost, feedstock used, vintage of the plant etc.

(b) to (d) Subject to availability of funds through budgetary allocations, all claims for payment of subsidy are cleared within 60 days from the date of receipt of the claims, complete in all respects. However, due to budgetary constraints, it has not always been possible to adhere to this payment schedule and some amounts remain outstanding, which are disbursed during the course of the next year.

Visit of President of Italy

***753. DR. R. MALLU:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Italy had visited India recently;

(b) if so, the objectives of the visit and the composition of his delegation; and

(c) the bilateral issues that figured in his talks with Indian leaders and the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (c) The President of Italy, Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, paid a State visit to India from 9-12 February, 1995. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, Minister of State for Foreign Trade Mario d'Urso, senior officials and a high-level business delegation. President Scalfaro interacted with the President and met the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Commerce Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs.

2. This was the first ever Head of State level visit exchanged with Italy, and coincided with Italy's participation

as "Partner Country" in the India Engineering Trade Fair (IETF) 1995, which was jointly inaugurated by the Presidents of India and Italy.

3. The principal focus of discussions during the visit was on expansion of bilateral trade and economic relations. The Italian President underlined Italy's desire to strengthen relations with India in the political, economic, scientific and cultural fields. He also stressed the importance of closer cooperation between India and Italy to confront the challenge posed by fundamentalism and terrorism. During talks between the Italian Foreign Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs, views were exchanged on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The Italian side reiterated their interest in receiving an early visit by the Prime Minister, as well as an Indian cultural manifestation in Italy to coincide with a future high-level visit from India. A Communique providing for regular Foreign Office consultations was signed during the Italian President's visit, which has imparted further impetus to the intensification of Indo-Italian relations in diverse fields.

Incentives for F.P.I.

***754. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:** Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incentives, programmes, plans evolved by Government to encourage food processing industries;

(b) the details of food processing industries included in such plans and the State that tops in food processing industries, and

(c) the total exports from the food processing units under Government control from 1990 to 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GAGOI): (a) and (b) The Government is encouraging establishment and expansion of food processing industries in the country for which various policy measures and incentives including fiscal incentives have been provided. Most of the food products except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages, and animal fats and those reserved for SSI have been put under the list of high priority industries for development. These are listed in Annexure-III of the Industrial Policy Statement. With a view to encouraging faster development of food industry, the Government have provided various fiscal concessions. Fruits and vegetable products, meat and poultry products, fish products, soya-based products, majority of the cereal based products and most milk products do not attract excise duty. The Ministry is also implementing various plan schemes during the 8th Plan for the development of this sector.

Since food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sector, information with regard to the number of food processing industries State-wise is not maintained centrally. However, the State of Andhra Pradesh has the highest number of food processing industries in the organised sector.

(c) While no export of food products have been made by the 2 Public Sector Undertakings, under the control of Ministry of Food Processing Industries, export of true potato seeds worth US \$ 5250 have been made by the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd., Guwahati, under the control of this Ministry in the year 1994-95.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Research and Development

*755. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) the names of companies/institutions engaged in research and development in fertilizers;

(b) the details of incentives given for conducting research on fertilizers;

(c) the amount allocated for Fertilizer Research and Development and the amount actually utilized during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(d) whether Government have formulated any special scheme for encouraging R & D in fertilizers;

(e) if so, the estimated cost involved and other details of this scheme;

(f) the details of any break-through made in fertilizers research during the last three years;

(g) the areas where these findings have been put into practical application; and

(h) the steps taken by Government to ensure that benefits of the research are passed on to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) The following fertilizer companies have well developed in-house R & D facilities:

(i) Projects and Development India Limited, Sindri (Bihar);

(ii) Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Udyogamandal (Kerala);

(iii) Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Bombay (Maharashtra);

(iv) Gujarat State Fertilizer Company Limited, Baroda (Gujarat);

(v) Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited, Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu);

(vi) Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Company Limited, Bharuch (Gujarat). and

(vii) Dharmal Morarji Chemical Company Limited, Ambemath (Maharashtra).

(b) A recognised R & D establishment is entitled for the following incentives:

(i) Income tax rebate on the expenditure on R & D activities;

(ii) A higher depreciation allowance of 40% on the investment based on the results of in-house R & D; and

(iii) National award for outstanding R & D work.

(c) The details of amounts allocated for Research and Development in the budget for the fertilizer sector and the amounts actually utilized during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)					
1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
Budget Estimate	Actual	Budget Estimate	Actual	Budget Estimate	Actual
19.85	15.73	20.90	11.80	11.90	7.08

A number of fertilizer companies undertake R & D work without any budgetary support.

(d) and (e) Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry, has formulated research plans for developing agronomically efficient formulations/product mix and catalysts. PDIL has been given an annual R & D grant of Rs. 4 crores in the last three years.

(f) to (h) The research works being carried out by Projects and Development India Limited in their R & D Division have made an appreciable break through in the development and manufacture of complete range of catalysts required in fertilizer and allied industries during the last few years. During the last three years they have developed process for the manufacture of sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite using tail gas from nitric acid plant as NOX abatement measure, for environmental control. This not only effectively controls NOX (oxides of nitrogen) emission in the atmosphere but also produces value added products like sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite. Recently, PDIL has also developed a biological process for treating liquid effluent containing ammoniacal and nitrate/nitrogen discharge from fertilizer plants.

The above findings have been put in practical use at Nangal unit of National Fertilizers Limited for NOX abatement and biological treatment of plant effluent at Sindri unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited. The biological treatment system has also been adopted in Durgapur unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited.

Various R & D laboratories are trying to develop agronomically efficient fertilizer products, including coated urea to decrease the solubility of the product. This will improve the efficiency of these products, to the advantage of the farmers. However, a commercially viable product is yet to be developed.

[English]

Maintenance of National Highways

*756. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a new Agency for the maintenance and development of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) An Authority known as National Highways Authority of India has been set up w.e.f. 15.6.1989, under an Act of Parliament, 1988 (68 of 1988), to develop, maintain and manage the National Highways entrusted to it by the Central Government. The Authority has now become functional with the appointment of Chairman and two Members w.e.f. 10.02.95, 01.03.95 & 04.04.95 respectively

[Translation]

Pepsi Industry

*757. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state.

(a) the details of food items being produced by the Pepsi industry and the benefit accrued to the farmers therefrom;

(b) whether the said industry is functioning as per expectations;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction; of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The details of the food items being

manufactured by Pepsi industry are - Tomato paste, Fresh red chilly paste, Potato chips/extruded corn snacks, Soft drinks and soft drink concentrates and Fruit drinks. The farmers of Punjab have benefitted from the improved strains and practices introduced by M/s. Pepsi Foods Ltd. In respect of fruit and vegetable crops.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Indians in Foreign Jails

*758. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in jails in foreign countries, country-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the release of these Indians, country-wise; and

(c) the number of them released during the last three years and during the current year, so far country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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

STATEMENT

As on 30.9.1994, 5304 Indian nationals were in jails in foreign countries. The country-wise figures are given at Annexure-I.

Indians Missions follow up all cases vigorously with the local authorities for review and expeditious release. Apart from regular meetings with the jail authorities, matters are taken up as and when necessary with the respective Foreign Offices. However, a number of Governments do not entertain requests for review of the term of imprisonment decided by a court of law and release prisoners on completion of their term of imprisonment. Indian Missions make all efforts to ensure that effective legal defence is available to the prisoners.

ANNEXURE-I

*Number of Indians in Foreign Prisons
abroad as on 30.9.94.*

S.No.	Name of Country	No. of Indian Prisoners
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Australia	4
2.	Austria	79

(1)	(2)	(3)
3.	Bahrain	123
4.	Bangladesh	539
5.	Balarus	3
6.	Bhutan	26
7.	Canada	8
8.	China	1
9.	Czech Republic	1
10.	Denmark	2
11.	Egypt	13
12.	Germany	18
13.	Greece	3
14.	Hongkong	83
15.	Indonesia	1
16.	Iran	26
17.	Iraq	1
18.	Ireland	1
19.	Italy	38
20.	Jamaica	1
21.	Japan	2
22.	Jordan	1
23.	Kenya	4
24.	Kuwait	64
25.	Lebanon	8
26.	Libya	14
27.	Malaysia	130
28.	Maldives	76
29.	Mauritius	28
30.	Morocco	2
31.	Myanmar	18
32.	Nepal	186
33.	Netherlands	11
34.	Sultanat of Oman	35
35.	Pakistan	1180
36.	Philippines	5
37.	Portugal	1

(1)	(2)	(3)
38.	Qatar	238
39.	Romania	7
40.	Russian Federation	2
41.	Saudi Arabia	796
42.	Singapore	305
43.	South Africa	1
44.	Spain	22
45.	Sri Lanka	23
46.	Switzerland	2
47.	Syrian Arab Republic	2
48.	Thailand	5
49.	Trinidad & Tobago	14
50.	Uganda	5
51.	United Arab Emirates	800
52.	United Kingdom	293
53.	United States of America	50
54.	Uzbekistan	1
55.	Yemen Arab Republic	2
56.	Zimbabwe	2
Total:		5304

Indo-Belize Cooperation

*759. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreements were signed recently with Belize for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields;

(b) If so, the salient features thereof and the time by which these agreements are likely to be implemented, agreement-wise; and

(c) the extent to which Belize have helped/agreed to help India in various fields including agriculture and fisheries sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Two agreements on (i) Economic Cooperation; and (ii) Cultural Cooperation were signed between India and Belize during the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belize to India in June 1994.

(b) and (c) The Economic Cooperation Agreement

envisages cooperation in agriculture, livestock and fisheries; trade; industry, energy; communications & transport; tourism; and finance sectors.

The Cultural Cooperation Agreement enjoins on both countries to facilitate and encourage cooperation in the fields of culture, art, education, including academic activity in science & technology, mass-media and non-professional sports.

While the implementation of the Cultural Cooperation Agreement is in hand, the Economic Cooperation Agreement will come into force after Instruments of Ratification have been exchanged.

Democratisation of UN

*760. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to bring pressure on the developed countries especially, the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the United Nations to ensure democratic functioning of the Security Council and other UN bodies and equality of status to all UN members;

(b) whether the UN has set up a working group on equitable representation in UN Security Council for increasing its membership and to consider other reforms; and

(c) if so, the precise terms of reference of the working group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government of India co-sponsored the resolution "Question of equitable representation on, and increase in the membership of the Security Council". Equitable representation on the Council, and increase in its size would facilitate democratisation; of the work of the Council. Government have also stressed the principle of democratisation and better opportunities of participation in other UN bodies. India has also supported revitalisation and strengthening of the role of the General Assembly, which is the principal organ of the UN in which all member states are represented.

(b) Yes Sir, in pursuance of the resolution "Question of equitable representation on, and increase in the membership of the Security Council", an open-ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly has been set up to consider the question of increase in, and other matters related to, the Security Council.

(c) The mandate of the Working Group, which has been extended, is to consider all aspects of the question of increase in the membership of, and other matters related to, the Security Council.

Complaints received by DG works

7519. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints were received during the last three years by the Director General of Works from the tenants of Government colony at S.M. Plots, Antop Hill, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the nature of these complaints;

(c) whether the office of the Director General has replied to these complaints; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to attend these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No complaints have been received from the tenants of Government colony at SM Plot, Antop Hill. However, a few letters from Central Govt. staff colony Welfare Association, S.M. Plot have been received.

(b) The C.G.S.C. Welfare Association, SM Plot, Bombay has raised issues regarding day-to-day maintenance of residential premises, additional amenities and problems from Hawkers, anti-social elements, encroachments and resultant to law and order problems.

(c) Replies to these letters have been sent by the field units of CPWD and they have also discussed the issues with office bearers of the Association from time to time.

(d) Every possible effort is made to attend to these complaints regarding the maintenance of these buildings and services within the available financial resources.

Nuclear Talks with Pak

7520. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan have offered to renounce nuclear weapons with our country;

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

(c) whether any dialogue took place/initiated in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government proposed to Government of Pakistan, in one of the six Non-Papers forwarded to Pakistan on January 24, 1994 that as further demonstration of its commitment for reducing mistrust and enhancing confidence between the two countries, India would be willing to enter into an agreement according to which both countries shall undertake not to be the first to use or threaten to use its nuclear capability against each other.

Pakistan's response conveyed on 19th February, 1994 in the form of "comments and counter proposals" was, regrettably, dismissive. On March 21, 1994, Government once again urged Pakistan to consider the Indian proposals with sincerity of purpose as they could form a basis of a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue. Pakistan has, unfortunately, stipulated a number of conditions and pre-conditions for holding talks, which in our view constitute a negative approach. Government hope Pakistan responds with sincerity to our offer for unconditional bilateral talks.

IDPL Revival Package

7521. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the measure taken to strengthen production and protect employees job security, in the approved revival package of the Hyderabad unit of IDPL;

(b) whether the employees unions has submitted representations/memorandums in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Revival Package for Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) including the Hyderabad unit of the company was approved by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on the 10th February, 1994. The revival period is for ten years beginning from 1994-95. The approved revival package for IDPL, inter alia, envisages that in Hyderabad unit, the capacities of key vitamins would be expanded in a phased manner over a period of 3 years; that an Electric Sub-Station would be set-up for the unit. In addition, the plan envisages higher production, sales targets; cost reduction measures including reduction in manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS); generation of internal resources through sale/disposal of surplus assets. In the year 1994-95, expansion of capacities or setting-up of the Electric Sub-Station have not been

taken up. The VRS is under implementation in the company and 679 persons of Hyderabad unit had opted for and were released in 1994-95.

(b) and (C) Yes, Sir. The main points made out in these representations are immediate need for working capital assistance; special purchase preference from all Central Government Hospitals, Institutions for products of IDPL; transfer of IDPL to the administrative control of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; revamping of the marketing strategies and changes in the management; suitable measures to prevent, availability of imported materials; restoration of deferred benefits of pay revision, LTC, Leave encashment, etc.

[Translation]

Storage of Agricultural Products

7522. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the places in various States for setting up of industries for processing of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any industry for storage and processing of agricultural produce in Haryana;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures being taken by the Government to save the surplus produce particularly vegetables and fruits from getting spoiled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (f) While Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Units in any State directly, the Government is encouraging establishment and expansion of Food Processing Industries in the country for which various policy measures and incentives including the fiscal incentives have been provided. Besides, Ministry is also implementing various Plan Schemes during the 8th Plan for development of this sector. Under the developmental Plan Schemes, assistance is provided to State Government Organisations/Cooperative Bodies/Voluntary Organisations/Joint Sectors etc. for setting up or enlarging Food Processing facilities, developing backward linkage with farmers, marketing support, pork poultry and other meat and meat processing facilities, tuna and other fish processing, setting up of cold-chain, Research and Development in food

processing and packaging and training of manpower in certain sectors. Besides, National Horticulture Board also has certain schemes for assisting post-harvest management of horticulture produce. Assistance under these schemes could be availed for viable projects by organisations in Haryana also.

Installed Capacity of Power Generation

7523. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity of power generation in Gujarat at present;

(b) the plant load factor in the State and the average national factor during 1993-94; and

(c) the efforts made/proposed to be made by the Government to bring the power generation capacity in Gujarat at par with the national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) The installed capacity of power generation in Gujarat was 4938.47 MW as on 31.3.1995.

(b) During the year 1993-94, the Plant Load Factor (PLF) of Gujarat at 61% was same as of national average.

(c) Various measures being taken to increase power generation in Gujarat include maximising generation from the existing stations, implementation of renovation and modernisation programme of Ukai, Gandhinagar, Dhuvaran and Wanakbori under Phase-II. A capacity of 273 MW is envisaged to be added in Gujarat during the remaining period of 8th Plan. In addition, the State will also get its due share from Central Power Projects which are being set up in Western Region.

Selling of PSU Shares

7524. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell the shares of the Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) through the stock exchanges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) There are no immediate proposals to sell the shares of the Companies concerned in the current round of disinvestment proposals of the Government.

Visit of Ambassadors to Kashmir

7525. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ambassadors of six countries visited Kashmir valley recently;

(b) if so, the objectives and the outcome of the visit;

(c) whether they have given any suggestion to the Government of India in regard to situation prevailing in Kashmir valley; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The visit was part of the routine diplomatic work of resident Missions in India. As foreign envoys visiting Jammu and Kashmir, they were not obliged, in any way, to provide any reactions or suggestions to the Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

Complaints against Employees of DDA

7526. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise number of complaints received against employees of Delhi Development Authority during the last two years;

(b) the details of such complaints received from the Members of Parliament; and

(c) the action taken or propose to be taken on each complaint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) DDA has reported that during the period from 1.4.1993 to 31.3.1995, 1973 general complaints were received in the Vigilance Deptt. of DDA. Zone-wise statistics of the complaints is not maintained by DDA.

(b) and (c) During the period 1.4.93 to 31.3.95, 24 complaints from the Members of Parliament were forwarded by the different authorities to the Vigilance Deptt. of DDA. Details of the action taken on the complaints received from Members of Parliament are given in the Statement enclosed as Statement.

STATEMENT*Details of the Action taken on the complaints received from Members of Parliament*

Sl. No.	Name of MP	Date of complaint/ date of receipt	Subject	Action taken
	S/Shri			
1.	G. Modgoda	23.11.93	Complaint against Sh. P.S. Uttarwar DD (Pig.)	case closed on 25.10.94
2.	Hari Kewal Prasad	14.1.94	Reg. corruption in transfer & posting of Engineers	case is under process
3.	Mukesh Sharma/ B.L. Sharma	4.3.94	Complaints against Sh. P.L. Arora E.E.E.D.9	case closed on 9.1.95
4.	Jagdish Tytler	5.9.94	Reg. payment of bills against works executed in N.D. 5	Case is under process
5.	Jagdish Tytler	12.12.94	Complaints against Sh. Gulzar Ahmed J.E. from residents of Janta flats, Adchini Village.	Case is under process
6.	K.D. Sultan Puri	14.2.95	Transfer of HIG plot No. 87 Pkt. 3 Rohini	case under process
7.	B.L. Sharma	12.11.93	Reg. Bhim Dal Samiti	Case is under process
8.	Dr. Subramaniam Swami	10.9.93	Reg. complaint of Sh. H.C. Gupta	case is under process
9.	Som Pal	8.7.93	Irregularities in the recruitment of S.O. (Hort.)	Case is under process
10.	Som Pal	21.2.94	—do—	
11.	B.L. Sharma	23.2.94	Complaint against Sh. R.G. Gupta Dir. (TYA) by Sh. Triveni Pd. Secy., DDA Karamchari Union	Case closed and reply sent to the M.P. by Minister on 26.9.94
12.	Salfuddin Choudhary	27.12.93	Reg. scandal of Rs. 45 crores in East Zone	Reply sent to the M.P. by Min. on 26.9.94
13.	Hari Kewal Prasad	18.1.94	—do—	
14.	B.L. Sharma "Prem"	24.1.94	—do—	
15.	Buta Singh	19.7.94	Complaint against owner of flat No. K-53 Sarita Vihar	The case is under process
16.	Kalka Dass	10.9.93	Complaint against Sh. P. K. Jain, A.E.	Case closed on 9.12.93
17.	Balbir Singh	28.1.94	Alleged corruption of DDA staff.	Case closed on 17.12.94
18.	M.L. Khurana	15.4.93	Regarding land grabbing in Saraswati Garden	Case under process
19.	B.L. Sharma "Prem"	17.9.93	Inquiry of Sh. N.K. Gupta, JE	—do—
20.	Ram Vilas Paswan	4.10.93	Complaint against DDA officials	—do—
21.	Guman Mal Lodha	23.11.93	News item captioned "Corruption by officers"	—do—
22.	B.L. Sharma "Prem"	14.2.94	Harassment	—do—
23.	B.L. Sharma "Prem"	22.11.94	Complaint against DDA officials from Ved Parkash	—do—
24.	B.L. Sharma "Prem"	5.12.94	Complaint against DDA staff	—do—

Foreign Assistance for Water Supply Projects In Uttar Pradesh

7527. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government has sent any project proposal to seek assistance from World Bank and Japan to improve supply of water in various districts of the State;

(b) if so, the salient features of this project and the total estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether Union Government propose to expand this project with the assistance of World Bank and Japan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, proposal has been received from Uttar Pradesh Government for improving urban water supply in the State with assistance from the World Bank or Japan.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

GSI Survey in Tamil Nadu

7528. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

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

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

(c) whether the Government propose to intensify efforts for exploration of mineral deposits in the State during the next Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, During last three years, Geological Survey of India carried out investigations in Tamil Nadu as detailed below:-

Lignite: 80 million tonnes of lignite in Lalpettal Sector, South Arcot district.

Gold: In Attapady valley, granulite gneiss terrain in Mudaiyur, Kommanadal and Uchhimalai areas of North and South Arcot districts.

Basementals: In Periyar, Coimbatore and Nilgiri districts.

Platinum Groups of Metals (PGM): Preliminary investigations in Periyar, Coimbatore and Nilgiri districts indicated 0.2 g/t Pt, 0.4 g/t Pd and upto 2 g/t Au.

Molybdenum: 4.6 million tonnes of molybdenum with average Mo content of 3.178% in Valampetti south block, Harur-Alangayam areas in Dharmapuri and North districts.

Dimensional stones: In Kunnam area, South Arcot, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Madurai districts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During next Five Year Plan, GSI has planned for exploration of Molybdenum in extension areas of Harur-Uttangarai belt in Dharmapuri district; Gold in Anaikatty area, Coimbatore district; Lignite in Cauvery basin, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam and Ramanathapuram districts; Molybdenum and Copper in parts of Veda sandur taluk, Dindugal district; and Dimensional stones in parts of Tamil Nadu.

Hiring of Premises for Indian Missions Abroad

7529. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have spent nearly Rs. 75 crores to renew the lease on the official residence of the Indian High Commissioner in U.K.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have failed to extract an equivalent price from the British High Commissioner in India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Standing Committee on External Affairs had advised his Ministry to curtail expenditure on hiring charges of buildings and to construct its own buildings abroad; and

(f) if so, the reasons for the implementing those advises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) A premium of Pound Sterling 14 million has been paid for renewal of the lease of Indian High Commissioner's residence in London for a period of 65 years beginning from April 1990.

(b) The above premium was agreed to after obtaining market evaluation of the property and negotiations with the owners i.e. the Crown Estate Commission.

(c) and (d) Negotiations in respect of renewal of the lease of the British High Commissioner's residence in Delhi are still underway.

(e) Yes Sir, this is so.

(f) Construction and acquisition of built up property for Chanceries and residences abroad has been undertaken by the Government as a continuous process, depending upon the availability of budgetary resources.

Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board

7530. SHRI PRAKASH PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board has urged Union Government for clearance of sewerage and drinking water supply projects submitted in 1994-95;

(b) if so, details of such pending projects; and

(c) by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) During 1994-95, Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board have submitted 8 water supply schemes for technical clearance, out of which 5 have been approved and the remaining 4 namely for Shendurjina, Baramati and Chikhali tower have been returned to the State Government for clarifying certain matters.

(c) On receipt of clarifications from the State Govt. of Maharashtra, the Projects will be technically examined for giving approval.

Dialogue with Pakistan

7531. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any dialogue is going with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the subject on which talks are going on and the outcome of the talks so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) In the past one year, a few rounds of official and technical level talks have been held between India and Pakistan on Permanent Indus Commission and combating drug trafficking and smuggling. The bi-annual meetings between the Border Security Force and Pak-Rangers have continued to take place. These constitute an on-going process of periodical consultations on issues of mutual concern and as part of implementation of relevant bilateral agreements.

Cooperative Group Housing Societies

7532. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA have received complaints from Cooperative Group Housing Societies in Dwarka Phase-I, for the filling up of Pits which existed on the plots before its allotment to the societies; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the DDA in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) DDA has advised the concerned Cooperative Group Housing Societies to plan their buildings in such a way so that filling of the low lying area can be avoided.

Subsidy on Imported Urea

7533. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides subsidies only on imported urea and not on indigenously produced urea and complex fertilizers containing nitrogen (N);

(b) whether this has led to a decrease in the production of complex fertilizers; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to rectify this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Since the issue price of urea is fixed, subsidy is available both on indigenous and imported urea. Indigenous complex fertilisers are covered by a special concession scheme which provides for a subsidy linked to their phosphatic and potassic contents.

(b) and (c) Consequent to decontrol of phosphatic & potassic fertilisers, there was a decline in production of complex fertilisers due a lower offtake on account of increase in their prices.

The following reliefs/concessions have been extended to the fertiliser industry to encourage production.

(i) Customs duty on import of capital goods for new fertiliser projects as well as for modernisation/revamping of the existing plants was abolished with effect from 23.9.1992.

(ii) The customs duty on phosphoric acid used in the manufacture of phosphatic fertilisers was abolished on 27.8.1992.

(iii) In the case of new fertiliser plants or revamp/modernisation projects commissioned on or after 1.1.1991, a scheme was notified on 27.2.1993 for refund of customs

duty paid on capital goods, as also a 3% concession in the interest rates on term loans.

(iv) The rail freight was reduced on phosphatic fertilisers and their raw materials by about Rs. 150/- per 1000 Kms. with effect from 5.9.1992.

(v) To enable the domestic phosphatic fertiliser manufacturers to compete with cheaper imported DAP, a special concession is available on sale of indigenous DAP, indigenous complex fertilisers & SSP.

(vi) A scheme of import substitution incentive has been implemented to encourage use of indigenous iron pyrites in the manufacture of phosphatic fertilisers.

Gopalpur Port

7534. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Gopalpur minor port in Orissa as a major port;

(b) whether the proposal is expected to be implemented during 8th Plan period;

(c) if so, the fund provision made therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indian School in Saudi Arabia

7535. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian School at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Embassy has received representations for the re-opening of the school;

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

(e) whether any alternate arrangements have been made for the pupils of the school; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian School in Riyadh had been closed down to coincide with Haj holidays in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi authorities had recently advised all expatriate community schools including Indian in the Riyadh region to close their schools as in their view these schools did not have a formal approval.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Our Ambassador had subsequently taken up the matter with the local authorities with positive results. The school has been re-opened from May 21, 1995.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Mining Leases in Orissa

7536. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining leases were renewed in Orissa without the prior approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the leases renewed without environmental clearance from the M/o Environment and Forests; and

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

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

Lignite Based Power Projects

7537. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a lignite based power plant in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the proposal;

(c) the installed capacity of the power plant; and

(d) the time by which power is expected to be generated in that plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d): A proposal to set up a lignite-based power plant of 240 MW (2 x 120 MW) capacity in District Bikaner, Rajasthan by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) was sanctioned in April, 1991. The proposal, subsequently, was not pursued by the NLC due to a resource crunch. It is now proposed to implement this project in the private sector. The time by which power is expected to be generated at this station cannot be indicated, as the agency which will execute this project, has not been finalised.

Utilisation of Railway Tracks

7538. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared an Indo-US joint venture project envisaging loading of goods trucks directly on railways tracks to be transported over long distances;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the benefits to be gained as a result thereof;

(c) whether the same type of project has also been decided with other countries also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Social Development Summit

7539. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that composition of the Indian delegation for the recent World Summit for Social Development was finalised by the Prime Minister's office;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for selection of the delegates;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the delegation had no representative of Labour and Rural Development Ministries and of the Trade Unions despite specific requests from the ILO in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) Indian delegations for international conferences are constituted, keeping in mind negotiating experiences and expertise of the subject matter at hand, public eminence of the member of the delegation concerned, and functional requirements. The composition of the Indian delegation for the World Summit for Social Development followed this well-established practice.

ILO had passed a resolution, requesting that national governments should consider including representatives from trade unions and employers in their delegations to the "World Summit for Social Development. A representative from the trade unions was included in the official Indian delegation to the world Summit for Social Development.

Prime Minister had established an Indian National Committee, including Members of Parliament, non-

governmental and voluntary organisations, academics and representatives of all departments of Government of India concerned with social development, including Ministries of Labour and Rural Development, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, to oversee India's preparations for the World Summit for Social Development. The views of these Ministries were available to the Indian delegation to the Summit.

[Translation]

US on Missile Programme

7540. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:

DR. R. MALLU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newstems captioned "Bharath Missile Karyakaram Aage Na Badaye America" which appeared in Jansatta dated March 11, 1995;

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

(c) whether the Government have conveyed their stand thereon to the US; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the US thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Government has stated that user trials of Prithvi have been concluded and the deployment of Prithvi is under consideration. Further, three tests of the Agni technology demonstrator programme have taken place and some additional tests are required. This has also been conveyed to the US.

Documentary on Pak Hand in Terrorism

7541. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newstern appeared in "The Hindu" dated March 6, 1995 under the caption "Pak behind terrorism in India: documentary";

(b) if so, whether the documentary "Terror Incorporated" was telecast in the US;

(c) if so, the features of the documentary; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

(c) The documentary is reported to reveal the details as to how Pakistan Government supports terrorism in Kashmir, in the rest of India and in many parts of the world. The reports also indicate that the documentary contains interviews with the former US Secretary of state, Mr. James Baker and the so-called Prime Minister of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and aims to project that terrorism and subversion have become important components of Pakistan's regional strategy.

(d) The Government is continuing efforts to restore the democratic, political process in Jammu and Kashmir while taking firm action to control Pak supported terrorism. On the international front Government of India have apprised the world community about the reality of the situation in India and the false and malicious anti-India propaganda being indulged in by Pakistan and the need for the world community to impress upon Pakistan the need to desist from such activities and from its sponsorship of terrorism in India.

[English]

Nuclear Weapons Free World

7542 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: '

(a) whether India has stated that it is illusory to seek security through regional arrangement such as the establishment of a nuclear weapons free-zone in South Asia as proposed by Pakistan,

(b) whether India had earlier proposed an action plan to usher in a nuclear weapons free world and is prepared to enter into talks with Pakistan in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Pakistan has agreed with this proposal and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far?

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

(b) India had put forward an Action Plan for a nuclear weapon free world in 1988 at the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, which envisages multilateral negotiations on the subject.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Pak's Nuclear Weapons

7543 SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's stand on nuclear non-proliferation treaty was fortified by some disclosures made regarding Pakistan's attempt to assemble nuclear-weapons;

(b) the broad details of those disclosures;

(c) whether India's stand has been favoured by other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government has followed a consistent and principled policy on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India believes that the NPT, in its present form, is a discriminatory treaty, since it creates a permanent division between nuclear 'haves' and 'have-nots'. Further, the NPT has failed in stopping either horizontal or vertical proliferation. Government is fully aware of Pakistan's continuing clandestine efforts to pursue a nuclear weapons oriented programme.

(c) and (d) The NPT has 178 States Parties who have decided by consensus to indefinitely extend the NPT. This is contrary to India's stand.

[Translation]

Agricultural Production

7544. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more and more industrialists are now gradually switching over to agro-processing industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the farmers will be benefited as a result of the changed scenario; and

(d) if not, the steps Government have envisaged so that farmers are not adversely affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir. Some industries are diversifying into agro-processing sector.

(b) Potentials and the expanding domestic and international market, incentives provided and policies and promotional measures taken by the Government is attracting investment in this sector.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Indian Citizens in Indian Enclaves**

7545. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand was made to the Government for sending high-level delegations to study the condition of Indian citizens in India Enclaves in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any delegation was sent to these enclaves;

(d) if so, the findings of the delegation;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have any statistics regarding killing of Indian citizens in these enclaves during the last three years; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) We have not received any demand from the quarter for sending a high-level delegation to study the conditions of Indian citizens in Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) Government of India have no administrative control or access to these enclaves lying within Bangladesh. No reliable statistics/information regarding the status of the residents of these enclaves is available with the Government.

(g) Does not arise.

Fly Ash

7546. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN. Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any standards have been prescribed by the BIS to use fly-ash in building materials;

(b) if so, whether these standards have been incorporated in the building code,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Standards on fly-ash, flyash-lime-sandbrick, burnt clay flyash brick, cellular concrete blocks and slabs have been prepared and published by BIS.

(b) and (c) IS:3812-1981 specification for "use of

flyash as pozzolana and admixture" and IS:6491-1972 "method of sampling of flyash" have been incorporated in Indian National Building Code of 1983.

(d) Does not arise

Extradition of Former UCC Chairman

7547. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have since requested the U.S. Government for the extradition of the former Chairman of the Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) who is wanted in connection with the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the U.S. Government thereto, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The various aspects of the matter concerning the extradition of the former Chairman of the Union Carbide Corporation are under the consideration of the Government

Renewal of Mining Leases

7548. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO. Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have not approved the renewal of mining leases of some firms in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,

(b) if so, the number of such cases lying pending with the Government or denied mining leases State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to clear up these cases at the earliest?

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

Campaign Launched by Bangladesh

7549. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent news reports regarding renewed campaign launched by the Government and political parties of Bangladesh against construction of a dam and a barrage on river Barak and against Farakka barrage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Bangladesh,

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of that country thereto; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to counter such campaigning through Indian High Commission there?

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

(b) Government are aware of items in the Bangladesh press, attributed to the Government of Bangladesh and the leaders of various political parties commenting adversely on the proposed construction of a dam and a barrage on the Barak river, as well as the Farakka barrage.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bangladesh has been apprised of the advantages that would accrue to Bangladesh, in terms of flood control and water augmentation, from the proposed construction of a dam on the Barak river. The barrage which is intended to be located 95 kms downstream will enable additional irrigation in Assam. Adverse views expressed in Bangladesh about the Farakka barrage have also been taken up with the Bangladesh Government, other political parties and the press.

(e) Government of India is providing factual information on a continuing basis to the Government of Bangladesh, leaders of political parties and the press on these issues through our High Commission and other channels, with a view to ensure that they are understood in the proper perspective

US Report on Pak Hand in Kashmir

7550 DR. S.P. YADAV:

SHRI RABI RAY:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state—

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new item captioned "US Government express Pak hand in Kashmir trouble" which appeared in Indian Express dated April 30, 1995;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have held any talks with the US in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) The US State Department's Annual Report on "Patterns of Global Terrorism; 1994", acknowledges that "there are credible reports of support by the Government of Pakistan for Kashmiri militants". It states, inter alia, that targeting of foreigners by Kashmiri militants resulted in several high-profile kidnappings in 1994, including the abduction of British and American hostages in October and the abduction of British hikers near Srinagar in June 1994.

Referring to the Bombay blasts of 12 March, 1993, the Report mentions that the "Memon family allegedly perpetrated the Bombay attack" and that Government of India has claimed that Yaqub Memon was carrying documents that incriminated Pakistan.

In a separate section on the Harkat-ul-Ansar, it states that the group is based in Muzaffarabad and is actively involved in supporting Muslims in "Indian-controlled Kashmir" with humanitarian and military assistance; that the HUA has several thousand armed members located in "Azad Kashmir", and in the southern Kashmir Valley and Doda Regions of India; and that its members have participated in insurgent and terrorist operations in Kashmir, Burma, Tajikistan and Bosnia. According to the Report, the source and amount of HUA's military funding are unknown but it is believed to come from sympathetic Arab countries, wealthy Pakistanis and Kashmiris.

In the section on Pakistan, the Report reiterates that notwithstanding denials from the Government of Pakistan, "there were credible reports in 1994 of official Pakistani support to Kashmiri militants".

The State Department Report also mentions the World Sikh Organization and the International Sikh Youth Federation as sources of external aid for groups such as Babbar Khalsa, Azad Khalistan Babbar Khalsa Force, Khalistan Liberation Front and Khalistan Commando Force which operate in Northern India, Western Europe, South East Asia and North America.

(c) to (e) Government have an on-going dialogue with the US Government on Indian concerns regarding cross-border support to terrorism in India, particularly in J & K. It has been emphasized that there is incontrovertible evidence to suggest that Pakistan's active sponsorship of terrorism in India continues, with the supply of arms, equipment, training and infiltration. The involvement of foreign mercenaries and militants in the recent burning down of the Char-e-Sharif shrine has also been conveyed to the US Government.

The US position is that evidence available to the United States does not support an argument that Pakistan should be put on the terrorist list.

Peace Keeping Missions

7551. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved participation of Indian Peace Keeping Force in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Indian troops have shown some special performance in the mission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether Indian troops had participated earlier also in other missions of the U.N. during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether members of Indian troops have been rewarded suitably for their participation in U.N. Peace Keeping Missions; and

(h) if so, the details thereof with other steps to be taken to boost the morale of Indian troops participating in such missions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government sanction has been issued for deployment of a troop contingent comprising 1,014 all ranks in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM). Besides, 19 Military Observers and 49 Staff Officers have also been nominated for deployment with the Mission. Indian troops would perform duties assigned to them by the UN on reaching Angola.

(c) and (d) Indian troops have performed at consistently high levels in all peace-keeping operations, and, in addition to their normal duties, have offered medical, engineering and other assistance to the local populations; this has been highly appreciated by the beneficiaries and by the UN.

(e) and (f) In the last three years, Indian troops have participated in U.N. Missions in Colombia, Mozambique, Somalia, Rwanda and Liberia as per details given below:

1.	UNTAC, Colombia	1992-94	1373 all ranks
2.	ONVMOZ, Mozambique	1992-94	938 all ranks, 20 military observers and 20 staff Officers.
		1994-95	75 all ranks 18 Military Observers & 11 Staff Officers
3.	UNOSOM, Somalia	1993-94	4976 all ranks, 24 Staff Officers
4.	UNAMIR, Rwanda	1994	925 all ranks, 20 Military Observers 9 Staff Officers.
5.	UNOMIL, Liberia	1994	20 Military Observers
6.	UNIKOM, Kuwait	1991	6 Military Observers
7.	ONUSAL, El Salvador	1991-93	7 Military observers

(g) Indian troops are paid on standard UN scales, for the duration of their service in UN Peace Keeping Operations.

(h) To boost the morale of Indian troops participating in UN Peace Keeping Operations, Senior Service Officers visit them. Sainik Sammelans are also held periodically to alleviate the grievances, if any, of the troops.

Beijing Conference on Women

7552. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI P.C. CHACKO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has put forward any proposal to host SAARC Ministerial Conference to take collective stand in the forthcoming Beijing Conference on Women;

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

(c) whether Bangladesh wants to broaden the 12 points SAARC agenda by including energy and the issues discussed in Delhi Summit; and

(d) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bangladesh made a proposal at the 20th Session of the Standing Committee of SAARC, held in New Delhi, on 27-29 April, 1995, for convening a SAARC Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in September 1995. This proposal was welcomed by all delegations and endorsed by the SAARC Council of Ministers.

(c) and (d) During the 20th Session of the Standing Committee, at the request of Bangladesh delegation, it was decided that the SAARC Technical Committee on Science and Technology should include Energy as one of the areas of cooperation

[Translation]

Ashes of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

7553 SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ashes of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is kept in Renkoji Buddhist temple in Tokyo;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the local people of Japan, who have preserved the ashes for more than five decades have been urging our country to bring back the ashes to India;

(d) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to bring back the ashes of Netaji.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (f) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was reported to have died in Taipei (Taiwan) on August 18, 1945. His body was cremated two days later and the ashes carried to Japan. The ashes have since been maintained at the Renkoji Buddhist Temple in Nakano, Tokyo.

Two Commissions of Enquiry were appointed by the Government of India on the question of Netaji's death in the air crash on August 18, 1945. The first Enquiry Committee set up in 1956 was headed by late Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and included Netaji's elder brother Shri S.C. Bose. The majority opinion was that Netaji met his death in the air crash and that the ashes at the Renkoji Temple were that of Netaji. However, Netaji's brother Shri S.C. Bose gave a dissenting view. In 1970, the one-man Justice

G.D. Khosla Committee also concluded that the casket lodged in the Renkoji Temple contained the ashes of Netaji. There have been attempts to have a new enquiry instituted. There have also been moves to have the ashes brought back to India, with all reverence and honour as befitting a man of the stature of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. However, many people, including Netaji's nephews, still doubt the event of Netaji's reported death and question the veracity of the ashes. In Japan itself, where the ashes are lodged, there have been repeated requests from the Renkoji temple and Japanese associates of Netaji for the ashes to return to India. The issue of Netaji's death is charged with emotion and opinions remain divided. Government of India is of the view that bringing the ashes back to India in absence of a consensus on the issue might prove divisive and create tensions.

[English]

Allotment of Land to Schools for Mentally Retarded Children

7554 SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

DR. G.L. KANAUJIA:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide land at concessional rates to set up schools for the mentally retarded children;

(b) whether the Government are aware that some societies getting grant-in-aid & special grant for the construction of such schools in Delhi have sold that land at higher prices and then deposited the money in the banks and are also utilising the money for other purposes;

(c) if so, the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such societies;

(d) whether the Government are taking any measures to protect the land provided by it for the establishment of such schools; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The cases of misuse of allotted properties, as have come to the notice of Lease Administering Authorities, are dealt with the Land Owning Agencies under the terms and conditions of allotment/lease. The violation thereof is liable to payment of charges including cancellation of allotment/re-entry of the premises.

Blast at NFCL

7555 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a blast at the
Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (NFCL),
recently;

(b) if so, the total losses suffered by the unit; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring back
production to the normal level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS,
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO)

(a) to (c) There was no blast in the plant of NFCL. However,
the company has reported that production of urea in
the plant was affected for a period of 5 days during
January, 1995 due to the fire at the ONGC rig off the
Andhra Pradesh coast; the production loss of urea was
about 10,000 MT valued at Rs. 8.50 crores. Gas supply
was resumed after 5 days. However, the supply of urea to
the farmers was not affected as the company supplied urea
from the stocks produced earlier.

Fertilizer Units in Gujarat

7556. SHRI HARILAL MANJI PATEL:

DR. K.D. JESWANI,

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

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

(a) the amount of subsidy provided to fertilizer units
in Gujarat during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the amount of subsidy proposed to be provided
during 1995-96, and

(c) the total production of fertilizers by units in Gujarat
during the last three years, year-wise and unit wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN
DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) An
amount of Rs. 569.23 crores and Rs. 672.37 crores was
paid as subsidy to the various indigenous fertilizer
manufacturing units located in Gujarat during 1993-94 and
1994-95, respectively

(b) A provision of Rs. 3750 crores has been made
in the Budget for 1995-96 for payment of subsidy on
indigenous fertilizers. Out of this, the subsidy to be paid
to the units in Gujarat would depend on their levels of
production during the year. No statewide allocation of
subsidy is made in the Budget.

(c) The details of production of fertilizers by various
units in Gujarat during the last three years are given in the
enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

*Unit-wise production of fertilizer nutrients (Nitrogen (N) & Phosphate (P) in Gujarat
During 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95*

					('000 MT)
Name of the plant		Nutrient	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5	6
(I) Coop. Sector:					
	Iffco: Kalol	(N)	155.9	164.5	189.9
	Kandla	(N)	118.6	132.2	145.3
		(P)	308.1	341.4	377.3
	Kribhco: Hazira	(N)	775.8	697.1	674.3
(II) Private Sector:					
	GSFC: Baroda	(N)	311.5	264.1	268.1
		(P)	74.5	62.9	59.6
	GNFC: Bharuch	(N)	357.6	367.4	382.0
		(P)	30.2	26.6	29.3

1	2	3	4	5	6
	GSFC: Sikka	(N)	72.5	75.5	95.4
		(P)	185.6	193.0	243.8
	Cyanide & Chemicals	(N)			
	Surat		0.3	0.6	0.6
	GSFC Polymer Unit	(N)	1.9	1.7	1.3
	Single Super-Phosphate Plants				
	1. Adarsh Chemicals	(P)	6.2	6.8	13.7
	2. G.S.I. Ltd.	(P)	-	-	-
	3. Growmore	(P)	2.7	-	-
	4. DMCC-Jhar	(P)	4.1	3.9	3.9
	5. Rama Fertilizers	(P)	4.5	2.2	41.5
	6. Narmada Agro	(P)	-	4.3	0.4

Rural Housing Schemes.

7557. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rural housing schemes financed by HUDCO upto 1994-95 with the total number of units and the total cost thereof;

(b) break-up of the number of units and expenditure, State-wise;

(c) whether the schemes have been implemented through the Central or State authorities; and

(d) the procedure to be followed by potential beneficiaries in the rural areas for availing of the benefits of the scheme directly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.95, HUDCO has sanctioned 1595 Rural Housing Schemes in various States. These projects are worth Rs. 2151.72 crores, for which HUDCO's loan Commitment is Rs. 1164.36 crores. These projects on completion will provide 2843695 dwelling units. State-wise break-up of loans and units sanctioned is enclosed in the statement.

(c) Rural Housing Schemes are implemented through the agencies nominated by the State Government.

(d) HUDCO does not provide finance directly to the individuals. All the schemes are implemented through the State agencies, cooperative societies, NGO's etc.

STATEMENT

Statement Indicating Dwelling Units and Loan Amount Sanctioned by HUDCO as on 31.3.95.

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	Loan sanctioned (Rs. in crores)	Dwelling units sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	189.97	537767
2.	Assam	5.84	7630
3.	Bihar	31.65	63798
4.	Gujarat	91.94	315161
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2.44	3108
6.	Haryana	9.50	19774
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.05	4430
8.	Kerala	172.48	329977
9.	Karnataka	162.37	549246
10.	Meghalaya	5.79	2475
11.	Maharashtra	35.75	110526
12.	Manipur	1.00	416
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7.37	31364
14.	Orissa	71.97	73392
15.	Punjab	26.02	66508
16.	Rajasthan	19.43	43545

1	2	3	4
17. Sikkim		1.17	500
18. Tamil Nadu		166.64	335064
19. Tripura		1.45	964
20. Uttar Pradesh		128.60	325005
21. West Bengal		30.96	26045
Total:		1164.36	2846695

Increase in Price of Iron and Steel

7558. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hike in the prices of iron and steel during the last three and half years; and

(b) the factors responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) After deregulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel w.e.f. 16.1.1992 main steel producers are themselves fixing the prices of their products, keeping in view their input costs, changes in excise duty and the prevailing market conditions. Secondary producers were free to fix their own prices even prior to this date. The extent of price revision (excluding revision affected due to change in excise duty and freight) in the ex-works prices of iron and steel materials produced by the Steel Authority of India Limited, the largest steel producer in the country, during the last three and a half years and reasons for price increase are given below:

Date	Quantum of Increase	Reasons for Increase
19.5.92	15% average over base/ex-works prices.	General price revision to partially compensate for the rise in input costs.
3.2.1992	2.3% average over base/ex-works prices	To rationalise the price structure and to partially compensate the increase in input costs in the intervening period.
1.1.1994	5% average over base/ex-works prices.	General price revision to partially compensate for the escalation in input costs.
3.6.1994	3.5% average over base/ex-works prices.	General price revision to partially compensate for the escalation in input costs.
1.11.1994	3% average over base/ex-works prices (for few selected items only)	Price adjustment in respect of few selected items only taking into account competitive market scenario, prices of other domestic producers and landed cost of imports.
1.1.1995	5% average over base/ex-works prices.	Price adjustment taking into account competitive market scenario, prices of other domestic producers and landed cost of imports.

Freight Ceiling

7559. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed for freight ceiling abolition;

(b) if so, the likely impact of such a decision on the price index;

(c) whether such abolition would also hit backward areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether steel companies in the public sector are not following any set principles in the sale of steel from stockyards in Visakhapatnam and Madras; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) After deregulation of pricing and distribution of the steel, the main producers are charging actual freight upto the stockyard or freight elements as existed under the earlier Freight Equalisation Scheme whichever is lower. The extra burden on this account is being borne by the main producers themselves. The main steel producers have stated that with the reduction of duties on steel imports and increased competition from domestic producers, the freight ceiling only on the main producers places them at a disadvantage. They have therefore, represented that the main producers should be allowed to charge freight on actuals. The matter is under examination.

(e) and (f) The marketing policy of each of the public sector steel companies is adopted in all their branch sales offices including the branch sales office at Visakhapatnam and Madras.

Projects Undertaken by NMDC

7560. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken by NMDC Limited with or without foreign collaboration;

(b) whether some NRI's or Indians settled in USA have tried to clinch certain projects from NMDC recently;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether Global tenders were invited and these were restricted for the issuance of tender papers only to two or three countries; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the details of cost involved in such proposed projects, the countries to which

tender papers were issued and the investigations, if any, made by NMDC to select suitable technology, indigenous or from some other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The details of projects commissioned during the past 5 years (from 1990) by National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) are as under:

		Year of Commissioning
Iron ORE		
1.	Tertiary Crushing Plant, Bailadila Deposit No. 5, Distt. Bastar, Madhya Pradesh.	1990
2.	Screening Plant at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.	1991
3.	Central Workshop, Distt. Bastar, Madhya Pradesh.	1993
4.	Bailadila Iron Ore Project, Deposit 14, District Bastar, Madhya Pradesh.	1994
5.	Bailadila Iron Ore Project, Deposit 11-C, District Bastar, MP-2nd phase.	1994
Limestone		
6.	Chawandia Limestone Project, District Nagaur, Rajasthan.	1994

The above projects do not involve any foreign collaboration.

(b) and (c): NMDC is setting up a plant for production of Ultra Pure Ferric Oxide, utilising its own "Blue Dust" (high purity powdery iron ore) from Bailadila Mines. As reported by NMDC, technical and commercial negotiations in connection with the project were held in April-May 1995, with representatives of M/s. International Steel Services Inc. (ISSI) of USA which also quoted for the tender.

(d) and (e) As reported by NMDC, global limited tenders were invited from three parties, one each from USA, Austria and Russia, selected after considerable investigation about availability of appropriate technology and studies undertaken under UNDP supported programmes. No Indian Company was found capable of offering such technology. The cost of the project as approved by the NMDC Board is Rs. 45.97 crores.

Indian Maid Servants In Gulf Countries

7561. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Maid Servants, who had gone to Gulf countries, are being deceived and asked to quit from there;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made enquiries on the complaints received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of those maid servants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) From time to time Government receives complaints which inter alia include non-payment or delayed payment of wages, long and arduous hours of work without adequate compensation, denial of leave to come to India and facility for air passage, withholding travel documents of workers by the sponsors/employers, non-fulfilment of contractual obligations and ill-treatment in general.

Many of the Maids being illiterate are ignorant of their rights. They are also duped by the recruiting agents into signing contracts which are against their interests. There are also incidents where Maids have managed to enter foreign countries illegally and are therefore exploited by their employers. Information available with the Government does not indicate that Indian Maid Servants in the Gulf are being asked to quit.

(b) and (c) The Government of India through Indian Missions abroad maintains regular contact with foreign Governments to ensure the welfare and to improve conditions of India workers in the respective countries. The Indian Missions at first try to resolve the differences between the aggrieved worker and the employer to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution. Wherever necessary cases are taken up with the concerned authorities of the foreign Government to persuade the employers to redress the grievances of Indian workers. Where no alternative employment or any solution is possible despite best efforts of the Mission, all assistance is given to facilitate repatriation of the aggrieved worker.

[Translation]

Jobs to Unemployed Under NRY.

7562. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed for providing ten lakh jobs to the unemployed persons under the Nehru Rozgar Yojana introduced in 1995 has so far been achieved;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the achievement made under this scheme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P K. THUNGON): (a) to (c): No such target for providing 10 lakh jobs to the unemployed urban poor have been fixed under the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) of Nehru Rozgar Yojana. However, keeping in view the allocations made up to 1994-95, a total number of 6.06 lakh beneficiaries were to be assisted in setting up micro-enterprises under the Scheme. Against this, as on 31.3.95, 6.55 lakh beneficiaries have been assisted. Statewise details of beneficiaries assisted under the scheme are given in the enclosed statement

STATEMENT

Statement showing Beneficiaries Assisted Under the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (Sume)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Beneficiaries
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74.933
2.	Bihar	7.738
3.	Gujarat	12.714
4.	Haryana	13.609
5.	Karnataka	44.230
6.	Kerala	21.445
7.	Madhya Pradesh	84.004
8.	Maharashtra	57.826
9.	Orissa	12.165
10.	Punjab	16.449
11.	Rajasthan	30.874
12.	Tamil Nadu	73.025
13.	Uttar Pradesh	145.113
14.	West Bengal	29.809
15.	Goa	440
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	40
17.	Assam	17.568
18.	Himachal Pradesh	1.276

1	2	3
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.786
20.	Manipur	5.186
21.	Meghalaya	400
22.	Mizoram	700
23.	Nagaland	—
24.	Sikkim	532
25.	Tripura	434
26.	A & N Island	178
27.	Chandigarh	199
28.	D & N Havell	110
29.	Daman & Diu	—
30.	Pondicherry	1.499
31.	Delhi	1.412
Total:		6,55,494

[English]

GSI Survey in the North-East

7563. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted any survey to find deposits of Gold and Diamond in the North-Eastern Region of the Country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Decontrol of Voveran

7564. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Voveran brand of formulations based on Diclofenac Sodium have recently been decontrolled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has led to a steep hike in the prices of Voveran; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to bring this drug back under control?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Inclusion/Exclusion of bulk drugs from price control including Diclofenac Sodium which is used in Voveran brand of formulations has been done on the basis of criteria of turn-over, monopoly situation and market competition as laid down in para 22.7 of the "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986".

(c) and (d) Formulations based on Diclofenac Sodium are produced by a number of units in the country and the prices charged by all the formulators are more or less comparable, including those sold under the brand name of Voveran.

Indian Foreign Service (B)

7565. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government have stopped recruitment to Indian Foreign service (B) IFS (B) through Combined Civil Services Examination; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) It is a temporary measure as part of the cadre management exercise.

[Translation]

Housing and Shelter Improvement Scheme

7566. SHRI KUNJEE LAL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the housing and shelter improvement scheme has been unsatisfactory;

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

(c) the efforts made to make the scheme successful during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the extent of amount spend by HUDCO during the last three years and the amount which remained unutilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) The progress under Scheme of Housing & Shelter Upgradation (SHASU) of Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) had not been satisfactory. This was mainly due to the fact that States were not coming forward to furnish the block guarantee to Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) on behalf of their urban local bodies in respect of the sanctioned schemes for fear of non-recovery of HUDCO's portion of loan. The matter was

taken up with the States vigorously through Review Meetings and Correspondence at the highest level. Many of the States have now accepted the Scheme and realised the intended benefits which are likely to accrue to the urban poor beneficiaries. Secondly, the Scheme was earlier restricted to urban areas having population between one lakh and 20 lakhs. Recently, on request from several States, the population criterion has been relaxed and its implementation has been permitted even in the towns having population below one lakh. It is expected that the States will now formulate more schemes and submit to HUDCO for lifting Central subsidy and loan funds.

(c) The details of number of schemes sanctioned (Statewise) by HUDCO during the last three years, i.e., from 1992-93 to 1994-95 and of the number of dwelling units involved in such sanctioned schemes are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) During the last three years, i.e., from 1992-93 to 1994-95 Central funds of the order of Rs. 38.56 crores were placed at the disposal of HUDCO. HUDCO has released an amount of Rs. 25.97 crores to the State implementing agencies during this period. Thus a sum of Rs. 12.59 crores remains with HUDCO pending release.

STATEMENT

Nehru Rozgar Yojana

Scheme of Housing & Shelter Upgradation

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Schemes Sanctioned by HUDCO During 1992-93 to 1994-95	No of Dwelling Units Involved in the Sanctioned Schemes
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	49,333
2.	Bihar	5	43,046
3.	Gujarat	1	1,000
4.	Haryana	2	5,616
5.	Karnataka	-	-
6.	Kerala	2	1,300
7.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
8.	Maharashtra	11	22,033
9.	Orissa	3	2,501
10.	Punjab	-	-
11.	Rajasthan	1	27

1	2	3	4
12.	Tamil Nadu	22	9,726
13.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-
14.	West Bengal	8	25,500
15.	Goa	-	-
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
17.	Assam	3	8,241
18.	Himachal Pradesh	12	992
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1,396
20.	Manipur	1	1,000
21.	Meghalaya	-	-
22.	Mizoram	3	1,775
23.	Nagaland	-	-
24.	Sikkim	1	1,000
25.	Tripura	3	1,583
26.	A & N Islands	1	500
27.	Chandigarh	-	-
28.	D & N Haveli	-	45
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-
30.	Pondicherry	-	-
31.	Delhi	-	-
Total:		96	1,76,614

[English]

Spending on Roads

7567. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Disproportionate spending on roads" appearing in the Statesman dated January 11, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) This Ministry is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways only. As regards National Highways, it is true that revenue

earned from Road Transport is not fully spent on the development and maintenance of National Highways. The revenue so generated forms part of Consolidated Fund of India. The allocation of funds for development and maintenance works is made by the Government to various sectors keeping in view the requirement of funds, inter-se priority and overall availability of Funds etc.

[Translation]

Expansion of IFFCO

7568. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of IFFCO has taken a final decision on the expansion of its Phoolpur unit;

(b) is so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by when this project will be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. Based on a proposal submitted by IFFCO, the Government has approved the expansion project of their Phulpur fertilizer unit.

(b) The production capacity of Phulpur fertilizer plant will be expanded from 900 tpd to 2250 tpd of ammonia and from 1500 tpd to 3700 tpd of urea at an estimated cost of Rs. 993.60 crores.

(c) The project is expected to be completed within a period of 33 months from the zero date i.e. 20th April, 1995.

[English]

Mining Projects in Gujarat

7569. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI:

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inefficient monitoring of certain mining projects in Gujarat has led to cost and time over-run;

(b) if so, the details of these projects; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to expedite work in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a): Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines do not have any mining project in Gujarat.

Hence the question of inefficient monitoring leading to cost and time over-run does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Machine Readable Passports

7570. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce "Machine-readable" passports;

(b) if so, the advantages of this innovation;

(c) whether passport fee is likely to increase due to introduction of such passports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d): Introduction of Machine Readable Passports (MRP) has been under consideration of the Government. An Implementation Committee set up for the purpose of examining this has given its approval to the introduction of MRP and its format has been approved. The India Security Press Nasik, which supplies the passport booklets, has been asked to print the passport in the revised MRP format. Introduction of machine readability involves computer writing of passports and also requires necessary software for machine readability at the immigration check posts. Machine readability of passport facilitates comparatively expeditious emigration checks and thereby quicker emigration clearance of passengers. Introduction of machine readability would involve investment in computer hardware and software. Revision of passport fees consequent to introduction of MRPs if any, would be considered at an appropriate stage taking into account the costs introduction of MRPs would involve.

[Translation]

Reply to Letters of M.Ps By DDA.

7571. SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) have not been replying to letters of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of letters received by the DDA from Members of Parliament, the number of letters acknowledged and the number of those letters to which a final reply has not been sent so far during 1994-95 and the current year till date;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action against guilty officers in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) DDA has reported that 607 letters were received from the Members of Parliament in the name of Vice-Chairman, DDA between 1.1.94 to 31.3.95. Out of these, 419 letters were acknowledged. 260 letters written by the M.Ps to the Lt. Governor, Delhi were received in DDA during this period. Replies have not yet been sent in 46 cases. All these cases are under process.

(d) to (f) Letters received from Members of Parliament are given utmost consideration and are attended to on 'Priority'. Regular monitoring is done by the Heads of Departments and the Vice-Chairman to ensure speedy action on these letters. There has been no undue delay in attending to the letters of Members of Parliament by any officer of DDA.

[English]

Widening of National Highways

7572. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal for the widening of Tumkur-Nelamangala Section of National Highway between Bangalore and Tumkur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) There is a provision in the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) for widening to 4-lanes, including strengthening of existing two lane pavement, from Km. 30-75 Bangalore-Tumkur Section amounting to Rs. 60.00 crore and also provision for Land Acquisition in Annual Plan 1995-96 for an amount of Rs. 3.00 crore. The estimate once received from State would be processed for sanction subject to availability of funds.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Beer Processing in U.P.

7573. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Beer processing units are functioning in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to set up more Beer processing units; and

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

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

(b) May be seen at the enclosed statement.

(c) The Government does not set up Beer manufacturing units.

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

STATEMENT

Beer Processing Units Functioning in Uttar Pradesh

NAME	LOCATION
1. Mohan Meakin Breweries Ltd.	Ghaziabad
2. Mohan Gold Water Breweries Ltd.	Lucknow
3. Central Distillery & Breweries Ltd.	Meerut Cantt.
4. Narang Breweries	Gonda

[English]

World Bank Loan to S.E. Bs

7574. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Managing Director of World Bank during his visit to India in the 1st week of April, 1995 had announced that State Electricity Boards in the country do not qualify, performance-wise, for getting investment for power projects from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the deficiencies noticed in SEBs and the steps being taken to improve their performance; and

(c) the criteria fixed by the World Bank for extending project assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) World Bank has been suggesting, from time to time, various measures to improve the financial health of the power sector which *inter alia* includes rationalisation of tariff structure of State Electricity Boards for seeking assistance from World Bank. The Central Government has been concerned about it and the same has also been discussed in various fora including the State Power Ministers' Conference.

Assistance to Madhya Pradesh

7575. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the materials supplied by the Union Government to the fertilizer industries of Madhya Pradesh on subsidised rates; and

(b) the amount of assistance provided by the Union Government to Madhya Pradesh during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Petroleum products, except natural gas, used in the manufacture of fertilizers are supplied at subsidised rates throughout the country.

(b) An amount of Rs. 197.07 crores and Rs. 157.01 crores was paid as subsidy to the fertilizer units located in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94 and 1994-95, respectively. Further, the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation released an amount of Rs. 31.92 crores during 1993-94 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh as special concession on the sale of indigenous phosphatic fertilizers and imported Muriate of Potash (MOP). During 1994-95, that Department made payments to the tune of Rs. 26.42 crores to the manufacturers of phosphatic fertilizers as also importers of Muriate of Potash (MOP) as special concession in respect of sales of these fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh.

Profit of SAIL

7576. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last three years;

(b) the comparative production of SAIL units during this period; and

(c) the comparative manpower employed by SAIL's different units during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The profits of SAIL for the last three years (upto 1993-94) are given below:

	Profit (Rs./Crores)
1991-92	367.30
1992-93	423.40
1993-94	545.33

(Accounts for 1994-95 are yet to be finalised)

(b) Production of saleable steel by the Integrated Steel and Special Steel Plants of SAIL for the said period is as under:

Units: '000 tonnes			
Item	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
BSP	3104	3118	3335
DSP	681	641	642
RSP	1125	1179	1130
BSL	2730	2999	3205
ASP	160	163	160
SSP	42	36	46
Total:	7842	8136	8510

(c) Manpower employed in SAIL's different units during the last three years, year-wise is given below:

Plant / Unit	Total As on 31.2.92	Total As on 31.3.93	Total As on 31.3.94
A. Bhilai Steel Plant	57613	55975	54663
Durgapur Steel Plant	28823	29753	29590
Rourkela Steel Plant	31105	30523	30719
Bokaro Steel Plant	48341	48228	48075
Alloy Steels Plant	6779	6888	6775
Salem Steel Plant	1365	1344	1381
Total:	174026	172711	171203
B. Corporate Office	721	750	674
CET	351	359	371
CMO	4301	4160	4141
R & D	1021	1004	976
RMD	10070	10210	10034
Growth Division	45	49	105
MTI	124	125	127
CCSO	263	262	263
Sail corp units	7	6	6
Total:	16902	16925	16697
C. Total Total (A) + (B)	190928	189636	187900

The data in parts a, b & c excludes subsidiaries of SAIL i.e. IISCO etc.

Catamaran Services

7577. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently cleared proposal for the operation of international catamaran services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of new catamaran routes operating in the country;

(d) the mode of financing these services including both domestic and foreign sources; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue from these services?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) At present catamaran service is being operated only on one route in the domestic sector-Bombay-Goa. It is for the entrepreneurs to decide about the mode of financing. However, where financing is done through external commercial borrowings, it is subject to the Government guidelines i.e. Ministry of Finance. The service offers benefits by way of reduced travel time vis-a-vis travel by road and cheaper fares compared to air travel.

[Translation]

Revival of Korba Unit

7578. SHRI BHAWANI LAL VERMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restart the Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) unit in Korba by using gas pipelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) In view of the continued poor performance of the other two

coal based fertilizer plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) at Ramagundam and Talcher, the Government had taken a decision in February, 1990 to abandon the coal based fertilizer project at Korba. FCI stands declared as a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. Since it has no resources to set up any new plants, there is no proposal to restart Korba fertilizer project by setting up a new gas based plant. Moreover, at present there is no surplus gas available for any fertilizer plant in that area.

[English]

Action Against Defaulters by DDA.

7579. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA propose to take legal action against defaulters who have not made payment of instalments and other amounts due against the allottees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons why DDA could not recover the money for the last ten years;

(c) the details of concession DDA is contemplating to the mass defaulters to recover their pending amount;

(d) whether DDA is considering the cases of such defaulters, who are ready to pay the instalments but not in position to cough up the heavy interest;

(e) whether most of the defaulters have disposed of their flats, also; and

(f) how the DDA is going to recover its dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) DDA has reported that it has initiated legal action under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1987 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act against the defaulter allottees. Besides, DDA has also been issuing Press releases, notices etc. to the defaulting allottees numbering 86000 asking them to make payment of the outstanding monthly instalments so as to avoid legal action.

(c) and (d) No concession in general is contemplated at present. However, Vice Chairman of the Development Authority has the power of remission of a part or whole of the penalty depending upon the merit of each case.

(e) Applications received in response to the scheme of conversion of properties from lease hold to free hold have revealed that, in some cases, the flats have changed hands.

(f) DDA has taken several steps to recover the outstanding dues from the defaulting allottees of the flats, viz. issue of defaulter notice, issue of non-recovery certificate under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1987 and P.P. Act, issue of T.V./Press releases, persuasion and warning through T.V. network and punitive measures under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1987 and P.P. Act, such as issue of arrest warrants, sealing of flats, etc.

[Translation]

Out of Turn Allotment of Government Accommodation

7580. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAYAN MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for allotment of Government accommodation under V.I.P. category on out of turn basis as on March 31, 1995;

(b) the number of applications of officers and M.P.s out of these pending applications;

(c) whether there is a proposal to give priority to the M.P.s in this regard; and

(d) the time by which pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) There is no category known as V.I.P. category for out of turn allotment of Government accommodation.

(b) No such statistics are maintained for out of turn allotment.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Applications for out of turn allotment are processed subject to furnishing of requisite particular/documents, and is a continuous process.

Chemical Pesticides

7581. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of chemical pesticides has adversely affected crop production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the use of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is implementing the following schemes to promote the balanced use of fertilizers:

(i) Concession on sale of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers.

(ii) Balanced and integrated use of fertilizers.

(iii) National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertilizers.

(iv) National Project on Development of fertilizer use in low consumption rainfed areas.

New Technique for Sewer Lines Etc.

7582. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new technique of laying of new sewer, water supply and telephone lines and repairing such lines without digging roads etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision regarding adoption of the above technique in the country is likely to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) A Technical Committee on 'Trenchless Technology' has been constituted in April, 1995 under the Chairmanship of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. for a period of six months. The Committee is expected to study various aspects of this technology such as geo-technical investigation, technology selection, Materials, bye-laws, etc. and to examine the feasibility of implementing this technology in India.

(c) No definite time can be indicated at present.

Bilateral Talks During SAARC Summit

7583. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI:

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral talks were held with other member countries of SAARC during the recent SAARC Summit; and

(b) If so, the details and the outcome thereof, country-wise?

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

(b) **Nepal:** Bilateral meetings were held with the Nepalese delegation. The discussions covered SAARC matters, international issues and situation in the region. As regards bilateral matters, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the close & friendly relations between the two countries and agreed to work towards further strengthening these relations.

Bhutan: Bilateral meetings were held with delegation of Bhutan. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the implementation of projects under Indo-Bhutan Economic Cooperation and agreed to intensify cooperation in different fields especially the hydro power sector.

Sri Lanka: During the bilateral talks between Sri Lankan President and Prime Minister, Sri Lankan President conveyed her regret at her inability to stay till the end of the Summit due to pressing domestic pre-occupations. Prime Minister expressed his understanding and his concern at the rupture of the peace process in Sri Lanka which he hoped would be resumed.

Bangladesh: During the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia and our Prime Minister, bilateral issues of mutual concern such as the issue of sharing of river waters, transit facilities for India, repatriation of Chakma refugees, insurgency problems, economic and commercial cooperation and SAARC-related matter were discussed.

Maldives: During the bilateral meeting between President Gayoom and Prime Minister, multilateral issues pertaining to the SAARC agenda were primarily discussed. These include the early operationalisation of SAPTA, the causes and consequences of natural disasters and the Green House Effect. President Gayoom indicated that Maldives would be the host for the next SAARC Summit. He also recalled Prime Minister's visit of April 15, 1995 to Maldives and said that Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital is functioning well. He indicated that he hoped his country would soon be self-sufficient in personnel for running the hospital.

Pakistan: The President of Pakistan met Prime Minister on May 2, 1995, during the Eighth SAARC Summit held in New Delhi. The meeting was essentially in the nature of a courtesy call. Matters relating to SAARC figured in the discussions. Bilateral issues did not come up for substantive discussion.

The President of Pakistan reiterated Pakistan's stand that until the Kashmir issue is resolved, tensions in bilateral

relations would persist. Prime Minister conveyed our concern about continued support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and indicated that the two sides should resolve their differences peacefully and through dialogue.

[English]

Launching of SAPTA

7584. **SHRI M.G. REDDY:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any change in Pakistan's previous consent to hold the preparatory meeting in Islamabad to finalise formalities for launching the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA); and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Government of Pakistan held the fifth Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group (IGG) on Trade Liberalisation under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), in Islamabad, on 26-27 March, 1995. Intensive interaction at the bilateral/multilateral levels took place among the delegations of the Member States with a view to finalising the respective schedules of tariff concessions. It was decided that one more meeting of the IGG would be necessary to finalise negotiations.

Accordingly, the IGG met at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu on April 20-21, 1995 and delegations of the Member States were able to finalise the schedules of tariff concessions.

Jumbo Passport Booklet

7585. **SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have published any Jumbo passport booklet;

(b) if so, the salient features and the price of the booklet;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the price of the booklet is very high;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the price; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) A Jumbo passport booklet is the same as an ordinary passport booklet currently in use except that it has 60 pages as against 36 pages in an ordinary passport booklet. The fee of Rs. 500/- for a Jumbo passport booklet.

has been fixed taking into account the cost involved in production, issue and servicing of the booklet. This fee is reasonable considering that the fee for an ordinary passport with 36 pages is Rs. 300/-.

[Translation]

National Highways in M.P.

7586. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the national highways in Madhya Pradesh on which widening, expansion and repair works have been undertaken from January 1992 till date and the time by which such works are likely to be undertaken on the remaining national highways passing through Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the details of estimated cost involved therein and the amount actually spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and the development works are taken up depending on inter-se priority and availability of funds. Various widening and strengthening works have been carried out on National Highways Nos. 3, 6, 12, 25 and 26 in Madhya Pradesh for the period from January, 1992 to date. The details of allotments and expenditure are as under:

Year	Development		Maintenance	
	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	Allotment	Expenditure	Allotment	Expenditure
1991-92	1850.00	2012.36	1195.69	1618.89
1992-93	1915.00	2504.84	1213.25	1534.03
1993-94	1850.00	2094.79	1316.28	1718.06
1994-95	2347.39	2090.72	1696.01	2137.05

[English]

Road Accidents in Delhi

7587. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of fatalities on the roads of Delhi in the recent years has exceeded even the total number of such fatalities in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras combined together;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. This is because the overall transport conditions in Delhi are different from the other three metros. In Delhi vehicle population is more than the vehicle population of all the three metros put together. In Delhi bus is the only mode of public transport whereas in other cities alternate modes of transports like rail are available. Inadequacy of public transport system in Delhi has resulted in increased number of personalised vehicles particularly two-wheelers and cycles also) which are more accident prone.

Sethusamuthram Project

7588. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct Sethusamuthram project over the sea between India and Srilanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There is no provision for the Sethusamuthram Project in the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pak Invitation to Prime Minister

7589. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Pakistan had extended an invitation to our Prime Minister to visit Pakistan; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Acquisition of Vessels By SCI

7590. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has sought approval to acquire vessels to increase its fleet;

(b) if so, the details of fleet available presently with the SCI, date of acquisition of each such vessel, the present structural position and the operating results of each one of them;

(c) whether it is a fact that SCI acquires ships from a particular country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India has been seeking Government approval for acquisition of vessels for expansion and modernisation of its fleet from time to time.

(b) Presently, the Shipping Corporation of India have a fleet of 122 vessels aggregating 3.23 million in Gross Registered Tonnage. A statement showing the date of acquisition of each vessel is enclosed. All these ships of Shipping Corporation of India are distributed in different divisions viz. Bulk & Tanker Division, Liner Division and Coastal, passenger and off-shore division and they have been performing very well. The profit after tax declared by the company during the year 1993-94 is Rs. 167.58 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

The Fleet Position of SCI as on 1.5.1995.

Sl.	Type of Vessels	No.	GRT
1	2	3	4
A.	Dry Cargo Vessels	29	354,591
B.	Container Vessels	4	81,609
C.	Bulk Carriers	26	701,795
D.	Combination Carriers	2	133,852
E.	Crude Tankers (Incl. 2 VLCC)	28	1,548,301
F.	Product Tankers	15	287,369
G.	Phosphoric/Chemical Carriers	3	63,105
H.	LPG/Ammonia Carriers	2	35,556
I.	Passenger-Cum-Cargo Vessels	2	9,694
J.	Timber Carriers	1	4,356
K.	Offshore Supply Vessels	10	13,100
Total No. Of Vessels		122	3,233,328

Sl.	Type of Vessels	Date of Acquisition by SCI	GRT
1	2	3	4
"A" Dry Cargo Vessels			
1.	Vishva Vikram	12.09.70	8,910
2.	Vishva Karuna	02.03.73	9,795
3.	Vishva Yash	18.05.73	9,795

1	2	3	4
4.	Vishva Bandhan	04.03.74	9,707
5.	Mizoram	26.10.76	11,873
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	08.12.76	11,873
7.	Andhra Pradesh	30.11.77	14,166
8.	State of Manipur	31.1.78	14,166
9.	State of Nagaland	28.02.78	14,166
10.	State of Tripura	25.07.78	14,166
11.	Vishva Nandini	22.12.78	11,001
12.	Trimbakeshwar	30.03.94	13,505
13.	Ravidas	21.11.79	13,691
14.	Vishva Pankaj	10.04.80	12,648
15.	Ramdas	03.05.80	13,691
16.	Vishva Kaumudi	05.06.80	11,001
17.	Vishva Parijat	05.06.80	12,648
18.	Kabirdas	27.06.80	13,691
19.	Vishva Pallav	01.09.80	12,648
20.	Vishva Parag	31.10.80	12,648
21.	Chandidas	10.11.80	13,691
22.	Vishva Parimal	20.12.80	12,648
23.	Veer Savarkar	30.03.94	13,505
24.	Bhartendu	17.02.81	11,439
25.	Vishva Pratulla	25.02.81	12,648
26.	Bhavabhuti	25.03.81	11,439
27.	S/O Haryana	16.06.83	11,144
28.	S/O Gujarat	12.12.84	11,144
29.	S/O Orissa	08.07.86	11,144
Total "A"			354,591

"B" Container Vessels

1.	Tulsidas	03.05.80	15,720
2.	L.B. Shastri	23.12.93	21,963
3.	Indira Gandhi	29.12.93	21,963
4.	Rajiv Gandhi	28.01.94	21,963
Total "B"			81,609

"C" Bulk Carriers

1.	Samrat Ashok	24.05.74	72,759
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1	2	3	4
2.	Kasturba	18.12.75	42,141
3.	Hargobind	23.06.77	23,340
4.	Harkishan	15.07.78	23,340
5.	Lok Kranti	06.04.92	19,211
6.	Lok Kirti	06.04.92	19,211
7.	Rani Padmini	24.07.81	42,010
8.	Lok Preeti	-	15,638
9.	Lok Pragati	-	16,040
10.	Kanpur	21.8.86	28,739
11.	Alaknanda	28.09.86	28,739
12.	Mandakini	31.10.86	28,739
13.	Utter Kashi	25.11.86	28,739
14.	Dev Prayag	05.12.86	28,739
15.	Rishikesh	18.12.86	28,739
16.	Hardwar	31.12.86	28,739
17.	Lok Maheshwari	09.09.88	16,816
18.	Varanasi	20.01.87	28,739
19.	Pataliputra	05.02.87	28,739
20.	Murshidabad	04.03.87	28,739
21.	Dakshineswar	24.03.87	28,739
22.	Ganga Sagar	31.03.87	28,739
23.	Lok Rajeshwari	27.10.88	16,816
24.	Lok Pratima	27.01.89	15,952
25.	Lok Prakash	12.04.89	16,835
26.	Lok Prem	23.02.90	16,818
Total "C"			<u>701,795</u>

"D" Combination Carriers

1.	Maharshi Karve	08.08.78	66,926
2.	Maharshi Dayanand	05.09.78	66,926
Total "D"			<u>133,852</u>

"E" Crude Tankers

1.	Kanchanjunga	03.09.75	139,820
2.	Koyali	15.02.76	139,820
3.	N.S. Bose	30.11.73	51,526
4.	Vivekananda	31.01.74	51,717

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhatrapati Shivalji	12.04.74	51,718
6.	B.R. Ambedkar	29.05.74	51,718
7.	Rajendra Prasad	13.01.75	63,460
8.	Satyamurti	31.03.75	51,533
9.	Lo'manya Tilak	17.10.75	51,535
10.	C.V. Raman	12.08.81	27,484
11.	Homi Bhabha	31.05.82	27,489
12.	Maj. S. Sharma PVC	11.06.84	37,855
13.	L.N.K. Singh PVC	30.07.84	37,855
14.	Lt. R.R. Rane PVC	08.08.84	37,855
15.	N. Jadunath Singh PVC	21.09.84	37,855
16.	Hvl. Maj. Piru Singh PVC	12.10.84	37,855
17.	Capt. G.S. Salaria PVC	26.10.84	37,855
18.	Maj. D.S. Thapa PVC	13.11.84	37,855
19.	Sub. Joginder Singh PVC	10.12.84	37,855
20.	Maj Sartan Singh PVC	14.06.85	37,855
21.	Havl. Abdul Hamid PVC	29.07.85	37,855
22.	Col. A. Tarapore PVC	04.09.85	37,855
23.	Motilal Nehru	06.10.90	51,778
24.	Jawaharlal Nehru	29.10.92	51,778
25.	Ankleshwar	31.08.94	80,130
26.	Gandhar	30.09.94	80,130
27.	Maharaja Agrasen	25.10.95	80,130
28.	Guru Gobind Singh	03.05.95	80,130
Total "E"			<u>1,548,301</u>

"F" Product Tankers

1.	Visvasvaraya	06.01.74	11,094
2.	Bhagat Singh	18.12.74	10,759
3.	Rafi Ahmed Kidwai	25.06.75	15,035
4.	Sarojini Naydu	15.10.75	10,759
5.	Jainarayan Vyas	31.12.75	15,035
6.	Koladia	24.06.76	15,045
7.	Aurobindo	11.12.76	15,045
8.	Dadabhai Navaroli	12.10.77	15,045
9.	Nirmaljit S. Sekhon PVC	25.01.85	28,704

1	2	3	4
10.	Lt. Arun Khetar Pal	04.03.85	28,704
11.	Maj. Hoshiar Singh PVC	26.04.85	28,704
12.	Lance Naik A. Ekka PVC	28.05.85	28,704
13.	Rabindranath Tagore	27.09.93	26,481
14.	B.C. Chatterjee	01.02.94	26,474
15.	Julelal	14.03.95	11,781
Total "F"			287,369
"G" Phosph/Chem. Carriers			
1.	Tirumalai	24.10.91	21,035
2.	Sabarimal	25.03.92	21,035
3.	Palanimalai	10.06.92	21,035
Total "G"			63,105
"H" LPG/Ammonia Carriers			
1.	Nanga Parbat	30.01.91	17,778
2.	Annapurna	03.04.91	17,778
Total "H"			35,556
"I" Passenger-Cargo Vessel			
1.	Harsha Vardhan	08.12.74	8,871
2.	Ramanujam	23.11.87	823
Total "I"			9,694
"J" Timber Carrier			
1.	Diglipur	26.05.77	4,356
"K" Offshore Supply Vessel			
1.	Firoze Gandhi	21.09.84	1,310
2.	C.P. Srivastava	12.10.84	1,310
3.	SCI 01	02.11.84	1,310
4.	SCI 02	10.11.84	1,310
5.	SCI 03	27.11.84	1,310
6.	SCI 04	10.12.84	1,310
7.	SCI 05	17.12.84	1,310
8.	SCI 06	02.01.85	1,310
9.	Capt. F.M. Juwale	14.01.85	1,310
10.	Dr. Nagendra Singh	28.01.85	1,310
Total "K"			13,100

Mining in Madhya Pradesh

7591. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any agreement with any Multinational Company (MNC) for prospecting of diamonds in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have reconsidered its earlier decision to allow MNCs to mine diamonds in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to change the National Mineral Policy announced in 1993.

Multinationals in Drug Manufacturing

7592. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Exclusive Marketing Right (EMR) for product patents will put the domestic drug manufacturers at a disadvantage as compared with Multinational companies; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The impact of Exclusive Marketing Rights (EMR), and other provisions of the TRIPs Agreement will not effect the existing drugs whether patented or not. In respect of the drugs patented after 1.1.1995, the impact will depend on a number of factors, such as the nature of the availability of the therapeutic equivalent substitute non-patented drugs in the market, licencing and marketing strategies adopted by the patent holders, including the option of local manufacturing and the general scenario that might be prevailing in the international market.

[Translation]

Pineapple Products

7593. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual production of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, Assam (Government of India Enterprises) for its various products, serial-wise;

(b) whether the Company named above is utilising its total installed capacity, if so, the details thereof, production-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the accumulated annual loss for the company; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The annual production at the Pineapple Juice Concentrate Plant and the Cashewnut Processing Unit of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited during 1994-95 was as under:-

Pineapple Juice Concentrate :	74.00 MTs
Cashewnut :	4.03 MTs

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The reasons for non-utilisation of installed capacity of the Pineapple Juice Concentrate Plant are attributable to;

(i) Availability of pineapple fruit for a period of 60/70 days during the summer season and 30/40 days during the winter season.

(ii) Non-availability of quality pineapple fruit.

As regarding the Cashewnut Processing Unit, it was commissioned during 1994-95 and has undergone only trial production.

(d) The accumulated net loss is Rs. 1134.83 lakhs as on 31.3.1995 including the provisional annual net loss of Rs. 143.77 lakhs.

(e) The main reasons for losses are:

(i) Low production at the Pineapple Juice Concentrate Plant.

(ii) High cost of production due to non-utilisation of capacity.

(iii) High level of depreciation and interest.

[English]

Review of ENRON

7594. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra, has recently conveyed its desire to the Union Government to review the Enron Power Project at Dhabol;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the review of the Dhabol Power Project Agreement is likely to affect adversely the confidence and the interest in the Indian projects, especially the joint venture projects; and

(d) if so, the views of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

MNC's in Fertilizer Production

7595. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to throw open the fertilizer industry to the private and multinational companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Fertilizer industry has been exempted from industrial licencing under the Industrial Policy Statement of July, 1991. Under this dispensation, entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer plants anywhere in the country, subject to environmental clearance. Foreign equity participation in the fertilizer industry is permitted after obtaining the necessary Government approvals.

Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan

7596. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently received a memorandum from the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan for expediting and enhancing the quantum of compensation being given to those affected in the Bhopal gas tragedy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum inter-alia contained the mentioned demands. The matter is sub-judice since the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan have also filed an application in the Supreme Court raising these demands.

[*Translation*]

Demand of Steel

7597. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the projected demand of steel in the country, State-wise by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme to meet this demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Demand of steel is projected on all India basis and not State-wise or for individual States. The projected domestic demand of finished steel in the country by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1996-97) is 20.74 million tonnes.

(b) to (d) In order to meet the increasing demand of steel, Government have taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants has been taken up. Government also have adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in the Private Sector. These include:-

(i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for public sector;

(ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing;

(iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries for purposes of foreign investment;

(iv) de-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel;

(v) reduction of duty on import of capital goods; and

(vi) liberalisation of import and export policy.

Urban Housing Programme

7598. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the periodical sharp increase in the prices of land cement and steel have affected the urban housing programme adversely;

(b) if so, the extent of price increase in these items during the last four years and the impact thereof on the housing programmes;

(c) the provision of funds proposed to be made for urban housing during Eighth Plan;

(d) the details regarding shortage of housing in urban areas and the steps proposed to be taken to resolve urban housing problem; and

(e) the details of foreign investment cleared and likely to be available through World Bank and other Agencies for Providing urban dwellings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b): Due to overall price rise on account of inflation, the prices of building materials, including cement and steel, have also registered some increase. According to statistics compiled by NBO, there has been an upward increase in the prices of cement ranging from 16% in Delhi to 50% in Bangalore over the period 1991-94. Similarly, the prices of steel in these major cities have shown an increase from 25% to 27% during the same period. There has been some increase in the land price also, but specific data relating thereto in respect of various urban areas, is not readily available.

(c) The outlay for Central sector urban housing programmes during 8th Plan is Rs. 1341.35 crores. The State sector outlay for both urban and rural housing is Rs. 3581.67 crores during this Plan period.

(d) As per estimates made by NBO, the housing shortage in urban areas as on 1.3.93 was to the extent of 11.3 million dwelling units. The National Housing Policy lays down various measures to accelerate the pace of house construction to reduce houselessness in the country. These include:

(i) augmentation of the level of housing finance by public sector HFIs as well as mobilisation of additional household savings for housing activities;

(ii) removal of legal/regulatory constraints to enhance supply of land and infrastructure for housing;

(iii) promotion and widespread use of low cost and environment-friendly building materials and adoption of cost effective technology with a view to reducing cost of housing construction;

(iv) involvement of cooperatives, private sector and NGOs in housing programme;

(v) provision of fiscal incentive in the form of excise and customs duty exemption for production and use of cost-effective and environment-friendly building materials by utilisation of wastes.

(e) The details of committed foreign assistance for various housing programmes are as under:

(i) World Bank assisted T.N. Urban Development Project with shelter components:

(a) Site and Services - Rs. 242.44 crores.

(b) Slum upgradation - Rs. 45.65 crores.

(ii) World Bank assisted U.P. Urban Development Programme with shelter components:

(a) Sites and Services - Rs. 31.34 crores

(b) Slum upgradation - Rs. 23.53 crores.

(iii) World Bank loan to HDFC for housing US \$ 250 million.

(iv) Borrowing by NHB from US. Capital - US \$ 100 million market guaranteed by USAID.

(v) Borrowing by NHB from OECF (if approved) - Yen 2.970 billion.

(vi) KfW loan to HUDCO - D.M.50 million.

(vii) KfW grant to HUDCO - D.M.35 million.

(viii) KfW loan to HDFC - D.M. 25 million.

(ix) KfW grant to HDFC - D.M.30 million.

(x) World Bank loan - US \$ 246 million to Govt. of Maharashtra for reconstruction of houses in earth-quake affected areas of Latur/Osmanabad.

Drinking Water Supply Schemes of Orissa

7599. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drinking water supply schemes submitted by the Government of Orissa for different towns and cities in the State to the Union Government;

(b) whether all the schemes have been approved;

(c) if so, the allocations made for those schemes; and

(d) the steps taken to implement those schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for towns having population less than 20,000, the State Govt. of Orissa had submitted schemes covering following 5 towns for drinking water supply:-

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. Balimela | 2. Pipli | 3. Kashinagar |
| 4. Chandaball | 5. Panposh | |

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Three schemes were approved for financial assistance and an amount of Rs. 60.23 lakhs and Rs. 51.13 lakhs Central share was released to the State Govt. during 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively.

(d) As informed by the State Govt. in the towns of Chandaball and Panposh the materials have been procured, in Balimela pipeline has been laid and implementation is in progress and in Pipli and Kashinagar the work is also well under progress.

Modernisation of Power Projects by Private Sector

7600. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have invited Private Sector for participation in renovation and modernisation of thermal power plants in each State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) and (b) The present policy does not preclude private sector participation in renovation and modernisation of power projects. However, Government is working on a set of guidelines to encourage private sector participation in renovation and modernisation of thermal power plants.

Renaming Tuticorin Port

7601. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has recently submitted any proposal to the Union Government for renaming the Tuticorin Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Meet on Regional Arrangement

7602. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had participated or is participating in the first meeting of the core group of countries held to be held in Mauritius in regard to the establishment of a regional arrangement among these countries; and

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

extent to which it represents the general positions of the respective countries in the broader Indian Ocean context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. India participated in the first International Meeting of Experts from seven Indian Ocean Rim countries (viz. Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore and South Africa) convened by Mauritius at Port Louis from March 29-31, 1995.

(b) The meeting agreed on the principles, objectives and direction of the future action; programme of an Indian Ocean Rim Initiative, beginning with these seven countries, to promote cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology, tourism and human resource development.

US Congressmen's Visit to Kashmir

7603. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the US Congressmen's visit to Kashmir during November 1994;

(b) whether they had offered any positive suggestions to resolve this bilateral issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these Congressmen had tried to put any pressure on Pakistan to dissociate from terrorist activities in the Valley; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) US Congressman Gary L. Ackerman and Congresswoman Barbara-Rose Collins visited Srinagar and Jammu on November 16-17, 1994. Following their visit to J&K, the US Congressmen had a better appreciation of the situation created by Pakistani sponsorship of terrorism in India and the steps being taken by the Government of India to restore normalcy and hold elections in J&K. The Congressional delegation was of the view that the Kashmir issue had to be discussed and sorted out by the parties concerned and that as long as the election process in Kashmir was transparent and could be observed and reported upon by the international media, the demand for involving international or UN observers would not be an important issue.

(d) and (e) In the context of their visit, there was no public comment from the Congressional delegation on Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism. More recently, however, on 9 March, 1995, Congressman Ackerman inserted a statement into the US Congressional Record urging the US Secretary of State to review as to why Pakistan should not be placed on the United States list of state sponsors of terrorism, given the existence of terrorist training centres in Pakistan.

Prior to this, on March 7, 1995, Congressman Ackerman had written to the US Secretary of State enquiring why groups that had claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack in Jammu on January 26, 1995 were not being treated similar to other foreign terrorist groups whose financial assets in the United States had been frozen by Presidential Order.

(Translation)

Mines to Multinationals on Lease

7604. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has leased diamond and manganese mines to multinational companies;

(b) if so, whether the State Government had sought permission from the Union Government for the same; and

(c) if not, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

[English]

Conversion of Leasehold Into Freehold

7605. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 872 dated March 20, 1995 and state:

(a) when the Delhi High Court has issued a directive to the Government in the matter;

(b) the time by which the Government was to fulfil the directive, according to the Court's instructions;

(c) the reasons for not fulfilling the directive so far; and

(d) by when a decision on the modification of lease conversion scheme is expected to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (d) Delhi High Court vide orders dated 27.5.94 directed modification of the scheme by 30th Sept., 1994 failing which the scheme was to be declared inoperative and unenforceable.

Pursuant to the decision of the court and representations received for modification in the scheme, the draft Cabinet Note was circulated for comments of all concerned. Based on the comments received, modified proposal is under consideration of the Government and will be placed before the Cabinet shortly.

[Translation]

Loan to Housing Agencies

7606. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI KUNJEE LAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan being provided by the HUDCO to the various Housing agencies of the various States has been declining every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount of loan sanctioned and disbursed by the HUDCO to the various housing agencies in States separately during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the HUDCO propose to enhance the amount of loan being provided to the various agencies in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Losses by Hindustan Steel Works
Construction Limited**

7607. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited is constantly running into loss; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, the quantum of loss suffered during 1994-95 and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. HSCL started incurring losses from 1978-79 onwards due to the heavy burden of workforce the company was asked to bear whereby making the manpower increased suddenly from 4100 to 22000 between 1970-74. The company has not recovered from this heavy burden of establishment cost. Moreover, stiff competition from private sector construction companies for new work orders, substantial loss from Libyan operations, pressure on margins etc. further affected the company's position adversely.

The provisional net loss for 1994-95 is Rs. 95 crores. Government has been giving financial assistance by way of plan and non-plan loans and grants for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to HSCL to reduce the excess manpower and helping the company in their endeavour to obtain more works in steel and non-steel sectors.

[English]

Fertilisers' Prices

7608. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the prices and consumption of Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphata (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) during the last three years; year-wise;

(b) whether the consumption of P&K nutrient has fallen due to high prices; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to prevent the loss of soil fertility due to the over use of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The desired information is given below:

Year	Consumption (in lakh tonnes)			Statutory Price Rupees/tonne		
	Urea	DAP	MOP	Urea	DAP	MOP
1992-93	149.06	40.52	9.74	2760	4680	1700
1993-94	158.10	34.80	10.52	2760	X	X
1994-95	172.80	36.86	13.20	*3320	X	X

X decontrolled with effect from 25.8.92

* with effect from 10.6.94

(b) The consumption of phosphatic & potassic fertilizers has improved after the initial setback in 1992-93 consequent to their decontrol. The consumption levels, however, are still below the pre-decontrol levels.

(c) Measures undertaken for promoting balanced use of fertilisers include:

(i) Scheme for special concession on sales of phosphatic & potassic fertilisers.

(ii) National project on development and use of Bio-fertilisers.

(iii) National project on development of fertiliser use in low consumption rainfed areas.

(iv) Scheme for balanced and integrated use of fertilisers.

Expansion of Steel Plants

7609. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the expansion of some of the integrated public sector steel plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Rourkela Steel Plant is one of them; and

(d) if so, the schemes drawn up for the expansion of that steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has taken up Renovation and Technological Upgradation (Modernisation) programmes of its three integrated steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro which are currently under various stages of implementation. This will result in marginal increase in steel making capacity in these plants apart from other benefits. Details of schemes under Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Schemes under Rourkela Steel Plant Modernisation

Phase-I

1. Mechanised storage and blending yard for sized ore, fines, fluxes etc. in Raw Material Handling.
2. Coal averaging and other coal handling facilities.
3. Sinter screening & BF conveyerisation facilities at BFs.
4. Installation of cast house slag granulation facilities in BF-4.
5. New 180 tpd Oxygen Plant.
6. Modification of Dolomite Brick Plant.
7. Combined blowing facilities in existing LD converters 4 & 5.
8. Power Distribution system.

Phase-II

1. Base mix bedding and blending yard for new Sinter Plant under Raw Material Handling.

2. New Sinter Plant (192 sq.m.).
3. Installation of 2x150 T LD Converters with combined blowing.
4. One single strand slab caster in the existing SMS and two single strand slab casters in the new SMS.
5. Installation of one 180 tpd Oxygen Plant.
6. Installation of 4 nos. 250 tpd new Lime Calcination Plant.
7. Modifications of Plate Mill & Hot Strip Mill.
8. Installation of one Reheating furnace in Plate Mill and two Reheating furnaces of larger capacity in place of two old furnaces in HSM.
9. Installation of Partial Briquetting of Coal Charge Plant.
10. Installation of Ladle Repair Shop.
11. Power Distribution System.
12. Installation of sizing plant at Satna.
13. Augmentation of necessary service facilities.

New Passport Offices in Tamil Nadu

7610. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of new passport offices opened in the country during 1994-95;

(b) the criteria laid down for opening of a new passport office;

(c) whether there is any demand for opening of new passport offices in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The only new passport office opened, during 1994-95, was at Jammu in March 1994. Opening of new passport offices is based on certain parameters including workload and financial resources. Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs have recommended, inter-alia, that one Passport Office be located as centrally as possible in contiguous blocks/wards/districts/states which, on average generate 50,000 applications per year.

Tamil Nadu is one of the five states in India which have more than one passport offices. The existing two passport offices in the state have been found to be adequately equipped for dealing with the applications received. Government has taken steps to streamline the functioning of the

Passport Offices by providing adequate facilities, including relocation of passport offices in more congenial and spacious premises, computerisation and improvement of infra-structural facilities.

(c) and (d) Suggestions have been received from time to time from some organisations and Members of Parliament for opening new Passport Offices in the state of Tamil Nadu. However in the light of the foregoing, Government does not have any proposal under consideration to open a new passport office in the state of Tamil Nadu at present.

Joint Venture Projects of N.B.C.C.

7611. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Building Construction Corporation (N.B.C.C.) has decided to go in for undertaking execution of some large value cooling tower projects both in India and abroad in collaboration with giant foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NBCC has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a German company-Balcke Durr Cooling Towers Limited;

(d) if so, the details of the terms and conditions of the MOU; and

(e) the details of the cooling tower projects executed by the NBCC in India during the last three years indicating the projects value, location and period of completion, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Many power plants and chemical plants are expected to be set up in the country in the near future which would require construction of sophisticated cooling towers. NBCC in collaboration with the foreign company will get the opportunity of constructing cooling towers in India and abroad.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Memorandum of Understanding signed between National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited and M/s Balcke Durr Cooling Towers Limited, Madras, an associate company of M/s Balcke Durr Cooling Towers AG, Ratingen, West Germany, provides for sharing of responsibilities and functions broadly on the following terms and conditions:-

(1) The Modus Operandi of association between NBCC and BDCT shall be decided on project to project basis.

(2) M/s BDCT along with their associate (M/s DBR Cooling Towers Private Ltd.) shall be responsible for:-

(a) Engineering Services of Civil and Thermohydraulics including all detailed engineering, Identification of suitable vendors for bought out items etc. BDCT shall furnish guarantee for the performance of the Cooling Tower. The fee for these services will be as under:

(i) 4% of the tendered value for National Drought Cooling Tower.

(ii) 5% of the tendered value for Mechanical Cooling Tower.

(b) M/s BDCT shall supply PVC fill materials and all mechanical and electrical items as per their designs. They will quote the most competitive rates for these items.

(3) NBCC shall be responsible for the entire construction activities including procurement of all materials other than 2 (ii).

(e) (i) The NBCC Ltd., is executing the project for construction of two numbers Natural Drought Hyperbolic Cooling Towers (30,000 Cum. per hour cooling capacity), valued at Rs. 1099 lakh, at Muddanu Ryalseema for Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board. It is likely to be completed by June, 1995.

(ii) It has secured another contract during January, 1995, for construction of two numbers natural Drought Cooling Towers valued at Rs. 2,177.00 lakhs at Bhatinda (Punjab) for Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Power Plant with a completion period of 30 months.

[Translation]

Pilferages in Bokaro Steel Plant

7612. SHRI LALIT ORAON:

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawans of Central Industrial Security Force caught three trucks carrying pilferaged scrap and iron from the Bhakdump area of Bokaro Steel Plant in January 1995;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of such thefts occurred during the last three years and the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check pilferages in BSL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three persons were apprehended by the CISF on the spot along with three trucks and were handed over to Sector-IV Police Station and an FIR was also lodged with the said police station.

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

(d) The following steps have been taken by the CISF to prevent/detect such pillage:

(i) Patrolling in the adjoining area of muck dump and slag dump has been intensified by the CISF

(ii) Ambush/combing operation by CISF are being organised frequently which have yielded results.

(iii) Joint raids in the vicinity of the muck dump area also organised with the help of local Police/Administration.

(iv) An officer of the rank of Asstt Sub Inspector has been made incharge of muck dump area in place of Head Constable in order to maintain more efficient vigil

(v) The crime and intelligence wing of CISF has been properly briefed to keep utmost vigil/surveillance in and around the adjacent area

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Date of occurrence	Place of occurrence	Description of recovered material	Quantity of recovered material	Cost of recovered material	Police Station	Present Position of the case
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1992							
1.	7.5.92	Near Muck dump area	Steel Scrap	19 M T	Rs 50,464/-	Sec-VI P.S	Under trial in Court of Law
2.	30.5.92	Near Basanti More	Steel Scrap	06 M T	Rs 16,000/-	Harla P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
3.	13.7.92	-do-	Steel Scrap	10 M.T	Rs. 26,000/-	Harla P S.	Under trial in Court of Law
4.	27.8.92	Near Gandhi Chowk	Steel Scrap	11 M.T	Rs 28,600/-	Sect-VI P S.	Under trial in Court of Law
5.	24.4.92	Near SGP area	Pig Iron Old Pipe	04 M.T.	Rs. 04,000/-	Balidih P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
6.	1.10.92	Near Tup Kaaih Basti	Iron Scrap	08 M T	Rs 20,000/-	Jandih P.S	Under trial in Court of Law
1993							
1.	7.10.93	Near slag dump area	Iron Scrap	150 kgs.	Rs. 450/-	Balidih	Under trial in Court of Law
2.	31.3.93	Infront of camp-II	Iron Scrap	10 M.T.	Rs. 26,000/-	B.S. City P.S	Charge Sheet Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	31.3.93	Near Basanti More	Iron Scrap	200 kgs.	Rs. 400/-	Harla P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
4.	23.9.93	Near Gora Ball Basti	Iron Scrap	12 M.T.	Rs. 40,000/-	Balldih P.S.	Accused absconded, Non bailable warrant issued
5.	17.12.93	Near SGP Area	Iron Scrap	10 M.T.	Rs.41,912/-	Balldih P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
6.	23.12.93	Near Gora Ball Basti	Iron Scrap	08 M.T.	Rs. 33,529/-	Balldih P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
1994							
1.	6.1.94	Near SGP area	Iron Scrap	02 M.T	Rs. 07,000/-	Balldih P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
2.	20.2.94	Near Sec-IX	Iron Scrap	16 M.T.	Rs. 68,000/-	Harla P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
3.	5.4.94	Near Ram Mandir	Steel Scrap	700 Kgs.	Rs. 08,000/-	B.S. City P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
4.	15.4.94	Near SGP area	Steel Skull	02 M.T.	Rs. 8,000/-	Balldih P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
5.	4.5.94	Near Main Gate	Ferrous Scrap	700 Kgs.	Rs. 3,000/-	B.S. City P.S.	Final Report found True. Under trial in Court of Law
6.	5.6.94	Near Sec-IX	Ferrous Scrap	05 M.T.	Rs. 26,000/-	Harla P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	2.7.94	Sec-IX Pump House	Ferrous Scrap	08 M.T.	Rs. 42,000/-	Harla P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
8.	3.10.94	Near SGP area	Iron Scrap	05 M.T.	Rs. 20,000/-	Baldih P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law
9.	20.10.94	Near Basanti More	Ferrous Scrap	15 M.T.	Rs. 75,000/-	Harla P.S.	Under trial in Court of Law

P S	—	Police Station
SGP	—	Slag Granulated Plant
B.S. City	—	Bokaro Steel City

[English]

NTPC Signed MOUs with T.V. Authority

7613. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has signed an MOU with Tennessee Valley Authority to establish a joint venture to introduce speciality Coal fuel, power plant overhauls refurbishment and upgrade services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other MOUs signed by NTPC with foreign companies to introduce coal fuel power plant overhauls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by National Thermal Power Corporation so far with foreign companies to introduce coal fuel power plant overhauls.

Work in Government Quarters

7614. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether job under 10 percent charges can be undertaken in Government residential houses not involving structural changes;

(b) whether no list of job that can be undertaken

under payment of 10 percent charges has been prescribed by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has prescribed illustrative list of jobs which can be undertaken on payment of 10 percent charges (list enclosed). However, there is no specific list for electrical jobs.

List of Jobs which can be Undertaken on Payment of 10 Percent Charges.

1. Kitchen Sink with Drawing board and waste pipe.
2. Wire guage shutter for door and window.
3. Providing Wash basic with Waste pipe.
4. Mirror.
5. Glass shelf
6. Providing and fixing plain Jaffri.
7. Renovation of toilet.
8. Glazing of verandah.
9. Underground tank and pump.
10. Over-head tank (PVC)

Export of Minerals

7615. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make use of the rich Mineral Resources in our country and export only value added finish, instead of exporting raw materials;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) to (c) The Government Policy as stated in National Mineral Policy, 1993 is that efforts shall be made to export minerals in value added form as far as possible. The policy of export shall keep in view the mineral inventory position and the long term needs of the country.

[Translation]

Pak Obstruction to Kashmir Elections

7616. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any reports that Pakistan would make every possible efforts to obstruct election process in Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether the Government have drawn attention of world powers towards the above mentioned reports; and

(c) if so, the response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIR (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government are aware of Pakistan's concerted strategy to foment subversion in J & K so as to create an atmosphere of terror and thereby disrupt the political process including the conduct of elections.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is widespread appreciation internationally of India's position regarding the political process in J & K and the conduct of elections.

Sub-Letting of Government Accommodation

7617. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that persons in large number are illegally residing in the Government accommodations due to which the employees entitled for

accommodation have to wait for years together for getting Government quarters;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the number of accommodations vacated by unauthorised occupants; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those who were found guilty as per rules for allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Complaints against subletting are received from time to time.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Information for the year 1994-95 is as under:

	No. of quarters
(i) Inspected	: Over 1000
(ii) Detected to be under subletting	: 450
(iii) Allottees found guilty of subletting	: 191
(iv) Vacated/evicted	: 74

(d) The allottees who are found guilty of subletting are penalised by the cancellation of allotted accommodation, debarment from further allotment for a period of five years and advice to the Administrative Authorities to take disciplinary action under relevant conduct rules.

[English]

Emergency Visas to Pakistanis

7618. DR. R. MALLU:

SHRI M.G. REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue emergency visas to Pakistanis on priority basis without any pre-verification;

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

(c) whether it would have negative impact on the security of the country; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Allotment of Land for LPG Distributors

7619. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the location of LPG storage depots in accordance with the safety rules are earmarked before applications are invited for allotment of distributorship of LPG in different areas in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether land of show-rooms and godowns has not so far been released by Delhi Development Authority even to such incumbents to whom letters of intent were issued by the Indian Oil Corporation for grant of distributorship as early as January, 1994 and the reasons for such delay; and

(c) the procedure for allotment of land for show rooms and godowns after availability of land in a particular area is assured and earmarked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) DDA has reported that applications for allotment of distributorship of LPG in different areas of Delhi are invited by Oil Companies, who do not consult DDA regarding availability of sites before inviting applications.

(b) Yes, Sir. The non-availability of sites is the reason for delay.

(c) The letters of intent holders, nominated by the Ministry of Petroleum are allotted sites as per seniority, except in cases which deserve special sympathy. For Oil Selection Board nominees (OSB), sites are allotted as and when these are available at the specified locations.

V.I.S.L.

7620. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visveswaralah Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) was taken over by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) if so, when and the objectives thereof;

(c) whether this industry has been incurring losses year after year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited has taken over 60 percent of

Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL) shares with the prime objective of revitalising and improving its viability.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. While in 1992-93, VISL incurred a net loss of Rs. 8.39 crores in 1993-94, the company incurred a loss of Rs. 17.08 crores.

The financial accounts of the company for the year 1994-95 are under scrutiny and the exact details of the losses will be known on completion of the Audit. The reasons for losses, in general are:

- (i) Recession in demand of Alloy Steel;
- (ii) High Power tariff rates; and
- (iii) Outmoded/obsolete technology in certain areas.

The order to make the plant viable, SAIL have injected an amount of Rs. 38.92 crores (provisional) in 1994-95 on various capital schemes which are under implementation.

[Translation]

Hydel Power Project on Narmada

+7621. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government to accord the status of centrally financed national projects to two other mega multi-hydel Power projects on Narmada river;

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

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

(d) the amount of assistance provided to the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As far as the associated power projects are concerned, Narmada Sagar (Indira Sagar), Omkareshwar and Maheshwar hydel projects have been accorded investment approval by the Planning Commission for implementation in the State sector. Central assistance to the State is in the form of block loans and block grants and not for individual projects.

In regard to the associated irrigation projects, irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility for investigation, formulation, implementation and management of irrigation projects primarily rests with the States.

(c) The details in respect of latest cost estimates and expenditure so far incurred are given below:

(Figures in Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Project (Installed capacity)	Latest Cost	Expenditure upto 3/95 (Provisional)
1.	Indira Sagar (8 × 125 MW)	2825.70 (3/93)	460.24
2.	Omkareshwar (8 × 65 MW)	958.82 (3/93)	21.95
3.	Maheshwar (10 × 40 MW)	465.63 (Approved cost)	

The project has since been taken up with private sector participation.

(d) The Central Government has been normally providing block Plan assistance to the States for their Plans according to formula approved by National Development Council. The assistance is normally not provided for specific sectors/projects/schemes.

[English]

Allotment of Government Accommodation

7622. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of Parliament had demanded in 1994 and 1995 that CBI inquiry be conducted and stringent action be taken against the officials found guilty of corruption and violating the allotment of Government accommodation rules;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on those demands of the M.Ps;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted so far by CBI in this regard;

(d) if so, the final outcome; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No Sir. No such request was received by this Ministry.

(b) The question does not arise in view of answer to part (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The question does not arise in view of answer to part (c) above.

LTTE'S Involvement in Assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi

7623. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are aware of the declaration made by the Srilankan President that the L.T.T.E. chief is responsible for the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi;

(b) whether this is the first official admission by the Srilankan Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken for the extradition of Prabhakaran;

(d) whether the Government propose to intensify efforts in this regard so that extradition is made without delay; and

(e) other steps, if any, proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The Government has seen the interview given by the Sri Lankan President to India Today, in which she has reportedly commented that the LTTE chief is responsible for the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

(b) This is the first time that such a remark has been attributed to a Sri Lankan Head of State.

(c) and (d) All relevant aspects of seeking the extradition of Prabhakaran from the Government of Sri Lanka remain under the consideration of the relevant agencies of the Government of India.

(e) The Government of India has taken action to comply with the requirements of Indian law relating to the arrest of Prabhakaran. In February 1992, the Designated Court in Madras, where the trial of the Rajiv Gandhi Assassination case is in progress, had issued warrants of arrest and proclamation against Prabhakaran under Section 8 (3) (A) of TADA. With the approval of Government of Sri Lanka, these were got published in leading Sri Lanka newspapers in 1992. According to the proclamations, Prabhakaran was directed to appear before the Designated Court on or before 28.2.92. This deadline having passed without the accused appearing before the Court, further legal action into the case has been under progress. In May, 1992 the SIT filed the chargesheet against Prabhakaran, prime accused in the Designated Court in Madras. In April, 1994, a Red Corner Notice requesting the arrest of Prabhakaran was circulated through Interpol.

Trading in Sub-Standard Copper

7624. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 30, 1995 captioned 'Poor copper floods market';

(b) if so, whether trading in sub-standard copper and copper winding wire is taking place in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), the sole producer of primary copper in the country supplies good quality of copper to their customers and company has not received any major complaint with regard to quality of copper produced by them. The Units under the organised sector have also not reported any poor quality of copper winding wires. Under the current import policy the copper is freely importable.

[Translation]

Tomato Production

7625. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether tomatoes are being produced in large quantity in Palamau and Chatra district of Bihar and whether about 100 trucks of tomatoes are being supplied outside from these districts everyday during tomato season;

(b) whether sometimes price of tomato declines even upto twenty five paise in far off villages;

(c) whether the Government have ever made efforts to set up tomato based food processing industries in these two districts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) While tomatoes are produced in these districts, no survey has been conducted about daily outgo and price variations of tomatoes in these districts.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing units directly but provide assistance under various Plan Schemes which are being implemented to encourage setting up of fruits and vegetables processing industries in the country, including in the backward areas.

[English]

Production of Steel in U.P.

7626. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production made by various steel industries in Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95.

(b) the number of steel industries declared sick in the State; and

(c) the number of steel industries to which financial assistance was given by the Union Government during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The aggregate production of Steel in Uttar Pradesh by Steel producing, Re-rolling, Galvanized, Cold Rolled and Wire Drawing units during 1994-95 has been reported as 0.636 million tonnes (provisional).

(b) One unit has been declared sick in the State of Uttar Pradesh by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1994 in terms of the sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), as amended from time to time.

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

[Translation]

Minor Minerals

7627. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether low priced minor minerals like quartz and felspar are also governed by the Mineral Concession Rules (1960), Mineral Conservation and Development Rules and the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to exclude these minerals from the purview of these rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) Minor Minerals as defined in Section 3 (e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 are not governed by the provisions of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988. Quartz and felspar have not been notified as minor minerals.

(c) There is no proposal to exclude low priced minerals from the purview of these rules.

[English]

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers

7628. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF) during the financial years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the factors responsible therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to convert RCF into a profit making venture;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted to fix responsibility for the losses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The net profit/loss of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 was as follows :

Year	(-) Loss/Profit (+)
1992-93	(-) 26.58
1993-94	(-) 12.08
1994-95	(+) 191.76 (Provisional)

RCF suffered losses during 1992-93 and 1993-94 mainly due to enhanced liability of interest and principal amount on Kuwaiti Dinar loan on account of exchange rate fluctuations. Added to this, was the impact of decontrol of phosphatic fertilizers which was effected in August, 1992 as per the recommendations of the JPC on Fertilizer Pricing. The Government provided a compensation of Rs. 150.88 crores to RCF during the year 1994-95 to nullify the impact of the losses suffered by the company on account of exchange rate fluctuations on the Kuwaiti Dinar Loan.

(d) to (f) In view of the background explained above, the question of conducting any enquiry for fixing the responsibility does not arise.

Complaints from German Companies

7629. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have interacted between a German company and Himachal Pradesh State Development Corporation Limited for resolving their disputes for claims settlements etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the complaints are pouring into the Indian embassy in Bonn for years together;

(d) if so, whether the Government initiated/proposed to initiate corrective action in the matter; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Our Mission in Bonn was appraised of a commercial complaint made by M/S Gerhardt & Buck GmbH against the Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (HPSIDC). The contention of the German Company has been that (HPSIDC) did not pursue a proposal for joint collaboration made in April 1987, and had committed a breach of contract. Our Mission has actively pursued this matter. HPSIDC has informed that no agreement was signed with the German company and that they had not committed any breach of contract. This was conveyed to the German company in January 1991 and has been reiterated in response to its subsequent communications. The claim of the German company hinges on the existence of a signed agreement which they have not been able to produce,

(d) and (e) Complaints of a commercial nature are basically for the parties concerned to resolve between themselves. Wherever necessary, Government uses what good offices are possible to facilitate a resolution of such differences.

[Translation]

Reforms in F.P.I.

7630. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Business Standard" dated April 15, 1995 under the caption "Study urges processing industry reforms";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The report interalia suggested promotion of Farmer Processor link through contract farming, improving facilities like refrigerated transportation and cold storage through active financial and administrative participation by the industry, focussing research programmes towards improving agro-vegetables most suited to the requirement of processing industry, establishing an integral approach to

the production and processing of fruits and vegetables, reducing excise duty and custom duty on packaging material and increasing information base among exporters through market intelligence, reducing the degree of Government intervention in the food market, leasing land to private entrepreneurs to build requisite infrastructure, directing research and industry towards using eco-friendly packaging material etc. While some suggestions need further examination, the Government is implementing various Plan schemes which include promotion of contract farming, development of refrigerated transportation and cold storage system, promotion of research and development activities, providing assistance for improving quality control systems for exports and providing fiscal incentives like reduction of excise duty and custom duty on packaging material.

[English]

Regional Passport Office, Delhi

7631. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications received and the number of passports issued during each of the last four months by regional passport Office, Delhi;

(b) the reasons for pending of large number of applications;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out to issue passport expeditiously to clear the backlog; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The number of passport applications received and the number of passports issued during each of the last four months is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Increased workload as a result of the addition of four districts of Haryana and two districts of U.P., incomplete documentation are among the major factors in pendency.

(c) and (d) Efforts in being made to clear the backlog by improving performance in the Passport Office through inspection and monitoring so that issue of passports reverts to the more acceptable time frame of 4-6 weeks.

STATEMENT

No. of Applications Received		No. of Passports Issued
January'95	- 8799	10111
February'95	- 10169	7395

March'95	- 13960	8202
April'95	- 9675	4371
Total:	42603	30082

[Translation]

Capacity of Major Ports

7632. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign capital investment has been sought for increasing the capacity of major ports during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. In order to enhance the capacity of Major Ports from 169 million tonnes (approx) to 237 million tonnes (approx.), an outlay of Rs. 2984 crores (including a foreign aid component of Rs. 946 crores) has been provided in Eighth Five Year Plan. In addition, offers have also been invited from private entrepreneurs (including foreign firms) for capital participation in Ports Sector.

[English]

Modernisation of Thermal Power Projects

7633. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in daily Observer dated April 17, 1995 under the caption "Fund Crunch Hits Thermal Units Update";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Renovation & Modernisation (R & M) programme (Phase-II) of existing thermal power plants covering 47 thermal power plants was launched in 1991-92. The latest approved cost of 46 sanctioned R & M schemes is Rs. 2514 crores. The proposal for one scheme has not been received from the concerned State Electricity Board. The Power Finance Corporation is partly funding the R & M schemes of 22 power stations, including those of

Andhra Pradesh. Of these, 9 schemes are also partly funded by the World Bank and 5 schemes are funded by the project authorities from their own resources. The progress in respect of the remaining 19 R & M schemes belonging to Haryana State Electricity Board, Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, West Bengal State Electricity Board, Damodar Valley Corporation, Durgapur Projects Limited, Bihar State Electricity Board and Assam State Electricity Board is slow mostly due to fund constraints and a variety of other factors. The R & M programme Phase-I, which was launched in 1984, is in an advanced stage of completion. Primarily, non-core activities covered under the State Plan are left, which are expected to be completed in 1995-96.

[Translation]

Coal Supply to Thermal Power Projects

7634. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal is not being supplied to thermal power projects functioning in the country as per their annual requirement;

(b) the annual demand of coal by these projects during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) the total quantity of coal actually supplied during these years;

(d) whether these projects could not generate power as per their capacity due to short supply of coal;

(e) if so, the quantum of power in K.W. generated less than the installed capacity in the country during each year of this period; and

(f) the amount of loss suffered during every year due to less generation of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) The coal demand for thermal power stations is worked out by CEA after discussing the generation targets with the concerned Electricity Boards/Utilities. The demand projected by CEA/Ministry of Power for the year 1995-96 is 195 Million Tonnes of coal corresponding to a generation target of 254 Billion Units against which the offer from Ministry of Coal is 184.2 Million Tonnes.

(b) to (d) The figures of demand/receipt of coal, generation target/actual generation and other details for last three years are given below:

(Coal Figures in Million Tonnes)

Particulars	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1. Coal demand project by CEA	153.00	167.00	177.00
2. Coal demand accepted by Ministry of Coal	150.00	160.00	177.00
3. Reported despatch by Coal Companies	149.30	165.20	169.50
5. Generation Targets (in BUs)	199.13	217.50	234.25
6. Actual generation (in BUs)	192.95	214.70	222.83
7. Difference in target & Actual generation (in BUs)	(-) 6.18	(-) 2.80	(-) 11.42
8. Generation loss due to non-receipt of coal in time (in BUs)	4.44	2.19	4.67

(e) and (f) The shortfall in coal supplies results in loss of energy i.e. in Million Units. This loss in Million Units is 4441, 2186 and 4671 during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively.

[English]

Petrochemicals Plant in Mangalore

7635. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new petrochemical plant in Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Mangalore Refineries Pvt. Ltd. in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, M/s. Grasim Industries Ltd. were issued a Letter of Intent in 1992 for setting up an aromatic complex at Mangalore. In November, 1994, Government issued a fresh Letter of Intent revising the product slate.

Central Guidelines to State for MOUs

7636. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines to the States laying down power pricing agreements as a pre-condition for executing power projects by Private agencies;

(b) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have floated that guidelines while obtaining MOUs for execution of certain power projects; and

(c) the action taken by the Union government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) Through a communication dated 18.1.1995 Government of India has directed all State Governments to adopt competitive bidding for awarding power projects to private sector. To monitor this decision, Government of India has called for the details of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) reached with the private power developers upto 18.2.1995 by various State Governments. Government of Andhra Pradesh has intimated that they have signed 23 MOUs on 18.2.1995 for setting up of power projects in their State. Since the MOUs are signed within the stipulated date, it is not felt that Government of Andhra Pradesh have floated Government of India guidelines in this regard.

Insurance Cover for Road Accidents

7637. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to

state:

(a) whether there is any insurance cover for the road users in the event of road accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The road users if involved in an accident with a motor vehicle, are covered under the Insurance Policy in terms of Section 146 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The liability under the Insurance cover is unlimited, but the volume of compensation is decided by the Motor Accidents Claims' Tribunal, on merits.

(c) Do not arise.

Performance of PSUs

7638. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of public sector units under his Ministry;

(b) the performance of each units during the last three years;

(c) whether the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced in any of these units; and

(d) if so, the response to that scheme, unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) There are 17 Central Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

(b) The statement-I giving requisite information is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The information on the number of Persons retired under Voluntary Retirement Scheme upto 31.3.1995 is given in the enclosed Statement-II

STATEMENT-I

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Profit (+)	Loss (-)	(Rs. in crs.)
1	2	3	4	5
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Prov.)
1.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.	(-) 349.44	(-) 366.73	(-) 408.06
2.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers	(-) 26.58	(-) 12.08	(+) 191.76
3.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	(+) 12.13	(-) 58.49	(+) 4.93

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	(-) 80.94	(+) 47.35	(+) 27.33
5.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	(+) 2.85	(+) 12.41	(+) 72.16
6.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	(+) 111.47	(+) 389.11	(+) 131.31
7.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	(-) 8.29	(-) 15.52	(-) 8.51
8.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	(-) 225.98	(-) 268.87	(-) 345.87
9.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	(-) 13.66	(-) 19.85	(-) 9.23
10.	Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	(-) 83.00	(-) 70.00	(-) 59.00
11.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	(+) 1.99	(-) 12.68	(-) 18.00
12.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	(-) 12.74	(-) 11.91	(-) 2.85
13.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	(-) 7.26	(-) 8.16	(-) 5.08
14.	Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	(-) 6.64	(-) 7.72	(-) 4.40
15.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited	(+) 20.40	(+) 21.67	(+) 28.00
16.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	(+) 0.44	(+) 2.00	(+) 2.50
17.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	(+) 131.08	(+) 89.17	(+) 502.00

STATEMENT-II

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Number of Persons retired under VRS upto 31.3.1995
1.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	290
2.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation	1487
3.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	461
4.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	362
5.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited	3060
6.	Bengal Immunity Limited	275
7.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	437
8.	Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited	280
9.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	163
10.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	40

Passport Agents

7639. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Passport Office, Bangalore has recognised agents to deal with passport matters;

(b) If so, the number of such agents appointed in Karnataka and number of them functioning in Bangalore; and

(c) whether the Government propose to appoint more agents to deal with passport matters in order to help the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government have dispensed with the system of recognition of travel agents with effect from 24th July, 1992. Travel agents are, however, free to deal with Passport Offices.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to appoint travel agents to deal with passport matters.

Allotment of DDA Flats Without Basic Amenities

7640. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been allotting flats to its registrants under various schemes without making adequate provisions for even basic amenities like water, electricity and sewerage;

(b) if so, the number of such flats allotted by DDA to registrants under various schemes during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for allotting flats by DDA without basic amenities; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (c) DDA has reported that allotment of flats is done in such a manner that by the time the required formalities and the payment is made by the concerned allottees, the basic amenities are in position. While the provision of water and sewerage is invariably made by the DDA, it has to depend upon DESU for electricity.

(b) Details of allotments of flats where services were not available on the date of draw are:

1992-93	1094
1993-94	14492
1994-95	7534

The figure of 1993-94 includes allotment of about 8000 incremental flats/houses which were subsequently made optional and offered under the new scheme 'Expendable Housing Scheme-1995'.

(d) To expedite the availability of electricity, regular coordination meetings are convened at different levels to ensure that electricity is provided by the DESU at the earliest possible.

Construction of Markets In Chittaranjan Park

7641. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sites were earmarked in the layout plan of Chittaranjan Park (formerly EPDP Colony) New Delhi for construction of Market Nos. I and II;

(b) whether the list of the eligible applicants for allotment of shops has been finalised;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in the construction of the said markets; and

(d) the target date for completion of the job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no delay on the part of this office as the construction work involves interaction with various government bodies including CPWD, NDMC, MCD, DDA, EP DP Association, etc. The completion of the work will also depend on administrative and technical clearances by the said bodies. Hence no target for completion of the job can be indicated.

[Translation]

Losses in SAIL Units

7642. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional capital investment has been made in loss making units of SAIL during the last three years;

(b) if so, the extent of additional capital investment made in these units since 1992-93 upto March 1995; and

(c) the total capital investment made in each unit during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The additional expenditure on gross fixed assets (including capital works in progress) in Durgapur Steel Plant and Alloy Steels Plant of SAIL during the last three years i.e., from April, 1992 to March, 1995 is indicated below:

Additional Expenditure (Prov.)

(Rs. in crores)

Durgapur Steel Plant	2,175.79
Alloy Steels Plant	26.25

(c) The total value of gross fixed assets including capital work in progress as on 31.3.1995 in these Plants of SAIL is as under:

(Rs. in Crores (Prov.))

Durgapur Steel Plant	6097.75
Alloy Steels Plant	311.66

*[English]***SAARC Parliament**

7643. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to certain reports indicating some proposal made to Foreign Office of Bangladesh that SAARC countries should have a Parliament like the European Parliament;

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

(c) whether these proposals also include holding of a SAARC Convention to combat women trafficking; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No Sir. The Government of Bangladesh did not discuss any proposal made to their Foreign Office that SAARC countries should have a Parliament like the European Parliament.

(b) does not arise.

(c) The Bangladesh delegation had made a proposal for a need to evolve a SAARC Convention against trafficking in women and children. This was, however, withdrawn by them.

(d) No detailed proposal was made.

*[Translation]***Indian Fishermen in Pak Jails**

7644. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from M.P.s, Government of Gujarat, associations and union of fishermen and their family members in regard to Indian fishermen in Pak jails;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during the last three years till April 30, 1995 alongwith the details of the number of fishermen in Pakistan jails;

(c) the action taken on such complaints with their outcome; and

(d) the efforts made/being made to get these persons released from the Pakistani jails alongwith the results achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) During the last three years numerous representations, written as well as oral, have been received from public

bodies, political leaders and activists regarding the detention of Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails.

According to available information, at present there are 191 Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails.

(c) Government have taken up with the Government of Pakistan all instances of apprehension of Indian fishermen by Pak authorities, and have sought the release and repatriation of these detainees and their fishing boats.

(d) Government are making sustained efforts to seek the release of the 191 fishermen presently in Pakistani custody. As a result of such efforts, 171 fishermen were released from pak jails and repatriated to India during the past three years.

*[English]***Power Shortage**

7645. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "worst-ever Power crisis possible this summer", says survey appearing in the "Pioneer" dated May 1, 1995,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) While there is general shortage of power in the summer months due to higher energy Consumption, CEA has estimated the power supply position for April'95 to June'95, given in the Annexure, which indicates overall shortage of 6.3% as against a shortage of 8.4% last year during the same period.

(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability recourse is taken by maximising generation, imposition of power cuts, restriction on various categories of consumers, demand side management, evacuation of power from surplus areas etc.

Various measures being taken include expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of transmission and distribution losses, implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and promotion of private sector investment in power sector.

Further, in addition to above, a capacity addition of 20729.7 MW during the 8th Plan has been envisaged. So far as against the prorata target of 13715.27 MW, a capacity of 12574.52 MW (92.4%) has been added.

During 1994-95 the total capacity addition was 4598.50 MW.

Water Supply Schemes for Vijayawada A.P.

7646. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO has agreed to finance water supply schemes for Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes which will be getting new assistance and the schemes already getting assistance in Andhra Pradesh from HUDCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The scheme regarding augmentation of water supply to Vijayawada is under consideration for sanction in HUDCO. The loan assistance sought is Rs. 286.00 lakhs against the total project cost of Rs. 524.77 lakhs.

(c) The scheme which are already getting assistance may please be seen at statement-I and the water supply schemes which are in the pipeline for consideration of HUDCO may please be seen as in the enclosed statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

STATE: ANDHRA PRADESH

Water Supply Schemes Sanctioned by Hudco

S.No.	Name Of Scheme
1.	Hyderabad Water Supply and Sewerage Improvement Scheme.
2.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Nellore.
3.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Vizianagram.
4.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Mancherla.
5.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Machilipatnam.
6.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Tirupati.
7.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Kurmdol.
8.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Cuddapah.
9.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Nizamabad.
10.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Khammam.
11.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Chirala.

12. Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Nuzvid.

13. Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Madnapalle.

14. Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Palwancha.

15. Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Chittoor.

STATEMENT-II

STATE: ANDHRA PRADESH

Water Supply Schemes in Pipeline

S.No.	Name of Scheme
1.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Vijayawada
2.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Rajahamundry.
3.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Nandyal.
4.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Malkajgiri.
5.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Zaheerabad.
6.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Kapra.
7.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Kukatpally.
8.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at LB Nagar.
9.	Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Anantapur.

[Translation]

Loans to Maharashtra for Water Schemes

7647. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has sought loan from HUDCO for purifying the polluted water in various towns;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) the amount of the loan provided by HUDCO during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. HUDCO has so far sanctioned 7 towns/city water supply schemes in Maharashtra for a total project cost of Rs. 36454.45 lacs and loan assistance of Rs. 16963.10 lacs. The details are enclosed in the Statement.

(c) HUDCO released loan instalments amounting to Rs. 3565.76 lacs during 1994-95 towards 4 ongoing water supply schemes.

STATEMENT*Water Supply Schemes Sanctioned in Maharashtra (As on 31.03.1995)*

S. No.	Scheme Name	Agency	Project Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Loan Amount
1.	City level Water Supply Conveyance lines for New Bombay (Phase-I)	CIDCO	1764.41	819.66
2.	Augmentation Water Supply Scheme Solapur	SMC	9164.00	4970.00
3.	Water Supply Scheme at Nagpur	NMC	6534.00	2000.00
4.	Water Supply Scheme at Hatawane New Bombay	CIDCO	10059.63	5343.44
5.	Pune Water Supply Project	PMC	1463.76	840.00
6.	Water Supply Scheme at Waluj, New Aurangabad	CIDCO	3338.41	1000.00
7.	New Kolhapur Water Supply Scheme (Phase-I)	KMC	4130.24	2000.00
TOTAL:			36454.45	16973.10

*[English]***STATEMENT****Conference on Non-Aligned Countries**

7648. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal to convene the conference of non-aligned countries recently;

(b) if so, the date and duration of the conference and the probable subject to be included in the Agenda for discussions;

(c) whether the former States of Soviet Union have agreed to join this non-aligned group of countries; and

(d) if so, total membership of non-aligned group as on date including the names of countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Xth NAM Summit will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 18th to 20th October 1995, and discuss political and economic matters of international importance.

(c) Uzbekistan, which is a former state of the Soviet Union, has joined the Non-aligned Movement.

(d) The present membership of the Non-Aligned Movement is 112. The list of member states of NAM is enclosed as Statement.

Members of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries

1. Afghanistan	21. Chile
2. Algeria	22. Colombia
3. Angola	23. Comoros
4. Bahamas	24. Congo
5. Bahrain	25. Cote d'Ivoire
6. Bangladesh	26. Cuba
7. Barbados	27. Cyprus
8. Belize	28. Djibouti
9. Benin	29. Ecuador
10. Bhutan	30. Egypt
11. Bolivia	31. Equatorial Guinea
12. Botswana	32. Eritrea
13. Brunei	33. Ethiopia
14. Burkina Faso	34. Gabon
15. Burundi	35. Gambia
16. Cambodia	36. Ghana
17. Cameroon	37. Grenada
18. Cape Verde	38. Guatemala
19. Central African Rep	39. Guinea
20. Chad	40. Guinea-Bissau

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 41. Guyana | 78. Papua New Guinea |
| 42. Honduras | 79. Peru |
| 43. India | 80. Philippines |
| 44. Indonesia | 81. Qatar |
| 45. Iran | 82. Rwanda |
| 46. Iraq | 83. St. Lucia |
| 47. Jamaica | 84. Sao Tome & Principe |
| 48. Jordan | 85. Saudi Arabia |
| 49. Kenya | 86. Senegal |
| 50. Korea (DPR) | 87. Seychelles |
| 51. Kuwait | 88. Sierra Leone |
| 52. Lao PDR | 89. Singapore |
| 53. Lebanon | 90. Somalia |
| 54. Lesotho | 91. South Africa |
| 55. Liberia | 92. Sri Lanka |
| 56. Libya | 93. Sudan |
| 57. Madagascar | 94. Suriname |
| 58. Malawi | 95. Swaziland |
| 59. Malaysia | 96. Syria |
| 60. Maldives | 97. Tanzania |
| 61. Mali | 98. Thailand |
| 62. Malta | 99. Togo |
| 63. Mauritania | 100. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 64. Mauritius | 101. Tunisia |
| 65. Mongolia | 102. Uganda |
| 66. Morocco | 103. United Arab Emirates |
| 67. Mozambique | 104. Uzbekistan |
| 68. Myanmar | 105. Vanuatu |
| 69. Namibia | 106. Venezuela |
| 70. Nepal | 107. Vietnam |
| 71. Nicaragua | 108. Yemen |
| 72. Niger | 109. Yugoslavia |
| 73. Nigeria | (membership in |
| 74. Oman | suspense) |
| 75. Pakistan | 110. Zaire |
| 76. Palestine | 111. Zambia |
| 77. Panama | 112. Zimbabwe |

Allocations to A.P. Under NRY

7649. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made to Andhra Pradesh under N.R.Y. during 1993-94, 1994-95;

(b) the allotment of funds to be made available in 1995-96;

(c) whether all the funds allotted under NRY to the State Government have been fully utilised;

(d) if so, whether the State Government had not spent the funds under NRY but diverted to other purpose; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a): The allocations made to Andhra Pradesh under Nehru Rozgar Yojana during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 are Rs. 679.53 lakhs and Rs. 508.90 lakh respectively.

(b) Funds amounting to Rs. 558.40 lakhs are to be released to Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No instance of such diversion has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(e) Does not arise.

Assistance to A.P. for Construction of Houses

7650. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted any proposals to the Union Government for financial assistance for construction of Houses for middle and lower middle class during 1995 till date;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have accepted the proposals;

(c) the total financial assistance to be provided to the State Government during 1995-96 in this regard;

(d) whether the funds allotted to the State of A.P. were not fully utilised earlier; and

(e) if so, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT: (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Schemes Under CRF

7651. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the Union Government's request, Andhra Pradesh Government, drew a list of works to be included under a programme for a period of six years from 1989-90 to 1994-95;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have sanctioned only six works;

(c) whether funds are proposed to be released for 19 schemes under Central Road Fund: and

(d) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have been sending schemes from time to time between 1989-90 and 1994-95 for inclusion under Central Road Fund.

(b) The Government has Sanctioned 9 schemes under Central Road Fund between 1989-90 and 1994-95.

(c) and (d) Funds under Central Road Fund are released from time to time on the sanctioned schemes only depend on the budgetary provisions available.

Privatisation of Steel Industry

7652. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise steel industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Government of India have no proposal to privatise the steel industry as such. However, Government had earlier decided to allow private participation in the equity and management of IISCO for the purpose of ensuring expeditious modernisation of IISCO.

Meanwhile, in terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (as amended in February, 1994) Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) became a sick industrial company. Accordingly, a reference was made by the Board of Directors of IISCO to BIFR in June, 1994, as required under Section 15 of the Act, for determination of measures to be adopted with respect to the company.

The case has been registered with BIFR in terms of

Section 15 of the Act. Sick companies registered with BIFR can take up revival/modernisation schemes only with the sanction/approval of BIFR.

Investment in Steel Sector

7653. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the policy and extent of investment in major steel projects in public and private sectors during the Eighth Plan, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) the present level of consumption and projected production of steel in the country;

(c) the estimates of steel imports/exports for the next three years;

(d) the details of modernisation of public sector steel plants with latest technologies and present status of each project under progress/finalisation; and

(e) the reasons for delay in implementation of modernisation programme of steel units in public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Apparent consumption of finished steel in the country during 1994-95 was about 17.44 million tonnes. The projected production of finished steel in the country during 1995-96 is about 20.79 million tonnes.

(c) The current Import Export policy freely allows import and export of all categories of steel. Export and import of steel depends on various factors such as demand, availability, international and domestic prices and specific requirements of the industry both in terms of quantity and quality.

(d) The present status of modernisation projects being undertaken in Public Sector Steel Plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro are as under:-

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT (DSP)

The modernisation is being executed through 18 turnkey packages. 10 packages have been fully completed/commissioned. Three packages have been partly completed and the work on the remaining packages is in progress.

The modernisation project is expected to be completed by March, 1996.

ROURKELA STEEL PLANT (RSP)

The modernisation is being executed in two phases i.e. Phase-I (9 indigenous turnkey packages) and Phase-II (15 indigenous and 5 global turnkey packages). Work for major production facilities for Phase-I had been completed

in March, 1994. 6 indigenous packages of Phase-II have already been completed. The work on remaining packages of Phase-II is under various stages of implementation.

The modernisation project is expected to be completed by August, 1996.

BOKARO STEEL PLANT (BSL)

The modernisation is being implemented through 4 main global packages and 31 indigenous packages the scope of which is related to the utilities and services.

Orders for all the global packages have been placed. Preliminary site activities have been completed and presently civil and structural work and ordering of equipment and refractories are in progress.

Ordering of indigenous packages is in progress.

The project is scheduled to be completed by July, 1997.

(e) The main reasons which have contributed to the delay in the implementation of the modernisation project of Durgapur Steel Plant beyond the completion schedule of March, 1993 are as under -

- (i) Delay in structurals and equipment supplies.
- (ii) Increase in volume of work specially in respect of civil and structural jobs in the Blast Furnace and Sinter Plant packages.
- (iii) Inadequate mobilisation of resources for site work.
- (iv) Uncertain conditions in the erstwhile USSR during the execution of the project which resulted in disruption of imported supplies from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

Average of Power Plant Load Factor

7654. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average power plant load factor and the plant load factor at which the large number of power stations of various State Electricity Boards are operating at present;

(b) the factors responsible for low rate of operation;

(c) since when these power stations are operating at the low plant load factor; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve that percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) The average plant load factor (PLF) of Thermal Power Stations in the country during 1994-95 was 60% while average plant load factor of thermal stations of electricity Boards during the period was 55.0%.

(b) The main factors responsible for low PLF of the stations are aging of units, financial constraints with some of the Boards, poor quality and inadequate quantity of coal etc.

(c) The period since when these stations are operating at PLF less than 50% is indicated in the enclosed statement.

(d) Various measures being taken for optimum utilisation of installed capacity include renovation and modernisation of old units, instituting meritorious award scheme for efficient and economic performance of stations, following proper preventive maintenance schedules and annual/capital over-hauls, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, training of operation and maintenance personal etc.

STATEMENT

The Power Stations which operate at PLF less than 50% are given below:

SEB/Station	PLF during 1994-95	Since continued below 50% PLF
1	2	3
DESU		
I.P. Station	45.9	1993-94
HSEB		
Panipat	42.3	1980-81
UPSEB		
Obra	33.9	1994-95
Panki	29.2	1989-90
H' Ganj B & C	22.3	1980-81
Paricha	16.7	1990-91
Tanda	25.6	Since beginning
GEB		
Kutch Lignite	39.1	1994-95
A.E. COMPANY		
A.E.Co. (old)	20.2	1991-92
MSEB		
Paras	39.0	1993-94
APSEB		
Nellore	35.4	1990-91
BSEB		
Patratu	20.3	1980-81

1	2	3
Barauni	20.7	1990-91
Muzaffarpur	18.2	Since beginning
OSEB		
Talcher	29.0	1980-81
WBSEB		
Santalalhi	31.3	1980-81
DPL26.6	1980-81	
DVC		
Chandrapur	28.0	1985-86
Bokaro	40.4	1989-90
ASEB		
Chandrapur	29.9	1990-91
Namrup	32.0	1982-83
Bongalgaon	20.3	Since beginning

Pending Power Projects

7655. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for approval of Electricity projects pending before the Government as on March 1995; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of the applications within a specific time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): 50 Power Projects have been referred by State Government to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance.

(b) In respect of several power projects pending for techno-economic clearance with CEA, additional information/clarifications are being sought from the project authorities. For many other proposals the project authorities are required, as per the prescribed procedure, to obtain besides the techno-economic clearance from CEA, the requisite statutory and other clearances from the sanctioning agencies at the Centre and the States. With a view to expediting the clearance of various projects, the pending proposals are followed up by the Ministry of Power/CEA with other Ministries/agencies.

Gurudas Kamat Committee Report

7656. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Gurudas Kamat Committee regarding the accident in Century Rayon Corporation Factory at Shahad (Kalyan) in Thane district in 1993;

(b) if so, the findings and recommendations of the Committee;

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Utilisation of Funds in D.E.S.U.

7657. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Delhi has failed to utilise Rs. 394 crore meant for the improvement of Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking (DESU);

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of the Government in utilising the fund;

(c) the direction given by the Union Government to DESU in that regard for future; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The amount of Rs. 348.15 crores, as per revised Annual Plan, was released, in instalments, to DESU by the Government of Delhi before 31.3.1995. Therefore, there was no lapse of funds. DESU have intimated that most of the allocated funds have been utilised in 1994-95 and a small balance has been carried forward for being utilised in the current year for schemes in progress.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Total Nuclear Disarmament

7658. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to Washington Post report dated April 14th, 1995 which said "India wiling under U.S. pressure, withdrew a resolution at the UN, calling for total nuclear disarmament, although the Minister of External Affairs had obtained from the US President a commitment on the resolution"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b)

Yes, Sir. India had considered tabling a new resolution on "Nuclear Weapons Elimination Treaty" at the 1993 UN General Assembly session. However, bilateral consultation with other countries indicated that a number of nuclear-weapons states, including USA, were opposed to the resolution. Since the resolution would not have attracted consensus, Government decided not to table the resolution.

Fresh Mineral Reserves

7659. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to conduct any fresh survey for exploring mineral deposits in the country;
- (b) if so, the areas chosen for these surveys; and
- (c) the locations where mineral deposits have been discovered during the past two years; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Surveys and exploration of mineral deposits in the country is a continuous process. Fresh surveys are taken up every year on the basis of areas delineated by preceding surveys. The annual programme of Geological Survey of India is approved by the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) with representatives of the Directorate of Geology and Mines of all the State Government Departments.

(c) The details of different mineral deposits located/ investigated in various states during last two years are as under:-

Coal: Andhra Pradesh: Rampura and Krishnavaram-Cherukupalli area West of Ansettupalli areas of Godavari Valley coalfields.

Bihar: Patratu-south area of South Karanpura coalfield, Banhardi and Latehar areas of Auranga Coalfield, Chirudih sector of Pachwara coalfield and Keyadah sector of Mahuagari basin of Rajmahal coalfield.

Madhya Pradesh: Phuthamura area of Mand-Raigarh coalfield, Batura area, Kelmania-Mithauri and western extension of Kanchanpur area of Sohagpur coalfield.

West Bengal: Dhokatha-Garia area in Birbhum Coalfield.

Lignite: Lalpettai area in Tamil Nadu and Rajpardi in Bharuch district, Gujarat.

Lead-Zinc Ore: Udaipur and Bhilwara, Rajasthan.

Copper Ore: Chittorgarh district, Rajasthan.

Gold Ore: Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Diamond: Raipur district, Madhya Pradesh.

Manganese Ore: Koraput district, Orissa.

GSi continued exploration for minerals in the prospects identified in earlier years in different States.

[Translation]

Relief to Bhopal Victims

7660. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and other non-governmental organisations for declaring the whole of the Bhopal city as affected and for providing interim relief to all the wards in Bhopal;

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

(c) the funds deposited with the Supreme Court on behalf of the Union Carbide; and

(d) the expenditure incurred in providing compensation to the gas victims during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The interim relief is being paid in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court.

(c) About Rs. 715 crores.

(d) About Rs. 500 crores has been awarded as compensation upto 31.3.1995. The actual disbursement yearwise is as follows:-

	(Rs. crores)
1992-93	3.80
1993-94	48.01
1994-95	320.90

[English]

Redline Scheme

7661. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Implementation of Redline Scheme comes under fire in CAG report' appearing in the Times of India dated April 22, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of all the points brought out therein;

(c) the action taken thereon point-wise;

(d) the number of routes which are still not properly and adequately covered either by the D.T.C. or the Redlines or the Bluelines;

(e) the steps taken to provide adequate buses on these routes to remove the hardships of the commuters;

(f) whether there is any proposal to reschedule the bus routes to unify them and to bring the redlines and bluelines under the control of the DTC time keeping booth to observe proper timings; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Some of the points brought out in the C & AG report are as under:-

1. Action to forfeit the security of 498 applicants who could not produce their buses even after 2 years was yet to be initiated.

2. Extension/diversion were granted to 974 permit holders without ensuring that the conditions prescribed for such rerouting had been fulfilled.

3. In the absence of any systematic checks STA could not ensure that Red line buses were observing time schedule and number of trips assigned.

4. In many cases buses were plying for more than

8 hours a day by single driver putting heavy strain on them and causing large number of road accidents.

Redline buses were involved in 1518 accidents during the period from 15th October, 1992 to 31st October, 1994; 1376 persons were injured and 372 killed. During 1993-94, there were 1.80 lacs prosecutions of Redline buses for traffic violations.

5. STA kept Rs. 49.20 lacs received on account of security deposits from the operators outside the Government account for over 2 years.

(c) to (g) The Report of the CAG is under examination by the Transport Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Leasing of Land to Ms. Shoes East Limited

7662. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO had signed any agreement with Ms. Shoes East Limited recently for lease of land in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement, financial implications and the purpose for which the land was leased out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information is contained in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

In the process of development and disposal of various properties by HUDCO in Andrewsganj, New Delhi offers were opened on 15.7.94 and based on the highest bid, the following properties were allotted to Ms. Shoes East Limited:

S. No.	Name of the Property	Bid Price (in crores)	Schedule for* Payment	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hotel Site	64.10	(a) 40% within 4 weeks from the date of allotment i.e., before 28.11.94 (b) 30% before the end of one year i.e., upto 31.10.95 (c) 30% before 31.10.96	paid
2.	Car Parking Space (for 415 cars approximately)	14.00	(a) 10% before 28.11.94 (b) 40% before one year i.e., upto 31.10.95	Paid

1	2	3	4	5
			(c) 50% within 4 weeks on intimation that services were ready for handing over.	
3.	Guest House Block (9), Restaurant/Kitchen in Guest House Block (9) shopping in Guest House Block (25)	99.01	<p>(a) 40% within 4 weeks from date of allotment i.e., upto 28.11.94.</p> <p>(b) 40% within 3 months from date of allotment i.e., before 31.1.95</p> <p>(c) 20% at the time of possession.</p>	<p>Paid</p> <p>This amount was not paid on time and request for extension of period for making payment was made by Ms shoes which was not granted by HUDCO. In the meantime, Ms Shoes filed a case in Delhi High Court which restrained HUDCO from cancelling the allotment forfeiting the amount paid till date. The matter is still subjudice.</p>

- The allotment letter also provides for levy of interest on the outstanding amount @ 16% p.a. for 3 months, if the payment is made after due date. Further, additional penal interest @ 3% p.a. is also chargeable on the interest due for 3 months.

US-Iran Trade Relations

7663. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the performance of Southern Grid is very slack in regard to the capacity addition of power during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to make it more efficient?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAJI PATEL):**

(a) to (c) There was a gap in demand and supply of power to the extent of 2795 MW during 1994-95 in the Southern Region. The Southern Grid has been facing low voltage and frequency conditions due to overdrawals by certain constituents from the Central Sector generation. A capacity addition of 4428.6 MW is envisaged in the Southern Region during 8th Plan, out of which 2224.92 MW has already been commissioned and work on the remaining capacity addition is in progress. It is expected that with the commissioning of this capacity and implementation of inter-regional HVDC transmission network, the position of Southern Grid would improve considerably. The concerned Constituent States have been asked to restrict their load to match with availability and adhere to grid parameters.

7664. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has discontinued its trade relations with Iran;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether Iran approached India for any type of help in defusing the strained relationship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The US administration has recently decided on expanding economic sanctions against Iran.

(b) We do not support any embargo against Iran. There are several proposals for mutually beneficial economic cooperation with Iran which we are keenly pursuing.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Deportation of Indians from Malaysia

7665. DR. R. MALLU:

SHRI M.G. REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "81 Indians deported from Malaysia" which appeared in the Hindu dated February 3, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the aforesaid persons were issued visa by Malaysian authorities;

(c) if so, the reasons for their deportation;

(d) whether it is fact that these persons were subjected to harsh treatment before deportation; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Indian High Commission in Malaysia in this regard to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

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

(b) and (c) The passengers were not permitted entry in Malaysia since they were not in possession of valid visas.

(d) Our Mission and Air India officials were in regular contact with the stranded passengers during the period of their halt in Kuala Lumpur. No complaint of illtreatment or humiliation was made to either of them.

(e) The concerned Indian authorities have been advised to be vigilant in scrutinising documents of departing passengers to help prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Service Centres in Trans Yamuna Area

7666. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether nine sites were earmarked in the Master Plan (MPD-2001) for service centres in the Trans-Yamuna area of Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the same have been encroached upon and illegally used as fish ponds etc;

(c) whether the proposal to construct service centres at these sites has been referred to Government for approval by the DDA (Delhi Development Authority); and

(d) if so, at what stage the proposal stands and the time by which service centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Nine sites have been earmarked in MPD-2001 for service centres in Trans-Yamuna area of Delhi.

(b) Out of nine service centre sites in MPD-2001, five are fully or partly encroached upon or unauthorisedly constructed upon, but they are not used for fish ponds.

(c) and (d) No Sir, as no such approval is required. What has been referred to Government are four proposals

in respect of alternative sites for approval to process for land use change. Out of these four proposals, Government has accorded approval in two cases and the remaining two cases have been referred back to DDA for necessary facts and details. The land use change has been notified in one of the two cases approved by Government. According to present estimates, most of the shops in service centres at the four sites which are free from encroachment will be disposed of by DDA by the end of 1995.

Reserved Posts for SCs/STs

7667. SHRI PHOOI. CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for SCs/STs and other categories in his Ministry and its subordinate offices;

(b) the number of these posts lying vacant;

(c) since when these posts are lying vacant and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken or to be taken to fill them up?

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

SAARC Charter

7668. SHRI TARA SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Dakshes charter me sansodhan sambandhi sujhav namanjoor" which appeared in "Hindustan" dated May 5th, 1995,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has been insisting upon all member countries for incorporating certain basis changes into the SAARC charter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government and the other member countries thereto country-wise?

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

(b) to (d) The President of Pakistan had in his statement made on May 2, 1995, at the inaugural session of the Eighth SAARC Summit Meeting of the Heads of State or Government, held in New Delhi, called for a review

of the SAARC Charter so that politically contentious issues could be discussed in the SAARC forum. In his statement at the inaugural session, the Prime Minister of Nepal had stated that SAARC should also create opportunities to discuss bilateral and political issues. No other SAARC Heads of State or Government in their statements at the Eighth SAARC Summit called for a review of the SAARC Charter or proposed that politically contentious issues should be discussed in the SAARC forum.

At the time when the SAARC charter was drawn up and endorsed by Heads of State or Government of SAARC Countries, these issues had been considered and a conscious decision was taken that bilateral as well as politically contentious issues should be excluded from the SAARC forum. The SAARC Charter explicitly states that "bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations". The SAARC Charter also states that "decisions at all levels shall be taken on the basis of unanimity".

[Translation]

Maintenance of Thermal Power Plants

7669. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

Year	Thermal Power Generated in MU	As per Srinivasan Committee Report			P.M. (%)	Actual F.O. (%)	Total	Diff. (%)	Loss (MU)
		P.M. (%)	F.O. (%)	Total					
1993-94	247757	12.0	7.0	19.0	8.8	13.2	22.0	3.0	7432
1994-95	262868	12.0	7.0	19.0	8.1	14.7	22.8	3.8	9989

(c) In order to improve the performance of old thermal power stations a massive Renovation and Modernisation programme was launched in 1984. The latest sanctioned cost of the schemes covered under the programme is Rs. 1190.05 crores comprising of Rs. 426.52 crores under Central Loan Assistance (CLA) and Rs. 763.53 crores under State Plan/own resources.

(d) Various measures being taken for optimum utilisation of the installed capacity in the country include Renovation & Modernisation of old units, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, vigorous implementation of preventive maintenance schedules and training of operation and maintenance personnel.

[English]

Development of Godavari and Buckingham Canal

7670. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the feasibility of goods transport in the Godavari Canal from

(a) whether there is considerable loss of electricity annually due to lack of proper maintenance of various thermal power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of loss suffered during the last two years due to improper maintenance;

(c) the funds required by the Government to ensure proper maintenance of the thermal power stations; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the recommendations contained in the Report of the Srinivasan Committee on the Modernisation of Maintenance Procedures in Large Thermal Power Stations, the planned maintenance and the forced outage rate should not exceed 12% and 6-8% respectively. The actual planned maintenance and forced outage rate during the last two years as compared to the recommendation of the above Committee and estimated loss due to difference of the two are given below:-

Kakinada to Vijayawada and Buckingham Canal from Vijayawada to Madras;

(b) If so, the findings in this regard including the name of the investigating agency; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the development of inland water transport and also goods transportation in the above two canals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The techno-economic feasibility study for development of inland water transport on the entire canal system connecting Kakinada and Madras, which includes Kakinada, Eluru, Commamaru and the Buckingham Canal has been conducted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India through their consultants namely, RITES. The field study had already been completed and the consultant has submitted the draft report.

A decision on the development of this canal system would depend on the findings of the study.

Schemes under CRF in Andhra Pradesh

7671. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the details of the schemes under the CRF in Andhra Pradesh approved and pending during each of the last five years till March, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): A statement showing the details of the schemes approved under the Central Road Fund in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise is enclosed. At present no proposal is pending consideration of the Govt.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the Schemes Sanctioned	Amount Approved (Rs. in crores)
1.	1990-91	(i) Upgrading the road between Tupilipalem & Pattapupalem of Pedagovindapal in Nellore Distt. and construction of H.L. Bridges on Swaranamukhi River and Challakalva.	2.00
		(ii) Construction of bridges across Perantala Kanuma (Kolleru lake) in Km. 4/2 of Anapadu-kooleti kota road.	1.00
2.	1991-92	(i) Formulation of a road from Venkatagiri in Nellore Distt. to Kodur in Cuddapah Distt.	2.809
		(ii) Road to Udayagiri Hill Station at Undayagiri in Nellore Distt.	2.005
		(iii) Development of Road between Mahadevpur-Mukhnoor-Kankanoor and Kataram in Karimnagar Distt. (Andhra Pradesh)	2.00
3.	1992-93	-Nil-	-
4.	1993-94	-Nil-	-
5.	1994-95	(i) Epligunta to Marripadu road (Km. 0/0 to 16/0)	0.50
		(ii) Kurrapalli to Krishnapuram Indiranagar (via) Bodabanda	0.50
		(iii) Peddireddipalli to Pamuru (via) Viruvuru Km. 0/0 to 18/0	0.50
		(iv) Vinjamuru to Chakalikonda Thimmareddipalli road Km. 0/0 to 43/4	0.50

Jurala Hydro Electric Project of A.P.

7672. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has given its clearance to Jurala Hydro Electricity Project to be commissioned in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) The Central Electricity Authority has techno-economically cleared the scheme in March, 1992 subject to the following conditions:-

(i) Clearance of the project from MOEF from (a) environmental angle, and (b) Forest Conservation Act Angle;

(ii) Concurrence of the Government of Karnataka to

sharing the cost and benefits from the project equally as per the agreement dated 4.8.78 between the two States;

(iii) In case Government of Karnataka did not concur to sharing of costs and benefits from the project, Andhra Pradesh may execute the project on its own and;

(iv) no share of the cost of Jurala Irrigation Head works would be charged to Priyadarshini Jurala H.E. Project.

While the project has been cleared by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has to comply with the other conditions before investment approval for the project is given by the planning Commission.

Import of Rifa-S

7673. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from pharmaceutical firms for taking the import of Rifa-S out of the negative list and placing it under the Open General Licence (OGL) category;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Review of the Import & Export Policy is an on going process and various suggestions/proposals are received in this regard.

The Export and Import Policy (1992-97), as announced on 31st March, 1995 has not made any change with respect to Rifa-S.

Interception of Ship by US Navy

7674. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ship carrying thousands of tonnes of dried dates to India and manned entirely by Indian crew was intercepted in the Gulf Waters by the US Navy;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the US authorities; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto and further efforts made by the Government to sort out the issue?

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

(b) The ship "Gulf Splendour" was intercepted by the US Navy off Bahrain on 18.1.95 on suspicion of violation of UN sanctions, and taken under escort to the UAE port of Umm-al-Quwain.

(c) and (d) The Government took up the matter with the US and the UAE authorities. The ship has since been released by the UAE.

Power Finance Corporation

7675. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation has taken a decision not to hike lending rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all governmental financial institutions have hiked lending rates; and

(d) the reasons for Power Finance Corporation keeping low rates of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Financial Institutions have the freedom to determine their lending rates consistent with their cost of funding and other relevant factors.

(d) Lending rates of Power Finance Corporation give due weightage to the cost of funds borrowed from various sources and the prevailing market rates.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Power in Maharashtra

7676. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of power in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bridge the gap;

(c) the total installed capacity of Maharashtra State Electricity Board and Central Electricity projects and the actual quantum of power generated therefrom;

(d) the details of new power projects being set up/proposed to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(e) the details of the financial resources in regard to these power projects; and

(f) the amount of financial assistance being provided by the Union Government to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) During the year 1994-95, the energy requirement in Maharashtra was 49525 Million Units (MU) against which the availability was 48558 MU which represents a shortage of 2%.

(b) In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability various measures taken include - expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, implementation of R&M programme, reduction of T&D losses, implementation of better demand management & energy conservation measures and transfer of power from neighbouring states/systems. In addition, the state also gets its due share from Central Sector Stations of Western Region.

(c) The total installed capacity of Maharashtra State Electricity Board as on 31.3.1995 was 7731.22 MW against which the actual generation was 37988 Million Units during 1994-95. Maharashtra has only one Central Project at Tarapur having a capacity of 320 MW, against which the actual generation during 1994-95 was 1517 Million Units.

(d) Project-wise details of capacity addition in Maharashtra during 8th Plan (Based on capacity addition of 20729.7 MW) are given below:-

Name of the Project	Type	Status (S=Sanctioned)	Total I.C. (MW)	Benefits 1992-97 (MW)
Bhandardara	(H)	S	34.0	34.0
Bhira PSS	(H)	S	150.0	150.0
Dimbhe	(H)	S	5.0	5.0
Dudhganga	(H)	S	24.0	24.0
Koyna St-IV	(H)	S	1000.0	250.0
Manikdoh	(H)	S	6.0	6.0
Sardar Sarovar	(H)	S	67.5	67.5
(27% share)				
Surya	(H)	S	6.0	6.0
Ujjani	(H)	S	12.0	12.0
Warna	(H)	S	16.0	16.0
Uran W.H.U-1	(G)	S	120.0	120.0
Uran W.H.U-2	(G)	S	120.0	120.0
Trombay CCGT	(G)	S	120.0	120.0
Trombay CCST	(G)	S	60.0	60.0
B.S.E.S.	(T)	ON-GOING	500.0	500.0
GRAND TOTAL			2240.5	1490.5

(e) and (f) The 8th Plan document indicate an outlay of Rs. 4572.64 crores for the power sector in the state of Maharashtra. There is no central assistance to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board for setting up of power project.

[English]

Offer from Canada in Power Sector

7677. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada has offered to further develop and harness the hydel potentials in India particularly in Himachal Pradesh and Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have already considered the proposals; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

7678. SHRI D.VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has identified the causes of sickness of Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Revival Package for Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. was formulated by the management of IDPL. This package was got vetted and analysed by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Bombay. The main reasons for losses of the company, as identified in the package, are inherent design deficiencies; inflexibility in the product-mix; disruptions and fluctuations in power supplies; locational disadvantages; unremunerative prices for products of IDPL which are mainly under the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO); availability of imported bulk drugs at cheaper rates leading to low capacity utilisation; existence of excess manpower leading to high employment cost;

inadequate marketing and sales policies; high incidence of interest burden and decline in budgetary support over the years, etc.

The Revival Package for the company has been approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on the 10th February, 1994. The revival period is for 10 years beginning from 1994-95.

[Translation]

Power Generated in Bihar

7679. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of power, generated by power plants in Bihar, being allocated to Bihar;

(b) the percentage of power generated by power plants in Bihar controlled by National Thermal Power Corporation being allocated to Bihar;

(c) whether the generation of power by these power plants is commensurate with their capacity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) The generation from the stations under Bihar State Electricity Board is entirely fed into the BSEB grid and is consumed by the state itself.

(b) Kahalgaon STPS is the only Central Sector Station which has been operating in Bihar under the control of NTPC. The allocation of power from the above station is as under:

	Allocation	
	MW	Percentage
Kahalgaon STPS (4 x 210MW)*	285	33.9

* At present only 3 x 210 MW Units are commissioned.

(c) and (d) During the year 1994-95, as against the energy generation target of 5268 Million Units (MU) the actual generation was 3286 MU which is 62.4% of the target. The low generation in Bihar is due to higher rate of planned maintenance (26.8%), forced outage (33.7%) and partial unavailability including low load factor (19.4%).

[English]

Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore

7680. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal

from the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) regarding restructuring of its equity base;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by when this proposal will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The capital restructuring proposal of Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) envisages conversion of Rs. 200 crores worth of Government equity into 7% non-cumulative preference shares redeemable over a period of 8 years. At this stage, no time frame can be indicated for implementation of the aforesaid proposal.

Chromite Mines in Orissa

7681. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of chromite mines in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up the largest charge chromite plant of the country in Orissa;

(c) if so, the site selected for the location of that plant;

(d) the estimated cost of that plant and the capacity thereof;

(e) whether it is proposed to be set up in the joint sector;

(f) if so, the details of plan of the Government in that regard;

(g) the employment generation capacity of that plant;

(h) whether Government have decided to lease out the chromite mines in Orissa to the private sector; and

(i) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) As stated by the Government of Orissa there are 15 chromite mines in the State.

(b) to (g) The State Government of Orissa have informed that there is no such proposal. However the Orissa Mining Corporation, a State Government Undertaking is holding discussion with private companies for setting up Ferrochrome plants. These discussions are at a preliminary stage at present.

(h) to (i) As per the National Mineral Policy, 1993, the Private Sector can be given mining leases for chromite, the State Government of Orissa has however informed that they have not taken any decision in this regard.

Deep Sea Fishing

7682. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Convention on Deep-sea Fishing held in Visakhapatnam on the April 24, 1995 urged the Government to cancel all licences issued to foreign companies for deep-sea fishing in Indian maritime zones, operating either independently or in joint collaboration; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) The Government have appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri P. Murari, former Secretary to the Government of India to review the policy on the subject. It has also been decided not to process any more new applications to set up deep sea fishing projects until the review is completed.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Earnings of NALCO

7683. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decline has been registered in foreign exchange earning of National Aluminium Company (NALCO) during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it will be more beneficial for NALCO to convert Alumina into Aluminium metal for sale instead of exporting Alumina; and

(d) the quantity of Aluminium imported during the last three years and the payment made thereto?

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

(b) The decline in foreign exchange earning was due to depressed international market in 1993-94 resulting in substantially low prices on London Metal Exchange as compared to 1992-93.

(c) NALCO has been designed to produce 8.00 lakh tonnes of alumina out of which approximately 4.25 lakh tonnes is for captive consumption for production of aluminium and the balance 3.75 lakhs tonnes being for export.

(d) The quantity and value of aluminium and articles thereof imported into the country during the last three years are as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity(MT)</i>	<i>Value(Rs/lakhs)</i>
1992-93	4448	8750
1993-94	73994	25154
1994-95	75237	36042

(Apr.-Dec.'94)

[English]

Amount due from MNC's

7684. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amounts are due from foreign multinational drug companies under the drug price equalisation account;

(b) if so, the total amount due, company-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to recover these dues?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The question of the quantum of liabilities is being examined by a Three Member Committee headed by a retired High Court Judge.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited

7685. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the total loss incurred by Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers during 1993-94 on account of the decontrol of complex fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): During 1993-94, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) had incurred a net loss of Rs. 12.08 crores. While this loss was mainly due to enhanced liability of interest and principal amount on Kuwaiti Dinar loan on account of exchange rate fluctuations, the net loss attributable to decontrol of complex fertilizers was estimated at Rs. 1.96 crores during the year.

Acquisition of Land by DDA

7686. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be

pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 155 dated November 21, 1991 and state:

(a) the number of times in a year Khasra Girdawari is filled up by Halqa Patwaris in Delhi and whether such Khasra Girdawari are further cross-checked by the department to ensure no irregularities;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases of the agricultural land owners violating sections 81 and 86-A of Delhi Land Reforms Act that have come to the notice of the Halqa Patwaris during the last three years; year-wise, halqa-wise and khasra-wise; and

(d) how many of (c) above were proceeded against village-wise, khasra-wise and year-wise, by the halqa Patwaris?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Twice a year. It is crossed-checked by the Field Kanungos and Naib Tehsildars.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given at (a).

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Infrastructural Problems Faced by Alang Shipyard

7687. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Alang Shipbreaking Yard in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat has been facing perennial infrastructural problems which seriously hampers its ship-building operations and full capacity utilisation;

(b) if so, the details of the problems faced by the Alang Shipyard;

(c) whether the absence of modern infrastructural facilities are partly responsible for the shipyard not being able to compete in the global shipbreaking business.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any assessment/report prepared by team of students from Delhi I.T.I. and Rajiks University of Netherlands in joint association with Central Development Planning Centrae - an Ahmedabad based institution, regarding infrastructural and other problems faced by the Alang Shipbreaking Yard has been made available to the Government recently;

(f) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the team; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to provide modern infrastructural facilities to the shipyard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), an autonomous body under Government of Gujarat and the agency engaged in the development of Ports in Gujarat, has reported that it has prepared a Master Plan for providing modern infrastructural facilities in Alang Shipbreaking Yard and steps are being taken by the Gujarat Government for making it a modern yard. GMB has also reported that the shipbreaking business has been growing rapidly at Alang as would be seen from the figures given below for the last three years:

Year	No. of Ships	LDT*
1992-93	175	9,42,601
1993-94	177	12,56,083
1994-95	301	21,73,249

Light Displacement Tonne

(e) and (f) As stated by GMB, the Report has been prepared by the Institutions mentioned in part (e) of the question. The Report refers to certain problems regarding water supply, electricity etc. It also states that facilities for permanent labour colonies are not available.

(g) GMB has reported that steps are being taken to improve all the infrastructural facilities required for the shipbreaking industry at Alang.

Non-launching of Nuclear Attacks

7688. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to announcements reportedly made at a joint press conference by the US President and the visiting Egyptian President at Washington on April 6, 1995, regarding certain member countries of NAM that US, Britain and France, three of the five members of the nuclear club, had agreed not to launch any nuclear attack against the countries which did not have atomic bombs and agreed not to acquire them;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken note of the fact that this offer rules out support of nuclear club to countries like India and Pakistan which are not party to NPT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) India believes that security guarantees by nuclear-weapons states serve no purpose unless these are unconditional and legally binding. Government has, therefore,

criticised the recent UN Security Council Resolution 984 containing negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states parties to NPT, since it discriminates between UN members and is not legally binding.

Steel Development Fund Levy

7689. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stoppage of the recovery of Steel Development fund levy has led to an increase in the profits earned by the Public Sector Undertakings in the Steel sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production cost of steel has increased on account of increase in the price of coal;

(d) if so, the approximate percentage of increase in production cost; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to make the production of Steel remunerative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Steel Development Fund levy was an element of the sale price and it was recovered from the customers and deposited with the Designated Authority. After de-regulation, main producers are free to fix their own prices. Consequent upon the withdrawal of the Steel Development Fund levy, the main producers have suitably adjusted the base prices of their different steel products. Impact of withdrawal of the levy on the profits of the Public Sector and other Integrated Steel Plants through which SDF levy was realised would depend on various factors such as quantum of sales achieved, escalation in input costs, etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Due to increase in coal price and royalty on coal, the cost of saleable steel produced by SAIL has increased by about 2% during 1994-95.

(e) The Public Sector Steel Plants have been taking

the following steps on a continuous basis to make the production of steel remunerative:

(i) Increasing capacity utilisation.

(ii) Improving productivity.

(iii) Introducing energy conservation measures.

(iv) Improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance.

(v) Improving product-mix, making value added items and meeting customer's requirements.

(vi) Reduction in consumption viz., coke rate, stores and spares etc.

Import of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels

7690. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to some shipping companies to import deep sea fishing vessels from Japan, North Korea, U.S.S.R. etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for importing the deep sea fishing vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) A list of companies who have been given permission to import deep sea fishing vessels through joint venture from Japan, North Korea and the erstwhile U.S.S.R. countries is given in enclosed statement.

(c) The reasons for allowing import of deep sea fishing vessels are:

1. Introduction of resource specific vessels for exploitation of non-shrimp resources since such vessels are not constructed in indigenous shipyards.

2. Joint venture projects involve transfer of technology in fishing, processing and marketing of fishery products.

STATEMENT

List of Companies who have been given permission for Import of Deep Sea Fishing Vessel under Joint Venture from Japan, North Korea and the erstwhile U.S.S.R. Countries

S.No.	Name of the Company	No. and type of vessels	Country of origin
1	2	3	4
1.	Oriental High Sea Fisheries Ltd., Vishakhapatnam.	1 Factory Trawler	Japan
2.	Fortune Oceanic Products Ltd., New Delhi.	3 Stern Trawlers	Estonia

1	2	3	4
3.	Leo Suzind Fisheries Ltd., New Delhi.	5 Stern Trawlers	North Korea
4.	Greenwave Marine Harvest Ltd., Hyderabad.	1 Stern Trawler	Ukraine
5.	Sarb Consulate Marine Products (P) Ltd., New Delhi.	5 Stern Trawlers	Ukraine

Steel Production by SAIL

7691. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has increased production of saleable steel in the last two years;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase of saleable steel during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) whether cost of production of such steel has increased substantially; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to control the increase in the cost of production of steel by plants under SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. SAIL Plants have increased the production of saleable steel during 1993-94 and 1994-95. The details are as follows:

Year	Saleable Steel	(Unit '000 T) % growth
1993-94	8645	3.7
1994-95	8962	3.7

(c) The cost of production of saleable steel produced by SAIL has not increased substantially in the last two years. At constant prices, the cost of production per tonne of saleable steel has actually come down.

(d) The steps taken to control/reduce cost of production include technology upgradation, increasing capacity utilisation, improving production & techno-economics, energy conservation measures and better deployment and maintenance of equipment.

Road Accidents

7692. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Motor Vehicles Act has a provision for providing auto dipper to check road accidents;

(b) if so, the number of accidents occurred as a result

of the violation of the above provision during last one year; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure compliance of this provision of the Motor Vehicles Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the provision of Central Motor Vehicles Rule 125 relating to auto dipper shall come from a force for heavy goods and heavy passenger vehicles from 26.3.96 and for every motor vehicle other than motor cycles and three wheelers from 26.3.97.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Open-Cast Mining

7693. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban open-cast mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rehabilitation plan for displaced persons in open-cast mining areas has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

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

Urban Infrastructure

7694. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International seminar on "Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development" was held in New Delhi on February 1, 1995.

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the seminar;

(c) whether it was decided that the planning and

management of the urban infrastructure had to be oriented more to the needs of the urban dwellers;

(d) if so, whether any concrete suggestions have been made in that direction;

(e) whether the Government have examined the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. An international seminar on Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development with particular emphasis on the Asia Region was held in New Delhi from the 1st to 4th February, 1995 under the auspices of the Indian Human Settlement Programme (IHSP).

(b) The seminar discussed the integrated infrastructure planning approach focussing on the following key issues:-

- acceleration of provision of infrastructure services;
- improvement of revenue position of local bodies;
- improvement of institutional capabilities of local bodies;
- reduction of negative impact on environment; and
- access of poor to urban services.

(c) It was suggested that an integrated approach to infrastructure planning and programming is essential for social and economic development, having due regard to the needs of urban dwellers.

(d) Several recommendations relating to multi-sectoral investment planning, services for the urban poor municipal finance and resources, capital market, environment and land and public-private partnership were made in the seminar.

(e) and (f) The recommendations will be helpful in addressing various issues connected with the expansion of urban infrastructure facilities stipulated in the National Housing Policy.

[Translation]

Verification of Passport Applications by MPs

7695. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give powers to the Members of Parliament to verify/certify the passport applications;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) From August 16, 1977, Members of Parliament were authorised to sign the Verification Certificates (VCs) on the passport application forms. The system of issue of VCs was done away with after Operation Blue Star in 1984. The system was reintroduced in 1989 but the authority to issue VCs was not given to MPs as many Members were not keen to issue VCs.

[English]

National Aluminium Company

7696 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) for restructuring, by converting its equity into debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

7697. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restrict export of iron ore to promote adequate production of steel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Exports of iron ore are made keeping the requirements of the domestic industry in view.

[English]

Supply of Contaminated Water

7698. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Delhi certain areas are facing threat of epidemics due to supply of contaminated drinking water;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to avoid the spreading of epidemics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) There is no threat of epidemics due to supply of contaminated water in Delhi. Water being supplied by the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking is potable, wholesome and conforms to standards laid down by the Govt. and the Bureau of Indian Standards.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Gold Mining

7699. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the locations and other details of gold mines in the country;

(b) the details of profits earned/losses suffered by these mines during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the gold consumption in the country in the highest in the world;

(d) If so, the annual gold consumption in the country for the last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether the Government is unable to meet the present demand for gold in the country; and

(f) If so, the steps taken by the Government to increase gold production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) The location of the gold mines of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) and Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML; A Karnataka State Government Undertaking) are as follows:-

Location District	State	Owner/Mines
BGML		
Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Yeppamana
Chittoor	-do-	Chigargunta Phase-I
-do-	-do-	Chigargunta Phase-II
-do-	-do-	Old Bisanatham
Kolar	Karnataka	Mysore Champion
-do-	-do-	Amalgamated Nundydroog
HGML		
Raichur	Karnataka	Hutti
Gulbarga	-do-	Mangalur

(b) The losses suffered by Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) during the last three years are as under:-

Year	(Rs./Crores; Loss-) Loss suffered by BGML
1992-93	-34.40
1993-94	-42.14
1994-95 (Prov.)	-34.86

(c) India comes in category of the countries in world which have a high level of gold consumption.

(d) No official figures on the consumption of gold in India are available. Very rough estimates suggest that the total demand for gold in India is about 800 tonnes per annum.

(e) No, Sir. The demand for gold is largely met from the recycled gold and imported gold.

(f) New occurrences of gold have been identified by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and exploration and exploitation of gold have now been thrown open to the Private Sector.

Shipping Development Fund Committee

7700. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) No, Sir, there is no proposal under consideration to revive the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee.

[Translation]

Profit From Ports

7701. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the profit accrued from ports during the last three years and the details thereof;

(b) whether this profit is as per the international standards; and

(c) If not, the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The losses or profits of the major ports are measured in

terms of operating surplus/deficit and net surplus/deficit. The details of figures of operating surplus/net surplus of the major ports for the last three years are as under:

Year	Operating surplus (Rs. in crores)	Net surplus
1992-93	511.44	510.27
1993-94	668.82	620.08
1994-95*	651.11	549.11

* Figures are provisional.

(b) There are no laid down international standards in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Points Raised by UP Chief Minister

7702. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of U.P. had mentioned several points which were below the national dignity in his welcome address to the President of Iran at Lucknow recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief Minister had sought assistance from Iran to eliminate communalism in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) According to information provided by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister, while welcoming the President of Iran at a public function in Lucknow on 18th April, 1995 made commendatory references to Iran's role in the international fora and was appreciative of Iran's positive contribution in this regard.

(e) We regard that Indo-Iranian cooperation in the recent period is characterised by a high level of mutual understanding and it constitutes a factor of peace and stability in the region.

[English]

Processing of Fruits and Vegetables

7703. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies has submitted its report to the Government regarding processing of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations;

(c) whether the Government have examined this study report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The report suggests some modifications in Plan schemes of the Government. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is formulating the perspective plan and the recommendations of the report will also be taken into consideration while formulating the perspective plan.

[Translation]

Cold Drink Manufacturing Companies

7704. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of multinational companies permitted to introduce new cold drinks in the market and its likely effect on Indian companies manufacturing cold drinks; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) M/s. Pepsi Food Ltd. M/s. Britco Foods Co. Ltd. and M/s. Cadbury Schweppes have been permitted to manufacture soft drink concentrates/Beverage essence and bases and to supply flavouring concentrates. Introduction of new brands is expected to increase competition, expand the market, create job opportunities and also to benefit the consumers through reduced prices.

Aluminium Production

7705. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the production and demand of aluminium in the country as against the targets set during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): The targets, production and demand for primary aluminium metal during the last three years is indicated below:-

(Unit: tonnes)			
Year	Target	Production	Domestic demand
1992-93	6,16,573	4,84,913	3,70,000
1993-94	4,73,720	4,64,718	4,10,000
1994-95	4,97,125	4,80,262	*4,71,000
		(Provisional)	(Provisional)

* assuming a 15% growth in demand.

[English]

World Bank Aided Transmission Project

7706. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether massive transmission project with World Bank loan has been undertaken by the Powergrid Corporation of India with a view to evacuate power from the Government sponsored generating station in North Eastern states;

(b) if so, the projected quantum of power that this network would handle and the share of power for N.E. States at 2000 AD;

(c) whether 220 KV system is adequate to evacuate power requirements for N.E. States; and

(d) if so, with this network not unnecessarily burden the N.E. States with entire cost of this project to be realized as transmission charge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The transmission projects already undertaken by POWERGRID in the North Eastern States are not being funded by World Bank.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The transmission system in North-Eastern Region States consists of 220 KV, 132 KV etc. Appreciating the need to strengthen the transmission network in the North-Eastern Region, Government have recently approved the scheme for augmentation of transmission system in South Assam, Mizoram and Tripura (132 KV).

(d) Concurrence of the beneficiary States is invariably taken for sharing of the transmission charges, which are levied by POWERGRID as per relevant guidelines / tariff notifications.

HRA to Allottees of Government Accommodation

7707. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any rule/instruction under which the house rent allowance is not to be paid to a son, daughter, daughter-in-law residing with their fathers, father-in-law in Government accommodation allotted to him;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such a rule/instruction when the accommodation cannot be regularised in their names particularly the daughter-in-law;

(d) whether there is any proposal to amend the above rules/instructions;

(e) whether the Supreme Court has given any ruling that accommodation can be regularised in the names of daughter-in-law also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (f): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Allotment of Land for LPG Outlets and Petrol Pumps

7708. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5620 on May 15, 1995 and state:

(a) the details of parties to whom letters of intent for setting up L.P.G. Dealerships in Delhi had been issued during 1993, 1994 and 1995, in favour of whom allotment of land for showroom and godowns was sought and provided;

(b) the nature of inter-se seniority maintained with respect to the incumbents to whom letters of intent for such dealership have been issued for different areas;

(c) whether allotment of lands is made solely according to availability of land in different areas, and land if available in a particular area is allotted to the incumbent to whom L.I. for that areas' distributorship has been issued without waiting for allotment to others even though they are senior to the former in point of time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) (a) The details of parties to whom letters of

intent have been issued during the Years 1993, 94 and 1995 and whose applications have been received in DDA for allotment of sites and the details of parties to whom allotment of land has been made during the year 1993, 94 and 1995 are given as per statement-I and II respectively.

(b) The date of issue of letter of intent is the effective date of seniority.

(c) and (d) Generally, allotment is made according to seniority. In exceptionally sympathetic cases, allotment is made out of turn on humanitarian consideration.

STATEMENT-I

Details of parties to whom letters of indent have been issued and whose applications have been received in DDA for Allotment of Land

S.No.	Name of Dealer Ministry Nominee	Name of Oil Co.	Location
1	2	3	4

GAS GODOWN 1993 CASES

1.	Smt. Roop Kaur	IOC	Trans Yamuna Area
2.	M/s Jal Jawan Gas Service	IOC	Pappan Kalan
3.	Sh. Rajesh Mehta	BPC	Khanpur
4.	Sh. Padanatha Salih	HPC	Shakarpur Laxmi Nagar
5.	Smt. Renu Joshi	HPC	Dilshad Garden
6.	Sh. Anuj Prasad	IOC	Vasant Kunj
7.	Sh. R. Sapra	IOC	G.T. Road Shahdara Delhi
8.	Smt. Vimla Tyagi	HPC	Patel Nagar
9.	Smt. Sudha Mullah	HPC	Yamuna Vihar
10.	AIR CDR K.S. Rao	BPC	Uttam Nagar
11.	Mrs. Rachan Pushkarana	BPC	Preet Vihar
12.	Smt. Nirma Devi	BPC	Najafgarh
13.	Smt. Bhagwati Devi	HPC	Trans Yamuna Area
14.	Smt. Saroj Jain	IOC	Delhi (Uttam Nagar)
15.	Smt. Mehbooba Syed	HPC	Gulabi Bagh/Ashok Vihar
16.	Smt. Neelam Mishra	IOC	Delhi
17.	Smt. Nargis Nawvi	BPC	Mayur Vihar
18.	Sh. V.P. Khari	BPC	Rohini
	OIL SELECTION BOARD.		
19.	Sh. Raj Bhadur Singh	HPC	Palam Village

GAS GODOWN 1994

OIL SELECTION BOARD

1.	Dinesh Verma	HPC	Indir/Todarpur/West Zone
2.	Himmat Singh	IOC	Rohini
3.	Dattaatreya Prasad	IOC	Pankha Road/Vikasपुरi
4.	Krishna Kumar Bansal	IOC	Yamuna Vihar (TYA)
5.	Mrs. Amarjit Kaur	HPC	Narela
6.	Ram Kishan	IOC	Vicinity of Karawal Nagar (TYA)
7.	Mrs. Anju Gupta	IOC	Krishna Nagar

1	2	3	4
8.	Manoj Kumar Verma	IOC	In the vicinity of Bholanath Nagar (TYA)
9.	Basheet Salt	BPC	Delhi, Turk-man Gate, Narela, Alipur Block, Khanpur Tigr, Meetapur/ Jaitpur Dilshad Garden, Patparganj
10.	Girdhari Lal	IOC	In the vicinity of Jahangir Puri.
11.	Rajiv Sagar	IOC	In the vicinity of Nangloi
12.	Madhusudan Rai	IOC	In the vicinity of Patparganj Mayur Vihar (TYA)
13.	Rajender Pal Sehrawat	IOC	In the vicinity of Sangam Vihar
14.	Smt. Meena Sharma	IOC	In the vicinity of Sagar Pur.
15.	Smt. Veena Malik	IOC	In the vicinity of Geeta Colony Jheel (TYA)
16.	Anil Kumar	IOC	Gandhi Nagar/Kallash Nagar (TYA)
17.	Anil Kumar	IOC	In the vicinity of Gulabi Bagh/Shastri Nagar
18.	Ajit Kumar	IOC	In the vicinity of Sanjay Gandhi Trans. Ng.
19.	Rakesh Jha	IOC	G.T. Road Shahdara
20.	Mrs. Laxmi Mehra	IOC	In the vicinity of Lodhi Road/Pragati Vihar.
21.	Smt. Sushila Rathl	IOC	In the vicinity of Ashok Vihar
22.	Jagdish Chand & Smt. Suchlata	IOC	In the vicinity of Raja Garden/Tagore Gdn.
23.	Miss Poonam Meheshwari	IOC	Sarvpriya Vihar/Sarvodaya Enclave.
GAS GODOWN 1994 CASES			
MINISTRY NOMINEE			
24.	Dhirender Pratap	HPC	West Patel Nagar
25.	Rajender Pal Chopra	IOC	Lawrance Road/Shakurbasti/ Rani Bagh/Tri Nagar
26.	Miss. Priya Dass	BPC	Delhi
27.	Smt. Rajni Nair	IOC	In the vicinity of Vikaspuri
28.	Lt. Col. R.C. Jetley	IOC	New Friends Colony/Sukhdev Vihar
29.	Mrs. Geeta R. Chopra	BPC	Delhi.
GAS GODOWN 1995 CASES			
MINISTRY NOMINEE			
1.	T.N. Dhar	BPC	Delhi
OIL SELECTION BOARD			
2.	Manmohan Singh	IOC	Sultanpuri, Delhi
3.	Gajraj Soni	IOC	Madanpur/Khadar/Jasola, Delhi

STATEMENT-II*Details of Allotments Made*

S.No.	Name of Dealer	Location	Case of Year
ALLOTMENT MADE IN 1993 (GAS GODOWNS)			
1.	Sh. Sunil Kumar	Site No. 4 Village Palam	1990
2.	Sh. Sidhartha Mridul	Site No. 3, Mangolpuri	1985
3.	Smt. Kastura Devi Jain	Site No. 3, Village Rithala	1992
4.	Smt. Neera Shastri	Vasant Kunj	1990
5.	Smt. Roop Kaur	Site No. 4 Kondli	1990
6.	Sh. Jal Jawan Gas Service	Site No. 1 Dwarka, Sector-20	1991
7.	Sh. Rajesh Mehta	Site No. 2 Dwarka Sector-20	1992
8.	Sh. Padannatha Salih	Site No. 2 Rohini Sector-5	1992
9.	Sh. V.P. Khasi	Site No. 3 Rohini Sector-5	1993
10.	Smt. Naragis Nagvi	Site No. 1 Kondli	1993
11.	R. Sapra	Site No. 1 Rohini Sector-5	1993
12.	Manvir Gas Agency	West of Marginal Bundh & North of Wazirabad	1991
ALLOTMENT MADE IN 1994 (GAS GODOWNS)			
1.	Smt. Renu Joshi	Site No. 2 Vikaspuri	Ban cleared in the year 1992
2.	Sh. Anuj Parsad	Site No. 1 Vikaspuri	1993
3.	Smt. Vimal Tyagi	Site No. 4 Vikaspuri	1993
ALLOTMENT MADE IN 1995 (GAS GODOWNS)			
1.	AIR CDR K.S. Rao	Site No. 3 Dwarka Sector-9	1993
2.	Dattatreya Parsad Tiwarl (OSB Case)	Site No. 3 Vikaspuri	1994

Dhaleswari Hydel Power project

7709. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dhaleswari Hydel Power project has been cleared by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the executing agency of the project;

(d) whether the executing agency is not willing now to execute the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The question of implementation of the

Project would arise after the project has been cleared, inter-alia from environmental, forest and investment angles.

Thermal Power Plant in Karnataka

7710. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up 500 M.W. Thermal Plant at Chamarajanagar in Mysore District in Karnataka by NTPC;

(b) if so, the estimated cost for the proposed project;

(c) whether any place has been identified for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the project likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):
(a) No, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has no proposal to set up 500 MW thermal plant at Chamarajanagar in Mysore district in Karnataka.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Land of Link House

7711. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land where the Link House is constructed at Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi was allotted in the name of Dr. A.V. Baliga, foundation to accommodate "Patriot" and 'Link' newsmagazines;

(b) If so, the terms and conditions of the allotments;

(c) whether Government are aware that several properties all over the country owned by Dr. A.V. Baliga Foundation are powerful being sold transferred to the friends and relatives of some powerful Directors of the Foundation;

(d) whether such selling and transfers of the property of the Foundation is permissible as per the terms and conditions of allotment of the land to the Foundation; and

(e) If not, action to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir. The land was allotted to United India Periodicals Private Limited.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Land Use Policies of State Governments

7712. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have suggested drastic changes in land use policies of State Governments to mitigate the physical cap-in attracting more tourists from overseas; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) The details are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Percentage of Hydro-thermal Power Generation

7713. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present ratio of hydro-thermal mix in power generation;

(b) whether the trend is increasing;

(c) the total coal based thermal capacity (in MW) at present and the total quantity of coal required per year to utilize the total thermal capacity;

(d) whether any estimate is made of how many years, at the present ratio of coal consumption, the fossil fuel will last; and

(e) If so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) The ratio of Hydro-thermal mix of all India installed capacity for power generation was 25.68 : 71.60 remaining 2.74% being nuclear, as on 31.3.1995.

(b) The hydro power share in the overall power generating capacity in the country which was 37.31% at the time of Independence rose up to 50.62% in 1963. Thereafter the hydro share experienced a steady decline to the present level of 25.66%.

(c) The total all India installed capacity of coal based (including lignite) thermal power stations as on 30.4.1995 is 52139.48 MW. The total coal demand estimated for the year 1995-96 is 195 Million Tonnes.

(d) and (e) With the present rate of around 0.80 million tonnes average coal extraction from the coal mines in the country, the reserves are likely to last over 100 years.

Production and Import of Chemical Fertiliser

7714. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farming community has experienced acute shortage of fertilizer during the current year;

(b) If so, the estimated requirement and actual supplies made available during the current year state-wise;

(c) steps taken to ensure adequate and timely supplies of the same;

(d) the domestic production and import of chemical fertilizers during the past three years and additional capacity added/established and steps taken to ensure adequate domestic production to meet the growing demand; and

(e) details of major projects under execution/recently cleared in fertilizer sector and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The availability of fertilisers in the country during the current Kharif season with reference to the current demand is comfortable. At present, urea is the only fertiliser under price, distribution and movement controls. The assessed demand of the States for urea during Kharif 1995 is 87.67 lakh tonnes. Necessary steps have been taken to meet this demand from the available field stocks, indigenous production and imports.

The demand and supply of decontrolled fertilisers depend on market forces.

(d) and (e) The production of fertilizer nutrients (Nitrogen + Phosphate) in the country during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 97.36 lakh tonnes, 90.47 lakh tonnes and 104.37 lakh tonnes, respectively. There is no indigenous production of potash for want of commercially exploitable reserves.

Imports of fertilizer nutrients (Nitrogen + Phosphate + Potash) during the relevant years were 29.76, 31.67 and 29.56 lakh tonnes, respectively.

The production capacity created (Nitrogen + Phosphate) in the country during the last three years, was 3.52 lakh tonnes, 3.41 lakh tonnes and 3.41 lakh tonnes, respectively.

To meet the growing demand of fertilizer nutrients, a number of new/expansion projects have been taken up for implementation. The installed capacity of the projects currently under implementation is 17 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 0.31 lakh tonnes of Phosphate. This includes the gas-based urea plant being set up in the private sector at Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh) with an installed capacity of 3.34 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen per annum. This plant is expected to start production in the last quarter of 1995. All the other projects are proceeding satisfactory as per the schedule.

Power Supply to Rajasthan

7715. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing formula for allocation of power from central power stations to each state:

(b) whether Rajasthan has been facing shortage due to less allocation from Central Power Stations; and

(c) If so, the steps taken by the Union Government to enhance power supply to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) The formula for allocation of power from Central Sector Stations to each state is given in enclosed statement.

(b) During the year 1994-95, the energy requirement in Rajasthan was 17000 Million Units against which the availability was 16080 Million Units representing a shortage of 5.4%. Entitlement Vis-a-vis actual drawal of power from Central Sector Stations during 1994-95 is given below:-

	1994-95
Entitlement (MU)	5857.9
Actual Drawal (MU)	7076.9
(%)	120.8

(c) Various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in Rajasthan include-maximising generation from the existing capacity, implementation of Renovation & Modernisation programme, reduction in T & D losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures and assistance from neighbouring state/systems.

STATEMENT

Policy adopted by the Union Government for the supply of power to the states from the central pool (Central Generating Stations)

A. Criteria for Allocation of power to the States from Central Sector Thermal/Atomic Power Stations:

- (i) 15% power is kept as unallocated at the disposal of the Centre to meet the emergency requirements of individual States from time to time;
- (ii) 10% power is allocated to the State in which the power station is located: and
- (iii) the remaining 75% power is allocated amongst the States of the region (including the 'Home State') in accordance with the energy consumed by, and the Central Plan assistance to the States during the last five years. The needs of the Union Territories are also met through appropriate allocations.

B. Present Criteria for Allocation of Power to the States from Central Sector Hydel Stations:

- (i) 15% of the generation capacity will be kept as 'Unallocated' at the disposal of the Central Government to be distributed within the Region of outside depending upon overall requirements;
- (ii) 12% of power from energy generated by the power station would be supplied free of cost to those states of the Region (including the State where the hydro-electric project is located) where distress is caused by setting up the project at the specific site, like submergence, dislocation of population; the allocation being made in proportion to the extent of such distress. The 'energy generated' figures for the purpose would be calculated at the bus bar level, i.e. after discounting auxiliary consumption but without taking into account the transmission lines losses. The extent of distress caused would be assessed for the purpose of allocation of 12% free power by the Central Electricity Authority in Consultation with the concerned States; and
- (iii) The remaining power (73%) would be distributed between the States of the Region on the basis of the energy consumed by, and the Central Plan

Assistance given to various States in the Region during the last five years, the two factors being given equal weightage.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers

7716. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted any enquiry into allegations of malpractices against certain officials of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Foreign Trips by SAIL Officials

7717. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL is incurring huge expenditure towards the frequent foreign trips by its senior officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any guidelines in this regard;

(d) whether frequent absence of senior officials of SAIL is affecting the smooth functioning of the organisation; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that SAIL is incurring a huge expenditure on foreign trips by its senior officials. The expenditure incurred on foreign tours during 1993-94 is Rs. 9.82 crores against a sales turnover of Rs. 11670 crores and net profit of Rs. 545.33 crores.

(c) Visits abroad are necessitated on account of various reasons. SAIL has undertaken massive modernisation of its steel plants for which Technology and equipment are being acquired from different overseas suppliers. Senior officials are required to be deputed abroad to hold discussions with the foreign suppliers. Employees are also trained abroad at the works of different suppliers to learn the operation and maintenance of new

equipment, and also to imbibe the best operational practices. Visits of a commercial nature are also required to sustain and develop export markets for SAIL's products.

All overseas visits are undertaken with the prior approval of chairman, SAIL. Visits of Chairman, SAIL abroad require Government approval. All proposals are carefully scrutinised from essentiality angle, before approval is accorded.

(d) It is not a fact that absence of senior officials is affecting the performance/functioning of SAIL. Visits abroad are organised with prior planning and appropriate alternate arrangements are made to ensure smooth functioning of work.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Power Projects

7718. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given any assurance on April 29, 1995 in Orissa to assist State Government to set up power plants; and

(b) if so, details of the kind of assistance proposed to be provided to state Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation

7719. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether start-up down payment by the Gujarat Government for the joint-sector Gandhar power project company (Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation) has been withheld pending an enquiry into certain irregularities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the nature of irregularities,

(c) whether investigation into the alleged irregularities has already been initiated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Corruption in Ministry

7720. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of corruption in the organisation working under his ministry;

(b) if so, the number of officials against whom action has been taken and the number of those who have suspended from service;

(c) whether the officers found involved in cases of corruption and misconduct are only being transferred from one station to another; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to take stringent action against the corruption officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Reports have been received from time to time regarding corruption prevailing in various passport offices.

(b) During the past 3 years action has been initiated either departmentally or by the security agencies in 31 cases. These cases are at various stages of inquiry, initiation of disciplinary proceedings or at final stage of decisions to impose penalties. 14 officials of the Central Passport Organisation have been suspended during the last three years. Services of two employees have been terminated.

(c) and (d) Transfer in some cases is resorted to if it is found that the continuance of an official at a particular station is likely to prejudice the course of investigation or is otherwise not in public interest. All cases in which allegations of corruption and malpractices have been made and in which there is prima facie evidence of an official being involved are duly investigated and pursued actively and seriously in accordance with the prescribed procedures by the Department or the security agencies. In cases where it is established that an official is guilty either of committing irregularities in the grant of passports or is found to have accepted illegal gratification, a penalty, as prescribed in the rules, is imposed on the guilty official.

[English]

World Bank AID for Power Projects

7721. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has been giving financial assistance to privatise some power projects in the country;

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

(c) the details of power projects proposed to be privatised in each State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) International Finance Corporation, one of the arms of World Bank have envisaged interest in investment/lending in some of the private power projects such as Jegurupadu GBPP (235 MW) of Andhra Pradesh, Balagarh TPS (2 x 250 MW) of West Bengal, Zero Unit TPS at Neyveli (250 MW) and Pillaipermai nallur (300 MW) of Tamil Nadu etc. The exact details of investment/lending would be known after these projects achieve financial closure. So far, none of these projects have achieved Financial closure.

N.T.P.C.

7722. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the country and location thereof in each State;

(b) the year when those power plants had been set up and the total land acquired for the purpose in each State;

(c) the number of people affected due to the establishment of those power projects, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of those displaced people; and

(e) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Statement-I indicating the details of power projects of National Thermal, Power Corporation (NTPC), alongwith location and the land acquired is enclosed.

(c) A State-wise statement-II indicating the number of families affected due to commissioning of these power projects is enclosed.

(d) and (e) NTPC has taken a number of steps for the rehabilitation of the displaced/affected people. The displaced persons are provided with free plots in fully-developed resettlement colonies with all infrastructural facilities. For the rehabilitation of affected people in all projects, NTPC carries out a retrofit socio-economic survey, based on which a remedial action plan is worked out. This plan brings about improvement of the available infrastructure in the resettlement colonies and also helps in imparting training to enhance the skills of the affected people to improve their employment opportunities or to enable them

to be self-employed. For rehabilitation of the affected people in new/future projects, a detailed socio-economic survey is conducted to identify all project-affected persons whose livelihood is affected by the acquisition of their land. A comprehensive rehabilitation action plan is prepared, in consultation with the affected persons, their representatives and the respective State Governments. The action plan

takes into consideration the preferences of the affected people from amongst the various rehabilitation options within the overall purview of the policy framework. These include the land-for-land option, various self-employment/ income-generating schemes, allotment of shops, etc., with necessary financial, technical and administrative support from NTPC.

STATEMENT-I

Details of NTPC Projects

Project Completed	Capacity (MW)	Location	Commissioning Year	Total land acquired (Acres)
Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station	2000	Distt. Sonebhadra U.P.	1987-88	4753
Korba Super Thermal Power Station	2100	Distt. Bilaspur M.P.	1988-89	5142.4
Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station	2100	Distt. Karim Nagar A.P.	1989-90	10327
Farakka Super Thermal Power Station Stage I & II	1600	Distt. Murshidabad West Bengal	1993-94	4330
Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station St. I	1260	Distt. Sidhi, M.P.	1990-91	6264
Rihand Super Thermal Power Station St. I	1000	Distt. Sonebhadra U.P.	1989-90	4680
National Capital Power Project	840	Dadri, Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P.	1993-94	2464.6
Anta Gas Power Project	413	Distt. Baran, Rajasthan	1989-90	390
Auraiya Gas Power Project	652	Distt. Itawah, UP	1990-91	511.24
Dadri Gas Combined Cycle Power Project	817	Ladri, Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P.	1993-94	
Jhanor-Gandhar Gas Power Project	657	Distt. Bharoch, Gujarat	1994-95	474
Kawas Gas Power Project	656	Distt. Surat, Gujarat	1992-93	568
Feroze Gandhi Unchahar TPS	420	Distt. Rae-Bareilly U.P.	Acquired by NTPC in 1991-92	1953

acquired with NCTPP, Dadri (Coal Based).

STATEMENT-II

Details of families effected state-wise due to setting up of power projects.

State	Project	Total No. affected families	No. of families displaced
Uttar Pradesh	Auralya	287	4
	NCPP, Dadri	2291	-
	Rihand	1807	678
	Singrauli	1752	721
	Unchahar	1207	-
		<hr/> 7344	<hr/> 1403
Madhya Pradesh	Korba	1057	560
	Vindhyachal	2515	1684
		<hr/> 3572	<hr/> 2244
Andhra Pradesh	Ramagundam	3685	782
West Bengal	Farakka	6910	-
Bihar	Kahaigaon	3587	170
Orissa	Talcher	1025	114
Rajasthan	Anta	152	-
Gujarat	Kawas	51	-
	Jhanor-Gandhar	158	-
		<hr/> 209	

[Translation]

Rural Electrification Corporation

7723. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national work-shop had been organised on January 27, 1995 to make the role of Rural Electricity Cooperative societies more effective in the rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association of U.S.A. has also extended its cooperation in the programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):
(a) Yes, Sir. A National Workshop on "Emerging Role on

RE Cooperatives-Strengthening through National Alliance" was jointly organised by NCUI (National Co-operative Union of India) and Rural Electrification Corporation on January 27-28, 1995.

(b) The major recommendations of the Workshop are as follows:-

- (i) Extension of coverage of Electric Cooperatives to both rural as well as Urban areas in the country.
- (ii) Complete re-orientation of Rural Electric Cooperatives to enable them to meet the challenges in the light of the new economic policy and privatisation initiatives.
- (iii) Formation of a National level Federation to act as a spokes persons on behalf of Rural Electric Cooperatives, besides providing technical and managerial support services and to undertake promotion of Electric Cooperatives in rural and urban areas.

(c) The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association of America (NRECA) participated in this Workshop.

(d) NRECA endorsed the recommendations of the Workshop, particularly regarding setting up of a National level Federation of Electric Cooperative in India.

Power Projects in Haryana

7724. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Haryana has submitted any proposal for setting up of thermal power plants, in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of approved power projects;

(d) the time by which construction work of the power projects is likely to be completed;

(e) whether the Government have approved the proposals submitted by multinational companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):
(a) and (b) No proposal submitted by the Government of Haryana for installation of a thermal power project in the State is under consideration at present.

(c) and (d) Panipat Thermal Power Project, Stage-IV, Unit-6 (210 MW), was approved by the Planning Commission in July, 1989 for implementation in the State Sector. The construction work in respect of this project was planned to be completed in 1996-97, but progress of work

at site is slow on account of paucity of funds with the State.

(e) and (f) No proposal submitted by multinational companies for installation of a thermal power project in Haryana has received approval.

[English]

Visit of UN High Commissioner of Human Rights

7725. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights had visited India during the first week of May, 1995;

(b) if so, the purpose of his visit;

(c) whether he had also visited Jammu and Kashmir and held discussions with the State Government, Hurriyat Conference leaders and other political leaders etc, and also visited Migrant's camps in Jammu;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the gist of the view-points put forward before him;

(e) whether in Delhi he called on the Prime Minister and other dignitaries and leaders, etc.;

(f) if so, the gist of the matters discussed;

(g) whether the Commissioner also visited other places in the country;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) At the invitation of the Government of India the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso visited India from 30th April to 6th May 1995. The purpose of the visit was to engage in a dialogue with the Government of India in accordance with the High Commissioner's mandate.

The High Commissioner visited Jammu and Kashmir and held discussions with the State Governor, Hurriyat Conference leaders, leaders of traditional political parties and senior civil and military officials. He also visited the two migrant's camps in Jammu. He was apprised by the officials and the leaders of traditional political parties of Pakistan's support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir which has resulted in gross violation of human rights of innocent civilians. The Hurriyat leaders raised the issue of alleged human rights violations by security forces.

(e) and (f) The High Commissioner called on the Prime Minister and other dignitaries. During discussions in

Delhi the High Commissioner was informed of safeguards for protection and promotion of human rights available to all citizens in India. He was also briefed about Pakistan's support to terrorism in the Valley, resulting in violation of human rights of civilian population. Government's commitment to protecting human rights in a transparent manner was highlighted.

(g) and (h) UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also visited Chandigarh. During his visit the High Commissioner held discussions with Punjab Chief Minister, State Government officials, Human Rights Activists, NGOs, media and members of the public.

(i) The visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has resulted in better understanding of human rights situation in India. The High Commissioner expressed appreciation of India's policy of transparency and openness in promoting and protecting human rights.

Press Conference of US Commerce Secretary

7726. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Commerce Secretary held his press conference in New Delhi in front of Rashtrapati Bhawan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has granted any permission in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) US Commerce Secretary, Mr. Ron Brown, following a meeting in South Block, had an unscheduled session with some members of the Press in front of Rashtrapati Bhawan on 17 January, 1995 during his visit to India. As such the question of grant of permission did not arise.

(e) Government of India cannot object to holding of such impromptu press interactions anywhere so long as no regulations are violated and if the visiting dignitary so desires.

Journeys Conducted by Sail Officials

7727. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of journeys conducted by the high-ups of SAIL within the country during the last three years in its planes, year-wise;

(b) the purpose therefor and the details of the officers who had conducted the above journeys and private persons accompanied by them;

(c) the estimated amount spent on each of such journey;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise the wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Invisible Gold

7728. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether invisible gold has been mined in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the approximate reserves of invisible gold in that state;

(c) whether exploitation of these gold resources will be economically viable;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to extract the invisible gold from these resources; and

(e) the details thereof?

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

(b) No survey has been carried out in Karnataka or in any part of the country for 'invisible gold'. Question for establishing reserves does not arise.

(c) to (e) The association of gold with arsenopyrite is well-known and this association was used as path-finder for location of 'free gold'. The mining activity in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) is restricted at present to 'free gold'. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML) is in touch with the Scientists of Department of Geology, Karnataka University, Dharwar to know the details of their work on 'invisible gold' in Gadag gold field.

Bungling by DDA Engineers

7729. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee set up to inquire into the

lack of proper civic services in Rohini, the Asia's biggest residential colony in Delhi, has uncovered a major scandal in which over Rs. 100 crore were siphoned off by a group of DDA engineers between 1980-94, as reported in the Indian Express dated May 4, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of engineers of DDA involved in this bungling;

(d) the action taken or contemplated by the Government against all those responsible for the said scandal; and

(e) the preventive steps Government propose to take to avoid recurrence of such scandals in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Development Authority has reported that the Vice-Chairman DDA had constituted a Committee on August 2/3, 1993 under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.S. Anand, the then Principal Commissioner, DDA, to examine certain aspects of poor condition of roads in Rohini Phase I & II. In its report, the Committee observed large excesses in overall Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction in the works at Rohini, Phase I & II, for which revised approval was not obtained in all cases. Besides other issues, the Committee has also reported heavy deviations in the works. Two Vigilance Units have been created in the Department under the charge of a Commissioner for inquiring into vigilance cases pertaining to Rohini.

(c) and (d) DDA has reported that the names of the DDA engineers involved in the case can be identified/ascertained only after completion of the enquiry by the units set up for the purpose. Punitive action against indicted DDA officials could be taken under DDA (Salaries, Allowances and Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1961.

(e) Instructions have been issued to all the Chief Engineers in DDA on 28.9.1994 for avoiding similar types of lapses.

Meeting of Hurriyat Conference with Pak President

7730. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a four members delegation of the All Party Hurriyat Conference headed by its Chairman met the President of Pakistan during his recent visit to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the matters discussed at the meeting;

(c) whether the Government has accorded permission to Hurriyat Conference leaders to meet the Pak President;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken-up the matter with Pakistan;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) According to available information, on 4 May, 1995 some leaders of the All Party Hurriyat Conference met the President of Pakistan at New Delhi. During the 90-minute meeting held in the premises of the Pak High Commission, the Hurriyat leaders reportedly conveyed to the Pak President their views apropos the situation in J & K.

(c) and (d) The Hurriyat leaders chose to accept the Pak invitation in their individual capacities.

(e) to (g) Pakistan misutilised the occasion of the visit of their President to India to attend the Eighth SAARC Summit (2-4 May, 1995) to indulge in propagandistic activities of this nature.

We believe that exercises of this nature do not in any way whatsoever alter the true facts of the situation in J & K involving Pakistan's aiding and abetting of terrorism and subversion and its complicity in activities which are violative of the basic norms of Inter-State behaviour.

12.04 3/4 hrs.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today with your permission I want to place before the House a most important case of breach of privilege. This is not only contempt of the House but also of the law of the country and intentionally obstacles have been placed in the way of a Member so as to stop him from discharging his duties. Last year, due to your shortsightedness and magnanimity Members were sanctioned Rs. one crore each for development work in his area under Local Area Development Scheme but may be hurdles were intentionally placed in their ways so that this amount may not be spent on development work. Not only this, this amount was misappropriated. Thus this becomes a case of breach of privilege as well as contempt of the House I want to tell this to the House through you.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not needed. If this is to be forwarded to the Privileges Committee, you only say so briefly and not in detail.

[English]

Otherwise there will be a lot of confusion. It is not necessary. What you want, you will get it but if you explain all those things, there are so many things, you know, which have to be explained by the other side also.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: I want to say this because this is my opinion

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked that it should be referred to the Committee of Privileges. I am allowing it.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Yes, Sir, this is right I would like to say that this case of breach of privilege has been brought against DDC of Dhanbad there are many Members sharing such experiences. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, sit down. I have gone through it thoroughly. Whatever complaints or accusations were brought up against the officers, the officers were asked to submit their replies within the fixed period. They however, failed to submit their replies even after the period granted was over. I am, therefore, referring it to the privileges committee. The Committee will decide about the action to be taken in such cases. If things continue this way. This scheme cannot be fully implemented.

[English]

SHRI M.G. REDDY (Chittoor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of privilege under Rule 222 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given you consent. You cannot raise it here.

[Translation]

You had raised this question yesterday also and I gave you the time.

After that you are again raising it today.

[English]

SHRI M.G. REDDY: I need your ruling in the matter.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: My ruling is that this is not a breach of privilege.

[English]

SHRI M.G. REDDY: How is it? Today also three Members have given notice.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If three or four Members say, then does this become a breach of privilege? No, it is not like that.

[English]

Please take your seat first. These are constitutional matters. Let us be very careful about it. What is being done, we may not agree with it. We may have complaints about it. We would like it to be corrected and rectified also. At the same time, if you are filing a notice of Breach of Privilege against a constitutional authority, it is not allowed. Under the Constitution, if you want to discuss his actions, you shall have to come to the House with the signatures of hundred Members of Parliament and after that also I have to refer it to the Committee and the Committee has to investigate into it. You, I and the House are not given any authority to deal with this matter in this fashion. Please understand it. I allowed you because you were agitated at that time. But if you are continuing to do it everyday, how can we do it? It is not possible. Please understand.

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Then wherefrom could I get help, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: You propose a *via media* in the chamber. I will understand it better. My understanding is little limited. I may need the repetition also.

ELECTORAL REFORMS

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you, Bye-elections have been held recently in the whole country. I am sorry for being absent from the House for the last 5-7 days. Bye-elections have been going on this country for the last one year. I toured Uttar Pradesh in connection with bye elections and on the last day I witnessed the bye-election in Sahsawan with my own eyes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government and this House are vested with vast powers. Ways can be found out to rectify the disorder and the dismanagement. I have contested elections from Badayun several times but after many years I attended the polling day for the bye-election of Sahsawan Legislative Assembly. I read in newspapers for some days that discussions were going on in the country about electoral reforms. This topic has already been discussed several times because this subject is very crucial. A way must be found to solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ruling party was using 80-85

vehicles. I saw that opposition parties were also using vehicles according to their financial capacity. My party was also using more vehicles than they ought to. I observed that propaganda was at full pitch, like it happened during Bhoodan Andolan when the whole land was distributed. More discussions seems to be going on in the country over electoral reforms. Younger brother of the Chief Minister was heading the fleet of 12-13 vehicles with 60 persons sitting in these vehicles, who were carrying sten-guns and other fire arms with them. They were asking the people everywhere to leave the polling site.....

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Let us raise the point about the poll position in Bihar.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I am not stopping you from raising the issue about.....I have, myself said that my party was also using more vehicles than required but you could not hear it...(Interruption)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sharad Yadav ji, I do not know whether I have to caution the Members not to confess.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am leaving this point. When on the last day of the polling I came to know that D.M. and S.P. were sitting in the Police Station, I went there and I saw that they were eating watermelon. On my telling them that there was total disorder as polling material was being looted, journalist were there to report the situation, they told me that everything was in order and offered me cashewnuts to eat. When I again told them that everything was in a sorry state and that I knew everything, they said nothing except that everything was in order. Just then two vehicles full of journalists came there who had photographed and tape-recorded everything and told us whatever was actually happenings upon. They said that they already had that information. On this I told them that they were wrong. When you knew that all such things were happening there, why you did not place the facts correctly.

Sir, thereafter I went to all the places from where I received the complaints. I went to Malik Bichola and Bhakt Nagla. There the people had gone away after looting everything. I told the Sector Magistrate, Zonal Magistrate, S.P. and DSP to arrest those people but they appeared to be totally helpless. Vehicles were running everywhere, poll materials were being looted, and all this was happening amidst talks about electoral reforms. There is total mismanagement. Nobody was ready to listen to poll observer. Now with the ruling party in the fray, the possibility of other parties winning the elections is quite bleak. I have observed that the administration has become

totally ineffective. They are not prepared to see or admit any wrong. People got in writing from the workers of different parties that booth capturing took place and submitted it to the Presiding Officer. But now they say nothing of this sort took place at that place.

As for the electoral reforms, I would like to submit to you that there have been discussions in the House several times on this Topic. After all this is not for the benefit of a single person. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government that when there will looting in our election and no polling will be held, end of all of us is certain. The India became independent after many years and in an independent country if the poor has any power, it is the power to vote, that is why we all are worried about this. We have to worry about even for a petty cause. If the poor is prevented from voting through such loots, the poor people of the country will face more difficulties and troubles in this matter than in any other matter. This is a serious matter because in the whole of the bye-election, loot was the order of the day-right from Sakharkhera to Unnao and Katra Bazar. After reporting everything to the Election Commission, there is nobody to listen to or even to pick up the Telephone receiver. But this does not mean that phone call from a representative elected by 10th lakh people should not be attended to. If the Constitutional Head becomes so ineffective that he sees nothing, not even a man or a Member of the Lok Sabha...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Sharad ji, If you agree I shall bring a breach of privilege against them.

SH. SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot say anything to you. I am only expressing about my worries.

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking nicely, that is why I am not stopping you.

SH. SHARAD YADAV: I would like to say that things are in such a bad shape that the Government should do something about it. I am sorry to point it out. I request all the political parties and the Government that the matter regarding electoral reforms does not relate to one person and can be carried out through mutual co-operation. With the loot going on, our Democracy is in danger. This is, what I want to tell you.

SH. RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by Sharad ji, I would like to add a few more things to it. In this House, discussions about electoral reforms have been held several times but the position in this respect has gone from bad to worst. The more we talk about electoral reforms here, the more irregularities are being committed in the electoral region. I would like to tell you that on the morning of 26th I met the Observer at Sahsawan. Sharadji, you also listen as you

do not know it. I met the Observer at 7 AM in his Guest House and I gave him in writing as to what was going to happen on 27th and requested him to make pre-arrangements to meet the situation. I have his signed acknowledgement to my letter. I told him that they have planned booth capturing. The collector and the SP are helpless being under the undue pressure of the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister's brother....(Interruption)* is incharge of election there. The Chief Minister came there and told during his speech that at 11 AM, a big storm would come and that they could only watch and do nothing. The storm did come. Chief Minister's younger brother ... (Interruption)...came with 12-14 vehicles armed with dozens of rifles.

MR. SPEAKER: Name will not go on record.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Let the name be omitted, it is not important. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the irony is, we the people belonging to political parties have been given permit for two jeeps only.

MR. SPEAKER: Please look, I have already told that these issues cannot be placed here like this. If you are talking anything about electoral reforms, I shall listen but if you deal with a particular incident, we have no power to act on it.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Please give me an opportunity, I am coming to that. This is regarding reforms in the Election Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to talk about electoral reforms, we all shall listen to them. You may talk after keeping that thing in view but if you want some remedy from the House, we have none.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless we tell you about our ailment, how can you recommend any remedy. So please first listen to our ailment, to our pain.

MR. SPEAKER: As Shri Sharadji has said, after saying a little, come to the electoral reforms.

SH. RAJVEER SINGH: I shall finish my talk in two minutes. People belonging to other parties were allowed two permits one for the election agent and the other for the candidate. We obeyed the rules of the Election Commission sincerely. However it does not apply to Sh. Sharadji, who as admitted by him, did not follow this rule. But we did follow the rules and the result was that there booth capturing took place and we could not do anything about it. We even could not go there. We immediately informed the Election Observer and phoned the Election Commission but we came to know...(Interruption)*

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Chief Election Commissioner had gone to Kashmir. We phone his subordinates but they too were not available. The situation was election booths were being captured. Those people were going about with rifles. One man came and said Chief Minister's brother had come. All officers used to stand before him. In the meanwhile ballot papers were seized, stamped and put in the ballot boxes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, at least ballot papers without Presiding Officers signature could have been cancelled. Things have come to such a pass that people have completely lost faith in elections. There is no need for elections. Now the ruling party should just be told to nominate candidates. There the women and men voters stood in the sun who were driven away at the point of guns. Workers and polling agents of the opposite parties who tried to object to the goings on at the polling stations were mercilessly thrashed with rifle butts and one polling agent was kidnapped by taking him in a vehicle. He was freed with great difficulty. This is the situation in Srawankhera. The position in Katra Bazar was the same. The situation in Unnao was also the same. In Sahsawan I was myself present so I saw everything with my own eyes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that if such happenings continue to take place, what will be final result? There not only we but even Congress candidate was also thrashed. His men were driven away after beating them up. It is our bad luck that Congress people have become habituated to put up with such incidents because they are with the Government of Sh. Mulayam Singh. His Government is supported by them and so they will not be able to do anything. I would like to request the whole House through you that time has come to consider this serious issue. Shortly we shall elections for the Lok Sabha and if the situation continues to be the same, not a single MP from the Opposition parties will get elected. They will not be allowed to vote. Votes will be cast at the point of the gun... (Interruption)

[English]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS (Mysore): Sir, you make the adult franchise compulsory. Please do some reforms.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I will allow you later.

[Translation]

SH. RAJVEER SINGH: It is a matter of concern. If goondalism takes precedence over democracy in the

country, this will signify the death of democracy. I wish to say that this issue should be dealt with utmost seriousness.

SH. NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question just raised by Shri Sharad ji, contains suggestions for electoral reforms. In this connection, I would like to put forward my views. This fact has already been stated by him that wherever there is ruling party, they can do anything right or wrong. Since here the supporters of UP Chief Minister are almost nil, everything is being listened to peacefully but the Chief Minister who is having supporters here, it becomes difficult to say anything about him. If we discuss it further, we cannot have our say.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is happening in the name of elections, in this connection first I would like to take up painful case of Bihar. It is more than 50 days when elections were held there but so far Chief Electoral Officer has not received 324 results. Election petition is required to be filed within 45 days for which certified copy is required but they could not obtain a certified copy and so could not file the election petition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the account of Form-16 is available from the Polling Booth but no presiding officer gives the account. Under rules it is their duty to furnish completed Form-16. If somebody does not take it, it is required to be noted. Nobody got Form-16. The difference of figures between Form-16 and Form-21 is 30 to 40 thousand but the result was declared. Thus the so called popular mandate was also projected. It is no longer needed to be discussed and how the counting was carried out.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is expenditure limit in the name of electoral reforms. Election dates are indefinitely being extended. People have to maintain two Registers. Election Expenditure observers are taking rounds. Dates are extended. After all when to record the expenditure. Now so far as the position of counting is concerned, if the counting procedure which was adopted for the last Legislative Assembly elections, procurement of counting agents for candidates will become difficult because the counting continues for 72 to 80 hours and no substitute is allowed to go inside whichever Returning Officer may be sitting there, if somebody has to come out to attend to natural calls, then he cannot re-enter inside. No eatable can be sent for him, if it is sent, the same will be looted on the way. In every counting hall, a wire-net is fixed. At a sufficient distance from the net, a table is placed from where no body can clearly see which symbol has been stamped. If somebody raises any objection, CRP and BSF men who are stationed inside are asked to thrash him with sticks. You will be surprised to know that let alone my party members who are sitting here, Mohd. Hidayatulla, ex-President of the Bihar Congress Committee, who also served as a Minister and Speaker of the Bihar Legislative

Assembly and is presently Chairman of the Minority Financial Commission, he too was not allowed to enter the counting hall.

There are not one but several such instances. If a candidate wants to come out of the Hall, he is not allowed to re-enter once he comes out and if he protests, he is thoroughly thrashed. Results are declared under such conditions. The account of Form-16 has not been received till today. After fixing the wire net in the hall, the condition of polling agents becomes worse than that of animals. I myself was contesting election from Bihar and when I went into the counting hall at the time of certification, my heart cried at the conditions prevailing inside and I shall never want to depute any Polling Agent to that place next time. If people are made to sit inside for 80 hours without food or without being allowed to attend to their natural calls, their plight can be well imagined. Ballot boxes of all the booths are brought together and their ballot papers are mixed together at a far corner where no one can see them. When ballot boxes are opened nobody can see whether they are sealed or not; if paper seal is affixed or not. Nobody is there to check it. If somebody protests, he is thrashed with sticks and turned out. If such incidents happened before that would have created an uproar, but today this is the state of affairs in every constituency. If you are supporter of the ruling party, you will not be able to say anything, if you are not a supporter, you may publicise all the incidents in the whole constituency, nothing is going to happen.

I would like to say, through you, that extensive electoral reforms may be carried out when the Ruling Party brings in a proposal. But the present procedure adopted for counting is nothing but a farce. Such counting has no meaning. I wish to say that the old procedure of counting should be restored in which results are declared within 36 hours. In to-day's situation no result is declared before 72 or 80 hours. The number of candidates is ever increasing on one side and the length of the ballot paper is also becoming longer which offers every possibility for fraud. The observers are present there but when somebody lodges a complaint to them they say,

[English]

I am here to observe, I am observing everything and I will report to the Election Commission.

[Translation]

When the complaint is lodged with the Election Commission it is said, "you have the FAX facility". If somebody goes out for making a FAX, he cannot re-enter the hall. That means nobody can come out of the counting hall.

Therefore, through you, I shall request the Govt. that

the whole House should take the initiative to restore the old procedure of counting. The polling agents seated near the table are supposed to see that instead of 100%, 120% polling has taken place. Counting is still going on because all ballot boxes have been already mixed. If somebody tries to object, he is told how does he know what happened in a particular booth. People know everything. They are seeing that ballot papers are being poured into the drum, counting experts know boxes from which booth are being emptied but these things have no meaning now and the whole exercise has become a farce. We request that when you want to carry out extensive electoral reforms you may do that but as elections for Parliament are due shortly, please restore the old procedure of counting immediately, then only people will get justice. It will be better if no candidate is allowed to enter the counting hall. He may do whatever he likes I would like to submit the same situation prevails everywhere. This is our grief...*(Interruption)*. I mean to say that the system of booth-wise counting should be restored.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the last week of the present Session and I am happy that Shri Sharad Yadav has raised a question which is basic to our democracy. This is not limited to the constituency of Sahsawan. But all in all Shri Sharad ji and Nitish ji has referred here to two states. In both of them elections were held extensively and on a large scale. These two are the largest States in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, election system was on test in these States. How refined and pure our democracy is, was also on test. No doubt, the incident which was described, its magnified image came to light in both of these states. Although appropriate action will be taken in such cases but one concrete point has emerged and that is counting of votes which was earlier used to be carried out Polling Station-wise, was changed then all the Parties requested that the counting should be done Polling Station-wise and so the system was reverted. The proposal of mixing which came before was accepted by the Election Commission and the system of mixing of votes started. However, now, people of all the parties went to the Election Commission and told him that they should know where booth capturing took place with the result that instead of 100% the voting percentage went upto 110%. This anomaly will not come to light unless counting is carried out polling booth-wise. If we do the mixing, we shall never know the voting results booth-wise.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that in some States additional ballot papers were extensively put into ballot boxes but due to mixing the anomaly could not be found. I remember that on the first day of the 10th Lok Sabha, the first question was in Mr. Vajpayee and my name

and that was regarding Electoral reforms and at that time Law Minister was Shri Vijay Bhasker Reddy and his Assistant was Shri P.R. Kumarmangalam both of whom are not members of the council of Ministers but both of them had said that their Government is committed and that electoral reforms would certainly be carried out. All the recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami Committee would be implemented. They made very tall promises but now the tenth Lok Sabha is nearing its end. How many days will it last? We do not know. Some say Monsoon Session will not be held. Again there is a contradiction. They say, no, both Monsoon and Winter Session will be held and after that elections will be held. Whatever happens but this is sure that we are passing through the last year of this Session. I would like that before the end of the Session.....

[English]

Let there be a comprehensive and definite statement on electoral reforms from the Government. Where did the Government stand? Where did the Government stand on the issue of identity cards?

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said so many times in this House that Election Commission is much talked about Shri T.N. Sheshon is also much discussed. In that some are this side and some are on the other. We take it as if Shri T.N. Sheshon will set everything right and none else.

[English]

This is an institution which we should be concerned about and it is the Government's responsibility principally and Parliament's responsibility to see that the institution of democracy functions well and in order that it functions well, this electoral reforms business is an urgent proposition.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 1971 a Joint Parliamentary Committee was formed at the initiative of Shri Vajpayee ji. I was also in it. Shri Som Nath ji was also there. After that several Committees were formed which submitted their long reports but we failed to move ahead even one step. We are not ready to move one step forward. Who is to be blamed for this? Delimitation Bill was brought in this house. The whole House was unanimous. We said not to withdraw it because there were many difference over the second Bill which was to be brought but the Govt. did not agree. After that delimitation never started.

[English]

They are not willing to do anything whether about delimitation or about identity cards and now there is this new question of how votes should be counted.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I say in this matter you keep the Election Commission out. Leave it. All the decisions taken by this House, can be complemented by it, as this House has the necessary power. Let it not be considered as a weakness but the Initiative should come from the Government side. If the Government continues to sit on these reports and throws them in the Waste paper basket. There will not be any progress. If electoral reforms are not carried out with urgency, honestly and on a priority basis, there will be no uniformity and one of our Member has said that if things continue to drift like this, there will be no elections. This is an extreme statement. I do not agree with this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after 48 years of independence although we have not been able to remove poverty, illiteracy and ignorance but we can certainly be proud of one thing-inspite of so many difficulties, we have tried to some extent, to reën our democracy on right lines and we have achieved some success in this direction. But it has some Lacunae and these lacunae are there because some political leaders, some parties have developed vested interests. It is only right that if we can do things on the basis of money-power, muscle power and Governmental power, why go in for reforms. Some persons move about in jeeps armed with guns and despite. This no action is taken against such persons, we are compelled to think that, Abuse of Government power is one of the biggest abuses. If need be, let all Parties agree without reservation that in all States where elections are due, should come under President's Rule. This is also right that President's rule will mean rule of the ruling party at the Centre. We are prepared to think of such an extreme remedy. I remember Shri Jai Prakash Narain had formed a committee in which this issue was considered and a general agreement was reached that although President's Rule may not be imposed but the Party in power should not work for that Party. This was a recommendation. I have a specific demand from you and that is before the end of the week, before adjournment, the Government should make an extensive and authorised statement stating their policy on different aspects of the electoral reforms because I firmly believe that before the coming Lok Sabha election Electoral reforms are of paramount importance.

[English]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as our hon. Opposition Member, Shri Advani, has put it, we were supposed to discuss the Electoral Reforms Bill some time back. I would like to stress here that after independence, since 1947, we have adopted our Constitution with a democratic set up wherein entitlement to franchise is a Constitutional right. Certain reforms like issue of

identity cards and other things are going on and it is an on-going process. In some States the process has been completed; in some States it is still going on; in some States it has already been in progress and in some other States it has not been able to make any progress. Apart from that, what we have been observing is that to preserve the sanctity, the meaning of democracy, some effective measures are to be taken so that we can strengthen the democratic process and we can elect the people through franchise. I think a lot of thinking has to go into these reforms.

In one of the by-elections in Karnataka, hardly 39 per cent polling was there, whatever may be the party that they chose. To bring the voters to exercise their franchise is also a very difficult thing. Money and muscle power are being used apart from liquor; we have seen that whoever gives more liquor is attracting more people. The same is the case not only in the Panchayat elections, but also in the Assembly elections, and may be in Parliament elections also. It is practically and physically very difficult to stop this thing. There is no point in saying that we are electing a democratic Government or an elected representative through a democratic process. There is no meaning in the adage that 'Government is for the people, by the people and of the people' because people never turn up to the polling centres. Of course, there may be some restrictions or there may be some apprehensions over the polling that is taking place. There may be assaults, there may be communal clashes or there may be a feeling of insecurity; these are some of the reasons. But sometimes the electorate is reluctant; when hardly 39 percent polling takes place, it means that elected representative is not representing the remaining 61 per cent of the electorate. Then, it does not have any meaning whatsoever in the democratic set up. So, it is high time that all the parties, all the leaders in the Lok Sabha should see, as our hon. Opposition Member has put it, before the closure of this Tenth Lok Sabha, that these reforms are brought. And also, the exercising of franchise should be made compulsory. In certain cases where they cannot exercise their franchise, they must produce a doctor's certificate. Otherwise, all these things will go on in their own way and there will not be any proper meaning for this democracy. Thank you,

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of electoral reforms is concerned, there are no two opinions about it. Members of every party demand that electoral reforms should be carried out. The other day also, I had said that elections are the soul of democracy and if impartial elections are not held, democracy cannot be strengthened. I do not say that the roots of democracy have been totally uprooted in this country. I,

however, reiterate that if our policy is uniformly implemented, there is no reason why the improvement cannot be made under the present system. But if the policy is not implemented properly, it become faulty.

My colleagues have talked about what happened in Bihar and that bye-elections are not being held properly anywhere. Shrimati Lovely Anand has got elected from Bihar in a bye-election. The other day, we discussed Vidarbha where the election was postponed. Elections in Kashmir have been postponed several times. It was under the same Election Commission, same code of conduct for elections and the Chief Ministership of same Lalu Prasad Yadav, Lok Sabha elections were held and opposition candidates won with a margin of thousands of votes...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am not naming any person. I am saying about the role of the Election Commission and not Election Commissioner. There is a difference between the Election Commission and the Election Commissioner...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not so.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: So far as counting is concerned, I had raised a question in this very House that if elections will be held in a State for three months, then this way, elections to Parliament will take one and a half years to complete. However, when it suited to Shri Nitish Kumar or Shri Vajpayee, all kept mum and waiting for three months...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Paswan is giving my reference. Such references should be avoided or otherwise I should get a chance to rejoin.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I can say this that three-four times...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say only this much that every Member referred to atrocities on women in detail but what about atrocities on a woman, who was a candidate. If you can kindly allow discussion on this topic, I would also like to participate in it.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow you to speak on that matter later on.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for speaking on electoral reforms on behalf of the Chair. I have raised this issue in the House

* Not recorded.

3-4 times. The Election Commission fixes the limit of one lakh thirty five thousands rupees for the election of an MLA but the elections which should have been completed in 22 days, take 3 months to complete on the same expenditure limit. Under such circumstances, how can the elections be fair. But I also say that leaders of different political parties should have taken it seriously. The election process went on for three months and it was not taken seriously. If after extending the election process for three months, Janta Dal Government were to lose, they would have felt much relieved.

I fully agree with the issue of counting. It is quite right that for 80 hours candidates were not allowed to come out. It was not a case of treasury benches or the Opposition. My younger brother was contesting the election. He was not allowed to come out for three days. At that time Janta Dal Government was not ruling the State as it was under President's Rule. In the elections, candidates of Janata Dal were neither given relaxations nor be restrictions were imposed on opposition parties. The way people, counting agents and candidates were roughed up by the BSF, that was positively improper. Therefore, I shall only say that when such an issue is raised it should not be diluted.

Just now, Shri Sharad Yadav raised a very important issue. BJP Members have also made addition to it.

Shri Man Singh Yadav, our General Secretary is lying in a hospital. He was injured not from a bullet of the Police but of a criminal. Therefore, such issues should be taken seriously.

I returned yesterday from a 3 days' tour of Jammu. In J & K there were 78 seats earlier. These have been increased to 88, an increase of 10 seats. However, not a single seat for Scheduled Tribe was increased although the population of Scheduled Tribe in Jammu alone is 15 to 20 per cent of total population. Further, not a single seat was reserved for Scheduled Castes. Shri Chandra Shekhar is sitting here. During his Prime Ministership, he brought Butchers and Bakarwals under this category. Now, Constitutional provisions are not implemented. Therefore, all these issues—electoral reforms, role and power of Election Commission etc. should be discussed in the House before it adjourns for the day. Unless something is done, the Lok Sabha elections, which are near at hand are likely to bring destruction, problems and crisis for democracy. I can feel this apprehension and it is difficult to say whether the elections will be completed in 2 or 4 or 5 years or not.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsingpur) Sir, I think, in this whole Session, this problem has been touched. I also think most of the time of the Session has been taken by all these things that are happening in regard

to elections. Our election process itself is also vitiated. Shri Advani ji is saying that there should be some electoral reforms. Neither the Government is in a position to take initiatives nor the political parties themselves do not advocate anything so strongly. What is wrong in the whole thing? Electoral reform is part of that only. But you know, Sir, many people are now thinking what will happen to the future of this country, whether there will be Parliamentary Democracy or Presidential form of Government. The total thing should be taken into consideration. Unless you take the totality into consideration, I think any patch-work will not serve the purpose. For example, take any political party. They are saying something when others are doing it and they are doing the same thing when it comes to them. So, the cause of it should be found out. Since many people are thinking that a shadow of instability is looming large, many people are advocating many things. You should also not rule it out. If you want to protect Parliamentary Democracy as things stand today, as the ground reality remains today, if you are sincere to protect Parliamentary Democracy, then you will have to take some immediate steps. Unless immediate steps are taken, all the apprehensions that are expressed by different Members that elections will continue for 10 months will become true, and you cannot rule it out. I also appeal to all the parties that what is necessary today should be done. The very basis of Parliamentary Democracy is the party system. If the political parties are not democratic, if the political parties do not function well, then the root of Parliamentary Democracy will be shaken.

This can only be done by bringing in a legislation for electoral reforms. Now in the meanwhile, there are rebel candidates in every party and individuals who have taken the primacy in the election process. Therefore, the electoral reforms should be immediately done to curb thoral practice and to strengthen the parliamentary democracy. In the election reforms, there should be proportional representation to each party through which alone, you can protect this parliamentary system. It is the best system to which we are committed. So it is high time now the Government should come up openly to see that future India is not destabilised, to see that the election process runs democratically, to see that parties are represented in the House according to their proportional strength in the country. This is the way by which we can sort this out. Otherwise, we will bring the whole country to crisis.

MR SPEAKER There are many others also to speak. So please be brief.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY We should not talk separately from the whole system. It is a part of the system and the whole system should be taken into consideration in its totality. Then only we can save this situation.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Surya Narayanji, Are you speaking on this issue ?...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would to share my own experience.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. We do not want to hear stories.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I shall not say anything.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has experience. That will take a long time.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I generally do not speak much.

SHRI MOHD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Anti Defection Law should be amended.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Anti Defection Law has rendered the MPs bonded labourers. I oppose it. Therefore, it should be amended. Do not let the MPs become bonded labourers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have contested in 6 elections and I am a witness to seventh election.

There I saw CRPF and RPF on duty which changed entire atmosphere. It seemed as if there would be no law and order problem during the elections and the common man would vote fearlessly. However, the CRPF was deployed in the cities and the city people went to the villages. In some booths, CRPF was in large numbers, whereas in other booths, even Chowkidars were missing. Where there were no Chowkidars, booths were looted with impunity. The Commission had detailed the Observers. Complaints were lodged a number of times to these Observers by candidates of every party...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: What is its relevance? Please come to the question.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I am coming to that Sharadji. I never interrupt you.

Sir, the entire exercise of election was beset with irregularities. The Observers did not submit reports to any one. Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan has rightly said just now...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are other things to do also. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Everyone is obstructing me.

MR. SPEAKER: Its all right. Do not take it otherwise.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I am not joking. He has rightly said that there was President's rule and no party was ruling. I would like to say...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a question-answer session. We have to find out its solution. He asked the question and you replied and vice-versa...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I shall speak only on three points and not fourth one...(Interruptions) There is a proverb - "Might is right".

MR. SPEAKER: This is not your point.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: The first point is that the State Governments get the election conducted the way they want. There should be reforms in this regard...(Interruptions) Counting took a very long time there. Candidates were not allowed to come out of the Counting Hall. If one or two elections are held in such a manner, the people of India will stop contesting in elections. The situation in Bihar was terrible. Barriers had been put up there and people could see only from outside the barriers...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please, now you shall have to conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have personally experienced this. Today, you have allowed me to speak, so I am speaking. I demand from the Central Government that electoral reforms should be considered seriously and the reforms should be carried out at the earliest. Shri Advani has just said that no elections should be held under a Chief Minister. I wish to add that no Chief Minister should be allowed to transfer DM or SP of his choice within one year of the elections. If this practice continues, the elections can never be fair.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, this was not the first time we are discussing this issue. One thing is very clear that although there are sufficient valuable suggestions in the form of different reports where all parties had been connected, including the latest report, what is lacking is the political will. Today, I find that this Government has totally abdicated, arrogated by somebody else...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Which Government?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This Government. Which Government we are talking about ?...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Where

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In Delhi. Whatever it is, somebody has to take steps. The Government of India has been promising, has been assuring, has been expressing their intension, but no step is being taken and today more and more power is being arrogated, more and more power is getting centralised and it seems that the only authority to bring about reforms in this country is one body or one person. I am not naming that. It is not necessary to name. Today I find that even the suggestion which is coming is that in every State there should be President's Rule. I do not know what will happen in Delhi during the General Elections to Parliament of India...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: No problem.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That cannot be the solution. That is no solution and that is not only the solution. We are talking of parliamentary democracy. That will be the end of parliamentary democracy also. That is not a solution. What has to be done? There are certain issues which are not much controversial. Parties have agreed on many many issues. This is just to bring that law, like the model code of conduct and so many other things, but that is not being done and you put somebody in a high pedestal and try to say that he is the embodiment of everything and the whole patriotism is now confined in one person today.

This is a very serious situation. Therefore, the Government has not even had the courage to bring forth any proposal for reforms. This type of abdication of function is not doing any good to our country, to the parliamentary democracy or to the electoral polity. One thing is very clear that different political parties, in different States are having the same experience. Drum beating is going on all over the country. The whole situation has changed, he has rightly pointed out. Has it changed? The Government has no function and Parliament is sitting as a mute spectator. On many many issues where we should assert ourselves, we are only expressing certain views. Sometimes it is unfortunate that we also, as political parties, are not united on many non-controversial issues. This also is very unfortunate in this country. That is why, advantage is being taken. The Government is suffering under atrophy and is not taking any step. Somebody is saying that he is the "all powerful" in this country. Whatever is happening today, nobody is there to question.

13.00 hrs.

People cannot go, even Members of Parliament cannot go taking their difficulties and bringing their difficulties to the knowledge of that authority. This is a very serious situation. The whole thing is being allowed to drift.

We have model Bills also. If I may just take back my

memory to 1971, mine was the dissenting note on that counting of votes. I said, it must be done boothwise. At that time in the combined wisdom the recommendation was for mixture of all the ballot papers. Thereafter parties had a rethinking. Advaniji is right, because out of experience it was felt that boothwise counting is much better. Then it was reverted back. But then in one's own wisdom he has changed it back again. No political party has been taken into confidence. Today what is happening is something of a law of jungle, not a law of Parliamentary Democracy. For 80 hours somebody is kept inside with no food, nothing. What Nitishji has said, I have no reason to disbelieve him. We have seen longer and longer time being taken. What has happened in Bihar, as he says, is the end of Parliamentary Democracy in this country.

I do not wish to take further time, I respectfully submit that there are some issues on which I request you to kindly provide the leadership. The 1971 Committee was appointed by the then hon. Speaker. I request you to take that initiative. This is one of the areas where the hon. Speaker can take a very effective initiative as the Presiding Officer of the highest elected body of Parliament. The Government is not functioning. This is a matter of common issue. We can immediately bring a Bill and without discussion we can pass it. This is all known. Therefore, I request you about this. Of course, there is nobody even to hear from the Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I am here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Oh, you are here, Sir, I am addressing you and through you, if they are still awake, them also to take action. I am sure there are many issues on which all of us can join hands and we can pass, even without discussion in this session, many of these important suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, sir, I do not have to say much. After this discussion, steps must be taken in this direction. In case the discussion is over and no progress is made in carrying out electoral reforms, the problem will not be solved. Earlier, the Election Commission used to call all party meetings and the problems arising during the elections, were discussed and decisions taken thereon. Now, no such meetings taken place. The Government has failed to take any initiative in this matter. Therefore, it is blamed that the Ruling Party has a vested interest in the existing system, which gives freedom to indulge in high handedness during elections. Now the party in power should also give up this approach because under the new circumstances, should they commit irregularities, they will themselves become the

target. It is in the interest of all parties, as well of Democracy that elections should be free and fair.

In the House of Commons, the Hon'ble Speaker takes the initiative in carrying out electoral reforms. You have been taking initiatives in several matters, but this is an issue on which if you take the initiative, there will be no criticism. The whole House is unanimous that steps should be taken to carry out electoral reforms. Sir, you should inspire the Government so that it could discuss this matter with us. But, this job must be carried out before the Lok Sabha elections. This is a task which cannot wait.

Now let us come to the second aspect of the problem which was raised by Sharadji and another Member from Bareilly. If any State Government instead of cooperating in conducting free and fair elections, actually indulges in irregularities and these are allowed to take place at its instance, how is that State to be dealt with? Should it be presumed that, the particular Government is working as per the provisions of the Constitution? Elections are the root of a democracy but if the roots are being cut and the elected Government which should have quit, is committing irregularities, how should Parliament deal with it? You might recollect, the other day I had asked, if free and fair elections were not held in a State, what should we do? Shall we depend on the Election Commission? If the things will go out of the hand of the Election Commission, then shall we file elections petitions, which takes years to be disposed of? Due to irregularities in elections, people are losing faith in this system. Only four days are left of this session. Let us talk business in the remaining period. The issue of electoral reform comes first. You sought the opinion of the Government on the recommendations made in the Goswami Committee. The Government can introduce a Bill and as Shri Somnath Ji has just said, the Bill can be hurriedly discussed and passed. But this job should be done on priority and with a will power. I hope you will issue some direction in the matter. Thank you.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever elections are round the corner, new methods of bunglings in elections are resorted to. The whole people of the country cannot be blamed for this. Irregularities are committed primarily in some States, though in several ways. Many people have said that President's Rule should be introduced. Earlier, elections for Lok Sabha and States Legislatures used to be held simultaneously, thus saving Government funds. Elections in the State should be held under President's Rule and these should be held along with Lok Sabha elections. During elections transport and police to the observer is provided by the Collector. In the just concluded elections in Bihar, the Collector sent the Observer to the East and he did not know what was happening in the West. Just now Nitishji has left out some points. I can

tell about many constituencies where total votes polled were 1 lakh and 3 thousand but during counting, the votes turned to be 1 lakh and 23 thousand. The strong room where ballot boxes were stored was not manned by the police, though Polling Agents were present. The police was deployed at other place. The Observer was sent to the field and ballot boxes were placed in the strong room. A patrolling vehicle collected ballot boxes from three booths. In a booth, three persons had already left after putting number of that booth. Boxes from the other booths were being collected. Three boxes were given from these booths and two were already in the vehicle. However in the strong room, 6 boxes were found. The strong room was not locked at many places. The rooms were even not allowed to be sealed. Everytime new methods are adopted to commit irregularities in the elections. So far as the question of electoral reforms and Delimitation Committee are concerned, the Select Committee has submitted its report. Today, in the country, there are about 3 lakh 60 thousand voters in an Assembly. In Bokaro, Ranchi, Jamshepur and Dhanbad, the number of voters are 3 lakh 60 thousands whereas in other Assemblies, it is 4 lakh or 1 lakh 25 thousand. ...*(Interruptions)* If elections are held under this electoral system and a government is formed, it will definitely indulge in be unscrupulous means.

Therefore, if democracy is to be saved, elections to State Legislative assemblies should be held simultaneously with that of the Lok Sabha. Prior to elections, the elected State Governments should be dismissed. Then only fair elections can be held.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Vajpayee and other hon. Members have said that you also have a responsibility in this regard. However, I feel that all Political Parties have become paralysed. I would like to tell these people that for election of the Speaker, political parties should not nominate their candidates. The hon. Speaker should work honestly. Sometimes, a man has to bow. Today every political party is at test. All parties should declare in the political reforms that they will not nominate their candidates for the election to the post of Speaker. I am also of the view that the Leader of the Opposition should be elected unopposed.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): We never nominated a candidate against the Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR: We must nominate a candidate against the Prime Minister but as regards the Leader of the Opposition, no candidate should be put against him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I never wanted to say anything on

electoral reforms but I got encouraged by Shri Sharad Yadav, I would like to congratulate him from the bottom of my heart for honestly expressing his thoughts and personal experiences here. I felt not so happy while hearing Shri Somnath because the Chief Minister of his party used the words 'scientific rigging'.

So far as Congress is concerned, it is now no longer a political party because they are again trying to recall the deserters. They want all the people to come back and then announce elections. Therefore, if you think electoral reforms will be carried out, I do not believe it. Today, there is no Government. Have you ever seen the Prime Minister sitting and M.Ps of his party go to meet someone else. It is a shame for those M.Ps who go to meet someone else. Some Ministers even go to the extent that if a particular Bill was not passed, they will resign...*(Interruptions)*

Please do not spoil everything this way. Is this a Government? If I were the Prime Minister, I would have asked them to quit or removed them from the cabinet. There must be some Government. This is the State of affairs. Please listen to somebody's woes.

I would like to congratulate Shri Sharad Yadav. Shri Paswan spoke in his style but Shri Somnathji did not do justice...*(Interruptions)* Shri Advani did speak well but I would like to give full marks to Shri Sharad Yadav and to You, Sir. Shri Advani said that the Speaker had also an important role in this. This is true that there can be no two P.Ms or two Speakers. You did put in hard work, got the papers set right and showed that what type of a Government should be there. Had we been consulted, this problem would not have arisen. There are talks if the hon. Speaker is acting on the directions of the hon. Prime Minister. Had we known that Mr. Speaker worked so hard, we would have insisted on a discussion but this did not happen. I believed in what Shri Sharad Yadav told us. Nowhere in the world has ever happened that votes cast mere 1 lakh 15 thousand but when counting was done, the number of votes increased by 20 thousand. What should the Election Commission do in this regard. Suppose a petition is filed, it takes 5 years to be disposed of by the court and in the meanwhile the winning candidate completes his term. When we had fought elections in 1952, red buntlings were planted upto 80 metres periphery and nobody except voters were allowed to enter this boundary. Then came 1957 elections, which also went on smoothly. However, from 1962 elections, booth capturing started. Now several new methods have been adopted. When Shri Morarji Bhai was the Chief Minister of Bombay, he had lost the election. At that time it was a big set back. Now-a-days, nepotism is rampant. People do not fear the Chief Minister so much as his brother or brother-in-law. How far Shri Sharad Yadav or BJP will be able to check it.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: It is good that the discussion has become so intense. I feel 'Chacha' is a sufferer of this problem. He has mentioned about his brother-in-law who was put behind the bars. That issue had snowballed into a big uproar. Now nobody cares for him.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: May be there was a misunderstanding.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Who is that brother-in-law? Whose brother-in-law is he? Please name him.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: You too may be somebody's brother-in-law and so am I.

MR. SPEAKER: This word has been used in the context of wife's brother. So it is not unparliamentary.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: It is in suspense that when and how the elections will be held. There are reports that at some places, 5 lakhs, 4 lakhs, 1 lakh 25 thousand or 1 lakh votes have been cancelled. Shri Sayeed is lucky that he got 5000 votes cancelled. There were, first, 25000 votes and now it has come down to 20 thousand.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): Not to talk of 5000 votes, even 5 votes have not been cancelled.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: That is good. He was saying that 5000 votes have been cancelled. However, he belongs to 20 thousand category. Mr. Speaker, Sir, before taking leave of you, I would like to say that you should find a way out and formulate some rules or regulations because this Government has become very inactive. The same situation prevails in Bangladesh. Since our country is very big, you should take imitative in electoral reforms. I declare on behalf of my party we will not field a candidate to contest against the Speaker. In fact, I shall request our party President, Shri George to spare two days for your election campaign so as to enable you win in the election. I do not know Shri Somnath or Shri Vajpayee feel about it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you can talk to the PM on private phone, please get it done certainly. This is exactly what bad happened in Kashmir. We all know how elections were conducted there. At that time, everybody, thought that nationalist were winning. Whereas, it were the dishonest people who won. No pressman used to talk about it earlier but now there is a problem. Now the youth have become irascible. When in enraged mood, they do not believe in caste and community consideration. This what happening in Jahanabad, Chatra and other places.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Government to say anything?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Where is the Government? There is no Government.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) Mr Speaker, Sir, Shri Sharad ji has raised the issue to recently held elections in Uttar Pradesh in which major political parties participated. It is there that it deserves a serious discussion. The Members who were supposed to be here, are not present. They will be apprised of view. I feel this is a matter which should be considered by all parties.

SHRI LAL K ADVANI Mr Speaker, Sir, the reply of the hon Minister has confirmed the stand of the Government. I would like to submit that before the end of the current Session, the Government should place its views on electoral reforms as well as on the recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami Committee before the House. If it cannot do so it should at least, make a statement on it.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD Mr Speaker, Sir, as many leaders have raised this question, about the elections it is really a matter of concern. Today itself meeting of the Cabinet is being held. I shall place your views before the Cabinet and I am in full agreement with your views. If present election practice continues in future, an ordinary and honest man will find it impossible to contest in elections. I shall place the views before the Cabinet. (Interruptions) The Cabinet will take a decision collectively. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAXMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI Please direct the Government to make a statement. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER It has been very good discussion and Government's representatives have agreed that the issue should be considered. We all will sit together and see how this can be done.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN Mr Speaker, Sir, as you have just said, why do not you take initiative by calling a meeting?

MR SPEAKER I shall keep all these points in view. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Mr Speaker, Sir, I had raised the question of pollution in river Ram Ganga.

MR SPEAKER A statement has been received in this regard. (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say about 30,000 children. Their schools have been closed. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER You spoke nicely on Charar e Sharif and I have asked the Government to make a statement on it. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR SPEAKER The government is ready with the

statement. I would expect the Minister to make the statement.

13 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Relief and Reconstruction in Charar-e-Sharif

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) As the Hon'ble House is aware, the Prime Minister had informed the House on 15th May, 1995, about the events and circumstances leading to the destruction of over a thousand houses and other buildings in the township of Charar e Sharief on 11th May, 1995 and the tragic burning of the holy shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani by militants and foreign mercenaries. A multi party delegation of Parliament has also visited Charar e-Sharif on 20th May, 1995, and there have since been further discussions in this House in the matter. We fully share the concerns expressed and the demand made for immediate action for providing relief to the affected people, and for reconstruction of damaged property to enable resumption of normal life and activity.

By way of immediate relief, one month's free rations have already been distributed to all the affected families. In addition a sum of Rs 10,000/- is being given to each family. An amount of Rs 75 lakh has already been distributed and a further amount of Rs 50 lakh will be disbursed within the next few days. In addition, 6000 blankets and relief supplies in the form of emergency rations, palm oil, cloth and utensils through the Indian Red Cross Society have been provided.

Water supply has been fully restored, partial electricity supply has been resumed and availability of drugs has been ensured and arrangements for medical aid have been made.

For families wanting to stay in the town during reconstruction, around 500 tents have been made available for being provided as and when asked for. For reconstruction of damaged houses and shops ex gratia relief of upto Rs 1 lakh is being given by the State Government. A further ex gratia relief of like amount is being provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, and a cheque for Rs 15 crore from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund has been sent to the State Government for this purpose. For urgent disposal of insurance claims, representatives of the concerned Insurance Companies have already visited the area and completed preliminary surveys. The Central Government

and the State Government are taking all measures to ensure that the reconstruction money not only reaches the affected people, but is also properly and effectively utilised, without any delay. Directions have been issued that there should be no delay in assessment of the damage for the purpose of determining the amount of ex-gratia payable. Arrangements are also being made to ensure easy availability of construction materials like timber, GI, and tin sheets, cement etc. so that construction work can start immediately. The State Government will be providing timber at concessional rates and a depot has already been opened in the town by the State Forest Department. Arrangements for GI sheets through SAIL are being made and supplies have already been despatched.

An Empowered Committee has been set up by the State Government under the Financial Commissioner to supervise and monitor relief and rehabilitation measures. The State Government has also arranged for the senior officials in charge of various activities pertaining to rehabilitation including reconstruction, water supply, electricity etc. to be posted in the town itself.

Through this august House, I would like to again convey to all those who have been affected by this dastardly act, that the people of the country share their grief and anguish, and we will do all that is necessary to ameliorate their sufferings. I would also like to appeal through this House that we must all beware of elements who are trying, even at this juncture, to spread disinformation and are indulging in activities which can only aggravate the situation. I am sure that all sections of the people would act unitedly and purposefully.

13.30 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 12 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Air India Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 12 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Air India Limited under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT/7769/95]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of National Building Construction Corporation Ltd., New Delhi for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): On behalf of Shrimati Sheila Kaul, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7770/95]

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government—(No. 10 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Central Coal Fields Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): On behalf of Shri Ajit Panja, I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government—(No. 10 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Central Coal Fields Limited, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. L.T. 7771/95]

Notifications under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) Under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 759(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 1994 approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Classification Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 1994.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 135(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1995 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1995.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 136(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1995 approving the New Mangalore Port Employees (Acceptance of

Employment after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 1995).

- (iv) G.S.R. 362(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 1995 approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Reimbursement of Tuition Fees) Amendment Regulations, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7772/95]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Transport Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the Road Transport Corporation Act, 1950.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Transport Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7773/95]

- (4) (i) A copy of the annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Transport Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 33 of the Road Transport Corporation Act, 1950.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Delhi Transport Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7774/95]

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 11 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Steel Authority of India Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 11 of 1995)—(Commercial)—Steel Authority of India Limited (Bhilai Steel Plant) under article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7775/95]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Gurgaon for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): On behalf of Shri Eduardo Faleiro, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7776/95]

13.31 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Ninth Report presented to the House on 25th May, 1995, have recommended that leave of absence be granted to the following Members for the period against each:—

1. Shrimati Dipika H. Topiwala	14.3.95 to 31.3.95, 24.4.95 to 30.4.95 and 1.5.95 to 8.5.95.
2. Shri Lakshman Singh	24.4.95 to 2.6.95.
3. Shri Syed Shahabuddin	2.5.95 to 17.5.95.
4. Shri Krishna Marandi	14.3.95 to 31.3.95 and 24.4.95.
5. Shri K. Muraleedharan	29.4.95 to 1.5.95.
6. Shri E. Ahamed	4.5.95 to 18.5.95.
7. Shri Rajaram Shankarrao Mane	24.4.95 to 2.6.95
8. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha	16.5.95 to 2.6.95

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

13.32 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Drawal of Fund from the Contingency Fund of India

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY): (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI):

The Department of Industrial Development has to pay a total sum of Rs. 5,04,280/- (Rupees five lakhs four thousand two hundred and eighty only) to the following Industrial units as mentioned against them:—

1. M/s. Gupta Oil & General Mills	2,39,800/-
2. M/s. Kapil Muni Oil Mills	59,760/-
3. M/s. Surya Plastics	1,36,800/-
4. M/s. Rocky International	67,900/-

as Central Investment Subsidy through the Financial Commissioner & Secretary to Government, Haryana, Industries Department, Chandigarh. The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme introduced in 1971 was discontinued with effect from 1.10.88 and as such there is no budgetary provision in this account. The Department is, however, required to pay the above mentioned amount to the aforesaid parties in compliance with the Judgement of Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh dated 4.8.93 and 4.5.95 and to avoid the contempt proceedings filed by the aforementioned petitioners.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some days ago, a question was raised about the Saudi Arabia. It is question of education of 30 thousand children. Will the hon. Minister make a statement whether the schools that had been closed and were issued notices have re-opened.

STATE MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): The schools which were closed in Saudi Arabia have been allowed to reopen as we approached the Government of Saudi Arabia.

13.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (I) **Need to Continue the Policy of giving Promotion to SC/STs in Higher Grades in Banks on the basis of Seniority cum Fitness**

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (PHILLAUR): As per the reservation policy of the Government, reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions to the higher grades viz., manager and above is provided in banks; and only in such methods of promotions which are based on seniority subject to fitness. Now, the Government has directed the Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks to effect promotions from one scale to another or one grade to another on the basis of merit only. It has also been directed that the Boards of the banks shall not provide any weightage for seniority. The reservations to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion to the higher grades of banking services is applicable only in promotions based on seniority, subject to fitness. But the banks have been directed to desist from making promotions from one grade to another on the basis of seniority as per the above direction of the government.

So, it may be stated that it indirectly takes away the rights of reservation from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions to the higher grades of banking services. It will deprive Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of their due representation in higher grades of banking services.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to look into the matter urgently so that the concept of constitutional provision of reservation for due representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government services is not defeated.

- (II) **Need to Provide better facilities in DMU Train running between Palasa and Cuttack via Berhampur and Bhubaneswar and to attach additional boggles in Okha Express**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (BERHAMPUR): In spite of the introduction of several new trains and additional facilities in general announced in the Railway Budget, 1995-96, no specific facility has been provided to the travelling public of South Orissa this year also.

It is surprising to note that lavatory facilities to the DMU train from Palasa to Cuttack, via Berhampur and Bhubaneswar have been abruptly withdrawn. People travel with their families on this convenient shuttle service, which extends to the duration of about six hours. So, lavatory facilities must be provided in such trains. Further, over two

lakh people from Ganjam district of Orissa have settled down in Surat district in Gujarat State. The existing facilities in the weekly Okha Express from Orissa to Gujarat are not adequate to cater to the needs of the large traffic existing between the commercial centre like Berhampur and the industrially-developed Surat.

Hence, I request the Minister of Railways to pass orders for providing lavatory facilities in the DMU train between Palasa and Cuttack as well as attaching additional bogies for Berhampur passengers in the Okha Express with immediate effect.

[Translation]

(III) Need to Provide Electronic Telephone Exchange in Hathras, U.P.

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL (HATHRAS): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give information under Rule 377- The Telephone Exchange working in Hathras Nagar has not been functioning satisfactorily for a long time. Citizen of the Region and consumers have been demanding that the telephone Exchange in Hathras City should be converted into electronic telephone exchange. Keeping in view the demand of the telephone consumers, I also requested the Central Government to convert the above Exchange into electronic one. The Central Government sanctioned a new machine to be installed immediately for 2000 lines but even after the lapse of a long time, arrangements have not been made to install the new machine. For this reason, citizen of the region have been deprived the facility of simple, effective telephone services. The consumers are quite angry. Apart from this, Telephone Exchanges existing in Sikandrarao, Atrauli, Charra and Sasmi under the district of Aligarh are also not in good working order. The consumers have to face inconveniences. I, therefore, request the Central Government that arrangements to instal the new machine at the Hathras Telephone Exchange to provide simple and good telephone facility to the citizens of the Region. Along this necessary instructions may be issued to make such facilities available at other Telephone Exchanges.

(IV) Need to Sanction Adequate funds for Upkeep and Maintenance of Phulvaria Reservoir in Nawada District, Bihar.

SHRI PREM CHAND RAM (Nawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Phulvaria dam was constructed by the Central Government in Bihar State. No proper attention is being paid towards its proper maintenance as a result of which the conditions of the dam and of the canals emanating from it has become deplorable. The water of this dam which is supplied to the farmers, is not being used because due to broken canals all the water goes a waste. Due to this, the farmers are not getting the facility of irrigation. I,

therefore, demand from the Central Government that at least a sum of Rs. 18 crores may be allotted for maintenance of Phulvaria dam situated in Nawada district of Bihar, so that the canals and the dam may be maintained properly and water is made available to the farmers according to their requirement.

(v) Need to Release Adequate Funds for Rehabilitation of People Affected by blow out in oil well at Pasarlupudi, Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (AMALAPURAM): Sir, the blow out that took place at Pasarlupudi in Well No. 19 of ONGC from the 8th of January, 1995 to 10th March, 1995 has caused severe damages to the property of the people in and around the area in East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh and also loss of more than Rs. 100 crore to the ONGC. More than 10,000 people have suffered due to blow out and 1,000 houses have been severely damaged and more than 10,000 people have been evacuated to the safer places. More than 2,000 acres of paddy have been affected and 5,000 coconut trees damaged in the blow out. Nearly 400 families took shelters in the relief camps set up at Amalapuram. In the radius of 10 kms. around the blow out site the farmers have lost their agncultural crops. Coconut crops and paddy crops. The hon. Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and ONGC officials also visited the site many times.

From beginning of the drilling operations by the ONGC in K.G. project of Amalapuram the ONGC have been using the local road and bridges for their heavy vehicles traffic resulting damage in roads/bridges in the area. The people of Amalapuram have been agitating against the ONGC to give some financial assistance for construction of the roads and bridges in the area. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested the Government of India from time to time to release funds for the development of Konsema area of Amalapuram.

The ONGC is getting crores of rupees from K.G. project area of Andhra Pradesh by way of crude oil and natural gas. Still there are rich patroleum reserves for exploration.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas to take necessary steps to help the people who have been affected in the blow out and give compensation for the crops damaged and release funds for construction of roads and bridges.

(vi) Need to Establish Fishing Harbours along the coastal line in the Arabian Sea coast lying in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (NAGERCOIL): Sir, establishment

of fishing landing centres and fishing harbours in the Arabian sea coast of Kanyakumari district has become urgent need of the day and highly necessitated due to the complete damage of natural berthing facilities of fishing vessels due to frequent sea erosion and monsoon rough sea and high waves. Thus the very survival of the fishermen of this area is gravely threatened by severe sea erosion. The entire inhabitants of the coastal villages of the Kanyakumari district are fishermen numbering about four lakhs. They fully depend on fishing, their sole occupation. Due to the damage of the natural parking and operational facilities of the fishing vessels there, they go in search of fishing to Kerala and other parts of the country where they face rough resistance from local fishermen and are subjected to danger to life and properties. The agony of the fishermen of this southernmost area of the country is unnoticed and left out for long. So to save them from this grave situation, I urge upon the Central Government to take immediate steps to put up anti-sea erosion walls and to open fishing landing centres at the affected places and establish fishing harbours at Eraimanthurai and Colachel in the Arabian Sea Coast of Kanyakumari district Tamil Nadu without any further delay.

(vii) Need to Provide better Railway Facilities at Rourkela, Orissa

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (SUNDARGARH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the steel city of Rourkela, the nerve centre of tribal region situated in my parliamentary constituency needs to be connected by Railways in order to provide communication facilities to the people with rest of the country by way of introducing a few more trains. Sir, though Rourkela stands on the main line of Howrah-Bombay there is hardly any train to connect it with the northern India and the Southern India.

In view of this, I request the Government to run the Sambalpur-Nizamuddin 8301/8302 Express for four days a week from Sambalpur to Nizamuddin via Ranchi-Bokaro-Gomo-Gaya-Varanasi-Alahabad-Kanpur. This will enable the people of Western Orissa to go to any city of Northern India. The Rourkela and Tatanagar, the two steel cities be connected by a DMU train. this would provide opportunities to the local tribals marketing facilities thus giving a boost to their economy. In order to connect South India the Tirupati-Varanasi Express should run viz Vizag-Vizyanagaram-Rayagada-Samblapur-Rourkela-Ranchi-Bokaro-Gomo-Gaya and Varanasi.

(viii) Need to set up Television Relay Centres at Khargon Bhiwadi and Dhamnod in Dhar District, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (KHARGOAN) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the transmission from Bhopal Door Darshan Centre has commenced but its advantage is available to only people living in the region surrounding Bhopal. While inaugurating the above Doordarshan, the Central information and Broadcasting Minister has assured that steps will be taken to connect through satellites. Keeping in view the geographical position, vast area and backwardness, it is essential that Bhopal Doordarshan Centre should be connected to satellites on priority basis so that the benefit of this Centre is made available to maximum people of the State. Merely by connecting Bhopal Doordarshan Centre to satellites it is not possible to solve this problem fully. The range of Doordarshan Relay Centres installed in other areas is farless than that of Bhopal, Indore and Raipur. Still there are two and 9 district headquarters where Doordarshan Relay Centres have not been installed. The area of the State is about 4.43 lakh Sq. km. whereas the transmission area of 53 Relay Centres is comparatively far less. As a result of this a very little portion of the population of the State is benefitted by programmes of the Doordarshan Khargone is also the Distt. H. Qrs. but they do not have Doordarshan Relay Centre. I, therefore, request the Central Government to instal the one Relay Centre at Khargone, Barwani and Dhamnod Distt. Dhar.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2.50 p.m.

13.48 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

15.00 hrs.

(At 14.50 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 14.53 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 14.56 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Secretary-General made the following announcement.)

15.01 hrs.

**ANNOUNCEMENT RE: POSTPONEMENT OF
THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE UPTO 15.15 HRS.
FOR WANT OF QUORUM.**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: There is no quorum. The House, therefore, cannot meet; and we may not start the House till there is quorum. Hon. Deputy Speaker has directed that the House should re-assemble at fifteen minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.02 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

The Lok Sabha than adjourned till Fifteen Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.20 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty Minutes Past Fifteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *In the Chair*)

TRADE MARKS BILL-Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava was on his legs. He may continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAV (JAIPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that it has taken more than one year to introduce this bill. The hon. Minister has not disclosed the reason for this delay.

Similarly the permanent Committee of Parliament held 18-19 sittings after meeting traders of Bombay and after making full investigation but all their recommendations have not been accepted. Now when the bill is introduced, the hon. Minister has proposed several amendments which means there is no necessity of permanent Committee of Parliament. It is so because after disallowing its recommendations, several amendments have been proposed. If these amendments had to be brought in, they should first have been placed before the Permanent Committee of Parliament and then discussed. But this was not done. My submission is that if the Government wants to discuss these amendments let the hon. Minister have the Bill passed but all these amendments should be sent to the Permanent Committee for discussion and then only the Bill brought in the House I think this alone will be appropriate. The hon. Minister proposed amendments hurriedly in the past two-three days in the House. I think this is an insult of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee. To disallow the recommendations of the Committee and propose amendments in between is not proper.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in connection with the Bill, I beg to submit that there is no provision in this Bill to save the home and small industries from the clutches of Multinational companies. The result will be that the Multinational Companies after acquiring Trade Marks trade signs of our country will seize our home and small industries because they have got their trade marks registered here. There are many such Multinational companies. Due attention should be paid in this direction. As many Members have said earlier about Maruti/Suzuki. Now if the name of Maruti is separated from Suzuki, the Indian Government

will be left only the job of collecting labels. The foreign companies will thus start dominating. I feel in this way Indian Industries will suffer. Pepsi and Maruti are two examples before you.

1525 hrs.

[Smt. Santosh Chaudhary *In the Chair*]: You will consider in this connection, how can the Indian industries keep their partnership in order. How to maintain their share properly, no provision for this has been made in this Bill. This means you have completed your task by bringing in this amendment and that will become a course. Instead of the Government of India, the power will go to the Registrar. The Tribunal will decide the litigation. These are pleasant dreams. However the small and cottage industries of India will suffer and foreign companies after registering themselves will try to usurp Indian industries. No provision to stop such a situation has been made in the bill.

As per section 8 and 9 of Article 19, the Parliamentary Committee had given suggestions about the art of Indian artists and artisans. These were also not accepted. This Bill has been proposed only to protect the benefits of the big people. These artists have transferable rights, he may be musician or a literator. These rights and cinema industry can be purchased by foreign industrialists. Alongwith this they will purchase their earnings and will pocket the entire royalty. Indian artists will be losers in this way. The recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee in this regard should be taken seriously and then only a complete bill should be introduced. That will be a better job. Supposing a particular industry is not registered on the basis of a Trade Mark, its recognition will stand cancelled. If another person takes that Trade Mark, there is no provision to stop him from continuing with that Trade Mark. If the old Trade Mark is being used, the consumers will not know that the concern has been purchased by another party. The continue purchasing the stuff. Take the case of Sunlight and Lifebuoy. If after removing one letter from their name, they are sold consumers will continue purchasing them. I hope you will consider this aspect also. The Parliamentary Committee have said that Trade Marks should not include insulting or obscene material but there is no such provision in the bill. Also there is no provision in Bill to ensure that it does not hurt the feelings of a particular section of the people. I had also said on Friday that specifications should be laid for granting registration to Trade Signs so that they do not hurt the feelings of people. It is observed these days that on consumer products packed in packets or Tins bear the photos of Gods and Goddesses. Their names may be used if your name be Krishna Sahi, the products can be sold with this name, we have no objection but if a product is sold with

the photo of Hanumanji or a Goddess, that is wrong and is insulting. People used to paste Gandhiji's photo on lotteries. When we see such cartons or labels in a dust-bin, this hurts the feelings of a particular section of the people. Their names may be used but you should prohibit. The use of their photos. Because when we see any such label or carton on the road which bears the God's photo we pick it up and place it aside. Therefore, you may allow the use of names but the use of photos should be banned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say 3-4 things more. First, how to stop transfer of technology. In India the poor labourers, artists musicians produce something but prominent professors well that technology and others take advantage of that. A poor man runs a business in loss and another person is taking the benefit of it. I feel there must be some way out. You must consider the fact that person at source should receive the benefit. By inviting foreign companies in the country our trade and industry has become stifled. I wish to say that had the GATT Agreement been signed at the time with the Committee gave their suggestions that would have been a different matter. We should ensure that the labour of poor labourers artists small and cottage industries should not be seized by the Multinational companies. The Trade Marks of India should be registered so Indian trade does not suffer. This must be considered. By entering into GATT agreement, Indian trade has been put to a loss. This should also be considered.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has brought in the Bill with good intentions, there are no two opinions about it but after the Multinational companies entrance in India bringing in such a Bill will be against the interests of the country. I think you should forward all the amendments to the Committee. As your name Krishna Sahi signifies, you take yourself to be incarnation of God, so in this country labourers, traders and unemployed persons should not suffer in the land of Krishna, Ram and Rahim, also it should not affect the Indian trade adversely. In this regard the Bill will be reconsidered. Let it not be an insult to you. Since you have become a Minister and understand that the Bill is to be passed which you have brought under pressure of the GATT or Multinational companies, I hope you will keep in view the fact that 45 members of the Permanent Committee, who gave their recommendations and which held 18-19 meetings, went to Bombay on tour, there not traders and competent people and so will not insist on its passage. In the end I would like to say on 19th May you were granted a boon which will last for 4-5 months. Please bring this Bill after amending it. With these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deograh): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the new Trade Marks Bill, 1993.

Madam, In fact, there has been no opposition whatsoever to this Bill. Some hon. Members are suggesting some amendments. But, in spirit, everybody has supported the spirit of the new Bill which is before the House.

Madam, you will kindly find that this Bill, after its adoption and after it becomes law, will replace the existing Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 which was enacted as far back as in 1958. This Act will be replaced by this new legislation.

I would like to say that this law has reasonably served well. But over the last more than three decades since 1958, there has been a sea-change in different fields of activity including trade and commerce, and particularly revolutionary changes are taking place in the field of trade and commerce for the last three or four years. The GATT has been signed by more than 117 or so countries including India. Globalisation is taking place very fast. So, considering it from this angle, when a comprehensive review of this legislation was undertaken, it was found wanting in certain respects. Meanwhile, some regulations, laws relating to trade marks were scrutinised or they underwent legal scrutiny. Several judicial authorities or courts had given valuable judgments which also needed to be incorporated in the Act. So, looking at the situation, where there are so many changes that are to be incorporated in the existing law, the Government, in their wisdom, though instead, to bring in a new piece of legislation and that is how this Bill is before the House.

This Bill was introduced in 1993. After its introduction, the Government, in response to the demands and also as per the provisions of the newly constituted Standing Committees, referred it to the concerned Standing Committee on Industry. They examined it in great detail. They also reported back two or three months after August 1993. Now two years' time elapsed meanwhile. I wonder why there has been so much delay after the same was examined by the Standing Committee. After the Report was presented to the House, there should not be such a delay particularly in a matter of this nature which concerns our trade and commerce, which tries to update our existing law, which tries to bring it on par with the international standards and specifications.

There should not be delay and it should be expeditiously adopted. As I understand, I do not know how and wherefrom hon. Shri Bhargava has got this impression that the Standing Committee has different views on this.

By and large, the views expressed by the Standing Committee have been accepted by the Government. Therefore, there is not much to speak on this Bill. This proposed Bill is a concerted effort to bring the existing law on par with international practices and it is definitely an improvement. It is intended to simplify the procedure. It is a right step in protecting the genuine interests of the businessmen and at the same time, protecting the interests of the consumers.

These changes were envisaged by India, as I told you, well before it signed the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff as also the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreement in April, 1993. For the first time, there are some new features in this Bill. Earlier trade marks were protected. But now a new dimension is provided in the Bill to protect the services also. Services have been introduced for the first time. This Bill seeks to protect service marks as opposed to trade marks in goods. The services to which the trade marks can be registered include that of advertisement and business, insurance and finance, construction and repair, transport and storage material treatment, boarding and lodging, education, entertainment etc.

The Bill under discussion expands the scope of the definition of trade marks to include graphic representation, say, packaging and combination of colours and covers both goods and services. The scope of other firms like, collecting marks; registered trade marks, permitted use have been expanded in tune with international practices. The jurisdiction of the court would also be affected with the formation of an Appellate Tribunal. There has been a long pendency of large number of cases. Now with the establishment of the Appellate Board, cases will be transferred to such Boards from the High Court. It is definitely an improvement.

This Bill also proposes to lay down the procedure for the registration of trade marks. Earlier also there were two forums available. And now it will be done in a single window and one authority will be there. The Registrar will be appointed for this purpose and instead of the Government, the parties will have to appear before the Registrar.

There are many welcome features in this new Bill. It keeps our legislation in tune with the changing times or developments in this particular field. There has been some lurking fear in the minds of the opposition about the trade marks. In this field also, we come across the fake trade marks being used by some companies, businessmen and also by farm sectors. They should be firmly dealt with. Stiffer provisions are there in the new Bill. viz. two years imprisonment etc. which are welcome. Now, it is, of course, voluntary. For businessmen or firms, it is compulsory on their part to go in for registration. Of course, those who get registration will be entitled to get certain benefits, damage

etc. They can sue in case of violation etc. Any good or reputed firm can always work or operate under a Trade Mark. As you know, this trade mark is also an indication of goodwill. It offers an assurance to the consumer that when he is buying a particular item with a trade mark, he is purchasing the same item which he has been assured of, its quality, composition etc. It is often a tendency on the part of businessmen, firms etc., to copy it and that has got to be strictly viewed. A Trade Mark reflects the goodwill or reputation of a particular product. As I have told earlier, in some cases the increasing globalisation of trade, modification etc., are also viewed from lacuna. We have to be very careful about these spurious goods, which brings bad name or reputation to the country.

Although, at the time of our Independence, we were not capable of producing even a pin or blade, now, after four or five decades, our country has got the distinction of having become one among the fifteen most industrially advanced countries in the world. It is no joke. It is not a mean achievement. At the same time, now since there is globalisation taking place at a faster rate, we have to be competitive, our industry has got to be internationally competitive, which means that, we have to maintain certain standards. If the standard gets diluted, that will bring bad name to our fast developing country.

Regarding the Registrar, I would like to tell that under the new Bill he will be getting enough powers. But, I am afraid that unless proper support, necessary staff and other facilities are given to the Registrar, there also delay will take place. Standing Committee have examined closely in greater details and the recommendations of the Committee have been by and large accepted by the Government. Difficulties which are coming in the way should be taken care of.

I would like to make one suggestion with regard to not only the Trade and Commerce, but also in various fields for we have got legislations which are obsolete, which are not up to the time and which are not meeting the requirements of the changing times. We should review all those legislations and the same should be updated. We have laws like the Indian Penal Code which came into force in 1892 or 1893. Of course, we are updating them by bringing in amendments as and when necessary. But at the same time there are definitely certainly legislations which need thorough changes. In such cases also, we have a parliamentary committee on these legislations. These are not major legislations. Even in such cases, review should be done and efforts should be made to update our laws.

Without any further delay, this Bill has come before the Lok Sabha and will be sent to the Rajya Sabha after it is passed

With these words, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

STATE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a proposal has been mooted to amend Trade & Merchandise Marks Act 1958 through Trade Marks Bill, 1993. I am grateful to all Hon. Members. All have welcomed it and the special support that I received, I feel much obliged to them. This Act which was enacted in 1958 was satisfactory but it has also become three and a half decades old. As felt by all hon. Members, with the lapse of time, changes have become necessary in it and that is why it is before you. During this period overall changes have taken place in economic, industrial and commercial troposphere capital investment in economic field and to promote technology transfer, simplification of Trade Marks and Management System is considered necessary. Court rulings to the old Act were also passed and amending the Act as per the rulings became essential. Therefore, through the Trade Marks Act, 1993, the 1958 Act is proposed to be amended after its full review by the House.

Trade Mark is sign displaying a particulars product or service. This display can be done through word, letter, number or photo etc. Primarily Trade Mark has two objectives. Traditionally the first objective is accord clear existence to any product or service which gives it a clear identity. In addition the consumers gets information about the quality of a product or service. Through the medium of the Rule relating to Trade Marks, facility to get the Trade Mark registered and to prevent its misuse, is obtained. It is essential that the Rule should be in accordance with the economic, industrial and commercial climate. From time to time the necessity of amending the Rule was felt and so the Trade Marks Bill 1993 has been brought in. Trade Marks Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19 April, 1993. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Industries, fully reviewed it and on 21 April, 1994 they submitted their recommendation. Several amendments related to the Committee's Report were received. The Government has accepted all those amendments and there is a proposal to amend the proposed bill. All that I want to say is that in 17 clauses there were a total of 29 amendments. The changes suggested by the Standing Committee have been accepted by the Government. After incorporating these, the Bill is before you. Whatever changes have been made, these were based on the recommendations of the Committee, only peras has been changed, somewhere Sr. Nos. have been changed. If someone said add 3 after 2, that was done. These were the changes made. It took a long time. All the suggestions have been accepted which are contained in the Standing Committee Report. The Hon. Members will refer to para 13 which signifies that discussions are held, suggestions are

given and a complete Report has been presented by the House. Briefly the Bill is:

[English]

To achieve these purposes, the present Bill proposes to incorporate, *inter alia*, providing for registration of trade mark for services, in addition to goods, preventing the registration of trade marks which are imitation of well-known trade marks, enlarging the grounds for refusal of registration as mentioned in Clauss 9 and 11, doing away with the system of maintaining registration of trade marks in Part A and Part B with different legal rights, and to provide only a single register with simplified procedure for registration and with equal rights, simplifying the procedure for registration of registered user and enlarging the scope of permitted use, providing for registration of trade marks for "Collective Marks" owned by associations etc., establishing an Appellate Board for speedy disposal of appeals and rectification of applications, which at present lie before High Court, providing enhanced punishment for the offences relating to trade marks to prevent the sale of spurious goods prohibiting use of someone else's trade marks as part of corporate name or name of business concern and incorporating provisions like amending the definition of 'trade marks', providing for filing of a single application for registration in more than one class, increasing the period of registration and renewal from seven to ten years etc...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

During the discussion the hon. Members have given their valuable suggestions relating to the Bill and they have also expressed some of their doubts. I would, therefore, like to remove their doubts on those points.

Our hon. Member Sh. Bhagwan Shanker Rawatji raised some issues while initiating the discussion. As Sh. Girdhari Lalji also said just now that where a Trade Mark has been in use for 15 to 20 years and due to some reason could not be renewed, any other man could get it registered and the old Trade Mark holder has no defence. In this regard I would like to say that as compared to Trade Marks & Merchandise Act 1958, a provision has been made in the new Bill that even if well known Trade Mark is not registered, no registration of that Trade Mark or of its invitation will be done. Let us suppose, 'Maharaja' is the symbol of Air India which is well known. All people know it. Likewise if 'key' is the symbol of a bank, which everybody knows, it may be registered or not. All these aspects will be taken care of and even if it is not registered, its registration or of its limitation, will not be done. Members are voicing their concern over security. Its provision has also been made in this Bill.

The second point which they raised was about

hurting the religions feelings or about obscene or improper trade marks.

16.00 hrs.

In this connection I would like to clarify.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Section 9(2) (b) and (c) will take care of this aspect. As per these Sections, a mark shall not be registered as a trade mark if it contains or comprises any matter likely to hurt religious susceptibilities of any class or section of the citizens of India or it comprises or contains a scandalous or obscene matter.

[Translation]

I feel this would have clarified your doubt. Other Parliamentarians have also discussed these points over which I have given my clarifications.

Litterateurs and artists were also discussed. Their security aspect comes Act of Copyright and is related to Min. Of Human Resource & Development while we are discussing Act for Trade Marks. Prof. Sourtri Lakshmanan is not present here. She timely gave nice suggestions which we accepted. Hon. Members Sudhir Raji is not present here...(Interruptions)

[English]

"Oh I you are here. I shall speak in Bengali. Please excuse me if there is any mistake. You raised three issues. Firstly you suggested that to stop the foreign companies from capturing our market either their trade mark should not be registered or dual policy should be pursued. Your second suggestion was that"

Association of persons should be permitted to use marks. ...(Interruptions) "You also suggested to set up the Bench of Appellate Board. I would like to say... well I do not know whether I should continue in Bengali because there may be some mistakes. Please excuse me for that".

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Please continue. You are speaking perfectly in Bengali.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: I would like to say that Trade Marks Act, 1958 has some facilities such as.

[Translation]

Any person who is sanctioned a Trade Mark to secure his interests after registering the Trade Mark of Foreign Companies, some policy well be formed and provisions will be made.

Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

"I assure the hon. Member that no new provision will be brought in for the registration of foreign company."

[Translation]

In the economic climate of today, while the globalisation is on, to adopt a policy against our policy, our exports will face difficulty in the face of such dual policy.

[English]

The Bill provides for collective marks. Collective marks are provided for a group of associations or enterprises, its use is reserved only for the members of the group, if the group wants to have more persons, the same is permitted.

Benches of Appellate Board have been suggested. Many other hon. Members have also suggested about it. There is already a provision for Benches of Appellate Board, under Section 85(2) of the Bill.

Mr. Mumtaz Ansari is not here. But he has given some suggestions. They have also been taken into account.

[Translation]

Shri R.K. Yadav stated whether under pressure from outside, we are making such changes. I would like to say that we are not making such changes under pressure from somebody.

[English]

The changes that have been proposed are based on practical realities of the Indian market place and are not dictated by any particular country or organisation. It should be noted that the benefits of improved production will flow to all trade marks registered in India. It may also be noted that 80 per cent of the trade marks registered or applied for in India are owned by Indians. The Bill seeks to simplify and rationalise procedure, reduce paper works.

[Translation]

Red Tapism consists of very complicated procedure. This Bill has been introduced to make it easier. We want that it should be incorporated with economic changes and judicial decisions.

[English]

This is the basic philosophy of the Bill. There should be heavy penalties for persons who misuse trade marks.

[Translation]

In this connection one Rawatji and other hon. Members have also said.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[English]

The Bill provides for heavier penalties. For certain offences, the penalty extends upto imprisonment of three years and fine upto Rs 2 lakh.

[Translation]

Hon. Member Shri Ram Asray Prasad's suggestion have also been heard. Shri Shahabuddin is not present in the House. The suggestion made by Shri Shahabuddin and Shri Ram Kapsay and also by other hon. Members, the facilities that we are making available those facilities should also be made available on reciprocal basis by other countries. I wish to draw your attention to Section 156 which contains the provision of reciprocity. The second issue is—

[English]

Why have some suggestions of the Standing Committee not been accepted?

[Translation]

This point has been raised by Shri Ram Kripal and other hon. Members. I would like to say and as I have already said, suggestions given on all issues, have been accepted by us. The para changes. Sometimes the Section also changes.

[English]

All the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been accepted.

[Translation]

There are many points in the Report, which have been duly considered but suggestions have been given in para 13. All these suggestions have been accepted.

[English]

Do not extend indiscriminate protection to foreign goods and services.

[Translation]

This has also been said that the entry of foreign companies should be banned. On one hand the hon. Members say that it should be done on reciprocal basis and on the other hand say that it should be banned. In today's world who will be a fool to say that you buy our goods but we shall not buy yours. You will not be allowed to come but we shall buy from country. Therefore all this depends on give and take policy. This has been done keeping national interests in view. As I have already drawn your attention to Section 156 I wish to tell you that the question of entry of Foreign Companies is controlled through industrial policy. In this connection our policy is to strengthen the industries so that

we participate in the world wide competition. The hon. Members have raised many points which relate to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee of Ministry of Industries.

We have accepted them and this has not been done under external pressure. There is nothing to fear. The number of Trade Marks given to Foreign Companies has been kept apart. But from the data it is clear that total number of foreign trade marks is 10 per cent of Trade Marks registered last year. Against 30,266 registered trade marks, 3074 trade marks belong to foreign countries and the rest are all ours. Thus the suggestion given by Sh. Panigrahi, have been accepted by us.

In the end Sh. Girdhari Lal ji has said that this should be referred to the Standing Committee. I would like to say why to refer a second time. When your suggestions have been accepted by us and have brought in amendments raised by the Standing Committee. For the security of small industries, there are provisions for it in our economic policy of Trade and Tariffs and we provide for counter billing duties. Expansion of Modvat is also within our Trade policy. Which contains its provisions and industries should be able to compete at international level. This Bill is only to register the commodities produced.

In the end, I would like to say the aim of this new Bill is to ensure how the registration of trade marks should be made simple, effective and fast moving and how to prevent effectively its misuse. By doing this we shall receive maximum proposals for registration and the quality of the product and the service will be improved. I hope these objections will receive unanimous support.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

"That the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to trade marks, to provide for registration and better protection of trade marks for goods and services and for the prevention of the use of fraudulent marks, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2- Definition and Interpretation

Amendments made:

Page 2, for lines 13 to 15, substitute—

- (g) "collective mark" means a trade mark distinguishing the goods or services of members of an association of persons (not being a partnership within the meaning of the Partnership Act, 1932) which is the

proprietor of the mark from those of others;

9 of 1932

(3)

Page 3,

(i) after line 13, insert—

'(j) "goods" means any thing, which is the subject of trade or manufacture;"

(ii) line 14, for "(j)" substitute "(k)"

(iii) line 19, for "(k)" substitute "(l)" (4)

Page 3,—

(i) for lines 22 and 23, substitute—

(m) "Member" means a Judicial Member or a Technical Member of the Appellate Board and includes the Chairman."

(ii) line 24, for "(m)" substitute "(n)"

(iii) line 25, for "(n)" substitute "(o)"

(iv) line 27, for "(o)" substitute "(p)"

(v) line 30, for "(p)" substitute "(q)"

Page 4,—

(vi) line 6, for "(q)" substitute "(r)"

(vii) line 7, for "(r)" substitute "(s)"

(viii) line 9, for "(s)" substitute "(t)"

(ix) line 11, for "(t)" substitute "(u)"

(x) line 14, for "(u)" substitute "(v)"

(xi) line 16, for "(v)" substitute "(w)"

(xii) line 18, for "(w)" substitute "(x)" (5)

Page 4,—

(i) for lines 20 to 26, substitute

"(g) "service" means service of any description which is made available to potential users and includes the provision of services in connection with business of any industrial or commercial matters such as banking, communication, educations, financing, insurance, chit funds, real estate, transport, storage, material treatment, processing, supply of electrical or other energy, boarding, lodging, entertainment, amusement, construction, repair, conveying of news or information and advertising."

(ii) line 27, for "(y)" substitute "(z)"

Page 5,—

(iii) line 14, for "(z)" substitute "(Za)"

(iv) line 32, for "(za)" substitute "(zb)"

(v) line 35, for "(zb)" substitute "(zc)" (6)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahl)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:—

"That clauses 3 to 5 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3 to 5 were added to the Bill

Clause-6—The Register of Trade Marks

Amendment made:

Page 7, after line 16, insert—

"(5) The Register of Trade Marks, both part A and Part B, existing at the commencement of this Act, shall be incorporated in and form part of the Register under this Act." (7)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahl)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:-

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8—Publication of alphabetical index

Amendments made:

Page 7, line 23 for "8. The Registrar shall" substitute "8. (1) The Registrar may" (8)

Page 7, after line 24, insert

"(2) Where any goods or services are not specified in the alphabetical index of goods and services, published under sub-section (1), the classification of goods or services shall be determined by the Registrar in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 7." (9)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahl)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 9—Absolute grounds for refusal of registration

Amendments made:

Page 7, for line 26, substitute-

"(a) which are devoid of any distinctive character, that is to say, not capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one person from those of another person;" (10)

Page 7, line 38, for "made of it"

substitute "made of it or is a well-known trade mark."

Page 8, after line 9, insert- (11)

"**Explanation:** For the purposes of this section, the nature of goods or services in relation to which the trade mark is used or proposed to be used shall not be a ground for refusal of registration." (12)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clause 11—Relative grounds for refusal of registration

Amendments made:

Page 8, lines 29 and 30, for "has a reputation" substitute "is a well known trade mark" (13)

Page 9, line 11, for "In determining, substitute "For the purpose of this Act, in determining" (14)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 12—Registration in the case of honest concurrent use, etc.

Amendment made:

Page 9, for lines 19 to 29, substitute-

"12. In the case of honest concurrent use or of other special circumstances which, in the opinion of the Registrar, make it proper so to do, he may permit the registration by more than one proprietor of the trade marks which are identical or similar (whether any such trade mark is already registered or not) in respect of the same or similar goods or services, subject to such conditions and limitations, if any, as the Registrar may think fit to impose." (15)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 13 and 14 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 13 and 14 were added to the Bill.

Clause 15—Registration of parts of trade marks and of trade marks as a series

Amendment made:

Page 10, line 16, after

"marks in respect of the same" insert "or similar"

(16)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That Clauses 16 to 21 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 16 to 21 were added to the Bill

Clause 22—Correction and amendment**Amendment made:**

Page 13, after line 36, insert

"Provided that if an amendment is made to a single application referred to in sub-section (2) of section 18 involving division of such application into two or more applications, the date of making of the initial application shall be deemed to be the date of making of the divided applications so divided." (17)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The Clause 22, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 23 and 24 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 23 and 24 were added to the Bill.

Clause 25—Duration, renewal, removal and restoration of registration.

Amendments made:

Page 14, after line 44, insert-

"Provided that the Registrar shall not remove the trade mark from the Register if an application is made in the prescribed form and the prescribed fee and surcharge is paid within six months from the expiration of the last registration of the trade mark and shall renew the registration of the trade mark for a period of ten years under sub-section (2)." (18)

Page 15,-

(i) omit lines 1 to 7.

(ii) line 8, for "(5) substitute "(4)" (19)

Page 15, line 12, omit "and surcharge" (20)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The clause 25, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 25, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 26 to 28 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 26 to 28 were added to the Bill

Clause 29—Infringement of registered trade marks

Amendment made:

page 17, line 5, for "business concern." substitute-

"business concerning dealing in goods or services in respect of which the trade mark is registered."

(21)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 29, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 30 to 38 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 30 to 38 were added to the Bill.

Clause 39—Assignability and transmissibility of unregistered trade marks

Amendment made:

Page 21, for lines 14 to 26, substitute-

"39. An unregistered trade mark may be assigned or transmitted with or without the goodwill of the business concerned." (22)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 39, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 39, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clauses 40 to 45 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clauses 40 to 45 were added to be Bill.

Clause 46—Proposed use of trade marks by Company to be formed

Amendment made:

Page 24, for lines 24 to 26, substitute-

"(b) the proprietor intends it to be used by a person,

as a registered user after the registration of the trade mark." (23)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 46, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 46, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 47 to 84 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clauses 47 to 84 were added to the Bill

Clause 85—Composition of Appellate Board

Amendments made:

Page 38, line 37, omit "not exceeding five," (24)

page 38, for lines 41 to 43, substitute-

"(2) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, a Bench shall consist of one Judicial Member and one Technical Member and shall sit at such place as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the Chairman-

(a) may, in addition to discharging the functions of the Judicial Member or Technical Member of the Bench to which he is appointed, discharge the functions of the Judicial Member or, as the case may be, the Technical Member, of any other Bench;

(b) may transfer a Member from one Bench to another Bench;

(c) may authorise the Judicial Member or the Technical Member appointed to one Bench to discharge also the functions of the Judicial Member or the Technical Member, as the case may be, of another Bench.

(4) Where any Benches are constituted, the Central Government may, from time to time, by notification, make provisions as to the distribution of the business of the Appellate Board amongst the Benches and specify the matters which may be dealt with by each Bench.

(5) If any question arises as to whether any matter falls within the purview of the business allocated to a Bench, the decision of the Chairman shall be final.

Explanation: For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the expression "matter" includes an appeal under section 92.

(6) If the Members of a Bench differ in opinion on any point, they shall state the point or points on which they differ, and make a reference to the Chairman who shall either hear the point or points himself or refer the case for hearing on such point or points by one or more of the other Members and such point or points shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority of the Members who have heard the case, including those who first heard it."

(25)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 85, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 85, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 86—Qualifications for appointment as Chairman and Members

Amendment made:

Page 39,-

(i) for line 5 to 17, substitute

"(2) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judicial Member, unless he-

(a) has been a Member of the Indian Legal Service and has held the post in Grade I of that Service for at least three years; or

(b) has, for at least ten years, held a civil judicial office.

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Technical Member, unless he-

(a) has, for at least ten years, exercised functions of a tribunal under this Act or under the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958, or both, and has held a post not lower than the post of a Joint Registrar for at least five years; or

(b) has, for at least ten years, been an advocate of a proven specialised experience in trade mark law.;"

(ii) line 18, for "(3)", substitute "(4)

(iii) line 18, for "sub-section (4)" substitute "sub-section (5)"

(iv) line 20, for "(4), substitute "(5) (26)
(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 86, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 86, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 87 to 111 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 87 to 111, were added to the Bill.

Clause 112—Forfeiture of goods

Amendment made:

Page 47, line 4, for "clauses (a), (b) and (c)"
substitute

"clause (a), clause (b) or clause (c)". (27)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 112, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 112, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 113 to 115 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 113 to 115 were added to the Bill.

Clause 116—Cognizance of certain offences and the powers of police officer for search and seizure

Amendment made:

Page 49, line 13,-

for "(4) Any police officer not below the rank of sub-inspector."

substitute

"(4) Any police officer not below the rank of deputy superintendent of police or equivalent." (28)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 116, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 116, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clauses 117 to 160 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 117 to 160 were added to the Bill

The Schedule

Amendment made:

Page 63, for "Trade Marks Act, 1993", wherever it occurs substitute "Trade Marks Act, 1995". (29)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 1—Short title, extent and Commencement

Amendment made:

"Page 1, line 5, for '1993' substitute "1995". (2)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill

The Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

"Page 1, line 1, for "Forty-fourth"

substitute "Forty-sixth" (1)

(Shrimati Krishna Sahi)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Long Title stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

[Translation]

SHRIGIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not at the last stage.

SHRIGIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall take only one minute to say my point. The Hon. Minister has to-day made a record in bringing in amendments. Till to-day no such amendments would have been brought to a Bill. The Hon. Minister have moved amendments but she does not know fully what amendments have been moved. Therefore I would like to say that the Bill has been almost squeezed of life.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: These amendments were not there previously. They have been brought in later on. That is why I am saying again, by doing so the Bill has been squeezed of life. You have set a record. This will be good if this Bill is accorded condolences and silence of two minutes is observed... (Interruptions)

16.36 hrs.

[English]

RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1994

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take item no. 12, Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill. Time allotted for this Bill is one hour.

Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara Murthy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
Madam Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, be taken into consideration."

The Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 came into effect from 27th August, 1993. The Act provides for the establishment of Tribunals for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. To begin with, the Government have decided to set up 10 Tribunals in various

parts of the country so as to cover the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir. It was also decided to set up an Appellate Tribunal at Bombay with jurisdiction on all the Tribunals.

The Government have so far been able to establish five Tribunals at Delhi, Calcutta, Jaipur, Bangalore and Ahmedabad and one Appellate Tribunal at Bombay.

A large number of court cases have been filed in various High Courts challenging the validity of the Act. The Delhi High Court, in a case filed by the Delhi High Court Bar Association of India *versus* U.O.I., delivered the judgment on 10.3.1995 holding the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 as unconstitutional and void. The U.O.I. filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court, *vide* its Order dated 21.4.1995, granted the SLP and also stayed the judgment of Delhi High court in this case.

The Government have so far not been able to make the remaining Tribunals functional; the main reason being non-availability of the suitable officers within the prescribed age limit for manning the posts of Presiding Officer. With a view to attract competent persons for manning these posts, it has been proposed to raise the retirement age for the Presiding Officer of Debt Recovery Tribunal from sixty to sixty-two years and from sixty-two to sixty-five years for the Presiding Officer of the Appellate Tribunal.

I, therefore, move that the Bill which provides for amendment of Section 6 and Section 11 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 raising the age limit of Presiding Officer of Debts Recovery Tribunals and Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals from 60 to 62 years and from 62 to 65 years respectively be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, be taken into consideration."

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill for two reasons. Though this Bill contains very small amendments, the intention of the Government is questionable.

Sir, an Act, titled as 'The Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions' was passed in the year 1993. It was to set up various Tribunals in various parts of the country and also an Appellate Tribunal to enable the banks to speed up the recovery of the moneys due. On the one hand the Government has been repeatedly saying that thousands of crores of rupees are due to be recovered by the banks and various other financial institutions. But

If really the Government is serious, what prevented the Government from setting up the Tribunals as intended to by this Act for the last two years? Just now the Minister has told us that the Government was able to set up only five Tribunals so far. The obvious reason being given is that judges, who are the sitting judges and are supposed to be appointed as the presiding officers of these tribunals and the Appellate Tribunal are not ready to function as the presiding officers. I would say, I may be pardoned to say, that this is nothing but a farce. Now just because the age of retirement is limited to 60 or 62 years, the sitting Judges are not prepared to go. One is at a loss to understand why the Government is very keen to appoint such of the judges who are almost on the verge of retirement to these tribunals as presiding officers.

Now Section 4 of the Act provides that 'a person who is qualified to act as the District Judge can be appointed as the presiding officer of the tribunal.' Any advocate who has registered himself under the Advocates Act and who has practised for 15 years becomes qualified to be appointed as a District Judge. What prevents the Government from appointing such a person to act as the presiding officer of such tribunals? After all, everything is there in black and white. The loan papers would be available before the Tribunal. The name of the loanee, the amount borrowed, the period for which the loan was sanctioned, the rate of interest, etc. etc. and everything will be available. In fact, there is nothing left for the Presiding Officer to apply the judicious mind. After all, it is just to say that so much of money is due and the bank is empowered to recover the money. The mode of recovery i.e. how to recover the money is also mentioned. So I do not think that a person having so much of judicial knowledge will have to be appointed as the presiding Officer of the Tribunal. Even otherwise, there are a number of persons who are working as district judges and who have a long period of service before them. A judge in service also would qualify himself to become a district judge normally at the age of 35 to 40 years. He will have some not less than 15 to 20 years in service before him. If we can pick up such persons and appoint them as Presiding Officers, then naturally, they would go there. If you have somebody who is almost on the verge of retirement in your mind, then probably he may not opt to go there. That is why I said, 'we will have to question the intentions of the Government as to whether such a provision is being made only to favour a few selected persons'—for whom even after the age of retirement, this will amount to giving them some sort of solace by posting them to such kind of tribunals. Otherwise, there is absolutely no force in the argument of the hon. Minister to say, 'sorry we could not constitute the Tribunals as intended to for lack of availability of suitable persons to be appointed as the Presiding Officers'. So is the case with

the Appellate Tribunal also. A person who is qualified to act as the judge of a High Court is to be appointed as the Presiding Officer of the Appellate Tribunal. So also an Advocate, who has put in 15 years of service before any High Court, is automatically eligible to become a judge of the Supreme Court. We have a number of such persons. There are any number of Advocates. I should not say I myself have been a practising lawyer...*(Interruptions)*. But for heaven's sake, I do not wish to go there. My only anxiety is that if the Government is really serious to recover the money which is due, then there are a number of ways. You can find suitable persons and you can entrust them with this job.

The second aspect is that I would like to question the *Bona fides* of this Government whether they are really serious in recovering the moneys which are due. This Government have slept over a long period so far as the recoveries of thousands and thousands of crores of rupees are concerned, which are lost in the securities scam and no effective steps have been taken. So far, the Government have not come forward with any suggestions. Are they really serious? I have no hesitation in saying that the people who are sitting in the Government are more interested in protecting the interests of such persons who really owe a huge amount of money to these banks or the financial institutions than in recovering the moneys. They are really interested in protecting the interests of such persons who have swallowed the moneys which are said to be lost in the securities scam. Otherwise, if a serious effort is made, probably the money would have been realised by now.

So, the intention of the Government is to be questioned. The hon. Minister was also telling that probably the Government would like to give decent burial to this Act itself. The High Court of Delhi has already struck down the Act. That is why the hon. Minister was telling that they have moved a Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has just granted a stay in respect of the judgments delivered by the Delhi High Court. So, whether the Supreme Court will give effect to the existing Act itself will have to be seen. Then only the question of constituting the Tribunals comes in. ...*(Interruptions)*. So, the hon. Minister is better advised to withdraw the Bill.

The other aspect also would show that the Government is not at all serious. The Act is of the year 1993. This Bill is Bill No. 101 of 1994, it was introduced before this House in the year 1994 and it is a Bill containing very small amendments. If the Government was really serious, this Bill should have been passed without any discussion. If the hon. Minister had made the request, the House would have readily agreed to pass this Bill. Nobody would have come

in the way. That itself shows that the Government is not at all serious.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): But you are opposing it now.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I am opposing your intention. Your intention is bad. It is only just to while away the time, I may be pardoned to say so, Sir. Such kinds of Bills are being introduced and the Members are bothered to say something about the Bill, get the Bill passed and make it into an enactment. We do not know whether the Act, which is really not in force but for the stay orders granted by the Supreme Court, will remain in force or one fine day again the hon. Minister may have to come up before this House with a new Bill containing some other provisions and make us discuss such a Bill. Anyway, I have serious doubts in my mind whether the Government is really interested in recovering the dues.

Now I shall say one or two things about the style of functioning of the banks also. May I ask the Minister as to why so much of amount remains as outstanding dues to be recovered from the loanees? After all, the banks are guided by the so-called guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. A strict vigilance is supposed to be there. Then, they are required to submit the daily returns, the weekly returns, the fortnightly returns, the monthly returns, the half-yearly returns, the annual returns, etc., etc. There are provisions for having internal audit and external audit. Then they also come out with the Annual Report... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for this Bill is one hour.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: That is why I say that the Government is not serious in getting the Bill passed. In my opinion, there is absolutely no hurry for getting this Bill passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That you have already said.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Such a huge amount is to be collected. It will be collected in an hour. How is it possible? They have no intention to collect it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you not thus decided internally?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: No, there is no intention to collect. It is so.

[English]

The Minister will have to tell us whether the banks are following the guidelines scrupulously. How is it that so many thousands of crores of rupees have accumulated as

outstanding dues? I can understand a few thousand rupees outstanding in genuine cases where the debt is very huge. Even what is remaining to be recovered is after exercising all the rights of writing off the loans, waiver of the loans, giving so much concession in interest, etc., etc. Even after doing all this exercise, there is a lot of money which is shown to be outstanding and the Tribunals which are envisaged under this Bill are being burdened with passing of orders to recover that money.

I shall now come to the effectiveness of the order that would be passed by the Tribunal or by the Appellate Tribunal. That also will have to be considered by the Government. After all, we know about the procedure in the civil courts. After a prolonged hearing of the case by the court, the court would ultimately pass a decree. I recall that when my Professor used to teach us the Civil Procedure Code, he used to make a mention about the passing of the decree. There is a provision in the Civil Procedure Code to pass a decree after the hearing of the case is over. My professor used to say: "Look, here is a paper decree". So, it will be a decree which will be given by the court but which will just remain on the paper. Then, *de novo* the execution proceedings would start. The loanee would again be given an opportunity to raise the objections in the court before an order is passed by the court for the execution of the decree already passed by it.

We can at least be saved when the Tribunal or the Appellate Tribunal ultimately passes a judgment. The banks would be saved from the agony of passing through all these stages and the banks will be able to recover the money at once when the final orders are placed in their hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I am concluding. Sir, we do not know when the banks will wake up to initiate proceedings for recovery. After several years have lapsed when the person who has borrowed the money goes bankrupt or is not to be seen or when the articles or other assets pledged in favour of the bank vanished, then the banks will wake up and will go before the courts for such kind of Tribunal asking for decree. The whole substance of my submission is that there is no real intention to recover the money due and there is no real intention with this Government also to see that the money which is utilised by these banks for granting of loans is recovered on time.

After all, wherefrom does this money come? The money which is distributed as loans by the banks belongs to the public and the citizens of this country whose hard earnings is this money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. These are all presumptions. I know it.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I am concluding. These people save a lot of money and keep it as deposits in the banks and that money is utilised. The seriousness will have to be understood. Once that kind of money is granted as loan and not recovered in time, and the Government also is not serious to recover such dues, we will have to view the situation seriously. Giving this kind of very petty reasons which would not appeal to the conscience of any person will not do. I would like to say that the Government would also like to just drag on. They want to prolong the constitution of such Tribunals which are supposed to help for speedy recovery of money.

So, I request the hon. Minister just to withdraw this Bill immediately and take steps to constitute the Tribunals as per the provisions of the Act and also constitute the Appellate Tribunals immediately and to take steps to recover the money which is due to the banks and which money really belongs to the citizens of this country.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 1994 which is now before the House. I have been very closely listening to my hon. friend Shri Dhananjaya Kumar. Unfortunately he is leaving now. I cannot use the word 'irrelevant'; but all that he has stated was without knowing the actual contents of the parent Act. The scope of this Bill is very limited. As it stands, the maximum age of the Presiding Officer of the Tribunal is 60 years and that of the Appellate Tribunal is 62 years. Now my friend has been trying very hard to say that it is very easy to find personnel for the Tribunal in as much as an advocate who has put in 10 years of practice at the Bar is qualified to be a District Judge and that one who has put in 15 years of practice is qualified to be a Judge of the High Court. His point is that instead of drafting very talented judges with long years of experience and who held responsible posts, any advocate who has put in 10 or 15 years of practice can be put in charge of such a very very important work.

17.00 hrs.

I am very sorry to hear him saying that this does not require a judicious mind. These are the words he has used. In that case, a Lower Division Clerk can be put in there. He has to look into all the details because the records will be there. He can do it.

In the parent Act, there is only one person as a Tribunal and one as an Appellate Tribunal. The responsibility of that person is very great because a very important work is assigned to him. So, I think only judges who have put in some years of service as experience, as far as possible, shall be given the responsibility of the Tribunal and that only

will serve the purpose for which the Bill has been originally passed.

Then, another observation made by him is that an inordinate delay has been caused. We all know that when the matter goes to the court in appeal, the legal proceedings take several years. It is only to avoid that delay that the Tribunal has been constituted so that there shall be a summary procedure and within a timeframe a final decision is taken. So, I think, there cannot be any objection for this amendment. This is a very good amendment which we have to support.

17.01 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

Coming to the parent Act, I would like to say that even at the time when the parent Act was passed, I shared my concern on one or two points. I have to make my position clear. If somebody takes a loan, he has a primary responsibility to see that loan is repaid, because unless the loan is repaid, the whole financial system will be ruined. Somebody who has taken a loan will have to repay it, because it is a cycle and it will have to be given to somebody else.

Sir, as my friend has said, it is the public money and it is the duty of every person to repay the loan. But according to the parent Act, anybody whose due has come to an amount of Rs. 10 lakh, automatically that comes within the purview of this Act. This is one area where I have got some reservations. It is not a case of one person who has taken a loan of Rs. 10 lakh over a period of time. But there are instances where a person might have taken a loan of Rs. One lakh for self-employment programme under circumstances which are beyond his control, the interest might have accumulated. As you know, Sir, almost 70 per cent of the small scale industrial sector is sick, not because of any problem of the management, but due to a variety of other reasons and in those circumstances, because of the delayed payment, over a period of time, even Rs. One lakh will become Rs. 10 lakh.

Sir, I do not know on what ground the Delhi High Court has set aside the Act. This is the first time that I hear of it. But I would request the hon. Minister to consider the possibility of excluding anybody who has taken a loan of less than Rs. Two lakh. It means, if he has to come within the ambit of the Bill, it should be five times the loan which he has taken. It will be very cruel if five times of the loan taken has to be recovered ultimately. There is no social justice in it.

Sir, even before Independence, in 1937 when late Sir Rajagopalachari was the Chief Minister of Madras, a Bill was passed to protect the interests of the farmers and that

is, the Agrarian Debt Relief Act and there was a provision that at no point of time double the amount of the loan taken shall be repaid. Here what I say is, upto five times of the loan taken may be exempted. There are methods to recover the money from those persons. But it is not fair, if the persons who have taken loan for self-employment programme under circumstances beyond their control and who are poor people belonging to the lowest strata of the society, some of whom live even below the poverty line, are to come within the ambit of this Bill.

According to another clause, there is a provision for Appellate Authority. There is only one Appellate Authority at Bombay. As per the provision of this clause anybody who wants to appeal against the verdict of a Tribunal, has to submit 75 per cent of the amount to the Appellate Authority. I think, this is bad in law. No sensible court will accept it. I again plead with the Minister for rethinking. For instance, if a Tribunal has given a verdict against a person that he has to pay Rs. 10 lakh and if he wants to go to the court for an appeal, he has to deposit Rs. 7.5 lakh. Everybody knows that if a person has the means to earn Rs. 7.5 lakh, he would not have gone for the loan at all. So, I cannot understand how such a Bill can be drafted. Therefore, I request that the amount to be deposited with the Appellate Authority for an appeal against the verdict of the Tribunal be reduced from 75 per cent to 10 per cent.

I would again request the hon. Minister to please consider these two points. I know it would not be possible for him to give positive answer now during the course of his reply. But this has to be considered and re-examined and I request that another amendment Bill has to be brought forward to protect these two interests.

My friend, who spoke before me, is not here. He has gone back because he knows that he cannot hear some of us speaking as whatever he said is without any reality and substance. He spoke about delay also as it was presented in 1994. It took lot of time. All those who are in Parliament know that it was delayed because a lot of time was wasted on non-issues. Continuously, for four or five or six days the functioning of Parliament was stalled. I do not blame anyone as we are often misusing our right, misusing the democracy and misusing whatever privileges we have. But the fact remains that the valuable time of the House has been wasted on non-issues or without any issue. So, the agenda could not be taken. Even now there are a number of Bills pending. There are only a few more days left. How will they be able to finish the job when all of us, including me, come forward with unnecessary and non-issues and go on discussing them? This is the problem. They have also to understand the predicament of the Government. So, I think, whatever my friend has said is without any substance. This Bill has to be passed and this

is a necessity also. I support the Bill. But I press that the two points which I put forth that anybody who has taken loan below the amount of Rs. 2 lakh shall not come in the ambit of this Bill and that 10 per cent of the amount shall be remitted for filing an appeal.

With this request, I support the Bill.

Sir, now he has come when I have concluded because he knows he would not be able to face me.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, we are facing the entire Government.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Bill is to amend the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993. Now, so far as the purpose of the Bill is concerned, it is very limited. But in the original Bill there was a provision for the Tribunal for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Now, Sir, in the present amendment, the Government seeks to enhance the age of the Presiding Officers of the Tribunal and Appellate Tribunals. My question is that when the Bill was introduced in this Parliament I took part in the discussion and I drew the attention of the hon. Minister to certain flaws in the Act and we warned that because of these flaws you may have to go to the Courts as it may be challenged. He assured us that when the rules were framed all these things would be looked into.

So, the allegation that the Government did not take the matter very seriously, I share with my hon. friend on the right side, is a very justified allegation. The second thing is that the Government did not find adequate number of personnel to fill up the posts of the Presiding Officers. So, the Tribunals could not function. On August 27, 1993 the Bill came into effect. Time has passed since then. By this time, several hundreds of cases could have been presented before the Tribunal and some crores of rupees could have been secured. We have failed; our Government have failed. We, as responsible citizens of this country, as representatives of the people, feel sorry that we failed to recover the amount which otherwise could have been recovered and used for the society. We failed in our duty.

Sir, the point is whether the Tribunal would serve the purpose of recovering these debts. So many suggestions have been put forward before the Government. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, on Banking Division. We have already submitted our Report. Last time also, the hon. Minister of State of Finance was present. We asked him very categorically as to what the hon. Finance Minister was doing in regard to the reconciliation of inter-branch accounts and as to what steps the hon. Finance

Minister was taking to see that these banks accounts were properly audited — audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and not by some accountants. I can understand as to why do they hesitate and what is the cause. The answer that the Government gave was not at all convincing. It is said that 'there is no such provision'. They have to make such a provision. How do these things occur in our country?

Actually, the functioning of these banks is one of the main indicators of the financial health of our economy. The financial health of our economy is very bad and it is diseased. I said, "it was like that of a patient with a fractured bone. We must heal the wounds; we must make it healthy, and in order to do that, auditing by the Comptroller and Auditor General was very much necessary." That was my suggestion. I again request the Government to think about it very seriously.

The Government implemented the Besley Committee recommendations and allotted enough funds from our exchequer for maintaining the capital adequacy which was not at all needed in a social banking of the Indian type. After nationalisation, we went in for social banking and with a small capital base, not only the indigenous banks and nationalised banks, but also the foreign banks made a very good business. So, there was no reason for it. They implemented it very quickly. But when I asked him to implement the suggestions of the Goiporia Committee, the Government hesitated. Till date, some important recommendations of the Goiporia Committee have not been implemented by this Government. The hon. Minister surely must have gone through the Ghosh Committee Report. He must have seen what Shri Ghosh has recommended.

What is sacred about this 'secrecy clause'? You are going to form a Tribunal for adjudication, for decision, for recovery of the debts. Now, Sir, we demanded that the names of the defaulters should be published.

Who are these people from whom you recover the amounts? I can cite many instances when the Government, on their own initiative, made a compromise with people who had taken large amounts from the bank. But again when a refugee woman who has taken only Rs. 5 lakhs from the bank and repaid the entire amount, but failed to pay the interest, her property was taken away. There are many such instances which have been published in Newspapers. The hon. Minister knows about this. Now the Reserve Bank of India has also come out with a report. When I took part in the debate on this Bill in 1993, I said that the amount of non-performing assets was more than Rs. 20,000 crores officially. Now the Reserve Bank has published a List of 5,729 persons who have defaulted more than Rs. 30,000 crores. The List is out. The names have been quoted by

the media. Even the name of an hon. Member of Parliament belonging to the other House is also included there. The Government has neither challenged nor denied the report. This rouses suspicions about the honesty of the people who belong to Parliament. In 1993, I referred to certain flaws in the Act itself and warned that this may be challenged in the court. Government assured that at the time of framing rules this will be taken care of. But the present situation has arisen because you did not take adequate care of it. Some may suspect that you have an interest in raising the age limit of the Presiding Officers of the Tribunal. May be you have some persons in mind for whom you are enhancing the age limit. These things are common. In some public undertakings, you place people of your choice and then spoil the industry. I do not know whether they have in their mind any persons whom they would like to place there. Otherwise, what is the objection of filling up the vacancies with persons who have adequate qualifications and adequate experience? Even in the formation of the Tribunal, if you want that these Tribunals should start immediately, then why do not you fill up the vacancies with people who have adequate experience? Why are you waiting?

The Reserve Bank of India has circulated a List of more than 5,000 persons, all big tycoons, among the commercial banks. I demand that the Government should immediately publish the names of those persons. You cannot hide everything from the people of India under the veil of Secrecy Clause. Recovery of these debts is a very very serious matter. Some people advanced the argument that during Shri V.P. Singh's regime when the Government started giving loans to the farmers and those loans were waived afterwards and then this process started. That is not a fact. It started long back. It started from Janardan Poojari's loan mela. People began to think that you are utilising these loans for political ends. You utilise this for catching votes and for election purposes. You take money from the banks and you need not repay. At this very moment, if you try to find out how the projects under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana are going on, you will find the same thing. The purpose is not to serve the people nor to serve the economic interests of the country. The purpose is not to recover the debts. But the purpose is to secure electoral victories. My BJP friends said that. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the intention which is being questioned. We are ready to render all possible help to the Government if they are serious in the matter. The point is that if Pakistan can publish the names of the defaulters even before the elections, why India, our great country, this great nation cannot do it? Please do not protect these people hon. Minister.

As far as the Tribunal is concerned, it is a matter of the style of functioning of this Govt. What they do is that

whenever there is a problem, they just form a Committee. Whenever there is a problem, they just form a Tribunal and tell the people that they are forming a Tribunal and they shall judge everything, they shall take speedy decisions. But the speedy decisions are delayed by this process. So, even after they fill up the vacancies, I would request the hon. Minister to see that these Tribunals do actually function. But even after the functioning of the Tribunals, you have got to do something. The point is that you lack a strong political decision. Rather, you have the political decision to cover up these people.

Sir, with these words and suggestions, I request the hon. Minister of State for Finance to look into the inter-bank reconciliation, look into the Goiporia Committee Report and also look into the secrecy clause that is there. I hope that he will consider whether the accounts can be scrutinised by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

With these words, I finish my speech.

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to point out that there is not much of a problem as far as recovery of money is concerned. But the only thing that I feel is that there should be more number of Tribunals throughout the country. The Appellate Tribunal is now provided in Bombay. It should be provided in more number of places.

A number of banks and financial institutions are there which are mainly meant for the purpose of lending money. At the same time, they have to recover the money also. The settlement of the dues is hampered due to various reasons. Obviously some of the Members have mentioned about it. It may be due to some sort of a sickness of industry and also due to various other reasons. Earlier also, it was mentioned that there should be some sort of a provision like the income-tax provision through which provision the Finance Minister can take care of this problem. By such a provision, you can tackle this problem. You can take care of it by allowing these sick industries to settle very fast by allowing various provisions like amalgamations and mergers so that probably some of these things can be easily adjusted between themselves. It should not be delayed in the courts and these sorts of Tribunals need not have to handle so many cases. We have got what we call the Wealth Tax cases. In order to solve such cases, we have the Settlement Offices. On similar lines, if not the same, they should have something like that which can help us to see that a large amount of the money of both the banks and the financial institutions are recovered fast. A large amount is lying unrecovered there. That is causing a great setback towards the progress and development of this country. I appeal again to the hon. Minister to work out some method for giving some sort of a provision in this respect to make room for a quick settlement just like a settlement court so that they

can handle it. They can reduce the number of cases which go to the Tribunals and the Appellate Tribunals.

I also feel that the age-limit for the Judges is not a problem. It is proposed to increase the age from sixty-two years to sixty five years. Up to sixty years, this is not a problem. But there may be some people who are capable, who are eligible and who can do the job. If the Government wants to seriously find out such people, it will be much easier to take care of these cases and you can recover a substantial amount of money of both the financial institutions and the banks. If you look at it, the arrears are not going to be in hundreds but it is going to run into thousands of crores of rupees. The main purpose of the financial institutions is that they should be able to settle the accounts as early as possible in order to see that they progress and other industries also progress. If we are able to work out some methods, then it can also reduce this sort of a burden. As one of our hon. Members, Shri Charles has said, even smaller cases can also be reduced to a level of Rs. 2 lakhs. It is a different provision and they should be able to settle matters with the help of the Settlement Officers wherever possible. This will reduce the legality of cases and will help to settle the accounts much faster.

I only appeal that there should be some sort of provision in the Income-tax laws in order to see that these sort of things can be settled mutually by amalgamation, mergers and taking over some of the cases and adjusting them among themselves so that it completely reduces the burden on these things.

The question of age limit is not a major problem. If they are able to seriously consider it, they can do it. I hope they can increase the number of tribunals and also the appellate tribunals in order to see that recoveries are made much faster. Thank you very much.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, recovery of debts from financial institutions and banks is also one of the important parts of the Bill. But this has been confined to a limited purpose, that is, the formation of a tribunal or raising the age limit of superannuation for presiding officers of tribunals and appellate tribunals etc.

But so far as recovery of debts is concerned, this is a very much important aspect. If you pass so many legislations, so many laws, that is not going to solve our problem because I think, there is a lack of coordination between the Recovery Cell and the Disbursement Cell. Once you see the functioning of the banking institutions and the financial institution, we find that those officers who are in charge of the Sanction Department, are very much interested in sanctioning of loans to different categories of

persons. So far as disbursement is concerned, they are also very much interested at that level. They are disbursing loans to the tune of crores of rupees. So far as recovery is concerned, this is very much tardy, very much slow in every bank and every financial institution. That is why we find that there is complete dearth of it all over the country.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): In Bihar 9 per cent recovery has been made.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are talking about the whole country.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Bank rate on recovery of interest is 9 per cent.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Bank is a Central Organisation. This is not being run by the State Government of Bihar. This is an untruth that he is talking about. I am talking about the overall scenario of what is prevailing in the whole country. So far as Bihar is concerned, it is rather suffering because of the lowest credit deposit ratio. That is why, you cannot accuse Bihar squarely and single-handedly. It is entirely the banking institutions and the financial institutions and those officers like the CMD and the Chairman who are responsible for it. They should be rather punished—I am not talking about any State. I find that there is complete lack of coordination between all these Departments. Unless and until there is inter-departmental coordination between the Sanction Department, the Disbursement Department and the Recovery Department, the matter is not going to be tackled, the problem is not going to be solved to a greater extent. You may pass so many pieces of legislation. You may just change the age of the presiding officer, you may form so many tribunals and appellate tribunals, but unless and until the intention is good, unless and until your action is serious and sincere, you are not going to achieve whatever you are targeting to achieve. That is my suggestion. There are certain inherent powers, inherent rules and regulations and there are certain guiding principles for sanctioning of loans. But, in course of just sanctioning loan, we find that those officers who are responsible for the sanction of loan, are not looking into the cardinal principles of the sanction of loan. So far as the profitability is concerned, so far as the security is concerned, so far as the safety of loan is concerned, so far as the diversification of risk is concerned and so far as the marketability of the security is concerned, these are the guiding principles. Once the guiding principles for sanction of loan are kept in mind, I do not find any reason that there will be any sort of lack of recovery or the amount cannot be recovered because you sanction loan only to those persons who are credible, those who are reputed and those who are having high goodwill and reputation in the market.

Whatever we find from the actual date which is

provided by the Government, those who belong to the category of greater industrialists, those who belong to capitalist categories of persons and those who belong to big persons are not making payment of loans. But, so far as the small farmers are concerned, so far as small scale industrialists are concerned, so far as small transport operators are concerned, so far as so many small borrowers are concerned, you just recover all your dues with iron hand. But once you face all these big industrialists, big capitalists and big categories of persons then where is your determination; where is your firmness; where is your action? All these are lacking on that front.

When the Janata Dal Government was in power, once we just looked into the plight and problems of the small farmers and very poor persons. In that case, we resorted to the scheme of loan waiver. In that case also, whatever loan was waived, officials are running here and there and they are trying to recover those amounts which were waived by the previous Janata Dal Government. With their determination, so many actions are also being taken. We also sometimes interfere that this has been waived by the popular Janta Dal Government and that waiver is also being just waived here and this Government is trying to get something from these small borrowers. So, these are the positions and these are the conditions prevailing in the country.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that you form all these tribunals; there may be tribunals at the State level, at the regional level and at the different levels; there may be just other tribunals also; you may raise the age limit also. We do not have any objection to that. But, similar suggestions were given by my friends also. There are so many competent persons and so many competent advocates. If you want to fill up all these vacancies, if you are very much sincere in recovery of the amount and debts due to financial institutions and banking institutions, no rules and regulations are stopping you from doing that. You can do that. You can recover that amount of money. The outstanding amount is staggering. There is dearth of amount of money for sanctioning loans to small farmers, to small businessmen, small scale industrialists and those who are in vocation and profession. They are not getting loans.

At the same time, we find that one point which is very much important and which must be kept in mind by the hon. Finance Minister is that there is a scheme of diversion of funds. You sanction loan for a particular purpose and those persons who are receiving those loans divert their loans towards other purposes. In that case, whatever object is there for getting loan, is not being fulfilled and that is a lacuna. As a result, so many industries have been declared sick because the funds have been diverted. Only small

machinery and equipment are installed, land and buildings are just erected, but so far as the running capital is concerned or so far as the working capital is concerned, once the loan is sanctioned to all these industries, they are not being just used for that and these funds are diverted. That is why, I would like to suggest to the hon. Finance Minister that if you are very much sincere in recovery of the amount of money, you will have to pay attention to the different aspects, viz., sanction aspect, disbursement aspect. Once you sanction loans to small borrowers—in that case, there is no problem—you just realise that amount of money with iron hand, with your determination and with all firmness but you could not do so as far as the big industrialists, big capitalists and big people are concerned.

It was announced in the neighbouring country that even the former Prime Minister's name figured in the list of the loanee members. But, here in our country, there is a hide and seek principle. People are just hidden. Their names are not disclosed on one pretext or the other. That is why this sort of a thing is taking place everywhere, in village areas, remote parts of the country, in rural areas. We do not find plenty of funds for giving loan to the small persons. But so far as availability of fund is concerned to the big borrowers, there is never any dearth of fund. In that case the loan is being sanctioned, it is being disbursed to such people. There is no anxiety on the part of the bank officials in so far as the recovery is concerned. That is why I would like to say that whatever tribunal you want to form, you can form it. We do not have any objection to that. If you want to raise the age of superannuation of the Presiding Officers, we do not have objection to that. If you want to raise the age of the Presiding Officers of the Appellate Tribunals, we do not have any objection to that. But these things are not going to help in the recovery of debts and dues outstanding to the banking institutions and financial institutions. So many institutions have been established under the State Financial Act 1961 also. Various State Financial Corporations were established. But these are not functioning. They are not in a position to sanction any amount of loan to any borrower. What is the actual position? Because there is dearth of funds, all the funds have been pipelined to different categories of persons.

Similarly, whatever Harshad Mehta case has taken place, security scandal has taken place, shoes scandal has taken place—and who knows, *chappal* scandal may also take place in this country—I do not argue for that. But these are scandals that are taking place in different forms in the country. Why do these scandals take place? It is because unscrupulously you are sanctioning loans to these categories of people. But those persons who are needy, those who belong to the category of 40 per cent in the priority sector, are not taken care of by you. You are not giving any loan to these persons. The basic principle is being neglected at

that stage. I would like to remind you, whatever legislation you pass, unless and until there is sincerity and honesty on the part of the bank officials, they won't help.

So many recommendations are pending. The Goipuria recommendations are there. He was the Chairman of the State Bank of India and he made so many recommendations. He said these are the do's and these are the don'ts. But these do's and don'ts are not being implemented. You are simply putting forward before this august house so many legislations. We are ready to extend our cooperation to you, to give our unstinted support and unconditional support to you, provided you have the sincerity to recover the amounts from all these big borrowers. Why do you just neglect the recovery aspect from all these big borrowers? Why do you just concentrate upon these small borrowers? This is my humble question.

With these recommendations, to some extent I support it, but to a greater extent I cannot support the Bill. So far as the raising of the age of superannuation is concerned, I support it. But so far as the intention is concerned, still I challenge it and I dispute the sincerity of the officials. The hon. Finance Minister will also agree with my views that unless and until there are pious intentions on the part of the Government, on the part of the officials, on the part of the Chairman and Managing Directors of the banking institutions and financial institutions, these measures are not going to yield any result. So far as the coordination is concerned among all these Departments—the sanctioning department, the disbursement department and the recovery department—it is a necessity. Internal provisions are there, audit provisions are there, reconciliation of accounts provision is there and inter-branches reconciliation provision is also there. So many provisions are there. What more do you want? There is lack of intention, lack of sincerity, lack of honesty on the part of the Government. That is why it is not yielding any result. Otherwise there is no need of the introduction of more and more provisions, no need of the introduction of more and more pieces of legislation.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to give some fundamental basic suggestions. We have been roaming in darkness about the machinery for recovery of various dues, may be income tax dues, bank dues, financial institutions' dues and dues on account of various taxation measures. Every time a legislation comes, some tribunal is appointed. And those tribunals are mostly manned by persons who are either retired officers or retired judges. Here, I want to make a suggestion. We must have an Indian Judicial Service on the patterns of IAS, IPS, IFS, etc., so that young, creative and energetic persons can come up and can be entrusted with this work. But unfortunately what is happening is that in spite of the fact that our young, energetic talent is suffering

on account of unemployment—we have got a serious problem of unemployment—we prefer to oblige certain persons at the time of retirement, on account of some past act which they have done to favour a person or in order to expect some favour. Now, what is this 'going-on' in this country? The public exchequer's fund is spent on obliging persons. And this results in no really constructive work. Now, what they have planned here is a tenure of five years. They say that they want to recruit some persons of the District Court Judge cadre or of the High Court Judge cadre. There are various such Tribunals and other such forums in various subjects and disciplines. Everywhere the problem is the same. As soon as the retirement comes a particular judge in a High Court or Supreme Court or a District Court starts roaming about in the political corridors of the persons who matter. There is a *quid pro quo* in the sense that something is done by such persons to oblige the political elite, who can get them appointed in return for such a favour. This has to be completely eradicated. I would earnestly submit that if we create this Indian Judicial Service, we will have very energetic, talented young persons. They would be able to man all these tribunals. So, my first suggestion is that an Indian Judicial Service should be constituted. The Chief Justices Conference has recommended it, the Law Commission's Report has recommended it and various other Committees have recommended it. But those recommendations are lying in the shelves and they have not been adhered to. So, I appeal to the hon. Minister to create an Indian Judicial Service like IPS or IAS and entrust all this work to them and have a tenure of three to five years. Otherwise, it is just a sort of largesse, just a sort of favour to whoever are in their humour, whoever are in their good confidence.

Secondly, they have stated in the parent Act that they would like to appoint persons who are either District Court Judges or have got the qualification to become District Court Judges and High Court Judges or have got the qualification to become High Court Judges. A person with seven to ten years practice can become a District Court Judge and a person who has got a practice of fifteen or more years can become a High Court Judge. Therefore, under the basic qualification which you have provided in the parent Act, we have got lakhs and lakhs of persons, not thousands not hundreds. The bars in this country consist of lakhs and lakhs of advocates and some of them are very talented and very intelligent. They can be recruited to these Tribunals. So, why do you require the persons who are District and High Court Judges again, I do not understand. Have you tried for that? Have you failed? You do not seem to say so. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, all that has been said is this.

"Government's efforts for establishment of Tribunals at different places have not been successful due to

lack of adequate response from sitting Judges. The main reason for this has been that the superannuation ages of Presiding Officer of Tribunals and Appellate Tribunal are sixty years and sixty-two years respectively which is also the age of superannuation of District Judges and High Court Judges. Government hopes that if the maximum age of the Presiding Officers of the Tribunal is raised from sixty years to sixty-two years and from sixty-two years to sixty-five years in the case of Appellate Tribunal, the situation may improve."

Nowhere has it been said that they have not been able to get talented persons, competent persons, qualified persons, experienced persons from among the Bar. Why have you not tried it? Why do you confine your choice only to sitting Judges of District Court and High Courts? The Members of the Bar are very large who are there throughout the country and they are prepared to join, if you give them enough tenure of service. Therefore I would submit that this is a legislation which they are bringing forward in order to create a sort of favourite class of persons in the judiciary whom they can oblige at the time of retirement. Now, this is precisely very objectionable. To make a favourite judiciary or a committed judiciary in a country is a negation of rule of law and independence of judiciary. Therefore, it is very dangerous. I would therefore say that this type of effort which is being made in a very very concealed manner, covered manner, camouflaged cover and in a disguise, to create a favourite class in the judiciary, should be condemned.

Another thing that I would like to point out is that all laws which are there, whether they are Banking Laws or they are laws concerning the Financial Institutions by which loans are given, have got provisions for immediate attachment of property. Why do you resort to steps like closure of those industries or taking over of those industries, when you have got enough laws in hand? Why do you want to go in for a long process, a long drawn out process of tribunal thereby adjudicating things which are already adjudicated in the bank accounts? Why do you not attach the property of those industries or those units or those business houses where lakhs and crores of rupees are lying and why do you not pressurise them to pay the money? That is not done.

It has been pointed out by many speakers that you do not publish the list of defaulters. If you publish the list of defaulters, you will find that some of the very very eminent industries and business houses have got crores and crores of rupees of the banks and financial institutions with them. They are really spending the public money. Therefore, there is lack of political will, lack of determination, lack of burning desire and lack of strong policy. This is all there, for the purpose of putting a camouflage and a cover

to the real design; and the real design is known to the country. After Harshad Mehta's scandal came to light and after the JPC's Report, how much recovery has been done? We had the JPC report; we had the report of the Action Taken and 'action not taken'; and there was a debate. But what has the debate led to? How much recovery have they made? The Minister should enlighten and mention it in the House as to what actually has been done.

Now, I want to mention one more point and then I will sit down. The entire requirement is of giving loans to the rural sector, which is called the 'gramin'; and the banks are called 'Gramin Banks' or Rural Banks. The Rural Banks should be equipped for the purpose of giving loans to farmers who are small farmers and not big farmers who have got 'benami' transactions and big farms in the name of various persons including animals. They are in the names of animals in order to get out of the ceiling laws. We have got known persons who have lands in the name of a dog, in the name of a sheep, in the name of various animals which are termed by the persons in order to flout the ceiling laws. That is what is happening. I had given the names, when I was a Member of the Assembly in Rajasthan way back in 1972 to show how certain big persons who were the Ministers there, were having lands in the names of various persons apart from *benami* lands. We do not want those persons to be obliged. But we want a petty farmer, a small farmer, a marginal farmer who has got nothing to fall back upon, must be given loans. For the artisans in the villages who are starving and who are really not in a position to cultivate on account of paucity of funds, who have not got big tractors and big mechanical appliances, Gramin bank should be formed.

Sir, we have advocated a number of times with the Minister of Finance and the Finance Minister that All India Gramin Bank should be formed or a National Gramin Bank should be formed so that the entire money can come there. The Finance Minister agreed once but later on he took a somersault and he changed this. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, we have to put emphasis on the rural bank economy. If they do not do it, they are doing so at their own peril. People would not excuse them, the farmers would not excuse them now. And, therefore, I submit that please create All India Gramin Bank, a Federation Bank, a National Bank. It has been worked upon for the last three years by the Finance Ministry and it has also been advised by the consultative Committee of the Finance Department, Ministry of Finance. But somehow or the other, some bureaucrat sitting here or there puts some obstacles, some hindrance and then the whole matter is reversed.

Therefore I would submit that this is the real necessity instead of cutting the 'i's and dotting the 'i's, making sixty sixty-two and sixty-two sixty-five. That is not going to

deliver the goods. That is not going to serve the purpose. The teeming millions of this country want some radical measures like 'All India Gramin Bank' and like 'All India Judicial Service' in order to really solve the problems. Therefore, I would request that the hon. Minister should apply his mind objectively and he should not resort to this *quid pro quo*, as I have submitted. This *quid pro quo* is very dangerous, more dangerous when it comes to judiciary, because if the holy, the pious, the judicial system, the only ray of hope which is there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: I am just completing. I would not take much time...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, please, Only one can advise and not all, at a time.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Sir, what I was going to submit is that I was trying to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the poor farmers of the village. Eighty-five per cent of the people live in village. And, what is their position? As a poet put it:

[Translation]

"Jo Jag Ko Anna Pradan Kare, Jag Usko Hi Tukrata Hai,
Uski Haddi Ko Noch Noch, Jag Vaibhav Bhavan Banata Hai.
Jag Ki Jhuthan Ke Thal Bhare, Bekar Bhale Hi Yon Jaten,
Roti Ki Khatir Rib-Rib Kar, Usko Becche Hain Mar Jaten.
Uski Khatiya, Uske Kapde, Uske Chhappar, Beche Jate,
Kori-Kori Ke Sud Arey, Anteriyon Se Khechen Jate.

[English]

'aantri' means inside the intestine.

[Translation]

Jo Jag Ko Anna Pradan Kare,

[English]

It means, who is really the *Annadata* for the entire country, who creates stocks on account of his sweet and on account of his labour.

[Translation]

Who keeps standing in the field during summer, winter and rainy season. He grows paddy through the sweat of his brow. When the paddy grows, he is made to pay interest. Over his loans through his nose. He was grows food, is discarded by the world. After pulling at his bones, the world builds places. At the true state of farmer to day, the great poet Sohan Lal Deveddi once said-

"Teri Mehnat Par Kisan, To Teri Himmat Par Kisan,
Wo Teri Kimat Par Kisan, Yamuna Ke Tat Par Taj Mahal
Ho Khara Dekh Mumtaz Mahal, Wah Teri Kimat Par Kisan,
Aanton Ki Tanto Par Kisan, Wo Teri Mehnat Par Kisan, Wo
Teri Kimat Par Kisan."...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, you tell your Minister to avoid such minor rules by manipulating them up and down and by cutting here and expanding there. For 60 they wrote 62 and 65 to 62. This poor will not get justice this way. Social justice is not given. For this it is necessary that you should take up the basic problems and let an All India Rular Bank be established. You should catch bit crocodiles and spax small fish. You stop shedding crocodile tears. The people will never forgive you. The time for your going has come. Do some good while parting so that in heavens you may receive something good. Otherwise here you have committed sins and in heavens also you will commit sins so that you are clean bowled.

[English]

SHRI S.S.R. RAJENDRA KUMAR (Chengalpattu): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party, AIADMK, I rise to speak on the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 1994.

Sir, the Bill seeks to increase the age-limit of the Presiding Officer of the Tribunal to hold office from 60 years to 62 years and that of the Appellate Tribunal from 62 years to 65 years. It is expected that this provision in the Act would enable speedy disposal of the cases pending before the Tribunals.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to know from the Government the number of cases pending before the Tribunals and also the total amount that is due to the various nationalised banks and the financial institutions, who are the persons and firms and the organisations who have to pay the dues to the nationalised banks and the financial institutions. Please let me know these details so far as Tamil Nadu is concerned.

Sir, in this context, I may point out that in 1982-83, the then Government, at the Centre disbursed a lot of money to the people under the name of "loan melas" and the loan was not returned and it was to be written off. Then again, the Central Government ruled by Congress-I Party had waived up to Rs. 10,000 given as loan to the small farmers. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know whether the dues to the banks are other than those given for the social purposes.

Sir, recruitment to the various nationalised banks has been restricted to a minimum from 1985 onwards, but the bank branches have been increasing all these years and there is shortage of staff in many branches. I understand that balancing of books and reconciliations involving about Rs. 2.5 lakh crore has been pending because of lack of staff and books and reconciliation. This is not at all a healthy practice in the banking business. The Government should take immediate action.

Tribunals and Appellate Tribunals should be established in Madras, Tiruchi, Madurai and Coimbatore. If two more members are appointed with the Presiding Officer in the Tribunal as well as Appellate Tribunal, the work will be easier and free criticism.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are four more Members to speak viz, Shri Chitta Basu, Shri P.C. Thomas, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava and Shri Ram Kirpal. We have one more minute. Shri Chitta Basu may start his speech and continue tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I shall call Shri Chitta Basu.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the proposed amendment to the Act is innocuous and is extremely restricted. The scope of the Bill is very limited. It relates only.. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Just a minute please. I would like to ask the hon Members if they could sit for 10 or 15 minutes more. There are one or two people who could then participate.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I leave the matter to the hon. Members. One or two persons could complete their speeches. It is because there would be too much of pressure tomorrow and allotting two or three minutes to each Member does not look nice. If we could sit for some more time today, then one or two hon. Members could participate.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: O.K. Shri Chitta Basu, you please continue your speech tomorrow.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I would continue my speech tomorrow.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): You please keep standing till tomorrow I

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Tuesday, May 30,
1995/Jyaishtha 9, 1917 (Saka)