

Tenth Series, Vol. XLV, No. 9

Thursday, December 7, 1995

Agrahayana 16, 1917 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Fifteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XLV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(ENGLISH VERSION)

Thursday, December 7, 1995/Agrahayna 16/1917(Saka).

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<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
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73/17	The Minister of State in	The Minister of State in the
159/25	the Ministry of Home Affairs	Ministry of Home Affairs
160/25	(Shri Syed Sibtey Razi)	(Syed Sibtey Razi)
173/19(from below)		
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54/3	Shri Mulliapally Ranchandran	Shri Mullappally Ramchadran
72/9(from below)	Shri Vishwanath Sharma	Shri V.N.Sharma
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LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 7, 1995/ Agrayayana 17, 1917 (Saka)
(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for the suspension of Question Hour, in the matter dealing with the Ministry of Communications...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : When it has been decided that the question Hour will never be suspended, then what is the justification of their notice?

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE : We want a statement from the Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, this is a scandal involving thousands of crores of rupees. ...(Interruptions) Question Hour should be suspended to take up this issue...(Interruptions) We want that Question Hour should be suspended to take up this matter...(Interruptions) This is the greatest scandal of the period...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kapse, well, let us understand that the Question Hour is to hold the Government accountable. You ask the question in a pointed manner and you get the replies. Now, we have the Question Hour and the other Members have given their notices.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They have given the notices. Information has been collected. Questions can be asked and they can be replied.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want the suspension of Question Hour...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : More over, if you want to raise any issue, you are very learned Members of this House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : That is why we are raising this issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Everybody is learned. As per the rules, we have given the notices. Please suspend the Question Hour...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE : The Government has lost Rs. 65,000 crores only because of the bungling of

Shri Sukh Ram. He is present. Let him explain. Let him make a statement. Otherwise, let him resign. Please issue a statement. We will have a dialogue...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Sir, I am prepared to make a statement whenever times permits. Whenever you allow me, I am prepared to make a statement. But one should not be condemned unheard.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right.

SHRI SUKH RAM : They should at least hear me...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE : We want to hear you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You can make a statement. We want to hear you...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, there is a procedure to be followed in this respect. If you want certain information from the Minister, you give me a notice. The Minister has said that he would make a statement. Then you will get the statement before you. Then you hear him and then you form the judgement. But supposing you are alleging certain things against them, other Members will also allege certain things against you. That will be unending.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He can make a *suo motu* statement now...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kapse, you are a very learned Member of this House. You have always been putting your finger on the rule and the regulation and very rightly. We all appreciate it. This time also, you could have come before the House by following the Rules. Now I am reading our Rule 353 to you:

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply..."

Have you followed this procedure?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, please sit down now. I will give you a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What prevented you from following this procedure? Suppose you want to say certain things; you have a right to say. You will not be obstructed from saying it. They have also said that they wanted to make allegations. Should I allow them to make allegations against you?

(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for the suspension of Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given a notice but why should there be suspension of Question Hour?

SHRI RAM KAPSE : I have asked for a statement from Mr. Sukh Ram on this issue. He is willing to make the statement. I am following Rule 332 ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : But I have to allow it. There are two other different things. You are saying, suspend the Question Hour. Other Members are saying, do not suspend the Question Hour because they have given the notices for Questions and they are trying to get the replies.

You are not the only person sitting in the House. Others have an equal right to do that. And you are not being denied the right to raise the issue. But follow a proper procedure. You are not following the procedure. You are trespassing into the area where they are entitled to ask the question. Should I allow them?

SHRI RAM KAPSE : I have given notice for moving the Motion. Let voting be taken ...*(Interruptions)*. I am prepared to move it. I want resignation from Mr. Sukh Ram.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : No, no...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not correct. I should have a proper notice - advance notice. The Minister should have a proper notice - advance notice. We will not shut out anything. But if each one of you wants to have the proceedings followed in a manner you like, how do you transact the business? Please understand the procedure.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, he is ready to make a statement. So, allow him make his statement....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, Mamataji is standing there with papers. What do I do now?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want to know whether a particular firm of Himachal Pradesh has been favoured by the Minister or not...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Rs. 65,000 crore have been lost to the exchequer...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why that particular company has been favoured by the Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, this is the government document. If you allow them to speak, then you should allow me also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, when the Minister is ready to make a statement, you should allow him....*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You cannot deny the fact. If you want to raise the matter, there is no harm in raising it in the Zero Hour. Why are you raising it in the Question Hour?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1200 Noon.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Supply of RDX to Militants

*161. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Pak sends high grade RDX to militants" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated September 17, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have sounded a general alert to law enforcement and intelligence agencies following seizure of a large quantity of RDX;

(c) if so, the details of the RDX seized; and

(d) the other steps the Government have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As and when reports are received regarding the activities of Pak ISI, the State Governments and Union Territories as well as concerned security and the intelligence agencies are alerted.

(c) A statement is appended.

(d) (i) The entire border with Punjab and large area in Rajasthan border have been fenced and flood lighted.

(ii) More sophisticated equipment is being provided to the Border Security Force.

(iii) Fencing and flood lighting work is being taken up in the hitherto unfenced areas.

(iv) Coastal security is being constantly reviewed and beefed up.

(v) Intelligence set up in BSF and State Police of Border States has been geared up.

(vi) A review of the deployment of BSF in border areas is being constantly done.

STATEMENT

On the morning of 14th September, 1995, a special BSF search party seized the following items of arms/ammunition in area of BP No. 42/2/Ex-BOP Ranian (Punjab border) :

Pistol	8 Nos.
Mag.	16 Nos.
Ammunition	660 Rds.
RDX	10 Kgs.
Cordex	10 Mtrs.
Fuze	10 Nos.
Time Pencils	5 Nos.
Spool	4 Nos.
Tape Safety	2 Nos.
Safety Pin	3 Nos.
Kit Box	2 Nos.
Match Box	4 Nos.

Mail Bags

*162. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of mail bags with unsorted letters have been lying in Delhi RMS offices for the last few months;

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

(c) the measures being taken for the speedy sorting and delivery of these letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c). There was hold-up of unopened mails bags and unprocessed mail in Delhi when the Railway Mail Service Staff of Delhi Postal Circle resorted to refusal to perform Overtime duty from October 17, 1995. The cause for the the agitation was non-payment of pending Overtime bills, which was due to non-availability of funds for the purpose. As a result of the agitation, there was disruption to mail processing and mail movement. It was explained to the leaders of the Staff Unions that the delay in payment of pending Overtime allowances bills was a problem everywhere in the Department and was beyond the control of the Department. They were assured that when additional funds were allocated in the Revised Grant, pending claims would be paid to the extent of

funds permitting. Following this assurance, Staff Unions called off the agitation on November 3, 1995. Meanwhile, accumulated and arriving mails were being cleared to the extent possible by special arrangements. After the agitations was called off, efforts were further intensified to clear accumulated mail. The position is now nearly normal.

[Translation]

Production of Crude Oil

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

(a) the percentage of domestic demand of oil being met by the production within the country;

(b) the quantum of oil being imported;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the production of oil in the country and the success achieved so far in this regard; and

(d) the time by which India is likely to become self-sufficient in production of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Around 50% of the domestic demand of petroleum products will be met from indigenous production of crude oil in the current year.

(b) Import of crude oil during the current year is estimated to be 25.475 MMT.

(c) Measures taken by the Government to increase crude oil production include :

- (1) Development of new fields and additional development of existing fields.
- (2) Implementation of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes and extending some of the EOR schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.
- (3) Implementation of specialised technologies such as Extended Reach Drilling, Horizontal and drain hole drilling.
- (4) Offering small and medium sized fields for development by the private sector, on its own and through joint ventures with the national oil companies.

As a result of the above measures the declining trend in the crude oil production was arrested in 1992-93 and the production has increased steadily since then.

(d) Looking at the pace at which demand is increasing, self-sufficiency in crude production will require the discovery of large new fields.

Investment in Agriculture Sector

*164. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have expressed grave concern over low investment in agriculture sector;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote investment in the aforesaid sector;

(d) the total investment made in the agriculture sector during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the percentage thereof in comparison with the total investment made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA):

(a) and (b). According to Economic Survey 1994-95, the declining trend in the rate of investment in Agriculture in the recent years needs to be reversed. Gross capital formation in Agriculture and Allied Activities measured at 1980-81 prices decreased from Rs. 4864 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 4792 crores in 1989-90. However, according to the Quick Estimate for 1993-94, it increased to Rs. 5228 crores. The Economic Survey has pointed out that the decline in investment in Agriculture is due to imbalance between current expenditure and capital formation.

(c) During the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97) significant level of investment is proposed in Agriculture and Allied Activities like horticulture, fisheries, rainfed farming, creation of infrastructure for minor irrigation, post harvest management. etc. In order to encourage investment in infrastructure for agriculture, a new Rural Infrastructural Development Fund within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been established. This Fund will provide loans to State Governments and State owned Corporations for completing the on-going projects relating to medium and minor irrigation, soil conservation, watershed management and other forms of rural infrastructure. The share of agriculture sector in the total investment has increased from 11.23% in the Seventh Plan to 18.65% during the Eighth Plan.

(d) and (e). State-wise information on investment made in the Agriculture Sector is not collected. The total investment made in Agriculture and Allied

Activities in the last three years and percentage share of total are as under :

	Total Investment		% Share in
	All Industries	Agri.& Allied Activities	All Industries
1991-92	46053	4980	10.81
1992-93	49645	5120	10.31
1993-94 (Quick Estimate)	47942	5228	10.90

At 1980-81 prices
(Rs. crores)

Transfer of Telephones

*165. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether letters addressed to Chief General Manager, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited by Members of Parliament are not responded to properly;

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

(c) the number of letters received by the Chief General Manager during 1995 for shifting/transferring of telephones from one area to another and in how many cases the telephones have not been shifted/transferred, giving the reason for the inordinate delay and the steps taken to expedite the action;

(d) whether there is any time limit prescribed/ fixed during which the telephones have to be transferred/shifted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. All letters from Hon'ble Members of Parliament are responded to properly.

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

(c) During 1995, 131 letters were received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament for shifting/transferring of telephones by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., out of which only in respect of 13 cases, the telephones have not been shifted. The pending cases are due to non-payment of bills, technical non-feasibility and non-completion of formalities by the subscribers. In respect of technically non-feasible cases, constant monitoring is done until the cases become feasible.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The time limit prescribed for shifting of telephones in the technically feasible cases is seven working days.

[English]

Demand and Production of Coal

*166. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and production of coal in the country, State-wise for the past three years;

(b) whether there is shortage of coal in the country;

(c) if so, the manner in which the shortage is proposed to be met;

(d) the names of the countries from where coal is being imported at present;

(e) whether the imported quality of coal is better than the coal that is produced indigenously; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The demand for coal is not assessed State-wise. This is assessed industry/sector-wise for the country as a whole. The All India demand for coal as assessed by the Planning Commission for each of the last 3 years is as follows :

Year	Demand (in million tonnes)
1992-93	258.10 (5.30)
1993-94	268.80 (6.00)
1994-95	268.50 (5.00)

Figures in bracket indicate middlings.

The state-wise production of coal during each of the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c). Production targets are fixed and assessment of demand is made by the Planning Commission, keeping in view the stock position, and the imports of coking coal required by the steel industry. The production targets have been fully met in the past three years. Shortfalls in supplies against demands to certain sectors have arisen not on account of lack of coal but on account of other factors like insufficient rail evacuation facilities in certain areas, non payment for coal etc.

When coal supplies are diverted to the power sector to meet their demand in times of emergencies like strikes etc., shortages can also be felt by other sectors.

For the year 1995-96, the Planning Commission has fixed the overall demand of different sectors at 288 million tonnes. The production programme of the coal companies in India is geared to meet this level of demand which was agreed to in the Planning Commission. It is not practical and possible for the coal companies to meet the higher level of demand, of a particular sector. Such demands may have to be met through imports which can now be made freely.

(d) Presently coal is mainly being imported into the country from Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, China, New Zealand etc.

(e) and (f). Indian coals by their inherent nature of composition have high percentage of ash as compared to that of imported coal. The ash content of coal produced in the country is generally in the range of 15 to 45% with the exception of North Eastern Region coal, where lower ash content coal is produced. The calorific value of Indian coal in general is also less compared to that of imported coals.

STATEMENT

State-wise production of coal from 1992-93 to 1994-95

States	(Figs in Million Tonnes)		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1. Andhra Pradesh	22.51	25.28	25.65
2. Assam	1.10	1.20*	1.19*
3. Bihar	71.14	73.29	73.33
4. Jammu and Kashmir	0.01	0.02	0.02
5. Madhya Pradesh	70.65	72.86	74.86
6. Maharashtra	19.68	20.45	21.07
7. Orissa	23.12	24.30	27.33
8. Uttar Pradesh	12.17	12.14	13.82
9. West Bengal	18.11	16.61	17.24
10. Total	238.49	246.14	254.50
11. Meghalaya	3.49	2.54	3.27**
12. All India	241.98	248.68	257.77

* Incl. Arunachal P. and Megh. under NEC.

** (Fig. for unorganised sector).

Plan Outlays for Media

*167. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Plan and Non-Plan outlays for 1994-95 and 1995-96, Media-wise; and

(b) the details of the achievements made in regard to physical implementation of their plan schemes during 1994-95, media-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Details of plan and non-plan outlays for 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given media-wise in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details of achievements made in regard to physical implementation of plan schemes during 1994-95 are given in the enclosed Statement - II.

STATEMENT-I

Media	(Rs. in crores)			
	1994-95		1995-96	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
I. Broadcasting Media				
(i) Doordarshan	256.00	652.34	313.78	775.21
(ii) AIR	132.32	218.94	135.00	371.79
II. Information Media	11.45	76.33	17.79	86.88
III. Films Media	25.53	22.58	28.93	23.23
Total	425.30	1070.19	495.50	1257.11

STATEMENT-II

Details of achievements in regard to physical implementation of Plan schemes by media units.

A. BROADCASTING MEDIA :

1. Doordarshan

	An on 31.3.94	As on 31.3.95	Increase during 94-95
	1	2	3
(i) Programme Prodn. Centres	32	34	2
(ii) High Power Transmitters (HPTs)	70	74	4
(iii) Low Power Transmitters (LPTs)	389	478	89
(iv) Very Low Power Transmitters (VLPTs)	82	100	18
(v) Population Coverage (%)	84.5	85.1	0.6
(vi) Area Coverage (%)	66.6	67.8	1.2
(vii) No. of Channels	6	16	10
(viii) Programme output (hours per week)	921	1021	100

	1	2	3
2. All India Radio			
I. Broadcasting Centres	171	177	6
(a) Regl. Stations	102	105	3
(b) Local Radio Stations	62	65	3
II. Transmitters			
(a) Medium Wave	144	146	2
(b) Short Wave	43	50	7
(c) VHF/FM	83	87	4
III. Area Covered (%)	89.6	89.7	0.1
IV. Population	97.0	97.1	0.1

B. INFORMATION MEDIA

3. Press Information Bureau (PIB)

The main thrust of PIB's efforts was to improve the dissemination of information on the policies and programmes of the Government by transmission of documents of News value. The process was speeded up through installation of FAX machines in the Regional and branch offices.

A branch office of PIB was commissioned on 2 April, 1994, in Nanded. On 1st October, 1994, foundation stone for setting up of National Press Centre was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at New Delhi.

4. Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP)

Dissemination of information regarding GATT was taken up as a special activity by DAVP under a Plan scheme in Hindi and 11 regional languages.

5. Publication Division (DPD)

The publication of 100th and the last volume of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi was released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 1.10.94, marking the beginning of celebrations of 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

6. Photo Division

Indents for the procurement of new processing equipment/cameras were placed with STC during 1994-95. The computerised Photo Data Bank has been installed in the Head Office of Photo Division and its Regional Offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Guwahati. Progress made on work relating to feeding of photographs.

7. Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)

RNI took up the linking of its Bombay Regional Office with computers of RNI headquarters. Site preparation job had been allocated to CCW; AIR, Bombay and purchase of hardware/software equipment done through National Informatic Centre.

8. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)

(a) The construction work of Hostel Building was continued.

(b) Printing equipment like photo shop, Quark X Press, HP II Scanner, Laser Writer and Other accessories were acquired for Publication Unit.

(c) Latest books, reference material, TV Sets/VCRs were acquired for the Media Library.

(d) The Research Department completed 7 research studies.

(e) The Institute appointed visiting fellows and it awarded fellowship to selected journalists to bring out research articles on success stories on wasteland.

(f) The Institute acquired latest equipment like Hi-8 Comcorders, video cassettes, editing recorders, UMatic Cassette recorder, Overhead projectors and other accessories to upgrade the teaching aid facilities in audio-visual department.

(g) The LIMC branch at Dhenkanal in Orissa, which started functioning from 1993 successfully conducted the first diploma course in Journalism and started the next course of academic year duration. The next course was also completed in April, 1995.

9. Song and Drama Division (S & DD)

Under various Plan schemes, S & DD presented a total of about 10,500 performances. These programmes were presented in border and disturbed areas of Punjab, J and K, Assam and North East for promoting communal harmony and national integration. Also the programmes were presented in tribal/hilly/desert areas of M.P., Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan by the tribal/folk troupes on development. Sound and Light programmes on history and culture of India were presented in the States of Orissa, Rajasthan, M.P., U.P. and Delhi, during 1994-95. The Sadbhavana Samarohas to promote national integration and communal harmony were organised in the State of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, M.P., West Bengal and in all the seven States of North-East.

10. Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP)

Films, featurettes and spots etc., were procured so that information about various programmes inclusive of socially relevant messages could be conveyed to the people. Mobilization of field publicity units was also improved.

11. Main Secretariat

During the year 1994-95 the left over work of Phase III of Soochna Bhawan was completed. Pay and Accounts Office was strengthened to cope up with the increase in activities. An amount of Rs. 2.50 crores was released through NFDC towards making a film "Making of Mahatma" in collaboration with the South African Trust set up for the purpose.

C. FILMS MEDIA :

12. Films Division (FD)

The Division undertook production of special and featurette films in 16 mm specially intended for rural audiences. It also undertook scheme for augmentation and installation of cinematographic equipment and reconstruction of the third Phase building at Bomaby. Under the Scheme "Augmentation and Replacement of Cinematographic Equipments", the Division placed orders for Nagra Tape Recorders. Apart from this, the Division took up the installation of Package Type ACs for Film Library and Creation of Marketing and Sales Promotion Cell. The work on renovation of Gulshan Mahal Building in FD complex was started. During 1994-95, the Division completed 6 featurette films bringing out the ecological, cultural and social changes taking place in rural areas. 12 more films on various subjects were under production.

13. National Film Archives of India (NFAI)

NFAI acquired 163 films, 558 books, 184 pamphlets, 1023 stills, 406 slides, 147 wall posters, 374 song booklets and 78 video Cassettes. Progress made in computerisation of archival data. Conducted the annual 5 weeks' film appreciation course in June-July, 1994 in Pune and a number of short term courses were also organised in other centres.

The following projects were awarded during the year 1994-95.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| (i) "Chandulal Shah" | - a monograph on the great pioneer producer- directed by Sh. Ushakant Mehta, Baroda. |
| (ii) "History of Marathi Film Music" | - Smt. Aruna A. Damle, Pune (Research Fellowship) |

14. National Centre of Films for Children and Young People (N'CYP)

One feature film and 2 TV serials were completed. Production of one feature film and one short film made progress. 7 sub-titlings were also completed. 3 feature films were purchased. Post festival activity for eighth International Children Film Festival (of N'CYP) completed. Pre festival activity for 9th International Film Festival commenced. During the year 1994-95, N'CYP participated with 14 films in 17 International Film Festivals. Preliminary work for import of video editing equipment was done. One Animation Workshop was held.

15. Directorate of Film Festival (DFF)

DFF participated in more than 55 Film Festivals including Asian film festivals and festivals focussing Asian cinema. 11 Indian Films were screened in Carlo under Cultural Exchange Programmes as part

of "Indian Days" in Egypt. A retrospective of Satyajit Ray's films was organised in Mauritius and Brazil. 14 Indian films were screened under the Sections, "India Now" in Toronto Film Festival. As part of the Festival of India in China, 8 Indian Films were screened in Shanghai. A Retrospective of the films of Guru Dutt was organised in London. Indian films were entered for participation in a number of Film Festivals abroad including Cannes, Manheim, Munich, Pyongyang, San Francisco, Sydney, Karlovy Vary and Fukoka. National Film Festival and the National Awards Function were organised by the Directorate in New Delhi. It also arranged the screenings of Indian Panorama. Indian Film Weeks were organised in Kazakhstan, Mozambique and Ghana. Under the Cultural Exchange Programme, Film Week of Brazil, Sri Lanka, Syria and Italy were organised in Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad. International Film Festival of India, 1995 was held in Bombay from 10-20 January 1995.

16. National Films Development Corporation (NFDC)

NFDC extended financial assistance for production of 8 films and also production of 14 films under own co-production category and for purchase of cinema equipment. It also extended financial assistance for the construction of 6 theatres and imported 60 titles, both of TV and theatrical lights. The Corporation undertook a project of modernisation and commissioning of new projects. The Corporation set up Laser Sub-titling Unit in Bombay and Audio Display Broadcast System in Delhi.

17. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

A comprehensive scheme for computerisation of the Board at Bombay entrusted to the National Informatics Centre was implemented.

18. Film and Television Institute of India, Pune (FTII, Pune)

FTII, Pune, procured machinery/ equipments and imported spares for various Departments of film wing. A sound recording theatre, with modern facilities has been constructed during 1994-95.

19. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute of Calcutta (SRFTI, Calcutta)

Preliminary civil works for the building of SRFTI were started.

New Telecom Policy

*168. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the main features of the National Telecom Policy; and

(b) the progress made so far in the implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The main features of the National Telecom Policy, 1994 are :

- (i) to make available telephones on demand by 1997;
- (ii) to cover all villages by 1997;
- (iii) ensure quality of telecom service of world standard;
- (iv) provide the widest permissible range of service to meet the customer demand at reasonable price;
- (v) develop India's Telecom manufacturing sector to ensure country's emergence as major manufacturing base and major exporter of telecom equipment;
- (vi) facilitate inflow of technology and encourage indigenous technology;
- (vii) participation of the companies registered in India in the area of basic as well as value-added telecom services as also making arrangements for protection and promotion of consumer's interest and ensuring fair competition.

(b) Considerable progress has been made towards the implementation of various aspects of Telecom Policy. The steps taken so far include;

- (i) announcement of guidelines in September, 1994 for entry of private sector into basic telecom services;
- (ii) inviting of bids from Indian Registered companies which are in different stages of processing. Licences have been awarded for Cellular Mobile Telephone services to 8 companies in the four Metros (Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras). Licences for Radio Paging issued for almost all circles. For basic services, no licences have been issued so far;
- (iii) giving weightage of 15% in the tender document in regard to provision of village public telephones in each service area;
- (iv) awarding of 12 licences for operation of E-Mail service in the country;
- (v) grant of licences of 5 companies for operation of Voice Mail/Audiotex Service in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Indore, Jaipur, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi;
- (vi) commencement of 64 Kbps Data Service through satellite on all India basis;
- (vii) commencement of radio paging service in 23 cities and cellular mobile service in all the four metro cities namely, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras;

- (viii) rationalisation of custom duties on telecom equipment, their parts and sub-assemblies to encourage the manufacture;
- (ix) organising Indian pavillions in various international exhibitions, direct marketing of telecom product through brochures, trade delegations, etc. to boost the export of telecom equipment from India;
- (x) encouraging large multi-nationals to set up manufacturing facilities in India by permitting higher level of foreign equity and weightage in the tender for basic services of 3% in respect of value of indigenously manufactured equipment as a proportion of the total value of equipment as a proportion of the total value of equipment used in the first three years;
- (xi) provision of 3.98 million Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) during the first three years of the 8th Five Year Plan and plan to provide 3 million DELs during 1995-96, about 3.2 million DELs during 1996-97 and another 2.5 million DELs by the private telephone operators;
- (xii) provision of public telephone facility in 194848 villages upto 30.11.95 and fixing of a target for providing 1,20,000 village public telephones for the year 1996-97;
- (xiii) provision of 2,52,500 public telephone in urban areas upto 1.4.95 and fixing of a target of 100,000 and 1,25,000 for public telephones for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively;
- (xiv) steps taken to improve the quality of telephone service include replacement by latest technology equipment, upgradation of external plant, use of jelly filled cables, optical fibre cable, PCM system for improving the junction and cable network, computerisation of fault control, directory enquiry, billing etc. strict monitoring of cable faults during monsoon season, use of more cable ducts for laying the cable to reduce break downs and further tightening of performance targets;
- (xv) use of innovative means for raising additional resources with leasing and deferred payment route being instrumental in augmenting the resources for the 8th Plan by an amount of Rs. 1554 crores;
- (xvi) decision to introduce R & D cess for funding of telecom R & D projects and a provision in the tender document for basic telecom services regarding the obligation of licensee operator to pay 1.5% of the gross profit earned by him in the bussiness of providing the basic services towards the R & D cess.
- (xvii) further the Government has decided to set up a statutory Telecom Regulatory Authority to act as a watch dog for healthy growth of telecom sector, to protect and promote consumers' interest and ensure fair competition. A legislation is proposed to be brought before the Parliament in this respect.

[Translation]

Target for Telephone Connections

*169. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any targets were fixed during the last three years for installation of telephone connections State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of telephone connections installed out of them, State-wise and year-wise?

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

(b) and (c). The targets fixed for the last three years fo installation of Telephone connections, state-wise and the number of Telephone installed out of them is given as per the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Details of Targets and Telephone Connections installed during the last three years, State-wise.

Targets and Achievements for new telephone connections during last three years.

S.No.	State	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
		Target	Acht.	Target	Acht.	Target	Acht.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66000	63278	77000	77857	82000	138278
2.	Assam	10000	11461	13000	13450	10000	13103
3.	Bihar	28000	34389	27000	37189	35000	44063

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Gujarat (Inc. Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	94000	79275	81000	82187	80500	122507
5.	Haryana	26000	23343	41000	41793	22000	47008
6.	Himachal Pradesh	7000	7030	10000	11009	12000	21349
7.	J & K	3500	2569	7000	7047	4000	4983
8.	Karnataka	46000	59413	62000	73539	79000	136008
9.	Kerala (Inc. Lakshdweep U.T.)	80000	72200	53000	58936	79000	90460
10.	Madhya Pradesh	50000	72537	98000	101964	57000	88619
11.	Maharashtra (Inc. Goa)	116500	178062	156800	245463	24700	360807
12.	North East (Inc. Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	7000	9200	7300	8687	8000	8689
13.	Orissa	9000	15083	26000	21021	8000	18638
14.	Punjab (Inc. Chandigarh U.T.)	23000	33503	51000	59008	70500	101059
15.	Rajasthan	32000	50081	62000	75135	67000	84623
16.	Tamil Nadu (Inc. Pondicherry U.T.)	65000	63295	96700	94116	152000	149899
17.	Uttar Pradesh	70000	92590	115000	59330	82000	116290
18.	West Bengal (Inc. Sikkim)	37000	35952	51200	47885	71000	70240
19.	Delhi	80000	83558	76600	125020	260000	153090
Total		850000	986819	1111600	1240636	1426000	1769718

[English]

Rape of Women by Anti-Social Elements

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Self help trainers turn rape victims" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated September 20, 1995;

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

(c) whether the Government are seized of other reports of gang rapes and allied atrocities on women from different parts of the country during the last three months;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent such atrocities on women, especially those from weaker and vulnerable sections?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (e). One Kumari Minati Das, working as Programme Co-ordinator, under voluntary organisation, known as "Women's Initiative for Development Education" and her companion Rebati Horo, were raped by four persons on 7-9-95 at about

4 P.M. on their way back from village Sudhunga to their camp at Sahaspur under P.S. Laikera, Distt. Jharsuguda, Orissa. On lodging of the FIR, the investigation was taken up by State crime branch. All the four accused have been identified and arrested. A Charge-sheet has also since been submitted against them in the Court under Section 376(2)(g)/506/379 IPC on 13.11.95.

Statement I and II of incidents of crimes against women during 1995 are enclosed at Annexure. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects, hence the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime against women is the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations. Steps for checking crime against women is also primarily the responsibility of State Governments. Union Government has, from time to time, been writing to concerned State Governments regarding the preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures to be taken in connection with atrocities on women. Apart from a number of development programmes like "Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas" (DWACRA) Programme and Female Literacy Programme etc., the Government of India has been modifying and amending the legislation from time to time with a view to making punishment for such offences, more stringent and punitive in nature.

STATEMENT-I

*Incidence of Molestation and Eve-Teasing
During 1995
(State & UT-wise)*

S.No.	State/UT	Molesta- tion	Eve- teasing	Remarks (Figs. are upto the month of)
1	2	3	4	5
STATES :				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1608	1852	August
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	1	August
3.	Assam	NA	NA	-
4.	Bihar	196	6	May
5.	Goa	27	6	September
6.	Gujarat	504	24	June
7.	Haryana	211	205	June
8.	Himachal Pradesh	213	19	September
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	21	34	March
10.	Karnataka	857	95	August
11.	Kerala	614	14	September
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3568	674	July
13.	Maharashtra	2287	452	August
14.	Manipur	23	0	September
15.	Meghalaya	10	0	July
16.	Mizoram	36	0	August

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Nagaland	1	0	September
18.	Orissa	374	41	April
19.	Punjab	37	5	August
20.	Rajasthan	1074	20	July
21.	Sikkim	22	0	August
22.	Tamil Nadu	461	1049	July
23.	Tripura	51	0	August
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1916	2209	August
25.	West Bengal	499	11	May

Total (States) 14624 6717

UNION TERRITORIES :

26.	A and N Islands	9	0	September
27.	Chandigarh	7	10	September
28.	D and N Haveli	2	0	August
29.	Daman and Diu	0	0	August
30.	Delhi	395	181	September
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	September
32.	Pondicherry	5	21	September

Total (UTs) 418 212

Total (All India) 15042 6929

Source : 'Monthly Crime Statistics'

Note : 1. Figures are Provisional.

2. NA - Stands for not Available.

STATEMENT-II

*Incidence of Rape During 1995
(State & UT-wise)*

S.No.	State/UT	Rape				Remarks (Figs. are upto the Month of)
		Custodial	Gang	Others	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
STATES :						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	36	531	573	August
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	4	9	13	August
3.	Assam	NA	NA	NA	-	-
4.	Bihar	0	11	340	351	May
5.	Goa	0	0	12	12	September
6.	Gujarat	3	2	116	121	June
7.	Haryana	2	1	125	128	June
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	95	96	September
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	24	24	March
10.	Karnataka	0	6	162	168	August
11.	Kerala	0	2	183	185	September

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. Madhya Pradesh		5	23	1794	1822	July
13. Maharashtra		3	63	861	927	August
14. Manipur		0	0	8	8	September
15. Meghalaya		5	5	5	15	July
16. Mizoram		1	3	17	21	August
17. Nagaland		2	0	10	12	September
18. Orissa		4	8	132	144	April
19. Punjab		7	0	55	62	August
20. Rajasthan		0	19	575	594	July
21. Sikkim		0	0	3	3	August
22. Tamil Nadu		0	0	160	160	July
23. Tripura		0	7	46	53	August
24. Uttar Pradesh		6	1	1354	1361	August
25. West Bengal		0	43	246	289	May
Total (States)		44	235	6863	7142	

UNION TERRITORIES :

26. A & N Islands	0	0	4	4	September
27. Chandigarh	0	0	4	4	September
28. D & N Haveli	0	0	1	1	August
29. Daman & Diu	0	0	1	1	August
30. Delhi	0	2	251	253	September
31. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	September
32. Pondicherry	0	0	2	2	September
Total (UTs)	0	2	263	265	
Total (All India)	44	237	7126	7407	

Source : Monthly Crime Statistics.

Note : 1. Figures are Provisional.

2. NA - Stands for not Available.

[Translation]

LPG Connections

*171. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the position as on November 30, 1995 of the last three years regarding the release of LPG connections by the Chairman, Managing Directors, Directors, General Managers, Assistant General Managers, Senior Managers/Managers of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, separately by utilising their discretionary powers;

(b) whether during the above period, the above officials of the said oil companies released gas connections on the recommendations of Members of Parliament by utilising their discretionary powers;

(c) if so, the details of the gas connections released by these officials of the said oil companies, separately; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Number of LPG connections released by the officers of HPC and IOC :

	HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED.		
	1993	1994	1995 (Jan. to Sept., 95)
	1	2	3
1. Chairman & MD and Directors	804	804	423
2. Executive Director, General Managers and Deputy General Managers	1212	1212	468

	1	2	3
3. Chief/Sr. Regional Managers	1008	1008	756
4. Delhi Coordination Managers.	527	537	429
INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED			
1. Chairman and Directors	2031	2111	1959
2. Executive Directors/ General Managers/ Dy. General Managers.	1672	1606	1113
3. Chief Division Managers, Sr. Division Managers/ Division Managers.	284	397	270
4. Chief Area Managers/ Senior Area Managers/ Area managers.	138	177	121

(b) to (d). Indian Oil Corporation Limited has released 148 connections during the calendar years 1993, 1994 and 1995 on the recommendations of MPs. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has stated that they do not maintain separate record in this regard.

[English]

Shortage of Funds in Doordarshan

*172. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "No money in DD's kitty for software" appearing in the Indian Express dated October 15, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and
(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the shortage of funds in Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). An additional requirement of funds has been projected to the Ministry of Finance as part of the normal mid-budgetary review.

Irrigation Projects

*173. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technical Advisory Committee for irrigation flood control and multi-purpose projects have approved five projects recently;

(b) if so, the details including the locations thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof and the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Technical Advisory Committee for irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects in its meeting held on 25.08.95 have accepted five projects, subject to compliance of certain observations of the Technical Advisory Committee by the States.

(b) and (c).. A Statement giving details of the projects accepted by the Advisory Committee is attached.

STATEMENT

Details of the Projects Approved by the Technical Advisory Committee for Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects in its Meeting held on 25.08.95.

S. No.	Name of the Projects	Name of States in which located	Estimated Cost (Rs.in crores)	Benefits likely to accrue	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Flood Control Scheme for protection of Dainigaon and its adjoining areas (Hatisai & Neamati) against the erosion of River Brahmaputra.	Assam	31089	F.C. (Rs. 27.62 crores)	The committee found the project acceptable and recommended to the Planning Commission for according investment clearance.
2.	Pagladiya Dam Project	Assam	479.21	F.C. (Rs. 14.00 crores) Irrigation (54160 Ha.) Power (3 MW)	The Committee considered the project acceptable subject to environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Chakan Medium Irrigation Project	Rajasthan	9.5532	Irrigation (3377 Ha.)	The project was found acceptable subject to forest clearance and provision of adequate funds by the State Finance Department.
4.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	Orissa	977.00	Irrigation (i) 2,62,739 (improvement) (ii) 66740 Ha. (additional)	The project was found acceptable subject to Govt. of Orissa obtaining a formal clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. The project has since been given investmetn clearance by the Planning Commission in September, 1995.
5.	Tipaimukh Dam Project	Manipur/ Mizoram	2899.00	F.C. (Rs. 27.55 crores) Power (6x250 MW)	The project was found acceptable subject to envi-ronmental and forests clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests and the condition that an agreement should be reached amongst the three states i.e. Assam, Manipur and Mizoram regarding sharing of cost and benefit of the Project.

Note : Ha. = Hectares
F.C. = Flood Control
MW = Mega Watt.

[Translation]

Throwing away of Mail

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

(a) whether several incidents of throwing away of mail in bulk in the garbage by postmen have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, for the current year;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c). During the period 1.1.95 to 15.11.95, following incidents of dumping of mails by postmen have come to notice in various Circles :

(i) **Delhi Postal Circle** : Two cases of dumping of mails came to notice. On 1.5.95 Shri S.P. Jain

General Secretary, Janakpuri Resident Association handed over 81 letters which were found by him in a Nullah. Immediate action was taken to get these articles delivered to the concerned addressees. The postman was proceeded against and a punishment of reduction by two stages in the time scale of pay for a period of two years has been imposed on him. In August, 1995, 18 letters were found in a street by the Federation of Paschim Vihar Welfare Association. These were meant for Madipur J.J. Colony. Shri Sant Ram postman was found responsible. His increment in the time scale of pay for a period of two years has been withheld.

(ii) **Maharashtra Circle** : One instance of dumping of mail by postman in Maharashtra Circle came to notice on 5.6.95 which was subsequently reported in *Indian Express*. In this case 167 letters were dumped at Chulna Road in Vasai Road Post Office area by an outsider postman engaged on a daily wages basis. These articles were recovered and delivered to the addressees on the same date. The services of the outsider postman were terminated forthwith.

(iii) **West Bengal Circle** : One complaint addressed to the Chief Postmaster-General, West Bengal Circle, Calcutta was received on 14.11.95 alongwith a bundle of 200 letters. These were dumped in a drain at HMV Gate in Kamalpur area (Dum-Dum S.O.). The matter has been taken up for detailed enquiries.

(d) Besides police action, suitable disciplinary action is taken against the officials found responsible. A regular check is kept over the delivery staff by the Supervisory officers.

Theft of Coal

*175. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether instances of theft of coal during its transportation from Western Coalfields have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year, so far;

(c) the modus-operandi of the culprits;

(d) whether the transporters who have been awarded contracts for transportation of coal from Western Coalfields are suspected to have accumulated huge amount of unaccounted money;

(e) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

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

(g) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the theft of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). One case of theft of coal during transportation has been reported in Western Coalfields Limited in 1995-96 in which 2 trucks carrying coal were diverted. There was no such case in the last two years.

(d) Coal India Limited/Western Coalfields Limited are not aware of this.

(e) & (f). Do not arise.

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check thefts are :

1. Construction of fencing wall around the coal stocks;
2. Installation of check-posts on the main roads leading to collieries;
3. Installation of watch-towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking areas;
4. Collection of intelligence;
5. Surprise checks alongwith local police and colliery security personnel;
6. Round the clock patrolling by colliery security personnel;

7. Meeting with District authorities for drawing out plans to eliminate the menace;
8. Lodging of FIRs with local police;
9. Black-listing of trucks involved in coal thefts.

[English]

Plan for Urban Waste Management

*176. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Planning Commission moots plan for urban waste management" appearing in the Statesman dated September 24, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan including the role of the Union Government therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) Yes sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The Report and the Recommendations have been circulated to Chief Ministers and the Chief Secretaries of the States and the Secretaries of the concerned Union Ministries for their views and comments. No specific time frame has been set for the States/UTs/Central Ministries to initiate action.

STATEMENT

Population growth and rapid urbanisation have resulted in marked deterioration of sanitation and waste disposal especially in large cities. This in turn has adverse effect on the health status of the population especially the urban poor. A High Power Committee on Urban Solid Waste Management in India was constituted by Planning Commission, under the Chairmanship of Member (Health) in Oct. 1994 to consider the multidimensional problem of Urban solid waste management and suggest remedial steps. The Committee has completed its deliberations and submitted its report.

Major recommendations include suggestions for

1. waste reduction reuse and recycling utilising appropriate technology.
2. avoidance of risk transference from one source to other.
3. reduction in the potential risk to human health and environmental degradation.
4. conservation of energy or its generation through non conventional sources.

5. appropriate legislation to regulate industry hospitals and town planning.
6. health impact assessment along the lines of environmental impact assessment for major projects.

The recommendations of the Committee provides the broad framework for identification and solution of the intricate problems of urban solid waste management including household, hospital and industrial solid waste at the local, regional and national levels.

The major components of the National Action Plan of Urban Solid Waste Management suggested by the Committee include :

- (i) awareness generation at all levels - community, industry and hospitals.
- (ii) legal enactment to supplement and support the efforts generated through IEC.
- (iii) human resource development for better management of Urban Solid Waste.
- (iv) research and development for evolving appropriate technology for waste management.
- (v) pilot projects preferably in the joint sector for utilization for proven technological option for urban solid waste management.
- (vi) strengthening the existing services for urban solid waste management.
- (vii) Establishment of rag pickers cooperatives in association with NGOs.

[Translation]

Computerised System of Telephones

*177. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have introduced a new computerised system to provide information about the changed telephone numbers in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said system would also be introduced in other cities of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) The computerised information system, which was commissioned on the 15th August 95 in Delhi, Provides to the caller the changed number of a called

subscriber, without the intervention of a human operator. The service is available on code 1951 in Hindi and on 1952 in English.

(c) Yes, Sir. There are plans to introduce the system in other metro cities in a phased manner.

(d) The equipment is proposed to be installed in telephone systems with a capacity of one lakh lines and above. The cost of the system is of the order of Rs. 5 to 10 lakhs depending on the size of the database.

[English]

Vohra Committee Report

*178. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any other part of the Vohra Committee Report other than which was laid on the Table of the House during the last Session;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make that part of the report public; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made public?

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

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Irrigation potential

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

(a) whether there is a gap between the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to bridge this gap;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing state-wise gap between irrigation potential created and its utilisation at the end of 1993-94 is enclosed.

(c) to (e). To reduce this gap a Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme is under implementation since 1974-75. The outlay for this programme during Eighth Plan (1992-97) is Rs. 2,510.13 crores. The other remedial measures taken, inter-alia, include re-appraisal of actual potential of old schemes and annual performance review.

STATEMENT

Gap in Irrigation Potential Created and its utilisation through 'Major & Medium' Irrigation Projects and Minor Irrigation schemes at the end of 1993-94.'

(In '000 hectares)		
S.No.	States/UTs	Gap in Irrigation Potential Created and its Utilisation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	383.37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.05
3.	Assam	186.44
4.	Bihar	1941.66
5.	Goa	3.15
6.	Gujarat	288.58
7.	Haryana	290.15
8.	Himachal Pradesh	24.53
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	39.22
10.	Karnataka	266.02
11.	Kerala	85.25
12.	Madhya Pradesh	838.29
13.	Maharashtra	1302.19
14.	Manipur	18.24
15.	Meghalaya	5.94
16.	Mizoram	1.71
17.	Nagaland	9.75
18.	Orissa	235.10
19.	Punjab	114.32
20.	Rajasthan	272.43
21.	Sikkim	5.32
22.	Tamil Nadu	(-) 0.75
23.	Tripura	7.83
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2705.00
25.	West Bengal	588.90
Total States		8705.60
Total UTs		12.45
Grand Total		8718.05

Piped Gas to Households in Delhi

*180. SHRI SULTAN SALHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gas Authority of India have revived its five year old proposal to supply piped gas to households and commercial units in Delhi;

(b) if so, the main points of the proposed project;

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

(d) the total area likely to be covered and the population likely to be benefited;

(e) whether the cost of the piped gas will be more than that the present one; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (d). The Gas Authority of India Limited have proposed a project for supply of piped gas to around 230,000 households and commercial units in South, Central and parts of North Delhi. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.390 crores. The project is proposed to be implemented in six years from the date of approval.

(e) and (f). The cost of piped gas is not expected to be more than the price of LPG.

[Translation]

Increase in Population

1702. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the average increase in the population of the country among different communities during the last five decades and their average in 1991;

(b) whether the influx in infiltrators or refugees is still continuing and the steps taken to prevent the same;

(c) whether the Hindu population is decreasing every decade; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the communities whose population is showing an increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI) : (a) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Measures have been taken to check Bangladesh infiltration which include raising of additional Battalions under expansion plan of BSF, to reduce the gaps between Border Outposts, intensification of patrolling both on land and riverine borders, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fence, increase in the number of OP Towers and provision of surveillance equipment etc.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply to Part (c) of the question.

STATEMENT

India Census	Total Population	% Decadal Growth Rate	Hindus		Muslims		Christians		Sikhs		Buddhists		Jains		
			Population	% Decadal Growth Rate											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
India*	1991	814,497,323	23.77	671,583,235	22.76	95,158,064	32.74	18,748,542	16.50	16,242,018	25.49	6,212,081	36.12	3,331,527	4.41
	1981	658,064,150	24.64	547,092,309	24.08	71,686,327	30.92	16,088,797	16.65	12,943,209	26.15	4,563,636	22.25	3,190,677	23.17
	1971	527,978,650	24.48	440,924,095	23.35	54,756,031	31.18	13,791,873	32.28	10,259,792	31.98	3,735,000	17.20	2,590,497	28.47
	1961	424,130,829	21.31+	357,446,153	20.03	41,741,967	24.85	10,426,447	26.66	7,773,742	25.06	3,185,060	17.62.95	2,016,454	24.91
	1951	349,510,653		297,793,500		33,432,425		8,231,660		6,216.15		170,969		1,614,285	

Notes :

- These figures do not include figures for Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Pondicherry for the sake of comparability at all India level for the following reasons :
 - In case of Jammu & Kashmir no Census was conducted in 1991. As such religion-wise date is not available. Similarly religion-wise figures for 1951 Census are also not available.
 - In case of Assam, Figures for 1981 are not available as no census was conducted in the State at that time.
 - In case of Arunachal Pradesh religion-wise break-up population for 1961 census is not available. Similarly data for 1951 is also not available for this State.
 - Religion-wise break-up of population for pondicherry for the year 1951 is not available.
- Religion-wise break-up of 268,602 persons of Punjab State is not available and figures in cols. 1 to 16 does not include this population.
- + Percentage increase in 1951-61 against India in Col.4 has been calculated by excluding population of Tuensang district of Nagaland as the comparative figures for 1951 are not available.
- Total population under Column 3 also includes figures of 'Other Religions and Persuasions' and 'religion not stated'.

[English]

Autonomous Council

1703. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Government of Assam and the Representative Movement Organisations of Autonomous Districts of Assam on April 1, 1995 in the presence of Union Home Minister;

(b) if so, the details of the M.O.U. especially in regards to planning and finance of the Autonomous Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the clauses of M.O.U.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The MOU provides for exercise of executive powers in respect of a larger number of subjects and also additional legislative powers to be conferred on the two Autonomous councils under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution with a view to providing greater autonomy to them within the State of Assam. As regards Planning and Finance, it is provided in the MOU that the State Government will, before the beginning of the financial year, give an indication to the Councils of the overall financial allocations for them. The Councils will, thereafter, prepare and pass their own budget and forward it to the State Government for being included in the overall State Budget. Ordinarily, no change will be made in the budget as proposed by the Councils. However, if for any reason it becomes necessary to do so, the Councils would be consulted and would be explained the reasons for the change.

In the finalisation of the Annual Plan, for the discussions with the Planning Commission, officers of the councils would be included in the State delegation.

A suitable mechanism will be evolved to monitor the adequacy and promptitude in release to the Councils by the State Government of funds meant for the Councils.

(c) While the MOU is to be largely implemented by the State Government, the Union Government, has since obtained the approval of the Parliament to the amendment to the Sixth Schedule of the constitution providing for exercise of greater legislative powers by these two councils in the State of Assam. The amendment also provides for exercise of discretionary powers by the Governor of Assam in respect of matters specifically indicated.

[Translation]

Annual Budget of SPG

1704. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual budget of the Special Protection Groups at present;

(b) the amount spent by the Government on the security of the very important and important persons during each of the last two years and the current year so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to cut down such expenditure;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) The annual budget of the SPG for 1995-96 is Rs.31.90 crores.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) to (e). The need for security and scale of security arrangements are reviewed periodically. This is a continuing exercise. The security arrangements are modified/withdrawn as warranted from time to time.

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges

1705. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of manual X-bar telephone exchanges converted into electronic exchanges so far, State-wise;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for providing telephone facility during the remaining period of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any criteria have been fixed for providing S.T.D. facility in the tribal/rural/backward/urban areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c). The information is given in the enclosed statement in remaining 2 years of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1995-97), it is planned to provide about 62 lakhs New Telephone Connections in the contry subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

The location of an Exchange, however, depends upon the capacity of existing system and fresh demand and is worked out on year to year basis.

(d) to (f). As per the objectives of 8th Five Year Plan, the exchanges in the country are being linked to the STD network with the following priorities :

- (1) Provision of STI to all District Headquarters.
- (2) Provision of STD facility to all Sub-divisional Headquarters/Thseil Headquarters or equivalent towns and all exchanges of size 500 lines or more by 1-4-95.
- (3) Provision of STD facility to all Industrial growth centres, Tourists and Pilgrimage centres by 1.4.95.
- (4) To link all the exchanges in the country with the STD network by March, 1997.

The actual provision of STD as per the target is subject to the availability of resources such as funds, land building, equipment etc.

STATEMENT

Statewise figures of Conversion of manual, X-Bar exchanges by Electronic Exchanges.

S. No	Name of State	Converted during last 3 year (1992-1995)	Status as on 1-4-95	
			Manual	X-Bar
1.	Andhara Pradesh	39	Nil	14
2.	Assam	2	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	2	Nil	2
4.	Gujarat	90	Nil	25
5.	Haryana	6	Nil	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	15	Nil	Nil
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	Nil	1
8.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	15
9.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	14
10.	Madhya Pradesh	26	Nil	4
11.	Maharashtra (including Bombay)	96	Nil	42
12.	N.E Region	1	Nil	Nil
13.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	4
14.	Punjab	44	Nil	4
15.	Rajasthan	59	Nil	3
16.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Tamil Nadu (including Madras)	7	Nil	22
18.	Uttar Pradesh	15	Nil	8
19.	West Bengal (including Calcutta)	41	Nil	19
20.	Delhi	2	Nil	15

Revamping of Oil Industry

1706. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government contemplate revamping of the oil industry and its working system;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). A "Strategic Planning Group" on restructuring the National Oil Industry with members comprising of top management from Public and Private sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes has been formed. The report of the Group is awaited.

[English]

Withdrawal of CRPF from Manipur

1707. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the Government have decided to withdraw the manpower of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) from Manipur and Nagaland;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the above two State Governments have opposed the above move; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI) : (a) to (d). The Government had proposed holding of Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, and in this context decided to mobilise CPMFs. This also entailed withdrawal of CRPF from various States, including Manipur and Nagaland. The State Governments conveyed their concern about de-induction of the Force. However, in view of the decision of the Election Commission of India for not holding the elections at present, the CRPF withdrawn from Manipur and Nagaland has been sent back to these States for deployment.

[Translation]

TV Relay Centre in Ajmer, Rajasthan

1708. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether site has been selected for setting up of proposed high power T.V. relay centre in Ajmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the progress of the work executed so far and the time by which it is likely to be set up;

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

(d) whether the Government have also received representations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A suitable site on Taragarh Fort Hill has already been taken over by Doordarshan. Further implementation work, however, could not be undertaken due to non-availability of approach road to the identified site. The State Government have recently agreed to construct the approach road and the work is in progress.

(d) to (f). Representations have been received, from time to time, from various quarters for expeditious implementation of the project. Action has been initiated to finalise the building plans of the transmitter and equipment have been ordered. The normal lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3 to 4 years from commencement of civil work.

[English]

Concert Packet Services

1709. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) launched in September, 1995 the Concert Packet Services (CPS) in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the utility of this service and whether its prospect in Calcutta has been assessed, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the experience gained on account of launching of CPS in Calcutta and New Delhi?

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

(b) Concert Packet Service (CPS) is a globally managed data network service. CPS provides a comprehensive and reliable international platform for business organisations to transfer data over a single value added network efficiently and reliably. It offers flexibility via a range of access methods to match an organisations' terminals and computers.

The commercial viability of the service in Calcutta had been duly assessed before taking the decision to install the node.

(c) The service is being used by a large number of dial-up customers. VSNL has registered six leased line customers in New Delhi and one customer in

Calcutta. Several companies have shown keen interest in the service and are in the process of signing up for subscription.

Training to SC/ST Students

1710. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to impart training to SC/ST students in Aquaculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount earmarked for the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) According to the information received from the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, a Central Sector Scheme 'Fisheries Training and Extension' with 100% central assistance is under implementation from 1994-95 with the objective of providing training to fishery personnel including SC/ST students in Aqueaculture.

(b) The objective of the scheme is to arrange short term training programmes for the fisheries extension officers/fish farmers relating to fisheries development. It envisages payment of stipend to the trainees at the rate of Rs.50 per day subject to a maximum of Rs. 750/- per participant. In addition, they are also eligible to draw to and fro train/bus fare as per their entitlement.

(c) The total amount earmarked for the scheme for the Eighth Plan and the current financial year is Rs.200 lakhs and Rs. 35 lakhs respectively.

Demand of Coal

1711. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of coal required for domestic and industrial consumption in West Bengal, separately, during the last two years;

(b) whether there is shortage of supply of coal to meet the demand of the State.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the demand of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). The requirements of coal are assessed Industry/Sector-wise. Coal companies supply coal based on programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to Power and Cement industries are made based on short-

term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) to these sectors. However soft coke supplies for domestic consumption are arranged by the coal companies in accordance with the allocations made by the Government.

The total quantity of various types of coal supplied by Coal India Limited to the consumers in West Bengal in the last two years have been as follows :-

(Figures in 000 tonnes)
Data provisional

Year	Soft coke for domestic use	CILCOKE for domestic use	All coal (Including soft/hard coke) to consumers in West Bengal
1993-94	99.58	53.03	19,656
1994-95	62.48	100.86	22,078

Unemployment

1712. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of unemployment among the disabled and non-disabled people;

(b) the steps being taken to absorb disabled persons in the gainful employment;

(c) whether remunerations paid to the disabled are less than their counterparts; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to rectify this imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) According to live register maintained by Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.1994, percentage of placements of job seekers in India is 0.53 whereas the percentage only of the disabled is 1.32.

(b) The steps being taken to absorb disabled persons in the gainful employment is mentioned in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). No specific data are maintained. However there is no provision of fixing different rates for disabled persons under Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

STATEMENT

(i) 003% vacancies is reserved for physically handicapped — 1% each for the visual, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in Group C and D posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given

by some State Governments. The handicapped including the blind are also given age concession in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standars for entry into Government services.

(ii) 35 Special Employment Exchanges and 50 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides the Normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled. Arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following :

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme;

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

[Translation]

Development of Ground Water Resources

1713. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments especially the Government of Gujarat have sent some proposals to the Central Ground Water Board for Exploration and development of wells-tubewells under pilot project for approval;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The Central Ground Water Board have formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for investigation and development of ground water resources in eastern States. The Government of Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh had sent proposals to Central Ground Water Board for construction of following ground water structures for consideration under this scheme:-

S. No.	Name of State	Dugewells	Shallow Tubewells	Medium Tubewells
1.	Bihar	2358	5625	-
2.	Orissa	-	1500	500
3.	Uttar Pradesh	-	100	-

As the scheme does not cover Gujarat, no proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat in this regard.

(c) The above mentioned scheme is at consultation stage with the concerned agencies.

[English]

Agreement by Telecom Commission

1714. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered committee constituted by the Telecom Commission as a sequel to the agreement between the DOT and the federation of Unions to end the recent strike, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir; the committee submitted its report on 1.10.1995.

(b) The details of the recommendations made by the Committee are given in the enclosed *Statement*

(c) Recommendations relating to the structure of the department have not been accepted. Other recommendations of the committee are under consideration.

STATEMENT

Important Recommendations

1. Mission and Swot Analysis

Redefine the mission for the department of Telecom and ensure that the mission is communicated to all employees.

2. Quality

In the new environment DOT must apply the principle of total quality management and commit itself to the practices of TQM. The Top Managers must be exposed to the principle of practices of TQM. TQM may be experimented on a small scale before adopting it on the entire organisation.

3. All training courses for staff for staff at all levels should contain modules of Quality Management.

4. Reimbursement of the expenses for undergoing specialised courses in areas relevant to Telecom Management within the country is recommended.

5. More attention is required in improving the physical environment of the work place. Small group activity should be introduced as part of TQM.

6. ACRs of Telecom staff should be redesigned to emphasise on the areas of customer relations, attention to quality of work and success in internal communications.

7. DOT may introduce and support the Kaizen or similar system.

Improvement : Key Areas : Commercial Billing

8. The Department should rename Commercial Section as Marketing and Sales group. This group can be formed in two layers with specific functions.

9. Automation of all activities connected with customer services is to be speeded up and STD/ISD franchisees may act as agent of DOT in relation to customer service centres.

10. A new Application Form with photograph and demand note may be introduced.

11. Concept of clearing house for handling multi-exchange shifts may be introduced.

12. A few procedural changes may be introduced in respect of safe-custody of telephones, shift of telephones pending removal re-installation after permanent recovery, raising of initial security deposit of franchisee type STD/ISD/PCOs.

13. Telecom revenue, billing and Accounting should be computerised on priority. The features which would have to be kept in focus for this purpose are given in detail.

14. Bills should be printed and sorted Pin Code-wise. Bills to heavy callers may be sent through Couriers/Speed Post/Telegraph Messengers may be used for delivery of bills Bills through floppies for high calling subscribers. Govt. Departments, PSUs and Big Business Houses should be arranged.

15. Issue of duplicate bills should be made easier. On line Telephone Enquiry Service providing information about the details of outstanding bills may be introduced.

16. On line bill payment counters be opened at all Exchanges/CTOs/DTOs and the customer ServiceCenters of Grade I. The Collection of bills through Nationalised/Scheduled/Co-operative Banks, payments through Credit Cards, be introduced. Electronic clearance of payments through RBI may also be introduced Open separate counters for acceptance of bills of heavy callers, Quick payment counters be opened on rush days, Departmental mobile collection centres, bill collection through bar code reader may be introduced.

17. The procedure for quick settlement of billing/complaints may be revised.

18. Different billing frequency be introduced for different types of customers.

19. A revised procedure for settlement of outstanding bills may be prescribed. Computerised reminder service for defaulting subscribers to be introduced.

20. To guard against defaulting security deposit to be enhanced for subscribers opting for STD/ISD.

21. FRS should be computerised quickly and made more effective in controlling fault repairs. Inter-active voice response system may be introduced.

22. Special attention to be given for fault reporting of Private wires, Leased lines and data circuits.

23. Revised procedures, for proper maintenance of village telephones be introduced.

24. A concept of premium service for bulk user and creamy layer be introduced.

25. Floppies/CD ROMs containing directory information may be thrown to private parties for printing of telephone directories. Departmental printing to be given up.

26. All electro mechanical exchanges should be replaced within a time bound programme on the basis of a techno-economic study.

27. Will and optical fibre technology should be immediately introduced at least for premium customers.

28. The customer end cable network be upgraded on a crash basis and cable records should be computerised thereafter.

29. CGSs should be given full powers for procurement of new vehicles.

30. DOT should enter the field of Value Added Services.

System Support

31. For speedy implementation of a comprehensive computerised support system well known companies in it may be engaged.

32. Nation-wide Directory Information Service Material Management, Computerisation of Cable records, Computerisation of telephone Revenue and accounting require to be given priority.

33. Commercial records may be computerised using optical disk based computerised recording system called WORM.

Human Resources

34. Motivation of Employees should be given priority. A number of measures are suggested for this.

35. All eligible Group C & Group employees be trained for restructured cadres. Work study for finding norms for phone mechanics and other re-structured cadres to be expedited.

36. The trainings can be organised by selected outside agencies. A group of selected Group B & Group C employees be sent to some of the advanced countries for getting a practical experience on customer care.

37. An attractive VRS may be introduced in DOT.

38. The Department should give monetary incentive for acquiring academic skills for Group D employees.

39. To correct the age profile of the employees. the CGMs should be permitted to recruit fresh young persons to a limited extend.

40. Cadre Management Scheme may be introduced for the cadres of JTOs, TES Group B STS Group A, Civil/Electrical/Architectural Engineers and AOs.

41. Special allowances may be provided for DOT employees.

42. To retain skilled man power, additional facilities like housing transpct, residential telephone and holiday resorts may be provided.

Marketing

43. A new marketing structure in every Circle/SS to handle External Communication (PR), Internal communication and Marketing with appropriate training and orientation programme in marketing customer orientation and PR field to be created. Marketing budget as a % revenue to be fixed.

44. Marketing research to play a key role in designing policies and implementing so as to increase revenues.

45. A consultancy cell and a Tele marketing unit to be created.

46. Concept of service representative and service Manager to handle the accounts of valued and bulk customers to start with to be introduced.

The Management of Finances

47. The Department should have a clear perception of its role and objective in the new environment.

48. There is an urgent need to keep the accounts on a completely commercial basis, analysing regularly performance and financial ratios for effective future planning.

49. The Department should decentralise all possible powers of spending, including purchase of equipment to the Circles.

50. The Department should introduce professionalised Materials Management, Inventory Control, Stores Accounting and the Costing of goods and services. The present anomalous inverted tariff structure to be immediately corrected.

51. The Department can consider setting up of holding companies like the Atomic Energy Commission or a Telecom Finance Corporation like the Railways.

Structure

52. It is imperative for DOT as the biggest operator to prepare itself for conversion into a private body on the lines of British Telecom.

53. Four steps are suggested towards conversion into a private body.

54. Before Conversion into a private body, the operating unit of the DoT should first be formed into a proto-corporation followed by a holding company under which there will be four Public Sector Units.

55. The present Telecom Commission should be disbanded and one part to be separated to function as a Policy Formulation Body under the Ministry of Communications. It should be manned by Telecom professional. One part will function as the Managing Board of the holding company.

[Translation]

Telephone and Post Office Facility in Panchayats of U.P.

1715. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats having the facility of telephones and post offices in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the time by which this facility would be made available to each of the Gram Panchayat;

(c) the number of post offices having telegraph facility and the scheme of the Government regarding the expansion of this facility; and

(d) the details of the programmes for providing the "speed post" service in the main cities of the State, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) As on 31.10.95 and 31.3.95 the number of Gram Panchayats having facility of Public Telephones and Post Offices are 22077 and 17448 respectively. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

(b) (i) The public Telephone facility has been planned to be provided by the year 1997 progressively.

(ii) As regards Post office facility, there is no such plan. Government's objective is to provide Post Offices in Gram Panchayat Villages subject to

fulfilment of prescribed norms of distance, population, income and availability of resources.

(c) As on 31.10.95, the number of Post Offices having telegraph facility is 3813. Government have adopted a policy of extending the telegraph facility on these Public Telephone connections wherever there is a demand and technical feasibility exists.

(d) The details of the programme for providing "Speed Post" cannot be specified as Speed Post service is introduced in a City/Town if the same is justified on the basis of traffic and transit norms which ensure operational and financial viability.

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Name of District	Gram Panchayat Provided with Telephone Facility as on 31.10.95
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	814
2.	Azamagar	501
3.	Ballia	548
4.	Basti	328
5.	Banda	320
6.	Bahraic	-
7.	Barabankih	404
8.	Deoria	399
9.	Etawah	417
10.	Faizabad	486
11.	Farrukhabad	434
12.	Fatehpur	194
13.	Gorakhpur	289
14.	Gonda	495
15.	Ghazipur	312
16.	Hardoi	280
17.	Hamirpur	248
18.	Jaunpur	550
19.	Jhansi	271
20.	Jalaun	259
21.	Kanpur City	157
22.	Kanpur Dehat	486
23.	Lucknow	573
24.	Lakhimpur	387
25.	Lalitpur	95
26.	Manipuri	207
27.	Mirzapur	266
28.	Mau	440
29.	Maharajanj	174

1	2	3
30.	Pratapgarh	215
31.	Raibareilly	312
32.	Sultanpur	527
33.	Sitapur	354
34.	Shahjahanpur	291
35.	Sidharth Nagar	187
36.	Sonebhadra	154
37.	Unnao	600
38.	Varanasi	784
39.	Ghaziabad	652
40.	Bulandshahar	835
41.	Agra	
42.	Ferozabad	
43.	Dehradun	181
44.	Moradabad	408
45.	Meerut	798
46.	Saharanpur	529
47.	Haridwar	247
48.	Muzaffar Nagar	696
49.	Aligarh	497
50.	Nainital	374
51.	Bareilly	255
52.	Chamoli	61
53.	Uttarkashi	20
54.	Pauri	211
55.	Tehri	68
56.	Mathura	394
57.	Etah	417
58.	Rampur	76
59.	Badaun	382
60.	Pilibhit	74
61.	Bijnore	374
62.	Almora	316
63.	Pithoragarh	
Total		7938

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Gram Panchayats with Post Office
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	470
2.	Almora	438
3.	Agra	251

1	2	3
4.	Aligarh	270
5.	Azamgarh	338
6.	Banda	271
7.	Bhador	102
8.	Bareilly	154
9.	Budaun	228
10.	Basti	374
11.	Ballia	336
12.	Baharaich	366
13.	Bijnor	259
14.	Bulandshehr	300
15.	Barabanki	344
16.	Chamoli	332
17.	Deoria	243
18.	Dehradun	182
19.	Etah	200
20.	Etawah	175
21.	Fatehpur	233
22.	Farukhabad	251
23.	Firozabad	150
24.	Faizabad	590
25.	Ghazipur	356
26.	Gonda	474
27.	Ghaziabad	196
28.	Gorakhpur	329
29.	Hamirpur	210
30.	Hardoi	263
31.	Haridwar	80
32.	Jaunpur	400
33.	Jhansi	359
34.	Jalaun	322
35.	Kanpur (city)	81
36.	Kanpur (Dehat)	276
37.	Kheri	346
38.	Lalitpur	150
39.	Lucknow	154
40.	Mahoba (New District, Figures with Hamirpur)	
41.	Mirzapur	154
42.	Muzaffarnagar	274
43.	Meerut	310
44.	Mainpuri	215
45.	Mathura	186
46.	Mau	239

1	2	3
47.	Maharajganj	243
48.	Moradabad	291
49.	Nainital	227
50.	Pratapgarh	337
51.	Pilibhit	128
52.	Pithoragarh	266
53.	Padrauna	235
54.	Pauri	417
55.	Rampur	105
56.	Raebareli	417
57.	Sonbhadra	116
58.	Shahjahanpur	259
59.	Sidharathanagar	230
60.	Sharanpur	172
61.	Sultanpur	457
62.	Sitapur	349
63.	Tehri	256
64.	Unnao	247
65.	Uttarkashi	123
66.	Varanasi	344
Total		17448

*[English]***Post Offices in Kerala**

1716. SHRI MULLIAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices, category-wise functioning in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) whether any request for extending more postal facilities by opening of post offices in the hilly areas have been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of post offices functioning in Kerala, category-wise and district-wise is given in the enclosed to statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pending requests for opening of Post Offices in hilly areas are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Post Offices are opened under the Plan Scheme, subject to fulfilment of norms of distance, population and income and availability of resources following laid-down priorities. Pending requests have to go through this process.

STATEMENT-I

Number of Post Offices, Category-wise functioning in Kerala, district-wise.

S.No.	Name of District	HOs*	DSOs**	EDSOs***	EDBOs****	Total
1.	Alleppey	5	112	64	109	290
2.	Calicut	4	101	47	266	418
3.	Cannanore	3	99	32	244	378
4.	Eranakulam	5	139	38	199	381
5.	Idukki	2	52	14	233	301
6.	Kasaragod	2	30	16	186	234
7.	Kottayam	5	124	55	225	209
8.	Malappuram	4	97	42	287	430
9.	Palghat	4	138	43	265	450
10.	Pathanamthitta	3	100	50	157	310
11.	Quilon	4	103	55	197	359
12.	Trivandrum	4	142	23	248	417
13.	Thrichur	5	166	54	263	488
14.	Wyanad	1	18	3	139	161
Total		51	1421	536	3018	5026

* Head Post Office.

** Departmental Sub Post Office

*** Extra Departmental Sub Post Office.

**** Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

STATEMENT-II

Pending requests for opening of Post Offices in the Hilly areas in Kerala, district-wise.

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Places.
1.	Calicut	Vakanchery, Vayadkurichaya Colony, P. T. Chacko Nagar, Peringolam, Mandad and Perumpally
2.	Ernakulam	Paipara and Naduvattom
3.	Idukki	Mulukuvally, Swaranvilsam, Thellithoda, Kurissumala Ashram, Pethamedu, Valambur, MES College Nedumkandam, Heaven Vally, Kurissupara Jn. and Nankuthotty
4.	Irinjalakuda	Bandukai
5.	Kannur	K u n n a t h u r p a d y , Kuniyanapuzha, Chanakundu, Cholliyad, Vanchiyam, Kuppadithara, Perumpadavu, Palathumkadavu, Nelliyadi, Mullool and Makkaimala
6.	Kasaragod	Perumpallythattu, Puliyanu, Attakandam
7.	Kottayam	Moske (Kurungad)
8.	Pathanamthitta	Piramela, Ambanad Estate, Rosemala, Nellikapara and Kallelithettam
9.	Quilon	Venkella, Mylam-East and Edayam
10.	Tellicherry	Palukunnu
11.	Trivandrum	Attippuram, Punnakkad and Pachamala
12.	Vadagara	Vlour-West and Puthurvattom
13.	Wayanad	Appadu, Pazhur, Cherumad and Valanchery.

Telephones to Lawyers

1717. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has held that lawyers are entitled to get telephone connections under the Special Category;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated an all India policy to include lawyers in the Special category for grant of immediate telephone connections; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c). Sir, the implication of the Hon'ble Supreme Courts' decision on the policy relating to grant of special category telephones to advocates is under examination. This will be laid on the Table of the House.

Local Radio Stations

1718. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress in the establishment of local Radio Stations in the country is far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to review the progress made in that regard during the current Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). Most of the Schemes of Local Radio Stations, as envisaged in the 7th and 8th Plans, have already been executed. However, progress in respect of certain projects has been hampered due to various reasons such as, lack of availability of suitable sites, infrastructural facilities, insurgency problems and difficult terrain conditions.

(c) Efforts are made on a continuous basis through Modern Management techniques of PERT/CPM and monitoring through a High Power Committee to ensure timely implementation of all AIR projects.

Religious Minorities

1719. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the current list of districts with concentration of religious minorities, State-wise;

(b) the criteria for the selection of the districts;

(c) the actual population of religious minorities in these districts, district-wise, and as a proportion of the population of the district;

(d) the total population of religious minorities in all these districts put together and the proportion it forms of the total population of the community concerned in the country; and

(e) whether the Government propose to review the list in order to cover atleast 2/3rd of the population of each religious minority?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Information is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The criteria adopted for the identification of the existing list of minority concentration districts was that the minorities should account for 20% of its population, which was the percentage of population of all minorities put together in the Country (As per 1971 Census).

(c) Information is given in the enclosed Statement-II (as per 1981 Census).

(d) Total Population of Minority in 41 minority concentration districts (as per 1981 census) Annexure-II.

3,02,93,231	27.65%
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(e) The exercise to review the list is in progress. Poverty, Educational backwardness of an area besides the population as per 1.91 census are the guiding principles for the revision of the list of minority concentration districts in the country.

STATEMENT-I

List of Educationally Backward Minority Concentration Districts

States	Districts
1	2
Uttar Pradesh	1. Rampur 2. Bijnor 3. Moradabad 4. Saharanpur 5. Muzaffarnagar 6. Meerut 7. Bahraich

1	2
	8. Conda 9. Ghaziabad 10. Pilibhit 11. Deoria 12. Barabanki 13. Basti
West Bengal	14. Murshidabad 15. Malada 16. West Binajpur 17. Birbhoom 18. Nadia 19. 24 - Parganas - North 20. 24 - Parganas - South 21. Cooch Bihar 22. Howrah
Kerala	23. Malappuram 24. Kozhikode 25. Cannanore 26. Palghat 27. Wyanad
Bihar	28. Purnea 29. Katihar 30. Darbhanga
Karnataka	31. Bidar 32. Gulbarga 33. Bijapur
Maharashtra	34. Greater Bombay 35. Aurangabad
Andhra Pradesh	36. Hyderabad 37. Kurnool
Haryana	38. Gurgaon
Madhya Pradesh	39. Bhopal
Rajasthan	40. Jaisalmer
Gujarat	41. Kachch

STATEMENT-II

District	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Buddhists	Zoroastri	Total Minority population	Total Population of Distt.	%age of Min. population to the total pop. of distt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(as per 1981 Census)								
UTTAR PRADESH								
1. Rampur	556532	7366	41589	120	1	607807	1178621	51.57
2. Bijnor	765063	1818	22494	751	Nil	790525	1939261	40.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3. Moradabad	1198807	6737	7939	1324	Nil	1215106	3149406	38.58
4. Saharanpur	843999	3698	21188	623	Nil	880731	2673561	32.94
5. Muazffarnagar	653584	1770	8989	565	Nil	665175	2274487	29.25
6. Meerut	700144	9938	6597	4241	Nil	721052	2767246	26.06
7. Baharaich	554404	1767	3441	84	Nil	560013	2216245	25.27
8. Gonda	637222	360	959	Nil	Nil	638620	2834562	22.53
9. Ghaziabad	90124	1606	8202	1253	Nil	402676	1843130	21.85
10. Pilibhit	212938	1255	39323	1	Nil	254358	1008312	25.23
11. Deoria	724329	1354	132	102	Nil	725926	3496564	22.76
12. Barabanki	407404	572	234	74	Nil	408300	1992074	20.50
13. Basti	729866	1052	325	457	Nil	731700	3578069	20.45
WEST BNLGAL								
14. Murshidabad	2169121	3760	399	81	Nil	2173408	3697552	58.78
15. Malda	919918	4020	127	108	Nil	924283	2031871	45.49
16. West Dinajpur	860797	19481	153	279	Nil	881927	2404947	36.67
17. Birbhum	469212	5010	258	123	Nil	656420	2095829	31.32
18. Nadia	713776	20504	204	230	Nil	734721	2964253	24.79
19. 24-Parganas(N)	2563751	55381	6913	4526	5	2630708	10739439	24.50
20. 24-Parganas(S)								
21. Cooch Bihar	368176	1333	14	273	Nil	379799	1771643	21.44
22. Howrah	598448	6440	2478	645	9	606248	2916861	20.43
KERALA								
23. Malappuram	1573988	57217	2	Nil	Nil	1631207	2402701	67.89
24. Kozhikode	762207	107711	30	6	7	869954	2245265	38.75
25. Cannore	720192	267710	110	1	4	988013	2803467	35.24
26. Palghat	472787	76690	7	7	Nil	549491	2044399	26.88
27. Wyanad	136091	135504	64	3	Nil	271602	554026	49.02
BIHAR								
28. Purnea	1495557	3048	645	57	Nil	1499434	3595707	41.70
29. Katihar	527369	2166	1116	186	Nil	531024	1428622	37.17
30. Darbhanga	432751	764	403	8	Nil	433930	2008193	21.61
KARNATAKA								
31. Bidar	179295	29250	428	20804	Nil	229822	996591	23.08
32. Gulbarga	345638	14302	203	531	Nil	360987	2080643	17.35
33. Bijapur	305159	2704	127	20	9	309105	2401782	12.87
MAHARASHTRA								
34. Greater Bombay	1219930	394687	50808	467716	50053	2188158	8243405	26.54
35. Aurangabad	388646	23972	2640	192049	86	607850	2433420	24.98
ANDHRA PRADESH								
36. Hyderabad	811787	62689	7848	1421	391	884156	2260702	39.11
37. Kurnool	407981	69567	55	Nil	Nil	477616	2407299	19.84
HARYANA								
38. Gurgaon	261645	658	4032	94	Nil	266449	849598	31.36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MADHYA PRADESH									
39. Bhopal		209389	10929	6765	8133	10721	236485	894739	26.43
RAJASTHAN									
40. Jaisalmer		56378	124	383	Nil	Nil	169094	243082	69.56
GUJARAT									
41. Kachch		197164	1277	929	3	11	199453	1050161	18.99

Press Council

1720. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA :

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

(a) whether the Press Council of India has constituted a Committee to undertake a comprehensive study on all India basis to look into all kinds of cash, concessions, gifts and facilities etc. given by the Union Government, State Government and Union Territories etc. to the journalists (Both editors and other than editors);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). In exercise of powers conferred on it by Section 8 read with Section 15 of the Press Council Act, 1978, the Press Council of India has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice P.B. Sawant, Chairman, Press Council of India with four other members namely Sh. V.N. Gadgil, Dr. M.V. Pylee, Dr. Harendra Kumar Das and Shri Prakash Patra, to undertake a comprehensive study on all India basis with regard to all kinds of favours in kind and cash, concessions, gifts, facilities etc. given by the Central Government, State Governments and Union Territories to the Journalists (both editors and other than editors). The terms of reference of the Committee are :

(i) to consider the desirability/legality of favours bestowed on various sections of the Press;

(ii) to consider whether grant of favours to journalists affects the free and impartial functioning of the press and its credibility;

(iii) to spell out the parameters of relation and interaction between public authorities and the members of the press.

The Committee will examine the issues by taking into consideration the relevant data spread over the last 10 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Council has not set out any definite time frame for the submission of the report by the Committee.

Inclusion of Kukis in STs List

1721. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum or representations from the representatives of the Kuki Community in Manipur for the inclusion of Kuki Tribe in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Manipur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Representations have been received from the representatives of the Kuki community of Manipur for inclusion of Kuki tribe in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Manipur State.

(b) These representations are being examined in the context of proposed comprehensive revision of lists of SCs & STs.

Inclusion of Naik Community in STs List

1722. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Karnataka Government for inclusion of Naik Community in Karnataka's STs list; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b). Naik tribe has already been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka vide the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) order (Amendment) Act 1991 with effect from 19th April, 1991.

Public Sector Disinvestment Policy

1723. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

MAJ. GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

DR. LAXMINARAN PANDEYA :

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested a review of the Public Sector disinvestment policy on the lines recommended by the Rangarajan Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any new formulations in respect of the disinvestment strategy of the Public Sector in the light of the aforesaid recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for the implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Employment Generation

1724. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state the share of Andhra Pradesh in the actual employment generated during the first two years of Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : Additional employment opportunities of the order of 11.6 million are estimated to have been created during the first two years of the Eighth Five Year Plan. State-wise distribution of such employment opportunities created has not been made.

[Translation]

Development of Jharkhand Area

1725. SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide funds to the autonomous council of Jharkhand for the development of Jharkhand areas, directly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be provided and the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) The planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission releases funds to the State as a whole. Further sectoral and spatial allocations are done by the concerned State Governments.

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

Supply of Gas to Power Project in Rajasthan

1726. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the required quantity of gas is being supplied to the NTPC in Rajasthan;

'b) if not, the steps taken to make available sufficient quantity of gas and the time by which the shortage is likely to be met;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Government for making available sufficient gas to compensate Anta, Dadri and Auria units of the power projects of northern grid; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) As against the allocation of 1.75 MMSCMD, the current supply to NTPC, Anta is around 1.66 MMSCMD.

(b) and (d). The supply of gas from the Western Offshore fields to Hazira is being increased. The capacity of the Hazira gas terminal and the HBJ pipeline are being upgraded. With the completion of these projects in 1997, there should be no shortage along the HBJ pipeline.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Completion of Projects

1727. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Madhya Pradesh Government to complete Narmada Sagar, Omkareshwar and Maheshwar Projects in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Constitution of State Assembly

1728. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any demand from the public representatives of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for Constitution of a State Assembly of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been examined and it has not been found feasible to constitute a State Assembly for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Unemployment

1729. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a target has been fixed for totally eliminating unemployment by the end of 2000;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the satisfactory progress has been achieved in this direction so far;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the annual percentage of growth rate in the job opportunities fixed for the next remaining years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). No target has been fixed for totally eliminating unemployment by the end of 2000. The Eighth Five Year Plan strategy envisages generation of employment with an annual rate of growth of 2.6% to 2.8% on an average to 8.5 million addition employment opportunities per annum on an average corresponding to a rate of growth of 5.6% of the economy during this period. Continuation of the same strategies in the period 1997-2002 with the same rate of growth of the economy is expected to achieve the goal of nearful employment by the end of that period.

(c) and (d). Additional employment opportunities of the order of 18.78 million are estimated to have been created during the first three years (1992-95)

of the Eighth Plan. These implies an annual average increase of 6.26 million or growth of employment at the rate of 2.03% per annum. The estimated average annual increase in employment opportunities during 1992-95 falls short of the target of 8.5 million per annum primarily due to the shortfall in the growth rate of economy envisaged for the Eighth Plan.

(e) No annual percentage of growth rate in the job opportunities have been fixed for the next remaining years. The growth rate of employment will depend on the pace of economic growth and employment content of such growth.

[Translation]

Per Capita Income in Agriculture Sector

1730. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

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

(a) whether there has been sharp decline in the per capita income in agriculture sector during the last one decade;

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

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the per capita income of the persons engaged in agricultural sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the funds earmarked for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). The income from agriculture sector measured by gross domestic product at factor cost at 1980-81 prices increased from Rs. 42466 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 60991 crores in 1990-91. During the same period the number of persons engaged in agriculture (cultivators and agricultural labourer) as per Census estimates increased from 148 million (1981 Census) to 185.3 million (1991 census). The per person agricultural income, therefore, has increased from Rs. 2869 in 1980-81 to Rs. 3291 in 1990-91 at 1980-81 prices.

(c) A significant shift in investment has been proposed in favour of agriculture and allied sectors in the Eighth Plan. The share of agriculture, irrigation and allied sectors has been raised from 11.23 per cent of total investment in the Seventh Plan to 18.65 per cent in the Eighth Plan.

(d) An estimated Rs. 148800 crores at 1991-92

prices is proposed to be invested in agriculture, irrigation and allied sectors in the Eighth Plan.

Handicapped Persons

1731. SHRI RAM BADAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government for the welfare of the blind and handicapped persons in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that manager of blind relief centres commit atrocities on blind persons;

(c) whether any new policy is likely to be adopted to check such cases of atrocities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the provisions which has been ensured in the Eighth Five Year Plan to help the blind persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) Major schemes and programmes of Ministry of Welfare for handicapped persons including the blind in the country are mentioned in the statement enclosed.

(b) No specific complaint of atrocities on the blind has been received.

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

(e) An allocation of Rs. 111.00 crores has been made for the welfare of the handicapped persons including blind for Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97).

STATEMENT

(1) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled

Under this Scheme, assistance is provided to voluntary organisations to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. It is a comprehensive scheme covering different areas of rehabilitation-physical, psychological, social and economic. Financial support is given to the extent of 90% of the total project cost (upto 95% for the rural areas) for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for the projects such as vocational training centres, special schools, counselling centres, hostels, training centres for personnels, placement services etc.

(2) Establishment and Development of Special Schools

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs to the extent of 90% for establishment and upgradation of special schools in four major disabilities - orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there

is no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation for Manpower development

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation.

(4) Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons

Under this scheme, assistance is given upto 90% to voluntary organisations in developing programmes for rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons.

(5) National Institute

In order to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following four National Institutes have been set up. These Institutes are apex level organisations in the field of training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules. These Institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their areas of disability :

- (1) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
- (2) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.
- (3) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay.
- (4) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

In addition to these the following two Institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons :-

- (1) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
- (2) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olatpur, Orissa.

(6) Employment

(i) 3% vacancies is reserved for physically handicapped, 1% each for the visual, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in Group C and D posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given by some State Governments. The handicapped including the blind are also given age concession in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government services.

(ii) 35 Special Employment Exchanges and 50 Special Cells or the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides the Normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following :-

- (a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops;
- (b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme;
- (c) Allotment of public telephone booths;
- (d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances.

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the Companies, registered and Companies Act, registered societies, Trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both governmental and non-governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and at 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201 and Rs. 2500/-.

[English]

Excesses Committed by Para-Military Forces

1732. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of excesses committed by para-military personnel were received during the past two years;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted to find out the facts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SYBTEY RAZI) : (a) 52 allegations of excesses committed by para-military personnel were received during the past two years.

(b) and (c). The details of actions taken in these cases are given below :

(i) Appropriate penalties after departmental proceedings	2 cases
(ii) Court of Inquiry proceedings in progress	2 cases
(iii) Departmental Inquiry in progress	1 case
(iv) Cases in which police investigations are in progress	30 cases
(v) Filed as untraced after investigations	8 cases
(vi) Investigations have found cases to be false	5 cases
(vii) Charge sheets filed in Courts	4 cases
Total	52 cases

Women Harassed in Central Railway

1733. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Women harassed in Central Railway", appearing in the 'Indian Express' (Bombay Edition) dated August 8, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government have inquired into the matter;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (G.R.P.), which functions under the control of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Information relating to specific incidents of harassment and other crimes on trains is not maintained by the Central Government.

Development of Command Area

1734. SHRI PROBEN DEKA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided to Assam for the

development of command areas under the centrally sponsored Command Area Programme during each of the last three years; and

(b) the target achieved during the above period?

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

(a) An amount of Rs. 548.49 lakhs was provided as Grant-in-aid to Assam Government under centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme during the last three years with the following year-

wise break-up :-

Year	Grant-in-aid (Rupees in lakhs)
1992-93	207.99
1993-94	202.61
1994-95	137.89
Total	548.49

(b) The targets and achievements during the above period are as follows :-

(Area in thousand hectares.)

	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		Cumulative for the period 1992 to 1995	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Field Channel	7	1.59	2.03	1.50	3.353	1.088	12.383	4.178
Field Drain	4	0.31	3.80	0.64	3.341	1.48	11.141	2.43
Warabandi (Rotational water supply)	7	7.30	2.49	1.00	1.5	0.35	10.90	8.65

Distribution of Gas through Pipeline

1735. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the natural gas for domestic purposes is being distributed through pipeline in Baroda and Surat cities;

(b) if so, whether this scheme for distribution of natural gas through pipeline is proposed to be started in Ahmedabad and Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be started there?

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

(b) to (d). In view of the projected availability of gas in Gujarat and the commitments already made, it is not feasible to allocate gas for piped gas supply projects in Ahmedabad etc.

Local Radio Station: at Puri

1736. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a local radio station at Puri was projected in the budget for the current year;

(b) if so, the outlay thereof;

(c) the amount spent so far;

(d) whether the above radio station has been operationalised; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Approved outlay for the current year (1995-96) in respect of Local Radio Station with a 3 KW FM transmitter and Multi-purpose studio at Puri is Rs. 78.50 lakhs. An expenditure of Rs. 25.68 lakhs has been incurred on this project till September, 1995.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Police Atrocities on Strickers

1737. SHRI VISHWANATH SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether unprecedented strike was observed and curfew was imposed during September, 1994 in Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government propose to conduct any enquiry into atrocities on strikers by the police; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

ISI Network in Uttar Pradesh

1738. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that ISI Network is now spreading in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Delhi rather than concentration in Kashmir and Punjab; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) and (b). Government is aware of the sinister designs of ISI of Pakistant to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversion in different parts of the country. Government is alive to the situation and are taking all necessary steps in this regard which include gearing up of intelligence machinery, coordinated action by Central and State agencies, strengthening the deployment of para-minitary forces, intensified patrolling, as well as construction of border fencing and flood-lighting in vulnerable stretches of Indo-Pak border.

Bullet Proof Jackets

1739. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States have importing bullet-proof vesta and jackets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these products are indigenously available at cheaper rates;

(d) whether DRDO has arrangements for supply to these items to the central para-military forces and State police forces; and

(e) if so, the justification for such imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) and (b). yes, Sir, Some States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry had imported bullet-proof jackets in the past.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir, However when these items were not indigenously available about one and a half years ago, States and Union Territories had resorted to their import.

Coal Supply

1740. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal supplied to Gujarat State Electricity Board during the last three years;

(b) whether there are complaints about sub-standard supply of coal; and

(c) the details thereof and the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The total quantity of coal supplied to the four thermal power stations of Gujarat State Electricity Board (GEB) during each of the last three years is as follows :-

	Data provisional (in lakh tonnes)
1992-93	110.71
1993-94	111.21
1994-95	112.16

(b) and (c). According to the information received from Coal India Limited, some complaints have been received from GEB which mainly relate to size and quality of coal supplies.

Indian coals by their inherent nature of deposition have high percentage of ash. The coal seams are in most cases inter-banded with stones/shale/sand etc. Such extraneous materials cannot be fully eliminated in the process of mining. CIL has however taken steps to ensure that this extraneous material is reduced to the minimum. The steps include selective mining, selective blasting, maintaining clean benches, segregation and removal of extraneous materials such as stones etc., before despatch. The thermal power stations, including those of GEB, have been advised to beneficiate the coal to further improve its quality.

BSF Clashes with Villagers

1741. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether clashes are taking place between the villagers and jawans of Central security forces at different locations in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check that such incidents do not take place in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI) : (a) Government are aware of some incidents in the border areas in West Bengal wherein persons with vested interests have clashed with BSF Patrol/Naka parties when the latter tried to check/seize contraband goods/cattle heads.

(b) The number of such incidents is as under :-

Year	Number of incidents
1994	9
1995 (upto 30.11.95)	15

(c) BSF have taken various steps to deal with such situations including sensitisation of personnel on borders, frequent supervision by officers on Border out Posts, issue of do's and don'ts to personnel on Border out posts and maintaining close liaison with local administration.

Flood Control

1742. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the North Bengal Flood Prevention Master Plan;

(b) whether the Union Government have approved the above Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d). The State Government of West Bengal has prepared Master Plans for the TISTA, TORSA, RAIDHAR and JALDHAKA rivers for the prevention of Floods in North Bengal. These Master Plans were examined and comments sent to the State Government for carrying out necessary modifications. Modified Master Plans have not been received from the State Government.

Inclusion of Uttarakhandis in BCs Category

1743. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to include all the Uttarakhandis in the backward class category; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b). The National Commission for Backward Classes have received a representation to include the Uttarakhandis in the Backward Class category and give benefits in services and educational institutions which is under the consideration of the Commission. The matter has to be considered in the light of the Supreme Court judgement in the case of State of U.P. vs. Pradeep Tandon and the case of Anil Kumar Gupta vs. State of U.P.

Erosion of Banks of Ganga River

1744. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether continuous erosion of the banks of the Ganges are taking place at several parts of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop such erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Erosion of varying magnitude at various locations along the banks of Ganga river are reported from time to time. This erosion is caused due to meandering nature of the alluvial rivers. Anti-erosion schemes are undertaken by State Government on location specific basis to tackle the problem.

(b) The State Government undertakes investigation, planning and execution of the specific anti-erosion schemes out of their own plan funds in accordance with their own priorities. Before the floods of 1995, 15 anti-erosion schemes in Malda and Murshidabad districts have been completed by the State Government.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

1745. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the telephone exchanges in the country have been modernised;

(b) if not, the number of exchanges modernised during each of the last three years and current year, so far, State-wise;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges in the country that are yet to be modernised, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which all the exchanges are likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. There is a phased programme for modernisation.

(b) and (c). The required information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) As per objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan, all the MAX-III and MAX-II (Pine Finder Type) exchanges are to be converted into Electronic Exchanges by March, 1997. All other exchanges are to be converted into electronic exchanges on expiry of their useful life subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Exchanges modernised during			
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Balance yet to be modernised
1.	Andhra Pradesh	309	201	316	599
2.	Assam	60	4	1	6
3.	Bihar	184	13	7	5
4.	Gujarat	300	169	142	72
5.	Haryana	94	45	20	13
6.	Himachal Pradesh	83	78	29	3
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	16	14	24	55
8.	Karnataka	609	298	220	23
9.	Kerala	205	30	37	95
10.	Madhya Pradesh	452	84	18	24
11.	Maharashtra (Including Bombay)	535	304	242	70
12.	N.E. Region	26	20	4	Nil
13.	Orissa	199	16	9	6
14.	Punjab	164	68	49	17
15.	Rajasthan	267	156	176	13
16.	Sikkim	4	-	-	-
17.	Tamil Nadu (Including Madras)	317	212	271	53
18.	Uttar Pradesh	284	173	73	13
19.	West Bengal (Including Calcutta)	113	82	71	32
20.	Delhi	1	2	2	16

Profit of Cochin Refinery

1746. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the profit of Cochin Refinery Limited in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the modernisation and expansion schemes of the refinery;

(c) whether an agitation is going on in Cochin Refinery Limited by workers for long term wage settlement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) The profit after tax of Cochin Refineries Limited in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 was as follows :

(Rs. in crores)		
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
87.12	68.25	104.77

(b) The capacity of the refinery has been expanded from 4.5 MMTPA to 7.5 MMTPA in December, 1994 at an estimated cost of Rs. 450 crores. A new Distributed Digital Control System has been commissioned in May, 1994. Other projects, namely revamp of Visbreaker Unit, replacement of old crude line and additional product tankages and setting up of diesel desulphurisation unit are under different stages of processing.

(c) and (d). Workmen belonging to the two recognised Trade Unions at CRL are on agitation for long-term wage settlement. In order to resolve the issue, discussions are continuing before the Regional Labour Commissioner.

Bakrol Irrigation Project

1747. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sort out the various techno-economic issues of the Bakrol irrigation project with the Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be approved by the Union Government; and

(c) the reasons for delay in according approval to the above project?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The clearance of a project depends upon how soon the State Government complies with the observations of Central Water Commission/Other Central Appraising Agencies, establishes techno-economic viability of the project and obtains clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Welfare in respect of Environmental/Forests/Resettlement Plans.

[Translation]

Programmes on Doodarshan

1748. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been decrease in duration of entertainment programmes and steep increase in the duration of advertisements on Doodarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the entertainment programmes and facilities on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Among the steps taken in this direction is a restructuring of the programming on the DD-1 and DD-2 channels so that they complement each other.

Reservation to SCs/STs and OBCs in Private Sector

1749. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide reservation to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and backward classes in the private sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b). The issue of reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and OBCs in Private Sector is being examined.

Irrigated Land

1750. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average of irrigated land in Madhya Pradesh is less than the national average;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines/instructions to those States where the average of irrigated land is less than the national average;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring the average of irrigated land of those States at par with the national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The percentage of total net irrigated area to total cultivable area during 1991-92 in Madhya Pradesh was 20.3% compared to national average of 26.5%. The percentage of irrigated land differs from state to state as the factors contributing to the creation of irrigation capacity including the financial constraints, availability of water resources and cultural land, topography etc., differ from state to state.

(c) and (d). Instructions were issued to State having lower plan allocations in irrigation sector to give more priority to irrigation sector. States are also advised to take necessary steps to improve the utilisation of created irrigation potential during the Annual Plan discussions held in the Planning Commission. However, no specific instructions were issued to States whose average irrigated agricultural land is lower than the national average.

(e) Major steps taken by the Union Government to increase irrigation facilities in such States inter-alia include assigning high priority to the sector during the Eighth Plan by laying special thrust on (i) priority to completion of ongoing Major and medium projects, (ii) speedy completion of large number of ongoing surface water minor irrigation schemes, (iii) making Command Area Development programme more effective, (iv) conjunctive use of surface and ground water, and (v) emphasis on Science and Technology component through Research and Development efforts in the field of water management through appropriate agencies.

[English]

Arrangement of Divers/Swimmers

1751. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:-

(a) the names of Dams/Reservoirs where no Divers/Swimmers are available for saving the lives of drowning officials of survey team, which visit the Dams/Reservoirs to assess the damage caused to the dams due to heavy rains or floods on the spot, State-wise; and

(b) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make necessary arrangement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Generally divers/swimmers are available at the dams to assist the project authorities. However, in order to prevent accidents, fresh instructions are under issue to ensure that they are available during inspections by officials.

[Translation]

Construction of Dams

1752. DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in regard to construction of dams on River Narmada as per the award given by the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to include the above projects in the national project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The details of the progress regarding the construction of dams on the Narmada river in the context of the award of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal, State-wise, are as under :

Madhya Pradesh : The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal has apportioned 18.25 Million Acre Feet of Narmada waters to Madhya Pradesh for utilisation in their territory. Madhya Pradesh is contemplating construction of about 29 major dams in the State for utilisation of its share and also to cater to the regulated releases to Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) which is the major terminal dam being constructed in Gujarat. 3 major dams viz. Tawa, Barna and Sukta are completed. Another 8 projects viz. Bargi, Kolar, Mitiari, Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Man and Jobat are under various stages of construction. Head works of three on-going projects viz. Bargi, Mitiari and Kolar are completed and construction of canal systems of these projects are under progress.

Gujarat : The Sardar Sarovar Project is being constructed for the utilisation of the allocated shares of Narmada waters to Gujarat and Rajasthan by Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The construction of the dam is in progress and is expected to be completed by 2000 A.D.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Murder in Hauz Khas and Vasant Kunj

1753. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news report captioned "Murders reveal loopholes in security" appearing in Statesman dated November 18, 1995;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The brief facts and details of the cases reported in the said news item are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to check crime in Delhi. These include increased patrolling, posting of pickets at strategic points, strengthening the intelligence machinery, frequent raids at the hideouts of criminals, increased surveillance, coordination meetings with the officials of the neighbouring States, training of the police officers in handling modern weapons, introduction of scientific methods of investigation, modernisation of communications network, etc.

STATEMENT

DETAILS OF MURDER CASES

1. Prachi Khanna and Lalita Murder case in Vasant Kunj :

Case FIR No. 538/95 under section 302/392 IPC 17.11.95, Police Station Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

On the night of 16/17 November, 1995 one-year old Prachi Khanna was found murdered alongwith her maid Lalita, aged 16 years at 3-1/1088, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Her parents had gone out to attend a wedding party. On their return they found Prachi and Lalita dead, the house ransacked, almirah broken and approximately Rs. one lakh missing. No arrest has been made.

2. Baljit Singh Tokas Murder Case in Vasant Kunj

Case FIR No. 537/95 under section 302 IPC dated 16.11.95, Police Station Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

On the evening of 16.11.95, Police Station Vasant Kunj acting on an information reached Bhatta Road and found Baljit Singh Tokas, resident of Munirka dead in his Maruti 1000CC car with a big bullet wound on his right temple. Investigations reveal that Baljit Singh Tokas had bad blood with one of his relative on money matters. This dispute is suspected to be the motive behind the murder. No arrest has been made.

3. V.N. Vanchu, Saroj and Vinod Murder Case in Hauz Khas

Case FIR No. 531/95 under section 302/460 IPC dated 16.11.95, Police Station Hauz Khas.

On 16.11.95, Shri V.N. Vanchu, Smt. Saroj Vanchu and their servant Vinod Kumar were found murdered at their residence in Hauz Khas. They were strangulated/gagged in their house. Some articles were also found missing. Four accused persons have been arrested.

4. Harbhagwan Behal Murder Case in Hauz Khas

Case FIR No. 527/95 under section 302/394 IPC dated 31.11.95, Police Station Hauz Khas.

Shri Harbhagwan Behal, resident of H-1/14, Hauz Khas, New Delhi was found lying on his bed and his neck was tied with baniyan and his pyjama was stuffed in his mouth; blood was oozing from his head. No arrest has been made in this case.

5. Kishan Singh Murder Case in Gobind Puri

Case FIR No. 610/95 under section 302/460 IPC dated 9.11.95, Police Station Kalkaji.

On the night of 8/9 November, 1995 Amerjeet Kaur heard somebody running down the staircase of their house and found Kishan Singh, her uncle lying in a pool of blood on his bed. A bullet was also found there. In this case two accused have been arrested.

6. Anita Murder Case in Vasant Kunj

Case FIR No. 509/95 under section 302 IPC dated 31.10.95, Police Station Vasant Kunj.

On 31.10.95 Anita, aged about 24/25 years, was found strangled with her own saree at the first floor of House No. B-5/6-4232, Vasant Kunj. There were no signs of forced entry into the flat or any struggle or resistance put up by the victim inside the house and the intruders were probably known to her. As per statement of Smt. Kansar Hashmi, owner of the house, one VCR, one camera, one wrist watch and cash about Rs. 2000/- are missing from the house. No arrest has been made in this case.

7. Kulbir Singh Murder Case in Petrol Pump, Badarpur

Case FIR No. 495/95 under section 302 IPC dated 24.10.95 Police Station Badarpur.

Kulbir Singh was found dead at Ahuja Petrol pump, Mathura Road, Badarpur on 24.10.95 as reported by Shri Sanjeet Ahuja, partner of the petrol pump. The deceased was strangulated and there were some wounds on his face and head. No arrest has been made so far in this case.

8. Sheela Goyal Murder Case in Panchsheel Park

Case FIR No. 674/95 under section 397, 302/34 IPC dated 19.10.95 Police Station Malviya Nagar.

On 19.10.95 at about 7.30 PM when Smt. Veena Sharma, resident of D-II/3, Pandara Road, New Delhi, came to meet her mother residing at S-5, Panchsheel Park, she found her mother Sheela Goyal aged about

75 years lying dead in the house. The house had been ransacked. She suspected that Attar Singh, servant was involved in this crime. One person has been arrested in this case.

Reservation on the Basis of Religion

1754. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide reservation facilities in Government services and educational institutions on the basis of religion in this country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to discuss this matter with the political parties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal for giving separate reservation on the basis of religion in public employment and educational institutions. However, those sections of the religious minority communities which are socially and educationally backward have been included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the purposes of providing reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services under the Government of India.

(c) and (d). The proposal to discuss this matter with the political parties is being examined.

Investment in Oil and Natural Gas Sector

1755. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation have agreed to invest in oil and gas sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations of the projects, identified in this regard?

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

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

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rural Areas

1756. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices and Sub Post Offices functioning in the rural areas of the country;

(b) the number of such post offices out of them, which are earning profit;

(c) whether the Government propose to close down the post offices running in loss at present; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Number of Post Offices functioning in the rural areas of the Country, category-wise is as under :

Category	Number
Extra departmental branch Post Offices	1,22,350
Extra departmental Sub Post Offices	2,321
Departmental Sub Post Offices.	11,393
Total	1,36,064

(b) Information as to the number of Post Offices which are running on profit is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). Post Offices are generally not being closed, having regard to the Social obligations of the Department, and efforts are made locally to improve income.

Telephone to Villages

1757. DR. P.R. GANGWAR :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages/panchayats provided with telephone facility so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages/panchayats without such facility at present;

(c) the names of such States where more facility exists in comparison to other States; and

(d) the time by which the telephone connection are likely to be provided to all the villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Upto 31.10.1995, the number of villages including Panchayats provided with public telephone facility is 193208. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) As on 31.10.1995, the number of villages including Panchayats without public telephone facility is 411717. The State-wise details are given in Annex.

(c) The percentage coverage of villages with public telephone facility given in Annex shows All India Status at 31.9%. Hence States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are having more such facility than the remaining States.

(d) Government of India have adopted National Telecom Policy, 1994, which envisages provision of public telephone facility to all villages by the year 1997, progressively.

STATEMENT

Status of villages with and without public telephone facility as on 31.10.95.

S.No.	State	Total No. of villages	No. of villages with public telephone facility	No. of villages without public telephone facility	% coverage of villages with public telephone
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	29460	16865	12595	57.24%
2.	Assam	22224	7011	15213	31.54%
3.	Bihar	79208	11131	68077	14.05%
4.	Gujarat including Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	18735	12472	6263	66.57%

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Haryana	7190	6203	987	86.27%
6.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	3206	13791	18.86%
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	6447	1391	5056	21.57%
8.	Karnataka	27024	10972	16052	40.60%
9.	Kerala	1530	1530	Nil	100.00%
10.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	26318	45208	36.79%
11.	Maharashtra including Goa	40430	20267	20163	50.12%
12.	North-East including Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur	14197	2111	12086	14.86%
13.	Orissa	46989	10328	36661	21.97%
14.	Punjab	13253	8395	4858	63.34%
15.	Rajasthan	37889	10508	27387	27.73%
16.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	20196	13455	6741	66.62%
17.	Uttar Pradesh	112568	24891	87677	22.11%
18.	West Bengal including Sikkim	38337	5895	32442	15.37%
19.	A and N Islands	534	68	466	12.72%
20.	MTNL, New Delhi	191	191	Nil	100.00%
Total		604925	193208	411717	31.93%

[English]

Setting up of FM Radio Stations

1758. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set-up FM radio stations in the Capital of each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). F.M. channels have already become operational in 10 State Capitals. Installations of F.M. transmitters is in progress at 5 other State Capitals. Proposal to set up F.M. projects in respect of 2 State

Capitals has been approved and the remaining 9 are under consideration of the Government.

(d) It is proposed that all State Capitals will have F.M. Channels by the end of the 9th Plan subject to availability of funds, infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities.

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

1759. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officials concerned with implementation of the Foreign Contribution Regulations Act (FCRA) in his Ministry have been demanding ten percent from any agency which seeks clearance of foreign donations;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring to look the culprits; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

Investment in Oil Sector

1760. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation have recently decided to invest about Rs. 10,000 crores in different projects in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the locations of those projects with the estimated amounts of investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). As a part of its investment programmes, Indian Oil Corporation has been taking up a number of projects for execution. As of now, IOC has projects worth about Rs. 10,000 crores on hand which are expected to be completed in about three years period. The details of projects alongwith anticipated cost (investment) and location of the project is given in the enclosed *Statement*.

STATEMENT

(Rs. Crores)

S. No.	Name of Project	Cost Anticipated (Investment)	Location
1	2	3	4
ON-GOING PROJECTS			
1.	Panipat Refinery Project	2794.00	Panipat Haryana
2.	Digboi Refinery Modernisation Project	346.34	Digboi Assam
3.	Catalytic Reformer Unit at Digboi	112.00	Digboi Assam
4.	Catalytic Reformer Unit at Barauni	248.11	Barauni Bihar
5.	Catalytic Reformer Unit at Mathura	545.00	Mathura Uttar Pradesh
6.	Propylene Recovery Unit Mathura	47.53	Mathura Uttar Pradesh
7.	Production of parafin wax at Barauni	41.50	Barauni Bihar
8.	Hydrofinishing of wax at Digboi	46.00	Digboi Assam
9.	New Coker at Digboi	118.00	Digboi Assam
10.	Distributed Digital control system at refineries	366.00	Various location
11.	Expansion of Haldia Refinery by 1 MMTPA	45.00	Haldia West-Bengal
12.	Production of chemical grade propylene at Panipat Refinery	45.35	Panipat Haryana

1	2	3	4
13.	Production of MTBE at Gujarat Refinery	36.00	Koyali Gujarat
14.	Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline Project	2081.84	Kandla to Bhatinda (Cross country pipeline)
15.	Viramgam-Chaksu-Panipat Crude Oil Pipeline	569.10	Viramgam to Panipat (Cross country pipeline)
16.	Salava-Viramgam-Augmentation	75.50	Salaya to Viramgam (Cross country pipeline)
17.	Second SBM at Salaya	98.30	Salaya Gujarat
18.	Line Balancing tanks at Panipat	30.32	Panipat Haryana
19.	TOPs on KBPL	310.00	Kandla, Sidhpur, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Rewari, Sangrur, Bhatinda
20.	Panipat Marketing Complex Phase I & II	347.73	Panipat Haryana
21.	New Terminal at Hazira	40.84	Hazira Gujarat
22.	Lighterage Terminal at Paradeep	40.00	Paradeep Orissa
23.	LPG Import terminal at Kandla	160.82	Kandla Gujarat
24.	Main Frame Computer (Distributed Processing)	34.89	Various Location
25.	Communication Network	44.18	Various Location
26.	Extension of HRS to proposed international complex at Calcutta	17.04	Calcutta West Bengal
27.	Lube speciality complex at Taloaja Bombay	46.18	Bombay Maharashtra
28.	MG/BG Terminal at Lumding Nowgaon Assam	26.44	Lumding Assam
29.	LPG Bottling Plants at 10 locations	293.82	Madanpur Khadar, Ahemdabad, Trichy, Akola, Bhav Nagar, Budge-Budge, Bikaner, Cuddapah, Ennore and Manmad
30.	Others-Including Non Plan projects	1000.00	Various location
Total		10007.83	

Survey for Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas Deposits

1761. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted so far in Arunachal Pradesh to find out the deposits of oil and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) 3692 Sq. Km. Geological surveys and 2750 SLKM of 2D seismic surveys have been carried out in Arunachal Pradesh and based thereon 35 exploratory wells have been drilled. As a result thereof a total of 39.04 MMT of oil and oil equivalent of gas inplace reserves have been established.

(c) Does not arise.

Separate Units for VIP Security

1762. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a completely separate units for the security of VIPs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated annual expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

E.D. Employees

1763. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commission set up to look into the affairs of the E.D. employees has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether time had been fixed for submission of the report, at the time of setting up of the Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The E.D. Committee was constituted on 31st March, 1995 and it was decided that it would function for a period of one year, extendable at the discretion of the Government. The original tenure of the Committee has not expired.

Distribution of Compressed Natural Gas

1764. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has not been able to finalise the details about the distributions of compressed natural gas to industrial units;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). GAIL is supplying natural gas to over 200 industrial units in various regions. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is being supplied by GAIL as a vehicular fuel in Bombay, Baroda and Delhi.

[Translation]

Gas from HBJ Pipeline

1765. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) the name of the projects which were to be supplied gas from HBJ pipeline as per original plan;

(b) whether all these projects have been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which these are likely to be completed;

(d) whether the gas earmarked for these projects is being used for other purposes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) As per the original plan, the HBJ pipeline was to supply gas to six fertilizer plants.

(b) and (c). All the six fertilizer plants have been commissioned.

(d) to (f). On account of the reassessment of the requirements of these units and the delay in setting up these units, allocations along the HBJ pipeline were made to NTPC, IPCL, GSFC, DESU and industries around Delhi.

Development Schemes

1766. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state the details of development schemes of Gujarat cleared by the Planning Commission during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : During the last three years the Government of Gujarat had sent its proposals regarding development schemes for the State in the form of draft Annual Plan proposals for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 which were duly considered by the Planning Commission in accordance with the procedures laid down. For the State's Annual Plan 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 outlays of Rs. 1875 crores, Rs. 2137 crores and Rs. 2240 crores respectively were approved by the Planning Commission for implementation of the various development schemes.

[English]

Grant of loans to other Backward Classes

1767. SHRI MUHIRAM SAIKIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Corporation has been set up to grant loans to Other Backward Classes for setting up different kinds of industrial, commercial and such other units;

(b) if so, the details of its composition and functions; and

(c) the details of loans granted under different heads since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has set up the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation under the Ministry of Welfare on January 13, 1992. The main objective of the Corporation is to grant loans on easy terms to the members of Backward Classes for their upliftment through various vocational self-employment activities.

(b) NBCFDC is a non-profit company wholly owned by the Government of India with an authorised

share capital of Rs. 200 crores. As per Article 53 (i) the corporation should have not less than four and not more than 13 Directors in its Board Presently the Corporation has in its Board the following official Directors :

1. JS (M and BC) M/o Welfare
2. CMD, NSFDC
3. MD, TRIFED
4. CMD, SIDBI
5. General Manager (DPD-FS NABARD)
6. MD, NBCFDC
7. Director Finance NBCFDC.

The main functions of the Corporation are as follows :

- (i) To provide concessional loan to the members of Backward Classes through State Channelising Agencies nominated by the respective State Government.
- (ii) To provide training grant to the SCA's for skill development/skill upgradation and project linked training for the prospective beneficiaries.
- (iii) To assist the State level Organisations on a top priority basis for the development of Backward Classes.
- (iv) To work as an apex institution for coordination and monitoring of the work of all State Channelising Agencies and to help in furthering Government policies and programmes for the development of Backward Classes.

(c) The details of the loan sanctioned year wise under different sectors is given in the enclosed *Statement*.

STATEMENT

Details of Year-wise and Sector-wise Amount Sanctioned

Year	(Rs. in lakh)			
	Agriculture Allied Sector	Industry Sector	Services Sector	Total
1992-93	635.735	402.951	2340.978	3379.664
1993-94	1231.359	946.6233	8382.4487	10560.393
1994-95	3386.831	1630.78	7210.087	12227.698
1995-96	412.416	1377.00	299.385	2088.801
Total	5666.341	4357.3543	18232.8987	28256.556

[Translation]

Offices/Units of Information departments in U.P.

1768. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Offices/Units of AIR/ Doordarshan in Uttar Pradesh alongwith their locations.

(b) the programmes presented by each of these units during 1993-94 and 1994-95 till date; and

(c) the details of the amount spent on these units during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) *All India Radio Stations in U.P.*

Agra
Allahabad
Almora
Bareilly
Faizabad
Gorakhpur
Jhansi
Kanpur - Commercial Broadcasting Service Lucknow
Mathura
Mussorie - Relay Centre
Najibabad
Obra
Rampur
Varanasi

DOORDARSHAN KENDRA

Gorakhpur
Lucknow

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

[English]

Postal Services in West Bengal

1769. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Postal Services in West Bengal are deteriorating day by day;

(b) whether any remedial measures have been taken to improve the services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Postal services in West Bengal are generally satisfactory.

Specific complaints received and operational shortcomings noticed occasionally are resolved through intervention. Efforts are constantly made by way of modernisation and providing new services to improve the quality of service.

(b) and (c). The Department have adopted multi-pronged strategy to improve the quality of counter services and mail transmission in a phased manner within the constraint of available resources. The steps taken so far include providing multi-purpose counter machines and segmentation of main into Rajdhani channel, Metro Channel, Business Channel besides introduction of express parcel service. The time taken to transmit money orders has also been reduced in places where V-Sat facilities exist.

Coal Supply to Cement Factory

1770. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Churk Cement factory, U.P. has been provided with coal from Central Coalfields;

(b) the quantity of coal provided during the last two years and the current year, so far;

(c) whether C.C.L. has been supplying the full quantity regularly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) According to the information received from Coal India Limited (CIL) the total despatches of coal to the cement factory during the period April-October, 1995 has been 16,600 tonnes from Central Coalfields Ltd. Despatches of coal to the factory during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 from CCL sources had been 56,000 tonnes (provisional) and 43,000 tonnes (provisional) respectively.

(c) and (d). Coal India Ltd. have reported that against a linkage of 19,500 tonnes for the period April-October, 1995 to be moved by rail from CCL, despatches to this factory had been 16,600 tonnes. Besides, two rakes are awaiting supplies. Further, against a linkage of 10,500 tonnes to be moved by road during this period from this company, the cement plant has failed to lift any coal so far.

[Translation]

Telecast by Allahabad Doordarshan

1771. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Allahabad Doordarshan Kendra has become functional;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to become functional.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The scheme for setting up of a TV studio at Allahabad is presently under implementation and action on construction of studio building has been initiated. By present indications, the studio is expected to be ready during 1997.

[English]

Theft from Allahabad Post Office

1772. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "23 lakh missing" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 7, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Departmental investigations made so far in the case reveal that on 4.10.95 at about 0700 Hrs. the Sr. Postmaster, Allahabad found that Shri Pyare Lal, Head Treasurer did not turn up on duty. On enquiry from his residence it was ascertained that Shri Pyare Lal had left his residence on 3.10.95 in the evening and did not return. The matter was reported to Sr. Superintendent of Post Offices', Allahabad immediately, who in turn, contacted the Additional City Magistrate and got the safe opened in his presence. On counting the cash, shortage of Rs. 23,53,618.03/- was noticed. The case was immediately reported to the police. The police investigation is still in progress. The Head Treasurer is absconding.

(c) (i) Shri Pyare Lal, the principal Offender is absconding. The police investigation is in progress.

(ii) Shri Ram Sajiwan Tiwari, Sr. Postmaster, Allahabad and Shri Shiv Nath Tiwari, Sg. 'D' Treasury Allahabad have ben transferred from the Unit.

Drainage Problem

1773. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sent any scheme to the Union Government for the solution of drainage problem of Bhargavi and Kusabhadra river basins for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). Government of Orissa has sent three Flood Management and drainage improvement schemes related to the solution of drainage problem in areas traversed by Bhargavi and Kusabhadra rivers. These are :

(i) Gobkund cut project, costing Rs. 16.69 crore

(ii) Construction of Barrage across river Bhargavi, costing Rs. 5.42 crore

(iii) Raising and strengthening of flood embankment of Mahanadi river in delta region, costing Rs 114.17 crore.

These schemes were examined and modification suggested. Response from the State Government is awaited.

Projects of AIR and Doordarshan

1774. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided recently to commission some projects of All India Radio and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the number and details of such projects alongwith their location; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). 24 All India Radio and 82 Doordarshan projects have become technically ready for commissioning. Location of these projects is given in the enclosed STATEMENTS I and II.

(c) Commissioning of these projects depend upon a host of factors including availability of staff. In most of the cases, staff sanction is still awaited and projects have been made operational by deputing officers and staff on tour. Although every effort is being made to obtain staff sanctions, a definite time for commissioning cannot be indicated.

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Place
1	2
1.	Delhi (Kingsway)
2.	Kullu (H.P.)
3.	Kinnaur (H.P.)

1	2
4.	Kargil (J and K)
5.	Mt. Abu (Rajasthan)
6.	Allahabad (U.P.) - Replacement of Transmitter.
7.	Allahabad ((U.P.) -Transmitter for Vividh Bharati Programme
8.	Pauri (U.P.)
9.	Uttarkashi (U.P.)
10.	Itanagar (A.P.)
11.	Ranchi (Bihar)
12.	Jowai (Meghalaya)
13.	Mokokchung (Nagaland)
14.	Kohima (Nagaland)
15.	Gangtok (Sikkim) - Shortwave Transmitter
16.	Gangtok (Sikkim) - Mediumwave Transmitter
17.	Panaji (Goa) - Shortwave Transmitter
18.	Panaji (Goa) - Type III Studios
19.	Parbhani (Maharashtra)
20.	Sangli (Maharashtra)
21.	Bangalore (Karnataka)
22.	Calicut (Kerala)
23.	Nagarcoil (T.N.)
24.	Madurai (T.N.)

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	Place
1	2
	PGF (Programme Generation Facility)
1.	Jalpaiguri (West Bengal)
2.	Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)
	HPTs (High Power Transmitters)
3.	Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)
4.	Barmer (Interim) (Rajasthan)
	LPTs (Low Power Transmitters)
5.	Pasra (Andhra Pradesh)
6.	Kamareddy (-do-)
7.	Bellamapally (-do-)
8.	Naryanpet (-do-)
9.	Pedanandipadu (-do-)
10.	Kadiri (-do-)
11.	Hojai (Assam)
12.	Sonari (-do-)
13.	Lumding (-do-)
14.	Patna (DD-II) (Bihar)
15.	Supaul (-do-)
16.	Phoolparas (-do-)
17.	Deesa (Gujarat)
18.	Ider (-do-)

1	2
19.	Morbi (Gujarat)
20.	Shamlaji (-do-)
21.	Harpanahalli (Karnataka)
22.	Sagar (-do-)
23.	Gokak (-do-)
24.	Hungond (-do-)
25.	Kumta (-do-)
26.	Bhatkal (-do-)
	LPTs :
27.	Kanhanged (Kerala)
28.	Gaderware (Madhya Pradesh)
29.	Sakti (-do-)
30.	Kelaras (-do-)
31.	Bhander (-do-)
32.	Kukadeshwar (-do-)
33.	Shirpur (Maharashtra)
34.	Deorukh (-do-)
35.	Mahsle (-do-)
36.	Nohar (Rajasthan)
37.	Mt. Abu (-do-)
38.	Nimaj (-do-)
39.	Sohela (Orissa)
40.	Kabsuryanagar (-do-)
41.	Pattukottaai (Tamil Nadu)
42.	Attur (-do-)
43.	Krishnagiri (-do-)
44.	Arani (-do-)
45.	Shankarankovil (-do-)
46.	Gudiyattam (-do-)
47.	Marthendum (-do-)
48.	Ganj Dundwara (Uttar Pradesh)
49.	Kasganj (-do-)
50.	Kau Ranipur (-do-)
51.	Naugaryh (-do-)
52.	New Tehri (-do-)
53.	Mohaba (-do-)
54.	Kalna (West Bengal)
55.	Farakka (-do-)
56.	Murshidabad (DD-II) (-do-)
57.	Silvassa (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) (U.T.)
	VLPTs (Very Low Power Transmitter) :
58.	Chintapalli (Andhra Pradesh)
59.	Parvatipuram (-do-)
60.	Digboi (Assam)
61.	Netrang (Gujarat)
62.	Bandla (Himachal Pradesh)

1	2
63. Bharthi	(Himachal Pradesh)
64. Kanjirapalli	(Kerala)
65. Jashpurnagar	(Madhya Pradesh)
66. Kondagaon	(-do-)
67. Khed	(Maharashtra)
68. Bhim	(Rajasthan)
69. Zawar Mines	(-do-)
70. T. Rampur	(Orissa)
71. Badabarbil	(-do-)
72. Durgapur	(-do-)
73. Nayagarh	(-do-)
74. Udumalpet	(Tamil Nadu)
75. Valliur	(-do-)
76. Vazapadi	(-do-)
77. Bageshwar	(Uttar Pradesh)
78. Didihat	(-do-)
79. Ghandyal	(-do-)
80. Kaljikhil	(-do-)
81. Baratang	(Andaman and Nicobar Islands (U.T.))
82. Katchal	(-do-)

STD Services in Rajasthan

1775. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received regarding non-functioning of STD services in Rajasthan, particularly in Jhalawar and Bara districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Complaints have been received about quality of STD services at Baran, Jhalawar, Chaumehla, Jhalra Patan, Aklera, Chhabra and Chipa-Borod. STD services to these stations are provided by overhead alignments, which are prone to interruptions. They have limited performance and capacity.

(c) As part of planned development, reliable transmission systems are being provided. Baran and Jhalawar are already provided with reliable Microwave Systems. Reliable media like Fibre Optic and UHF radio and planned for Aklera, Chaumehla, Chhabra and Chipa Borod. Jhalra Patan is connected to Jhalawar by underground cable with adequate number of circuits.

Telephones in Andhra Pradesh

1776. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the waiting list for telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh at present, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to add more telephone lines during 1995-96;

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (c). The details of district-wise waiting list as on 31-10-95 and details of additional telephone lines during 1995-96 district-wise are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) Yes, Sir.

STATEMENT

Detail of District-wise waiting list and telephones to be given during 1995-96.

S. No.	Name of District	Waiting list as on 31-10-95 (Para : a)	New Phone Likely to be Provided during 1995-96 (Para : c)
1.	Adilabad	2563	3150
2.	Anantapur	3700	2520
3.	Chittoor	7141	3775
4.	Cuddapah	1858	2270
5.	East Godavari	12241	11320
6.	Guntur	11542	7550
7.	Hyderabad	39607	57850
8.	Karimnagar	4765	3775
9.	Khammam	3986	3775
10.	Krishna	8124	12580
11.	Kurnool	4077	2520
12.	Mahaboobnagar	1575	1270
13.	Medak	2227	1635
14.	Nalgonda	3016	3020
15.	Nellore	6324	4785
16.	Nizamabad	2753	3020
17.	Prakasam	3443	3775
18.	Srikakulam	1604	1270
19.	Ranga Reddy	3603	5030
20.	Visakhapatnam	5335	4530
21.	Vizianagaram	740	1000
22.	Warangal	2828	1780
23.	West Godavari	8560	6300
	Total	141672	148500

[Translation]

Inter-State Water Disputes

1777. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Inter-State water disputes among Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi;

(b) the reasons for delay in solving these disputes; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to solve these disputes amicably?

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

(a) to (c). The dispute regarding surplus Ravi-Beas waters had been referred to a Tribunal constituted by the Central Government under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. The Tribunal gave an interim report on 30.1.87 on which States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and the Central Government had sought explanation and guidance on certain points from the Tribunal. One of the members of the Tribunal resigned in the meanwhile and the vacancy could not be filled up due to one reason or the other. Government has initiated the action of filling up the vacancy so that report of the Tribunal could be finalised.

Yamuna Waters are being shared amongst Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and NCT of Delhi according to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by these States on 12th May, 1994. Yamuna Water accord is being implemented by Upper Yamuna River Board and Upper Yamuna Review Committee constituted for the purpose.

[English]

I.T.I.

1778. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned by Indian Telephone Industries Limited during last three years;

(b) whether I.T.I. is running in loss;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The details in respect of profit/loss of ITI Ltd., during the

last three years are as follows :

Year	Profit/loss (Rs. in Crores)
1992-93	85.89
1993-94	84.35
1994-95	(-) 81.91 (Loss)

(b) and (c). The loss incurred by ITI Ltd., during 1994-95 is indicated in reply to part (a) above. The Company has also estimated a provisional loss of Rs. 118.02 Crores during the current year for the period ending 30.9.95.

ITI Ltd., is no longer a monopoly manufacturer supplier of telecom. equipment in the country as a number of other Companies have set up manufacturing facilities in the private sector. ITI has, therefore, to face stiff competition in securing orders. Moreover, the prices of telecom. equipment have drastically fallen owing to tough competition.

(d) Basic responsibility for planning operations of the Company lies with the Management of the Company. However, with a view to optimally utilise the infrastructure of its own PSUs viz. ITI & HTL as also to keep these PSUs commercially viable, DOT is following a policy under which 30 to 35% of DOT's orders for the items manufactured by these companies are kept reserved for them. In addition to the percentage of orders reserved for ITI & HTL, these companies can also participate in the tenders floated by the DOT and depending on their ranking in the tenders can secure additional orders.

In addition to the above policy, the Government has also taken action to suitably (i) compensate the losses incurred by Srinagar (J&K) Unit of ITI and (ii) fund expenditure on voluntary retirement scheme from National Renewal Fund.

In any case, efforts for streamlining the situation is a continuing process and, therefore, Government keeps on supporting ITI's proposals for diversification of products and customers.

New Channel

1779. SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan proposes to open new channels; and

(b) if so, the number of such channels and programmes likely to be telecast through them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). New channels using the additional transponder capacity that will become available through the INSAT 2C satellite are envisaged. No details can, however, be indicated at present.

[*Translation*]**Telephone Exchanges in U.P.**

1780. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any study to expand the network of communications in the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges operating as on date;

(d) the number of electronic exchanges proposed to be installed by the end of March, 1996; and

(e) the number of telephone subscribers likely to be benefited ?

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

(b) As per the enclosed *statement*.

(c) 236

(d) As per the enclosed *statement*.

(e) 12,000 subscribers are likely to be benefitted through this process.

STATEMENT

(b) Following systems will be installed during 1995-96 :

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| (i) MCPC VSAT's with hub-station at Dehradun out of which 2 Nos. have already been installed. | - 16 Nos. |
| (ii) Ten Channel UHF Systems | - 29 Nos. |
| (iii) 30 channel UHF Systems | - 24 Nos. |
- One number has already been installed

STD to 17 THQs is also planned during 1995-96 :

(d) Following New Exchanges are planned to be commissioned during 1995-96 :

- (i) 10 K New Technology at Dehradun
- (ii) 2 K E-10B RLU at I.I.P., Dehradun
- (iii) 1 K E-10B RLU at Clement Town Dehradun (work completed).
- (iv) 128 PC-DOT at Lamgondi District Chamoli (work completed).
- (v) 128 P C-DOT at Gangotri, Dist. Uttarkashi (work completed).

- (vi) 128 P C-DOT at Maithan, Dist. Chamoli
- (vii) 128 P C-DOT at Gaja, Dist. Tehri
- (viii) 128 P C-DOT at Jamnikhal, Dist. Tehri
- (ix) 128 P C-DOT at Bachhelikhat, Dist. Tehri
- (x) 128 P C-DOT at Paukhal, Dist. Pauri Garwal
- (xi) 128 P C-DOT at Kandakhat, Dist. Pauri Garwal

Lead Free Petrol

1781. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to promote production of lead free petrol;

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

(c) whether it is proposed to setup a lead free petrol refinery in Bihar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Unleaded petrol is being produced in the Refineries at Mathura (U.P.) BPCL's Refinery at Bombay (Maharashtra), Madras Refineries Limited (Tamil Nadu) and BRPL (Assam).

(c) and (d). Unleaded petrol is planned to be produced in Barauni Refinery in Bihar from 1997 onwards.

[*English*]**Telecom Advisory Committees**

1782. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Telephone Advisory Committees set up, with composition thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether some Telephone Advisory Committees have become due for reconstitution;

(c) if so, the details thereof, with procedure for selection/nomination of members on the Committee, State-wise;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be reconstituted;

(e) whether the Government have issued any directives to these committees for recommending allotment of telephones;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total number of telephone connections released during the last three years not he recommendations of those Committees, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, 113 Telephone Advisory Committees have been set up so far. State-wise details are given in the enclosed *Statement-I*. The number of members normally appointed to various Telephone Advisory Committees and the interest represented are given in the enclosed *Statement-II*.

(b) & (c). Yes, Sir. the details are given in the enclosed *Statement-III*. Nominations to these Committees are made by the Minister of State for Communications after considering the recommendations made by the Heads of Circles, M.Ps., M.L.As and representations received from various local bodies, publicmen and individuals. Nominations of Hon'ble MPs. are made by the Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs.

(d) The above Telephone Advisory Committee will be reconstituted shortly. The tenure of Telephone Advisory Committee being two years, the reconstitution is an ongoing process.

(e) & (f). Yes, Sir. Telephone Advisory Committee has the powers to recommend upto 5% of the total number of telephones being released subject to a maximum of 100 telephones for provision on out of turn basis under OYT-General & Non-OYT Special Categories, at the time of Bulk release.

(g) A total of 10601 telephone connections on the recommendations of Telephone Advisory Committees were released during the last three years. Circle-wise details are given in the enclosed *Statement-IV*.

STATEMENT-I

List of Telecom./Telephone Advisory Committees set up

S.No.	Name of the State	Valid up to
1	2	3
I.	ANDHRA PRADESH	
1.	Andhra Pradesh TAC	31.10.96
2.	Eluru TAC	31.12.97
3.	Hyderabad TAC	31.10.96
4.	Kurnool TAC	31.12.95
5.	Chittoor (Tirupathi) TAC	31.12.97
II.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	
1.	Arunachal Pradesh TAC	31.01.96

1	2	3
III.	ASSAM	
1.	Assam TAC	31.01.96
2.	Guwahati TAC	31.01.96
3.	Dibrugarh TAC	31.11.97
IV.	BIHAR	
1.	Bihar TAC	31.01.96
2.	Patna TAC	30.04.97
3.	Ranchi TAC	31.12.95
V.	GOA	
1.	Goa TAC	30.04.96
VI.	GUJARAT	
1.	Ahmedabad TAC	31.01.97
2.	Bhavnagar TAC	31.01.97
3.	Bhuj TAC	30.11.97
4.	Bulsar (Valsad) TAC	30.11.97
5.	Gujarat TAC	30.11.96
6.	Jamnagar TAC	31.01.97
7.	Rajkot TAC	31.01.97
8.	Surat TAC	31.01.97
9.	Vadodara (Baroda) TAC	31.01.97
VII.	HARYANA	
1.	Faridabad TAC	31.01.96
2.	Haryana TAC	31.01.96
3.	Hissar TAC	31.01.96
4.	Karnal TAC	31.05.96
5.	Rohtak TAC	31.01.96
6.	Ambala TAC	30.11.97
VIII.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	
1.	Himachal Pradesh TAC	31.08.97
IX.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	
1.	Jammu & Kashmir TAC	30.04.96
2.	Srinagar TAC	30.04.96
3.	Jammu TAC	30.04.96
X.	KARNATAKA	
1.	Bangalore TAC	31.07.96
2.	Hubli TAC	30.11.97
3.	Karnataka TAC	31.07.96
4.	Mangalore TAC	30.09.96
5.	Kodagu TAC	31.07.96
XI.	KERALA	
1.	Calicut TAC	30.11.97
2.	Ernakulam TAC	30.11.96
3.	Kerala TAC	30.06.96
4.	Kottayam TAC	30.11.97
5.	Palghat TAC	30.11.96

1	2	3
6.	Trichur TAC	31.12.96
7.	Trivendrum TAC	31.12.96
8.	Quilon TAC	30.11.97
XII.	MADHYA PRADESH	
1.	Indore TAC	31.12.96
2.	Jabalpur TAC	30.11.97
3.	Madhya Pradesh TAC	31.05.96
4.	Raipur TAC	31.01.96
XIII.	MAHARASHTRA	
1.	Jalgaon TAC	30.04.97
2.	Kolhapur TAC	28.02.97
3.	Maharashtra TAC	31.10.96
4.	Nagpur TAC	30.11.96
5.	Nasik TAC	31.12.97
6.	Kalyan TAC	31.10.96
7.	Pune TAC	31.10.96
8.	Satara TAC	30.11.97
XIV.	MANIPUR	
1.	Manipur TAC	31.01.96
XV.	NAGALAND	
1.	Dimapur TAC	30.11.97
XVI.	MIZORAM	
1.	Mizoram TAC	28.2.97
XVII.	ORISSA	
1.	Cuttack TAC	30.11.97
2.	Orissa TAC	30.10.96
3.	Bhubaneswar TAC	30.11.97
XVIII.	PUNJAB	
1.	Amritsar TAC	31.01.96
2.	Ferozpur	30.11.97
3.	Jalandhar TAC	31.01.97
4.	Ludhiana TAC	31.01.96
5.	Patiala TAC	30.11.97
6.	Punjab TAC	30.04.97
7.	Pathan Kot TAC	30.04.96
XIX.	RAJASTHAN	
1.	Jaipur TAC	31.05.96
2.	Rajasthan TAC	30.06.96
3.	Jodhpur TAC	31.12.95
XX.	SIKKIM	
1.	Sikkim TAC	30.06.96
XXI.	TAMIL NADU	
1.	Coimbatore TAC	30.09.96
2.	Cuddalore TAC	30.09.96
3.	Erode TAC	30.10.96
4.	Madurai TAC	31.10.96

1	2	3
5.	Tirunelveli TAC	31.10.96
6.	Salem TAC	30.10.96
7.	Tamil Nadu TAC	31.10.96
8.	Tiruchirapalli TAC	30.10.96
9.	Vellore TAC	30.09.96
10.	Tanjore TAC (Thanjavur)	31.11.96
XXII.	UTTAR PRADESH	
1.	Agra TAC	30.06.97
2.	Allahabad TAC	31.05.96
3.	Ghaziabad TAC	30.06.97
4.	Kanpur TAC	30.06.97
5.	Lucknow TAC	30.06.97
6.	Meerut TAC	30.06.97
7.	Varanasi TAC	30.06.97
8.	GM (North) Bareilly TAC	30.06.97
9.	GM (East) Varanasi TAC	30.06.97
10.	Director (W) Dehradun TAC	30.06.97
11.	Director (C) Lucknow TAC	30.06.97
12.	Mau TAC	30.06.97
XXIII.	WEST BENGAL	
1.	Shillong TAC	30.11.97
2.	West Bengal TAC	30.06.96
XXIV.	METRO DISTRICTS	
1.	Bombay TAC	30.11.97
2.	Calcutta TAC	30.06.96
3.	Delhi TAC	31.12.96
4.	Delhi (East) TAC	31.12.96
5.	Delhi (West) TAC	31.12.96
6.	Delhi (North) TAC	31.12.96
7.	Delhi (South) TAC	31.12.96
8.	Delhi (Central) TAC	31.12.96
9.	Madras TAC	30.09.96
	UNION TERRITORIES	
I.	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	
1.	A & N Islands TAC	30.04.97
II.	CHANDIGARH	
1.	Chandigarh TAC	30.10.96
III.	DADAR & NAGAR HAVELI	
1.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	28.02.97
IV.	DAMAN & DIU	
1.	Daman & Diu	28.02.97
V.	LAKSHADWEEP & MINICOY	
1.	Lakshadweep TAC	30.11.97
VI.	PONDICHEERY	
1.	Pondicherry	30.11.97

STATEMENT-II

Telecom Telephone Advisory Committees Composition & Interest Represented

S.No.	Interest Category Represented	Telephone Advisory Committees Bombay, Calcutta & Delhi Main).	Telephone Advisory Committees for Madras	Telecom Advisory Committees for 4 States	Telecom Advisory Committees for 18 States	Telephone Committees for 26 Districts Headed by GM	Telephone Committees for 78 Telephone Districts headed by GM	Telephone Advisory Committees of 13 other States and Union Territories
		A	B	C	D	E		
1.	Members of Parliament	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
2.	State Legislature	4	3	4	3	3	2	3
3.	State Administration	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4.	Corporation of Civic-Body	2	1	-	-	1	1	-
5.	Press	4	3	4	3	2	1	1
6.	Medical Profession	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
7.	Legal Profession	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
8.	All other Professions like Engineers, Architects, etc.	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
9.	Trade, Commerce & Industry	10	6	10	6	5	5	4
10.	Public Workers & Others	10	7	12	8	5	5	6
Total		40	30	40	30	25	20	20

(A) Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, & Rajasthan.

(B) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Orissa, West Bengal, Punjab, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.

(C) Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Baroda, Calicut, Coimbatore, Ernakulam Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Pune, Rajkot, Surat, GM (N) Bareilly, GM(E), Varanasi, Director (W), Dehradun, Director (C), Lucknow, Delhi (C), Delhi(E), Delhi (W), Delhi (N) and Delhi (S).

(D) Agra, Allahabad, Ambala, Alleppey, Ahmednagar, Agartala, Asansol, Bulsar, Bhuj, Bhavnagar, Belgaum, Bhopal, Chittoor, Cannanore, Cuttack, Cuddalore, Dimapur, Eluru, Erode, Faridabad, Ferozpur, Guntakal, Gauwahati, Guntur, Ghaziabad, Hubli, Hissar, Indore, Imphal, Junagadh, Jabalpur, Jamnagar, Jalgaon, Jullundhar, Kurnool, Kottayam, Karnal, Kalyan, Mehsana, Mysore, Meerut, Nagpur, Nadiad, Nasik, Patna, Palghat, Mau, Patiala, Port Blair, Rajamundhry, Rohtak, Srinagar, Sholapur, Shillong, Salem, Siliguri, Trivandrum, Trichur, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Tanjore, Vijayawada, Varanasi, Vellore, Quilon, Itanagar, Ranchi, Jammu, Kodagu, Raipur, Kolhapur, Bhubaneswar, Pathankot, Jodhpur, and Gangtok, Dibrugarh, Visakhapatnam and Satara.

(E) Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep & Minicoy, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Pondicherry.

STATEMENT-III

List of Telecom./Telephone Advisory Committees to be Reconstituted.

S.No.	Name of the State
1	2
I.	ANDHRA PRADESH
1.	Guntakal TAC
2.	Guntur TAC
3.	Rajahmundry TAC
4.	Vijaywada TAC
5.	Vishkhapatnam TAC

1	2
II.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH
1.	Itanagar
III.	GUJARAT
1.	Junagarh TAC
2.	Mehsana TAC
3.	Nadiad TAC
IV.	KARNATAKA
1.	Belgaum TAC
2.	Mysore KTAC
V.	KERALA
1.	Alleppey TAC

1	2
2.	Cannanore TAC
VI.	MADHYA PRADESH
1.	Bhopal TAC
VII.	MAHARASHTRA
1.	Ahmednagar TAC
2.	Sholapur TAC
VIII.	MANIPUR
1.	Imphal TAC
IX.	MEGHALAYA
1.	Shillong TAC
2.	Meghalaya TAC
X.	NAGALAND
1.	Nagaland TAC
XI.	TRIPURA
1.	Agartala TAC
2.	Tripura TAC
XII.	WEST BENGAL
1.	Asansol TAC
XIII.	SIKKIM
1.	Gangtok TAC
	UNION TERRITORIES
I.	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
1.	Port Blair TAC

STATEMENT-IV

Circles/Metro Districts	No. of Telephone Connections Released on the Recommendation of Telephone Advisory Committees in Last three years
1	2
CIRCLES :	
A&N	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	440
Assam	107
Bihar	-
Gujarat	948
Jammu & Kashmir	-
Kerala	1015
Karnataka	1081
Madhya Pradesh	09
Maharashtra	1604
Orissa	-
Haryana	123

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	-
Punjab	1155
Rajashtan	1266
North Eastern	87
Tamilnadu	1130
U.P. (East)	38
U.P. (West)	-
West Bengal	-
METRO DISTRICTS	
Bombay	-
Delhi	248
Calcutta	50
Madras	1300
Total	10601

[Translation]

Amount Granted to Voluntary Organisations for Plantation

1783. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount granted to voluntary organisations in Panchmahal district of Gujarat for plantation under tribal sub-plan, Dahod during the last three years alongwith the number of these voluntary organisations;

(b) the number of trees planted by these organisations alongwith the locations thereof;

(c) the number of such trees which have been planted by these organisations hitherto and are presently in blossom;

(d) whether complaints regarding non-plantation of trees by these organisations have been received; and

(e) if so, the action taken against these organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected from Government of Gujarat and will be placed on the Table of the House on its receipt.

[English]

Telephones to Panchayats

1784. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be please to state:

(a) the number of village panchayats in Andhra Pradesh with and without telephone facility at present, district-wise;

(b) the measures being taken to provide telephone to all villages; and

(c) the time by which this facility will be provided to all panchayats in A.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of village panchayats in Andhra Pradesh with and without telephone facility upto 30.11.1995 are 15989 and 3544 respectively. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c). Government have adopted National Telecom Policy which envisages provision of public telephone facility to all the villages of the country progressively by the year 1997. Plan have been drawn out for making available the necessary resources for the current financial year and for the remaining period, plans will be formulated on the basis of ongoing techno-economic survey of the uncovered villages.

STATEMENT

District-wise details to Panchayat Villages in Andhra Pradesh with and without telephone facility upto 30.11.1995.

S. No.	Name of District	Total No. of village Panchayats	No. of Panchayats with telephone facility	No. of Panchayat without telephone facility
1.	Adilabad	726	526	200
2.	Anantapur	865	755	110
3.	Chittoor	1292	915	377
4.	Cuddapah	741	583	158
5.	East Godavari	936	853	83
6.	Guntur	959	959	Nil
7.	Karimnagar	1051	747	304
8.	Khammam	608	529	79
9.	Krishna	933	910	23
10.	Kurnool	821	760	61
11.	Mahabubnagar	1104	931	173
12.	Medak	809	711	98
13.	Nalgonda	1011	842	169
14.	Nellore	942	777	165
15.	Nizamabad	621	423	198
16.	Prakasam	955	731	224
17.	Rangareddy	583	530	53
18.	Srikakulam	1064	786	278
19.	Visakhapatnam	929	632	297
20.	Vizianagaram	889	619	270
21.	Warangal	884	673	211
22.	West Godavari	810	797	10
Total		19,533	15,989	3,544

Allocation of Funds for Irrigation Projects

1785. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state the funds allocated for the various irrigation projects of Gujarat during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : Under the Constitution, Irrigation being a State subject the responsibility for investigation, planning, formulation, funding, execution and maintenance of irrigation projects/schemes of all types primarily rests with the concerned State Government. The Central assistance is provided in the form of block loan and block grant in the State's Plan and is not tied to any project/programme except the amount earmarked under "Special Problems" criterion. The outlays as originally approved for irrigation sector in the State's Annual Plans during 1992-95 are as under :-

Items	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Major & Medium Irrigation	40708	43708	48598
Minor Irrigation	5302	5302	10000
C.A.D.	1130	1130	1007.77*
Flood Control	160	160	160
Total	47300	50300	59765.77

* Including Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 82.77 lakhs for Pigut and Baldeva Irrigation Schemes.

Old Age Home

1786. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Old Age Homes in the country, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the total amount provided by the Government to institutions/organisations for setting up Old Age Homes in the country during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) A *Statement* indicating the required information is attached .

(b) The total amount provided by the Government to the Voluntary Organisations under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to Aged for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units &

Non-Institutional Services for the aged during the last three years is as under :-

	(Rs. in crores)
1992-93	1.06
1993-94	3.06
1994-95	5.29

STATEMENT

Statement indicating number of Old Age Homes Assisted during 1994-95. Under the Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to Aged.

S.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Old Age Homes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	68
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	2
4.	Gujarat	1
5.	Haryana	3
6.	Karnataka	10
7.	Kerala	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	7
9.	Maharashtra	4
10.	Manipur	9
11.	Orissa	23
12.	Tamil Nadu	22
13.	Tripura	2
14.	Uttar Pradesh	30
15.	West Bengal	23
16.	Pondicherry	1
		209

Private Parties in LPG Distribution

1787. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the introduction of private parties in distribution of LPG has eased in supply position;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the average time taken at present for the sanction of a LPG connection; and

(d) the steps taken to cut short the time being taken to sanction the LPG connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Since the introduction of parallel marketing scheme of LPG in 1993, 81 TMT of LPG (cumulative upto 31.10.1995) has been imported in the country by the private

agencies. Hence, the impact on the total availability of LPG so far has been only marginal, against the total annual consumption of about 3.5 MMT.

(c) New LPG connections are released to the wait-listed persons according to the serial order of registration with the distributor concerned depending on new customer enrolment allotted to the distributor which is made keeping in view the slack available with the distributor, waiting list and industry enrolment plan for the year.

(d) Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible by ensuring high product availability through higher production from existing sources commissioning of new product sources and imports.

Desilting

1788. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is large scale silting in dams, creeks and rivers in the country;

(b) whether the Government have analysed the dangers of flooding as well as shortage of water due to siltation; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for desilting of dams, creeks and rivers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). Silting of reservoirs is a natural phenomenon and provisions are made in the capacity of the reservoir for accommodating the silt. In various dams in the country, where siltation has been reported, generally the loss in storage due to siltation has not been unduly high. In view of this, no steps have been contemplated for desilting of reservoirs at this stage. During the course of their Journey, rivers continually seek adjustment of their beds and banks, on account of the silt picked up from one place and deposited at the other.

Soil conservation measures, afforestation and water management practices in the catchment of River Valley Projects are expected to reduce the rate of siltation in the reservoirs to some extent.

Desilting of creeks and rivers is carried out through dredging by the State Governments and Ministry of Surface Transport as and when need arises.

Nexus between the Traffic Police and Red Line Drivers

1789. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traffic crossings are the gold mines for the traffic police in Delhi;

(b) whether the fatal accidents and the safety on the roads are compromised because of the nexus of the traffic police and the heavy vehicular traffic particularly Red Lines bus drivers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Officials found indulging in malpractices are subjected to prompt punitive action. There is no evidence of a nexus between Delhi Traffic Police and Redline Buses and other buses. Delhi Police have launched 70,000 Prosecutions in respect of Red Line Buses and 90,000 Prosecutions in respect of other buses, impounded 2,200 buses and arrested 3,000 drivers. Delhi Police have initiated a number of steps to reduce the number of road accidents and the resultant fatalities.

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

Telephone Connections in Gujarat

1790. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of such cases in Gujarat, where telephone connections have been sanctioned and O.B. number is issued, but connections have not been given so far, district-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, the requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The telephone connections could not be provided due to non-availability of external plant and due to reasons attributed to the subscriber.

(c) All the pending cases will be cleared by March, 1996.

STATEMENT

OBs for New Telephones Connections pending as on 31.10.1995.

S.No.	Name of District	No. of OBs pending
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	4926
2.	Baroda	2381
3.	Rajkot	956
4.	Surat	3527

1	2	3
5.	Nadiad	1094
6.	Mehsana	18
7.	Bhavnagar	100
8.	Bhuj	20
9.	Bulsar	3443
10.	Jamnagar	4
11.	Junagarh	15
12.	Himatnagar	-
13.	Palanpur	56
14.	Surendranagar	-
15.	Bharuch	145
16.	Godhra	8
17.	Amreli	10
Total		16712

[Translation]

Ban on Revalidation of LPG Connection Vouchers

1791. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited imposed ban on revalidation of LPG priority vouchers issued by his Ministry during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the Government propose to lift the said ban; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. LPG connection must be availed of within 90 days of the issue of the priority voucher. However, revalidation of priority vouchers for LPG connections is done on the individual applications on the merit of each case. Routine revalidation will cause malpractices and irregularities.

[English]

Jorala Power Project

1792. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has increased the level of Jorala Power Project by two feet against the approved level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the interest of Karnataka is likely to be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constructed Jorala Project to impound 11.2 Thousand Million Cubic Ft. of water with Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 1,045 ft. (318.516 metres) with reference to the Bench Mark at Gadwal, Mahaboobnagar district. However, as per information creceived from Government of Andhra Pradesh in a joint survey carried out by the Engineers of the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on 7.10.95 with reference to GTS Bench Mark at Raichur, the FRL of the Jorala Project works out higher.

(c) Since the submergence in Karnataka is calculated in accordance with the FRL of 318.516 metres with reference to the Bench Mark at Gadwal, there would be no adverse effect on the interests of Karnataka.

SDOT Office in Kerala

1793. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any delay in setting up of SDOT office at Perambra, Calicut, Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the date by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. At present there is no justification for setting up of SDOT office at Perambra as per the prescribed norms of the Department.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Where-as the exact date cannot be indicated, the SDOT Office will be set up as and when justified as per the norms.

Bomb Explosion at Connaught Place, New Delhi

1794. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the bomb explosion which took place at Connaught Place in the national capital on November 21, 1995;

(b) whether any indepth investigations have been conducted into the bomb blast;

(c) if so, the details and the results thereof;

(d) whether any militant organisation has claimed responsibility for the ghastly incident;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any compensation has been paid to those injured by the bomb explosion;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the details of the measures taken for tightening the security arrangements in Delhi and other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) to (c). At about 1930 hours on 21st November, 1995 there was a bomb explosion in front of the Delhi Durbar Restaurant in New Delhi. It injured 24 persons, damaged 13 vehicles (5 of them very badly), shattered the window panes of 22 shops, and damaged 11 of the shops very badly. The injured persons were immediately removed to the hospital. After necessary medical treatment, the majority were discharged on that very day and the remaining on the following day.

A case under section 307/427 IPC, Section 3/4/5 of Explosive Substances Act and Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property act was registered on 21-11-1995. Investigations made have revealed that the explosive material was packed in a 15 kilogram tin container, bearing the label 'Virka', and was triggered off by a timing device. A fresh and thorough search of the spot by officials of the Crime Branch on 22.11.95 led to recovery of a 22.5 cm. long 'pencil Timer Device' From a corner of the road near the spot. It was defused by the Bomb Disposal Squad. Traces of the explosive found have tested positive for PEIN (Penta Erythrolatol Teta Nitrate), a high explosive. No enquiry other than the investigations made by Delhi Police has been conducted.

(d) and (e). Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front had claimed responsibility for the blast on 21.11.95. After three days, Khalistan Liberation Tiger Force also claimed responsibility for the said blast.

(f) and (g). Yes, Sir. An ex-gratia relief of Rs. 3,000/- to each of the 24 injured persons has been sanctioned by the Lt. Governor Delhi. All the 24 persons have been requested on 4.12.1995 to collect their cheques from the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi.

(h) The following steps have been taken to prevent such bomb explosion in future :-

(i) Anti- explosive precautions are being exercised at various places of popular congregation viz. Railway Stations, Airport ISBT, important places of worship.

(ii) Surveillance has been increased.

(iii) Public Awareness camapigns have been organised through the media for the public to exercise caution from unclaimed/ abandoned property and to report existence of suspicious material to the police promptly.

- (iv) Market Associations and the Residents Associations have been asked to maintain constant vigilance in the market and residential areas against suspicious looking articles.

Complaints Against Police

1795. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are public complaints about the inefficiency and corruption in the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring about drastic reforms in Delhi Police to let people feel change in the police behaviour and service;

(c) the reasons for such assurances given in the past not yielding any satisfactory results; and

(d) the number of cops founds involved in undesirable activities in the last 12 months giving the details of undesirable activities resorted to by them and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). With a view to curbing involvement of policemen in crime and generating public confidence, the Delhi Police has been taking deterrent action including disciplinary proceedings in all cases where police-men are found involved in crime. It is revising the training syllabi, both for initial training and refresher courses, to bring about the required behavioural changes among Policemen. Briefing is also being given by senior officers to the members of the force through Sampark Sabhas. Accessibility of senior officers to the public is being insisted upon. A close watch is being kept on the conduct of policemen with doubtful integrity, by the Vigilance Branch and the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. A high power checking team consisting of senior police officers conducts surprise checks to curb misbehaviour of police personnel with the public. Every arrested person is allowed to use the police station telephone to inform his/her relation or friend about his/her arrest. A central checking team functions round the clock and makes surprise visits to police stations/posts to ensure that there are no illegal detentions. The action taken against errant police personnel has generally yielded satisfactory results.

(d) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Number of cases registered	Total Number of police personnel involved	Nature of Undersirable activities							Action Taken		
		Murder	Attempt to murder	Robbery	Rape	Prevention of Corruption Act.	Cheating/Theft	Miscellaneous.	Departmental Enquiry pending against	Departmental Enquiry decided against	Personal Enquiry under Suspension
138	164	4	4	8	6	23	6	88	52	Dismissed - 5 Forfeiture of service - 1	104
									Total	6	

Note : (i) One police official involved in one miscellaneous case has been acquitted.

(ii) One miscellaneous case against one police official has been withdrawn.

[Translation]

Telephones in Rajasthan

1796. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the Government to

make the telecommunications system in Rajasthan rapid, expanded, effective and beneficial to the subscribers during the last one year indicating the head-wise break up thereof;

(b) the number of applicants on the waiting list in the above state, district-wise and category-wise;

(c) the time by which this waiting list is targeted to be cleared; and

(d) the effective measures being taken to redress the constantly increasing complaints of the telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Rs. 310.03 crores were allotted for 1994-95 for capital works for Pajasthan Circle.

Rs. 12.29 crores were allotted for Rajasthan circle for 1994-95 for carrying out maintenance works.

(b) District-wise and category-wise Waiting list in Rajasthan Circle as on 31.10.1995 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) A target of providing 147820 DELs has been fixed for Rajasthan Circle for 1995-96. This should clear most of the applicants in the waiting list at present. However, National Telecom Policy announced in 1994 envisages to provided telephones on demand by 1997 throughout the country including Rajasthan Circle.

(d) The following measures are being taken to reduce subscribers' complaints :

- (i) Underground cable is being laid in place of open wire alignment.
- (ii) OFC cable is being used in junction Network increasingly for higher reliability.
- (iii) Computerisation of Fault Repair Services.

STATEMENT

District-wise and Category-wise Waiting list in Rajasthan circle as on 31.10.1995

S.No.	Name of District	Waiting List		
		OYT	NOYT	NOYT
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer	51	81	10012
2.	Alwar	162	192	7164
3.	Banswara	8	37	1063
4.	Baran	-	18	537
5.	Barmer	12	15	1898
6.	Bharatpur	39	24	1907
7.	Bhilwara	171	95	5369
8.	Bikaner	4	68	5000
9.	Bundi	-	-	690
10.	Chittorgarh	11	28	179
11.	Churu	14	5	2509
12.	Dausa		1	899
13.	Dhoulpur	2	-	419

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Dungarpur	-	-	820
15.	Hanumangarh	12	27	2387
16.	Jaipur	1011	2453	64880
17.	Jaisalmer	5	-	597
18.	Jalore	4	-	1153
19.	Jhalawar	-	-	225
20.	Jhunjhunu	4	37	3233
21.	Jodhpur	102	819	15100
22.	Kota	-	81	10021
23.	Nagaur	171	85	3727
24.	Pali	3	25	5407
25.	Rajasamand	6	7	1370
26.	Sawai Madhopur	3	-	1916
27.	Sikar	5	9	4186
28.	Sirohi	5	2	1194
29.	Sri Ganga Nagar	6	2	4713
30.	Tonk	-	7	660
31.	Udaipur	16	62	8450

[English]

Nokia

1797. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finish telecommunication giant NOKIA Group President recently visited the capital for conducting a feasibility study on setting up of a plant to manufacture mobile phones in India; and

(b) if so, the estimated investment to be made by NOKIA in setting up of its India manufacturing base and the location of the proposed plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). President of NOKIA Group of Finland visited New Delhi recently and met various Government officials.

M/S. NOKIA has submitted a proposal to manufacture Cellular Mobile Phones and Fagers with equity investment of US \$ 10 million over a period of 10 years. The location of the project has not been indicated by the Company as yet.

School for SC/ST Students

1798. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any schools in the country meant only for the development of talented Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students;

(b) if so, the locations of the said schools, State/UT-wise; and

(c) the number of SC/ST students given special coaching in these schools alongwith the number of students on the roll till date?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) The Ministry of Welfare is operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of upgradation of merit of SC/ST students with 100% Central assistance. The objective of the scheme is to upgrade the merit of SC/ST students by providing them with facilities for all round development through education in residential schools by removing their educational deficiencies, facilitating their entry into professional courses to enable them to compete with other students for admission in higher courses and for senior administrative, technical occupations and generating self-confidence and self-reliance in them. The Coaching is given in selected schools from Class IX to Class XII.

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

Production of Serial "Ek Ghar Aas Pas"

1799. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Doordarshan has sanctioned production of further episodes of the serial "Ek Ghar Aas Pas" to highlight and bring awareness about the problems of the disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of episodes of the above serial have been sanctioned and the producer of the current episodes; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). The producer of this serial, telecast in 1993, did not respond to Doordarshan's offer made in April, 1994 for another 13 episodes.

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

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Handicapped Students

1800. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance being provided by the Government to the handicapped students;

(b) the names of the specific schemes being implemented for the welfare of handicapped students; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to state Governments and voluntary organisations for the welfare of handicapped students during each of the last three years and the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) and (b). The Ministry of Welfare provides financial assistance to Voluntary Organisations for education, training, placement and rehabilitation of disabled persons of all categories including handicapped students under the following schemes:

(i) Assistance to organisations for Disabled Persons.

(ii) Assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances.

(iii) Assistance to organisations for establishment of special schools.

(c) Assistance is provided to voluntary organisations directly after getting recommendations of State Government. Details of grants released in the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

		(Rs. in crore)
S.No.	Year	Amount released to voluntary organisations
1.	1992-93	16.83
2.	1993-94	19.82
3.	1994-95	31.98
4.	1995-96	11.82 (upto 30.9.95)

Petrol Retail Outlets

1801. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the petrol retail outlets sanctioned on out of turn basis in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the prescribed norms for such allotments; and

(c) the details of persons to whom petrol pumps have been sanctioned on out of turn basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Two retail outlet dealerships have been allotted in Gujarat on compassionate grounds during the last three years, one each in favour of Shri P.R. Gohil and Smt. Kanta Varma. The Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 31/3/1995 in W.P. No. 886/93 has approved guidelines for allotment of dealerships/distributorships on compassionate ground which shown in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

The following guidelines are being followed by Government w.e.f. 1.4.1995 for making discretionary allotments for dealerships/distributorships on compassionate grounds:

- (i) Dependent of a person who has made supreme sacrifice for the nation, but has not been properly rehabilitated so far.
- (ii) Members of a family which has been a victim of unforeseen circumstances, like terrorist attack, earthquake, floods, etc.
- (iii) Physically handicapped person.
- (iv) Defence/para-military/police personnel/ other Central/State Government employees, who are permanently disabled on duty.
- (v) Immediate next of kin, namely, widow, parents, children of those who lost their lives in abnormal circumstances.
- (vi) Eminent professional like outstanding sportsmen, musicians, literateurs, etc. and women, of high achievements, in distress.
- (vii) Individual cases of extreme hardship, which in the opinion of Government are extremely compassionate and deserve sympathetic consideration in view of the special circumstances of the case at the given time.
- (viii) The number of discretionary allotments should not ordinarily exceed 10% of the average annual marketing plan of which allotments of retails outlets for petroleum products should not normally exceed 5%.

The discretionary allotments will be made to a candidate subject to the following general conditions:

- (1) He/She should be a citizen of India.
- (2) He/She or any of his/her following close relatives (including step relatives) should not already hold a dealership of petroleum products of any oil company :
 - (i) Spouse. (ii) Father/mother.
 - (iii) Brother. (iv) Son/daughter-in-law.

[English]

Financial Assistance to voluntary Organisations

1802. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the voluntary organisations in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the Central financial assistance provided to them for welfare programmes during each of the last three years;

(c) whether these organisations have been submitting their accounts to the Union Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) and (b). A *Statement* has been Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8409/93.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The voluntary organisations are submitting periodic reports, audited statements of income and expenditure, payment and receipt and balance sheets and also utilisation certificates to the Ministry of Welfare every year. Normally, the second instalment of the annual Grant-in-Aid is released only after satisfactory evaluation of the progress reports and the audited accounts. These N.G.Os which do not submit their account, the second instalment is not released.

[Translation]

Telephone System in U.P.

1803. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone system normally remains out of order at district and rural level in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of electronic telephone exchanges functioning in the rural areas, district-wise; and

(d) the time by which telephone connections would be provided to each village of the State and the names of the schemes meant for overall improvement in the telephone system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of electronic telephone exchanges function in the rural areas, District-wise are given in the enclosed *statements-I* and *II*.

(d) Government have adopted National Telecom Policy during the year 1994 which envisages provision of public telephone facility in all the villages in the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh by the year 1997.

The following steps are being taken for overall improvement in the telephone system :

(i) Introduction of new electronic exchanges;

- (ii) Phasing out of old and life expired electro-mechanical exchanges;
- (iii) Introduction of optical fibre and digital microwave systems for inter-exchange junctions;
- (iv) Upgradation of external plant;
- (v) Computerisation of various services;
- (vi) Improved Customer interface;

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Name of Districts in U.P. (East)	Total Number of electronic exchanges in Rural Areas
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	34
2.	Ajamgarh	27
3.	Bharaich	18
4.	Balia	16
5.	Banda	19
6.	Barabanki	1
7.	Basti	16
8.	Bhadoi	11
9.	Deoria	11
10.	Itawa	5
11.	Faizaabad	31
12.	Farukhabad	6
13.	Fatehpur	9
14.	Gazipur	14
15.	Gonda	18
16.	Gorakhpur	22
17.	Hamirpur	5
18.	Hardoi	5
19.	Jalaun	3
20.	Jhansi	2
21.	Kanpur	17
22.	Lakhimpur	24
23.	Lalitpur	10
24.	Lucknow	11
25.	Maharajganj	13
26.	Mohoba	4
27.	Mainpuri	4
28.	Maunath Bhanjan	13
29.	Mirzapur	13
30.	Padrona	15
31.	Pratapgarh	16
32.	Rai Bareilly	12
33.	Shahjahanpur	11

1	2	3
34.	Siddharthnagar	7
35.	Sitapur	10
36.	Sonebhadra	08
37.	Sultanpur	22
38.	Unnau	16
39.	Varanasi	30
40.	Jaunpur	20
		566

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	Name of Districts in U.P. (West)	Total Number of electronic exchanges in Rural Areas
1.	Ghaziabad	42
2.	Bulandshahar]
3.	Agra	32
4.	Dehradun	13
5.	Meerut	29
6.	Muzaffarnagar	22
7.	Sharanpur	28
8.	Haridwar]
9.	Muradabad	25
10.	Aligarh	31
11.	Bareilly	18
12.	Nainital	40
13.	Mathura	48
14.	Almora	48
15.	Pithoragarh]
16.	Srinagar Garwal (Pauri, Tehri, Uttarkashi Chawadi)	93
17.	Rampur]
18.	Pilibhit	37
19.	Budayun]
20.	Bijnore	29
		535

[English]

**Liaison Office of Chandigarh
Administration in Delhi**

1804. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chandigarh Administration has established a liaison office/guest house in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon so far under different heads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The liaison office/guest house has been established last year to facilitate liaison with Central Government Offices in the Capital, as also to provide accommodation to touring officers, whenever required.

(c) A total of Rs. 12,56,920/- has been incurred, out of which Rs.5,94,498/- has been spent under budget head 2059 (Public Services) Rs.86,034/- under head 2070 (other Administrative Services) and an amount of Rs. 5,76,388/- has been spent by the Chandigarh Industrial Tourism Development Corporation.

Oriya Films in Delhi Doordarshan

1805. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names and the number of Oriya films shown in Delhi Doordarshan in different channels under different programmes during the last three years as on date;

(b) the year of the production and justification of showing those films;

(c) whether new and modern films are shown by the Doordarshan;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). The requisite details are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of Film	Year of Production
1	2	3
1.	Bulei Huena	1987
2.	Kurukshetra	1988
3.	Klanta Aparanha	1985
4.	Kaa	1965
5.	Chhamana Athaguntha	1986

1	2	3
6.	Bhookha	1989
7.	Tara	1991
8.	Badhu Nirupma	1987
9.	Agni Beena	1990
10.	Nal Damyanti	1977
11.	Tapsaya	1980
12.	Basant Rasa	1984
13.	Pratidhwani	1984
14.	Lakshmi	1962
15.	Dhare Aalua	1983
16.	Sasti	1989
17.	Ek Sangharsh	1990
18.	To Bino Anya Gati Nahin	1991

These films were telecast as they met the prescribed eligibility criteria for the Sunday afternoon slot on the national network of Doordarshan earmarked for the telecast of regional language feature films.

Rehabilitation of Scavengers

1806. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the composition of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis alongwith the budget therefor for the current year;

(b) the current plant outlay for rehabilitation of scavengers and total amount released and actually spent upto March 31, 1995, State/UT-wise; and

(c) the estimated number of scavenging families in the country and total number of scavenging families rehabilitated since April 1, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) The commission consists of :

(i) Shri Mangi Lal Arya (Chairperson)

(ii) Shri L.P.D. Salappa (Vice Chairperson)

(iii) Shri Vasudeorag Changre (Member)

Shri Mangal Lal Premi (Member)

Shri Ishwar Bhai Patel (Member)

Smt. Maya Devi (Member)

Shri Hanuman Prasad (Member)

The budget for the year 1995-96 is Rs. 55 lakhs.

(b) Under the current VIII five year plan 1992-97 Welfare Ministry has provided an outlay of Rs. 464 crores while for the year 1995-96 the B.E. is Rs.90 crores. State/UT-wise expenditure statement upto March 31st, 1995 is given in the *Statement* attached.

(c) The number of scavengers identified all over the country is 7,77,349 and the total number of scavengers rehabilitated since April 1, 1991 to 31.3.95 is 2,04,809.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of State	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
		Funds released	Exp.	Funds released	Exp.	Funds released	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.55	1.65	4.59	Nil	0.625	N.A
2.	Assam	2.02	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Bihar	3.13	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Gujarat	1.86	0.79	2.00	-	-	-
5.	Haryana	1.76	-	7.14	revalidated	-	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.53	0.08	C.A. not due	0.15	-	-
7.	J & K	1.00	-	-Do-	revalidated	-	-
8.	Karnataka	3.99	-	-Do-	3.99	-	-
9.	Kerala	0.30	0.06	-Do-	-	-	0.11
10.	Madhya Pradesh	13.36	8.18	12.26	11.59	15.89	17.90
11.	Maharashtra	6.59	2.15	3.78	1.90	5.00	3.99
12.	Orissa	0.58	0.09	1.19	1.25	-	-
13.	Punjab	0.58	0.03	Not due	-	-	0.4
14.	Rajasthan	1.01	0.25	2.27	0.62	-	N.A.
15.	Tamil Nadu	0.80	-	Not due	-	2.44	revalidated
16.	Uttar Pradesh	14.94	5.05	37.63	6.75	45.05	35.01
17.	West Bengal	3.63	-	-	-	-	N.A.
18.	Delhi	0.05	0.58	C.A. Not due	-	-	-
19.	Pondicherry	0.05	0.03	-	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	-	-	0.11	-	-	-

Socio-economic Development of Pooors

1807. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to implement the schemes for socio economic development of the poods and the children as pronounced by the Prime Minister on the Independence Day this year; and

(b) the further steps proposed to be taken for a phased implementation thereof under the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). The Prime Minister pronounced four socio economic development schemes for the poor and children on the Independence Day this year. These schemes are National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Rural Group Life Insurance Scheme (RGLIS), National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NPNSPE) and Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY).

NSAP consists of three separate component viz (i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme. The scheme is being implemented by the State Government through Panchayat/Municipality level functionaries. A budget provision of Rs. 550 crore has been made in the current year. So far, 22 States/UTs have been allocated their first instalment for the remaining States/UTs allocations are to be made shortly.

RGLIS provides a life cover of Rs.5000 to its members on a payment of annual premium of Rs. 60 (Age group 20-40 years) or Rs.70 (age group 40-50 years) depending on the age group at the time of entry. The entry is restricted to 20-50 years of age with the exit age being 60 years. The scheme is being implemented through panchayats. A budget provision of Rs. 2 crore has been made for the current year. So far 9 States/UTs have implemented the scheme. 3498 persons have been covered under RGLIS upto 31st October, 1995. It is expected that all the State Governments/UTs would be covered by this scheme during the year 1996-97.

NP-NSPE is intended to give a boost to universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously impacting on nutrition of students in primary classes. The programme will cover, in a phased manner commencing from 1995-96, all students of primary classes (I to V) in all Government, local body and Government aided schools in the country. In 1995-96 all the revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS)/ Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) blocks are to be covered. In States like Punjab which do not have RPDS/EAS blocks, children in Low Female Literacy (LFL) Blocks will be covered. In 1996-97 the programme will be extended to remaining LFL blocks. The implementing agencies of the programme namely local bodies, authorities such as panchayat and Nagarpalikas are expected to develop institutional arrangements for providing cooked/processed food within a period of two years from the date of commencement of the programme in the local area. In the interim period, foodgrains (wheat or rice) at the rate of 3 kgs. per student per month may be distributed to all children in primary classes subject to a minimum attendance of 80 per cent. On the basis of enrolment in primary classes 1,63,680.57 metric tonnes of wheat and 2,66,263.07 metric tonnes of rice have been allocated to all States/UTs for the period from August 15 to 31st Decemeber, 1995. A budget provision of Rs.611.79 crore has been made for 1995-96.

IMY has been designed to have three basic components namely awareness generation, income generation and effective convergence of services. The scheme would be implemented in 200 blocks of the country on a pilot basis. Seventeen States have already identified the blocks in which this scheme is to be implemented. A budget provision of Rs. 12 crore has been made towards the IMY in the current year. The Central Government has already released 25% of the allocation to States.

These schemes will continue in the last year of the Eighth Plan i.e, 1996-97. The Ninth Plan has yet to be formulated.

[Translation]

Rape of Minor Girls

1808. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of rape with minor girls reported in Delhi and other States during the current year; and

(b) the steps taken to amend the law relating to child abuse and rape and registration of these cases as a separate category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) During the period between 1.1.1995 and 28.11.95, 210 criminals cases of rape of minor girls have been reported in Delhi. State-wise and Union Territory-wise number of such cases registered in the country during 1995 (except Delhi) is not available with the National Crime Records Bureau. However, the details of such cases registered in the States/Union Territories during the years 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 are given in the enclosed *Statement -I* and *II*.

(b) The Government has from time to time made laws providing stringent punishment for child abuse and rape. Sections 366-A and 366-B have been inserted through amendments in the Indian Penal Code. Besides, sections 372 and 373 of IPC provide for punishment for child abuse.

STATEMENT-I

S. No.	State/UT	1991			1992			1993		
		Below 10 Years	10-16 Years	Total	Below 10 Years	10-16 Years	Total	Below 10 Years	10-16 Years	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

STATES :

1. Andhra Pradesh	45	166	211	52	251	303	63	238	301
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1	5	6	4	8	12	0	11	11
3. Assam	4	99	103	14	134	148	24	85	109
4. Bihar	10	165	175	11	238	249	8	213	221
5. Goa	2	6	8	3	1	4	4	77	11
6. Gujarat	36	75	111	27	85	112	25	779	104
7. Haryana	16	44	60	18	67	85	31	73	104
8. Himachal Pradesh	7	22	29	9	24	33	8	28	36
9. Jammu & Kashmir	1	8	9	0	14	14	6	6	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10. Karnataka		11	48	59	9	37	46	27	72	99
11. Kerala		16	47	63	15	58	73	10	44	54
12. Madhya Pradesh	232	923	1155	77	558	635	94	590	684	
13. Maharashtra	60	277	337	101	306	407	104	371	475	
14. Manipur	0	5	5	3	1	4	2	0	2	
15. Meghalaya	4	8	12	2	3	5	2	2	4	
16. Mizoram	6	18	24	9	15	24	7	14	21	
17. Nagaland	2	4	6	1	3	4	0	0	0	
18. Orissa	2	35	37	2	25	27	4	53	57	
19. Punjab	5	15	20	6	13	19	8	24	32	
20. Rajasthan	18	49	67	14	82	96	35	102	137	
21. Sikkim	3	1	4	4	3	7	2	2	4	
22. Tamil Nadu	19	64	83	8	30	38	12	31	43	
23. Tirpura	5	6	11	7	5	12	3	21	24	
24. Uttar Pradesh	540	316	856	64	348	412	78	433	511	
25. West Bengal	15	137	152	21	138	159	20	122	142	
Total		1060	2543	3603	481	2447	2928	577	2621	3198

UNION TERRITORIES:

26. A & N Islands	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	
27. Chandigarh	3	2	5	4	4	8	1	2	3	
28. D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29. Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
30. Delhi	32	78	110	45	127	172	55	132	187	
31. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32. Pondicherry	4	6	10	1	2	3	1	3	4	
Total (UTs)	39	87	126	51	134	185	57	138	195	
Total (All-India)	1099	2630	3729	532	2581	3113	634	2759	3393	

Source : 'Crime in India' Data.

STATEMENT-II

Number of Child Victims of Rape in 1994
(State & UT-Wise)

S. No.	State/UT	Below 10 Years	10-16 Years	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72	288	360
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	12	17
3.	Assam	23	119	142
4.	Bihar	NA	NA	-
5.	Goa	1	2	3
6.	Gujarat	20	93	113
7.	Haryana	29	90	119
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9	30	39

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	2	5
10.	Karnataka	NA	NA	-
11.	Kerala	9	53	62
12.	Madhya Pradesh	97	712	809
13.	Maharashtra	92	399	491
14.	Manipur	1	0	1
15.	Meghalaya	0	7	7
16.	Mizoram	2	15	17
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	14	66	80
19.	Punjab	8	34	42
20.	Rajasthan	76	129	205
21.	Sikkim	3	1	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	9	23	32

1	2	3	4	5
23. Tirpura		2	3	5
24. Uttar Pradesh		NA	NA	-
25. West Bengal		NA	NA	-
Total (States)		475	2078	2553

UNION TERRITORIES

26. A&N Islands		1	0	1
27. Chandigarh		2	1	3
28. D&N Haveli		NA	NA	-
29. Daman & Diu		NA	NA	-
30. Delhi		54	146	200
31. Lakshadweep		0	0	0
32. Pondicherry		1	2	3
Total (UTS)		58	149	207
Total (All-India)		533	2227	2760

Source : 'Crime in India' Data

Note : 1. Figures Are Provisional.

2. NA Stands for Not Available.

[English]

Re-Oriented Policies in Social Sector

1809. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI :

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

(a) whether the Government have re-oriented policies in social sector;

(b) if so, whether the main thrust is likely to be on health education and family welfare programmes;

(c) whether according to the study of Human Resource Development, as far as life expectancy, literacy, school enrolment and medical care are concerned. India is lagging behind East Asian countries like China;

(d) whether any concrete programme of social welfare during the current year has been submitted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Eighth Plan recognises "human development" as the core of all development effort. The priority sectors of the Plan, that contribute towards realisation of this goal, are Health, Education, literacy and basic needs, including drinking water, housing and welfare programmes for the weaker sections.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Two sets of programmes were commenced on August 15, 1995 :

(i) Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NSPE) popularly known as the Mid day Meal Scheme.

(ii) National Social Assistance Programmes (NSAP).

Infiltration into Southern States

1810. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the southern coastal border of the country has been in any way affected by the recent internal disturbances in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent uncontrolled infiltration from across the sea into the Southern States?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) and (b). No inward movement of Sri Lankan Tamils following recent internal disturbances in Sri Lanka has come to the notice.

(c) Considering that Tamil Nadu has a long coastline, elaborate arrangements have been made for preventing possible infiltration. State Government has intensified security arrangements along the coastline by setting up armed check posts as well as mobile patrols. Apart From these measures, the Palk Bay is kept under Continuous Surveillance by Navy and Coast Guard.

Command Area Development Board

1811. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any response regarding formation of Command Area Development Board and Farmers' Associations from the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of such States; and

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be allotted for the development of command area under the Command Area Development Programme through the Command Area Development Boards and Farmers' Associations?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Funds under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme will be allocated through Command Area Development Boards on their formation, in consultation with Planning Commission.

STATEMENT

Details of formation of Command Area Development Boards and Farmers' Association

S.No.	State	Command Area Development Boards	Farmers' Associations
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	The formation of Command Area Development Board is under examination.	Pipe Committees of farmers have been formed in irrigation commands. One Action Research Programme on farmers' participation in about 1250 hectare of Kaktiya Canal has been completed. The state has prepared a Draft Policy Paper on Promotion of farmers participation in Irrigation Management and an Action Plan for the promotion of farmers organisation.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	No response received	No response received.
3.	Assam	The Government of Assam have agreed to form the statutory Command Area Development Board. The State Government have asked for some time to introduce necessary legislation.	The State Government have agreed to form Farmers' Associations. So far 25 chak samities have been formed in Sukla Project. The State has formed a High Level Working Group under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary for implementing the programme of farmers' participation in the management of irrigation.
4.	Bihar	The formation of Command Area Development Boards is under examination.	Farmers' Association have been formed in Paliganj distributary of Sone Canal under Action Research Programme. Four Pilot Projects have been started by Government of Bihar for introducing farmers' participation.
5.	Goa	The Government of Goa have agreed to set up statutory Command Area Development Board. The State Government have informed that a Command Area Development Board with participation of famers and other no-officials already exists in Goa. The State Government have said that they would introduce legislation to make it statutory at appropriate time.	So far, 29 Farmers' Water distributary Co-operative societies have been formed.
6.	Gujarat	The formation of Command Area Development Boards is under examination.	Seventy one Farmers' Associations have been formed in the State. In order to introduce Participatory Irrigation management on a large scale, Government of Gujarat have constituted a high level group under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary. The State has taken up 13 Pilot Projects to facilitate formation of Farmers' Associations in different areas. The Government of Gujarat have also resolved by

1	2	3	4
			Resolution number PGT-1093-(B)-K-3 dated 1.6.1996 to introduce farmers' participation in the management of Government Water Resources.
7. Haryana	The formation of Command Area Development Boards is under consideration.		A total number of 244 water users' societies exist in the State.
8. Himachal Pradesh	The formation of Command Area Development Board is under process. The State Government have informed that steps are being taken for formation of Command Area Development Boards.		In the State 868 numbers of Krishi Vikash Sanghs were formed during the period 1983 to 1992. The State has constituted a high Level Working Group under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary for implementation of the programme of farmers' participation.
9. Jammu & Kashmir	The formation of Command Area Development Board is under examination.		The State has yet to initiate action for formation of famers' Associations.
10. Karnataka	The formation of Command Area Development Boards is under examination.		A total numbe of 366 Farmers' Associations have been formed. The State has Passed Karnataka Irrigation (levy of betterment contribution & Water Rate Amendment) Bill 1995 to provide for supply of water through Water Users' Co-operative Societies.
11. Kerala	The State Government have informed that steps are being taken to amend Kerala Command Area Development Act for formation of Command Area Development Boards.		A total number of 3432 Beneficiary Farmers' Associations and 99 numbers of Canal Committees have been formed in the State.
12. Madhya Pradesh	The formation of Command Area Development Boards is under examination.		A total number of 829 Irrigation Panchayats have been formed in the State.
13. Maharashtra	The Formation of Command Area Development Boards is under consideration.		A total number of 75 Farmers' Associations have been formed. A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Command Area Development has been formed to oversee the implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management. The Government have taken a policy decision to encourage farmers' participation.
14. Manipur	No response recieved regarding formation of Command Area Development Board.		The State Government have informed that they have formed 29 Farmers' Associations.
15. Meghalaya	The State Government have expressed that formation of Command Area Development Board might not be practical as the State has only minor projects under the Programme.		No response received regarding formation of Farmers' Associations.
16. Nagaland	The State Government have expressed that formation of Command Area Development Board might not be necessary as the State has only minor projects under the programme.		- do -

1	2	3	4
17. Orissa		The formation of Command Area Development Board is under examination.	A total number of 777 village wise Farmers' Associations have been formed. The Government of Orissa have informed that outlet Committees exist in all major commands.
18. Rajasthan		-do-	The State has initiated action for formation of Farmers' Associations. A total number of 3483 Chak Samities have been constituted informally. A committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Command Area Development and Water Utilisation Department for introduction of Participatory Irrigation Management.
19. Tamilnadu		-do-	Over 850 Farmers' Associations are already existing.
20. Tirpura		The State is not in favour of formation of Command Area Development Board at present in view of non-completion of major/medium projects.	No action taken so far in regard to formation of Farmers' Associations.
21. Uttar Pradesh		The formation of Command Area Development Boards is under examination.	Jal Prabandh Samities have been Constituted below outlet level in Sharda Shayak Command. An irrigation Cooperative Committee was also formed in 1989-90 as Pilot Project for distribution of water on volumetric basis.
22. West Bengal		The State is not in favour of formation of Command Area Development Board.	The State is not in favour of formation of Farmers' Associations in view of existing Beneficiary committees under Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Meeting of NEC

1812. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the North Eastern Council (NEC) was held on November, 16 1995 in Delhi.

(b) if so, the details of the participants of the meeting, the subjects discussed therein and the conclusion arrived at;

(c) the number of meetings of the Council held since 1991;

(d) the decisions taken in these meetings; and

(e) the stages at which the implementation of the above decisions stand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). The following Governors and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, who are the Members of the council, attended the Council meeting on the 16th November, 1995 in Delhi;

(1) Shri Mata Prasad, Governor, Arunachal Pradesh (Chairman), (2) Shri Loknath Mishra,

Governor, Assam, (3) Shri M.M. Jacob, Governor, Meghalaya, (4) Shri O.N. Srivastava, Governor, Nagaland, (5) Shri P.R. Kyndiah, Governor, Mizoram, (6) Prof. S. Prasad, Governor, Tripura, (7) Shri Gegong Apang, Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh, (8) Shri Hiteswar Saikia, Chief Minister, Assam, (9) Shri S.C. Marak, Chief Minister, Meghalaya, (10) Shri Rishang Keishing, Chief Minister, Manipur, (11) Shri Lalthan Hawla, Chief Minister, Mizoram (12) Shri S.C. Jamir, Chief Minister, Nagaland, (13) Shri Dasaratha Deb, Chief Minister, Tripura. In addition, Shri S.B. Chavan, Union Home Minister and Prof. M. Kamson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, also participated.

The subjects discussed in the meeting included, among others, physical and financial review of the NEC Plan Schemes 1993-94 and 1994-95, NEC Revised Estimate for 1995-96, proposed Annual Plan for 1996-97, Status Reports on Transport and Communication, Power and Technical Education as well as initiatives to be taken in North Eastern Region in the context of the new Economic Policy, role of NEC in the development of North Eastern Region, etc. Some of the important decisions taken/

adopted in the meeting included those regarding timely completion of priority roads identified for special funding during the VIIIth Plan period; approval of Annual Plan proposals for the year 1996-97 of Rs. 712.86 crores, the need for provision of sufficient resources through the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the development of an efficient network of airports in the region, timely operation of flights of Indian Airlines, connecting the State Capitals by air services to Guwahati and Delhi, the need for a special economic and industrial policy for the North East Region in view of the new Economic Policy of the Government, provision of necessary resources for the conservation of bio-diversity and development of such conservation projects which may also be economically viable in the regions etc. Proposal for Community Resource Management Project for upland Areas under the International Fund for Agriculture Development was also approved. Some other decisions were in respect of the funding of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, giving more importance to the agriculture and allied sectors by providing full-time Advisers in Horticulture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry in the NEC Secretariat, and posting of officers for the NEC Secretariat to be made attractive by providing special incentives to attract talent from throughout the country. It was also decided to urge the Central Government to give high priority for early completion of the Jogighopa Bridge over River Brahmaputra.

(c) Between 1991 and November, 1995 nine meetings of the Council were held.

(d) During the course of the nine Council meetings a very large number of Agenda items have been discussed and decisions taken. The emphasis during the Eighth Plan period has been given on projects of regional and inter-State nature and importance as well as on projects for development of infrastructure, particularly with regard to development of power and construction of roads. Emphasis has also been laid on completion on ongoing projects. Further emphasis has been laid on the completion of 18 inter-State priority roads identified for special funding and for which the Central Government has been requested to provide additional funds. Three important projects in the power sector for which funding has been done by the Council during these years are Ranganadi (Arunachal Pradesh) and Doyang (Nagaland), both Hydro-electric projects, and Rokhia (Tripura) Gas-based power project. The Council has also during this period supported institutions for human resource development in the region. The schemes are under various stages of implementation. The Central Government has attached importance to the schemes approved by the NEC. An additional amount of Rs. 30 crores was provided in each of the two years 1994-95 and 1995-96 for the completion of 18 inter-State priority roads identified for early completion.

Also, additional funds were made available for completion of power projects. The implementation of the decisions and projects is an ongoing process.

[Translation]

Communication System in Maharashtra

1813. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for strengthening the communication system in Maharashtra particularly in Vidarbha, Marathwada; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, as soon as available.

Utilisation of LPG as Petrol or Diesel

1814. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any experiment has been made to ensure the utilisation of LPG as an alternative to petrol or diesel;

(b) if so, whether LPG is being used for operating cars; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited had carried out prototype experiments in association with Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC), Kirloskar Company and Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE) on partial replacement of HSD by LPG, during the year 1983-84. No such trials/ studies have been carried out on petrol vehicles.

(b) and (c). As per LPG (Restriction on Use) Order, 1974, use of LPG for automotive purpose is not permissible in the country. At present demand of LPG in the domestic sector far outstrips the availability and therefore, use of LPG in cars etc. has not been permitted so far.

[English]

Flood Control and Soil Erosion

1815. SHRI PROBEN DEKA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam has sent any scheme to the Union Government to control flood and soil erosion for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) to (c). In all, 24 schemes for flood management costing Rs.113.97 crore have been received for appraisal during 1993 to 1995. Out of these, 9 schemes, costing Rs.47.12 crore have been approved techno-economically by the Centre. Clarifications on 4 schemes, costing Rs 41.10 crore have been requested from the State Government. Response from the State Government is awaited. 6 schemes, costing Rs.15.10 crore were deleted from the appraisal list of the Centre as no response was received from the State Government for more than two years. Appraisal of 5 schemes, costing Rs. 10.65 crore received recently during October-November, 1995, is presently in progress.

Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

1816. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections pending clearance in Maharashtra as on September 30, 1995, with period of pendency, particularly in Thane district;

(b) the reasons for the pendency; and

(c) the time by which the pending applications, with dates of registration are expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 331542 applications for telephone connections were pending as on 30-9-95 in Maharashtra (Including MTNL Bombay). This includes 67286 applications pending in Thane district.

The date of registration of the earliest applicant waiting for telephone connection in Thane district is 9-10-86 under Non-OYT General Category and is 27-3-92 under OYT category.

(b) Constraints of financial and physical resources.

(c) During 1995-96 the department has planned to provide about 4.38 lakh telephone connections in Maharashtra (Including MTNL Bombay). This should clear most of the present waiting list in Maharashtra (Including Thane and MTNL Bombay) by March 1996 subject to timely availability of equipments and other resources. However, National Telecom Policy, 1994

envisages provision of telephones in demand throughout the country including Maharashtra by 1997.

Change in News Timing of Madras Doordarshan

1817. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the brief news on Madras Doordarshan and regional news on AIR, Madras are telecast/broadcast at the same time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to change the broadcasting time of brief news in the public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) The Regional news bulletins of AIR and Doordarshan, Madras are not broadcast/telecast at the same time.

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

[Translation]

On-Going Irrigation Projects

1818. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI KUNJEE LAL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the on-going major and medium irrigation projects in Bihar and Rajasthan;

(b) whether some of these projects are being provided with special Central assistance;

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

(d) the present status of the above projects; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a), (d) and (e). A statement giving details of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in Bihar and Rajasthan is enclosed.

(b) and (c). Central Assistance to the States is in form of block loans and grants not tied to any project or sector of development. However, Additional Central Assistance under Border Area Development Programme is being released to Government of Rajasthan for Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana. An amount of Rs. 164 crores was approved for release to the State Government during the VIII Plan upto March, 1995. Approved outlay for 1995-96 is Rs. 60 crores.

STATEMENT

Details of ongoing major and medium Irrigation Projects of Bihar and Rajasthan

S.No.	Name of Project	Latest Estimated cost (Rupees in crores)	Estimated Expenditure upto March, 1995 (Rupees in crores)	Schedule of completion
1	2	3	4	5
	BIHAR			
	MAJOR			
1.	Subernarekha Project	1428.89	622.61	Beyond VIII Plan
2.	Ajoy Barrage (Siktia)	133.11	81.41	-do-
3.	Auranga Reservoir	257.00	18.40	-do-
4.	Barnar Reservoir	102.08	36.07	-do-
5.	Bateshwar Nath Pump Phase - I	136.67	21.88	-do-
6.	Bagmati Irrigation	314.67	36.14	-do-
7.	Bansagar Dam (State Share)	140.00	54.36	-do-
8.	Durgavati Reservoir	147.40	78.34	VIII Plan
9.	Gandak Phase-II	445.23	62.43	Beyond VIII Plan
10.	Konar Diversion	225.40	81.41	-do-
11.	North Koel Reservoir	475.00	386.01	VIII Plan
12.	Kosi Eastern Canal Phase - II	123.86	53.95	Beyond VIII Plan
13.	Punasi Reservoir	145.00	39.11	Beyond VIII Plan
14.	Tilaiya Diversion	121.83	21.38	-do-
15.	Upper Kiul Reservoir	71.35	66.23	-do-
16.	Western Kosi Canal	357.44	227.33	-do-
	MEDIUM			
1.	Batane Reservoir	34.78	29.82	VIII Plan
2.	Bilasi Reservoir	12.02	9.33	VIII Plan
3.	Bhairwa Reservoir	25.08	13.10	-do-
4.	Bateshwarnathan Pump Phase - II	24.23	4.59	Beyond VIII Plan
5.	Basuki Irrigation cum Water Supply	16.88	0.16	-do-
6.	Dhansing Tuli Reservoir	17.10	13.08	VIII Plan
7.	Dakranala Pump Phase - I	79.57	50.19	-do-
8.	Dakranala Pump Phase - II	11.48	5.43	Beyond VIII Plan
9.	Gunani Reservoir	58.42	26.48	-do-
10.	Jharihar Reservoir	24.50	1.96	-do-
11.	Kansjore Reservoir	25.75	20.92	VIII Plan
12.	Katri Reservoir	28.64	21.18	-do-
13.	Kans Reservoir	18.40	11.90	-do-
14.	Keso Reservoir	16.83	5.62	Beyond VIII Plan
15.	Latrata Reservoir	41.98	37.56	VIII Plan
16.	Malai Irrigation	6.33	1.54	Beyond VIII Plan
17.	Nakati Reservoir	16.99	12.97	VIII Plan
18.	Orni Reservoir	32.74	30.80	-do-
19.	Panch Khera Reservoir	16.85	4.47	Beyond VIII Plan
20.	Ramrekha Reservoir	20.14	4.28	-do-
21.	Sakrigali Pump Canal	8.43	8.49	VIII Plan
22.	Surangi Reservoir	17.55	11.50	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Sonua Reservoir	37.46	22.53	VIII Plan
24.	Sindwarni Reservoir	21.95	9.27	Beyond VIII Plan
25.	Suru Reservoir	14.83	5.04	-do-
26.	Stalya Reservoir	10.77	0.11	-do-
27.	Satpotka Reservoir	16.10	0.15	-do-
28.	Toral Reservoir	56.18	19.34	-do-
29.	Upper Sankh Reservoir	29.22	12.27	-do-
30.	Sone (Modernisation) Scheme			
	(a) Jasia Pump	-	4.18	-do-
	(b) Kadwan Reservoir	-	6.89	-do-
	(c) Sone Modernisation	310.93	47.81	-do-
	RAJASTHAN			
	MAJOR			
1.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Project, Stage-I (ERM)	363.57	305.82	VIII Plan
2.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Project, Stage - II	2463.00	963.61	Beyond VIII Plan
3.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar Project Unit - I (Dam and appurtenant works)	59.43	56.30	-do-
	Mahi Bajaj Sagar Project Unit - II Stage - I (Canal System)	324.30	243.32	-do-
4.	Jakham	93.50	83.56	VIII Plan
	Gurgaon Canal (Share Cost)	35.40	22.19	Beyond VIII Plan
	Narmada (SSP) Share Cost)	548.00	47.22	-do-
5.	Sidhmukh and Nohar	229.20	71.04	-do-
6.	Bisalpur	186.92	66.92	-do-
7.	Som Kamlia Amba	178.81	123.35	VIII Plan
8.	Harish Chandra Sagar	12.25	10.79	-do-
	MEDIUM			
1.	Bhim Sagar	23.21	21.45	VIII Plan
2.	Somkagdar	23.63	22.53	-do-
3.	Bilas	18.00	16.61	-do-
4.	Panchana	47.71	38.31	-do-
5.	Sawan Bhadon	25.00	20.24	-do-
6.	Chhapi	47.03	25.73	VIII Plan
7.	Parwan Lift	17.95	11.17	-do-
8.	Modernisation of Gang Canal and Gang Link Canal	250.84	29.49	Beyond VIII Plan
9.	Jaisamand	15.00	5.98	-do-
10.	Gambhiri	16.71	8.10	-do-
11.	Meja	31.62	7.36	-do-
12.	Morel	145.76	2.64	-do-
13.	Mashi	2.50	1.57	-do-
14.	Gudha	10.50	2.15	-do-
15.	Alnia	2.77	1.66	-do-
16.	Parwan	2.61	1.23	-do-

Post Offices

1819. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achieved separately for opening of Branch post offices/Sub post offices during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether Gram Panchayat Headquarters, backward and rural areas will be given priority for opening Branch post-offices and Sub post offices; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The target fixed and achieved for opening of extra departmental branch post offices and departmental sub post offices during the last three years and current year, Postal Circle-wise, is given in the enclosed *statement*.

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

STATEMENT

Target Fixed and Achieved for Opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices/Departmental Sub Post Offices during the last three years and 1995-96.

S.No. Name of Circle	During last three years				1995-96			
	Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement	
	BO*	SO**	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO
1. Andhra Pradesh	38	15	18	20	2	5	-	-
2. Assam	57	10	53	10	4	4	-	-
3. Bihar	163	27	160	9	10	11	-	-
4. Delhi	-	21	-	18	-	10	-	2
5. Gujarat	50	25	45	12	4	12	-	1
6. Haryana	22	20	26	9	2	10	-	-
7. Himachal Pradesh	42	9	105	4	7	10	-	2
8. J&k	10	4	28	1	-	2	-	-
9. Karnataka	31	22	31	18	1	10	-	-
10. Kerala	33	18	45	15	1	9	-	-
11. Madhya Pradesh	95	19	85	16	9	9	-	-
12. Maharashtra	145	27	142	43	9	12	-	-
13. North East	76	10	75	5	4	4	-	-
14. Orissa	79	13	82	12	4	4	-	-
15. Punjab	23	11	18	11	2	4	-	-
16. Rajasthan	95	23	92	14	5	10	-	2
17. Tamil Nadu	26	16	18	11	2	4	-	1
18. Uttar Pradesh	182	41	193	28	12	16	-	-
19. West Bengal	113	19	90	6	2	4	-	-
Total	1280	350	1306	262	80	150	-	8

* Branch Post Office.

** Departmental Sub Post Office.

Telephone Connections in Villages in Bihar

1820. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the villages have connected with telephone facility in Chhota Nagpur region in Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the number of villages yet to be connected with such facility;

(c) whether any target has been fixed to connect the villages with telephone facility during 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The number of villages yet to be provided with public telephone facility in Chhota Nagpur region

in Bihar is 15361. All the villages including those in Chhota Nagpur region will be provided such facility progressively by the year 1997 for which plans are being drawn out for making necessary resource available on the basis of techno-economic Survey.

(c) & (d). Yes, Sir. A Target of covering 2675 villages of the region, has been fixed for the year 1995-96. The district-wise details are as under :

Name of Telecom District	Target 1995-96
Dhanbad	315
Hazaribagh	1020
Jamshedpur	740
Ranchi	600
Total	2675

[English]

Chakma Issues

1821. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chakma and other refugees in Arunachal Pradesh are illegal settlers; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) and (b). Following large scale violence in the then East Pakistan in 1964, about 1.40 lakhs people belonging to minority communities had migrated into Assam. After consultations between the State Government of Assam, the then North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) Administration and the Central Government, 2902 Chakma/Hajong refugee families were settled in parts of the then NEFA, now Arunachal Pradesh. As a part of the rehabilitation scheme, most of these families were allotted plots of land and also sanctioned rehabilitation grants. There is some resentment in the State on account of the settlement of Chakma/Hajong refugees and the issue of the grant of Indian citizenship to them. This has led to some tensions. The State Government has been requested to maintain law and order and to ensure security of all residents in the State, including the Chakma and Hajong refugees. Based on a Writ Petition filed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Supreme Court has issued directions on 2.11.1995 that the Chakma refugees situated in Arunachal Pradesh shall not be ousted from the State by

coercive action not in accordance with law. These directions were immediately conveyed to the State Government for compliance.

[Translation]

Involvement of Local Police in Searching Team of Security Forces

1822. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestion from the Human Rights Commission for inclusion of local magistrate or police officers in the siege and search operations in the terrorist affected areas by the Defence Forces so as to minimise the suspicion about the defence forces operations;

(b) if so, the Government's action on this suggestion; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) The National Human Rights Commission has observed in its Annual Report for 1994-95 that in States where the security forces are called upon to assist Civil Authorities, the presence of local magistrate or Police Officer at the time of cordon and search operation would go for in allaying misgivings regarding the conduct of personnel of the security forces.

(b) and (c). In the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the system of security forces being accompanied by a Magistrate and Police Officers during cordon search operation was already in practice. Since 1992 this system has been strengthened by the District Screening-cum-Coordination Committees headed by the District Magistrates whose functions include inter-alia immediate screening of all suspects rounded up for preliminary interrogation during such operations. This system is functioning well. The terrorists affected States of the North-East were also advised to set up a coordination mechanism at the State and District levels, headed respectively by Chief Secretary and District Magistrates and with representatives of the police and security forces, to deal with matters pertaining to operations against terrorists/insurgents and for redressal of grievances in the field of human rights. The seriously affected three States of the North East, namely, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur, have already set up such Committees which inter-alia ensure coordination of security forces and civil administration in the conduct of such operations.

Van for Telephone Bills

1823. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce 'Mobile Van' in Delhi to mitigate the difficulties of the subscribers in the payment of telephone bills,

(b) if so, the areas wherein the 'Mobile Van' are proposed to be introduced; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) MTNL has already introduced from January, 1995 Mobile collection centres in Delhi.

(b) The eighty four places covered by the five Mobile Collection Centres are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT*Mobile Collection Centres*

Mobile Centre - I (North Area)	Mobile Centre - II (South I & II)	Mobile Centre - III (Trans Yamuna)
Ashok Vihar - Deep Cinema	Safdarjung Enc. - Near DE (OD) Office	Anand Vihar - C Block Temple
Trinagar Near Bus Stand	Greater Kailash - C-Block Market	Pratap Ganj, Andrews School.
Wazirpur Industrial Area	East of Kailash Comm. Centre	Mayur Vihar - I Pocket - II G.P.O.
Model Town - Alpana Cinema	Vasant Kunj C-8 Comm. Centre	Viswas Nagar DCP Office
ND Block Market - Pitampura	Vasant Kunj C- Blk Kalyan Kendra	Karkardooma Chowk Mayur Vihar - II Tel. Exch.
Income Tax Colony - Pitampura	Anupam Cinema E Block Saket	Gita Colony, Block-9 Near P.O.
C & D Block - Pitampura	Sukhdev Vihar Mkt.	West Azad Nagar - Near Govt. School
Rukmani Devi School	Friends Colony Comm. Centre	Bhola Nath Nagar Near Boys School
DESU Colony near P.S. Shalimarbagh		
Shalimarbagh near Richi Rich Restaurant	Okhla-II, B-79 Mohan Export	Seelampur Near Police Station.
Sarswati Vihar Super Bazar	Tughalkabad Mkt. Kalkaji Extn. - Near Denbosco school	Maujpur Chowk, Karawal Nagar Bus Stand.
Rohini Sector 9 Exchange.	Govindpuri Mkt. Chitranjan Park Mkt. Alaknanda Shopping Centre	Dilshad Garden Pkt II DDA Flats LIG Block GTB Enc. DESU Office
B Block Prashant Vihar	Sheikh Sarai Mkt.	Kabool Nagar Tikona Park
Buradi Near Tel. Exch.	Sarita Vihar C-Block Market	Maternity Centre MCD Patparganj.
Keshavpuram DESU Office	Okhla-I, A-I Admn. Block	Mayur Vihar-III Bus Stop, Tarlok Puri
Bus Stand Bawana	PSDIC Srinivaspur Near Central School	Near Chand Cinema.
Mobile Centre-IV (WEst I & II Area)	Mobile Centre-V (Central East & Other Area)	
1	2	
Satyam Cinema Shadipur	Sunder Nagar Mkt. Complex	
Naraina Vihar Comm. Centre	Ashram Chowk Near Nafed	
Hari Nagar Ghanta Ghar	Lajpat Nagar Near P.O.	
Karol Bagh Arya Samaj Chowk	Defence Colony SDOP Office	
New Rajinder Nagar	Lodi Colony CGO Complex	
Subash Nagar Block-7 Janakpuri B-1 Super Bazar	Patiala House	

1

Vikaspuri Sonia Cinema
 Vikaspur Oxford School
 Khyala VIII. Sheetla Mandir
 Uttam Nagar DESU Office
 Najafgarh Power House
 Paschim Vihar Jwaladevi Market
 Mangolpuri S Block Sanjay Hospital
 Nagnloi Near P.S.
 Tilak Nagar Police Station
 Tagore Garden Comm. Centre Narain Vihar H-Block

2

Supreme Court Complex
 DDA Shopping Complex Preet Vihar
 AGCR Enclave MTNL Office
 Paharganj Near R.K. Mission Complex
 Bank Enclave, Lovely Public School
 Sadar Bazar Baratooti
 Khan Market
 Mandir Marg Near Arya Samaj
 Jhandewalan Extn. Near Cycle Market.

[English]

LPG Agencies and Petrol Retail Outlets

1824. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 PROF. PREM DHUMAL :
 SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN :

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

(a) the number of petrol retail outlets and LPG agencies sanctioned by him during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of persons/group of persons to whom these petrol retail outlets and LPG agencies have been sanctioned; and

(c) the number of petrol retail outlets and LPG agencies proposed to be allotted during 1995-96, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). 153 retail outlet dealerships and 182 LPG distributorships were allotted during the last three years 1992-93 to 1994-95, under discretionary powers of the Government on compassionate grounds.

(c) Based on Industry's viability norms, Government has approved LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 and RO Marketing Plan 1993-96 containing 1191 LPG locations and 1040 RO locations respectively, for allotment as per prescribed procedure of advertisement and selection by the Statewise/Regionwise Oil Selection Boards. It normally takes 1-2 years for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships after issue of advertisement.

[Translation]

Theft of Postal Stamps in Indore

1825. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of theft of postal stamps in Indore, has been noticed by the Government in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

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

(b) Postage stamps and stationery worth Rs. 6,52,750/- were despatched by Circle Stamps Depot, Bhopal through 39 special bags on 19.10.95 through Bhopal RMS. These bags reached Yashwant Road, Indore Head Office at 0900 Hrs. on 24.10.95. After opening the bags, Shri Surendra Kumar Lagle, Assistant Treasurer informed the Postmaster about short receipt of postage stamps worth Rs. 2,10,000/- from bag No. 1/39.

(c) (i) Besides, departmental investigation the case has been reported to local police. Shri Surendra Kumar Lagle, Assistant Treasurer has been arrested by the Police and postage stamps worth Rs. 10,000/- seized from his residence. Further investigation is in progress.

(ii) Shri Surendra Kumar Lagle, Assistant Treasurer, Postmaster and Dy. Postmaster have been placed under suspension. Steps have been taken to guard against recurrences in future.

[English]

Flood Control

1826. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position to flood control projects at Kaleghai Phase-II in West Bengal;

(b) whether the above projects have been cleared by the Ganga Flood Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the above projects are likely to be cleared?

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

(a) The details project Report of Kaleghai Flood Control Project, Phase-II in West Bengal has not been submitted to Ganga Flood Control Commission by the State Government.

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

Gas to Industrial Units

1827. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has finalised the details about the supply of natural gas to industrial units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Gas Authority of India Limited is at present supplying gas to more than 200 industrial units in various regions.

Studio at Trivandrum Doordarshan

1828. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for setting up of a modern studio at Trivandrum Doordarshan;

(b) the total cost of the said studio; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) A full fledged TV studio centre equipped with modern equipment is already functioning at Trivandrum.

(b) The full fledged studio facility with a High Power (10 KW) TV Transmitter was set up at a total approved cost of Rs. 862.91 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Misbehaviour with Dalits

1829. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cases of murders of dalits and misbehaviour with dalit women were reported separately in the past six months in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the persons against whom action has been taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) to (c). While information relating to incidents of misbehaviour with women is not maintained by Government, the available information on incidents of 'murder' and 'rape' relating to members of SC and STs in Uttar Pradesh during 1995 (January to June) is enclosed in the enclosed statement. Also as 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects under the Constitution, it is for the Government of U.P. to ensure that not only effective steps are taken to ensure action in cases registered, but measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents are also taken.

STATEMENT

Incidence of 'Murder' and 'Rape' cases on Dalits (SCs and STs) in Uttar Pradesh during 1995 (January to June)

S.No.	Crime Heads	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total (Col. 3 to Col. 8)
SCHEDULED CASTES :								
1.	Murder	13	25	31	13	29	35	146
2.	Rape	23	28	44	25	25	32	177
SCHEDULED TRIBES								
1.	Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source : Monthly Crime Statistics.

Note : Figures are Provisional

Telephone Enquiry Services

1830. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether enquiry telephone Nos. viz. 180, 181 and 197 are working satisfactorily;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c). The automanual services in all Metro/ Major cities are being computerised in a phased manner as part of Department of Telecommunication's Modernisation Programme.

[English]

Fire at Madras Refinery

1831. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a major fire took place at Madras Refinery Limited near Madras during the month of November, 1995;
- (b) if so, the main factors responsible for the situation;
- (c) the total damages caused by the fire; and
- (d) the measure proposed to be taken to stop the fire in the premises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (d). There was an incident of fire in the Crude Distillation Unit of Madras Refineries Limited on 18th November, 1995. A Committee of Experts has been met up to investigate the fire incident. Further details and measures to be taken would be known only after the report is received.

Import of LPG

1832. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to import LPG from the neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the plan to meet the LPG crisis in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). LPG is imported by Indian Oil Corporation through spot purchases which are not always relatable to specific countries.

Conversion of D.O.T.

1833. SHRI RABI RAY :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khan Committee has recommended conversion of the Department of Telecommunications into private body on the line of British telecom;

(b) if so, the other recommendation made by the Khan Committee;

(c) whether Government have considered all the recommendations; and

(d) if so, by what time these are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) The important recommendations made by the Khan Committee are given in the enclosed *statement*.

(c) and (d). Recommendation regarding conversion of the DOT into a private body has been rejected. Other recommendations of the Committee are under consideration.

STATEMENT

Important Recommendations

1. MISSION & SWOT ANALYSIS

Redefine the mission for the Department of Telecom and ensure that the mission is communicated to all employees.

2. QUALITY

In the new environment DOT must apply the principle of total quality management and commit itself to the practices of TQM. The Top Managers must be exposed to the principle of practices of TQM. TQM may be experimented on a small scale before adopting it on the entire organisation.

3. All training courses for staff at all levels should contain modules of Quality Management.

4. Reimbursement of the expenses for undergoing specialised courses in areas relevant to Telecom Management within the country is recommended.

5. More attention is required in improving the physical environment of the work place. Small group activity should be introduced as part of TQM.

6. ACRs of Telecom staff should be redesigned to emphasise on the areas of customer relations, attention to quality of work and success in internal communication.

7. DoT may introduce and support the Kaizen or similar system.

IMPROVEMENT : KEY AREAS : COMMERCIAL BILLING

8. The Department should rename Commercial Section as Marketing and Sales group. This group can be formed in two layers with specific functions.

9. Automation of all activities connected with customer services is to be speeded up and STD/ISD franchisees may act as agent of DoT in relation to customer service centres.

10. A new Application Form with photograph and demand note may be introduced.

11. Concept of clearing house for handling multirate exchanges shifts may be introduced.

12. A few procedural changes may be introduced in respect of safe-custody of telephones, shift of telephones pending removal, re-installation after permanent recovery, raising of initial security deposit of franchisee type STD/ISD PCOs

13. Telecom revenue, billing and Accounting should be computerised on priority. The features which would have to be kept in focus for this purpose are given in details.

14. Bills should be printed and sorted Pin Code-wise. Bills to heavy callers may be sent through Couriers/Speed Post Telegraph Messengers may be used for delivery of bills. Bills through floppies for high calling subscribers. Govt. Departments, PSUs and Big Business Houses should be arranged.

15. Issue of duplicate bills should be made easier. On line Telephone Enquiry Service providing information about the details of outstanding bills may be introduced.

16. On line bill payment counters be opened at all Exchange/GTOs/DTDs and the Customer Service Centers of Grade I. The Collection of bills through Nationalised/Scheduled/Cooperative Banks, payments through Credit Cards, be introduced. Electronic clearance of payments through RBI may also be introduced. Open separate counters for acceptance of bills of heavy callers, Quick payment

counters be opened on rush days, Departmental mobile collection centres, bill collection through bar code reader may be introduced.

17. The procedure for quick settlement of billing/complaints may be revised.

18. Different billing frequency be introduced for different types of customers.

19. A revised procedure for settlement of outstanding bills may be prescribed. Computerised reminder service for defaulting subscribers to be introduced.

20. To guard against defaulting security deposit to be enhanced for subscribers opting for STD/ISD.

21. FRS should be computerised quickly and made more effective in controlling fault repairs. Interactive voice response system, may be introduced.

22. Special attention to be given for fault reporting of Private wires, Leased lines and data circuits.

23. Revised procedure, for proper maintenance of village telephones be introduced.

24. A concept of premium service for bulk user and creamy layer be introduced.

25. Floppies/CD ROMs containing directory information may be thrown to private parties for printing of telephone directories. Departmental printing to be given up.

26. All electro mechanical exchanges should be replaced within a time bound programme on the basis of a techno-economic study.

27. WILL and optical fibre technology should be immediately introduced at least for premium customers.

28. The customer end cable network be upgraded on a crash basis and cable records should be computerised thereafter.

29. CGSs should be given full powers for procurement of new vehicles.

30. DoT should enter the field of Value Added Services.

SYSTEM SUPPORT

31. For speedy implementation of a comprehensive computerised support system well known companies in IT may be engaged.

32. Nation-wide Directory Information Service Material Management, Computerisation of Cable records, Computerisation of telephone Revenue and accounting require to be given priority.

33. Commercial records may be computerised using optical disk based computerised recording system called WORM.

HUMAN RESOURCES

34. Motivation of employees should be given priority. A number of measures are suggested for this.

35. All eligible Group C & Group D employees be trained for restructured cadres. Work study for finding norms for phone mechanics an other restructured cadres to be expedited.

36. The trainings can be organised by selected outside agencies. A group of selected Group B and Group C employees be sent to some of the advanced countries for getting a practical experience on customer care.

37. An attractive VRS may be introduced in DoT.

38. The Department should give monetary incentive for acquiring academic skills for group D employees.

39. To correct the age profile of the employees. The CGMs should be permitted to recruit fresh young persons to a limited extend.

40. Cadre Management Scheme may be introduced for the cadres of JTOs, TES Group B STS Group A, Civil/Electrical/Architectural Engineers and AOs.

41. Special allowances may be provided for DoT employees.

42. To retain skilled man power, additional facilities like housing transport, residential telephone and holiday resorts may be provided.

MARKETING

43. A new marketing structure in every Circle/SS to handle External communication (PR), Internal Communication and Marketing with appropriate training and orientation programme in marketing customer orientation and PR field to be created. Marketing budget as a % of revenue to be fixed.

44. Marketing research to play a key role in designing policies and implementing so as to increase revenues.

45. A consultancy cell and a Tele marketing unit to be created.

46. Concept of service representative and Service Manager to handle the accounts of valued and bulk customers to start with to be introduced.

THE MANAGEMENT OF FINANCES

47. The Department should have a clear perception of its role and objective in the new environment.

48. There is an urgent need to keep the accounts on a completely commercial basis, analysing regularly performance and financial ratios for effective future planning.

49. The Department should decentralise all possible power of spending, including purchase of equipment to the Circles.

50. The Department should introduce professionalised Materials Management, Inventory Control, Stores Accounting and the Costing of goods and services. The present anomalous inverted tariff structure to be immediately corrected.

51. The Department can consider setting up of holding companies like the Atomic Energy Commission or a Telecom Finance Corporation like the Railways.

STRUCTURE

52. It is imperative for DoT as the biggest operator to prepare itself for conversion into a private body on the lines of British Telecom.

53. Four steps are suggested towards conversion into a private body.

54. Before conversion into a private body, the operating unit of the DoT should first be formed into a proto-corporation followed by a holding company under which there will be four Public Sector Units.

55. The present Telecom Commission should be disbanded and one part to be separated to function as a Policy Formulation Body under the Ministry of Communications. It should be manned by Telecom professionals. One part will function as the Managing Board of the holding company.

[Translation]

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges in U.P.

1834. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in rural areas of U.P. particularly in Pilbhit and Shahjahanpur districts likely to be converted into electronic exchanges; and

(b) the time of which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Lathi Charge on Uttarakhand Agitationists

1835. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be please to state :

(a) whether the Uttarakhand agitationists sitting on hunger-strike in Srinagar, Garhwal in November, 1995 were lathi charged;

(b) if so, the number of persons injured and died as result thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any independent inquiry to find out the facts and guilty persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) In order to contain a stone pelting mob, the Police had to resort to a mild lathi charge on 10.11.1995 at Bazar Police Chowki, Srinagar, District Pauri Garhwal (U.P.).

(b) Forty-seven persons suffered minor injuries while 10 police personnel were also injured by the stone pelting.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The State Government has since set-up a Judicial Commission headed by Justice Shri B.P. Singh, Retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court to enquire into this and subsequent events including the adequacy of action taken by the district administration.

Visit of Ambassadors of USA & Israel

1836. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ambassadors of USA and Israel visited the NE States recently;

(b) if so, the purpose of their visits;

(c) whether the Government have sought for any report from the two ambassadors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) and (b). The US Ambassador visited Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Meghalaya from October 7 to 12, 1995 statedly for familiarisation purposes. The Ambassador of Israel visited Assam and Meghalaya from August 4 to 9, 1995. No purpose for his visit has been cited.

(c) and (d). Ambassadors of Missions in India are not required to submit reports on such visits to the Union Government.

Survey to Find out Coal Deposits

1837. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether proper survey has not been conducted so far in Arunachal Pradesh to find out the deposits of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, details of the survey conducted and deposits found/discovered;

(d) whether there is any proposal to conduct further survey in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (f). According to the Geological Survey of India (GSI), as on 1.1.1995, a total of 90.23 million tonnes of coal reserves have been assessed in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. Exploration as a part of ongoing exercise, is continuing.

Amendments to Cable Code

1838. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make further amendments to the cable code;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the amendments proposed to be made; and

(d) the extent to which the Government are considering to prevent misuse of Cable Television time for political propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

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

(d) The programme code prescribed under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 which, inter-alia prohibits the carriage in the cable service of any programme which :

(a) Offends against good taste or decency;

(b) Contains criticism of friendly countries;

(c) Contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes;

(d) Contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths;

(e) Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains any-thing against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes;

(f) Contains aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;

(g) Contains anything amounting to contempt of court;

(h) Contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation;

- (i) Criticizes, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of special, public and moral life of the country;
- (j) Contains visuals or words which reflect a slandering, ironical and snobbish attitude in the portrayal of certain ethnic, linguistic and regional groups;
- is considered adequate for this purpose.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

1839. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of major big and medium irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh lagging behind their original time schedule;
- (b) the cost escalation as a result thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for the completion of these projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):
(a) and (b). A statement is attached.

(c) Cost escalation is due to inadequate provision of funds, increase in cost of materials and labour, delay in land acquisition, change of scope of the project, change in design of major structures, etc.

(d) The strategy adopted in VIII Plan is to attach top most priority to completion of ongoing project which have made substantial progress in implementation. Other steps in this regard are earmarking of outlays for differnt projects, establishment of Monitoring organisations/cells at the Centre and the States, setting up of cost control cells, formulation and circulation of guidelines for preparation of project reports, etc.

STATEMENT

Details of projects of Uttar Pradesh which are lagging behind their original time schedule

(Amount in Rs. crores)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Plan in which started	Original approved cost by Planning Commission T.A.C.	Latest estimated cost as per A.P 94-95.	Date of likely completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. A. MAJOR PROJECTS					
1.	Western Gandak Canal	III	<u>15.47</u> 1961	158.77	VIII Plan
2.	Sarda Sahayak	III	<u>64.84</u> 1968	1064.80	Beyond VIII Plan
3.	(a) Lakhwar Vyasi Dam	V	<u>140.97</u> 1975	369.60	-do-
	(b) Lakhwar Vyasi water utilisation	V	-	-	-do-
4.	Madhya Ganga Canal Stage - I	V	<u>66.01</u> 1976	448.19	VIII Plan
5.	Saryu Nahar	V	<u>78.60</u> 1978	1256.00	Beyond VIII Plan
6.	Eastern Ganga Canal	V	<u>48.46</u> 1980	276.69	VIII Plan
7.	(a) Rajghat Dam	V	<u>123.22</u> 1980	108.83	VIII Plan
	(b) Rajghat Canal	V	-	126.44	Beyond VIII Plan

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Jamrani Dam	V	<u>61.25</u> 1975	194.00	-do-
9.	Urmil Dam	V	<u>8.56</u> 1978	29.45	Completed in 93-94
10.	Sone Pump Canal	V	<u>5.64</u> 1974	72.55	VIII Plan
11.	Kanhar Irrigation	V	-	150.27	Beyond VIII Plan
12.	Bewar?	AP 78-79	-	33.17	VIII Plan
13.	Maudaha Dam - Bansagar	V		92.13	VIII Plan
	(a) Dam	V	<u>91.31</u> 1978	112.00	Beyond VIII Plan
	(b) Conveyance System in Uttar Pradesh			119.27	-do-
	(c) Conveyance system in Madhya Pradesh			27.12	-do-
14.	Chittaurgarh Reservoir	V	-	30.94	VIII Plan
15.	Gyanpur Pump Canal	V	<u>110.51</u> 1992	111.87	-do-
16.	Chambal lift	AP- 78-79	-	47.00	Beyond VIII Plan
17.	Paddy channal in Hindon Krishni Doab	AP- 79-80	-	29.82	-do-
18.	(a) Tehri Dam	IV	-	311.88	-do-
	(b) Tehri water utilisation	-	-	-	-do-
B. MEDIUM PROJECTS					
1.	Gunta Nala Dam	V	<u>1.85</u> 1976	19.44	Beyond VIII Plan
2.	Pethrai Dam	VI	<u>12.54</u> 1992	13.53	-do-
C. EXTENSION RENOVATION AND MODERNISATION SCHEMES					
1.	Upper Ganga Moder- nisation	84-85	<u>467.76</u> 1992	517.79	VIII Plan
2.	Remodeling Ken Canal	69-70	<u>0.48</u> 1973	4.91	-do-
3.	I/C Narainpur Pump Canal	V	<u>1.00</u> 1969	61.91	-do-
4.	Raising Maja Dam	V	<u>T.A.C.</u> 3/93	52.18	-do-
5.	I/C Zamania Pump Canal	V	<u>39.81</u> 4/92 TAC	41.92	Completed 93-94
	- New Tajewala Barrage	-	U.A.	25.00	-
6.	Revised Kwano Pump Canal	V	<u>0.80</u> 1967	20.95	VIII Plan
7.	Revised Tons pump Canal	V	<u>1.75</u> 1989	31.38	1994-95

1	2	3	4	5	6
8. Lining of channels		V	U.A.	48.78	Beyond VIII Plan
9. Modernisation of Agra Canal		V	U.A.	36.89	-do-
10. Modernisation of Ghaggar Canal		V	U.A.	26.56	VIII Plan

A.P. stands for Annual Plan

U.A. stands for Unapproved

I/C stands for Increasing capacity

Welfare Schemes for SCs/STs

1840. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe communities inhabiting in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the details of various welfare schemes being implemented for the upliftment of SC/ST communities State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Gujarat has also been covered under these Welfare schemes; and

(d) if so, the details of funds allocated for this purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan, so far?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) The lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been notified through Sixteen Presidential Orders in accordance with the Provisions of articles 341 & 342 of the Constitution. A list of Presidential Orders is given in Statement-I*. The details of Castes & communities which have been specified as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Gujarat are given in Statement-II*.

(b) As in the Statement III*. [Statements I, II, III and IV have been placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 8533/95]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The funds under the Central/Centrally sponsored Scheme are allocated Scheme-wise and not on State/UT-wise. However, details indicating the total allocation under Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes meant for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given in the Statement-IV*.

[English]

Production in NCL

1841. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bina project of N.C.L. is giving the production over and above the installed capacity of the plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the other projects under N.C.L. are giving the production below the installed capacity of the plant;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to increase the production in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In 1994-95, Bina Opencast mine of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) produced 5.4 million tonnes of coal against its rated capacity of 4.5 million tonnes per annum.

(c) Out of the 10 coal mines of NCL, four mines namely Gorbi, Jayant, Dubhichua (phase-I) and Kakri are presently producing less than the rated capacity.

(d) and (e). Reasons of lower production in these four mines are:

- (i) Exhaustion of reserves in Gorbi mine;
- (ii) Poor performance of dragline supplied by Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) in Dudhichua mine;
- (iii) High stripping ratio in case of Jayant mine; and
- (iv) Serious hydrological problems in case of Kakri mine.

Steps have been taken to improve performance of dragline at Dudhichua project (Phase-I) and advance dewatering through boreholes is being carried out to improve working conditions at Kakri project. Action has also been taken for replacement of old wornout equipment at Jayant and wherever required.

[Translation]

Infiltration from Bangladesh and Nepal

1842. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has

been drawn to the newsitem regarding infiltration of terrorists through Bangladesh and Nepal' appeared in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated October 4, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken up the issue with the Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal in this regard; and

(c) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). India's Security-related concerns have been shared with the Governments of Nepal and Bangladesh. These security related concerns were highlighted in the discussions at the levels of the Home Secretary during his visits to Bangladesh and Nepal.

In the case of Bangladesh, a Joint Working Group has been set up to examine, in depth, all outstanding issues and to recommend practical measures for resolving them.

As far as the Indo-Nepal border is concerned, in view of terrorist activities, the Government has established an anti-terrorist checkpost near Sonauli in Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh. Police Stations, outposts and immigration checkposts have been alerted to keep strict vigil. Border Security and Policing have also been tightened all along the Border. It has also been decided that a team of local Police/District Administration Officials of the border districts along the Indo-Nepal Border will meet every three months.

[English]

Kannada News Timings

1843. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bangalore Doordarshan has changed its Kannada news timings consequent on the change in timings of Hindi and English news on National network;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain status-quo of the Kannada news timings in the interest of large section of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Kannada news bulletin telecast on Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore has been shifted from 7.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. in order to maintain uniformity with regional news bulletin telecast from other Doordarshan Kendras.

(c). There is no such proposal at present.

Development of Infrastructural Facilities

1844. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop infrastructural facilities in the border areas in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction in different border States and particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (c). Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is in operation in border blocks of States bordering Pakistan and Bangladesh to ensure balanced development of remote inaccessible areas situated near the border. Area specific schemes designed to take care of problems typical to border area, including development of infrastructural facilities, may be taken up under this programme.

Formulation of schemes is left to the concerned State Governments. Rajasthan Government is undertaking various schemes under BADP such as construction of roads, drinking water facilities, medical and health facilities veterinary hospitals, primary school buildings, panchayat buildings etc.

STD/PCOs in Andhra Pradesh

1845. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD, PCOs allotted in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending; and

(c) the number of new such PCOs proposed to be allotted in 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.

Import of Coal

1846. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

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

(b) the value thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to minimise such imports and to produce better quality of coal indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). According to the statistics available in the Directorate General of

Foreign Trade, the total quantity of various types of coal imported into the country during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-September, 1995) were as follows:

Year	Coking coals	Non-coking coals	Other coals including various types of cokes of coal etc.	Total	Data Provisional (In million tonnes)
					Value (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	6.9	0.39	0.11	7.40	1463.29
1994-95	10.16	0.58	0.65	11.39	2224.16
1995-96 (April- Sept., 95)	NA	NA	NA	5.89	1249.46

Note :- The break-up of the imported coal for the current year is not readily available.

(c) Imports of coal are permitted under Open General Licence. Imports are made by the consumers exercising their own commercial judgement.

Import of coking coal, required for metallurgical purposes can not be totally eliminated, since imported coals are required for blending with indigenous coals on quality considerations.

The major steps taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal include increasing raw coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines and modifications of existing washeries as well as construction of new washeries to increase the existing washery capacity.

Steps taken to improve the production of coal include opening of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities. In addition, private sector is being allowed coal mining for specified captive uses.

Revenue from P.C.Os.

1847. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned from PCOs during the last two years and commission paid to PCO personnel;

(b) whether there are any defaulters among the PCO allottees; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to recover the dues from them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process. Procedures have been laid down for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. In case of non payment, the lines are disconnected and legal action is also initiated wherever necessary.

Revamped Doordarshan Programme

1848. SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently revamped the Doordarshan programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The rescheduling of the programmes include a change in the timings of the main evening Hindi and English News bulletins to 8.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. respectively, making programmes of DD 1 and DD 2 complementary to each other, increase in the timings of the regional language service and commissioning of the DD 3 channel of Doordarshan.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

1849. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the irrigation projects submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh after the promulgation of 'The President Rule' in the State to the Union Government for approval;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the number of projects placed under the Eighth Five Year Plan out of the above projects;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to provide Central assistance or obtain World Bank assistance for these projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Government of Uttar Pradesh has not submitted any Irrigation Project for approval after the promulgation of 'the President's Rule' in the State.

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

Collect Call Facility

1850. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the facility of collect call in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) & (b). The "Collect Call" facility is already available in the Department as reverse charge trunk calls wherein a person is authorised to book trunk call from any public call office and the charges are borne by the called party instead of the calling party.

[English]

15-Point Programme for Minorities

1851. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to take up the 15-point programme for minorities directly under the supervision of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the 15-point programme for minorities is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b). The 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is being implemented through Central Ministries/Depts. as well as States/UTs. The matters relating to recruitment in Central Ministries/Depts. including Central Police Organisations, matters relating to pre-examination coaching schemes for the economic development of minorities is the direct concern of Union Government.

The Point relating to law & Order, Education, relief to riot victims, encroachment of wakf properties, Recruitment in State Civil/Police services and implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes relating to these points are implemented directly by the State Government but are closely monitored by the Union Government from time to time.

(c) The 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is being implemented since May, 1983 and is a continuous process.

Expansion Plan of BPCL and IOC In A.P.

1852. SHRI RAM KRISHNA KONATHALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian Oil Corporation has any expansion plan in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so; the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to lay pipeline between Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam;

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

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

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

(b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has a proposal to put up Tank Wagon loading facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.81 crores at its new oil terminal at Vizag. Similarly, Indian Oil Corporation has the following projects :

(i) New depot with 12,500 KL storage capacity and allied facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 15.83 crores is being constructed at Ongole.

(ii) There is a proposal to construct a port terminal at Kakinada with 63,000 KL tankage to cater to the local demand.

(iii) LPG bottling plant at Cuddapah at an estimated cost of Rs. 33.74 crores is already under construction.

(iv) A relief depot at Warangal is proposed at peddapalli with 9,600 KL tankage and allied facilities.

(c) to (e). Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has a proposal to lay a 356 Km' long product pipeline from Vizag to Vijayawada at an estimated cost of Rs. 521.61 crores. The project is scheduled to be mechanically completed in 3 years.

Ground Water Resources

1853. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has conducted any survey for the development of ground water resources in Gujarat particularly in the drought prone area of Banaskantha, Saurashtra and Kutch region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures suggested by the Board for installation of tubewells/hand pumps in the above mentioned region?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on survey and exploration made by Central Ground Water Board, the total annual replenishable ground water resources in the State of Gujarat have been assessed as 2.03767 million hectare metre per year. Details of availability of total replenishable ground water resources in the Banaskantha and Kutch districts and Saurashtra region including drought prone areas are as follows:

S.No.	Districts	Total Replenishable Ground Water Resources (m.ha.m. yr.)
1.	Benaskantha	0.14502
2.	Kutch	0.08029
SAURASHTRA REGION		
3.	Amreli*	0.00227
4.	Bhavnagar*	0.13297
5.	Jamnagar*	0.09936
6.	Junagarh	0.12512
7.	Rajkot*	0.13617
8.	Surender Nager*	0.08672

* Drought Prone Districts.

(c) In Banaskantha district, the State Government has taken up construction of tubewells as per recommendations of Central Ground Water Board. Under National Drinking Water Mission 70 sites were selected by the Board in Jamnagar district for construction of tubewell for village water supply. 90 per cent of these sites drilled were found to be successful. Similarly, in Kutch district tubewell sites for 90 problem villages were identified by the Board. In addition, Central Ground Water Board has also provided detailed district reports to the State Government indicating the availability of ground

water resources in the districts of Jamnagar, Junagarh, Rajkot and Surendernagar for use in planning and development of ground water resource.

Handicapped Children

1854. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicapped children in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes introduced by the Union Government for the welfare of the handicapped children during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any new scheme has been introduced recently by Union Government for the welfare of the handicapped children;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether grant-in-aid is being provided to the voluntary organisations for the welfare of the handicapped children under these schemes; and

(f) if so, the details of the voluntary organisations in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh which are getting grant-in-aid from the Union Government for this purpose and the purview of the activities of these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) According to a Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, the number of Handicapped Children estimated in the country State/UT-wise is given in the enclosed Statement - I

(b) and (c). Apart from the already existing schemes such as Assistance to Organisations for the Handicapped, Assistance to the persons for purchase of fitments/aid and appliances and assistance to organisations for rehabilitation of leprosy cured, persons, the Central Government during the year 1993-94 has introduced a scheme, namely the Scheme of Assistance to Organisations for Establishment and Development of Special Schools.

(d) and (e). Under the scheme of assistance to voluntary organisations for establishment and development of Special Schools for the Handicapped Children, a grant-in-aid up to the extent of 90% of the expenditure approved by the Ministry is given for setting up of new Special Schools in the areas where such Schools do not exist. Grant is also given for upgradation of the existing schools.

(f) A statement-II is enclosed.

STATEMENT - I

Per 1000 distribution of physically handicapped children of age 0-14 years - Rural areas

State	Visual			Hearing			Speech 0-14	Locomotor				
	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14		0-4	5-9	10-14		
Andhra Pradesh	5	5	6	9	2	9	*	26	10	7		
Assam	-	15	-	-	26	15		-	88	-		
Bihar	29	10	14	26	40	35		8	29	21		
Gujarat	7	6	13	12	-	-		73	9	24		
Haryana	4	24	4	-	7	15		102	20	55		
Himachal Pradesh	4	-	5	-	-	-		13	4	9		
Karnataka	4	-	-	-	4	10		16	16	4		
Kerala	3	-	6	-	5	23		37	3	12		
Madhya Pradesh	12	6	4	16	2	7		29	19	29		
Maharashtra	9	3	9	18	6	20		27	22	11		
Orissa	5	6	36	-	2	-		5	4	9		
Punjab	9	9	3	-	19	9		37	26	13		
Rajasthan	3	3	4	7	13	11		47	6	80		
Tamil Nadu	-	2	5	16	6	4		17	16	7		
Uttar Pradesh	11	18	12	13	14	23		43	40	23		
West Bengal	9	5	2	7	-	12		25	12	14		
All India	8	8	9	6	12	42	42	23	24	29	19	17

Note* In view of inadequacy of effective sample size the State-wise results are not presented by NSSO.

Per 1000 distribution of physically handicapped children of age 0-14 years - Urban areas

State	Visual			Hearing			Speech			Locomotor		
	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14
Andhra Pradesh	5	-	3	8	5	7	*	*	*	6	5	11
Assam	22	-	-	-	24	-				-	109	-
Bihar	-	162	30	-	-	101				09	121	76
Gujarat	20	8	-	-	-	9				24	18	16
Haryana	-	35	13	-	-	-				-	80	-
Himachal Pradesh	36	-	-	-	-	-				-	-	38
Karnataka	27	12	8	8	23	7				32	6	17
Kerala	58	31	43	-	38	18				68	12	25
Madhya Pradesh	-	7	7	8	8	-				28	40	24
Maharashtra	6	4	3	10	-	8				4	5	0
Orissa	2	-	-	-	10	-				-	-	-
Punjab	22	6	-	-	27	13				17	-	30
Rajasthan	37	47	12	-	28	27				30	16	-
Tamil Nadu	6	-	8	11	11	11				20	18	10
Uttar Pradesh	15	16	-	-	9	-				22	-	12
West Bengal	-	17	9	24	31	21				24	12	24
All India	12	15	7	7	13	10	35	39	9	21	16	15

Note* In view of the inadequacy of effective sample-size the State-wise results are not presented by NSSO.

Number of children with delayed developmental milestones per 1000 children for each State/UT reported to be slow and lagging

State/U.T.	Age : 1-14 years	
	Rural	Urban
Andhra Pradesh	25	20
Arunachal Pradesh	54	132
Assam	71	60
Bihar	36	29
Goa	5	3
Gujarat	15	26
Haryana	31	33
Himachal Pradesh	22	16
Jammu & Kashmir	40	31
Karnataka	14	17
Kerala	15	32
Madhya Pradesh	36	18
Maharashtra	31	35
Manipur	16	3
Meghalaya	19	26
Mizoram	9	2
Nagaland	92	83
Orissa	47	21
Punjab	49	18
Rajasthan	32	25
Sikkim	55	28
Tamil Nadu	38	20
Uttar Pradesh	22	34
West Bengal	44	39
Andaman & Nicobar	13	6
Chandigarh	1	5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	9
Daman & Diu	2	4
Delhi	2	47
Lakshadweep	21	28
Pondicherry	25	12
All India	31	29

STATEMENT-II

List of Voluntary Organisations working in Madhya Pradesh for Welfare of the Handicapped

1. Lions Charitable Trust 26, Moti Lal Nehru Nagar, Bhilai - 490022	School for Hearing Handicapped
2. Welfare Association for the Disabled, 8, Ram Bagh, Indore - 452004	Placement Services Vocational Training for O.H.

3. M.P. Welfare Association for the Blind, 23 B/D, Qila Maidan, Indore - 452 006.	Placement Services for the Blind.
4. Viklang Sewa Bharati 221, Tilak Ward, Galgala, Jabalpur, M.P.	Special School for Mentally Retarded & Speech & Hearing Imbaired Childreg.
5. Digidarshika Institute of Rehabilitation & Research, Red Cross Complex, Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal, M.P.	Special School for M.R.
6. Asha Gram Trust, 1, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Barwani, distt. Kargone, M.P.	Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons
7. Swami Vivekanand Kusht Mukta Ashram, Sector - II, Zone - I, Post Khursinar, Bhilai Nagar, MP.	Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons

[Translation]

Allotment of Gas

1855. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been made by the Government of Rajasthan for the allotment of gas from the Gujarat gas grid to set-up gas based industries in Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether a survey is likely to be conducted in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan for the development of more hydro-carbon sources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Requests have been received from the Government of Rajasthan for allotment of gas from the Western Offshore fields to projects in Rajasthan. The gas projected to be available has been fully allocated and it is not feasible to make additional allocations at present.

(c) and (d). Both ONGC and OIL are engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the Jaisalmer basin. In addition, one block has been awarded to Shell who will be taking up Seismic survey and exploration in the area.

[English]

Supply of LPG in Kerala

1856. SHRI RAMESH CHANNITHALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the supply of LPG and re-filling is very unsatisfactory in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

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

Petroleum Project in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri

1857. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any petroleum projects envisaged in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up of any refinery in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) & (b). There is no project proposal for Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra at present. However, in Ratnagiri district, following project proposals are envisaged by Oil Companies :

(i) BPCL's proposal to set up a Marketing Terminal at Ratnagiri at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.75 crores.

(ii) IOC's proposal to construct a rail-fed depot at Ratnagiri with approx. 25,000 KL tankage and allied facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 crores.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. There is a proposal to set up a 6 MMTPA grass-root refinery at Deogarh in Ratnagiri district at an estimated cost of Rs. 4407 crores by HPCL in a Joint Venture with M/s. Oman Oil Company Limited.

Insurgency in Border Areas

1858. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Burma have agreed to tackle the insurgency problem in the border areas of both the countries jointly;

(b) whether a meeting was held between civilian border authorities of both the countries in August 1995 to discuss the issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which Insurgency problem in the border areas has been solved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of India and the Government of Myanmar in January 1994 wherein it was decided, inter-alia, to monitor and curb effectively illegal and negative activities such as trans-border movement of insurgents, narco-traffickers etc.

(b) to (d). As agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding, periodical meetings at the National and Sectoral levels have been held. The last National level meeting was held at New Delhi on 16-17 August, 1995 when among other issues, security-related matters, including movement of arms and insurgent groups, were discussed and both sides agreed to continue to share information for effective inter-ception of movement of arms/insurgent groups and to take other supportive measures to prevent cross-border movements of the insurgent elements. The meeting have led to considerable co-operation between the border authorities and the forces of the two sides as well as positive results.

Tenders for Oil Exploration in Gujarat

1859. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have invited global tenders for exploration work of the coastal areas of oil field of Gujarat recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries which are interested to undertake the work of exploration according to the terms and conditions fixed by the Government.

(d) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Government of India had in March 1995, under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme, invited offers through a process of international bidding from Indian and foreign companies for exploration of oil and gas in 28 blocks in India including 4 blocks in Gujarat-Kutch offshore and 1 block in Gujarat-Kutch onshore.

(c) The names of companies which submitted bids for blocks in Gujarat-Kutch offshore are :

- (i) Larsen & Toubro Ltd., India
- (ii) Joshi Technologies Inc., USA
- (iii) Reliance Industries Ltd., India

(d) No decision has been taken so far.

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

[Translation]

Problem of Postal Employees

1860. SHRI RAM BADAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement regarding the problems of the postal employees is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the problems of employees are likely to be solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c). Does not arise, in view of the above position.

[English]

ONGC and GAIL Petroleum Projects

1861. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of ONGC and GAIL petroleum projects approved by the Public Sector Investment Board during the third week of November, 1995;

(b) the estimated expenditure involved on each of the project and the foreign exchange component thereof;

(c) the time by which the aforesaid projects are likely to be completed and commissioned;

(d) whether private or multinational companies are proposed to be associated with the aforesaid projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The following projects of ONGC/GAIL were approved by the PIB in the third week of November, 1995 :-

Project	Estimated Expenditure (Rs. in Crs.)	FE Component (Rs. in Crs.)	Scheduled date of completion/ commissioning
Development of B-173A structure in Western Offshore	120.17 (at December 1994 prices)	99.77	26 months from the date of Govt. approval.
Development of B-55 in Western Offshore	376.74 (at August 1995 prices)	325.90	36 months from the date of Govt. approv.
Setting up of Gas Processing Complex at Gandhar	865.76	66.11	-do-

(d) and (e). There is no proposal to involve private or multinational companies as partners in the execution of these projects.

[Translation]

Telephone System in Rajasthan

1862. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which old cross bar telephone system will be converted into electronic system in Rajasthan particularly in Ajmer and the progress made so far in this regard and the present and proposed capacity of telephone exchanges in the State particularly in Ajmer;

(b) the number of Panchayat Headquarters provided with telephone facility in rural areas in Ajmer and Vyavar districts and the time by which this facility will be provided to the remaining villages; and

(c) the reasons for the telephone services remaining defunct and the steps being taken to make it more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The proposal for replacement of Cross bar exchanges is under consideration and they will be progressively replaced during 9th Plan period.

The present and proposed capacity of telephone exchange in the State particularly in Ajmer is given below :

	Present capacity	Proposed additional capacity during 1995-96
State	5,35,948 L	2,05,000 L
Ajmer	15,200 L	3,800 L

There is a further proposal to add 22,500 lines E-10B electronic exchanges and 15,000 lines New Technology exchanges for Ajmer in 1997.

(b) 264 Panchayat Headquarters in Ajmer including Beawar which is a part of Ajmer District have been provided with telephone facility.

The remaining 12 Panchayat Headquarters are planning to be provided with telephone facilities by March, 1997.

(c) The telephone services in Rajasthan are satisfactory. At Ajmer, out of 15,200 lines 47% are electronic lines. All STD subscribers are served by the electronic exchanges.

However, the following steps are being taken to make the services more efficient :

1. Induction of New Technology exchanges in Network.
2. Replacement of old and life expired exchanges.
3. Upgradation of outdoor plant.
4. Computerisation of Services.
5. Monitoring of the performance of the exchanges at higher level.
6. Refresher Training for the Staff for improving the skills.

[English]

Paging and Cellular Services

1863. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the users in India are dissatisfied with a paging and cellular services as their service levels are not yet satisfactory as reported in the 'Financial Express' (Money Monitor) Section. New Delhi, dated November 14, 1995;

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

(c) the steps being taken to improve these newly introduced services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. No specific complaint against the Radio Paging and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services has been received from the users of these services.

(b) The Cellular Mobile Telephone and Radio Paging Services are in the nascent state. These services are likely to be stabilised soon.

(c) The Cellular Mobile Telephone Operators in the 4 metro cities have been given provisional clearance to commence the service. The licenses have been asked to improve the service areas coverage and quality of service by installing additional Radio Transmitters. In Radio Paging Service specific complaints, if received, will be looked into.

Facilities to Disabled Women

1864. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of facilities in the working women hostels for the disabled women;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to build working women hostel for the disabled women; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) and (b). No specific details are available as to whether working women hostels have a shortage of facilities for disabled women.

(c) and (d). Under the Scheme of Assistance for the Construction and Expansion of Hostel building for working women with a Day Care Centre, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Women & Child Development) provides grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations, Public Trusts, Universities, Women Development Corporations, Colleges/schools of social work for construction/expansion of hostel buildings for working women with a day care centre. Applications of organisations/Institutions for construction of hostel building for disabled working women can also be considered by that Deptt. if the proposals are in accordance with the scheme guidelines.

[Translation]

Telephones in Bihar

1865. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Bihar at present, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) District-wise waiting list as on 31.10.1995 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) This waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 1996 subject to the timely availability of equipment and other resources. National Telecom Policy, 1994 however envisages provision of telephones on demand by 1997 throughout the country including all the districts of Bihar.

STATEMENT

District-wise detail of waiting list as on 31.10.1995 in Bihar is given as under:

S.No.	Name of the District	Waiting list
1.	Bhojpur including Buxar.	703
2.	Bhagalpur including Banka, Monghyar, Sheikh-pura, Lakhisarai and Jamui.	2930
3.	Chapra including Sewan, Gopalganj.	1801
4.	Darbhanga including Madhubhani, Samastipur, Begusarai, Khagaria.	3927
5.	Dhanbad Including Bokaro.	2969
6.	Dumka including Deoghar, Sahebganj, Godda, Pakur.	769
7.	Gaya including Johanabad, Aurangabad, Nawadah.	1442
8.	Hazaribagh including Jumri Tilaiya, Chatra, Giridih.	1170
9.	East-Singbhum including West-Singhbhum.	6076
10.	Katihar including Kishanganj, Purnia, Araria.	899
11.	East-Champaran including West Champaran.	1038
12.	Muzaffarpur including Vaishali, Sitamarhi, Sheohar.	2742
13.	Patna including Nalanda.	5339
14.	Ranchi including Loherdagga, Gumla	459
15.	Saharsa including Supaul, Madhopura	216
16.	Rohtas including Bhabhra, Palamu, Garhwa	875
Total		33355

P&T Offices in Gujarat

1866. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village in Gujarat without post and telegraph office by the end of 1994-95 and till date;

(b) the district-wise number of villages having different categories of post offices and telegraph offices in the State; and

(c) the district-wise and category-wise number of post office and telegraph offices likely to be opened during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of villages in Gujarat without post and telegraph office by the end of 1994-95 and till date is 17005.

(b) The district-wise number of villages having different categories of post offices and telegraph offices in the State is given in enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

(c) Post Offices :

The district-wise and category-wise number of post offices likely to be opened during 1995-96 is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Telegraph Offices :

No target is fixed as telegraph facility is provided on demand and justification on the basis of traffic.

STATEMENT-I

Number of villages having different categories of Post Offices, district-wise.

S. Name of District No.	No. of villages having post offices, categorywise.					
	SOs*	EDSOs**	EDSOs***	Total		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Ahmedabad	20	3	398			421
2. Amreli	19	3	283			305
3. Banaskantha	23	1	410			434
4. Bharuch	45	4	428			477
5. Bhavnagar	22	-	403			425
6. Dang	5	-	51			56
7. Ghandhinagar	11	1	49			61
8. Jamnagar	18	-	324			342
9. Junagadh	29	1	442			472
10. Kheda	82	8	478			568
11. Kutch-bhuj	34	2	435			471
12. Mahasana	36	9	499			544
13. Panchmahal	21	4	485			510
14. Rajkot	30	1	415			446
15. Surat	35	1	517			553
16. Sabarkantha	38	1	509			548

1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Surendranagar		16	-	293	309
18. Vadodra		36	7	566	609
19. Valsad		56	1	473	530
Total		576	47	7458	8081

- * Sub Post Office.
 ** Extra departmental sub Sport office.
 *** Extra departmental branch post office.

STATEMENT-II

Number of villages having different categories of Telegraph Offices, District-wise

S. No.	Name of District	Combined Offices TP*	MORSE PHON-COM	Total No. of Combined Offices	
1.	Ahmedabad	4	6	8	18
2.	Amreli	1	11	91	103
3.	Banaskantha (Palanpur)	1	9	25	35
4.	Bharch	2	12	76	90
5.	Bhavnagar	5	16	49	70
6.	Gandhinagar	-	12	42	54
7.	Jamnagar	5	6	75	86
8.	Junagadh	4	15	160	179
9.	Kheda (Nadiad)	2	18	150	170
10.	Kutch	4	6	65	75
11.	Mehsana	5	11	128	144
12.	Panchmahal (Godhra)	1	9	110	120
13.	Rajkot	6	11	92	109
14.	Sabarkantha (Himatnagar)	-	12	79	91
15.	Surat	8	31	65	104
16.	Surendranagar	1	11	74	86
17.	Vadodara	5	22	53	80
18.	Valsad	3	25	75	103
19.	Dang	1	-	3	4
		58	243	1420	1721

* Teleprinter.

STATEMENT-III

Number of post offices likely to be opened during 1995-96, district-wise and category-wise

S. No.	Name of district	Extra departmental branch post office	Departmental sub post office
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	-	1
2.	Banskantha	1	-
3.	Junagadh	-	2

1	2	3	4
4.	Mehesana	-	1
5.	Rajkot	1	1
6.	Sabarkantha	1	1
7.	Surat	-	3
8.	Vadodara	1	1
9.	Valsad	-	2
Total		4	12

Attack on Mysore Hindi Parchar Parishad

1867. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware the security personnels had brutally beaten up some of the persons on the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Mysore Hindi Parchar Parishad held in New Delhi during the last month;

(b) if so, the number of persons injured; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) During the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Mysore Hindi Prachar Parishad in New Delhi on 20.10.95 one person who attempted to interrupt the proceedings was removed by the Police from the Main Hall. He was, however, not beaten up by the security personnel who removed him.

(b) and (c). Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

[English]

Vacant Posts

1868. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SC/ST Employees Welfare Association, Chandigarh has pointed out to the UT Administration about the non-filling of backlog of vacancies in various departments under the Chandigarh Administration; and

(b) if so, the present status position under different categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) and (b). Certain representatives of the SC/ST Employees Welfare Association, Chandigarh, had represented in February, 1995 against failure of the Chandigarh administration in appointment of officers belonging to SC Category on higher posts in Chandigarh administration. The backlog of such vacancies in

April, 1995 was 27 in Group 'A' and 20 in Group 'B' under the SC category and 1 in Group 'A' and 2 in Group 'B' under the ST category. Instructions have been issued to the Chandigarh Administration to keep in mind the aspect of giving representation to officer belonging to SC/ST categories while making selection/nomination to Group A & B categories.

Allocation of Funds to ITDA's

1869. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to Integrated Tribal development Agencies in Orissa for various development activities during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the allocation for the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Rs. 1579.36 has been allotted as first instalment for ITDAs in the State under Special Central Assistance during the current financial year for various developmental activities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For the current financial year a sum of Rs. 3142.79 lakhs (including Rs. 1579.36 lakhs already released) has been earmarked for release to the State Government under the Special Central Assistance scheme to be used by the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies subject to submission of utilisation certificates. This is an increase over Rs.2816.95 lakhs released during the last financial year.

Riot Orphans

1870. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) number of riot orphans, Statewise being assisted by the foundation for Communal Harmony;

(b) total current plan allocation for the scheme with the budget for the current year; and

(c) the amount spent upto September, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) The National Foundation for Communal Harmony had so far assisted 1006 children in different States i.e. Andhra Pradesh 39, Assam 8, Bihar 44, Gujarat 273, Karnataka 66, Rajasthan 43, Madhya Pradesh 145, Maharashtra 255, Uttar Pradesh 117 and Delhi 16.

(b) No plan or budgetary allocation is made for this scheme. The Central Govt. has provided a corpus of Rs. Ten Crores to the Foundation. Interest earned on this corpus and donations received are used for meeting the expenditure on this scheme.

(c) A sum of Rs. 84,58,650/- was released upto 30 September, 1995.

Seizure of Liquor

1871. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two trucks load of liquor pertaining to Jagatjit Industries Limited were caught by Delhi Police during 1995 subsequent to the one caught earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) to (c). During the year 1995 (upto 18.11.95) four vehicles loaded with liquor in huge quantities manufactured by Jagatjit Industries, Hamira, Punjab were intercepted by Delhi Police. The details of the above cases and the action taken against the culprits are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

1. Case FIR No.109/95 dated 17.3.95 u/s 61/1/14 Excise Act, Police Station Jahangirpuri, Delhi.

On 17.3.95, the PCR staff spotted a truck no. PB-08-8802 in Hairjan Basti, Bhalsawa, Jahangirpuri, Unloading 1344 bottles, 4800 havelas and 14,400 quarter of liquor. Four persons were arrested.

2. Case FIR No.586 dated 26.7.95 u/s 61/1/14 Excise Act, Police Station Patel Nagar, New Delhi.

On 26.7.95, the Crime Branch of Delhi Police apprehended one Maruti Car No, DL-IC-B-3564 near Vivek Cinema, Patel Nagar New Delhi and arrested one person and recovered nine cartons containing 375 halves, manufactured by Jagtjit Industries, Kapurthala, Punjab, from the car.

3. Case FIR No.184 dated 19.8.95 u/s 61/1/14 Excise Act, 308/427 IPC Police Station Inderpuri, New Delhi.

Tata Tempo No. DL-10B-4806 was intercepted by raiding party of Inderpuri Police Station with the help of PCR van near T-Point Krishl Kunj, Inderpuri on 18.8.95. The driver of the tempo managed to slip away leaving behind two persons, who were arrested by the Police. 1920 halves and 6480 quarters of Bonnie scot Malt Whisky manufactured by Jagtjit Industries Limited Hamira, Punjab were recovered.

4. Case FIR No.432 dated 18.9.95 u/s 61/1/14 Excise Act, Police Station Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

On 18.9.95, the Crime branch of Delhi Police apprehended one Ambassador Car No.DL-3-9041

near Mahipalpur check-post, Gurgaon Road, Delhi and arrested two persons and recovered 20 cartons, 960 bottles and 120 halves of Bonnies Scot Special Malt Whisky manufactured by Jagatjit Industries.

[Translation]

Development of Hilly Areas

1872. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assistance has been provided to Maharashtra by the Union Government for the development of hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought more assistance for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). Special Central Assistance is provide to Maharashtra for development of hilly region under Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP). During the current financial year (1995-96), an allocation of Rs. 15.17 crore has been made to Maharashtra under this programme.

(c) to (e). Government of Maharashtra had requested for increasing the allocation of funds under the Western Ghats Development Programme out of the funds allocated for Hill Area Development Programme. However, due to constraints in resources, it was decided not to change the present formula of sharing of funds between Hill Area Development Programme and Western Ghats Development Programme till the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Telephone Connections to villages in Madhya Pradesh

1873. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to set-up and maintain telecom networks in rural areas of Vidisha, Raisen and Sihor districts in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether most of the villages of these district have been connected with the telecommunication network;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number out of them, where the network was in operative condition as on June 30, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Govt. have adopted National Telecom Policy, 1994, which envisages provision of public telephone facility to all the villages of the country including those in the rural areas of Vidisha, Raisen and Sihor districts in Madhya Pradesh by the year 1997. Also, Telephone exchanges are being set up at places where the number of paid demands reaches ten or more.

As regards maintenance of the telecom network, the village public telephones are mostly being provided on Raido systems which do not use fault-prone wire-based connections and which are energized by solar energy cells which do not depend on unreliable power supply in the rural areas. Routine maintenance check-ups on daily basis ensure speedy removal of faults as and when reported.

(b) to (d). As on 30.6.1995, the status of village public telephones provided in these districts and the numbers operative among them is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

The status of village public telephones provided in Vidisha, Raisen and Sihor districts and numbers operative among them upto 30.6.1995.

S. No.	Name of District	No of villages	No. of public telephones provided with telephone facility	No. of public telephones with faulty
1.	Vidisha	1624	621	71
2.	Raisen	1509	590	60
3.	Sihor	1072	424	11

[English]

Demand of Subsidy

1874. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Southern States have demanded a subsidy to cover the extra cost incurred by them on transportation of coal from Eastern Coalfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the transportation fare is borne by the Coalfields or the States which get coal from them; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). For transportation of coal from the pit-head to the loading side beyond three kilometers, the purchasers are charged at the following rates by the nationalised coal companies :-

Distance	Rates (Rs.)
(i) More than 3 KMs., but not more than 10 KMs.	18/- per tonne
(ii) More than 10 KMs., but not more than 20 KMs.	35/- per tonne

Ordinarily coal is not transported by the coal companies beyond 20 KMs. in respect of non-core sector consumers. However, in the case of core sector consumers, where coal is transported more than 20 KMs. to the loading points, transport charges will be payable on actual basis, to be borne by the purchasers.

The cost of transportation from the loading point to the destination is borne by the purchasers, which includes the State Government undertakings or organisations.

Raisina Road Bomb Blast

1875. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any inquiry has since been made into the Raisina Road Bomb (RDX) blast in New Delhi on September 11, 1993;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) to (c). A case u/s 302/307/323/324/326/427/379/436/120-B IPC, Sections 3/4/5 Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act and Sections 4/5 Explosive Substances Act and Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act was registered at Police Station Parliament Street. The investigation of this case has been completed and the case has been challaned in the court. No enquiry other than the investigation done by Delhi Police has been conducted in the matter.

[Translation]

Capacity of Telephone Exchanges

1876. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in the country, particularly in Junagarh district of Gujarat with capacity thereof?

(b) whether Government propose to increase the capacity of exchanges, particularly in Junagarh; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Detail as on 30.9.95 is as under :-

	No. of Tel. exch.	Equipped Cap.
(i) In the country	20356	12586101
(ii) In Junagarh Distt of Gujarat	80	33088

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1995-96 department has planned to add net switch capacity of 32.8. lakh lines in the country including 6623 lines in Junagarh district of Gujarat.

Pay to Coal Workers

1877. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fourth Pay Commission had submitted its report on the workers of the coal industry during 1991;

(b) if so, whether the coal workers are being paid in accordance with the recommendation made by the Fourth Pay Commission;

(c) if so, whether outstanding dues are yet to be paid to the workers; and

(d) if so, the total amount outstanding upto March 31, 1995 and the time by which this amount is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). Fourth Pay Commission or its report does not concern the coal workers. The wage agreement for coal worker known as National Coal Wage Agreement-IV was signed on 27.7.1989 and there are no outstanding payments due to the workers in accordance with that agreement.

Revision of Post Matric Scholarship

1878. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for revision of post-matric scholarship for SC/ST students is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantum of financial requirement towards the revision?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No, Sir, The rates have been recently revised w.e.f. 1995-96.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Planning Commission approved revision during 1995-96 of Post matric Scholarship rates by 50 per cent in case of technical and professional courses and 30 per cent for non technical and non-professional courses, but due to financial constraints, could not provided additional funds required towards proposed modifications in the scheme. As against the estimated additional requirement of Rs. 95.27 crores for 1995-96 towards modifications, the Planning Commission has provided only Rs. 40 crores additionally towards revision in the maintenance allowance rates, leaving thereby a further requirement of Rs.55.27 crores for 1995-96.

[Translation]

Shortfall of Coal

1879. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :
SHRI LAL BABU RAI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of shortfall of coal written-off in various subsidiary companies during the last three years till March 31, 1994;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any person have been held responsible for the above;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) According to information received from Coal India Limited, no coal shortage was written off in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited during the last three years till March, 1994.

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

[English]

Persons Below Poverty Line

1880. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has been preparing estimates of proportion and number of poors in the country;

(b) if so, the basis of such estimates;

(c) whether the Government propose to make any changes in the basis of estimation in the light of the findings of the expert groups;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the latest estimates of people living below poverty line in urban and rural areas, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission Estimates proportion and number of persons living below the poverty line on the basis of quinquennial survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and the poverty line as set out in the Task Force on Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand, constituted by the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d). The Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor has been circulated for a more informed debate on the issue of poverty. The Report has also been sent to several eminent experts on poverty for their comments. The recommendations of the Expert Group with regard to the estimates of poverty are being studied.

(c) A statement on State/UT-wise estimate of proportion and number of people below the poverty line in rural and urban areas as per data currently available for 1987-88 is enclosed.

STATEMENT

*Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by State 1987-88
(Officially Released Estimates)*

S.No.	State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		Rs. Lakhs	%age	Rs. Lakhs	%age	Rs. Lakhs	%age
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1. Andhra Pradesh	153.1	33.8	42.6	26.1	195.7	31.7
	2. Assam	50.4	24.5	2.5	9.4	52.9	22.8
	3. Bihar	300.3	42.7	36.1	30.0	336.4	40.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. Gujarat	56.2	21.2	17.1	12.9	73.3	18.4
5. Haryana	13.5	11.7	4.7	11.7	18.2	11.6
6. Himachal Pradesh	4.4	9.7	0.1	2.4	4.5	9.2
7. Jammu & Kashmir	9.4	15.5	1.4	8.4	9.8	13.9
8. Karnataka	102.8	35.9	33.7	24.2	136.5	32.1
9. Kerala	37.4	16.4	11.6	19.3	49.0	17.0
10. Madhya Pradesh	194.0	41.5	30.9	21.3	224.9	36.7
11. Maharashtra	166.9	36.7	47.2	17.0	214.1	29.2
12. Orissa	124.2	48.3	10.9	24.1	135.1	44.7
13. Punjab	9.6	7.2	4.3	7.2	13.9	7.2
14. Rajasthan	80.5	26.0	19.0	19.4	99.5	24.4
15. Tamil Nadu	130.4	39.5	38.5	20.5	176.9	32.8
16. Uttar Pradesh	373.1	37.2	75.2	27.2	448.3	35.1
17. West Bengal	137.2	30.3	36.3	20.7	173.5	27.6
18. Small States & UT's	9.3	11.8	4.9	4.7	14.2	7.7
All India	1959.7	33.4	417.0	20.1	2376.7	29.9

Notes : (1) The above estimates are derived by using the poverty line of Rs.131.8 per capita per month for rural areas and 152.1 per capita per month for urban areas at 1987-88 prices, corresponding to the poverty lines of Rs.49.1 and Rs.56.6 respectively for 1973-74.

(2) The number of persons below poverty line relates to the population as on 1st March, 1988.

Autonomous Councils

1881. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proper to establish autonomous councils in Nagaland and Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTY RAZI) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal to establish autonomous councils in Nagaland. Six District Councils, created under the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971, exist in Manipur Presently.

Cultural Invasion

1882. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATIONS AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has expressed concern about the cultural invasion through the electronic media; and

(b) if so, the programmes initiated to preserve the Indian culture which has been badly changed by the electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir. The need to preserve the Indian Values and culture in the face of challenges from the foreign electronic media was stressed.

(b) It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to telecast programmes depicting Indian history, culture and traditions through programmes in various formats. Programmes like Jhansi Ki Rani, Akbar the Great,

Mahabharat, Surabhi, Hitopadesh (Serial in Sanskrit) etc. depicting Indian history and culture are presently on air. Besides this, news about art and culture is also telecast in the 'Art and Culture' capsule of the national evening news bulletins of Doordarshan from time to time.

[Translation]

Handicapped Girls Centres in U.P.

1883. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some centres (Viklang Balika Grih) are being run for handicapped girls in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Union Government are providing financial assistance to those centres; and

(d) if so, the financial assistance provided to each of these centres during each of the last three years and current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) to (b). Information is being collected from Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Central Grants for Welfare Scheme

1884. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received by the

Union Government from the State Governments for the central grants under various social welfare schemes during each of the last three years;

(b) the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of proposals for which the central grants have been sanctioned during the said period; and

(d) the amount allocated to various organisations in Gujarat during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) to (c). This Ministry has schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, handicapped persons and certain schemes of Social Defence including those related to Aged, Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment, Beggary Prevention, Street Children and Problems of Drug addiction. Insofar as Special Central Assistance for Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is concerned it is allocated to various States and UTs according to a well-known and established formula. Insofar as other schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned it is allocated to various States and UT administrations according to the proposals received, utilisations of previous grants, provisions in the States BUDGET FOR MATCHING SHARES ETC. Insofar as the Scheme for Backward Classes are concerned, they are being implemented by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporations through State level development corporations and other authorised agencies of the State Government/UT administrations and the loans are advanced to the other backward classes through State level corporations keeping in view the demands received from various State corporations. Similar is the position regarding funds routed for economic development through National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Finance Corporation and Development Corporation. There is one scheme of Pre-Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections of Minority community and other backward classes which is being implemented through non Governmental organisations.

In so far as the Welfare of the Handicapped Persons is concerned the schemes are implemented through national Institutes of the Ministry of Welfare and through non-Governmental organisations. However, there is one scheme of the Employment of the Handicapped which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the and grant is released according to the demand received and budget provision made by the State Government for providing State share. Insofar as the scheme of Social Defence are concerned, all schemes are implemented through non-governmental organisations except the scheme of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social

Maladjustment and the scheme of leggary Prevention which are Centrally Sponsored and grant is released according to the demand received from State/UT and budget provisions made by them in respect of their share and also keeping in view the utilisation of grants already released.

(d) A statement is enclosed giving details of the grants released to the State Government of Gujarat under various Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

STATEMENT

Statement showing the releases made to the Government of Gujarat under various welfare schemes during (1992-93, 93-94 and 94-95)

(Rupees in Lakhs)				
S. No.	Name of the Scheme	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5
SCHEDULED CASTE DEVELOPMENT				
1.	SCA to SCP	908.53	796.94	956.68
2.	SCDC	17.82	96.07	100.07
3.	Post-Matric Scholarship	310.87	357.951	767.239
4.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	14.376	14.572	44.953
5.	Boys Hostels for Scs	-	39.50	99.32
6.	Girls Hostels for SCs	15.05	-	-
7.	Books Banks	0.30	0.05	10.61
8.	Upgradation of Merit	-	-	-
9.	Coaching and Allied Scheme	3.05	5.53	2.57
10.	Liberation of scavengers	186.00	200.00	-
11.	PCR & atrocities	78.33	92.74	102.11
SCHEDULED TRIBES DEVELOPMENT				
12.	Girls Hostels for STs	18.21	19.51	4.73
13.	Boys Hostels for STs	23.00	39.23	6.44
14.	Ashram Schools for STs	25.00	-	-
15.	Educational Complex in Law literacy pockets for ST Girls.	-	25.33	24.25
16.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas.	26.10	-	21.595
17.	Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative for Minor Forest Produce Operations.	-	-	30.00
18.	Research & Training	2.19	0.55	6.16

	1	2	3	4	5
19. Special central Assistance for Tribal Sub Plan			1855.84	2234.77	2291.56
20. Article 275 (1) of the Constitution			356.30	668.25	675.00
21. Additional Special Central Assistance for Tribal			-	-	200.00
SOCIAL DEFENCE					
22. Scheme of Prevention & Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment			40.63	-	7.93
23. Scheme of Beggary Prevention			8.68	-	-

[English]

Capacity of HBJ Pipeline

1885. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started the work to increase the capacity of HBJ pipeline;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the States in North India which are likely to be benefited by this pipeline and to what extent?

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

(b) Line pipes required for the project have been procured and orders for compressors have been placed. Pipe laying work is in progress.

(c) The upgraded HBJ pipeline will supply gas to new projects in Rajasthan, M.P., U.P., Haryana and Delhi.

Price of Money Orders

1886. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the delivery cost of money orders below Rs.1000/-; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Oil Sector Reforms

1887. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI SULTAN SALLHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether the World Bank has castigated the Indian Government for failing to implement reforms in the Hydrocarbon sector;

(b) if so, the main reasons for non-implementation of reforms in the oil sector;

(c) the main objections raised by the World Bank; and

(d) the extent to which the Government have agreed to implement reforms in the oil sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (b). No Sir. However, the World Bank has made certain observations on the efforts of Government of India to attract foreign capital in the area of exploration and production of oil and gas. These mainly related to the unattractive contractual terms and the low quality of acreages offered by the Government. The Government has responded to these observations in details and has not agreed with the views expressed by the Bank. It has been pointed out that highly prospective areas have been put on offer during the various rounds of bidding at contractual terms comparable with the other regimes in the world.

Post Offices

1888. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branch/sub-post offices working at present, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up new branch/sub-post offices in the country in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of branch post offices and departmental sub-post offices, State-wise functioning as on 31.3.95 is given in the enclosed *statement-1*.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Annual Plan 1995-96 envisages opening of 80 branch post offices and 150 sub post offices. The Postal Circle-wise targets for opening post offices are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Actual opening would depend on availability of resources.

STATEMENT-I

Number of post offices (Category-wise) in India as on 31.3.95.

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	DOSs**	EDSOs***	EDBOs****
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2361	55	13670
2.	Assam	578	96	3177
3.	Bihar	1422	127	10179
4.	Delhi	409	22	113
5.	Gujarat	1353	47	7456
	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	2	-	32
	Diu & Daman	6	-	11
6.	Haryana	448	14	2108
7.	Himachal Pradesh	438	18	2253
8.	J&K	238	31	1328
9.	Karnataka	1757	301	7658
10.	Kerala	1421	536	3018
	Lakshadweep	6	3	1
11.	Maharashtra	2078	129	10002
	Goa	102	3	142
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1356	98	9710
13.	North East			
	Arunachal Pradesh	44	-	238
	Manipur	49	-	621
	Meghalaya	60	2	414
	Mizoram	38	4	340
	Nagaland	38	-	260
	Tripura	79	14	605
14.	Orissa	1159	195	6683
15.	Punjab	753	10	3054
	Chandigarh	43	1	7
16.	Rajasthan	1380	103	8746
17.	Tamil Nadu	2742	224	9019
	Pondicherry	35	2	66
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2824	458	16669
19.	West Bengal	1623	344	6467
	Sikkim	17	7	171
	Andaman & Nicobar	25	7	64
	All India Total	24884	2791	124282

** Departmental sub post office.

*** Extra Departmental sub post office.

**** Extra Department branch post Office.

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	Name of Circle	Target	
		EDBO*	DSO**
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	5
2.	Assam	4	4
3.	Bihar	10	11
4.	Delhi	-	10
5.	Gujarat	4	12
6.	Haryana	2	10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7	10
8.	J&K	-	2
9.	Karnataka	1	10
10.	Kerala	1	9
11.	Madhya Pradesh	9	9
12.	Maharashtra	9	12
13.	North East	4	4
14.	Orissa	4	4
15.	Punjab	2	4
16.	Rajasthan	5	10
17.	Tamil Nadu	2	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh	12	16
19.	West Bengal	2	4
	Total	80	150

* Extra departmental branch post office.

** Departmental Sub post office.

[Translation]

STD/ISD in Uttar Pradesh

1889. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD, PCOs functioning in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) the number of applications received for the allotment of new PCOs, district-wise; and

(c) the action taken for the disposal thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, as soon as available.

[English]

Excessive Violence on Foreign TV Channels

1890. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to Check the foreign TV channels for the telecasting the excessive violence;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to foreign TV companies in this regard;

(c) if not, whether any informal meetings have been held with foreign TV companies to restrict exhibition of violence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) Programmes telecast on foreign satellite television channels do not come within the ambit of Indian laws. Cable operators in India are, however, required to ensure that the programmes telecast on such channels, whose reception requires the use of a specialised gadget - decoder, conform to the provisions of the programme/advertisement code prescribed in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Siemens Lines in Rajasthan

1891. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone lines of Siemens technology have been installed in Rajasthan particularly in Jaipur;

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

(c) whether these lines were purchased direct or on lease basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) 55,000 lines of Siemens technology are working in Rajasthan. Exchange-wise details are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) and (d). These lines were procured both on direct purchase and on lease basis, as detailed below :-

(i) Direct Purchase	- 25,000 lines.
(ii) Lease basis	- 30,000 lines.

STATEMENT

Exchange-wise details of Siemen's lines in Rajasthan

S. No.	Name of City	Name of Exchange	Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Jaipur	1. Sangneri Gate (Main) 2. M.I. Road (Main)	10.0K 13.0K

1	2	3	4
		3. Tilak Nagar (RSU)	4.0K
		4. Jawahar Nagar (RSU)	3.0K
		5. Vaishali Nagar (RSU)	3.0K
		6. Vishwakarama Industrial Area (RSU)	3.0K
		7. Jhotwara (RSU)	2.0K
		8. Mansarover (RSU)	3.0K
		9. Malviya Nagar (RSU)	4.0K
2.	Udaipur	10. Udaipur (Main)	6.0K
		11. Krishnupai Mandi (RSU)	4.0K

[English]

Dak and Pension Adalat Sessions

1892. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Postal Circle is conducting dak and pension adalat sessions;

(b) if so, the number of sessions conducted so far; and

(c) the number of grievances regarding postal services and pension of retired employees received and disposed of so far?

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

(b) Karnataka Postal Circle has held 6 Sessions of Dak Adalat and 109 sessions of Pension Adalat.

(c) During such sessions 76 grievances about postal services and 137 grievances of retired employees were received. Out of these only 7 grievances of retired employees have been pending due to administrative requirements.

LPG Agencies in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri

1893. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications were invited for allotment of LPG agencies in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not holding interviews of the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Five LPG distributorships, two in District Sindhudurg and three in district Ratnagiri have been advertised/readvertised by the Oil Marketing Companies. Oil

Selection Board for Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu has not been able to hold interview for the above locations due to various reasons such as reconstitution of Oil Selection Board, larger number of locations pending for interview, etc.

Recommendations of NHRC

1894. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has recommended a number of measures for the protection of human rights in the areas affected by the insurgency and terrorism;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has considered the recommendations made by the Human Rights Commission in its reports; and

(c) if so, the number of recommendations implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) The National Human Rights Commission has, inter-alia, made following recommendations in respect of the areas affected by the insurgency and terrorism :-

(i) In States where the security forces are called upon to assist the civil authorities, the local magistrate and/or police officers should be associated, in particular with cordon and search operations, in order to allay misgivings regarding the conduct of personnel of the security forces and to prevent misuse of powers.

(ii) The District magistrates should chair regular meetings involving the security forces and be kept fully informed of operations by the latter. To the extent possible, leading non-officials, representatives of non-governmental organisations and other should be associated with such meetings.

(iii) Appropriate political measures and initiatives be taken, as in the long run, they have far more lasting and beneficial results than reliance essentially on security forces.

(b) and (c). As regards recommendations at (i) and (ii) above, local magistrate, village elders as well as police officers were already being associated with cordon and search operations in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The State Government has strengthened the mechanism to make it more effective and responsive. In every district there is a Screening-cum-Coordination Committee headed by Deputy Commissioner concerned and comprises the District Superintendent of Police and representatives of the security forces at senior levels. This Committee

takes up, inter-alia, matters connected with search operations, army aid to civil authorities for maintaining public order etc. in its meetings which are held regularly. In North-Eastern Regions, the State Governments, particularly those handling insurgency situation in their States, were advised to set-up a coordination mechanism at the State and district levels (at the State level under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary and at the district level, under the Deputy Commissioners with representatives of security forces, police and Intelligence agencies). In the coordination, meetings the subject of human rights are raised and human rights concerns addressed. The seriously affected States viz. Assam, Nagaland and Manipur have already set up such Committees which are meeting frequently. The coordination committees give due consideration to complaints and suggestions made by individuals and non-governmental organisations in their deliberations and make appropriate recommendations.

As for the recommendations at (iii), the aim of the Government is to restore a democratic Government in the State of Jammu & Kashmir at the earliest through the conduct of elections. A popular Government is expected to accelerate the process of restoration of complete normalcy and peace in the State. All efforts are, therefore, being made to hold peaceful, free and fair elections. As for the North-Eastern Regions, the policy of the Government has been on the one hand to deal firmly with those indulging in violent activities and on the other to encourage them to join the national mainstream provided they abjure violence and agree to work within the Constitution of India. Within this policy frame-work, there has been several accords. However, there are some insurgent groups/outfits active in the NE States which have not yet shown any inclination to shun violence and to work within the Constitution. Therefore, there is no alternative but to take firm legal steps permissible under law to curb violence, killing, arson, extortion etc. perpetrated by such terrorists groups.

Coverage of TV Transmitters and AIR in Gujarat

1895. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of capacity and area coverage of T.V. Transmitters and AIR stations functioning in Gujarat, separately;

(b) the places identified for installing high power T.V. transmitters in the State;

(c) the total amount spent thereon so far; and

(d) the time by which T.V. transmitters are likely to be installed in the above places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) As given in the enclosed statements-I and II.

(b) High Power Transmitter is under implementation at Bhuj.

(c) An amount of Rs. 601.27 lakhs has been spent on the above scheme.

(d) The project is expected to be ready during 1996-97 subject to availability of funds, infrastructural facilities and interse priorities.

STATEMENT-I

S. No.	Station	Transmitter Power	Area covered in 1000 Sq. Kms.
1.	Ahmedabad	200 KW MW Tr. 1 KW MW Tr.(VBS)	192.2 13.6
2.	Baroda	1 KW MW Tr. (VBS)	6.6
3.	Bhuj	10 KW MW Tr.	40.3
4.	Rajkot	300 KW MW Tr. 1 KW MW Tr.	195.6 8.8
5.	Godhra	2x3 KW MW Tr.	11.3
6.	Surat	2x3 KW MW Tr.	6.8
7.	Ahwa	1 KW MW Tr.	1.6

VBS - Vividdh Bharti Service.

STATEMENT-II

S. No.	Location	Transmitter with Capacity	Area coverage including fringe services (in Kms.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	HPT 10 KW	120
2.	Bhuj (Int. set up)	HPT 1 KW	60
3.	Dwaraka	HPT 10 KW	60
4.	Rajkot	HPT 10 KW	120
5.	Ahmedabad (DD II)	HPT 1 KW	60
6.	Ahwa	LPT 100W	25
7.	Ambaji	LPT 100W	25
8.	Amreli	LPT 100W	25
9.	Bhabbar	LPT 100W	25
10.	Bharuch	LPT 100W	25
11.	Bhavnagar	LPT 100W	25
12.	Chhota Udaipur	LPT 100W	25

1	2	3	4
13.	Dandi	LPT 100W	25
14.	Dediapara	LPT 100W	25
15.	Devgadh-Baria	LPT 100W	25
16.	Dharangadhra	LPT 300W (UHF)	25
17.	Deorajee	LPT 100W	25
18.	Dohad	LPT 100W	25
19.	Godhara	LPT 100W	25
20.	Jamnagar	LPT 100W	25
21.	Junagarh	LPT 100W	25
22.	Kevadia Colony	LPT 100W	25
23.	Khambat	LPT 300W (UHF)	25
24.	Kosamba	LPT 100W	25
25.	Mahuva	LPT 300W (UHF)	25
26.	Mangrol (Junagarh)	LPT 300W (UHF)	25
27.	Mehsana	LPT 100W	25
28.	Navsari	LPT 100W	25
29.	Palanpur	LPT 100W	25
30.	Palitana	LPT 100W	25
31.	Patan	LPT 100W	25
32.	Porbandar	LPT 100W	25
33.	Rapar	LPT 300W (UHF)	25
34.	Sanjeli	LPT 100W	25
35.	Songarh	LPT 100W	25
36.	Surat	LPT 100W	25
37.	Surendranagar	LPT 100W	25
38.	Therad	LPT 100W	25
39.	Vadodara	LPT 100W	25
40.	Valsad	LPT 100W	25
41.	Veraval	LPT 100W	25
42.	Gandhinagar (DD II)	LPT 100W	25
43.	Kakrapar	VLPT 10W	8

KW - Kilo Watt

W - Watt

HPT - High Power Transmitter

LPT - Low Power Transmitter

VLPT - Very Low Power Transmitter

UHF - Ultra High Frequency.

Haldia Barauni Pipeline

1896. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the feasibility report for Submergible Buy Mooring (SBM) at Digha High in the Bay of Bengal has since been received;

(b) if so, its broad features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the link pipeline is likely to be laid to connect the storage systems at Digha with the Haldia-Barauni main pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) No such proposal has been received.

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

[Translation]

Literacy in Tribal Areas of Bihar

1897. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the Central assistance provided for promotion of literacy in tribal areas of Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the locations in the State where the schemes for promoting literacy have been launched alongwith the dates on which they were launched; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b). Central assistance is being provided for promotion of literacy in selected districts of Bihar out of which 4 districts, namely, Ranchi, Dumka, Dhanbad and East Singhbhum (Jamshedpur) are located in the Tribal sub-Plan area. Central assistance released to these districts in the past three years district-wise is as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

District	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Ranchi	-	-	161.00
Dumka	25.00	115.29	50.00
Dhanbad	-	171.96	-
East Singhbhum (Jamshedpur)	(Rs. 49.228 lakhs had been released in the year 1990-91)		

In addition, a sum of Rs. 54.00 lakhs was released in 1994-95 for Post Literacy Campaign in Dumka district.

The dates on which the Total Literacy Campaign was launched in the different districts are as follows:

Ranchi	10th March, 1995
Dumka	6th September, 1993
Dhanbad	5th January, 1994
East Singhbhum (Jamshedpur)	December, 1990

(c) Information relating to expenditure incurred by implementing agencies has not been received so far.

[English]

Sharing of Ganga Water

1898. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Bangla bilateral talk was held on regarding sharing of Ganga Water;

(b) if so, when it was held last;

(c) the decision taken therein;

(d) whether any fresh talk is proposed to be held in near future on the above issue;

(e) if so, when and the venue decided therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to settle the above dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c). The bilateral Indo-Bangladesh talks on Ganga Water sharing was last held at Dhaka during March'93. The two sides held in-depth discussions to work for an equitable, long term and comprehensive arrangement for sharing the flows of Ganga, Tista and other common rivers.

(d) to (f). In our effort to settle the issue, we have offered to revive the discussions in Delhi at the earliest convenience of the Bangladesh Government. Response from the Bangladesh Government is awaited.

Flood Control Scheme

1899. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the major components of the Mahananda Basin Flood Control Scheme as finalised by the Ganges Basin Commission, with estimated cost;

(b) the present status of implementation of the sub-schemes in particular the sub-scheme or projects so far executed and those under current execution; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the Scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The major components of comprehensive plan for flood management in Mahananda river system as finalised by Ganga Flood Control Commission are raising/strengthening of existing embankments, construction of embankments and storage dam. The latest estimated cost of Mahananda flood control scheme is Rs. 2,062.91 lakh as per Annual Plan 1994-95.

(b) and (c). Under this scheme, so far about 245 Km. of embankments have been constructed in Bihar. Expenditure incurred upto March, 1994 on this scheme is about Rs. 2,170 lakh. No provision was made against this scheme by the Government of Bihar during 1994-95. Government of Bihar finalised schemes for raising and strengthening of existing embankments and anti-erosion at an estimated cost of Rs. 334.29 lakh for implementation during 1995-96.

[Translation]

Conversion of LPTs into HPTs

1900. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert low power transmitters into high power transmitters;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted therefor; and

(c) the places where LPTs have been converted into HPTs during the last two years and the current year, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The broad criteria for setting up of High Power Transmitters (HPTs) in place of the existing Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) include various factors such as extent of resultant coverage, service to hilly, backward, tribal, remote, sensitive and border areas; availability of basic infrastructural facilities; and necessary clearance from statutory bodies etc.

(c) The requisite details are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

List showing the locations where HPTs have been set up in replacement of LPTs during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (till date) in various States/Union Territories in the country :

State/Union Territory	HPT
Gujarat	Bhuj (Int. Set up) Ahmedabad (DD.II)
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
Jammu and Kashmir	Leh
Kerala	Calicut (Int. set up)
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
Mozoram	Lunglei
Rajasthan	Bundi
Sikkim	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	Rameshwaram (Int. set up)
Uttar Pradesh	Mau

[English]

New Coal Fields

1901. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coalfields in the country at present State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to develop new coalfields;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the extent to which coal production is likely to be increased by 2000 A.D. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The State-wise break up of number of Coalfields as per Geological Survey of India (GSI) is as under :

West Bengal	5
Bihar	11
Madhya Pradesh	18
Maharashtra	7
Orissa	2
Andhra Pradesh	1
NE Region	17
Gujarat	1
<hr/>	
Total number of Coalfields in the country	62

(b) to (d). Central Mines Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL) a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is conducting exploration for identifying New coalfields. During the year 1995-96, exploration is going on in 94 Blocks spread over different State as shown below :

State	No. of Blocks
West Bengal	17
Bihar	27
Maharashtra	10
Madhya Pradesh	29
Orissa	8
Assam	3
<hr/>	
Total number of blocks	94

(e) The expected coal production by 2001-02 is given below State-wise :

State	Production by 2001-02 (Projected) (In Million Tonnes)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	36.00
West Bengal	23.33

1	2
Bihar	90.07
Uttar Pradesh	11.30
Madhya Pradesh	110.29
Maharashtra	24.01
Orissa	43.00
Assam	1.00
Total	339.00

Plot to Assassinate P.M.

1902. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press report captioned "Lanka uncovers plot to kill Rao, Chandrika" appearing in the *Asian Age* dated September 12, 1995;

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

(c) whether the Government have since gone into the reported plot;

(d) if so, the findings of the investigations made; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). As per reports received from Intelligence Agencies, a LTTE activist Sinnadorai Muhundan was arrested by Sri Lankan police in Colombo in Sept. 95 opposite the house of the President of Sri Lanka. Muhundan on interrogation is reported to have revealed a plan to eliminate important VIP's in India. He also disclosed that a team of LTTE activists, including a lady have been sent to India to work out the plan.

(e) As there is a standing threat to the security of VVIP's and certain VIPs in India from LTTE, all the Security Agencies have been sensitised and necessary measures to counter the threat have been evolved.

[Translation]

S.T.D./I.S.D. Public Call Offices

1903. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of S.T.D./I.S.D., Public Call Offices operating at present in various States, particularly in the Junagarh district of Gujarat;

(b) whether all Public Call Offices are functioning satisfactorily;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the number of applications pending for the allotment of such new booths in the country, particularly in Junagarh; and

(f) the time by which these likely to be allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House, as soon as available.

B.P.O. in U.P./Bihar

1904. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :

SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received by the Government for opening of Branch Post Offices in U.P. particularly in Jaunpur, Balia, Deoria and Mau Districts and Chhapra in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details with reasons for their pendency; and

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

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

(b) The details of representations received by the Government for opening of Branch Post Offices in Jaunpur, Balia, Deoria and Mau districts of U.P. and Chhapra in Bihar with reasons for their pendency are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) if those locations fulfil norms of distance, population and income, opening of post offices will depend on the laid-down priorities and availability of resources.

STATEMENT

Details of representations received by the Government for opening of branch post offices in U.P. and Bihar.

S. No.	Name of District	Name of locations
1	2	3

UTTAR PRADESH

1. Jaunpur	Hardwari,	Hardipur,
	Puralal,	Salamatpur,
	Madras	Riyaz-UI- Ullom,

1	2	3
		Bighawan Sarang, Kishandaspur, Lalpur, Lakthepur, Ramadati Ka Pura, Chitodi, Pachokhar, Amawah, Seboli and Khemapur.
2. Balia		Ikauna, Asali Rampur, Bardhani Lawaipatti, Majhawallia, Karachi, Kachhawan, Malipur Camp and Rampur.
3. Deoria		Fardhah, Barai Pandey, Karjahan, Ahilyapur, Ramchandra Shukla Baulia Colony, Budhukhan, Raibari and Harkhauri
4. Mau		Achhar and Hawapura
BIHAR		
1. Chhapra		Saraiya Basant, Mouzampur, Dandaspur Lahachha, Awadhpora, Barua Kakordiha, Manpur and Mothepur

Justification for post offices at these locations is under examinations, as to their fulfilment of norms of distance, population and income.

Safai Karamcharis

1905. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments are not taking interest in the national scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation for "safai karamcharies" and their dependents;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the "National Safai Karamchari Commission" has drawn the Government's attention towards the fake statistics of providing the training to safai karamcharies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b). In some states the progress of the implementation of the scheme is tardy due to delays in identifying scavengers and their dependents, low priority by the State Governments and poor monitoring of the scheme at district and State level. Welfare Minister has written to Chief Ministers to expedite implementation of the scheme. Regional Ministerial Conferences and a Mayor's meeting at Delhi were convened by Welfare Minister

to review the progress of the scheme. The Prime Minister has also written to all Chief Ministers for speedier implementation and to utilise 10% of the SCA to SCP on Safai Karamcharis rehabilitation. A Central Monitoring Committee has been formed to monitor the scheme. The State Governments have also been asked to submit the progress report on this scheme every month.

(c) and (d). The commission has submitted its first Annual Report for 1994-95 on 16.11.95 which is being scrutinised and would be laid on the table of Parliament alongwith Action Taken Report.

Reservation Benefits to Backward Classes

1906. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the other backward classes are not getting the benefits of reservation in Jammu and Kashmir as per the Mandal Commission recommendations;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the names of the States and Union Territories where the other backward classes are not getting the benefits of reservation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b). No Sir. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir are giving reservation to socially and educationally backward classes.

The State Government have notified the State list of OBCs vide its notification No. SRO-126 dt. 28th June, 1994 and the Central list of OBCs has also been notified vide No. 88, Gazette of India, Part I, Section I, Extraordinary dt. 25th May, 95. The J & K Bill for constituting the Backward Class Commission has been enacted on 24th May, 1995 and the State Government have since constituted the State Backward Classes Commission.

(c) As per the information available, the following States/UTs are not providing reservation to OBCs :

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Manipur
3. Mizoram
4. Lakshadweep
5. Meghalaya
6. Nagaland
7. Tripura
8. Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Lakshadweep have stated that these States have mainly Tribal Population.

[English]

Assistance for Minor Irrigation Projects

1907. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to provide Central assistance to Andhra Pradesh for minor irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

STD Facilities

1908. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether S.T.D. facility has been extended to each and every Sub division and tehsil headquarters;

(b) if not, the places which are yet to be linked with S.T.D. facility, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. Out of 1159 Sub-divisional headquarters, 1060 have been provided with S.T.D. facility.

-Out of 2539 tehsil headquarters, 2199 have been provided with S.T.D. facility.

(b) Places which are yet to be linked with S.T.D. facility are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) As per 8th five year plan objectives, it has been decided to bring all pending Sub-divisional headquarters and Tehsil headquarters on STD map by 1.4.97.

STATEMENT

ANDHRA PRADESH

T.H. QS : Wankidi, Kuppam, Lakkireddipalli, Kamalapuram, Muddanpur, Mahadevapur, Venkatapuram, Burgampahad, Kodangal, Nampally, Niidamanur, Udayagiri, Vinjamuru, Vakadu, Yerragondapalem, Darsi, Podili, Donakonda, Cumbum, Pamuru, Kanigiri, Kondopi, Martur, Narayankhed, Chinthapalli, Araku, Chityal, Eturnagaram, Talluru (No Exch.) Bhemadaavarapalli (No Exch.), Sudimalla (No Exch.), K. Kothapadu (No Exch.) = 32.

ASSAM

T.H. QS : Baligana, Baska, Bhogar, Bhowranguri, Bhuragaon, Chameria, Chariduar, Dalgaon, Chograpar, Hirisirgha, Jalan, Kadam, Mahmera, Mayang, Mikirbata, Motia, Nagavbera, Naopokha, Pathrighat, Rauguli, Sidli, Sirjangram, Sissbargaon, Subunsiri = 24 (Tehsil Headquarters are not having Telephone Exchange).

HIMACHAL PRADESH

T.H. QS : Tissa, Salooni, Thunag, Rohru, Dodrakwar, Chirgaon, Rajgarh = 7.

S.D.H.QS : Tissa, Rohru, Dodrakwar, Rajgarh = 4.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

T.H.QS: Bandipur, Banihal Beerwah, Bijbehera, Bilawar, Chadoora, Chenani, Dawar, Doru, Drass, Ganderbal, Gandoh, Handwara, Kalakot, Kangan, Kotranka, Lulgam, Mandi, Mendhar, Mohore, Nowshera, Pahalgam, Pampore, Pattan, Ramnagar, R.S. Pora, Sumbal, Sunderbani, Surankot, Tangdar, Thanamandi, Thatri, Trai, Uri=34

S.D.H.QS: Baderwah, Basholi, Diskit, Nyuma, Padam, Qazigund, Shopian = 7.

MADHYA PRADESH

T.H.QS: Antagarh, Pakhanjore (New), Bhopalpatnam, Raun, Lahar, Pendra Road Ajaigarh, Pawai, Dharamjaigarh, Manganj, Teouthar, Sirmaour, Rejli, Baikunthpur, Manendragarh, Ramanujganj, Surajpur, Beohari, Pusparajgarh, Deosar, Manendragarh, Ramanujganj, Surajpur, Beohari, Pusparajgarh, Deosar, Majholi, Antagarh, Bhdopalpatnam, Mihenu, Rawn, Dabhaua, Kathhra, Lormi, Pamgarh, Pandaria, Gaurihar, Tendukheda, Khategaon, Nawagarh, Bhabre, Jobat, Shahnagar, Bagichha, Kunkuri, Bilaigarh, Deoghog, Goharganj, Chhuikhadan, Mohla, Gurh, Hanumanganj, Raipur-Karchhilian, Bharatpur, Lundra, Partappur, Kusmi, Sitapur and Wadraf-Nagar, Rampurbaaghla, Narsullaganj, Kotema, Jaisinghnagar, Khaniadhana, Chitragni, Kusmi (No. Exch), Rampur Naikin, Sihawa, Prithvipur = 59.

MADHYA PRADESH

S.D.H.QS: Naila, Pendra Road, Ajaigarh, Pawai, Dharamjaigarh, Mouganj, Teouthar, Sirmaour, Rahli, Baikunthpur, Mahendragarh, Ramanujganj, Surajpur, Bechari, Pusparajgarh, Deosar, Majholi, Niwari = 18.

MAHARASHTRA

T.H.QS: Rishod, Dharni, Chikhaldara, Chandur Bazar, Morshi, Deori, Salekasa, Lakanpur, Arjunimore Gaon, Deulgaon Raja, Lonar, Mekhakar, Sindkhedraja, Gondpimpri, Chimur, Addani (Dhadgaon), Sironcha, Kurkheda, Etapalli, Aheri,

Hadgaon, Peint, Surgana, Kalamb, Kalamunri, Sangameshwar, Jath, Ashti, Samudrapur, Karanji, Mahagaon, Ralegaon, Ner, Maregaon, Pathur = 36.

NORTH EAST

ARUNACHAL PRADESH :

S.D.H.QS: Longding, Nacho, Chayengtezo, Hayuliang, Tuting, Sagalee, Mechuka, Kolariang, Mariyang, Thrizind, Yomcha, Hunli, Basar=13.

MANIPUR

T.H.QS: Moirang, Oinam, Kaching, Yaripek, Mayang, Waikong, Lamsang, Andro, Swambung, Wangoi, Sagolmaa, Seima, Moram, Taiwaichung, Tabubi, Babupara, Borabakara, Jeshami, Shangshak, Litan, Chingai, Kamjong, Thnghat, Kangpokpi, Saikul, Tipaimukh, Kasemkhullan, Chapikarong, Tamei, Tousem, Nungba, Tengnovpal=32.

S.D.H.QS: Swam Bung, Wangoi, Jiribam, Kaching, Moirang, Kangpokpi, Tousem, Tamei, Changhat, Kamjong, Kasumkhullen, Phungayar, Chakpikarong, Tadubi, Padmata, Saikul, Tipimukh, Nunba, Shinghat, Thanlon, Henglep = 21.

MEGHALAYA :

S.D.H.QS: Mairang, Amapati, Dadengiri, Alamarem, Mawkyrwat = 5.

MIZORAM :

S.D.H.QS: Mamit, Lawngthlai=2.

NAGALAND :

S.D.H.QS: Mongkolemba, Naginimora, Pizit, Longleng, Champang, Tobu, Meluri, Phutsero, Chazouba, Aghunato, Sataka, Kiphire, Bhandari, Nokiak, Longkhim, Samatore, Tseminyo, Phugoboto = 18.

TRIPURA :

T.H.QS: Ambassa, Amarpur, Chhamanu, Gandacherra, Ganganagar, Kamelpur, Kanchanpur, Khowai, Killa, Kumarghat, Maharaniapur, Manughat, Melaghat, Mohanpur, Ompi, Rajnagar, Santir Baazar, Silachhari, Sonamura, Takarjala, Teliamura, =21.

S.D.H.QS: Sonapura, Kamalpur, Khowai, Gandachera, Amarpur=5.

UTTAR PRADESH :

T.H.QS: Chunar, Colenelganj, Naraini, Daimau, Salon, Maharajganj, Rudrapur, Chakia, Sakaldeeha, Biswan, Laharpur, Fatehpur, Bidhuna, Derapur, Misriki, Sidhau, Powayan, Baberu, Bara, Dhaurahra, Ragnaul, Jalalabad, Bilgram, Itwa, Domariaganj, Tamkuhraj, Manjhanpur, Machhlishahar, Talbehat, Bikapur, Rudauli, Mariyahun, Badlapur, Lalganj, Bhingra, Bilhaur, Charkhari, Dudhi, Garautha, Kaiserganj, Kerakat, Kulpahar, Junda, Bhanpur, Mau, **Maharauli**, Meja, Nichlaul, Ramnagar, Rasulabad, **Sirathu**, Tarabganj, Tiloi, Tulsipur, Utraula, Aliganj,

Bageshwar, Bah (Jarar), Behat, Behat, Bhikhiastan, Bilaspur, Bisalpur, Bisauli, Dataganj, Dharchula, Dhari, Didihat, Dunda, Ghoomakot, Gunnaur, Iglas, Jaleswar, Khair, Khatima, Kiha Kutauli, Laksar, Mat, Milak, Munsiyari, Puranpur, Purola, Rajgarhi, Sahaswan, Shahabad, Siyana, Swar, Thailiseon, Tharali=95.

SIKKIM :

S.D.H.QS: Chungthang (No. Exch.) = 1.

*[English]***Tariff of Cellular Phones**

1909. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken to reduce the high-cost cellular phone services in the cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Govt. has fixed the ceiling tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. The Service Provider can charge the customers at equal or lower than the ceiling tariff. As there are two Cellular Operators in each of the metro. Cities and Territorial Telecom. Circles, there will be fair and healthy competition as a result of which the actual tariff is likely to be lowered. The Ceiling Tariffs are given in enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT*Ceiling Tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service*

1. Monthly Rental for the Service month	-Rs. 156.00 per month
2. Security Deposit	-Rs. 3000.00
3. Installation Charges	-Rs. 1200.00
4. Call Charges :	

4.1 *Calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber:* Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for local, STD, and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same Cellular Service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 *Calls terminating on the Mobile subscriber:* Air time charge @ 10 second per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. Notes on tariff :

5.1 Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2 The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed network (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are not telescopic rates.

5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above. Peak hours shall be restricted upto a maximum of 4 hours per day. Peak hours and air time call charges during peak hours may be fixed by the Licensee in consultation with Telecom. Authority.

5.4 Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January and 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.

5.5. For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed network, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the rates prescribed by the Telecom. Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.6. There are no free calls to be given for the air time.

5.7. For calls originating from the fixed network to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.

5.8. For mobile to mobile both caller and called party will be charged.

6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Telecom. Authority and/or its successor.

7. The rental does not include the cost of the Subscriber's terminal equipment (mobile handset). The subscriber is free to buy the terminal equipment from any source.

Import of Coal

1910. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board has taken a decision to pay almost three times the normal prices for import of coal to keep its thermal stations going on;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal proposed to be imported by the State Government alongwith the amount involved therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Coal can be freely imported under the present import policy and as such there is no need for any licence/permission from the Government of India for its import.

With the reduction of import duty from 85% to 35% some power houses, particularly those located in the coastal areas, may resort to import of coal considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement.

Coal companies are, however, endeavouring to supply coal to thermal power stations in the country, including those of APSEB, as per the agreed level for the year 1995-96. The supplies shall, however, be within the overall constraints of transportation, payments for coal supplies and unloading performance at the power station end.

GAS Supply to Non-Domestic Users

1911. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to phase out gas supply to non-domestic users;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to meet the requirement of non-domestic users; and

(c) the benefit likely to be accrued in this regard?

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

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

ISD/STD Booths by Telephone Advisory Committee

1912. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telephone Advisory Committee are authorised to screen and select applicants for ISD/STD/PCOs;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued to Telephone Advisory Committee in this regard;

(c) whether any complaints have been received in regard to selection of applicants for allotment of ISD/STD/PCOs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d). After the revised STD/ISD/PCO policy has been introduced with effect from 24.7.1993, the powers of allotment of STD/ISD PCOs to the eligible applicants on franchise basis have been vested with the STD/ISD PCO Allotment Committees constituted for each Secondary Switching Area. These Committees consist of 5 Members each, three of whom are non-official. Complaints in a matter like allotment of franchise for PCOs cannot be eliminated totally but these Committees have served their basic purpose of making a fair selection of the local level.

Public Call Offices

1913. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to allot connections of public call offices (PCOs) to educated unemployed youths and ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of letters received from M.Ps. recommending sanctioning of PCO telephone to Ex-servicemen in Tamil Nadu (Madras);

(c) the reasons for the delay in the sanction of the PCO and steps taken to expedite the sanction thereof;

(d) whether inordinate delay is taking place in replying to the letters of the M.Ps; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken to reply all pending letters expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (e). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil Exploration Policy

1914. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the overhaul of the hydrocarbon exploration and production (E & P) policy is in the pipeline; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the revamped oil exploration policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Government has taken no decision to modify the existing exploration and production policy.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Bihar

1915. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of organisations in Bihar receiving financial aid from abroad;

(b) the amount of financial aid received by these organisations during the last three years and as on October, 1995 from various countries, country-wise and the purposes for which aforesaid amount was received; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to keep constant vigil on the activities of these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : (a) and (b). Information regarding the number of Associations in Bihar and the amount of foreign contribution as reported by these associations under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 during the years 1991-92, 1992-92 and 1993-94 is given below :

Year	No. of Associations	Amount of foreign contribution as reported by associations (Rs. in crores)
1991-92 (from Jan. 91 to March, 92)	340	47.78
1992-93	408	55.15
1993-94	429	55.77

Purpose-wise and country-wise break up of the foreign contribution received on All India basis is contained in the Annual Reports on 'Receipt of Foreign Contribution by Voluntary Associations' copies of which have already been placed in the Parliament Library. Data for the year 1994-95 is being compiled and will be published in the Annual Report. Copies of Annual Report will be placed in the Parliament Library.

The information for the year 1995-96 is still not due.

(c) Under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, associations which are covered under the said Act were required to furnish intimation of receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution received by them on financial year basis duly certified by Chartered Accountant to this Ministry, A Monitoring Unit set up by the Government monitors the receipt of foreign contribution, submission of returns by associations and undertakes inspections, whenever required.

Post Offices in Rented Buildings

1916. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices functioning in rented buildings at present State-wise; and

(b) the number of post offices out of them proposed to be shifted to departmental buildings, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of Post Offices functioning in rented buildings, Postal Circle-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement - I.

(b) 194 buildings are under construction as given, Postal Circle-wise, in the enclosed Statement II for shifting of Post Offices into them when they are ready.

STATEMENT-I

No. of Post Offices Functioning in Rented Buildings Postal Circle-wise as on 31.3.95.

S.No.	Circle	No. of POs functioning in rented buildings
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2184
2.	Assam	446
3.	Bihar	1222
4.	Delhi	299
5.	Gujarat	1204
6.	Haryana	399
7.	Himachal Pradesh	396
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	220
9.	Karnataka	1484
10.	Kerala	1251
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1191
12.	Maharashtra	1938

1	2	3
13.	North East	220
14.	Orissa	1046
15.	Punjab	694
16.	Rajasthan	1221
17.	Tamil Nadu	2630
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2596
19.	West Bengal	1697
Total		22338

STATEMENT-II

No. of Post Office Buildings Under Construction Postal Circle-wise.

S.No.	Circle	No. of PO Buildings under construction
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Assam	7
3.	Bihar	16
4.	Delhi	2
5.	Gujarat	13
6.	Haryana	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	18
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
9.	Karnataka	25
10.	Kerala	13
11.	Madhya Pradesh	8
12.	Maharashtra	20
13.	North East	7
14.	Orissa	19
15.	Punjab	Nil
16.	Rajasthan	8
17.	Tamil Nadu	7
18.	Uttar Pradesh	6
19.	West Bengal	12
Total		194

[English]

Stamps on Temples and Gods

1917. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Temples and Gods in whose name stamp have been released so far;

(b) whether any request is pending in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to release such stamps here-after; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Information is as under :

- (i) Mahabaleshwar Temple.
- (ii) Sri Harmandir Sahib Amritsar.
- (iii) Bodh Gaya Temple.
- (iv) Satrunjaya Temple Palitana.
- (v) Somnath Temple.

No Stamps have been issued on Gods so far.

- (b) No request is pending in this regard.
- (c) In view to (b) above, does not arise.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) In view of reply to (d) above, does not arise.

Special Post Cards

1918. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered every year in the transmission system of post-cards including Printing and Distribution;

(b) whether there is continuous shortage of availability of post-cards in post offices and outlets especially in villages and rural areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is large scale use of post-cards under various entertainment programmes, including quiz programmes on Radio and TV, sponsored both by Government and private agencies; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to introduce separate and specific type of post cards for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The total estimated loss on post cards is Rs. 94.13 crores.

(b) There is no report of post offices in villages and rural areas being continuously short of post cards except sometimes at certain places for short duration.

(c) This is due to inadequate supply from printers and/or transmission delay.

(d) No specific data has been collected by Government regarding utilisation of post cards for various entertainment programmes, but the feed back received from various Postal Circles indicates that a large number of media agencies are utilising this facility.

(e) The question of introducing a separate post card for various entertainment programmes is under examination.

Import of Coal

1919. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reduction in duty of non-coking coal in 1994-95 has shown any substantial increase in its imports;

(b) the details of such imports during 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(c) its impact of coal production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). According to the statistics of Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the details of import of coal, other than coking coal, hard coke and other cokes of coal during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 were as under :

Year	(Data provisional) Quantity
1992-93	1,65,900 tonnes
1993-94	3,94,963 tonnes
1994-95	5,81,812 tonnes

(c) Coal India Ltd. have reported that so far the imports of non-coking have had no significant impact on its production of coal.

Dead Telephones

1920. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy rains and floods in Northern States during the month of September 1995 had created havoc and rendered about 70,000 telephones dead in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether any other States were also affected like Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the efforts being made to handle such situations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Maximum number of faulty telephones a single day in Delhi during the month of September were 22,231 (on 8.9.1995).

(c) Following steps have been taken to reduce the breakdowns during the monsoon :

- (i) Laying of cables in ducts.
 - (ii) Use of only Jelly Filled Copper cables for the new projects and replacement of old and life expired papercore cables by Jelly Filled Copper Cables.
 - (iii) Patrolling of cables routes for preventive maintenance.
- (d) and (e). No state as a whole suffered any serious breakdown in telecom in services. However, some parts of Haryana where flood water had caused water logging did suffer cable breakdowns and repairs took time.
- (f) As per reply in part (c) above.

Non-Official Advisory Committee

1921. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU
ZJANTYE :

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

(a) whether Regional Film Censor Boards/Central Censor Board and Advisory Committees for AIR/Doordarshan station are over due for reconstitution;

(b) the details thereof, committee/station-wise, separately for films, Doordarshan/AIR;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to ensure involvement of non-officials in the functioning and monitoring of the Government media to reflect growing aspirations of the people;

(d) the details of non-official members of Doordarshan Advisory Committees, committee-wise; and

(e) the specific steps under consideration to improve substantially quality programmes produced and released on Doordarshan/AIR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Only the Central Board of Film Certification and the advisory panels at the regional office of the CBFC at Bangalore, Calcutta and Guwahati are due for reconstitution.

(c) Non-Officials have been involved with various panels, committees under this Ministry for many years. No change is contemplated in this regard.

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

(e) It is the constant endeavour of AIR and Doordarshan to bring about a qualitative improvement in their programmes through the introduction of new programmes and programme formats in order to meet the diverse needs of the widest cross section of their listeners/viewers.

STATEMENT

Statement showing number of non-official members nominated to Programme Advisory Committee attached to Doordarshan

S.No.	Name of DDK	Number of Non-official members
1.	Ahmedabad	23
2.	Bombay	38
3.	Bhubaneswar	62
4.	Bangalore	28
5.	Calcutta	39
6.	Delhi	28
7.	Guwahati	24
8.	Hyderabad	59
9.	Jalandhar	21
10.	Jaipur	36
11.	Lucknow	28
12.	Madras	60
13.	Thiruvananthapuram	38
14.	Srinagar	21
15.	Sambalpur	10

Irrigated Land

1922. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of agricultural land in hectares irrigated at present through various system of irrigation, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of water being released to Gujarat through rivers/canals from the neighbouring States;

(c) whether the above quantum of water is adequate for irrigation and other purposes; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase the quantum of water?

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

(a) A Statement showing State-wise total area of agricultural land irrigated in terms of Irrigation Potential Utilised at the end of 1993-94 through 'Major and Medium' projects and Minor Irrigation schemes is enclosed.

(b) No water is being released to Gujarat through rivers/canals from the neighbouring States.

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

STATEMENT

Total Irrigation Potential Utilised Through 'Major and Medium' irrigation projects and Minor irrigation schemes at the end of 1993-94.

S.No.	States/UTs	(In '000 hectares)	
		Irrigation Potent.	Utilised
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5548.00	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	62.18	
3.	Assam	602.71	
4.	Bihar	7045.24	
5.	Goa	29.17	
6.	Gujarat	2952.27	
7.	Haryana	3326.42	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	129.47	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	501.14	
10.	Karnataka	2703.57	
11.	Kerala	911.62	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3888.50	
13.	Maharashtra	3355.10	
14.	Manipur	99.76	
15.	Meghalaya	42.06	
16.	Mizoram	9.84	
17.	Nagaland	56.85	
18.	Orissa	2513.49	
19.	Punjab	5654.58	
20.	Rajasthan	4284.37	
21.	Sikkim	18.24	
22.	Tamil Nadu	3688.31	
23.	Tripura	89.05	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	24842.00	
25.	West Bengal	3724.55	
Total States		76079.29	
Total UTs		87.20	
Grand Total		76166.49	

Telephone Services in Kanpur

1923. SHRI TARA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone services of about thirty thousands subscribers of Kanpur Telecom have been disrupted completely;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any investigation has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) The services were disrupted due to accidental fire on 19.11.95.

(c) A detailed investigation has been ordered by Chief General Manager (T & D) Circle, Jabalpur, to find out the cause of the fire.

(d) The Report of investigation is awaited.

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

11.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned till Twelve of the clock.

12.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Three Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue is, bids were invited for basic telecom services. When the bids were invited, M/s HFCL is the company which had the highest bid which was to the tune of Rs. 85,000 crore. Then the Department of Telecommunications decided to go in for capping. Even at the time of capping, their bids were the highest in the States of Gujarat, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh — which were Rs. 15,085 crore, Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 15,365 crore respectively — totalling to an amount of about Rs. 45,500 crore. But even then that was not given and the company was given a chance to select the Circle.

And the Circles selected by them were Delhi, Uttar Pradesh (West) and Haryana and ultimately the whole bid was to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crore only. So, the loss, even if capping is accepted, is to the tune of Rs. 25,000 crore and if capping is not accepted, the loss goes to the tune of Rs. 65,500 crore. Here, the Minister is to be held responsible for that because the Government has lost, the people have lost, the country has lost and therefore, Shri Sukh Ram should make a statement, explain the whole position. We want to ask him. Even the Municipal Corporation whenever there is a tender bidding, it is seen that Municipality is not put to the loss; the auditors also see to it. Here for hundreds of crores of rupees and thousands of crores of rupees, the country is put to loss and ultimately the Government is to be held responsible; the Minister concerned is to be held responsible and he should resign. That is my demand. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Why that particular company, Himachal Futuristic Corporation has been asked to select the States? What were the terms and conditions when this tender was floated? Why that particular company has been favoured

when there are companies for more than eight or nine States? It is a clear case of favouritism. The Minister should explain why that particular company has been favoured. Why there has been a loss to the extent of Rs. 25,000 crore. Why? He should explain.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the ambit is becoming very wide. Otherwise, everybody will ask the questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : It is not a simple question of Himachal Futuristic Corporation only. There have been other sincere bidders who as a result of this bidding and limiting process benefited immensely at the cost of Government Exchequer and public money. This also should be covered when he replies.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : He has calculated Rs. 45,000 crores. It is perfectly possible. Number one is that if the bid for other areas, the reserve price for the bids are higher than this Himachal Futuristic Corporation, then it can be covered. Is he prepared to assure that?

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may please note down the points they are making so that he can reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The suspicion that is generated is that this is a company without any background and it does not command enough resources and the resources have to come from the financial institutions. Firstly, there was insider trading. That is one suspicion. Otherwise, this bid could not be so high in eight areas; and secondly it could be that the financial institutions are also involved in giving or funding this Himachal Futuristic Company. Therefore, these are all the issues which are involved. The simple solution would be that let there be — the other House has demanded the House Committee — a Joint Parliamentary Committee. We have done that in the past. Let there be a J.P.C. to investigate into whatever has happened.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that each and every Member of each and every Party would like to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : The entire telecommunication policy has been distorted to favour one Company, that is, Himachal Pradesh Futuristic Company, because a top person has some interest. It has a turnover of Rs. 200 crores only.

But the licence is for Rs. 85,000 crore for nine Circles. They are selling some equity at higher prices. It amounts to the selling of licence itself. So, a large scale selling is taking place. The Government has

not taken any steps to stop this scam. This is a very serious matter. This is a very big scandal. A House Committee may be constituted to inquire into this scam.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection I would like to submit three things. It is for the first time that we are hearing about this company. This company is based in the hon. Minister's constituency. I understand that the other districts are far ahead in industrialisation. The highest bidder had given tenders for nine circles. Had better circles been offered the State exchequer could have benefited Rs. 45,000 crores. Who suffered this loss? In view of all this I would like to submit that a full discussion would take place after the statement of the Minister. Then we would get the relevant information and seek further clarifications in this regard. I do not think it proper to seek a clarification before that. The hon. Minister should make a statement today. A meaningful discussion can take place after the statement is made and we can then arrive at a conclusion now for almost a day and a half. We come to learn of a major scandal, through newspaper reports, and possibly, the largest scandal of Independent India. When we learn of the dimensions of this scandal and the enormity of the consequences, then we seek clarifications from the Government and the Government engages us in technicalities. Therefore, I find it necessary to focus the issues which require clarifications from the Government in this House today. What are those issues? In the procedures followed for development of infrastructure in telecommunications - it is of matter of total indifference to me as to who wins a contract or does not win a contract — a certain company is able to corner almost three-quarters of the telecommunications' Circles of the country by bidding excessively high. It bids as much as 80 percent higher than that of other companies. Therefore, quite naturally, Sir, a concern arises who is this company, who is behind it, what is the technical competence of this company, what is the financial competence of this company to be able to bid for as much as nine telecommunications' Circles of a sub-continental size country like India, and who are the associates of this company. I am informed from what I read in the newspapers that the associates were perhaps some Israelis or some Thai-origin people. I am also informed and I would be happy if the Government disabuses me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Who are the people in the Board of Directors?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am not going into what my very eminent and learned colleague has not been able to put his finger on.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA) : That is his hobby ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We are here because of this hobby.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : We are naturally interested as to who is this Israeli associate and who is this associate from Thailand because we are informed that particularly this associate from Thailand is, in fact, wanted for criminal activities elsewhere. This causes concern to us. If this Thai company is now a black listed company or is really not a company that is entitled to win bids for telecommunication circles of a great country like ours and has been awarded simply because of its association with some Indian partner, then we have a right to know. That becomes the first part.

The second part comes on the modalities. The Government says quite rightly and the Government is entirely right to say that, "we do wish to destroy the monopoly of the inefficient Telephone Department of the Government of India and replace it by the monopoly of yet another private company." Therefore, they say that there would be a capping of three.

The procedure adopted, however, in the capping leaves itself to great many questions. The procedure adopted for capping gives the option to the highest bidder to opt out of it, if it does not want to continue. Therefore, we are informed that this particular company with the interesting name, which I am sure has not meaning other than simply what is called Himachal Futuristic or whatever, having cornered the most lucrative of the telephone circles through very high bidding, then opts out of them and retains only three, i.e. Delhi, Haryana and West UP.

I think, so far as telecommunications are concerned, everyone would concede that Delhi, Haryana and West UP are not non-lucrative areas. The question, therefore, arises that from those areas from where this company has opted out, the number two company so much lower down the less, what happens to those areas. Does the number two than get the particular telecommunication circle at the price at which it bid it and what happens to the potential loss to the nation? These are the worries.

I do not want to go into all. You have quite rightly said and that this is an injunction, that this is not a debate on the subject. We are simply to focus our concern so that the Government's attention also gets focussed, which is not a simple talk. This Government's at action is always unfocussed. To get them focussed requires appropriate attention. After

that, it is for us to get the Government to come forward to the House, share with us all the information that it has and satisfy us.

I conclude by requesting you and indeed the Government to please come forward with a statement today elucidating the points that we have raised or the points that have been raised in the Parliament in its totality, so that public disquiet about this is stilled and also that a major infrastructure development is not thwarted because this Government is inefficient and corrupt. The largest possible scam since independence must not go unnoticed because of the corruption and the inefficiency of this Government. Therefore, a statement must be made today.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Members do have a right to ask questions of this nature. I am asking whether any more questions you want to ask on this.

Is the Minister willing to make a statement now or he wants time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : I want time so that tomorrow I can make a statement ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, I have no problem in making a statement now but the problem is that I have to substantiate my arguments with the records available in my office. That is not available with me now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : Who has taken it? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA (Junagarh) : This has been done in the Rajya Sabha yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, the Government will make a statement on this matter at 6 p.m. today. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government will make a statement on this matter today at 6 p.m. By that time the Minister will gather his records and gather his information and come before the House at 6 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)* We have decided to sit upto 7 o'clock. There would be one hour left. By 6 o'clock the hon. Minister will have time to gather all the facts. Now it is 12.20 p.m. He will come here at 6 o'clock today and make a statement on this matter. He will also reply to all the questions that have been raised here.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the questions have not been put.

Because, as per the request of the hon. Speaker, we only want to reach a conclusion so that the proceedings of this House can be conducted smoothly. Normally, no one would have objected to what the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has said. I would not have objected even if the Minister sought a day's time to reply to a question which cropped up suddenly. As Shri Jaswant Singhji had said, we are agitated not only because of what has been appearing in the print media in the past few days, the other reason is also because of the proceedings that have taken place in the Rajya Sabha since yesterday. An important aspect of this is a question that was asked there. The question was on this issue during the question hour and an unsatisfactory reply resulted in this problem. Since yesterday the Ministry has been collecting all the relevant facts and as per my information an attempt was made to place those facts before the other House in the Morning today. Therefore, I see no particular reason the delay. I would have no objection if a statement is made in the House after lunch, even at three o'clock. I do not consider it proper to postpone it till six o'clock. As far as formal reply is concerned, the Minister can perhaps give even now. But I would like that all the facts be collected and a reply given at 3 instead of at Six O'Clock....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everything is proceeding smoothly. Do not mar the proceedings like this.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Fix Four O'Clock for it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Let it be at 4 O' Clock...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am of the view that the Minister can give a reply to the questions raised here even now without going into details. But then other questions would also come up. I understand he is making a note of questions he would like to reply. This matter would be taken up at three or four O'Clock. Please come prepared.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I am ready. I am ready for four O'Clock also. I want to make a request for what Shri Advaniji has said. I am very much thankful to this House for giving me at least a chance to make my point. It was alleged that I could not give a reply yesterday, this is not correct. No one heard the reply. And the question that was asked is one sided. I was not given a chance to speak. Therefore, what has appeared in the Press today is also one sided. I am ready for Four O'Clock...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I want to remind all of you again that all the leaders have decided after a discussion that the major problems viz. nation's economic condition, international policy and the security scenario being faced by the nation should be discussed by us. Therefore, the Kashmir situation should be taken up. After discussing all these it has been decided to discuss today the economic policy.

Since this has been decided by all of us to have a proper discussion, hence my request to you is to maintain a conducive atmosphere for discussion and express your views in systematic manner, it would be most appropriate.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Please give a few minutes for other topics also.

MR. SPEAKER : All of you may decide whether Zero Hour is more important than the economic policy of the nation.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : At least an hour should be earmarked for the Zero Hour...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The another thing I had said was that Shri Chidambaramji would make a statement in the House at one O'Clock.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The time immediately after Questions Hour was perhaps earmarked for his statement. But when such things happens there is a change in the programme decided earlier and we are unable to stick to our earlier schedule. Other topics come up which cause difficulty.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise very briefly a very important question which has the potential of causing immense discontent in the country and for a long time it has been a burning issue. Due to the caste differences, in the country, the reservations issue has been a topic of heated discussion. I do not want to go into details. With the change of religion, one's caste does not change. In our Constitution and we have also...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sharadji, some hon. Members too want to speak on this issue. Tomorrow I will give permission. You can speak on this tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a reported dispute over the simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies. Day before yesterday, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister gave a Press statement that the Parliament elections will be held separately but the view of the Election Commission is that the elections to Parliament and six State Assemblies will be held simultaneously. In the interest of the administrative convenience and cutting down the expenditure, elections to both Parliament and Assemblies should be held together. When we are facing an acute fiscal deficit, it is not at all advisable to waste the money of our nation by holding elections to Parliament and the Assemblies separately.

Sir, in 1991, the Parliament election was held along with six State Assemblies including Tamil Nadu. Why is the Government now de-linking two elections

when we are facing acute financial crunch? It is also not fair on the part of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to make such a statement without the consent of the political parties. He has to consult the political parties before making such a statement. Holding separate elections would also subject the police and the administration to the added strain of making arrangements for the elections twice within a short span of time.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Narayanan, if he has made a statement in the House, I would have held that he is making a statement on the Government's side. Now the Minister has said that elections may or may not be held simultaneously. Why should we attach too much importance to it?

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : I want to know the reaction of the Government.

They want to hold the Parliamentary elections separately. Why is it so? Is there any dispute about this?

MR. SPEAKER : Was that a statement made on behalf of the Government?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : I want an assurance from the Government. What is the proposal of the Government?

MR. SPEAKER : You are right. You are entitled to ask that question.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : Because in the case of Jammu and Kashmir the Government has decided to go to the court against the Election Commission. But I want to know what is the proposal of the Government in this particular case.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I want to raise a very important issue.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak on this issue. It is good that the Election Commission has on its own, expressed the desire to hold simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies. For years whenever we discussed electoral reforms — be it in the Parliamentary Committee or in the Dinesh Goswami Committee attention was always drawn to the fact that till 1967, in all the four General Elections, simultaneous elections were held for Lok Sabha and the Assemblies. One of the reasons for the rising electoral expenses is for not holding the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously after 1967. The national and the political parties have to bear additional financial burden. One of the ways to reduce the cost is to hold simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as far as possible. It is surprising that since the last few days, the

Government spokesmen, including a Minister, have voiced their opinion against holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies during 1996. It is so nice that the Election Commission has given its opinion against this common sense, financial management and concern for expenditure suggests that two general elections should not be thrust on the common man within a period of two-three months. Therefore, it would be better if the position regarding Uttar Pradesh is clarified. In yesterday's discussion regarding Election Commission, Uttar Pradesh was not discussed. It wants the Government to decide and make an announcement and also to remove the uncertainty regarding the Lok Sabha elections. The Election Commission has given two possibilities. First in February and the second in April*(Interruptions)* It has also proposed the dates between 15th April to 30th April.

I remember, the Election Commission had convened an all party meeting. All except the Government's representative had desired that elections should be held in February-March. From the point of view of examinations, academic session of the Schools and the availability of polling officers holding elections before 15th March, is most conducive. From the point of view of weather also it would be conducive. But it would be better if the difference of opinion between the Government and the Election Commission on this is sorted out and the Government fix the dates for election and announce it before the end of this session.

[English]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Sir, I want to raise a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Member was asking whether the Government have decided to hold the elections on a particular date separately or jointly with the elections in the State. Shuklaji, he was saying that your goodself. If had made some statement. Would you like to explain?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, No such decision has been taken so far.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I have not said that they have taken a decision.

MR. SPEAKER : You have very rightly said that they may take a decision and inform the House.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I have said that let this uncertainty end and let the Government made up its mind and announce it to the House.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : We shall do that.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : Will there be elections simultaneously or separately?

MR. SPEAKER : No, Mr. Narayanan, he has very categorically stated about it.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (BUXAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar, the Sone Canal irrigates the largest area. It was constructed by the Britishers. It irrigates 22 lakh hectares of land. The Britishers had then written in the related documents that if this canal was not re-constructed after 100 years, it would not be fit for irrigation. It is over 47 years that the nation attained independence but this canal has not even been repaired till now. Several State Governments came and went....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is the responsibility of the State Government to repair the canal. You can not say here anything you like.

This will not be allowed.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir the matter concerning Sone canal is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : Even if it is very important it is the responsibility of the State Government.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker Sir, many thanks to you. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House that the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed an unanimous resolution for creating the States of Uttarakhand.

But this matter has been lying pending with the Central Government for the last 4 1/2 years and no decision on it has been taken so far.

Hon. Mr. Speaker. Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that since 27th November people are sitting on dharna in front of Jantar-Mantar. Almost every day new faces are joining them in a large number from outside and from the border area. Members of 'Uttaranchal Pradesh Sangharsh Samiti' and other agitating organisations are sitting on dharna and people from Pithoragarh have joined them yesterday and today. Every day people from different parts of the region are joining their peaceful dharna. But you are neither calling them to discuss this matter nor have taken any decision on it. It requested the hon. Minister of Home Affairs time and again not to prevaricate this problem and let not the situation of border area deteriorate further. The proposal of according a separate status to Uttaranchal is lying pending with you for the last 4 1/2 years and no attention is being paid towards it and so far no decision has been taken on it.

MR. SPEAKER : You need not to repeat, what has already been spoken.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two young boys were killed and thrown in water by the police there....(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI (Nainital) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government is not taking any decision on it and situation is deteriorating day-by-day. Police have killed two young boys there which has created resentment among people there....(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, police killed two young boys and threw their corpses in Alaknanda. Police has urged upon an assault on people there like a military attack. Though President's rule has been imposed there but the Governor is your own person and that way your party is ruling there. Please tell me why the guilty officers have not been suspended....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Henceforth his statement will not go on record...

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (South Calcutta) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, We have followed the traditions of democracy. We listen to all the Members of opposition Party whenever any issue is raised by them here. No one supports any other person on the issue of corruption. I listened to the speeches made on to the matter raised here. Now I am going to raise an important issue....(Interruptions)

I am trying to speak in Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not stop her. Hindi language is going to be enriched by her.

[English]

Yes, very good. You speak in Hindi.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Please support me. I am trying to speak in Hindi. The Member from Bihar would indeed help me but why these Members are interrupting me. I am raising an important issue. The property belonging to Hindu religious places is called the Hindu religion property and in the same way Muslim property is called wakf property which is also called Allah's property. Sir, a law was enacted in the Parliament on this subject. I hope and know that all the Members would support me on this issue. It is really very sad and strange that wakf property worth crores of Rupees has been sold out in this country. As per the law it can not be sold.

* Not recorded.

[English]

I am sorry to say this. I can show you the documents here. All the documents are Government documents. 'Allah's property' means it is Khuda's property. But in my State, there is a member of the Committee who says : "I am the Khuda of the Khuda." I am surprised over this. There is a couplet in Urdu:

[Translation]

"Khudi ko kar buland itna ki har
takdir ko likhne se pehle
Khuda bande se khud Poochhe
bata teri raza kya hai."

Sir, the income earned from the property of Allah is spent for supporting the poor and widows. This money is spent on welfare of poor and widow muslim women. But the Tipu Sultan Mosque, which is the biggest mosque, has been sold out for construction of a multi-storey commercial building.

[English]

The Bright Street property, the Louden Street property, the Jhau Tala Street property, the Lower Range property, the Tipu Sultan Mosque, every property has been sold out. This is against the law. So, I demand a CBI inquiry in this matter. I know that the Government has passed the law(Interruptions) Whatever I am saying, I am saying with full responsibility.

I think that the poor people should get justice and this House should accept my demand for a C.B.I. enquiry in this matter so that the Wakf property should not go for a particular person. Sir, I am sorry to say this here. You please see this bill. I am showing you about one deal. I do not want to mention the name.

MR. SPEAKER : No you should not display it like that.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Sir, I do not want to mention the name.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you should not.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Sir, I respect the Chair. I am not naming anybody. But I will show it to you confidentially(Interruptions)*

I respect the chair. I said I am not naming anybody(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, it is not correct. It should be expunged.

MR. SPEAKER : I will remove it from the record.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE* : I said he is a Member of the Marxist Party(Interruptions) He is the State Committee Member of the CPM party. What I want to say is that so many properties have been

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

sold out. It cannot be according to law. The Welfare Ministry should see to it that all over the country whatever that is going on should be checked and Government should stop it immediately.(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, there should be a limit. If something has been done against the law steps should be taken according to law. Such allegations should not be made on the floor of the House....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Sir, this property should be restored for the development purposes. This is my demand(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Uma Bharti to speak now.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Khajuraha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,....(Interruptions)

The Statue of Mahatma Gandhi has been installed....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, it should be removed from the record.

MR. SPEAKER : I will remove it from the record.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : I said he is a Member of the Marxist party(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through it and that which cannot go on record will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Sir, I said he is a Committee Member of the Communist Party*

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, without taking any responsibility such baseless allegations should not be made here.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : I am speaking with authority and I can challenge it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The record will be put correctly.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : If you want I can lay it on the table of the House(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM (Kathihar) : Sir, if the... has done anything illegally and the Wakf property has been transferred illegally, whoever may be the person, be it the it should be done according to law.

MR. SPEAKER : You raise it in the

(Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : Sir, there is a law for transferring Wakf property. If the law has been violated action should be taken whoever may be involved.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, why about Wakf property alone? Everything should be done according to law. But there are methods of getting redress....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : For Wakf property there are certain rules. Nobody can transfer the Wakf property without following the rules. If somebody has done it, it should not have happened and action should be taken.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole country regards Mahatma Gandhiji in high esteem and we have installed with reverence his statue in front of the Parliament House. He used to say that in free India cow should not be slaughtered and I would not like such freedom wherein slaughtering of cows would be continuing in this country.

Though the Directive Principles of the Constitution of India prohibit Cow slaughtering. Yet so many years after the Independence new slaughtering houses are being set up in the country. In this country around 50 lakh cattle are slaughtered every year(Interruptions) why are you so perplexed when you are not slaughtering the cows. Your nervousness reveals that you all are involved in cow slaughtering(Interruptions) At present there are facilities for slaughtering 50 lakh cattle and 80 percent of it is constituted of the cow and cow progeny.

There is a Al-kabir slaughter house near Hyderabad where all the rules are being flouted. Management of this slaughter House always claims that Cows are not slaughtered there. But cows, young calves and fillies are slaughtered there. Those are kept hungry for two days, then boiled water is poured on them and they are killed so mercilessly. It is contrary to our belief, culture and tradition of the country and sentiments of people. At present the position of livestock is not very good. In proportion to the population, the number of cattle is declining there. Therefore, through you, I request that Al-kabir slaughter house should be closed down and Cow slaughtering should be banned in this country. Agriculture is the backbone of agriculture economy.

Therefore, cow slaughtering should be banned and, Al-kabir slaughtering house should be closed down. I request the Government that(Interruptions) We will get the Dera Vassivala also closed down.(Interruptions) The Government of our party have passed a resolution in Uttar Pradesh to ban cow-slaughtering. It is also being banned in Madhya Pradesh....(Interruptions)

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : When it was stopped in U.P.

SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the beginning of Winter Session, I was willing to raise an important issue but did get a chance to do so due to various reasons. I am happy today that you are allowing me to speak.

On 17th November, there was a conference of workers of my party. My husband, former legislator and President of the party Shri Anand Mohan, Legislator Shri Vijay Mandal and other prominent leaders of the party were going for taking part in this programme. An S.P. from Jamshedpur asked us to stop our cars and started a search where upon we told him that car and security belonged to us but even then PSO was detained for hours. When our vehicles had covered a distance of 3-4 Kilometer, only then we came to know that our Security had been stopped for conducting an inquiry. Nothing was found in the car.

Sir, I would like to say that it is a sensitive issue and should be taken up seriously....(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record. But I will say that you follow the same rules against others also.

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND : They tried to frighten our workers so that they might leave us ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You remember that at an appropriate time. It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Ours is a different issue....(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to refute this charge.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after the lady Member.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue. The border state of our country.

[English]

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Sir, this is a baseless charge which been fabricated against the State

* Expunged on ordered by the Chair.

** Not recorded.

Government and the Chief Minister. Once it is going on record, let me just speak on that point and let me clarify it*.

Sir, I must remind you that it is the responsibility of the Chief Minister to maintain law and order in the State when we go, we are also searched by the Police Department. Everybody is searched by the security personnel in the interest of security. This is not a lapse on the part of the State Government and the Chief Minister cannot be held responsible for this. These people are creating chaos and confusion in the entire State. Their party should be banned(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this should be investigated. In Bihar, the manner in which... (Interruptions)

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : What is happening in Bihar is becoming evident.

MR. SPEAKER : You are repeating the same remarks that I had ordered to be expunged.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue. It has become clearly evident that the intelligence agency of Pakistan has once again launched a proxy war in the strategically sensitive states of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat in order to reinforce terrorism. This way, Pakistan wants to inject into this side of the border the Indian citizens who so far had been languishing in Pakistani jails and have become lunatics or beggar. The fact that nine new terrorist training camps have been set up along Punjab border has also come to the fore.

I urge upon the Government to take notice of such a grave situation, contemplate over to and expeditiously take stringent measures to check the infiltration of terrorists and spread of terrorism in our border states.. (Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. The hon. Minister, Chidambaram Sahib is present here. I wished that the Government made a suo moto statement on it before the issue was raised here. The point is that the selection of a seven member body of the World Trade Organisation was made. Its main function is.

[English]

To arbitrate on international trade disputes.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

** Not Recorded.

[Translation]

The most shameful part of it is that this selection has been intrigued and I want to draw the attention of the House towards the defeat of the Indian representative there. I would like to read out the statement of the Indian Ambassador to GATT,

Shri S. Narayanan here :-

[English]

"It shall for every remain a mystery for me as to why a selection committee consisting of six individuals and known for their integrity, ability and long rich experience in the multilateral decision-making should have allowed its resolve about the selection process to be weakened".

[Translation]

He states further that a conspiracy was hatched to ensure the defeat of Jutshiji who was an Ambassador before his being nominated to GATT. It was said that he was too independent. It was because of selection intrigues that India and Jutshiji met a debacle. The GATT Ambassador, Narayanan ji confirms that there were intrigues. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government and Shri Chidambaram in particular as to what were the reasons behind the defeat of the Indian Ambassador in the appellate body?

[English]

He should take the House into confidence.

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN (Tiruchendur): Sir, on 31.11.1995 the police ransacked a village of Scheduled Castes — Kodyankulam in Chidambaram.

District and caused untold miseries to the inhabitants. The district administration deliberately indulged in the harassment and failed to curb the communal violence in nearby villages also. Thousands of policemen were deployed in the village on that day and all the people were ruthlessly beaten up. All the 365 houses were looted by the police and the households were damaged. The police damaged the TV, VCR, fan and other electronic items, steel bureau, etc. They damaged all utensils and even aluminium tumblers. Neither a single house left by the police nor a single item left undamaged. Even the ration shop was broken and the police poured kerosine in rationed rice and pamoline.

The police high handedness is clearly shown as they caused poison to the well water. The police damaged two lorries, and two tractors halted in the village and broke the diesel tank got the diesel from the lorries and tractors and poured it into the drinking water well. They opened fertilizer shop and threw

the urea and pesticides into the well. They deliberately made the drinking water poisonous. They have looted jewellery and cash to the tune of several lakhs. The attack was deliberate, wanton, inhuman and brutal. A big conspiracy was hatched out for the inhuman and brutal attack on the innocent Dalits...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on?

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN : Now, for the last 40 days the violence continued in the Southern District, which claimed the lives of more than 40 people. A couple of days ago, the killing score rose by 12. Just like in the cricket match, the killing score is increasing hour by hour...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunneveli) : Sir we must be allowed to reply to this.

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN : So, I urge upon the Home Minister to visit the place and console the people and direct the State Government to give necessary protection to the Scheduled Caste people. I request the Government to order for a CBI inquiry with regard to this Kodyankulam attack on the Dalit people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : This was brought to the notice of the Chief Minister. She has sacked those police people who were responsible for this.

MR. SPEAKER : I am really surprised to see that you are defending the Ministers in other States, but not the Ministers who are here.

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN : Due compensation should be given to those people who have lost their household. A new well should be dug for use by the Dalit people at Kodyankulam ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : Sir, he is saying which we do not like.

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN : The erring police officials should be punished.

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? Please conclude it now.

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN : The National Scheduled Caste Commission should visit this place, make an elaborate study and give its report to the Home Minister.

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, I want to share with this hon. House that we deeply regret what has happened. We are equally concerned about the caste conflict that took place between two particular communities. On hearing about these clashes — he is relating his data to 30.11.1995; it is not 30.11.1995; that itself is a false statement — our Chief Minister ordered a team of Ministers and

important officials to visit Kodyankulam, Alanda and Vallanadu villages, which are falling in my constituency. He is further exaggerating what has happened. On getting the report from the Ministers and the officials, an immediate ex-gratia payment of Rs. 40,000 plus Rs. 10,000 was given to the deceased person and to those families who have lost their members. In the first stage of compensation, a total amount of Rs. 17.40 lakhs was given. An Inquiry Commission headed by a retired Judge, Shri Bhupathi Nayagam, was appointed and it was ordered to look into this incident.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point, you may please sit down now.

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir the construction is going on there, but the T.V., and the media people are showing this.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. Chidambaram to make the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : It is a very serious matter and I would urge upon you to depute a Parliamentary Committee to fully inquire into this incident. It is a serious matter, beyond imagination. The whole village was set afire ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have given one hour to this unlisted business. The listed business could not go on record; the unlisted business has gone on for one hour. Now, for God's sake, please sit down and let the Minister make the statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (Satna) : Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to bring to your notice the fact that I had made a submission yesterday while raising this matter... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : My turn is not coming so far...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only Mr. Arjun Singh's statement will go on record.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Sir, I had made a humble submission to you while raising the matter yesterday in Zero Hour that it would be appropriate and fitting if the hon. Prime Minister is requested to come and make a statement in this regard. I have got a paper circulated from the Secretariat telling us that Shri Chidambaram is going to make the statement.

13.00 hrs.

He has been asked to make the statement. I have the highest respect for Shri Chidambaram and I would not object to any kind of a statement being made by him. But, on this occasion, I have to say in all humility that our request for the Prime Minister to make the statement has a certain basis. It is not out of any sense of an effort to inconvenience him or to embarrass him. But this is a point on which, I think, I have already addressed a letter to you. Sir, and I have sent a fully authenticated and attested affidavit that has been filed by the Home Ministry before the Jain Commission. That affidavit clearly says and with your permission I am reading from it. The affidavit by a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs says that on 27th July 1991 this file, the file which dealt with the creation of the Verma Commission inquiry...

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arjun Singh Ji, I have received the statement. I have gone through the statement which is supposed to be made on behalf of the Government and I do not think what you stated yesterday is rebutted. On the contrary, it is accepted.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : That is precisely the point. I am very glad that you have given me pre-knowledge of that. I had no pre-knowledge of that.

MR. SPEAKER : But you will get to know when he make the statement.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : That is why I want my submission to be heard by you.

MR. SPEAKER : I am saying that it is not necessary for you to read the affidavit when it is accepted that that kind of an affidavit has been given.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : All right, Sir, that saves the time of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : That is the proper procedure also.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : All right, Sir. The point is that now that it has been accepted, it means that the submission that I made yesterday was based factually on facts. Now, if such an important matter is raised, if the facts are accepted where the Offices of the Prime Minister himself is involved, that is, his Private Secretary - it is not the PMO in General - I think unless the hon. Prime Minister treats this matter with real trivial impotence, with total insignificance which does not deserve his attention, well, after that I can hardly say anything. But if it is not so, it would be entirely in the fitness of things that at least on this matter, he should attend to this. Other things can be attended to by Shri Chidambaram. But this cannot be attended to or rebutted or explained away by any one except the Prime Minister himself. That is why I have made this request. I would again humbly urge you that you should impress upon the hon. Prime

Minister that this House has a right to hear him and he has a right to speak in this House. And I think, on this matter, the country's anxiety would be laid to rest only when he comes and address the House.

So far as the other matters are concerned, I would like to say that the other matters, which Shri Chidambaram will reply to, will be covered. I am hoping that his statement will cover everything, not as the last statement which left everything unsaid. I reserve my right as a humble hon. Member of this House to make a request to you for a fuller discussion on this issue on the basis of the statement that will be made by Shri Chidambaram. But first and foremost, the first point must be considered by you and your directions are solicited.

MR. SPEAKER : Arjun Singh Ji, I understand your anxiety for seeing that the culprits are booked. Everybody knows in the House what we feel about this issue including the person who is sitting in the Chair. But as far as the statement to be made by a particular Minister or a particular member is concerned, you shall have to show me as to how I can compel anybody to do it. Now you have said whatever you had to say And the inferences will be drawn from your statement. But I should have an authority. Supposing I direct anybody to do something and I am asked, under what provision you are doing it, what do I say. So, you please help me with that. I will do it.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Sir, I must confess, of course, in humility that I do not possess either the capacity, the power or anything to assist the hon. Speaker of this House. And I must say, in all humility again that if in your discretion you choose not to direct, well I have no complaint on that account.

MR. SPEAKER : Even an innocent statement like this, that in your discretion you do not do it, has implications. And I do not always say all those things but then it has implications. Now why should I hurt your feelings and you should hurt my feelings.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : I am very sorry if I have hurt your feelings. That is the last thing I would like to do. Why should I hurt your feelings ? You have been so correct and so appropriate in everything and when you guide us...

MR. SPEAKER : Arjun Singhji, as far as discussions and other things are concerned, well, you have a point. Everybody is interested in seeing that something has to be done. But supposing somebody asks me, under what provision of law you are doing it, and even if I have to use my discretion, is it justified and all those things ? I should be in a position because you are very rightly pressing it. When you are rightly pressing it, the other sides also can press. And supposing I have to take a decision, I should be taking a decision, a correct decision.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Sir, I will not try to prolong whatever is happening. I would like to say very clearly that you are not in the picture, if you have heard what I had to say yesterday and you have also heard what I had to say today. But I would like to say that against the total lack of concern of the hon. Prime Minister which is evident from the very fact that he is refusing to come and answer this, in protest, we stage a walk out on this matter. This is against the Prime Minister.

13.07 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Arjun Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.

13.07¼ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[English]

STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE DESIGNATED COURT. POONAMALLEE AND BEFORE THE JUSTICE JAIN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : In my intervention in this Hon'ble House on 25th August 1995, I had shared with this House information on the stage of the proceedings before the Designated Court I, Poonamallee. I had stated that in the trial before the designated Court-I, 183 Witnesses had been examined until that date. Since then, more witnesses have been examined and, as on 6th December 1995, 242 witnesses have been examined. Besides, 1087 exhibits and 759 material objects have been marked in the trial. The next date of hearing is 18th December 1995.

Concern has been expressed about the pace of the trial before the Designated Court. When the subject was assigned to me in May 1995, the prosecution had examined 134 witnesses in 182 court hearing days. That worked out to an average of 0.73 witnessess per day. Since then, we have had another 86 hearing days and the prosecution has examined an additional 108 witnesses. That works out to an average of 1.25 witnessesses per day. In my last intervention I said and I quote "I have laid down a very tight time table for the conclusion of the evidence on behalf of the prosecution... I am confident, God willing, the evidence will be completed by December." I have been assured by the SIT/CBI that they are doing everything possible, within the constraints of law, to complete the evidence on behalf of the prosecution according to the time table.

In the proceedings before the Justice Jain Commission of Inquiry, 103 sittings have been held

so far. The Commission follows the procedure laid down in the regulations made by the commission have been produced by the various authorities and agencies of the Government. In some cases, however, Government have claimed privilege while at the same time making it absolutely clear that Government have no objection to the Commission perusing and examining the documents.

The Commission required the SIT/CBI to produce before the Commission the Investigation Records and Case Diaries pertaining to the criminal case now being tried by the Designated Court-I and for this purpose directed the SIT/CBI to move an application before the Designated Court-I. The Designated Court, by its order dated 27th July 1995 made under the TADA Act 1987 declined to grant permission to produce the Investigation Records and Case Diaries before the Commission. This order has been placed before the Commission.

Hon'ble Members are aware that the Justice Verma Commission of Inquiry was appointed by the Government on 27th May 1991. the terms of reference of the Justice Verma Commission are reproduced in the Report to the Commission at pages (xiii) and (xiv). The Jain Commission required the Government to produce the file relating to the terms of reference of the Justice Verma Commission. According to the records of the Government, this file was sent, on the instructions of the Home Minister, on 27th July 1991 to the then Private Secretary to Prime Minister. The file was not returned to the Ministry of Home Affairs. When the commission sought production of the file, the file could not be traced in the PMO. A special team of officers was constituted to search for the file. The team, with the assistance of other officers and staff, conducted a thorough search in all the offices connected with the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister's residence and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Law Ministry also conducted a search. However, despite the best efforts the file could not be traced. However, based on papers made available by the Law Ministry and copies available in other files in the Ministry of Home Affairs, the material portions of the file were reconstructed and the reconstructed file was submitted to the Commission. An affidavit sworn to by Shri Shashi Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, was also filed before the Commission on 5th October 1995, explaining the circumstances in which the original file could not be produced.

It is Government's intention to ensure that the trial before the Designated Court-I proceeds without let or hindrance. It is also Government's intention to extend full assistance to the Justice Jain Commission of Inquiry and enable the Commission to conclude the inquiry and submit its report.

13.09 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]***Annual Report and Review by the Government on the working of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd, New Delhi for 1994-95**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri, I bet to lay on the Table -

- (1) A Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8392/95]

Annual Report and Review by the Government on the Working of Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi for 1994-95.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri, I bet to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8393/95]

Memorandum of Understanding between Engineers India Ltd, Bongaigaon Refinery Ltd, and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between Engineers India Limited and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8394/95]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between Engineers India Ltd., Bongaigaon Refinery Petrochemicals Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8395/95]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Refineries Limited and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8396/95]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Refineries Limited and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8397/95]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Lubrizol India Limited and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8398/95]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8399/95]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the IBP Company Limited and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8400/95]

- (viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8401/95]

- (ix) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8402/95]

- (x) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8403/95]

- (2) 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 Oil Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report for the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8404/95]

Memorandum of Understanding between Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and Deptt. of Telecommunications for 1995-96.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : On behalf of Shri Sukh Ram I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8405/95]

[Translation]

Review by the Government on the working of and Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Plantations Ltd., Punalur for 1994-95.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI) : 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 Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8406/95]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited, Madras, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development

Bank Limited, Madras, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8407/95]

Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Rules, 1995

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Rules, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.352 in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 1995, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968, together with a corrigendum thereto in Hindi version published in Notification No.G.S.R.420 dated the 16th September, 1995.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8408/95]

13.14 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Twenty-Third Report

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : I beg to present the Twenty-Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

13.14½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Twenty-Third Report

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : I beg to present the Twenty-Third Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 18th report of the Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers for 1995-96."

13.15 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you make a statement.

13.15¼ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Flooding of Gaslitand Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Dhanbad

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Due to unprecedented heavy rains of the order of over 300 mm from the afternoon of 26th September, 1995 to around midnight (against maximum of 126 mm recorded in a single day in last 10 years), the water level of Katri River in Dhanbad District overflowed the three emnkments which had been constructed for protection of Gaslitand underground mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). Due to sudden and large inrush of water the underground mine got flooded in a very short time thereby trapping 64 workers inside the mine. As the rains were very heavy and unprecedented the life in entire Jharia-Dhanbad area had got dislocated due to floods and breaches had occurred at many places. A number of other mines of BCCL were also flooded claiming 77 lives in four mines including 64 of those who got trapped inside the Gaslitand mine.

To render all help, senior officials of BCCL Coal India Limited (CIL) and other subsidiaries of CIL and Directorate General of Mine Safety (DGMS) reached the site as fast as possible depending on the distances involved. All material help was also made available. BCCL mobilised men and materials immediately for starting pumping out of water. District administration also rendered necessary help in maintaining law and order in and around the mine area.

On 28.9.1995 (forenoon) I alongwith the Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited the site and saw the river had breached its banks and heavy inflow of water was rushing into the mine. After meeting the bereaved families, local leaders, trade union leaders etc. I declared additional ex-gratia payment of Rs.75,000 to the next of Kin of the deceased. Besides, one job per family of the unfortunate workers who lost their lives has also been offered. The coal company has taken the necessary relief and rehabilitation measures for the families of the victims.

When the mine got flooded, the water level in No. 6 pit of Gaslitand mine had risen to 185 mtrs (RL). The level of water in this pit has come down to 89.82 meters (RL) as on 17th November, 1995.

Pumping operations at Gaslitand had commenced on 28th September, 1995. Since high head country, Coal India Limited (CIL) had immediately approached other countries for locating ready availability of such pumps. In all 20 high head pumps, 12 from Ukraine and 8 from China have already arrived at the iste. Thirteen of these pumps have since been installed and commissioned. Presently water is being pumped out of the mines at the rate of about 36 million gallons per day. With the commissioning of all the imported pumps, daily pumping, rate would increase to about 50 million gallons and would help in speedier dewatering of the mine.

Under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952, the Ministry of Labour have constituted a Court of Inquiry headed by Justice S.K. Mukerji, Retd. Judge of the Patna High Court, assisted by two assessors, one from technical side and the other from trade union side to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending the accidents involving 77 human lives in the four collieries of BCCL namely, Gaslitand, Bera, Chhotuldih and South Govindpur.

On the Basis of preliminary inquiry conducted immediately after the accident by the Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of CIL, four officials and four workmen of Gaslitand colliery have been placed under suspensions.

While placing these facts before the House, I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that appropriate action would be taken against all those held responsible for this accident by the court of inquiry...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, this incident took place on 26th September. Till date, not a single dead body has been received from the mines. The safety rule have been blatantly violated in the coal mines...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri V.C. Shukla may move the motion at item No.11.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You cannot do that. You cannot get any clarification when a statement has been made by a Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Not a single dead body has ben recovered. You please allow us to have some clarification. I personally visited that particular mine. I have seen how the safety rules are violated there...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, the hon. Minister has made a statemnt. There is no scope for seeking clarifications particularly in our house.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, there are precedents in this House also when we were allowed to seek clarifications in the past...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, the Government is going to see that recovery processes go on.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, there is no scope.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You please allow a discussion on this. It is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can use some other form for discussing this subject. But now you are not permitted now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, not a single body has been recovered till now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, if you are not satisfied there are some other provisions in the rules which you can make use of. Please bring it in a different form. There is a relevant provision.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I want some clarifications. You please allow us. It is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, it is not allowed here.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Seventy-four miners have died.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is true. But there is no provision to seek clarification when the Minister makes a statement, particularly in this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are a very experienced Parliamentarian. You can make use of some other form.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, in the past we were allowed to ask for clarifications from the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are some provisions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has made a statement today...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, you know pretty well that whenever the Minister makes a statement...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, I know the rules. There were precedents also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You not only know the rules, but you have digested them also.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us not unnecessarily violate it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, you should allow us to seek some clarifications from the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have made the rules.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : But there are precedents. On certain issues you allowed us to seek some clarifications.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Naik

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious and

important matter. A query can be made over the statement. The statement says that the people who were trapped...*(Interruptions)* What is the Safety department meant for?....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is true.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : It can't be allowed like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Why can't it be allowed?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : It can't be allowed like this. Whatever the Member has spoken should be removed from the record. He has spoken without your permission...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why can't it be allowed? There are rules. There are precedents ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would like to bring to your notice Rule 372. According to this rule :

"A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made".

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, condolence meetings are held in the event of the death of a dignitary but nothing of the sort taken place when an ordinary worker dies...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you kindly hear me?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : It is the negligence of the Ministry and the Coal India ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is you who have made the Rules. It is you who have to review the Rules. If you feel that the Rules are hurting you, there is scope for you to amend the Rules and come to this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Ram Naik

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is stated in the fourth paragraph of the BAC report. The proposal that has been mooted....

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No point of order. It will not go on record. No point of order. This subject is closed. This subject is over. We are proceeding to the next subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I will quote from Kaul & Shakdhar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You will have to allow me to quote...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you are a senior Parliamentarian, you should not do like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I want to quote from Kaul & shakdhar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My request to you is this. You are a senior Parliamentarian.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : That is why I am raising it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why, I am very strict about it. I do not like you violate the rules.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Then you allow a discussion on the statement made by the Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My request is this. If you are not satisfied with the statement which the hon. Minister has made, if you are really aggrieved and if you feel that some more truth shall have to come out, then there is a specific provision. You can make use of the procedure which is there under the Rules. Moreover, today is not the last day of this Session, you have sufficient time and you can bring this up in some form or other on the floor of this House. Nothing prevents you from doing that. Today is not the last day and I can understand it if today is the last day of the Session...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, at least you can allow him to air his views...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. Recommendation is not necessary. He himself is very capable of doing that. You can make use of other rules and bring it before the House in some form or another.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, then I will give a notice and you will have to allow a discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Okay.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : A clarification can be sought on the statement made by the hon. Minister. This has happened earlier also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever is applicable to Shri Acharia is applicable to you also.

13.27 hrs.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MOTION RE : FIFTY-SIXTH REPORT**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 6th December, 1995."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 6th December, 1995."

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : It is stated in the fourth paragraph of the BAC proposal that the lunch hour would be discarded and the working of the House extended upto 19.00 hours. I would like to move a small amendment to it that after 19.00 hours the words-"barring Friday" - be added. You are aware that Friday is the day of Private Members Business and during 18.00 hours to 19.00 hours, the Members also do not remain here. Yesterday, we co-operated with the Government and there were not even 10-12 Members present in the House, yet no question of Quorum was raised. We said we could do so in a special case but we cannot do so everyday. So, please admit this amendment for Friday.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Naik, an amendment is not necessary. If the Chair agrees, then we will have it on Fridays.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, I have a submission to make on this. In case the hon. Member wants to make any amendment on this, I would request him to bring it up in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee where all the aspects of the question will be considered and discussed. I have no objection to what he is saying. Now, I am only suggesting a procedure; and the procedure is that we will take it to the next meeting of the Business Advisory Committee which will be meeting on Tuesday and then we will make this amendment.

SHRI RAM NAIK : What about tomorrow?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : We can adjourn at 6 o'clock tomorrow, I do not mind.

SHRI RAM NAIK : If we adjourn at 6 o'clock tomorrow then there is no objection.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : We can adjourn at 6 o'clock tomorrow. Regarding the other matter, that is, about the other two Fridays that are there, we can consider in the Business Advisory Committee and whatever is to be decided, it will be decided.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Okay, thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Naik, decisions of this type are taken in the Business Advisory Committee where every political party is represented.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I know that. Then, we will raise the issue of quorum because that decision cannot be taken in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. We are cooperating with them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is true.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I know and that is why I am saying this.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, I have agreed that we will adjourn at 6 o'clock tomorrow. About other Fridays, we can consider it later on.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Okay. Thank you, I accept that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 6th December, 1995."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, today if the hon. Members agree, instead of taking up matters under rule 377 now, we can take up the discussion on the economic situation if it is agreed. It is my suggestion.

We should have enough time to discuss the economic situation which is an important matter.

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : This has already been circulated to us. This may be allowed. It will take only five minutes.

13.30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need for proper maintenance of Kanyakumari-Trivandrum national Highway No. 47 particularly Tamilnadu part of it**

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, the Kanyakumari-

Trivandrum National Highway-47 connecting the national terminal with the State capital, Trivandrum, is one of the busiest roads in the country with heavy passenger and vehicular traffic. Once the prestigious, longest and cemented road in the country has now been neglected and is without maintenance. It is not in traffic worthy condition. The part of the road in Tamil Nadu is in a very bad condition for a long time. The rain, which is frequent and heavy there, has caused heavy damage to the road. There are potholes and cracks. Due to poor maintenance of the road, vehicles have to spend a lot of time to cover even a short distance and there are accidents.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take immediate steps for its maintenance at the earliest without further delay.

- (ii) **Need to look into exorbitant charges being levied on passengers at Calicut Airport, Kerala**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (Connanore) : Sir, within a short span of three to four years since its inception, the Calicut Airport in Kerala has become one of the most rewarding and prestigious airports in India. Besides domestic services, flights are being operated to Gulf countries like Dubai Abu Dhabi Fujirah, Muscat, Sharjah. Thousands of Keralites working in these Gulf countries and their families utilise this airport to reach their destinations. Of late, however, passenger traffic from Calicut Airport is dwindling due to enormous charges being imposed on the passengers at this airport.

Since Air India and Indian Airlines have got a monopoly on the international flights from Calicut — they are operating 22 flights weekly they impose enormous charges on them. The charges from the Gulf to Calicut. Which is much closer than from the Gulf to Trivandrum, is around Rs. 5,000 higher. Such exorbitant charges are not being levied at any other airport including Dubai, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

In addition to this, another levy not found in other airports and which is termed at Calicut Airport as "users' charges" is also being charged at the rate of Rs.500 per head. The charge thus levied is over and above the regular airport tax of Rs. 300 per passenger. The worst affected by this levy are the poor passengers who earn their livelihood by the sweat of their brow.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism to immediately intervene in the matter and put an end to the difficulties faced by the passengers at Calicut Airport.

- (iii) **Need for prevention of cruelty to animals**

[Translation]

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an issue of public interest. The feeling of those people who believe in non-violence

should be respected in the country. It is necessary to take steps for prevention of cruelty to animals. The slaughtering of innocent animals in slaughter houses is against the human values. The policy of exporting meat is also not good.

Therefore, the Government is requested to take immediate steps to prevent cruelty to animals.

(iv) Need to connect Bulandshahar by direct rail service with Lucknow and Delhi

DR. CHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Parliament towards an important problem of my Constituency. My Parliamentary Constituency, Bulandshahar is a backward area in the absence of adequate rail services. Public is facing great difficulties due to lack of rail service. This one is neither connected to Delhi, the Capital of India nor to Lucknow, the capital of the State by a direct rail service. The public of this area has been demanding proper rail service since long but so far no action has been taken by the Government in this regard. Therefore, the Minister of Railway is requested that keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the people of this area direct rail services between Bulandshahar and Delhi via Khurja and Hapur and between Bulandshahar and Lucknow should be provided forthwith so that Bulandshahar to Delhi via Khurja and Hapur and a direct train should be introduced from Bulandshahar to Lucknow which is the Capital of the State, so, that the people of this area could be benefited and railway department could make income.

(v) Need for early setting up of industrial growth centre in Bihar

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the development of industries in the country a decision of setting up industrial growth centres in industrially backward States of the country was taken up in 1988. Bihar is an industrially backward State. A decision was taken up to set up six industrial growth centres there but so far no effective steps have been taken up in this regard.

Therefore, I urge upon Union Government to take effective steps for setting up the above mentioned six industrial growth centres keeping in view the industrial backwardness of Bihar.

(vi) Need to take suitable steps to check recurrence of floods in coastal district Jajpur, Orissa

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jajpur) : Sir, Jajpur district of Orissa is a coastal district where natural

calamities like cyclone, flood and drought occur every year. Hence, the economic condition of the people are deteriorating day by day. During the last three years this is happening on large scale. The State Government is not capable of tackling such types of frequent natural calamities.

The other adjoining districts of Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak and Balasore suffer from the fury of floods, drought, cyclone, etc. 80 per cent of the people here depend upon agriculture and their crops are damaged frequently. Hence, I request the Central Government to provide more funds so as to enable State Government to take suitable steps on a massive scale to check flood and provide better irrigation facilities to the area.

(vii) Need to release more funds to the State Government of Haryana for providing speedy relief to the people affected by floods in the State

[Translation]

SHRI JANGBIR SINGH (Bhiwani) : The unprecedented floods in Haryana, particularly in my Parliamentary constituency Bhiwani and Rohtak have created havoc and proved devastating in five Legislative Assembly constituencies falling in my Parliamentary constituency. Roads and drains have totally washed away and tubewells are not working. The flood water has damaged all the household goods. Kharif crops have been totally damaged and farmers are facing great difficulties in sowing Rabi crops. I am grateful for releasing 600 crores of rupees for flood relief by the Prime Minister. The entire Haryana is grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for this act of kindness.

I would like to make my humble submission that this amount is not adequate for revamping Haryana. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to release additional funds of Rs. 400 crore for speedy development.

(viii) Need to reopen Ashok Paper Mill at Darbhanga, Bihar

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : My constituency Darbhanga is a quite backward area. There was only one paper Mill namely Ashok Paper Mill in this area which is lying closed for several years. Earlier the Government had informed me that it would be brought under BIFR but no concrete action had been taken in this direction so far.

I request the Union Government to take concrete steps to reopen the Ashok Paper Mill, Darbhanga so that this backward area could make progress.

13.39 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Economic situation in the Country

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall now take up item No. 13 which is discussion under Rule 193 on the economic situation in the country. The time allotted to this subject is two hours. Shri Jaswant Singh may initiate the discussion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, as I rise to initiate this discussion on the economic situation, I cannot help being filled with certain sense of despondency particularly as I look around and see row upon row of empty benches and this to during a discussion of prime importance to our country today.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE) : That is the fate of any serious discussion that we have in this House.

AN HON. MEMBER : You pleased look behind also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have looked behind also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : First he looked behind and then he made the remark.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : My observation is not uni-directional. I could not help reflecting on it. We really yanked this discussion out of the teeth of a reluctant Government because we felt we needed to address ourselves to this question.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : You address the people of India through the televisions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is really the House that I wish to share my view with and not the television cameras. However, be that as it may, that is our fate and that is what we have been brought to bear with. Anyway, I hope very much now that we have just heard about some missing files and we have earlier had an instance of missing lawyers, in that Solanki episode - and I can therefore at least ask the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that, it is my hope, that at least the file on economic policy is not missing.

Sir, I think, this discussion is very timely. It is timely simply because the term of this Parliament is now about to end and it is time that we took stock of what this Government has done, or not done, or what our complaints and grievances are. This discussion is taking place in this controversy surrounding the missing mid-term appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Government, of course, and predictably has not come forward with that

document, though copies of that document, portions of that document are freely available. But that again is to be expected of this Government because everything that is even unnecessary is placed by this Government in the labyrinth of its incapacity and thereafter we are left to search in the dark and try and establish where exactly does the Government stand or, for that matter, sit.

Sir, the Ruling Party's manifesto, when it came to Office in 1991, amongst other things, had made very many bold assertions. A Principal one which continues to haunt them now was that promise about rolling back the prices to the 1989 level, within the first 100 days of its coming into governance. I do wish to remind you of this promise and I remind you of this promise more particularly in the light of the fact that the hon. the Minister for External Affairs and the *de facto* and *de jure* Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission is here. I want to go back and make a personal request to him that if the missing mid-term appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan would have been here and if Pranab babu had found it fit to share his views with the rest of the House, then it would have been so much more helpful for this discussion. We know and the whole country now knows that he has some significant differences of opinion with the Ministry of Finance - indeed the total management of the economy - it would have helped this debate immensely if we had had this document now.

Sir, however, as I was saying that one of the claims about rolling back prices is now hunting this Government. We would not have worried over much if their promises haunt the treasury benches but the unfortunate part of this particular promise is that whereas it troubles them, it doubly troubles us because we have to pay the price actually, physically and literally the prices for their incapacity. What they said was that they would roll back the prices within 100 days to the level of 1989, but towards the end of 1995, now, in fact, at places, for certain items the prices have gone up by as much as 200 to 300 per cent of what the prices were even in 1991, leave alone 1989.

The hon. the Finance Minister had made a statement on prices. If I start with prices, it is only with that point in mind. It is not entirely surprising, Sir, to say this about hon. the Finance Minister, whom otherwise I hold in very high regard, who is a man of great professional integrity, personal integrity and competence. Whenever I have had an occasion to say so I have repeated this. But I was disappointed that His statement on prices. It was really more a part of electioneering as if he was beginning to electioneer for a political party to which he is a new entrant. That was a disappointment. It is because, what we had expected about prices from the Union Finance Minister, given his great capabilities - was really an appraisal, a professional, clinical appraisal,

as objective as is possible under the circumstances, to tell us this is what is worrisome on the price front these are the segments of price rise that are worrying him. This lack of control in this particular segment is an aspect of the management of economy in which we need to do more. He reduced the entire statement to simply a platform for electioneering. This disappoints me but then, it persuaded me to appeal to the Government that now that they have chosen to start electioneering why they do not announce the elections dates too. Why do they not say, all right, in February or in March, they are going to hold the elections and end this wretched uncertainty so that all of us thereafter know what we are doing, including yourselves?

Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his first Budget, amongst other things had also promised a lower fiscal deficit. He had, of course, repeated his assertion about arresting inflation. He had also said that the benefits of the Economic Reform programme and the miscalled or somewhat ambitiously called the New Economic Policy will percolate to everyone, the common man, etc., and that he will manage the balance of payments and the foreign exchange reserves. There was also an implicit, though not an explicit statement, that all his would be possible. This reform of the economy, the new economics policy, etc., would be possible only if simultaneously our systems too were reformed. This will, therefore, broadly become the criteria against which we judge the performance of this Government. Really this is the penultimate year of their occupation of Chairs and Offices. In 1995, to my mind, this is what the situation was subject to correction by the hon. the Finance Minister. I regret, Mr. Finance Minister, Sir, that I had to start this in your absence. But I only started by saying you very high personal tributes and then also by making some observations on some of the promises that you had made.

Sir, in 1995, employment generation is an area of worry. It has not matched the Government's assertions, Employment generation, both in the manufacturing sector as also in the agricultural sector is an aspect along with prices, which I have already covered and I do not want to repeat, are the areas of worry. I would, therefore, without labouring this point, wish to establish that when the hon. Finance Minister chooses to reply he must reply to these points. What we are interested in, Sir, is the real effect on employment not statistically as your Ministry asserts. Because on many occasions I have said without meaning any disrespect to you, Sir, that I quite often think that the Finance Ministry is actually much more national than an actual Ministry. I do not know how much the hon. Finance Minister is actually above his writ run upon. If this New Economic Reforms policy of this Government has

not generated employment in terms of what the national expects, then I think there would be a fundamental flaw in the reform programme that you have undertaken.

I have already covered prices. I do not wish to that point. I do not want to repeat that point either. Next I am very worried about the mounting national debt. I could address myself to it in various ways. I could address myself to it as a percentage of the GDP. I could divide this debt into internal and external debt as I would be doing in a very short while. No matter which way I look at it but I find that some of the figures of national debt, are percentage of our GDP - I am not an Economist, but I am informed, Sir - go alarmingly high. I would, therefore, without putting my own uneducated figures to hon. The Finance Minister request him to share with us what are his figures on the total national debt. As percentage of GDP, what has been the movement of this national debt from where this Government took Office in 1991 till now, in 1995? How does he feel he is going to correct the situation in the remaining few months that he has, which is an impossible task? How does he see the long-term?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum):
It is 80 plus per cent of GDP.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I always differ to the great statistical ability of Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee. Though I would not stop in between two Economists. He says it is 80 per cent or 85 per cent. Rather the Economist says there are outdated figures. Let us have the dated figures then.

Now, Sir, we continue to poverty, I do wish to submit, Sir, that this Economic Reform Programme which in any event long overdue, and in any case, the Leader of my Party and publicly said, that there is no going back upon. The country badly needed it. In the very first budget that the Union Finance Minister had presented I was fielded by my Party to respond. I had an occasion even then to say that we welcome it because you adopted our policy. I continue to say that. But I do also wish to say this Economic Reform Programme is not for Indian industrialists. It is not for multinationals. In the ultimate and in essence Economic Reform Programme is for India and for the Indian citizens of course statistically you could argue and say whether India is a poor country or not a poor country. But without doubt, Sir, that it is a country of the poor. No Government - whatever or whichever side of the House they belong to - can afford not to address itself to the poor of this country. I have a figure that roughly 40 per cent of my countrymen are below the poverty line. I do not know which is the greater shaming factor. That forty per cent people are below the poverty line, I can mention this figure so casually and then pass

onwards? This is an alarmingly a high figure and in the fifth year of this Government's undeserved continuance in Office it has not shown any decline, any change.

Now, I will take the growth of GDP. I am addressing myself to the macro issues alone. These are some of the larger economic issues. That is the other index that we can adept. Has the Gross National Product really been growing? Are we, therefore, a more productive nation? I do think that there ought to another be figure called gross called gross national contentment, since it is not an economic criteria ...*(Interruptions)*

Firstly, has our GDP grown? Secondly, if there has been any growth of GDP, out of that growth has the gross national contentment grown? I would be happy if the hon. Finance Minister shared his views here.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Contentment of the state of mind!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is, there is no doubt about it...*(Interruptions)*. In this cold weather, my state of mind would be affected if I do not have this coat. Therefore, the state of mind is dependent on the material. There is a close nexus between the two...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : This is not the Indian tradition.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : He is becoming traditional today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : About agricultural growth, I think, this goes to the credit of this Government our Government must get some credit that we have repeatedly had good monsoon. I do not know whether they have engineered it!

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : It shows that the Gods are with us!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, Sir, we accept that Gods were with you so far as good monsoon goes. If the Gods were with you, they were with us also because monsoon is uniform. But despite that the agricultural production has grown by only 1.8 per cent. I would be happy to be corrected. But if the total food production has plateaued roughly at 185 million tonnes or if the per capita consumption of foodgrains has declined, then these do not give me satisfaction.

I do not think that agricultural production has matched the bountiful descent of the monsoon in the past few years. Let the hon. Finance Minister share his views on that also.

I do not treat the question of international rupee value as any kind of an index of national prestige. But nevertheless, if rupee devalues and if the only explanation or reasoning, which the Government has

put forward, that our exports have become more competitive, then that does not satisfy me. I think this recent slide in rupee in October really demonstrated two or three things.

Firstly, it demonstrated the fragility of the rupee. Secondly, it demonstrated uncertainty about our balance of payments. Thirdly and most worrisomely, it demonstrated really a very bad management on the part of the Reserve Bank of India and others in arresting this unwanted decline.

I do not want to go into an analysis of what really transpired in the month of October because I am not sufficiently informed in this matter. How is it that the Reserve Bank was so flat-footed in meeting this crisis?

14.00 hrs.

I would appeal to hon. the Finance Minister to share with us, did the Reserve Bank or the other agencies of management of currency meet this situation with the required alacrity, and the expertise that, certainly this economic reform programme and our attempts at modernisation competing globally demand. I request you to educate us on that also and to share with us candidly because unless our discussion is marked by candour, the reform programme itself—as I will be coming to that a little while—will be thwarted by shophistry and hypocrisy, that we cannot afford.

I have some figures with me. I do not want to go into the figures themselves. The national debt and the foreign debt, as I said earlier, and with that if I combine the debt servicing ratio, which I just educated myself little earlier from Nirmal Dada, at 30 per cent plus is a very worrisome figure. I am informed that even some of the mentors of the economic reforms programme like Smadja of the World Bank and others that really now we have situation that the country is in very high danger of falling into an internal debt trap. Why do I say an internal debt trap? Because—if I share with you some aspects of it—the Government internal borrowings have continued to rise; the Government's expenditure, which is the largest major draw upon our revenues has continued to rise. Without doubt, the hon. the Finance Minister's and his other colleagues ability has made the revenue rise by roughly 15 to 16 per cent annually. The ideal, of course, would be that while revenue continues to rise, expenditure should fall. Whereas revenue has risen by about 15 to 16 per cent annually, expenditure has risen by more. Therefore, expenditure has risen more than revenue. A very large portion of the Government's expenditure just goes in running the Government. Therefore, there is very little expenditure by the Government on capital. And if there is no capital expenditure by this Government, you are really imperilling the future of this country. This is in very broad and very

briefly what I thought I would share with you. The largest portion today of our budget goes into interest payment. That interest payment is really again a forfeiture of the future of this nation. It is because of this that we are worried about the internal debt trap situation and it is because of this also that the external debt position worries, about which some figures are with me. But rather than my figures—Rs.300,000 crore is today's figure for external debt roughly—I would be happy to know what the figures are. Is the Finance Minister comfortable with the figures of internal debt and external debt? Is he comfortable with the systems of management that we have to address ourselves to the challenge? There is one aspect, Sir, about fiscal deficit. Let me just repeat it. The hon. the Finance Minister had said that he would reduce the fiscal deficit in his fifth term up to 3.5 per cent of the GDP, 3.5 to 4 per cent of the GDP. We currently run at about 6 per cent, 5.5 to 6 per cent. The Finance Minister himself is not happy with that. He is not happy with it because he is really not in control. That is why I had to say that the Finance Ministry appears to be more in notion than a Ministry.

Nobody listens to the Finance Minister. This kind of situation is prevailing. With the ablest manager of finances that they have, if this is where they have landed us, then I am really sorry because this was the flagship of this Government. This was their flagship. The economic reform programme of this Government was the Government's assertion on control of prices and management of fiscal deficit. On both I am sorry to say I do not carry any sense of reassurance. The other which I must share with the deepest concern and I have said this earlier that you cannot have an economic reform programme if you do not reform the system. And I am sorry to say that in the fifth year of their governance, a number of pronouncements have emerged, have been enunciated from North Block but the sheer immobility and rigidity or ossification of the bureaucratic systems have thwarted and defeated any number of these otherwise worthwhile pronouncements. Mr. Finance Minister, it is with regret that I say that it is because of this failure on your part, which is really on your Government's part, to simultaneously reform the systems of management which is essentially governance, bureaucracy has continued that India. And unless these were addressed to, reform will not be possible. Because in any evaluation of the economic situation, that is purely economic, there is also simultaneously an evaluation of the political management of change and in that political management of change, this Government has failed entirely. Because along with the political management of change indeed as part of the political management of change which is without doubt includes changing the entire bureaucratic apparatus,

the hierarchy that has not changed. If anything, the whole business of case by case examination of licences, - you say you have done away with the licences and then you concentrate them all, you put them in a bucket and you send them to the Prime Minister's office and you say - but the cost of the Ministries would not deal with the licensing of new industries or capacities or infrastructure or anything - it is now the Prime Minister's office that will deal with it. You have not only, therefore, in the process not decentralized, not liberalized, you have in fact concentrated a point of corruption, and continuing corruption at that. I will refer to one or two aspects of it.

Sir, I had talked about infrastructure. I would really have been happy if I could today say that infrastructure as part of the liberalization programme, whether it is power or it is transport or it is telecommunication or it is roads railways, airports, harbours, bridges, on account of this liberalization, there has been a great growth in the infrastructure. Unfortunately I cannot find even one kilometer of road as directly attributable to the economic reform programme. We have just witnessed the total mess that has been made in the telecommunication sector. In the fifth year, not a single megawatt is attributable to the economic reform programme.

You have opened out the air space of the country, with the result that there is now no parking space on the aprons of our air fields. This is a vitally neglected sector. Would the hon. Finance Minister be good enough to explain to us why has this Government has this Government failed us, failed the country despite five years of being a holding office?

Sir, regarding the fiscal instruments, I want to touch every briefly the banking, insurance and capital markets. I would not talk about banking and insurance because I have taken more time than I should. But I will talk about the capital market. It is a matter of great concern to me. I do not want to repeat all that I have already written to the Finance Minister. This *tamasha* that we are witnessing about duplicate shares in the Bombay Stock Exchange is a hoax that is being played. It is a hoax now simply because one of the largest companies in the country is involved in it. Of much greater worry to me is the involvement of the principal public financial institution, the Unit Trust of India. Now I do want to know from the hon. the Finance Minister what are the facts of this whole questions of duplicate shares.

What are the facts? I have been in correspondence on the subject with the hon. Finance Minister. I have also sent you a letter and I mention it briefly here now because I am in Parliament. I mentioned to you that in 1991 when some people came to me and gave me duplicate shares of this very

company. I said and I have sent you the duly notarised copies of those duplicate shares that were given to me in 1991. I did not take it up with you because the amount involved was very small and I thought to myself that this is simply not possible. Therefore, I kept the whole issue pending. How is it that the Unit Trust of India could have involved itself in such a matter because it was not in substantial sums of shares; they held as much as nine lakh shares and they keep on switching shares. You hold one lot of shares today, you hold another lot of shares tomorrow and you hold a third lot of shares the third day. It is like going to my good friend, Shri Nirmalji and saying here is a hundred rupee and Nirmalji turning around to me and saying but this appears to be fake and my telling him that you give it back to me and I will give you another lot. Without any procedures having been followed, your company or the Law Department comes in.

Let me take you from this to another thing, your own Canstar, the infamous Canara Bank of the Joint Parliamentary Committee'. The Canstar in the 1990s or somewhere then promised mutual funds with staggered pendency of time which says that if you invest, after four years we will give you Rs. 15, after five year we will give you Rs. 17 and we will give you Rs. 20 after so many years and that sort of a thing. I do not have to go into the details of it. Now, look at the hoax that is played by a public sector bank like 'Canstar' on our investor. Now, when those mutual funds have come up for redemption, Canstar says : 'we cannot do it; we cannot give you your money back'. Is this how the public financial institutions are going to treat investors in the fifth year of this Government being in office? Are we to treat this as an index of the great success of your New Economic Policy? I did start by saying that after all the economic reform programme is for the common Indian. It is not for the multinational corporation or the larger industrial houses of the country and if the common Indian, whether he is a holder of Unit Trust or he is a holder of Canstar finds that Unit Trust has been engaging in all kinds of shenanigans with Reliance Industries and a small time investor in Canstar finds himself now robbed of his money because Canstar says : 'I will give you so much of your holding. Only you hold above five thousand or ten thousand units'. This is a hoax that is being played on the small investors. I think the hon. Finance Minister owes to this House to tell us what is happening, whether it is Unit Trust or Canstar or any other agency. (Interruptions)

Look at PSU disinvestment. It has often been observed that to sleep in Parliament is not unparliamentary. But to snore is actually unparliamentary.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Snoring should not disturb others;

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : It is the fault of the sensitive mikes!...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I was speaking on public sector disinvestment. This is an area of very great discontent. I want to say about the method in which you have gone about it. You once did the courtesy to consult us. We suggested why do you keep yourself involved with this in any case, neither the Minister of Industry nor the Ministry of Finance. Let there be a separate Disinvestment Commission and let this Disinvestment Commission decide what is to be disinvested at what price and how? Let it be professionally handled by Merchant Bankers. You are not obliged to accept what we say or suggest. But you did not do it; with the result the latest round of disinvestment has been a fiasco. Then you enter into all kinds of arrangements. Take for example the case of ITDC. It is selling ten per cent of its shares to India Hotel Company of the Tatas at a fraction of the value.

You sell them ten per cent of ITDC shares at something like Rs. fifty crore and odd. ITDC is the holder of at least thirty or thirty-two principal real estate sites. Ashok Hotel itself would be. If nothing else, at least Rs.300 crore and you sell ten per cent of the ITDC shares to Tatas for 50 crores. Why do you sell them to Tatas? What favour have Tatas done to you? What is this kind of loot? Whether it is Reliance or Tatas or anyone else, they do not own India, they do not own India's wealth. And you are selling India's wealth, whether it is the Unit Trust or the ITDC or the Ravva oil-field. What expertise has Reliance or Enron brought so that they should get the finest and the most promising of the oil-fields in Bombay High? You have simply passed them on to Enron and Reliance. Not content with that, you passed on Bailadila, the most promising of the Bastar mines, to just some *aira gaira, nathu khaira*, some fly-by-night operator, who has just yesterday entered the business world. This is part of the total economic situation which leads me to say - and I have said so earlier - that Mr. Finance Minister, Sir, for your, for your personal technical ability, for your personal integrity, I have the highest regard. I have never hesitated to say so in this House or outside, and it gives me delight and joy to repeat this in the House. But I caution you, Sir, that if you or your Government attempt an economic reform programme now, in the fifth year, when your Ministerial colleagues are sunk in corruption, are working in cahoots with business houses and are selling India in the manner in which they are selling, and if corruption spreads as it has spread today and as it has spread never before, then no economic programme can succeed, no economy can thrive.

Mr. Finance Minister, Sir, I have taken more time than I should have. The situation fills us with grave disquiet because of the internal debt, the external debt, the mounting debt-servicing ratio, the

declining rupee and also the decline that we witness in foreign exchange inflows. We are also filled with disquiet at this paralytic and corrupt Government, sunk in its own iniquity. It is unanswering, it is unaccountable and it is uncaring. Now you can well start addressing it as "election programme" from here. That would not satisfy the need of the time. That would not be a service to this poor, blinded mother country of mine. It has suffered immeasurably over the centuries. At least now it deserves better.

There is only one piece of advice that I would like to share with the hon. Finance Minister, whom I have the honour to call as my friends. This I borrowed from elsewhere. There are only two kinds of Finance Ministers - those who leave in time and those who are found out and thrown out. It is up to you to decide which one you want to be. But as far as this Government is concerned, I have no such feelings of even charity or compassion. This Government has now outlived its mandate. It must go. Please depart. That would be the finest thing that you could do to the economy.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the economic crisis in the country has reached such an extent that life in the country has become intolerable. I am not an economist to speak on the economic situation ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please excuse me. I just wanted to remind you that the total time allotted for this discussion is two hours. I wanted to bring this to your notice so that you can adjust your time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I wish to say that the total time allotted to the discussion is two hours.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Thank you Sir.

About the economic problem and other things, our comrade Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee will deal with them. I want to speak about the problems of the common man because the people are facing today the disastrous effects of the economic policy. When they came to power what did they say? You all know that during the election their main plank was and they told the people that the prices would be brought to 1990 level. ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, it is an old thing. But this is fresh in the minds of the people, though it is not very much for you. But this is the problem the people in the country are actually facing.

In 1990 the price of rice sold at Nation shops was Rs. 2.89 per kilo. It went to Rs. 3.27 per kilo in December, 1991; to Rs. 4.37 per kilo in 1993 and finally it came to Rs. 6.90 per kilo now. That is the price at ration shops. What is the actual price? At that time, in 1990 the price was Rs. 4.50 per kilo in the open market. I know of a store in Kerala, Maveli Stores, where rice was sold at Rs. 3.30 per kilo. That was the price at that time. Now in the open market

the price of rice is Rs. 10 or Rs.11 or even Rs.12 per kilo. If it is of Basumati and other varieties the price is beyond reach at Rs.18 or Rs.19 per kilo. It is going up.

What is the price of wheat? The price of wheat at the ration shops has gone from Rs. 2.34 to Rs.4.20 per kilo. The price of sugar has gone from Rs.5.25 to Rs.9 per kilo. It is the price at ration shops. You know that the prices of petrol and diesel affect the people. The price of petrol was Rs. 9.84 per litre and it has gone to Rs. 16.78 per litre now. The price of diesel has gone from Rs. 4 per litre to Rs.6.90 per litre now. It is almost Rs.7. These are all essential commodities the prices of which have gone up. Recently the prices have gone to unmanageable level and they are beyond any control.

What is the price of pulses which also has gone up from June, 1989? The *moong washed dal* was sold at Rs.11.30 and now it is Rs.24 in the open market. The *urad chilka dal* was sold at Rs.10.10 and now its price is Rs.30 per kilo. The *urad washed dal* was sold at Rs.12 and its price now is Rs. 36 per kilo. The *araha dal* was priced at Rs.10.70 and now its price is Rs. 26 per kilo. the same is the case of *chana dal*. The prices of all items have gone up.

Sir, in the northern India the main food for the common man is *dal* and *roti* and a little of onions. The prices of all these things have gone up. The price of *dal* and *roti* has gone up beyond the reach of the common man. This is the result of the economic policy.

When there was depreciation of rupee, our Finance Minister has claimed that it was all of a sudden and for three years there was stability in the value of the rupee. If there was stability for three years, then how the prices of these things have gone up? I fail to understand the logic. What for is the stability? Is it for the common man and the people of the country or not? If stability was there and this has come all of a sudden, that also is having disastrous effect in the market?

There is a steady price rise. But, did the income of the people go up like that in any part of the country? It might have gone up only in the case of 10 to 15 per cent of the people in the country. The income of all the other sections has not at all increased. They say that the wages of the agricultural workers have increased. It might have increased in Kerala and it might have gone up wherever organised movement is there. But it has not gone up in the whole of India. If you go to interior areas where your R.P.D.S. is working, are they getting rice and are they buying it?

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA : Sir, all over India the marginal farmers and also the middle level farmers are demanding that the prices of their produce should be raised. They say that if the prices of their produce are not raised, they cannot survive in India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Munda, there is no point of order involved in this. But your feeling is recognised very much.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : The farmers in the country want good prices for their produce. The Government has to give it. You subsidise and give it to the common people so that the price level can be controlled. If you do that, you do not have to give more Dearness Allowance to the employees. You control the prices.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Where is the money?

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : There is enough money. But you are not prepared to take it. What is the profit rate of the richer sections in this country? Are you prepared to tax them? You are giving them more and more concessions to them. I can give you the details. But since the time is very limited I will not be able to go into the details. The profit rate of all the big industrialists in the country has gone up. Are you prepared to tax them, take the money and subsidise the food articles? In that case, you need not raise the Dearness Allowance. How much are you spending on account of Dearness Allowance? If you bring down the prices, you do not have to spend so much money on that.

Your Policy has finally resulted in the devaluation of the rupee. The Finance Minister himself told that they do not want to interfere. When the fall came and in the end when it came to Rs.35/- or Rs.37/- per dollar, the Government intervened.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : It will help the Kerala people.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Yes; it will help the Kerala people. I am telling you that the exporters in the country may benefit. But the common man in the country will not get any benefit. Even if it is good for Kerala, but if it is disastrous for the whole of India, I will not plead for that. So, the effect is that because of this policy, the value of the rupee has come down. The Government has purposefully engineered this devaluation. They not intervene at the proper time to stop this. Before that all the big people purchase these dollars and kept it in the reserve. The Government intervened after the value of the rupee and fallen. What is the effect of that? The uncertainty regarding the foreign exchange rate and a sizeable depreciation of the rupee against the dollar in October has set in motion a process of serious instability in the financial system. In fact, the crisis have been such that within a couple of weeks the foreign exchange reserve fell dramatically by

1.5 billion dollars. In a longer perspective, the reserve which was 20.8 billion dollars at the start of the current financial year in April fell to 17.4 billion dollars on 3rd November, 1995.

The dimensions of the crisis are similar to the rumblings in the Mexico before the financial crisis of the first order crippled the country's economy earlier this year. That is actually the fact of it. In the first half of October, the RBI reference rate for the US dollar moved up to 33.9. But in the second half of the month it shot up to 35.3. Such a depreciation of the rupee within a short period of time set in motion unprecedented speculation of buying the dollars. The RBI initially refused to intervene reflecting the Rao Government's philosophy of the supremacy of market forces. But the Government was forced to intervene by the middle of October to stabilize the rupee whose depreciation was creating unmanageable crisis both the financial market as well as for the balance of payments. Though, the prices...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Each will have ten minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : There is no use of speaking. From the Ruling Party nobody speaks. So, there will be enough time for the Opposition to speak. Two hours are there. After the Opposition they had to speak but they did not speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sushilaji even from Ruling Party some people have given their names.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Though the precise estimates are not available, according to one source the RBI sold dollars worth Rs. 3700 crore in the open market to stabilise the rupee at 35 per dollar. This mad rush for buying the dollars created the liquidity crisis in the money market as the rupee needed for normal financial transaction were diverted for buying dollars. This led to speculative rise in the call rate which shot up from 15-20 per cent in September to 85 per cent in November.

14.32 hrs.

(Shri P.C. Chacko in the Chair)

The immediate implications of this on the economy are two fold. Firstly, as the call rate increased, there is diversion of resources being borrowed from the banks, from the productive and from the speculative activities. Secondly, higher interest rates while favouring unproductive and parasitic sections of the economy decidedly favoured the big financial rich companies with no consideration for social priorities and productive activity. The rise in the interest rates is thus a weapon which widens the hiatus between the production activity and speculation and between the rich and the poor. The genesis of this entire crisis can be traced to the obvious consequences of new economic policy of liberalisation.

The payments that the Government had to make as a result of the unprecedented borrowing during the last four years had accumulated by mid-October in such a manner that a severe liquidity crisis emerged. There was shortage of money in the financial market. In October, apart from payment of interest on IMF loans and other foreign borrowings in the domestic markets, the Government had to pay over Rs. 6000 crore on the various loans it had taken.

Added to this the domestic saving rate fell drastically as people were spending due to runaway inflation. In the first half of 1995-96, the aggregate bank deposits grew only by 2.5 per cent as compared to 5.5 per cent for the corresponding period in the last year. On the other hand, the demand for bank credit grew substantially both for speculative reasons and for the Government's commitment of its earlier borrowings.

Between September 29 and 30, the RBI credit to the Central Government shot up from nearly Rs. 9,000 crore to Rs. 14,000 crore. The Government has thus been borrowing from RBI to fulfil its financial obligations which resulted in the reduction of money available for speculation at a time when speculative activities increased because of the rupee's depreciation.

As this in sum accumulated to result in the financial crisis the like of which Mexico faced and was consequently ruined.

This is what we are actually facing. What is our position in the country? Could we generate employment? Actually, more people are going out of the employment.

Under this Voluntary Retirement Scheme, the Government itself has sent out thousands of people; some 80,000 people have been sent out. What is the result afterwards? I can cite the example of the Coffee Board from where some people were sent out. One man committed suicide. He got around Rs. 80,000 or Rs. 90,000. What can he do with it? He took his wife to his house, put her there, and started a shop there; but it was a failure. He came to Delhi in search of a job, and finally he committed suicide. Two others became mad; one man tore the notes to pieces and offered it to the gods; he does not know that he was doing.

Some of the Congress people conducted a survey in Maharashtra where thousands of people have been sent out from the NTC mills. What is their position? They are all ruined. Have you got any policy? What effort has been made in regard to retraining and redeployment? Actually, because of the Parliamentary Committee's intervention, some training has been given. But how many people have been redeployed? What will they do? Thousands and thousands of people are going out. Sixty-four

companies have been referred to the BIFR. What is the result of it? Eight lakh to ten lakh people are working in those companies. What are you going to do with them? What steps have been taken in this regard? Once a company is referred to the BIFR, it will become more sick because the banks will not give any money. They are simply discussing these things, and the Government is not prepared to give any funds for their rehabilitation. Then, how can they be rehabilitated? I know of cases where the workers worked and tripled the production. Even then, the Government is not prepared to give money. What about IISCO? Again, it is going into the private hands. Why are they not able to spend Rs. 1,200 crore on 30,000 workers? The disastrous effect of it is that it will be passed on to the private people. You are giving everything to the private people. Now, these Bailadila mines are also being given to the private people; everything is being sold out. Once you have as a ruling party, there would not be anything left for us; everything will be only for the private people; everything in the country is being mortgaged.

We had a meeting with regard to the fertiliser industry. The Finance Minister also attended that meeting and said that he will give money. What has happened? You are spending three hundred million rupees for importing this fertiliser. If you could spend half of this money, all our fertiliser factories could be rehabilitated. What are you doing with it? I have so many such examples, but I cannot tell you about them because of the short time at my disposal.

So many companies are in crisis because of the policy of the Government. Import duty has been decreased. In the Hindustan Photo Films, thousands of people are working. What is the problem? The films which are produced abroad are being sold here at half the price. Are you prepared to revive or use this anti-dumping law? So far, it has not been done. They are in a crisis; the management has diverted the money for the working of the company; as a result, the company is facing difficulties. The Government is not prepared to give money to them. Thousands of employees, both direct and indirect are suffering. There are so many such examples.

There is an instrumentation factory in Palghat. The Government incurred an initial expenditure of Rs. 4.5 crore on this company. Every year they are contributing Rs. 4 crore to Rs. 5 crore to the exchequer as profit. But now they are going to give it to a Japanese company. Thousands and thousands of people are losing employment, and I do not know what the Government is doing. The companies which are going to start have no capacity to take more and more workers; they have a limited capacity. It is also a fact that so far they have not started. They talk about portfolio management and all that, but I do not know how much capital has come in. Not a single company has yet been started.

So, no employment possibility is there. On the one hand, as a result of the price rise and other things, people are suffering. There is no employment. Whatever employment has been there it is lost. More and more concessions are given to the multinational companies. So, how are we going to do it?

Sir, when the Finance Minister introduced his first Budget, what was his target? He said: "I am trying to control the fiscal deficit." Actually, it is responsible for all the ills in the country. That was what he said. He said: "Shri V.P. Singh could not control the fiscal deficit and I am going to control it. That is my first priority." What did he do about it? In 1992, the fiscal deficit was to the extent of Rs.36,325 crores. In 1995-96 the fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs.68,484 crores. Likewise, the Revenue Deficit which was at Rs.16,261 crores shot up to Rs.35,541 crores. This is your balance sheet. How much is the external debt and the internal debt? The net market borrowing is around rs. 27,000 crores and the gross stood at Rs.41,000 crores. If the 14 per cent interest on this is taken into consideration, we have around five lakh crores of rupees debt in the internal market. The undeclared devaluation of the money increased the external debt of the country which stood at \$95 billion at the end of March 1995. I doubt whether we are heading to situation of insolvency. Actually these are things which worry us. Now, a new economic programme of about Rs. 5000 crore has been declared by the Prime Minister. What have you done in respect of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana? How much it is implemented? In Kerala about 15,000 people were to be given the benefit of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, you have taken about half-an-hour. Please wind up. You started at 2.20 p.m. Please wind up.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : The Chairman is very shrewd. Coming to my point, 15,000 people were to be given the benefit of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. 30,000 people gave the application. Finally, sanction was given to 11,000 people. But up-till now, 7,000 people only have been given the money. This is in respect of 1993-94. Again, it is coming. What is the result? Are the banks able to give the money?

About the Mahila Samridhi Yojana, are there any people to take the money? Please see the postal system. You have ruined the postal system in the country. Actually, they will not give money. Now, the Government of Kerala requested us to request the Central Government to appoint more number of people in the post offices so that they can take small deposits. That is coming down because there is nobody to receive the money. There are no personnel in the post offices. So, they requested all the

Members of Parliament from Kerala to request the Centre to appoint more number of people in the post offices. What is happening? The Mahila Samridhi Yojana is also given to these people. Where are the persons to take it? Those who are rich, only they are remitting Rs. 300 and taking Rs. 75 as interest. The real people, the needy people will not get it. Can you have a survey of the people who have deposited this money? Money has been deposited by the upper sections of the people, not the lower, needy section of the people in the country. You say that Rs. 300 crores have been deposited. But the small people will not be able to do it because there are no personnel in the post offices. Is it not correct? Why are not you doing something about it? This is the result. Nobody is going to benefit. What about the RPDS in the backward areas? Are the poorer sections of people getting the ration? It is a real thing. Sir, you know in Wynad how many people died.

Are the poor people getting the benefit of this RPDS? There is no work for them. There is rice in the godowns. Are you prepared to release at least some of them and give some food for employment in these tribal areas. Otherwise, they will not be able to buy these things. The only thing possible to stabilise the economic situation in the country is to reduce the price. The price in the ration shops should be reduced to half. There are 14 essential items. Whatever be the cost of it, it should be distributed through the retail ration shops. And Food for Work programme should be re-established. And your policy of helping these multinationals should be stopped. We have heard what is happening. We know what the Minister of Communications has done. I have a whole story to tell.

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I remind you that the subject matter under discussion is economic situation. Please do not go into such details.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : This is a part of this economic policy. We know how people are suffering. What is the economic policy? This is a part of human life. Unless there is change in the lives of the people, you are not going to succeed in your economic policy. People will revolt and throw you with the wash tub. This is the situation. You have to realise this and change your programmes, otherwise, there is no way out. Now some sopping is being given to the people. Our Prime Minister has realised that our children are not getting noon meal. At the fag end of his rule, he is now giving noon meals. But when we came to power in Kerala, the first thing we done was to give noon meals to the children ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (Connanore) : I want to put the record correct. It was not your Government which had done it. It was our Government which has done it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : We have done that. You might have stopped it. When Shri Nayanar came to power, it was he who had done it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : It was done previously...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : You stopped it and we started it. When the LDF Ministry was formed, we started it. And now the Prime Minister is realising that people should have a little rice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a good climax. Now you can stop.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Now about the other programmes. You are giving this old-age pension to those who are above 65 years of age. I want to know whether this will reach the people. None of your programmes is reaching the poor people in the country. But some sections of people in between get the benefit and the poor people remain poor. This attitude of the Government should be stopped. All these programmes should be implemented through the panchayati-raj institutions. Let them select these things. The DRDA is not under the panchayati-raj institution. This policy should change. If you want these benefits, go to the poor people. You have to do it through the panchayati-raj institution. Anyhow, your policy has ruined the country. There is no use of much talk on this with the ruling party. I hope the people of this country will throw you out of power in the coming elections. That only will solve the problem of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much Suseelaji. Before I call upon the next speaker, please remember that we have only fifty minutes left and there are eight more speakers including Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jajpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I rise to speak on the economic condition being discussed here. I remember an incident which took place ten years ago. I was sitting in front of my house. A villager was coming from the market on his vehicle. I asked him which item was cheaper in the market. He replied that it was rupee which was becoming cheaper and cheaper day by day. Even poor and illiterate people know that value of rupee is going down day by day. In my childhood we used to be given Rs. 3 for hostel expenses but today thousand rupees are insufficient for the same. What is the reason behind it? I think that the reason for it is the statistical survey conducted in the country for

this purpose, is erroneous. We formulate plans as per this survey and allow the Government for printing rupee notes. We should study these statistics.

In the same House I had said that

[English]

Rupees 68,000 crores spent on IRDP on individual schemes since it is started till March.

[Translation]

It is a record. You had given subsidy of rupees 68,000 crores to banks including State Sector. Estimate Committee had gone on a tour and I was the Member of this Committee. The Members of the Committee found that 56 per cent families are living below the poverty line. We also found the same thing during the survey conducted in Andhra Pradesh. We live in villages and know the reality. It seems to be appropriate in statistics and on paper but reality is different altogether...*(Interruptions)*.

The same conditions prevail in West Bengal and it can be seen in any block or village. I raised this issue with Planning Commission also and asked them to show us ten persons living above the poverty line. They replied that survey had not been conducted. So far and therefore, they were unable to answer this question. If any person gets employment in Group 'D' services his way of living changes within one or two years. He buys cycle builds a pucca house. But you cannot improve the economic standard of village even after spending such a huge amount. It is the result of this erroneous survey. What have you done today? You provide rupees six thousand as subsidy and six thousand as loan. Under the Prime Minister's Razgar Yojana lona upto Rs. 1 lakh was to be provided. To whom this amount is given. Banks say that they do not have funds. Just a few days ago we read in newspapers that having shortage of Call Money one bank borrowed money on interest from some other bank to meet day-to-day payments.

[Translation]

The Reserve Bank has recently provided loan of more than Rs. 2000 crore in the form of call money to all the banks. Then why this situation has arisen? Our bureaucrats do not live in villages. They do not keep a watch on the quantum of funds being spent in the villages. More than Rs. one crore is spent in every block. Every village has a teacher. Money is circulated on a large scale in the villages, but this money is siphoned out direct to the cities. Big buildings are being constructed here since the Government has neither put any ceiling on it nor made any arrangements for its distribution. Smt. Indira Gandhi's observations in this regard are not being followed. Only because of following the foot steps of Smt. Indira Gandhi, I have been elected to the Lok Sabha for the fifth term. She had saying.

[English]

"The opportunities available in this country should be properly distributed."

[Translation]

On this account some people become rich and some become poor. What happened to land reforms? We commend the steps taken in West Bengal to implement land reforms. I have personally seen their land reforms. They have shown in practice that land reform improves the condition of the poor.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Then why did you quit this party and join that party? He is a right person and speaks the truth...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions please. You will get a chance.

SHRI ANANDI CHARAN DAS : Do not interrupt. Please be careful.

[Translation]

I do not want to go into details in this regard. I would like to say one or two things.

Today in reply to a question the Government stated that

[English]

According to the survey of 1994-95, the decline trend in the rate of investment in agriculture in the recent years needs to be reversed, I repeat needs to be reversed. The gross capital formation in agriculture and allied activities measured at 1980-81 prices declined from Rs. 4864 crore in 1980-81 to Rs. 4792 crore in 1989-90. Again, you have also mentioned here that according to the quick estimate, in 1993-94, it has increased to Rs. 5228 crore. The total investment in industry in 1992-93 was Rs. 46053 crore and for agriculture and allied activities, it was Rs. 4908 crore. For the year 1993-94, the investment in the industrial sector was 47,942 crore while for the agriculture sector, it was Rs. 5228 crore.

[Translation]

What was the total investment by the Government in the industry? The total investment made in the industry during 1992-93 was Rs. 46,053 crore and in Agriculture and allied activities it was Rs. 4908 crore. Likewise, investment made during 1992-93 was Rs. 645 crore and in agricultural sector it was Rs. 5120 crore. It comes to 10.31 percent. As per estimates the Government invested Rs. 47,942 in the industrial sector and Rs. 5228 crore in agricultural sector. That comes to 10.90 percent. Please let us know as to how many persons are working in the agricultural sector and what is their condition? What security has been provided to them

by the Government? The Government should provide them atleast 300 days' job in a year. What plans has the Government made to meet it and what are the details of its plans? I made several requests to the hon. Minister to come to my area and see to himself how the Janta Government has swindled 90 percent of the funds earmarked for 'million wells scheme' under the IRDP. I wrote several times but nobody goes there to verify the facts. Nothing is being spent on this scheme. Now they have started spending on this since every block has just received crores of rupees.

15.00 hrs.

No amount is spent by these people. They make the pretext that there is no collector, no chairman of DRDA, neither any office is there. A proper atmosphere should be created for this and I hope that it will be done and money will be spent. I would like to request the hon. Minister to send a team to make an on the spot enquiry there. It is reportedly said that arrangements of water has been made at every place. In the last election my son was contesting the elections. While campaigning, I was taken aback when I saw that the picture is quite the opposite. People made a demand to us to provide water to anybody's land which would create jobs for them. Million wells can be dug at many places. It must be made in tribal areas. In this regard that officers have fulfilled the target fixed for the purpose but the fact remains that no well has been dug. Most of the people in villages depend on agriculture. 95 percent people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are poor.

[English]

They are daily labourers. They want some employment. How are you saying that employment has been increased?

[Translation]

Neither water nor electricity is available for irrigation. There is no arrangement for irrigation. People have small chunk of land. What will they do in such a condition? Government has launched a scheme called 'Mahila Sammridhi Yojana'. It has been widely acclaimed. A block consists of 40 thousand families. But it has proved to be of no use. It is said that Government has invested so much amount but people, there take even Rs. 100 as loan at the interest rate of 10 percent. In such a situation what will happen and how will we develop? The Government has nationalised the banks but the investment made by the public is increasing more and more because they do not trust upon the banks. They are apprehensive that the banks may close any time. The banks should be closed. It has been said just now that Rs. 40000 crore have been deposited against bogus accounts. Some one said

that the amount is Rs. 90000 crore. Is recovery of Rs. 400000 crore not possible? Then how will we run the country and how will we provide facilities to the poor. Therefore, please correct your figures. Neither the Government nor do the people listen to me. I had made a request to deposit Rs. 4000 while the Government provided Rs. 6 thousand. It will go up to Rs. one lakh in 16 years under the IRDP. When my son becomes a major, he will take care of me. My money will multiply and if I wish, I can spend it or earn interest. The Government should make such plans, but it does not do so. I have just received a report that the waste land in my tribal area is being provided to big business houses. They are going to plant because I have calculated that one can earn Rs. two and half lakh in five years from one acre of land. If such a profitable work is provided to tribals, they too would become richer. Then nobody would pay regards to the people in the Government. When we can provide rice, oil, pulses and clothes, why cannot we plant trees? It has been said that a discussion is going to take place on the 14th instant this month. I do not know the person giving such advice. We really does not want to do welfare of the villages. A time will come when unemployment will rise. If the Government does not provide facilities to them, the country will face a serious crisis, upheaval and we will watch it as mute spectators. We have lived a long life and our end may come any time but the coming generation will scold us for our deeds. As such priority should be accorded to the poor. It should be ensured that they have some money, to invest to improve their condition. Their purchasing capacity should increase. Their children should get proper food, books to study, clothes to wear and houses to live. If our Government does not do all this and time passes on giving assurances only, when will all this be done?

Today, I am saying it with a heavy heart. I do not like the way, it is happening. Further discussion should be held on the issue by taking us into confidence. Before doing all this the views of poor people should also be taken. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you Mr. Das.

Once again, I have to remind the hon. Members that we have got only 30 minutes left for this discussion...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that it is an important subject.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Atleast, every one should be provided a chance to speak because it is an important subject and every one wants to

speak. Therefore keeping in mind the sentiments of Members, the time limit should be extended, but they should be provided limited time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mohan Singh, I fully appreciate your suggestion. But all these things are decided in the leaders' meeting. We have decided it. So many important subjects are pending for discussion. Kindly understand it and there shall be no discussion now on what I say. Please understand that we started this discussion at 1.37 p.m. Anything under the sun can be discussed under the 'economic policy'. The Chair is not trying to restrict any Member. But instead of policy, so many other things like various schemes are being discussed and we are not able to control it at all. Many hon. Members are going into the details of various schemes. So, kindly confine yourself to the subject and please bear in mind the time limit. Now, Shri Mohan Singh may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping your sentiments in mind, I would like to make a very brief speech because the poverty, unemployment, spiralling price in our country and foreign debt on it are very vast subjects and need a lot of time to cover but I will express my ideas in very brief. Outwardly, it seems that the economic condition of the country has improved a lot but the ground realities totally belie the claims made by hon. Finance Minister. The rate of population in our country is so high today that we have just double population as compared to that of the entire Latin America. We have one and half time more population than that of the entire Africa. The annual increase in our population is equal to the population of Sri Lanka and Australia, by the arrival of 21st Century, we will have a population of 100 crore. Whether hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India are preparing to make arrangements for providing food to every person in 21st century? Whether the Government is preparing to provide employment to 10 crore educated unemployed on the very onset of 21st century? When we weigh ourselves on these standards we feel disappointed.

Secondly, adequate foodgrain is the paramount requirement of our country in view of our increasing population and increasing food requirement. Since, there is requirement of more foodgrains, agricultural sector can provide employment opportunities to more and more people. But I am sorry to say that the investment in agriculture sector is decreasing constantly and the prices are continuously increasing. Hon. Finance Minister had assured the House three year ago that the farmers would be duly compensated for increased rate of fertilizers, power

and water by increasing the prices of their products. But what condition prevails today? The price of sugarcane is being increased time and again but sugarcane is not available. I know about the present position in Uttar Pradesh. About Rs. 150 crore of farmers are outstanding against the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 300 are outstanding against four mills owned by the Union Government and it is said that these mills are not in a position to pay the outstanding amount. So far as fertilizers are concerned, the Government has a control over public sector fertilizer units. The Government says that hon. Finance Minister also had accepted three days ago that it was impossible to withdraw subsidies in a democratic country like India and they could not withdraw subsidies. There are two types of fertilizers. The price of one type of fertilizer is soaring while the Government has control over the another type of fertilizer. The result is that the farmer, instead of paying for the costlier are liberally utilising the controlled urea and thus causing harm to the agriculture. Secondly, you have made the agricultural sector export oriented which will ultimately result in the shortage of foodgrains in the country. Despite all out efforts made during the last three years, our country has been able to attain a target of 185 million tonnes of foodgrains only against the previous output of 168 million tonnes. But I would like to state that the production of foodgrains will gradually decrease during the next 3-4 years because our farmers are giving priority to production of such crops as are being exported. The floriculture and the fruiticulture is increasing very fast in our country because flowers and fruits are very much in demand in foreign countries and farmers are expecting good return on these items. The result is that as on date a loss of Rs. 60 crore of edible oil has been compensated during one year. There is shortage of edible oil in our country because its area of cultivation is decreasing. There is shortage of oil seeds pulses also in our country because pulses are being exported and therefore people of our country cannot get 'Arhar' and 'Masoor' in market even for Rs. 30 per kg. There was a time when during 2-3 months the prices of these pulses increased upto Rs. 30 per kg. In this regard several questions had to be asked from hon. Finance Minister and hon. Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. The Government of India states that as on date India tops the list of sugar producing countries of the world. but I would like to say that the situation is quite contrary to their claims because in every third year there appears shortage of sugar in the country and if its prices start soaring and the country comes in the grip of uproarious situation and the Government has to supply sugar importing under OGL. This inconsistency in the agricultural output is due to absence of an integrated agricultural policy. The Government of India does not formulate any policy

to inter link the prices of inputs and the prices of items produced due to which generally the farmers grow one crop in a year and expects more profit on that and thus decreases his yield the very next year. The Government of India should consider this matter seriously.

The third sector in our country is that of small scale industries. The small scale sector of our country provides employment to the fifty percent people engaged in the organised sector but only 7 percent of the total investment made in the entire industrial sector, has been invested in the small scale industries. But what is their condition today? The small scale industries enjoy 37 percent share of the total export of our country but the Government of India has adopted the policy of liberalising everything and thus has brought those small scale industries of our countries and their production capacity is decreasing. Sir, I do not want to go into the facts and figures but as per the survey conducted by the Government of India, our small scale industries are falling sick in large number and very rapidly.

Therefore, I would like to suggest the Government of India to take special care of Khadi and village Industries which comes under small scale sector.

Sir, with this, I would like to state that the condition of handloom is worst as on date. The yarns have become costlier and it's prices have registered 300 percent increase during the last 3 years. As a result, the weavers of the villages who totally depend on the yarn for their livelihood, are on the verge of starvation. The Government of India has made policy to withdraw the subsidy being provided on the yarn.

Thus, our policy with regard to the cottage and handicrafts industries which have the greatest potential of earning foreign exchange through exports is destined to ruin them steadily. This aspect deserves special consideration. Simultaneously I would like that the Government of the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : Very good.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You may think like that. Today, I did not get up to censure the Government but to review the situation prevailing today. The hon. Finance Minister said umpteen times within and outside this House that if the benefits of the concessions in duties granted on various commodities in our Budget are not passed on to the consumers, the Government of India shall have to reconsider the concessions given to the industrial houses of the country. I am distressed to say that this warning of the hon. Finance Minister did not put any effect on the country's manufacturers. The industrially manufactured commodities register price-rise four times a year. I am not, presently, talking of small consumers but the big, rich consumers. The

prices of motor cars and jeeps rise four times a year. Despite increase in their excise duty, did the hon. Finance Minister ever ask them as to why was this happening? The prices of bicycles have increased. There is a 300 percent increase in the price in our country. The prices of medicines have increased during the last 4-5 years and this is a cause of concern for the poor people in the country today. A heart patient needs Rs. 1.5 to Rs. 1.75 lakh for the treatment of heart problem in India and the country's Ministers undertake the same treatment on Government expenses at hospitals in London or America spending Rs. 35 lakh. How can such people feel the pinch of poor man's sufferings? In this very Hosue, the Indian surgeons are congratulated for successfully performing transplantation operations. The Minister of this country where surgery has acquired such heights, go abroad for undertaking costly treatments. It is highly deplorable that the common man is allowed to die without caring for his miseries added by the rising prices of the medicines. So, the Government of India should see as to what can be done in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not possess a full-fledged data but on the basis of my limited information, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the widening gap in foreign trade. According to the figures made available by the Government of India, our exports have increased by 16 percent while imports have gone up by 20 percent. Collection of excise duty in the first half of the year is Rs. 1000 crore less than the targeted amount. Similarly, there has been an increase of Rs. 3000 crores in the customs duty even after reducing it from 80 to 65 per cent. As a result of this foreign goods are available on a massive scale in the Indian markets. The amendment made in section 123 of the Custom Act has given a fillip to smuggling activities. The foreign goods are openly sold in the market today for the last 2-3 years as a result of reducing the authority of the customs department. This was not the case 5-10 years ago. This has left its adverse effect on the employment generation and development of trade and industry in our country. Therefore, my submission to the hon. Finance Minister is that smuggling activities have increased on account of the MODVAT policy. The Government declared that anyone can bring with him foreign goods to the tune of \$10000. Consequently, some people have made it their profession to bring in imported goods dubbing indigenous goods as substandard and destroying the domestic industry.

There is also a growing regional disparity. As per the new economic policy, the foreigners can invest their money in this country whereas the Government of India will not. Consequently, the figures of last 3 years will corroborate that memoranda of understanding to the tune of Rs. 79 crores were signed by the densely populated state

like Bihar, Rs. 810 crores by Uttar Pradesh. Maharashtra and Gujarat signed MOUs worth Rs. 5700 and Rs. 5400 crores respectively whereas Bengal signed MOUs worth Rs. 5600 crores. Similarly, the figures of Orissa, Tamil Nadu etc. reveal that the foreign investors are making investments preferably in coastal states where shipment of goods can be received through ports. The foreign companies are making no investments in the densely populated states of central India. As a result of this industrial production will make rapid strides in some States during the ensuing decade whereas others will fall prey to unemployment and indigence. In order to avoid this regional imbalance, I would like to urge the hon. Finance Minister that the Government should make investment in the States where there is no foreign investment and try to fill up the industrial gap in these states.

Besides, the hon. Finance Minister has himself expressed concern over the rapidly rising rates of emoluments granted by the big and multinational companies to their executives and staff.

The Government of India cannot increase the emoluments of its officers and employees commensurate with the increase in the emoluments of their counterparts in the private sector. It will result in a large scale brain drain, the diversion of intelligent and skilled personnel to the private sector and the multinational companies. Thus, our public sector and undertakings will run in losses and become unviable. Thus, while drawing the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards his statement that dearness allowance is being increased in keeping with the inflation rate, I would like to say that the report of the Pay Commission is yet to come in this election year. The Government should expedite the submission of the report by the Pay Commission and its implementation in, at least its own interest to go to the hustings. The multinational and the private companies should also observe such financial discipline. The chief executives in the private sector should not draw more emoluments than their counterparts in the Public Sector Undertakings. A legislation should be passed to this effect or the Government cannot remove this disparity in future. With these words, I conclude and thank you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P.G. Narayanan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : What is your order?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is the party leader. I am calling everybody by the order.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am talking of the CPI.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that. Your name is here but he is also a leader of the party. Nobody is called from his party.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am the deputy leader of the party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Shrimati Suseela Gopalan has spoken.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : She is from different party.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am talking of the future, not of the present.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Chair understands the priority position very correctly. Please wait for your turn.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : The Reserve Bank's Annual Report for 1994-95 has expressed grave concern over the price situation and inflation, wide-nigh budgetary and fiscal deficits and monetization of deficit, rising Government expenditure and larger market borrowings, growing internal debt and the resultant heavy interest burden.

The Government, however, will have to understand its responsibility to the country at large better than function as an unimaginative accountant. While implementing the new economic policy which has been generally very well-received, it should not forget that an essential requirement which the policy will have to meet the generation of more employment and purchasing power to make it possible for the community to bear the rigours of a rational pricing policy.

What is the position of our economy today. First, and perhaps foremost, the massive stocks of foodgrains, that is, 23 million tons, the Government has in its warehouses. With this we are free to draw down these stocks and arrest such price rise. Secondly, we have been able to build up as high as 14 billion dollars foreign exchange reserves and they were enough to pay for nearly a whole year's imports at the current rate of import. Thirdly, what is more significant is that the exports have been rising at the rate of 20 percent in 1993-94. These are clearly very favourable developments. Yet, there is something that should make us cautious in any assessment of the current economic trends. This is on account of the trends in prices.

The prices of essential commodities have been sky rocketing for the last one year and the Government has miserably failed in tackling the situation. While the prices are rising, Government is claiming that inflation rate is falling to less than 8 percent. The price of tomato is Rs. 16 per kilo, potato is Rs. 8 per kilo, onion Rs. 10 per kilo, milk Rs. 12 per kilo, gingilu oil Rs. 75 per kilo, urad dal Rs. 30

per kilo. While the prices of essential commodities used by the common man of the country remain very high, the Government claims week after week that the inflation rate is going down.

This contradiction need to be probed, since it is a cruel joke played by the Government on the life of the common people.

While the Government announces increase in procurement prices for foodgrains, buckling under pressure from farm lobby, it does not care for the consumer's lobby. Consumers are not united and hence the government takes them for a ride. For instance, the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh announced with fanfare Central Excise rebate on various items used by the common man, but the manufacturers after enjoying the rebate, have not passed on the benefit to the common man. The Government claims that it does not have a machinery to oversee how the rebate is misused by the manufacturers. If the Government does not have proper machineries, no purpose will be served in announcing concession. But the Government wants to keep the manufacturers happy. So, in the name of helping the common man, it is helping the rich manufacturers to get more money. I, therefore, demand constitution of a high-level Parliamentary Committee to probe into how the excise concessions announced by the Government are misused by the manufacturers.

Over and above, the Centre also is creating problem for State Governments who want to control prices. The prices in the open market are going up in spite of the successive good monsoons and bumper crops. Take for example, Tamil Nadu Government. They are providing rice at Rs. 2 per kilo to all ration card holders and Andhra Pradesh Government have also followed suit. But these State Governments are penalised by the Centre by increasing the administered prices periodically. The Centre does not compensate the State Governments who want to provide rice cheaper to vulnerable sections of the society. It is therefore, very essential that the Centre consult the State Governments before revising the price of rice or wheat.

Sir, the Budget deficit is growing year by year. But the Government is not taking steps to control Budget deficit. If Budget deficit increases, naturally, it will bound to flare up inflationary pressures. All these reforms are only for the affluent people. In the name of market forces, the poor are being trampled upon. The poor and vulnerable sections are exposed to market forces and they have no protection. The whole Economic Reform is aimed at the rich and the affluent. You are talking of gold reserves and foreign exchange reserves. What is the use of it when the common man's sufferings are increasing day by day? The rate at which the prices are sky-rocketing, greater

disaster is awaiting you in the coming elections. What concrete steps you are going to take to check the price line? People are watching the developments patiently and people will definitely teach you a lesson at appropriate time during elections.

With the approach of the elections, the Economic Reforms have already slowed down and their future will depend considerably on the political forces that will come to power after the elections. If the Finance Minister waits for the outcome of the elections, it will give an impression that his Party is not sure of forming the Government after the polls. Even otherwise, it is his duty to plan for the future irrespective of how the people will vote. Reforms should continue mainly because they have given a new thrust to the economy. At the same time, the defects in implementing the reforms should be rectified. Not that Dr. Manmohan Singh is not aware of all this, but he has to take into account the political implications of the steps he takes.

There is ample indication that reforms have succeeded in this country but ultimate success of economic reforms is measured by the rise in people's standard of living. So the main question, therefore, is how reforms on social development should go hand in hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, we are coming to a point when the time allotted for this discussion is almost over. Only two minutes are left. So I would like to have the consensus of the House. If the House agrees, we can extend this discussion for another half-an-hour...*(Interruptions)* Not more than that because there is other Business also. There is some Statement by a Minister listed at 4.00 p.m. So we cannot go beyond that. So with the consent of the House I extend the time of the House upto 4 o'clock.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : May I make a submission, Sir? Yesterday, the hon. Speaker assured us that everybody would be allowed to speak because of the importance of this subject and because so many Members want to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please finish your points very quickly.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, let us avoid this fixation of time limit because it was the assurance of the hon. Speaker and the Chair can always do this with our concurrence. The whole day would be devoted to this discussion that was the understanding. It is not the limitation of two-and-a-half hours. You can kindly remember or check up whether I am correct or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. This is a decision taken in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. Even though there are many other subjects which are pending this subject got a

precedence because of the importance of the subject. We had decided that two hour will be taken for the discussion. But invariably every speaker from every party has exceeded their time limit. So what we can do now is to extend for another half-an-hour and all the speakers should kindly accommodate within their time. Yes, Mr. Mumtaz Ansari, please.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You have not called Members from CPI.

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to the strength of the parties, Janta Dal should have been called first. Mr. Mumtaz Ansari was not present earlier, please understand this. Now small things are being taken care of properly. Yes please.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman Sir, so far as the economic situation of the country is concerned, this is very much alarming and that is causing concern to common man in this country. So far the prices of essential commodities are concerned, these prices are rising high in the sky and this is a claim on the part of the Minister of Finance that they are just controlling the prices and the inflation. But in spite of this claim, we find that the inflation rate is also just rising very rapidly. Nowadays it is just 8.5 percent or like that.

Similarly, it is quoted from their own records that prices of essential commodities are just at constant rate in the wholesale market. But you know Sir, the common man is not concerned with the wholesale price and wholesale market, rather the common man is concerned with the retail prices and the prices which are just existing in the market in the country. That is why, wherever we go, we find that the prices of all the essential commodities, eatables, edible oils, and all the other things which are essential for the society, their prices are rising very rapidly. That is why, this claim has also been nullified. So this is a false claim on the part of the Government and the Finance Minister that they are going to control inflation and the prices of essential commodities.

This is very much surprising the way they compute the index number. They are quoting time and again that this is the index number and this is taken from such and such indices of prices. From this it looks as if the price scenario is very much favourable for the country.

But I am just very much surprised that if we just compute the price index on the basis of the retail prices, on the basis of the labour, on the prices which are available in the country, we find that the prices are very much just staggering and this is very much high for the common man.

Similarly there is shortage of certain essential commodities in PDS shops also. Here there is a tall claim on the part of the Ministers that all these essential commodities are being supplied through

the PDS shops. But we find that wherever these commodities are being supplied, either these are in shoddy in nature, these are very much lower in qualities or these are not eatables for the common man. So, this is also a point which must be looked into by the Finance Ministry. Quality essential commodities should be supplied to the remote corners of the country. The people are only in cities, in towns or in posh areas but the maximum population, more than 80 percent of the population, is living in the rural areas and they are suffering. We are just getting income in cities. The people are well off in the posh areas. Their income is also very much high and that is also disproportionate to their known source of income. Somewhere there is hawala racket, which is taking place. Somewhere there is financial offence, which is taking place on a larger dimension. Somewhere there are scandals which are talking place in different other sensitive areas also; in telecom area just today, it was pointed out, the scandal has gone up to Rs. 65,000 crore. We, as the Members of Parliament also, fail to understand and we cannot pronounce 'Rs. 65,000 crore' correctly. So, this is the amount which is being indulged by the hon. Minister also here in this country. So, let us think about the common man. Let us think about the plight and the problems faced by the common man. So, on the price front, we are very much concerned.

Similarly we are very much concerned on the employment front too. It was just targeted in the Eighth Five Year Plan that there would be generation of employment up to 2.6 percent per annum. But this is not the case. The achievement is much lower in spite of all these efforts. And whatever the mid-term appraisal has been made, the Planning Commission is also very much disturbed. Whatever revelations have been made by the Planning Commission, on those revelations, your Finance Ministry is also very much disturbed, your Prime Minister is also very much disturbed and these facts which have been revealed by the Planning Commission are being tried to put under carpet. They are not in a position to show them to the public; they are not in a position to come forward in the House also with whatever revelations, whatever facts and whatever findings have been just made by the Planning Commission. So, this is also very much a point of concern because the Planning Commission is also not satisfied. Your members of the Planning Commission have also been insulted and humiliated by the Finance Ministry and by the Prime Minister's Office. They are insisting upon that this mid-term appraisal should not be put forward or laid on the Table of the House or the Members of Parliament should not lay their hands upon. So, this is a matter of concern.

So far as the employment in the rural areas in concerned, that is a cipher and that is a big zero. The people are just migrating from the rural areas,

from the remote areas of Bihar, from the remote areas of Uttar Pradesh, from the remote areas of Orissa and different other backward States, they are just going to Punjab, they are going to other States, they are going to other countries and they are going out of the country also in search of employment. Even in cities also, the poor people are parading in the streets in search of employment, in search of two times bread. So, this is the plight of the poor people and this is the problem of our country. The Ministers, those who will be responsible and those who are in the saddle will have to consider all these points.

So far as the agricultural front is concerned, the condition of child labour is also very much pitiable and this is very much miserable.

They are not getting their dues. They are not getting own wages. The Minimum Wages Act has been passed and so many Acts have been passed but whatever you pass here in the Parliament, unless you translate it into reality, into letter and spirit, in the different nooks and corner of the country, this is not going to just solve our problems.

Similarly, there is a wide gap. There is a wide discrimination against certain States. So far as Bihar is concerned - I come from Bihar - so many just petitions, so many requests and so many of our schemes are pending here with the Central Government. These scheme are not being cleared even after repeated reminders and repeated requests.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, I want to cite just one example with regard to the power scenario, i.e. the Koelkaro project. This is here in Parliament also the power scenario is changing all the time. Sometimes it is blue. Sometimes it is pink.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ansari, you do not have the time.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : That is why the rate is also changing, as Mr. Achariaji said. So here power scenario in our State is very much alarming. We are insisting upon this Government that whatever schemes have been sent to the Central Government, it must clear here the schemes at the earliest possible time. But in spite of our repeated reminders and requests, the one scheme which i am just citing, for example, Koelkaro project, has been pending since 1979. Only Rs. 10 crore was sanctioned by the Central Government with their sweet . . . We did not burden their just decision. We did . . . insist upon that. In spite of the sanctioned amount of money, our Chief Minister, our Government and our Minister for Energy are coming forward here. From Delhi to Bihar, from Patna to Delhi, they are rushing back. But they are not getting their own sanctioned amount of money. Up-till-now, they insisted upon only for rupees five crore. But this amount, this trivial amount of

money was also not sanctioned to the State Government. This is also just creating problem because this can generate just 710 MWs of electricity there. This can fulfil the requirement. And unless and until we are in a position to improve our electric and power scenario, we cannot just all these infrastructurers.

My brother Mr. Mohan Singh has rightly said that in some cities there are certain infrastructures available like Bombay, like Delhi, like other cities of this country and towns of this country. There is infrastructure which has been existing not at present but for the last many many years because you have made investment in a big way in all the cities. That is why there is existing infrastructure. That is why the people are coming forward from foreign countries. NRIs are also coming forward to make investment in different other social sectors because infrastructures are there existing long back, for the last many years. But so far as Bihar is concerned, so far as UP is concerned, so far as Orissa is concerned, you did not create any asset; you did not create any background. You did not create any sort of atmosphere for investment and that is why foreign investment is not being made. You say Bihar is not interested. You say Uttar Pradesh is not interested. You say Orissa is not interested. You say all these backward States are backward because they want to be backward. This is not the reality. The reality is this. We want to go up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are discussing the economic situation. Please conclude.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : We want to progress. This is the reality that we want to develop. This is the reality that we want to have investment on a larger scale. But because we do not have any infrastructure, we are empty handed. We have been made poor. We have been exploited by the Central Government. We have been exploited by the successive Governments and that is why, we are poor. You have neglected. You have discriminated. You have not made investment. You have not developed and this is the reality.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was expecting that I would get an opportunity to speak only after you leaved the House but you gave me an opportunity. I do not want to take much time. I would like to say something about Economic Policy. I would like to say briefly on four important policies i.e. Industrial Policy, Agriculture Policy, Pricing Policy and Foreign Trade Policy. It seems that this Government does not have any Integrated Policy. I do not mean to say that the integrated policy suggested by the opposition is right. But such a big country having a population of

92 crores cannot be run without adopting an Intergrated Policy. So far as our Public Sector Industries are concerned our entire media is bent on launching onslaughts on our public units. But on this other hand it is singing eulogy of such thousands of multi millionaires as have not repayed thousands of crores of rupees borrowed from banks and have been evading sales tax and income tax, and are still doing the same. Our Ministers and our Government have also joined the media in falsely eulogising them. They have digested billions of rupees but it is termed as their success. The Public Sector which has made our country able to stand on its own legs, due to which we have achieved success in launching satellites in the space and we are moving ahead to be reckoned as a front line country in the world, they are being considered responsible for our failure.

Mr. Chairman, Sir before Independence, even needles and blades were not manufactured indigenously. Today, due to this new policy, our country is being reverted to the same position. Earlier, I used 'Prince' blade but now it is out of the market. Now 'Economic' is also disappearing and a foreign made blade 'Seven O'Clock' is prevailing in the market. This is how our Government is undermining the economy of our country.

I would like to emphasize that still there is a scope for private sector. Still there is a ground for a mixed Industrial policy it was earlier. Hatia and Ranchi based heavy engineering industries have a capacity of reating a new plant of the size of Bokaro Steel Plant works at its maximum capacity it can produce one crore tonne steel and rejuvenate our country but if it is winded up or neglected on business considerations only i.e. after taking into account the cost and profit ratio our country cannot make a solid economic base for itself and economic freedom will also be in danger. Therefore I still say that our key industries should be allowed to remain in the Public Sector. The Government should not wind up such industries in Public Sector. Our hon. Finance Minister and the Government media are stating that our industries are running in loss. If our Government is present in a deficit budget or if we are bearing loss in running this Parliament, then will we have to enter into a contract with a Tata, Birla, Ford or Rapheal to run the Proceeding of our Parliament? Our Industrial Policy cannot prove to be a success without according priorities to such industries as provide maximum infrastructure. Therefore, my submission is that we should revive those heavy and key industries which are running in loss in the Public Sector. This is the responsibility of the Government, banks, workers and Trade Unions. This sector is not a parasite, creepe instead it is the tree which has been giving its fruits to the workers. A story goes that Kalidas was cutting the very branch on which he was sitting as he was a fool, but we are going to cut

down the whole tree. If it happens, then I think the Trade Unions are not doing their proper work. I am referring to all of us. If, due to our cowardness we cannot protect this tree, then it will be our such lapse for which our coming generations will never forgive us. The Government is challenging us to protect this tree. This is an opportunity ...*(Interruptions)*

I am addressing it to the treasury bench as well that the country is above all of us. This Government does not understand this fact but atleast we should understand that. That Government's new policy has given an opportunity to the labourers to participate in Management. Today, Government's management has failed. In such a situation, the workers should come forward and ask the Government and Private Sector to handover management to them and while doing so they should not own any responsibility for previous losses and loans. The workers should convince the Government that they can make such industries profitable. It is a call of the nation to the labourers as well as Trade Unions that they should come forward and assure the Government that they would gradually make the public Sector units viable. I hope one day labourers will have to come forward to do their duty, if not today. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should follow "one industry, one Union" Policy. Election of Union should be conducted on the basis of secret ballot system so that we may not support the Union on their wrong demands and deviate from right path. We may negotiate with one Union only and it should also understand its responsibility towards the country. Medium industry manufacturing consumer goods may be handed over the Private Sector. Our friend Mohan Singh and other colleagues have emphasized a small scale industries which needs to be encouraged in a country like India. Small scale sector does not have any limitation. I am also emphasizing on giving for encouragement to cottage industries. We have manpower of 92 crores in our country. I am not asking you to provide them jobs, I am asking you to utilize, their energy, skill and capacity which is going waste. The Government should provide them appropriate technology and electricity.

We can rejuvenate PSUs and enable them to complete with many multinational companies. Therefore, we should adopt production oriented integrated industrial policy cottage industry, medium and heavy industries. The funds allocated for the schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme are diverted for other purposes. I am saying so on the basis of my experience. That is why I am saying that bank employees and employees usurp major portion of that money and the poor person to whom it is sanctioned gets only a bit of it, and thus compelled to cut the grains which he had

actually kept for sowing. We dare not ask them not to eat the seed in the months of Asadha which they have kept for sowing in the month of Bhadra and which will give them crop in Agrahayan. The funds are being diverted elsewhere. Bank advance loans for fictitious business and shops. Due to our cowardice we dare not check such irregularities. I am saying so because I am struggling that. When we ask the beneficiary or the bank employees to desist from paying or receiving bribe while disbursement of loan, they both agree to it prima facie but in case, but when we ask the bank employees to adhere to the rule they think that the Government is not giving them any assistance. I am not talking of any individual. I am talking of general policy. The Government should make a policy under which bank loans should be given on priority basis for the well planned production activities. These small works can prove to be helpful in the development of the country.

I would like to say about prices. What is Government's policy in this regard? Our Finance Minister gives assurance that the Government shall make up the deficiency. We used to export foreign clothes to cater to the needs. Is that the way of making up the deficiencies? We do not feel shame in saying that we have imported the sugar, by closing down our own sugar mills. We can make the sugar a bit cheap but it becomes very costly in the days to come. If anybody says so in the name of economics, it becomes a matter of more shame. Therefore, I would like to urge upon you to give remunerative price for agricultural produces and make adjustment between the prices of agricultural products and factory products. Provide electricity, water, fertilizers and equipments necessary for agriculture at cheaper rates so that foodgrains may not become costly and consumers may also not suffer. The difference between the price at which we purchase a produce from the farmers and at which we sell it to the consumer should not be more than 20-25 percent so that we may stand in the service of the consumers, the producers at the interest of the nation.

The new economic policy has posed a new threat to the land reforms. The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has just stated about the Government of Karnataka that it wants to remove the land ceiling. We had inducted them into the 9th schedule and perhaps the Government of Karnataka wants to remove the ceiling ...*(Interruptions)* It is a matter of sorrow that the Government of West Bengal has also sent...*(Interruptions)*. I am saying so on the basis of facts. Please read today's newspaper ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): There should be something based on facts ...*(Interruptions)*

16.00 hrs.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : It is an evil of our Parliamentary democracy that if I adopt corrupt practices, it is not corruption but if someone else does so he is corrupt...*(Interruptions)*. It is being adopted by the Government of Karnataka and when the Government of West Bengal has sought permission from the Union Government to give relaxation in ceiling in the name of fish, tea and horticulture, it becomes dangerous thing and the things may go out of control. The purchasing power of the country will be lost. We have increased the production of the foodgrains from 5 crore tonnes in 1950 to 19 crore but if the purchasing power is not there in the villages, the foodgrains will remain as it is. Hon. Minister of Agriculture announces that we have surplus foodgrains while people are starving. So, if there is any deviation from land reforms then the poor and medium farmers may revolt. Do not think that it can be tackled easily, it will give birth to new struggle. It has not been gifted. These have been introduced after many sacrifices. The Government of Maharashtra has gradually taken steps to deviate from land reforms and has sent proposals. The Government of Punjab has also sent the proposal. This tendency is increasing like a contagious disease. I have seen the proposals of four State Governments, therefore I am saying so.

16.02 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

In the above circumstances I would like to request that after completing the land distribution works, do consolidation with land ceiling so that we can make advancement with modern agriculture techniques.

Some of our river valley projects are pending. The State Government as well as the Government of India, all are responsible for the pendency of just discussed Koyalkaro project.

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : Sir, it is 4 o'clock now. A statement has to be made by the Minister of Communication?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Where is the Minister of Communications?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister had spoken to me on telephone. He says that the English version of the Statement is ready and he is getting it translated into Hindi. He sought permission to make it at 5 p.m. and I have allowed it.

Shri Bhogendra Jha to continue his speech now.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : We shall produce that by utilising our human power in self-employed productive works, implementing land reforms and

consolidation. There is ceiling of 5 — 7.5 acre in Japan and that country has made progress. The land grabbers of our country as well as foreigners are taking new economic policy as a pretext to grab more and more land and it is posing a danger to our main question. Therefore, I was insisting that our export-import policy about which hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India boast, is not good whether we are exporting for the purpose of importing.

The Government say we import for exporting things. The Government are not thinking about imports and exports, production and the progress made by the country having population of 92 crores. We need foreign exchange. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to state that when we got independence, our foreign exchange was in the Bank of England. We had a lot of foreign exchange deposited in the form of Sterling. Our foreign exchange in the form of Sterling is not a proof of our progress. But the only proof is, how our production system and strength affect the country and how our products compete in the foreign countries. The Government are adopting the policy of import and export. It is handing over our industries to the foreign companies. It is ruining its own house for the sake of an idle pleasure. The Government are selling profit earning those industries on low prices on the plea that public sector companies are running into loss. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that a Parliamentary Committee may be constituted to find out the reasons for selling profitable public sector industries to foreign companies at low prices and to inquire into this fact that how much money has been taken within the country and from abroad. Who has authorised Government of India for doing so. Did this Government ask for this right in the last elections to sell out the profitable public sector undertakings? Was it mentioned in their election manifesto to sell them to Private companies or local or foreign capitalists? Neither the Government had asked for this right nor it was mentioned in its election manifesto. Therefore, this Government is betraying the voters. I would like to tell you that this Government will not be remained in office forever but they will leave this country in a crisis.

My colleagues were just talking about prices ...*(Interruptions)* You were not here and I am sorry to mention again the point of Sterling balance. My submission is that a Parliamentary Committee may be constituted to inquire into this matter whether the profit making public sector industries have been handed over to private sector due to corruption? I urge the hon. Minister and the Government to take interest in this matter and constitute a committee.

The Government should allow the participation of labourers in the Management of those production units, which are running into loss or closed down due to loss. The Government should also urge upon the labour class whether it belongs to any labour

union, to come forward to make that unit self dependent. For this purpose they should be given loan facilities so that they can be revived. This will help in avoiding retrenchment. If Bhopal Unit is closed then how will we be able to generate power. Now only Enron issue has come in the lime light. Therefore, the Government should not strike at the root. Smt. Indira Gandhi had done so. After she became the Prime Minister of India, the Minister of Planning said in the USA that India's door is open for American investment. We had objected to it and struggled for that for three years in the Parliament also. As per the instructions of Plan Holiday and World Bank the scheme had not achieved success but the Government of Indira Gandhi remained in power. We split the Congress and got implemented the policy of nationalisation. It was pride for the country. On 19 September 1968, 14 persons were gunned down. The employees of the Central Government took the nation ahead. Indiraji was expelled from the Congress but she became the leader of the nation. The Banks were nationalised, new factories were set up and 105 sick textile mills were nationalised. Amendments were made in Land Reforms Laws, Coal Mines were nationalised and country had made progress. Our Parliament and we are proud of it. The Congress Party had been separated as Old Congress. Shrimati Indiraji had helped our candidate V.V. Giri to win against her own candidate Neelam Sanjiva Reddy by getting votes for Shri Giri from Indira Congress.

Our friends from Bhartiya Janta Party were very happy about the Economic Policy of the country. Advaniji had said that Narasimha Raoji had stolen their policy but now he is not saying anything about it. Now unemployment is increasing and prices are going up, they are sitting silent. They are hesitating to say something it just like a unwed girl who has given birth to a baby but feels ashamed of saying that it is hers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Bhogendra Jhaji, I would like to know whether this is parliamentary.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur) : I do not want to say anything to him as he is a senior Member. But such type of expression are not expected from him.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I have used the work 'unmarried'. If he is married I would like to congratulate him. I remember that I have not encouraged him even to get married.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now result of this policy is seen in the form of unemployment, Enron and price hike. Shri Manmohan Singhji and hon. Narasimha Raoji are hesitating in saying so. I would like to say that this policy is against the interest of the country and

public and against economic freedom. I will again seek apology for another word. I would like to beg your pardon there had been a disease in the world ... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : This Government is following that policy. The country is facing a new danger of neocolonialism. Today America is providing arms to Pakistan. It is not correct. It is a dangerous thing. They are facing problem in finding market for their arms. The arms produced by them are to be sold. They may ask India also to buy these arms. Then some people will support in their country. There is danger of colonialism India has the oldest civilisation where people of all religions, races and 1000 different languages speaking persons live together. This country can counter the danger of colonialism with support of other countries. The main field of competition for it, is economic. We should change our policy and move forward by creating awareness among people and by utilisation of their labour and skill. We should adopt a indigenous policy. I have no objection in taking the skill and technique which is not available with us. But this country, our soil and coming generation should be saved from foreign economic and technical invasion which aims to ruin our techniques. Therefore, I oppose this economic policy as it is against the son of this soil. I would like to suggest that we should change this economic policy including the industrial policy in the interest of this country and economic upliftment for progress.

MR. SPEAKER : The important issue of economic policy is being debated here. If there are any shortcomings in this policy, you can give suggestions for their removal. Please speak on the issue only.

16.14 hrs.

(Mr. Tara Singh in the chair)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a saying that "Neero fiddled while Rome burnt" and this Government is in the same situation due to economic policy. Several targets were fixed while launching this new economic policy in 1991. The present situation in the end of 1995 is the consequence of this economic policy. The outcome of this policy is totally different against the targets fixed by the Government and now Government is trying to escape. I remember a few lines of a couplet:

Tu Idhar-udhar ki baat na kar,
yeh bata ki kaphila kyon luta,
Mujhe rahjani se matlab nahi,
Sawal Teri Rahbari Ka Hai.

* Not Recorded.

Who is responsible for formulation implementation and results of this new economic policy? This Government is responsible for it. I would like to cite two examples in this regard. On the 49th anniversary of Independence say hon. President has said in his speech that economic policies should be formulated in the interest of poor. It was said repeatedly in his various statements. What more proof will be required for it when the first person of the country is not satisfied with this policy. Secondly on 8th July, 1995 when the Planning Commission wanted to conduct midterm evaluation of the performance of 8th Five Year Plan somehow that meeting was postponed. The results of economic policy show how poor our economic situation is. It reveals the adverse impact of this economic policy. In this context hon. Prime Minister has said few words while addressing the people of this country from rampart of Red Fort.

He felt very happy that within four years Rs. 68 crore of foreign investment took place and out of this, 80 percent was in the infrastructure sector. This is totally false and baseless. The fact is that as per the non-official data available in this regard, only 15 to 20 percent investment took place in the infrastructure sector. The investment comes to only 6 to 7 percent in the fields of roads, power, communications etc. Such a low investment in the infrastructure sector shows that foreign investment in this field has not been to the desired extent.

In India, food, clothing and shelter continue to be basic necessities. Today lakhs of villages do not have potable water. Villages lack link roads. Primary schools in the villages lack basic facilities. Several villages are still without electricity. Had the economic policies shown favourable results in meeting the infrastructure necessities, our villages would have been self-sufficient and cottage industries would have got a fillip. Further had economic nationalism and the feeling of swadeshi and self-reliance been given encouragement, we would have thought that economic policies of the country are on the right track. But it seems that our thinking was different from what was happening. I would like to cite two examples in this regard. When Rao Government came to power our external debt was 75.9 billion dollar. Now the Government is boasting of all round development through radio and T.V. as if things have changed miraculously for the better overnight. But in my view, it is simply like a pipe dream. In spite of attaining new heights in development and exports, external debt in 1995 stood at 95 billion dollars. From this, one can very well imagine the progress made by the country. Facts need no proof. I want to give one more example. According to the Government's claim, our forex reserve is continuously on the upswing. But the press claims that our forex reserve is decreasing. Our forex reserve, excluding gold and SDRs, was to the tune of 20.80 billion

dollars as on last March. This came down to 17.45 billion dollars on 3rd, November, 1995. The Government is trying to mislead the people by juggling with the figures. Prices are rising by leaps and bounds. The poor do not get even two square meals. They cannot afford to buy cooking oil to cook his lentil. Even salt is expensive. Travelling too have become expensive. Prices of essential items have increased and the poor are not getting them on subsidised rates. The poor farmer is not getting remunerative price for his produce. If the economic policy had helped in checking price rise, devaluation of rupee and boosting rupee value in the world market, we would have conceded that the nation is progressing. But things are happening just to the contrary.

Sir, prices have increased by 40 per cent, after the liberalisation of the economy. I want to convey my concern to the Government over the prevailing situation. Prices of daily items used by the commonman are increasing continuously. But the prices of items used by industrialists and capitalists have not increased proportionately. Things are becoming difficult for the poor and the middle class. Who is responsible for the price rise, for the devaluation of the Rupee, for the increasing unemployment and for the rising poverty? China began development programmes along with us in 1949. Its population is more than ours. In a fixed period, China has attained its goals, be it in case of imports and exports, foreign exchange, savings and controlling the fiscal deficit. But our country has lagged behind. From the very beginning, I have been saying that the idiom 'Nero fiddled while Rome burnt', aptly applies in our case too. After embarking on the economic reforms, the Government did not pay attention at all towards checking corruption and various scams like the security scam, the sugar scam, bank scam or the new scams that are being revealed daily. It also failed in monitoring financial management, curtailing Government expenditure and in rooting our corruption.

Sir, the inflation rate is also causing concern. Our Government has failed on social and economic front as well. Unemployment is increasing by leaps and bounds. Sir, saving and exchange rates are falling. Not much financial improvement has been noticed in the Public Sector industrial units. With elections round the corner, economic reforms have slowed down due to the compulsions arising out of elections. The Government started amidst much fan-fare the Indira Awas Yojana and Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the primary schools to mislead the people. The foodgrains used for mid-day meal costs the Government Rs. 567 per quintal, whereas better quality wheat is easily available in the market for Rs. 300-400 per quintal. This is an example of the Government's efficiency in financial management.

The Government is not utilizing the money more efficiently. Austerity measures are not being adopted by the Government to curtail wasteful expenditure. had an appraisal of the Five Year Plan being done by the members of the Planning Commission and by the economists, the Government, perhaps, could have got proper guidance to take the nation on the right track. But the Government indulged in dilly-dallying. The Government failed to bring down the fiscal deficit and this is rising continuously. The Government is taking the nation towards economic crisis. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I again demand that the Government should issue a white paper regarding our internal and external debt and the amount that is paid as interest on debt servicing each year so that we could get the information. A review of the nation's economic condition should be revealed to us.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to give some suggestions to come out of the economic crisis and the efforts the Government should make in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier an Economic Advisory Council was formed, which advised the Prime Minister. Since a very long time, this Council has been dormant. My suggestion is either to revive the council or to form a National Economic Security Council. Economists, those having an interest in the economic situation and those having knowledge of current situation should be included in this council it should be asked to give suggestion to improve the economic condition of the country. Mr. Chairman, Sir, several States are ruled by parties different from the one at the Centre. There is lack of co-ordination among them regarding foreign investment. The formation of this Council is also necessary to advise on investment matters. Foreign companies should not be given permission to manufacture such things which can be produced indigenously. Multinationals should be allowed entry where new technology and hi-tech are needed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, control on population is also very essential. The Government should seriously strive towards this. Our population is increasing alarmingly. This is a national problem. Rising population negates our policies and programmes. Therefore, it is very essential to control the rising population. There is a need for comprehensive reforms in political, administrative, judicial, educational and social spheres. Then only the benefit of economic reforms will reach the people. It is also essential for the Government to obtain minimum consensus in this regard.

Due to this, divergent opinions are being expressed. We were also supporter of economic liberalisation but the Government wants to handover every work to the multinationals, the World Bank and

the IMF. The Government wants all the products ranging from computer chips to uncle chips to be manufactured by foreign companies. We cannot support the idea of inviting multinational companies for the production of every item whether it is big or small. Therefore, a minimum consensus should be developed. On economic reforms by calling a meeting of the leaders of all the political parties. Some days back Shri Kesri Ji had stated in a meeting organised in FICCI that the new economic policy was a historical one and was in the interest of the people. He had attributed it with several adjectives. But due to partial attitude of the Government its adverse effects are visible now. The prices are constantly increasing and the poverty is also on the increase. It has become very difficult for the poor and workers to make both ends meet. It should be considered as to who is responsible for this plight.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end I would like to say that our economic condition is very critical and it needs a detailed discussion for making some improvement in it.

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I firstly thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak on the economic situation. We have with us a statement of the Finance Minister made on the price situation, not on the full economic situation, though it does touch areas of the economic situation.

At the outset, I would like to point out that it is interesting to note what he said while completing his statement and I would like to take your leave to quote the same:

"We have to recognise that to achieve this goal (that is, the goal of reducing inflation) we must work together to enhance fiscal discipline (of course, very noteworthy), contain monetary growth, further liberalise import policy and strengthen systems for targeting the availability of key essential commodities in favour of the weaker segments of our society. We must also work to strengthen consumer movement in the country and undertake all necessary measures to curb monopolistic practices".

what is interesting to note is that the usual, old fashioned, if I may say, economic expression of increase in production and productivity is a statement missing. I do not know whether this is missing because of any conscious reason or is it by expression. Essentially I am not attributing any motives. Essentially I have noted it because these are favourite terms of the hon. Finance Minister. He usually uses these terms of increase in production

and productivity, but then here he emphasizes the liberalisation of import policy rather than emphasizing increase in production and productivity.

I am sure, he would agree - and there is nobody who can disagree that the present situation of price is appalling. It is appalling because there was a time as rightly said by my hon. friend who just spoke before me, Rawatji, when people used to say *Dal-Roti* is the answer. If I may submit, it is normally known that *Dal-Roti* is the answer for the poor, the lower middle class. But today the prices of *Dal* has reached a stage where it has gone beyond the reach of the poor man. *Dal* has become dearer than in fact even much costlier edible products at one time ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Eat only chapati, there is no need of dal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No disorder, please

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : It is a very interesting comment. He says make it *Roti* and *Namak* and increase the price of *Namak* also so that ultimately there is nothing available to eat.

What is interesting to note is that the hon. Finance Minister refers to the WPI or the Wholesale Price index as a reliable, stable, more indicative price index than the Consumer Price Index. Unfortunately, the people of India do not buy in wholesale. They buy in retail; retail not once over, but retail many times over when one talks of the poor. But the time a product, an essential commodity reaches the poor man, it reaches him passing many middlemen's hands. The prices have reached literally the roof. I do not know whether it can go any higher.

We were told when the Government came, when the hon. Finance Minister was new for all of us, when the dollar was fixed at Rs. 32, that this is necessary in order to encourage exports, it is necessary for the purpose of handling the balance of payment situation. I am sure, the Finance Minister would agree with me, for the last four years we have actually spent a lot of money buying dollars in the market through the RBI to ensure that the level of dollar at Rs. 32 per dollar is maintained.

A substantial infusion of funds has taken place. The misfortune is that the figures are not available with me. I will be obliged, Mr. Chairman, if I can make a request, through you, to the Finance Minister to give us the figures on how many thousands of crores of rupees have been spent in the last four years to ensure that the rupee-dollar rate stood at Rs. 32. I would like to know that. I would also like to know how many million dollars have been sold of

those billions bought in the last four years to somehow manage to keep between Rs. 34 and Rs. 35, the rupee-dollar rate.

It is obvious that when money is pumped into a market - whatever be the reason - it will add to inflation. It will not reduce or contain inflation. It is a very common theory. The more the money that is available, the less the products that are available, naturally, the prices will increase and inflation will be there. I would like to have specific figures - and I am sure the House would like to know - by this one act of buying dollars and pumping money in rupees into the Indian market, how much has been the contribution to the price increase in terms of C.P.I., the Consumer Price Index and not in terms of the W.P.I. The W.P.I. can be quite indicative, may be for macro-economics. I am sorry, I deal not with the macro situation. As an individual, as every citizen does, I deal with the micro situation, which we face day-to-day, where the prices are shooting through the roof whatever be the indicative statistics one may have. Statistics - I am aware and I am sure the House is aware - is a very useful instrument to convince as well as cover up. Now, I am not saying that the statistics that have been presented to this House is necessarily a cover-up. But Dr. Manmohan Singhji, our hon. Finance Minister is adept at handling statistics, being very knowledgeable in economics. All of us know of him. When he says, 'this is the right economics', we are constrained to accept it because of our respect. Sometimes, even Nirmalda, who often is quite harsh has toned down his harshness because it is Dr. Manmohan Singhji doing a particular act. But I think it is necessary for us to know what exactly is the cause why the essential commodities and necessary items for day-to-day life have become so costly.

It is a fact that between forty percent and seventy percent is the increase in prices, in the last four years, of many commodities which we use in our day-to-day life. We must know the reason who is at fault. I think that the people can decide at the appropriate time. But what is important for us to know is, 'Why did this happen when we have an economist like Dr. Manmohan Singh as the Finance Minister?' I think, he owes it to this House and to the people of India to give an honest admission as to why did this happen, where does the fallacy lie, what is the cause for this price increase so that in future - just as he has said while ending his statement, 'inflation could be contained' - we do not go the Mexican way where we go into hundreds of thousands of percentage in increasing our cost of living.

I would also like to, Mr. Chairman, Sir, point out that what is most interesting is that the number of people who live below the poverty line have been

increasing. According to the Planning Commission's Interim Report, which was made available, placed on the Table of the House by the Leader of the Opposition - I think, Advaniji did it - clearly, the number of people in terms of percentage, below the poverty line, has gone up. This is not a very satisfactory indicator. It is not that we are spending less money. As rightly pointed out by the Finance Minister, allocation of money for rural development and allocation of money for anti-poverty programmes have gone up. This is whether in real terms or not in real terms, it does not matter. It has actually gone up, and gone up substantially. Where has that money gone? Why is it not available to really give some succour to the poor, to give them relief? Where has it gone? Is it going into the hands of a few people?

I think it is necessary for us to analyse the problems of the people which they face today. If I may submit the main problem is the rise in prices. Whatever be the statistics which we give to each other, this is the reality and all of us know. If any one of us asks our better halves, our wives or those responsible for running the domestic establishments, you will know that there is unhappiness over the price rise and we cannot deny that. If Dr. Manmohan Singh addresses this question to his better half, and I understand that she is very clear in her mind, he would know the answer. I am sure he knows it. He must have heard complaints over a period of time mildly being put across to him. But the important thing for us to do is to identify, what is it that the people really upset about. Let us not go into nomenclatures of what was the new economic policy, what has it become today or what should it have been. I think the important thing is coming to the grassroot issue, *i.e.* what is affecting the people of India. It is price rise and galloping unemployment. It is not going down. Yes, it is true at certain stage agriculture labourers' wages had gone up. But that is in certain stage. That is why there is migration of agriculture labourers. The Chairman is aware that there is migration of agriculture labourers from Bihar to Punjab. Thousands and lakhs of people come to work during agricultural sessions. It is because the wages are reasonable in Punjab and wages in Bihar are very low. This takes place even within the State. In my home State, Tamil Nadu, I have seen people moving from one district to another in searching for employment in agriculture sector where reasonable wages are available. And that is the reason why in fact today agriculturists are upset in areas where there is high productivity. Inputs are going up and the output prices are not sufficient. I do not think any Government should play between the consumer of essential commodities on one side and the need of agriculturists on the other side. The duty of the Government is to balance both the demands. I recollect the hon. Prime Minister standing up in this

House, only during last Session, and submitting that the cost between procured essential commodities and the cost at which it sells through the Public Distribution System is 60 per cent of the cost of the agricultural produce and 40 per cent of the cost of handling. How can we have such high cost of handling? It is unheard of that 40 per cent of the cost of essential commodity being given to the poor man is due to handling. Then, there is something wrong in the system of our management and handling of essential commodities. We need to correct it. It is no use saying, 'this is the position and we are helpless'. I also think that it is necessary for us to understand that we gave a promise, at least to all Congressmen throughout the country, Dr. Manmohan Singhji was there, that we would have a minimum of ten million jobs created every year. Even now, in the last year we are talking of seven million jobs. I hope in the fifth year we reach the target. The point is, will we be able to have employment for all by the year 2,000 A.D.? I sincerely doubt it. I think, the real problem is that we have lost moral values. Dr. Manmohan Singhji has said it in the House and said it earlier outside also. It is due to lack of moral values that in the process of trying to ape everything foreign - everything foreign is good and right because they are advanced countries - that we are losing whatever good we have in us. Today corruption has almost come to be recognised as legal. Nobody is talking ill of corruption. We stand up and talk of figures of Rs. 65,000 crore, Rs. 85,000 crore etc. But god knows, is really such money available for corruption? If so, why are we not moving on it? Why is it that scam after scam is spoken of? But nobody is brought to book. Not a single person is serving jail sentence. People are indulging in corruption with impunity. Whatever be the policies of Dr. Manmohan Singhji, I can assure you that we will continue to have our problems because leak is there, not anywhere else.

Dr. Manmohan Singh may not be able to say it in the House, so long as he is the Finance Minister. But I am sure - I hope it does not happen - but if it ever happens, he will definitely be able to say, what was the problem. The problem is the total dishonesty, the total lack of transparency. We need to have honesty and transparency.

Enron unfortunately is one of the best examples that is available wherefrom you come to know that any multinational company is a business organisation. It is a business organisation; and a business organisation will take the maximum profit it can. If it finds that there are people who are willing to suck lollipops and give them more profit, they will do it. If they think that there are people who will knock them on their knuckles and get them to give a good deal, they will come and sign a good deal

with you. I cannot imagine on what basis do we talk of a 'cost plus' scenario. Why did we not talk of tenders? Why have we come to a situation where we are constrained, if I may submit, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to look down in shame and not look up as Indians with our heads held high saying that we are the greatest civilisation in the world?

We have values. Sir, Above you, you have a slogan which does not talk of religions. Of course, my learned friends on the other side might say that 'dharma' means religion. It is not so. 'Dharma' is a way of life and it is ethos. If that has to be all prevailing, the first thing that we need to have is to weed out the corrupt, to weed out the dishonest and the truthful among ourselves and actually respect truth. Truth is the only God that Vedas recognised and I hope Dr. Manmohan Singh understands that.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indian economy today offers a bizarre spectacle of an oasis of affluence in the midst of grinding poverty, a spectacle of indebtedness to and dependence upon the foreign multinationals and imperialist forces.

Although there are plenty of resources in our country both human and natural, still the countries foremost dream merchant, the Finance Minister claims that the economy is vibrant, healthy and strong. But a look at the UNDP Human Development Report or some statistics revealed by the Government itself will tell us another story, a different story, UNDP Human Development Report placed India at the 134th rank among the 173 countries it surveyed. India has dropped from the 121st position which it held in 1991. What does it mean? It means, in these three years, India could not overtake at least some of the newly established independent countries. So, it is the result, it is the offshoot of wrong economic policy of the Government of India that has led to such an economic situation. The most serious thing is the remark made by the Report. The Report observed and I quote :

"The rural poor, more than one-third of India's people are paying the price for reforms, but not yet seen many benefits."

From this and from the other statistics that I will just try to present before you, it shall be seen that the claim of the Government and the Finance Minister that there will be a change with a human face is a myth, a fiction and not a reality.

Look at the figure of growth of gross domestic product. Look at the figure of trade deficit, fiscal deficit and revenue deficit. In all the cases the promises that were made by the Finance Minister had not been kept. I think, the doctor - Dr. Manmohan Singh - has failed to diagnose the disease rightly. The disease is that poverty is increasing.

Unemployment is increasing. There is rampant fiscal indiscipline. There is an abnormal increase in money supply. There is uncontrolled inflation. There is burgeoning trade deficit, sharp increase in the demand for dollars for financing additional imports, increase in internal and external debt, additional international liability arising out of our unsustainable foreign loan, unlimited borrowing, etc. And even if one is to call it a change, I am one who will agree only to differ.

The gross domestic product increased by 4.3 per cent in 1992-93 as well as in 1993-94. However, as far as advance estimates of the CSO, the gross domestic product shows a growth rate of 5.3 per cent during 1994-95. But the average rate is 4.5 per cent. The Eighth Plan targeted a growth rate of 5.5 per cent for the period 1992-97. How shall the Government maintain it? I do not know about it. I want a categorical reply from the Government. How does it like to achieve the target?

Look at the India's balance-sheet. Going through the statement of assets and liabilities of the Central Government, one's stomach is churned. One need not be an accountant to come to a conclusion that the liabilities are more than the assets. Here are the figures. The shocking fact is that the assets of the Government of India are worth Rs. 3,84,805 crore whereas the liabilities are worth Rs. 6,00,559 crore. The difference actually amounts to accumulated losses of Rs. 2,15,754 crore which are equivalent to 56 per cent of the assets. What is more pertinent is that the loss as a percentage of assets has been mounting up year after year. How does the Government like to pay it? Is it by borrowing from internal resources or from the external resources?

Interest payments are going up. I recall the budget speech of Dr. Manmohan Singh in 1991-92 when he said :

"Interest payments alone are about 4 per cent of GDP and constitute 20 per cent of the total expenditure of the Central Government. Without decisive action now, the situation will move beyond the possibility of correction action".

And what is the position now? Now the interest payments have risen to 30 percent of expenditure. Does the Government tacitly agree that it has entered into debt trap? does it agree that it is beyond the possibility of a corrective action? Who is to be blamed? It is the policy of the Government. The Finance Minister goes to the Economic Survey, 1994-95 that a satisfactory level of food is there. Yes, it is there. The stock of foodgrains held by the Centre and the States on 1st June, 1991 was 22.45 million tonnes. On 1st June, 1994, it increased to 26.57 million tonnes.

Now, the increasing trend in bufferstock is largely due to lower offtake from the public distribution system. Again, it is substantiated by facts and figures. The intake from the PDS in 1991-92 was only 99.45 lakh tonnes. In 1993-94, it was reduced to 88.84 lakh tonnes. So, the godowns of the FCI is full but the stomachs of the people are empty. Why is it? It is because the people have no purchasing power. It is because of the fact that the price of the PDS and the actual market price are almost equal. So, in India, we have crores of people who cannot buy but who have the desire to consume.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken ten minutes.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : It cannot be, Sir. But I will try to conclude.

As regards rate of inflation, many hon. Members have dilated upon it. So, I need not go into the details. Regarding the claim by the Government that the inflation rate is going down, I would like to say that the annual WPI average rose by 10.7 per cent in the post-reform years as against 7.2 per cent in the comparable period before the reform was launched. Who is responsible again? Is it not the new economic policy? During the same period, the price of food articles moved up by 10.6 per cent as against 7.3 per cent and price of primary commodities by 10.7 per cent as compared to 6.6 per cent. It may be noted that after the decline to 8 per cent in 1995-96, overall inflation rate still remains higher than 7.2 per cent which was the rate in the post-reform years. So, I challenge the claim of the Finance Minister that the rate of inflation is going down. The figures are in this fashion. I do not want to go into the details of the consumer price index and I do not like to express the feelings of the people who go to the market. I do not know whether the Ministers go to the market to purchase things for themselves. Do they know the prices of vegetables, pulses, etc.? But statistics indicate that the availability and the per capita consumption of edible oil in our country has decreased during the same period when Dr. Manmohan Singh took over charge as the Finance Minister of the country.

Employment growth as envisaged in the Eighth Plan has failed. The Mid-Term Appraisal has already accepted it. They failed to reach the target. In 1991-92, there was shortage of 5 million jobs and in 1992-93, the shortage was 2 million and in 1993-94, it was 3 million. I am quoting from the Planning Commission document. So, the target of the Eighth Plan has lagged behind by more than 10 million only during these three years. For the rest of the two years, how does the Government like to generate employment as envisaged in the Eighth Plan? I would like to have an answer from the Government.

Having looked at the comparative figures of the trade deficit during the three years in 1993-94, the

gap was only 250 million dollars. In 1994-95, it was 798 million dollars and in 1995-96, it is 1976 dollars. Is this the improvement that is envisaged? The imports have increased in 1995-96 from April to August. During these five months, imports increased by 37 per cent.

17.00 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Exports increased only by 27 per cent. The fiscal deficit which was Rs. 36,325 crore is estimated to have increased by Rs. 68,484 crore. So far as the foreign debt is concerned, in March, 1991 it was 83.8 billion dollars; today it is about 95.3 billion dollars. Our internal loan is again nearly Rs. 4,80,000 crore. Our indebtedness and repayment liability for the year 1995-96 is 12.3 billion dollars. So, the foreign exchange reserve is 20 billion dollars which because of the depreciation has gone down by extra two million dollars. Now, we have to repay 12.3 million dollars in this year itself. So, I would like to ask the Finance Minister as to what remains after this as foreign exchange, of which he boasts of.

Sir, I would need ten minutes more to complete my submissions. Should I continue now or should I continue later on?

MR. SPEAKER : You can continue afterwards.

Now, there are two statements to be made; one, by the hon. Prime Minister and one by the hon. Minister of Communication. It is better to hear the Prime Minister first.

17.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Launch of INSAT - 2C Satellite.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, I am happy to inform this august House that INSAT-2C, designed and built by the Indian Space Research Organisation has been successfully launched this morning. The Ariane launch vehicle carrying INSAT-2C lifted off from Kourou in French Guyana at 04.53 hours IST and placed it in a Grosynchronous Transfer Orbit with a perigee of 200 km and an apogee of 35,976 km. The satellite is now orbiting the earth every 10½ hours.

The INSAT Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka required the telemetry signals from INSAT-2C about two minutes after its injection into orbit and has confirmed that the health of the satellite is normal. Several manoeuvres are to be carried out before the satellite is made operational. The orbit of

INSAT-2C will be raised to its final geosynchronous orbit of 36,000 km. above the earth in the equatorial plane by firing the liquid apogee motor carried on board the satellite. The deployment of two solar arrays and two antennas will be carried out after the satellite attains near geosynchronous orbit. Subsequently, all the payloads on board will be checked out. The orbit raising, deployment and appendages and initial testing of all the payloads are expected to take about three weeks.

All these operations will be carried out from the INSAT Master Control Facility and I am sure this House will join me in wishing the ISRC Scientists and Engineers complete success in their mission to put INSAT-2C in the service of the Nation.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Ghandi Nagar) : Sir, I join the Prime Minister in congratulating and complimenting the scientists and technicians who have achieved this and who have made the country feel proud.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the hon. Prime Minister in congratulating the scientists, technicians and staff for this glorious achievement.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to be able to associate myself and my Party with what has been said by our Prime Minister and other hon. Members here.

I wish to congratulate heartily our technicians and our scientists and everybody who has been connected with this project - the successful completion of this, in whatever manner they have been. Sir, it shows that our scientists and our technical personnel given an opportunity can achieve anything which you can be proud of and of world standard. That shows given the opportunity and proper R&D facilities for which the Finance Minister must open up his first. They can achieve it. We can achieve world level expertise and of which we shall be proud of and we are proud of what has happened. I wish to join in congratulating everybody concerned with it.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with what has been said by the hon. Prime Minister. I hope that we all taking a lesson from the achievement made by our scientists and the concerned officers, will dedicate ourselves with full confidence to the national advancement.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : We join the Prime Minister in congratulating the scientists on achieving this great laurel to our country.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : I would like to congratulate our scientists and technicians for the glorious efforts that have been made in the field of Indian Science and technology and associate myself with the feelings expressed by the hon. Prime Minister and other Members of the House in this regard.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the achievements of which we can be proud of and we all join in congratulating our scientists but at the same time, I also want to remind this Government that a lot of our achievements by the scientists have not fructified. In this connection; I want to request the Prime Minister to come out with our Agni and Prithvi. Wonderful work has been done in that field. But nothing is being done. Therefore, all efforts of our scientists are not being fully utilized for the betterment of this nation and I would like this to be brought to the notice of the Prime Minister.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, this shows that our great country has crossed one more milestone in achieving the great success in the scientific field and it is a matter of proud for the entire country. I take this opportunity to convey my congratulations and economiums to all those who deserve it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : I also join on behalf of my party to congratulate the scientists, technicians and all concerned for having taken a long leap in the field of space and space research. Sir, in Houston, USA, the NASA is reducing their activities. Now, it is very good time of us to enhance our activities. I congratulate the Prime Minister and also the Government and also the scientists once again.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (Satna) : The hon. Speaker. Sir, this House held an exciting...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Speaker, the House is thrilled and excited by this news. It is totally in tune with the herculean and dedicated efforts the scientists, the experienced scientists of this country have been putting in over the decade.

I think, the time has now come when not only should we congratulate them but their advice should become an important input in many of our national policies, whether it is Defence, Communication, Space because they have almost a single-minded

approach to accelerate national interests, to further the interests of the country in those spheres of activities. It is time that they get recognition in these spheres also.

With these words, I join the sentiments expressed in this House in congratulating the scientists of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (Mainpuri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself as well as my party with the feelings of the House and would like to quote two lines -

"Jahan Avtar Janme Hain, Pale Hain Veer
Rishi Yogi,

Na Koi Yah Samajh Baithe Ki Ab Yeh Bhumi
Parti Hai,

Yahan Ka har Naya Ankur Agar Pal Gaya
Dhang se,

Namoona Bankar Jayega Ki Upjau Dharti Hai,
Yeh Bari Upjau Dharti Hai."

Such people should be honoured by this House also. With these words I once again pay my heartiest congratulations to all the concerned persons.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Scientists, engineers, workers and planners who are responsible for making and launching INSAT II C successful have done us all proud and indeed deserve our heartiest congratulations which we have profusely given to them. Let the expression of appreciation by this House be communicated to the leaders, scientists, engineers and workers.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : We will do that, Sir.

17.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Award of Licences to Private Companies For Operating Basic Telecom Services

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Hon. Speaker Sir... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The time of this House should be used for intelligent debate.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Hon. Speaker Sir, I wish to make a statement regarding the status of the tenders for award of licences to private companies for operating basic telecom service in various parts of the country. Marketing such a statement has become

necessary in view of the observations made by some hon. Members regarding the alleged favours extended to a private company M/s. HFCL Bezeq Telecom Ltd...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the House was informed that instead of 4 o'clock the Statement be deferred till 5 o'clock so that sufficient copies are available and the Hindi translation which was not complete be also made available. I am sure, this is purely an administrative difficulty, but it would help us if sufficient copies are made available because it is an intricate matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Have the copies been supplied to the Members?

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, copies are ready now and I think within five or ten minutes time, these will be supplied to the hon. Members...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER : The name of the company, which is being mentioned should be made clear.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : They want to delay it deliberately...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, in our House, we do not have supplementaries on the Statement made by the Minister. Now let the Minister read out the statement.

I am told that copies were getting ready, maybe the copies are ready and they would be made available to the Members. They would be getting them.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, you have stated that due to Hindi translation ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I had heard from him. Let us understand and that this is a matter which was taken up at zero hour.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I know, Sir, but this is because they themselves said that they would provide the copies.

[Translation]

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA (Khalilabad) : It is our right. What is the Government doing ? Crores of rupees have been spent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Will the Parliamentary Affairs Minister or somebody get the copies of Hindi version and made available?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, both English and Hindi versions will be supplied within ten minutes
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : It seems that we are sitting in the Parliament of America. The Government is ignoring Hindi. We are the hon. Members of the House ... (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, Hindi translation takes a little time. Therefore, Hindi translation will follow ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will be provided Hindi version also. The statement of the hon. Minister is also being interpreted in Hindi. Please listen to it. This impression should not go out of the House that you are not following as to what the hon. Minister is saying. He has listened to you and he will provide Hindi version later on. He was given time for providing Hindi copies too. It would have been better if they were available on time but if it is not available, please listen to him and read it later on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot compel anybody to speak in Hindi or English. You will get Hindi version.

[Translation]

You can listen to the Hindi version by using headphones.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, on important matters, you should follow the rules; you should give sufficient time also. You have raised this matter in the Zero Hour. Even one day's time is not given to the Minister; you have asked him to make a statement today and now he has come here to make the statement. On technical points, if you do not want to hear him, it is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Use ear phone, you will get Hindi translation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : You have full right, you can say so...

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has no right. Do not give direction form there. I am directing you to keep quiet please.....

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are very right.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA : No work is done in Hindi... (Interruptions) work is not being done in Hindi in Lok Sabha. We are not getting Hindi version ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not distort the fact. If you do so, it will not be in the interest of the country. Let the right thing go.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen. Copies will be provided later on.

[English]

Please hear with your ear phone. You will hear the Hindi version.

[Translation]

I am saying so because, has he been given time till tomorrow, he would have provided Hindi version also. He is making statement today on your instance.

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a statement regarding the status of the tenders for award of licences to private companies for operating basic telecom service in various parts of the country. Making such a statement has become necessary in view of the observations made by some hon. Members regarding the alleged favours extended to a private Company, M/s HFCL Bezeq Telecom Ltd.

The National Telecom Policy 1994, placed before the Parliament in May, 1994, had stipulated, among other things, that the basic telecom service shall also be thrown open to private sector with a view to supplementing the efforts of the Government operator to provide telephone to all at affordable prices in as short time as possible. In pursuance of this policy declaration guidelines were issued in September 1994 governing the entry of private sector into basic services They provided that :

- (a) There shall be two operators in every Circle of the country - the Government operator (Dot/MTNL) and a private operator. The country is divided into 21 Circles for the operation of the DoT. Therefore, 21 licences were proposed to be issued to private operators;
- (b) Only Indian Companies registered as such under the Indian Companies Act, shall be eligible for the grant of licence;

- (c) Foreign equity in such a licensee Company will be restricted to 49 per cent;
- (d) Inter Circle Traffic will continue to be the monopoly of the Government operator and similarly the international traffic will continue to be the monopoly of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (a Government of India Public Sector Undertaking).

Based on the Policy statement and the Guidelines, a tender document was issued on 16th January, 1995. The bidder companies were invited to seek any clarifications to the terms and conditions of the tender. A large number of inquiries were received. Necessary clarifications were issued on 27-5-1995. It was a two stage tendering process, in the first stage the technical and commercial bids were opened to pre-qualified bidder companies and in the second stage the financial bids of pre-qualified companies were opened and evaluated.

Entry conditions for pre-qualifications were made very stiff to ensure that only such companies participated in the tender ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : What is the worth of HFCL?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kapse, please do not interrupt.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Have patience. I am coming to that point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sri, what is full form of HFCL.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not use abbreviations. You give the full name.

SHRI SUKH RAM : It is Himachal Futuristic Communications Limited Bezeq Telecom Ltd. The company is known as such.

Entry conditions for pre-qualifications were made very stiff to ensure that only such companies participated in the tender who have the requisite capability - financial, physical and technological - to undertake the large investment required for the vast operation that most of the circles in India present for provision of basic telecom services. These conditions were :

- (a) The network of the company should not be less than Rs.300 crore for 'A' Category Circle, Rs.200 crore for 'B' Category Circles and Rs.50 crore for 'C' Category Circles.
- (b) The bidder must have an experience of operating basic telephone lines of not less than five lakh lines.

Sixteen bidder companies participated in the tender. All of them were found eligible with reference to the eligibility conditions referred to above. It was gratifying to note that a large number of reputed Companies in the Indian Corporate world and some of the major telecom Companies of the world participated in the tender through joint ventures promoted by them.

M/s. HFCL-Bezeq was one of these Companies. It had the following Indian and foreign promoters: HFCL, KJMC Financial Services Limited, Kotal Mahindra Finance Limited, Bezeq Isreal and Shinwatra International Pub. Corporation Limited, Thailand.

Their combined network is Rs. 4622 crores. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH RAM : This is a consortium ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KAPSE : I think they are related to JPC and Bank Scam.

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM : I do not know any one of them...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : How, can you get reply in this manner? What does it mean? He is replying to the allegation levelled by you against someone.

[English]

At least please show him the courtesy to hear him. Mr. Khanduri, this is not correct not all. Please do not do it. This is double-edged weapon.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH RAM : This is a consortium. These are the members of the consortium.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, can you give the expansion of KJMC?

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, I do not know about these things. This is the company's name which has been given in the tender document. But I will find out. In case I know the full name, I will supply the information to them and to you.

These are the foreign company promoters ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : This is the same Minister, Mr. Shinwatra, who has been sacked in Thailand.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I do not know about it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : This was a specific question. After all, the misgivings in

the minds of the Opposition Members are because of these facts which have appeared and it is because of that that the other House is not functioning. You were grateful enough to appreciate that we are willing to listen to you. But now you are replying that you do not know it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH RAM : I will come to that. This point was raised by Shri Jaswant Singh. I will try to find out as to what is the status of this company ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Shinwatra is a Minister who has been sacked in Thailand.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I am told that the owner of this company is the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. It has not been blacklisted. This is what I could ascertain within the smallest possible time. The job for the Tender Evaluation Committee was to ascertain about the financial conditions, technical conditions. That was their job...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I will only ask a specific question, if you kindly permit. Otherwise, I will sit down instantly. In the morning the whole purpose was that we should voice our queries so that the hon. Minister has the time. Amongst the queries that were voiced were precisely is : who is behind these companies? It is not simply good enough to list the companies. Thereafter, you, Sir, from the Chair has enquired of the hon. Minister what is this abbreviation KJMC or whatever.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He does not know anything ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The hon. Minister says, "I do not know". We do not want to know the name of the companies. They are well-known. They are published. We wanted to know the ownership of the company. Who is behind the company? I directly ask that I have reasons to believe that behind this Thai Company there are charges of corruption. The Minister says that the Tender Evaluation Committee did not bother to find out...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see.

SHRI SUKH RAM : That is why I wanted time for tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH RAM : I shall find out the full names and shall supply them to you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI *AL K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please advise hon. Minister to give statement tomorrow ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you need more time?

SHRI SUKH RAM : I do not need any time now. I am fully prepared...*(Interruptions)*

I shall supply you the names...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone) : It would be better if hon. Minister comes tomorrow with full preparation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. That is exactly what I wanted you to give me in writing, a notice asking for the statement of the Minister. I would have gone through it, I would have asked for the comments from him and in reply to each of your written points, I would have asked him to give the explanation. You chose, in your wisdom, to raise it at a time which is given to you to transact unlisted business. You made the statement and then you asked the Minister to make a statement. The Minister was quite willing to say that he would make the statement. I had heard him and I think he was ready to make the statement because when he spoke, I thought that he was seized of the information and the facts. That is why in the afternoon I had said that even if he was asked to make the statement then, he would have been able to make it because he was speaking with confidence. Those who heard him were feeling convinced and that is why I had asked him to make a statement. Please do understand that you have made the statement, charging him with something. It is relating to a big contract. Please allow him to make the statement and then if you have anything else and if you have any question to be asked, I shall admit it as an urgent question and shall allow you to ask the urgent questions which are in your mind.

[Translation]

Mr. Minister, Advaniji has stated that if you need more time, you can have it. It is, perhaps the outlook of the House.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have many details with me regarding this contract which have not been mentioned anywhere in the statement. Then it is but natural to say that it was not raised earlier. Therefore, I pointed out only this thing here and a question to this effect was also raised in the morning from our side as to what is the credential background and composition of the company which was benefited in all this process. Only these 2-3 specific things were asked by my colleague. Shri Jaswant Singh ji in the House. I had requested at that time that hon. Minister should give his statement at 3 O'Clock. We did not object on your suggestion of time being 4 O'Clock. When we drew your attention at 4 O'Clock you stated that there was a telephonic message from the hon. Minister that the translation of the speech was not ready, that is why he would come at 5 O'Clock. We did not object to it also. Now when we raised questions which were raised by Shri Jaswant Singh ji in the morning, hon.

Minister states that he does not know. Sir, your are saying that the hon. Minister could not get sufficient time, therefore, I think the hon. Minister should be given more time to collect all information. We do not have any objection to that. When we will ask questions which has not been covered in the statement then the hon. Minister will say that he would have to enquire about it.

[English]

Sir, I do not want that to happen and, therefore, I would request you to ask him to make the statement tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to deal with this matter in this fashion. In the other House the Members are allowed to ask the questions after a statement is made and the Minister is expected to reply. We do not follow that procedure here. But, supposing, the Members are agitated on this point, I would like to deal with this matter in this fashion and I hope that you all will agree with it. Let the statement be made. If you have any questions, please write them on a piece of paper and give it to me. I will send it to the Minister and I will allow him to make one more statement on the points which are raised by you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM : I am fully prepared now ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker Sir, I object to it because they are not prepared for that. Their attitude...*(Interruptions)* and this whole process ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SEPAKER : You give it in writing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I am not interested. This House in a way...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please Advaniji.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I appreciate the point you have made. Supposing there are any points to which he is not really replying, you should also not be deprived of that opportunity of getting answer. I am saying that he will make the statement. You will give me, in writing, the questions on which you would like to have a reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Sir, he can lay it on the table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You will have the reply. Then you will be satisfied.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, I may assure this House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, let him make the statement tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : What is this Mr. Basudeb Acharia? You spoke in zero hour and you want to speak now?

(Interruptions)

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHARY : Sir, I think it is totally unfair. The Minister should be allowed to complete the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur) : If we give it in writing will you get it replied?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have yourself said it. In the morning, when this point was raised you said that it would be better if this joint is raised at appropriate time. Then the hon. Minister stood up and said that he was aware of all the facts and was prepared to make statement. But you had given him time of 6 p.m. Advaniji gave him the time of 3.00 p.m. I requested Advaniji to give him one more hour...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, he has come out of the hospital with bypass surgery. Let us not go into those things.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : ...*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am understanding it and going to conclude. The matter is very serious. We have a doubt about it. I have gone through the entire statement. This statement has not covered all those points which we had raised in the morning. The hon. Minister had clearly said that he was prepared but now he is avoiding it for tomorrow ...*(Interruptions)* Now he is avoiding every question for tomorrow. Sir, you are kind enough to ask the hon. Minister to come tomorrow fully prepared and we also will come with full preparation.

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, I will take one minute only...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me ...*(Interruptions)* I am making the statement just now.

Sir, I would like to tell one point and this will solve the problem. If they have got any doubt about any company, I say that we have not issued the licence. Before issuing the licence I will verify the bonafides of the companies. That is one thing ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. If you do not listen, that is your problem.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : (Sheohar) : Will you come before the House with all information?

SHRI SUKH RAM : Certainly I will do it. The audited accounts of the company...*(Interruptions)* I will check it....*(Interruptions)* Sir, M/s. Bezeq Isreal brought...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Shri Sukhramji, kindly allow me. Please take a few minutes' rest...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Sukh Ram has given the impression to everybody that he was posted with the facts and he himself said that. Therefore, there is no doubt about that. Now, one question was put as to what is the full name of KJMC Financial Services. It takes half-a-minute to get this name. Otherwise, he is fully posted with the facts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Somnathji, let him complete. If you have anything more, if you want to enquire, give it to me in writing. I will send it to him and get the reply.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just now confirmed that even in the tender document, only the Name KJMC is used, the full name is not used.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let him say that.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : That is what I am saying.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He does not know that. He said that he has to find out.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, after the statement is made, when the debate is held all the points which the hon. Members have raised will be satisfactorily replied to, including the details about the people who are behind the Companies and the full names of the Companies. Everything will be given. Nothing will be hidden from the House. It is only a matter of sequence...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No, he says that he will verify the credibility now at this stage.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : The whole thing will be given while replying to the debate. When the debate is held we will give detailed reply, but in the tender document, full name of the Company is not given and only the abbreviation is given there.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Communications has said that he will now hereafter find out the *bona fides* of this Company. Therefore, he is not satisfied with the *bona fides* of this company.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, I am satisfied.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do not enter into a dialogue, Somnathji, it was said that one of the

Directors was sacked from the Ministry and another statement has come that he is the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister knows that person is the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry I am getting the impression that you are not willing to hear him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has already suggested for a debate, so, we accept the offer for the debate...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH RAM : Their combined network is Rs. 4,622 crores.

M/s Bezeq Isreal brought into this consortium the requisite experience - it had experience of 21 lakh lines. Thus this company fully satisfies the entry qualifications...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will again get the reply to your questions.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, M/s Bezeq Isreal bids of the 16 bidder companies were opened on 31.8.95 in the presence of their representatives and the details of the bids were widely publicised. These were evaluated by a Committee of officers of the Department of Telecommunications which is headed by a Member of the Telecom Commission and has a representative of the Finance Branch.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to put it on the Table of the House?

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, I will read it. They may listen or they may not listen, but I will read it.

The Tender Evaluation Committee (TEC) declared M/s HFCL Bezeq as the highest bidder in as many as 9 out of 20 Circles for which the bids had been received. The Committee recommended the acceptance of these 9 bids plus the highest bid in Maharashtra and recommended that the bids in the other Circles were low and that they may be rejected.

The Committee also recommended that a bidder company may be restricted to a maximum of three licences in order to curb monopolistic trends and to distribute investment over a larger number of companies and in order to reduce chances of failure in operations.

The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Committee regarding the cap of three. The Committee also recommended that the cap need not apply to category 'C' Circles where the business potential is and order of investment are low. One out of the nine Circles (i.e. Orissa), in which M/s. HFCL was the bidder belonged to 'C' Category...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir we are not prepared to listen to anything. Therefore, we are leaving this House.

[English]

17.45 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Lal K. Advani and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would like to know whether the information which the hon. Minister is going to give is a partial reply or a full reply and whether the questions which are to be raised in the House will be given a partial reply or a full reply?

[English]

At this stage, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the table.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you lay it on the Table of.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following :

I wish to make a statement regarding the status of the tenders for award of licences to private Companies for operating basic telecom service in various parts of the country. Making such a statement has become necessary in view of the observations made by some Hon'ble Members regarding the alleged favours extended to a private Company M/s. HFCL Bezeq Telecom Ltd.

2. The National Telecom Policy 1994, placed before the Parliament in May, 1994, had stipulated, among other things, that the basic telecom service shall also be thrown open to private sector with a view to supplementing the efforts of the Government operator to provide telephone to all at affordable prices in as short time as possible. In pursuance of this policy declaration Guidelines were issued in Sept. 1994 governing the entry of private sector into basic services. They provided that :-

- (a) There shall be two operators in every Circle of the country - the Government operator (DoT/MTNL) and a private operator. The country is divided into 21 Circles for operation of the DoT, therefore 21 licences were proposed to be issued to private operators;
- (b) Only Indian Companies registered as such under the Indian Companies Act, Shall be eligible for the grant of licence;
- (c) Foreign equity in such a licensee Company will be restricted to 49%;

(d) Inter Circle traffic will continue to be the monopoly of the Government operator and similarly the international traffic will continue to be the monopoly of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (a Government of India Public Sector Undertaking).

3. Based on the Policy statement and the Guidelines, a Tender document was issued on 16th Jan, 1995. The bidder Companies were invited to seek any clarifications to the terms and conditions of the tender. A large number of inquiries were received. Necessary clarifications were issued on 27-5-95. It was a two stage tendering process, in the first stage the technical and commercial bids were opened to pre qualified bidder Companies and in the second stage the financial bids of prequalified companies were opened and evaluated.

4. Entry conditions for pre qualifications were made very stiff to ensure that only such Companies participated in the tender who have the requisite capability - financial, physical and technological - to undertake the large investment required for the vast operation that most of the Circles in India present for provision of basic telecom services. These conditions were :

- (a) The network of the Company should not be less than Rs. 300 crores for 'A' Category Circle, Rs. 200 crores for 'B' category Circles and Rs. 50 crores for 'C' category Circles.
- (b) The bidder must have an experience of operating basic telephone lines of not less than 5 lakh lines.

5. 16 bidder Companies participated in the tender. All of them were found eligible with reference to the eligibility conditions referred to above. It was gratifying to note that a large number of reputed Companies in the Indian Corporate world and some of the major telecom Companies of the world participated in the tender through joint ventures promoted by them.

6. M/s. HFCL-Bezeq was one of these Companies. It had the following Indian and foreign promoters :

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. HFCL | 1. Bezeq Isreal |
| 2. KJMC Financial Services Ltd. | 2. Shinwatra International Pub. Corp. Ltd. Thailand |
| 3. Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd. | |

Their combined network is Rs. 4522 crores.

7. M/s Bezeq Isreal brought into this consortium the requisite experience - It has experience of 21 lakh lines. Thus this Company fully satisfies the entry qualifications.

8. The financial bids of the 16 bidder Companies were opened on 31-8-95 in the presence of their representatives and the details of the bids were widely publicised. These were evaluated by a

Committee of officers of the Department of Telecommunications which is headed by a Member of the Telecom Commission and has a representative of the Finance Branch.

9. The Tender Evaluation Committee (TEC) declared M/s HFCL Bezeq as the highest bidder in as many as 9 out of 20 Circles for which the bids had been received. The Committee recommended the acceptance of these 9 bids plus the highest bid in Maharashtra and recommended that the bids in the other Circles were low and that they may be rejected. The Committee also recommended that a bidder Company may be restricted to a maximum of three licences in order to curb monopolistic trends and to distribute investment over a larger number of Companies and in order to reduce chances of failure in operations.

10. Government have accepted the recommendations of the Committee regarding the cap of three. The Committee also recommended that the cap needn not apply to category 'C' Circles where the business potential is and order of investment are low. One out of the 9 Circles (i.e. Orissa), in which M/s HFCL was the bidder belonged to 'C' Category.

11. M/s HFCL Bezeq were asked to choose 3 out of 8 A and B Circles which it had won. They have opted for Delhi, Haryana and UP (West). But for the Cap, the company was fully eligible for allocation of all the 09 licences. Networth requirement for these Circles was Rs. 1950 crores whereas this Company and its promoters had a networth of Rs. 4622 crores.

12. It needs to be emphasised that the cap was conceived with a view to protecting public interest and not to favour an individual Company. Therefore it was only fair that the bidder Company should be given the choice of selecting the three Circles in which is would like to operate. The legal opinion obtained by the Department also suggested that in such a situation where the cap is being imposed by the Government, it will not be legally correct to impose the selection of three Circles on the bidder Company. Even the commercial consideration suggested that the bidder should be given such an option. In case, Government had inflicted its own choice on the Company, the possibility cannot be ruled out that it would have chosen only such Circles as it suited its commercial convenience and opted out of the other two by paying the prescribed penalty. It could have also happened that the Company may have opted out of all the three Circles chosen for it by the Government. Such a turn of events could have jeopardised the whole tender and would have resulted in an unfortunate situation of penalising a bidder who had bid very aggressively in as many as

9 out of 20 Circles. In any case, it had been mentioned in the two tenders for Cellular Mobile Phones and basic services that in such situation priorities of the bidder shall be ascertained.

It may be mentioned that in a similar situation arising out of the tender for grant of licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone services, a bidder Company attracted by the cap of three was given the choice of making a selection of one out of three Circles where it had been placed as the second highest bidder. Similarly in respect of the same tender, another Company which had won in three Circles, but it was entitled to only two in terms of its network, was given an option of selecting the two Circles where it would like to operate. Therefore no exceptional treatment has been extended to M/s. HFCL Bezeq in selecting 3 out of 8 Circles where it was the highest bidder.

13. It may be mentioned that in the four Circles which are proposed to be allocated to M/s HFCL Bezeq, they are paying a total levy which is two to three times the reasonable levy as determined by the Tender Evaluation Committee. The relevant figures are as below :

Name of the Circle	Reasonable levy	HFCL levy	Ratio between quoted levy & Reasonable levy
Delhi	6,088	15,085	2.5 times
Haryana	1,312	4,060	3.0 times
UP (West)	2,767	6,580	2.5 times
Orissa	692	2,065	3.0 times
Total	10,859	27,790	2.5 times

14. Government had, in both the tenders for Cellular Phones and Basic Services, reserved the right to place a cap on the total number of licences in favour of a bidder Company. In both the cases Government felt it necessary and in public interest to exercise this right.

15. It needs to be pointed out that the terms and conditions of the tender permitted a bidder Company to opt out of a circle where it has been awarded licence by forfeiting the earnest money. Even if it is argued that the Government should have allotted all the 9 Circles to this bidder Company, and they had chosen the three Circles that they have, the maximum amount of money that they would have lost is Rs. 175 crores.

Therefore, the allegation that Government have lost thousands of crores by placing a cap of three is not correct.

16. The other bidders in each of these 5 Circles, for which this Company has not opted, were given the option of matching the highest offer but none of them has accepted the offer. These 5 Circles along with the 8 of the 10 Circles in which the highest bid was round too low have been put to a second round of financial bids from the shortlisted 16 bidder Companies. Their financial bids are proposed to be opened on 1st Jan, 1996 and Government hopes to evaluate them and allocate the licences by the middle of January, 96. In respect of Rajasthan and Karnataka, the highest bidders have made a representation that their bids are higher than the reasonable price worked by the Committee and there has been some mistake in their evaluation. These two representations are under the consideration of the Government. Pending such consideration these two Circles have been excluded from the second round of financial bids.

17. In conclusion, I wish to emphasise that the tender has proceeded in a straight forward and transparent manner and that no favour has been done to any Company. The five licences which have already been allocated will earn the Government exchequer a licence fee of Rs. 41699 crores over the next 15 years. What is more important the process of inducting private sector into basic services to supplement the resources of the Government operator has made a beginning and the Government hopes that the process will be completed in the next few weeks. There has been no favour to any individual Company and in fact the licence fee payable to the Government in respect of 4 Circles allocated to M/s HFCL Bezeq is 2.5 times more than the reasonable price determined by the expert Committee.

18. I would also hasten to add that what we are doing is really unprecedented. We are travelling on an uncharted path. There is certainly room for mistake but I wish to assure the House that the whole process will be handled in a bonafide manner.

19. I may also, with the permission of the Chair, caution the Hon'ble Members against disinformation by interested parties. What the country is handling has been described as the world's biggest telecom tender. There are also forces which are opposed to entry of private sector into basic telephony. It is also not without significance that attacks on the objectivity and the transparency of the tendering process started being made really after the Government exercised its inherent right to reject the bids which were found too low.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you don't want to hear him, it is laid on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not correct.

[Translation]

You will ask question but will not hear the reply. It will not be allowed if you go on defaming the other.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat. This is all wrong. When something is said against your Ministers, you come here. You allege against him and you don't hear the statement. You are using the House as you want.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are coming to the conclusion without hearing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Debate on economic situation to start.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Whenever something is said against a Minister, you rush to the House. In this House you allege against the Minister and you are not ready to hear the statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, we want to hear the statement...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, reply cannot be given today...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has laid it on the Table of the House. If you want to read it, you read it and if you don't want to read it, don't read it. Sushant Chakravartyji.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, I have said that you read the statement and if you are not satisfied, you write down the question, I will send it to the Minister. And if he wants to reply, I will allow him to reply. Now, we have taken up economic situation in the country for the discussion. Let him speak now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have gone to the economic situation.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : Sir, what happened to the statement?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this a very important issue which is agitating the people all over the country and the Members of Parliament in both the House. Sir, you also in your judgement felt that this is a matter on which a statement should be given. If the Minister is not ready, that is a different thing.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I am ready, Who said, 'I am not ready'?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Therefore, may we know that is this a complete statement and that on this issue he has nothing else to add? Sir, then he must commit himself.

I cannot go on trying to give him the way out. Let him say that this is a comprehensive statement. We are giving him the opportunity to rectify. If this is the comprehensive statement, he must say that.

MR. SPEAKER : From this Chair, I had said two or three things. When this matter was raised, I had said, "Are these the questions you want to ask or are there any other questions?" Probably, there may be some questions. I should not restrict the Members from asking the questions, if there are any. But then, I had said that in reply to the questions which were raised on the floor of the House, he would make the statement. He is making this statement, according to him, in response to the queries which were inflicted or raised here. If there is anything else you want to ask. I would not like to shut out any Members, please sent it to him in writing and I will see that it is replied.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : He has laid it on the Table of the House. What would happen to the statement?

MR. SPEAKER : He has laid it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : What would happen to the statement? What do we do with the statement?

MR. SPEAKER : You read it and if you are not satisfied with any of these things, you draw up the questions and send them to him and I will see that you get the replies.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let him say whether this is a comprehensive statement on these questions or not.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I have covered all the points.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He says that he has covered all the points. Therefore, let us proceed on that basis. We shall not allow you to supplement anything...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, I am on my legs. Mr. Minister, please be careful in responding. Is this the *sumum bonum* of everything you want to say?

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, whatever points they have raised in the morning, I have replied to them.

MR. SPEAKER : You say that.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I have got the copy and I have covered all those points. But now they have raised certain points such as what is the name of this company and things like that. The company's name is entered in our documents.

MR. SPEAKER : We can understand that.

SHRI SUKH RAM : About KFSL, I have to find out. This is the name of a company. Their accounts have been audited by the auditor and their accounts have been examined and seen by the TEC, that is, the Evaluation Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, may I request you one thing. Now, it is in the interest of the Members who raised this issue as well as in the interest of the Ministry and the concerned persons if something is said against them, and in the interest of the Government also, to explain all those points. I have very carefully stated that whatever was raised here should be responded by you. Probably, you have tried to respond. But even after...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has not responded even to a single point.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt me.

Mr. Minister, if they are not satisfied with your response — I have allowed them to put the questions to you — please be kind enough to reply to those questions also. It clinches the issue.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I assure the House that I have nothing to hide from this hon. House. I will respond to all the points.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : There is nothing to hide now. He is morally exposed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had requested you in the beginning that the matter has become serious and you please get it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I blame myself for this.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The reply given by the hon. Minister to the all points raised here was in negative. It seemed that something was being hidden. This matter itself is serious, I do not want to go into the details of it. But the way he is giving reply to our

questions, we feel that today's statement has been given hurriedly. The issue cannot be over by laying the statement on the table of the House only. I request you to ask him to come here after making full preparation. We have so many questions to ask on this matter. We are not satisfied with the way the hon. Minister is laying the statement on the table and he has given the reply. We want to leave the House in protest as it is not fair on his part. This scam involves thousands of crores of rupees and you are taking it so casually.

[English]

17.55 hrs.

(Then Shri Sharad Yadav and others left the House)

[Translation]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : The hon. Member has not read the reply, even then they are alleging that we are trying to hide some facts. If some more information is required, we are prepared for that...(Interruptions) what proper reply should be give?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is such an important issue and the Government is treating it very casually. I think many of the Ministers, the Cabinet Ministers are not aware of what is happening really. What is happening? You read between the lines and find out what has not come out.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : No. There is no casualness about it. All the queries that have been raised have been covered in the statement. If there are any further clarifications, we can answer all those queries again...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Even the bids have not been mentioned. Who were the bidders? Why some have been accepted and some have been rejected? How can one company make a bid of Rs. 85,000 crores? Where do they get the money from? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : You have not heard his statement...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, in spite of your best efforts, good sense has not dawned on them. Let us not waste our time. Let them carry on with the business. Therefore, we walk out ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you are a witness to this. The Minister is in doubt. You

are a witness to all the questions that he has raised. He has addressed his reply to none of them. If he does not address his reply to the questions raised, how can we keep quiet?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has not answered any of the questions raised on the floor of the House. So, we are walking out.

17.57 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry about the developments that have taken place in the House since this morning. We had requested you that a detailed discussion should be held on the economic condition of the country because it is an important subject which relates with the life of common people. Whenever a discussion is started in this regard, interruptions are created in the House. It is right that allegations were levelled against a Minister and you have rightly asked as to why such allegations are being made? Proper notice should be given to the Chair and to the concerned Minister and then the Minister should reply to the allegations. But it did not happen. In spite of that, keeping in view the sentiments of the Members you have allowed the hon. Minister to give a statement today, if it is possible for him. The Opposition demanded that statement should be made today itself and thereafter it was demanded that he should give his statement after two hours. Then again time was extended by one hour. But now they are saying that the statement is not satisfactory, therefore, it should be postponed. Half day's time has gone waste for that. I think so far as the dignity of the House and conducting of business and the time are concerned it is not fair.

Whatever questions have been raised here, I remember that looking towards the opposition benches you said that any other question, if any Member wanted to ask, he could do so.

When none of the Members raised any question then you also said that there is no more question on it. Now, I request the hon. Minister to reply to the issues raised here. I am very sorry to say that how this House would function if we, the Members would not maintain the dignity of the House, follow the rules and blame each other. If some Member blames the other for criminal charge then inquiry should be

conducted to prove it and punishment should be awarded accordingly. You have also warned in this very House that Members from benches of other side would also blame if a party would like to run this House by blaming the other party. It will weaken the democracy. Thus people, who are against democracy in this country will become strong. Democracy will weaker if we do not change our way of functioning. There are many examples of that in various parts of the world.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a humble submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to my chamber and tell as what should I do?

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : I would like to say that you have tried your best, respected the feelings of all the Members and given an offer to conduct inquiry. You have also allotted time for it but Members are not satisfied with that. I request you to hold discussion on the Statement that is going to be made by the hon. Minister on this issue. It is also in accordance with the rules.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We can discuss it in the Business Advisory Committee. You are right. You are very correct. Mr. Yadav I am thankful to you.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : It is a very good thing.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir it is really unfortunate that I could not get anything even after listening to it carefully.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not make any comment on what you have not heard.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am presenting my point before you. It may be correct or incorrect. I could not get what has been suggested by you and Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav. I would also like to read out the statement made, or laid on the table of the House by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Bhogendra Jha ji one or two other members would also get time to speak on this economic policy if you conclude.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have spoken on it and therefore I leave the House but I would like to say that I could not hear and get what has been said just now.

[English]

18.03 hrs.

(Then Shri Bhogendra Jha left the House)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijaywada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter. I have gone through the statement read by the hon. Minister. I only point out one important matter to your kind notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not. I am not in a position to apply my mind to it now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : I am not quoting from outside, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Please give it to me in writing. I will send it to him and if he wants to reply, he will reply.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : It is a statement given by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to hear the arguments from this side.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Please understand my point. This is a basic point to be clarified. In this statement, the hon. Minister has made us to understand that the price of the HFCL consortium was two to three times of reasonable levy as stated by the Tender Evaluation Committee. In the same page 4, it is written..

MR. SPEAKER : Who will come to the conclusion about it? I have not read the statement.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Please hear me.

MR. SPEAKER : Why should I? I have gone to the other item.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : I will take half a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : This is exactly why important issues are getting out. You give it to me in writing.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : That is what I am telling.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not want to hear again.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Half a minute, Sir. Why do you not have some patience? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. ANBARASU (Madras Central) : You also walk out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : We are not going to walk out. We have come to discuss. Please hear me...*(Interruptions)* If you do like this, we will not allow you also to speak...*(Interruptions)* In the same page 4, the hon. Minister has stated that

in respect of Rajasthan and Karnataka, the highest bidders have made a representation that their bids are higher than the reasonable price worked out by the Committee. There has been some mistake in their evaluation. These two representations are under the consideration of the Government. Pending such consideration, these two circles have been excluded from the second round of financial bids. My point is, you yourself have given the scope that there may be some mistake on the part of the Tender Evaluation Committee. Kindly inform this august House what was the procedure that was adopted by the Tender Evaluation Committee?

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to ask the Minister to respond to any of these points unless they are given to us in writing.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) : May I just have one minute Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : Is it on this subject?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Yes, Sir. Mr. Speaker Sir, honestly from the bottom of my heart I wish to congratulate you on finding out a solution, which you were attempting to find out, to the impasse that arose. But the fact is, momentous situations have developed and they have taken a size and picture which is horrendous. The fact is that we are dealing with thousands of crores of rupees. Even if one looks through the statement on the history of the whole tender process, there is a lot that needs to be said and should have been said which has not been said. This statement looks as if it is a neat cover-up.

My protest is not, I repeat not Mr. Speaker Sir, against the process which you have set out. I shall give in writing all the questions that I want to raise. I have gone in detail into these issues and I am aware of what is going on. I only want to say that I myself and Shri Brar, in protest against the statement which is a cover-up job, are taking leave of this House. We are walking out.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot) : I share my colleague's view on this.

18.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam and Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar left the House.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : We have not been permitted to raise the questions and the Minister has not given the answer. In protest we are walking out, Sir.

18.06¼ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde and some other hon. Members left the House.

18.07 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Economic Situation in the Country - Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Susanta Chakraborty may please continue his speech.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupazha) : Are you not walking out?

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : Well, I am wise enough.

MR. SPEAKER : This is very strange. It is not good for a Member to say this.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Their Party has decided to walk out, Sir.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : I know what my Party has decided to do. I know better things to do also.

MR. SPEAKER : You do not this kind of instigation or make such insulting remarks. They are not good. Like a gentleman he was sitting there and now he is speaking and you say certain things like this!

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : You should learn to behave.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Chakraborty, please do not prolong it. Now you may continue.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : I was indicating that many of the economic indicators which had shown an upward trend in 1994-95 have begun to show a downward trend in 1995-96; be it industrial production which has come down to around eight percent from more than ten percent or export growth which has come down to nearly 12 percent from more than 18 percent or import growth which has come down to 15 percent from about 50 percent or commercial credit which has come down to 17 percent from over 20 percent.

18.08 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

So, there are signs of a slowing down all round. The overall rate of investment as a percentage of GDP has declined from 27 percent in 1990-91 to about 20 percent in 1994-95, the latest year for which the CS estimate is available. The capital expenditure as a percentage of GDP has come down from 5.9 percent of GDP in 1990-91 to 3.4 percent of GDP in 1995-96.

So, going through the statistics, in every sphere of our economy there is a sign of decline and not

improvement as claimed by the Finance Minister. The current panic, into which I am not going in detail as Shri Nirmal Chatterjee will speak on it and others have spoken already, in India's foreign exchange market ought to alert us as to the fragility of the base on which the liberalisation programme has been erected. The single demonstrable achievement of which the Finance Minister is very vocal is our foreign exchange reserve, the amount that we have built up. But all of us know that this amount has been built up because of portfolio investment, the entry of funds through Hawala routes and such mysterious channels as the other capital in the capital account of the balance of payment. Out of a portfolio capital of the order of seven billion, the other capital amounts to around four billion. Only Rs. 9 billion are left.

Sir, we cautioned the Finance Minister that the burgeoning exchange reserves are putting a burden on the overall economic and particularly monetary situation of our country and that such measures as partial convertibility of rupee in early 1992 and abolition of dual exchange rate system later that year resulted in further devaluation of the rupee. That was also not noticed. The assertion of the Committee Minister that after the latest correction, the rupee can only appreciate and the assertion of the Finance Minister after the devaluation-I quote-"The rupee can henceforth only gain" have been proved wrong. Contrary to official claims, the rupee is still very much pressure and is likely to sink further before it stabilizes at about Rs. 40 a dollar.

This is the situation. All this means that less and less of money or capital will be available for growth, development and the condition of the people of our country will come down and down. That is our main concern. If this sort of a devaluation of rupee continues and if the economy that has been ushered in ushered in continues, there will be more of inflation and nothing would change.

The question is a question of collection of money, collection of fund and to make expenditure in a planned manner, in a rational manner. Surely, I know the Finance Minister will claim - and he will rightly claim - that the collection from tax this year has increased to a great extent. Even the collection from corporate tax has also increased to a great extent. Granted, the aggregate tax payment of the corporate sector has already increased by over 38 percent, showing a healthy trend. But then, the pre-tax profit has increased by a massive 55 percent during the same period. The share of taxes in the pre-tax profit, as a result, has declined sharply from 24.47 percent last year to 21.8 percent now. whom are we benefiting? Why do some people not pay tax? Many of the large companies like Reliance Industries or

Tata Steel have not paid any tax at all. What reply do you have? Who will bear the burden? Whose belts are you going to tighten? It is that of the poor people. You are doling out money to the rich and the ordinary people are starving.

It is in this context, in this economic situation, in the backdrop of this economic situation that I most humbly like to remind the hon. Finance Minister that the inflationary price rise is because of your fault. You must look at the broad money supply. I am not going into the detail. I am not going to explain it. You must look at the public distribution system. We are not revamping the public distribution system. How is it going on? Have you ever cared to distribute fourteen essential commodities through the public distribution system to the poor people of our country? Have you ever thought that there is enough buffer stock? There is no dearth of supply actually. Inflation, traditionally, is a case where too much money chases too few goods. But in our country, there is no want of goods. There is enough of goods. Still, there is inflation. So, goods are there, but prices are rising. You must look into that. Again, I have already said that from the public distribution system people are receiving less because they have no purchasing power.

You have to increase the purchasing power of the people. How to do that? In order to do that you must take recourse to land reforms. We do not gain anything when you say that a law is passed for land reforms measures. But you should have strong political determination and the political will to implement it. You are not going to implement it. You are speaking of resources crunch. I would like to refer to the Report of the Project Monitoring Division. As on 30.6.1994 there were 383 projects for monitoring of the Project Monitoring Division.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister is busy. Mr. Minister, you are busy. I want to draw your attention.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Nothing new is said.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : There is nothing new from you also. You talk of work culture, you talk of performance and about the Government that works. But the Report mentions about the position regarding schedule of 383 projects, 213 projects were delayed; projects on schedule 143, date of commissioning not finalised - 22. The number of projects delayed was 213 and because of the delay, the project cost has gone up from Rs. 9,963 crore to Rs. 13,638 crore, i.e. it has increased by 24 percent. Who will bear the burden? I know you are not responsible. But the Government functions on collective responsibility. Of the total cost over run,

more than Rs. 22 crore is accounted for the delayed projects. Why these projects should be made? There is budgetary provision for it. They come out with the report which says that the projects are delayed due to resource crunch. So, you have no resource to bear the cost of the projects that you undertook, that you declared in the Budget. Is it a good Government? Is it a good management of finance and good management of the country? That is the question.

Sir, in conclusion I would like to say that this economic policy has led this country to such an economic situation, has led this country to increasing poverty, increasing unemployment, increasing internal and external debt. It has almost led this country to a debt trap. So, there is an urgent need for a change in the reforms package as announced by the Finance Minister in this Parliament at the dictates of the World Bank and I think a different and alternative policy is needed. We have placed that alternative policy in many of our discussions in this august House. We hope that the hon. Finance Minister will look into and do some good to the country. The country is on the brink of ruin. But the people will not allow Dr. Manmohan Singh or his Government to bring the country to disaster. They will fight against it. I am sure they will defeat it. Dr. Manmohan Singh, even if you throw money to the people in the name of meeting the social needs of the people on the eve of elections, that will not be able to secure votes for you. In the coming elections your party is sure to be defeated and people will give you a befitting reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Rao, the time allotted to this subject is two hours. It has already consumed four hours. May I request you to stick to your timing?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : I will be brief, Sir.

A very important item is under discussion in this House. The external debt burden is leading to around 100 billions dollars and the internal debt burden has increased to around Rs. 4,80,000 crore. At the same time, it is surprising to find that 16 billion dollars worth projects related to foreign assistance is still unutilised. I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance to take necessary steps to utilise this fund assistance as early as possible so that the money would be utilised this fund assistance as early as possible so that the money would be utilised, the projects could be completed and the fruits could be enjoyed by the people of this country. The trade deficit is increasing, the exports are increasing by around 15 percent while the imports are increasing at the rate of around 20 percent.

We are finding so many new cars, all luxury cars being permitted into this country. There may be a few buyers, but a lot of foreign exchange is being spent in this way. But at the same time, the Finance Minister who is, of course, a friend of farmers - he is having in his heart of hearts, an affection towards the farmers - surprisingly, is not permitting the import of small tractors. I do not know the reasons for that. When they are permitting import of foreign cars like Mercedes Benz, Limousines - even if somebody can afford, they are permitting Rolls Royce also - they are not permitting the import of small tractors.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : We are not allowing import of any cars.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : But you are permitting them to import the machinery or the engine, saying that for some years, the engines will be imported and later on, we will manufacture them here itself. It happened even in the case of Maruti also. Even now large number of parts are being imported.

What I want to bring to the notice of this House is that recently the Planning Commission's mid-term appraisal which was submitted, has stated that neither the poverty is going down at the expected rate nor the employment is being created as promised by the hon. Finance Minister on several occasions on the floor of the House. What I want to urge upon the hon. Finance Minister is this. Of course, the credit goes to you and also to late Shri Rajiv because when he was the Prime Minister, he started the liberalisation process. Now, you have started the deregulation and delicensing, etc., it is not bad in principle. But now what has happened is, in the name of liberalisation, instead of strengthening our domestic capabilities and the efficiency of our domestic industries and instead of making our products more competitive in the world market, through the liberalisation policies you are permitting our domestic industries to die and you are allowing the multinational companies to enter into the country with all their might. How can you expect a person who has been starving or who is on a fast for a month to fight with a wrestler? I do not understand this. With their enormous money power the products which are advertised in the very very powerful media like TV, will capture the market and our Indian companies which are manufacturing such products cannot compete with them.

You know that there is a washing soap company called *Nirma*. Later, one of these multinational companies called Proctor and Gamble has come forward with a soap namely *Wheel*. For three years, they were incurring losses. They did not mind their loss of a few crores of rupees because their turn

over is something like lakhs of crores of rupees in the whole world. They could afford to lose that at that time and after three years' period, they have succeeded in establishing themselves in the market.

My point is that the hon. Finance Minister and the Government, at least at this eleventh hour, must understand and diagnose where our policies are leading to. Our ultimate aim should be to make our country strong. We cannot depend upon those multinational companies. They are not having any love for us because there are nearly 25 crore middle-class families. They are coming to exploit this market.

I wonder that when there are nearly two lakh villages which do not have all-weather or even metalled roads, our Government is proposing to spend billions of dollars in the name of superhighways like in Europe or in America. I do not understand the reason. For whom are you trying to help? Is this Government of the people and by the people? You are taking loan from those foreign companies to build superhighways. At the same time, you are neglecting the rural villages. Even after 47 years, is it not really shameful that two lakh villages are not having all-weather roads? Or are not the people, who are living there, to be helped? An old man has to go. A pregnant woman has to go for delivery. There is not even drinking water. There are not even sanitation facilities. The Planning Commission itself has accepted that even after the end of the Eighth Plan, hardly 15 percent of the rural population will be having only adequate sanitation. We are not against liberalisation. Our liberalisation policy is to help our people. That is our point.

Similarly, what has happened in respect of petroleum products? ONGC has invested lakhs of rupees. In Krishna-Godavari basin, they have invested Rs. 2,000 crore for exploration of oil. Oil was found in Rava oilfield. You will wonder about it. It took a lot of time to bring the paddy, to hull it, to mill it and to prepare food. And exactly at the time of serving the food, somebody else is coming to take away the food. They have given it to Videocon Consortium. They have given Panna and Mukta Oilfields in the Western offshore to the Reliance Company. My point is: are not Indian oil companies, namely, IOC, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum capable of doing it? Is not the ONGC capable of doing it? The ONGC is doing so much dredging in Korea. Then, why have you given it to Videocon for a song? Just for Rs. 300 crore, you are allowing them to take profits to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees.

The hon. Minister has just now made a statement here. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had invited Mr. Sam Pitroda. He has evolved a technology suitable for Indian

conditions. Nearly 200 entrepreneurs had started small industries taking technology from the Department of Telecommunications. And now our great Sukh Ram is permitting thousands to die. He is inviting the multinational companies. For what reason? We do not know about it. He said that the telephones are to be given a top priority. Is it a very essential commodity?

Now I talk about power. Our Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is doing exceedingly well. Many a time, it has been winning open bids in competition with so many other multinational companies. ...*(Interruptions)* If you have patience, I will reply to every question. If our Government encourages the BHEL, it can itself become a very big multinational company. I congratulate the Maharashtra Government for taking a daring step. Because of the strong attitude taken by the Maharashtra Government, the great Enron company has been compelled to bring down their cost by more than Rs. 1,000 crore. The cost of per unit of power to be supplied to the Maharashtra Electricity Board has been reduced substantially. If they had not done that, the same thing would have been repeated throughout the country.

My point is we can give maximum opportunity to our indigenous enterprises and industries and when we are not able to produce enough, we can get assistance from foreign companies and get their production. I have great respect for the hon. Finance Minister. This is the fourth year and we are at the fag end of the term. Why are the economic reforms not touching agricultural sector? Sir, it is contributing 30 percent to the gross domestic product.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : You go and see the coastal areas in Andhra Pradesh as to how APEDA is functioning.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : You are correct. It is because of the enterprising nature of the small farmers or local fishermen or the entrepreneurs. I am very sorry to say that APEDA has helped only 5 percent of the entrepreneurs. That is what I was about to say before concluding my speech. As I have got a small opportunity to speak, I would like to tell exactly that point. Today, banks in general are not cooperating. They are not giving loans to small people and small farmers or small entrepreneurs. They are not even cooperating in respect of the implementation of the Government schemes like DRDA, SEPUP and so many other schemes. In general, they are not cooperating. Four years back, our hon. Prime Minister has said that this Government will introduce a new crop insurance scheme in place of the old comprehensive crop insurance scheme to really take care of the problems

of the farmers in case of calamities and their losses. But till now, they have not brought forward that new crop insurance scheme. At least, this should be introduced on trial basis like one district in each State, as promised by the Prime Minister himself and the Finance Minister has also stated it. Today, I have seen some bank guidelines. Higher authorities are writing to their branches not to give loans to poultry units with less than 2000 or 4000 birds. But the same branch is extending crores of rupees to big fellows who start with 10,000 or 20,000 birds. Many a time, they do not have enough securities or property but somehow they are able to influence politically or the bank manager or regional manager or the general manager and are able to get crores of rupees. But after some time, of course, we know what will happen. Similar is the case with the insurance companies. I have met the hon. Finance Minister and represented to him about the prawn farmers cultivating in brackish water. Sir, if everything is well, then why is the insurance scheme necessary? Insurance scheme is there only to meet such eventualities and to help those poor or small farmers at the time of crisis to enable them to stand on their legs again and continue their economic activities. Unfortunately, this is not being done in respect of those prawn farmers cultivating in brackish water who are giving foreign exchange worth about Rs. 2500 crore. They have given you very precious foreign exchange. Kindly look into these things and see that your liberalisation efforts are meaningful and they help the common man. Only then it will create lot of employment opportunities and enhance the purchasing capacity of the people which will ultimately lead to the overall development of this country. It is high time that the Government should reconsider its present policy. The way you are moving forward the economic reforms should be corrected. Unless you give first and top priority to agriculture and allied activities, second priority to rural, small and medium industries and then priority to the top industries, any lakhs of crores of rupees or billions of dollars you pump through loans from other countries is not really going to bring any substantial change in the conditions of the people of this country.

With these few words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam) : Sir, I would take only few minutes.

Sir, so many hon. Members have spoken on the present economic scenario in this country. To understand it is its totality, without going into the minor things and without any partiality, I want to present to the House certain facts which would highlight what has exactly happened during the last four and a half years. Before I do that, I must thank

our hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister who has led our nation to prosperity by bringing back our economy on the rails which was on the brink of a disaster in 1991. What was the situation in 1991 and what is the situation now? we can get a clear picture by comparing these two periods. Every hon. Member has said that in 1991 the economy was in a very bad shape; our economic growth had gone down; we were not even in a position to pay for a week's import of crude oil; there was not sufficient foreign exchange and the entire bureaucracy was demoralised. In 1991, the first job that our hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister...

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : ...and yourself!

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : Please listen patiently. Please do not disturb me. I will try to present a clear picture. They had given an assurance to the Indian bureaucracy saying, 'well, we are here, you take your own decisions; bring the situation back to normal and we will stand by you'. That was the first thing that these two great leaders of this country had done. It is after all this bureaucracy, the engineers and other professionals who are doing the job. We have to give the direction to them. That is why we are sitting here in the Parliament. We have to give the correct direction and guidance to these people and they - the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister - have done that.

Sir, the economic situation turned for the better in the following year, i.e. in 1992 and 1993. All the leaders have got the experience before them. The cement industries in the private sector have grown like anything. They have produced 65 million tonnes of cement. The CII which is a public sector undertaking had gone red and is still sinking. With this background, our Prime Minister had opted for economic and industrial liberalisation. It has given good results. Our Prime Minister has also promised to the nation that he would preserve the public sector undertakings as they are. In cases where there are not resources for their revival, only such PSUs would be handed over to the private parties or the foreign entrepreneurs.

Sir, all of us know about the balance of payments problems in 1991. We were exporting goods worth Rs. 24,000 crore against an import of Rs. 36,000 crore. Now, the gap between import and export is very marginal. In 1994-95, we have reached an export target of nearly Rs. 60,000-70,000 crore. The gap in our balance of payments position has also decreased. The hon. Members would understand that we have paid the IMF and World Bank loans in advance. How could we achieve that? Simply by

compartmentalised comparisons, you cannot criticise the economic policy of this Government. We might have committed some small mistakes; we might not have been able to achieve the target in certain cases but in order to understand the overall economic achievements of the Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister, we also must have to understand the achievements of the State Governments.

Sir, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and many other States are now starved of funds.

They are not able to pay the salaries. You must be ashamed of it. The Governments of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are diverting the funds given for the rural development works without getting the permission from the Centre. That is shameful...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : I am telling this because I know your position. You are not in a position to give salaries...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : You are the greatest admirer of the Chief Minister of Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : You are simply accusing and pointing a finger against the Central Government. You must understand. To understand the economic scenario of the country you must compare the performance of the State Governments and the performance of the Central Government. Then you will understand where you are...*(Interruptions)* Even I know the financial position of the West Bengal Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Who is controlling the DTC in Delhi? Government of India is controlling DTC. They are not getting salaries for two months...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : We have got foreign exchange reserves of nearly Rs. 62,000 to Rs. 70,000 crores...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Who said that?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : We have enough agricultural production. Agricultural production has reached the maximum during these four-and-a-half years and we are unable to provide transport facilities to export our foodgrains to other countries, that is the situation. That means, we have achieved our targets on food front. On industrial front also, an improvement of nearly 8 percent to 10 percent in

production has taken place. All our steel industries are performing very well and the Steel Authority of India have shown profit of Rs. 600 crore per year. Like that, many other industries are showing profits. Therefore, Sir, our...*(Interruptions)* Our Prime Minister and our Finance Minister have taken only one stand, that is, to solve the problems of this country technology is the only answer. That is why, he has made our country to sign the GATT Agreement, the World Trade Agreement. Unless we import technology, the poverty of this country can never be solved by slogan mongers like these persons. It is only the technology which can solve our problems. That is why, Sir, we have signed the the GATT Agreement, the WTO Agreement whereby we can have some improved paddy seeds and wheat seeds and so many vegetable seeds, thereby our production can automatically improve by 100 percent at a time. That is why, with his long experience and statesmanship, our Finance Minister have concluded all these agreements with the world countries.

Therefore, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, and the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Rawale, speak only for five minutes.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV : I am sure that the people of the country will definitely give their support to our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister in the coming elections also. You are all dreaming that you will have honey days. But in the future you will be isolated.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My difficulty is that this shall have to be completed. The time allotted was two hours.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, we can have it tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, there is no questions of tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Will you permit me for one intervention?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My difficulty is that it has been decided in the Business Advisory Committee. If any decision taken by the Business Advisory Committee is violated, it carries no meaning. So, let us stick to it. Kindly oblige.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, may I be permitted to draw your attention on the decision taken in this regard? When it was decided that there are important issues which have to be discussed, the hon. Speaker indicated to us that it is not exactly

a discussion like discussion under Rule 193. He specifically uttered these words, let me mention them:

"That unless irrelevant, anybody who wants to speak would be allowed to speak fully."

That was his approach.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, you are internally independent, externally sovereign to interpret the things which are highly favourable to you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am not interpreting the things. I am almost quoting it verbatim. When Mr. Chacko was in the Chair, he had a wrong understanding.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASHNIK) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, quite a number of Members have participated in this discussion. The hon. Finance Minister would also like to speak and there are so many important Bills and other important issues which the House has to discuss. Therefore, I will request that you may kindly ask the Finance Minister to give reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The observation made by the Minister is really correct.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I feel very much aggrieved not because of me but what the hon. Speaker has said is being violated by other.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Nimal Kanti Chatterjee, every political leader has made a wonderful contribution and they have made indepth study. The hon. Minister has been hearing them very patiently. I think, justice should be done to him also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, now that you have said, in fact only to set matters right the hon. Speaker has directed that the debate must end today. Therefore, the hon. Minister be shown the courtesy of permitting him to reply today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please bear with me. That was the position, but in the meantime so many things happened in the day and that curtailed the time. That is why this problem has arisen. He wanted to give time to the Members and on that basis the estimate was that it will be concluded today. If these statements made by the Ministers and other things had not happened then it could have been finished today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is so nice of you and you have represented your feelings in the House. Now please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay -South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before coming to power in 1991, this Government has said in its manifesto that inflation would be controlled in 100 days, now I would like to tell this Government about the hike in prices of all the essential goods. Today the price of Mong is Rs. 23 per kg. Urad is Rs. 26 per kg.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Rawale, this is a repetition. If you have any new points you please come out with them.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am proud of the clean image of the Finance Minister. The economy of country was quite weak when this Government came to power but at present the rate of inflation has increased. The Government should accept its failure in view the increase in price index. I should seek Minister's reply as this question with reference to Shri V.S. Rao's statement I would like to mention that now the cost of power generation has been reduced under the Enron Project and Rs. 1000 crores profit has been proposed therefrom. I would like to know as to why sugar was not bought at the time when its prices were 450 dollar per tonne in the international market and the country was facing the its shortage. Later on, though we had the stock of sugar but sugar was bought because its prices were high. Was there any conspiracy behind the deal? Was it a part of any plan to recover the election expenditure? I would like to know from the Government as to why sugar was not bought at the time when prices were low? Why it was imported at a higher price?

I would also like to say something about another scandal which is bigger than Bofors. A party was awarded the contract to supply urea at a rate of 202 dollar per tonne. But it has not supplied 1 lakh 60 thousand tonnes of urea. Then the Chairman of MMTC placed another order to supply urea at a rate of 246 dollars per tonne. More than Rs.3000 crores were involved in this scam which is a bigger amount than that of Bofors.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let him better, speak on the Economic Policy...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : It directly related to the economic policy. Will the economy of the country not

be affected by a loss of Rs. 5000 crore? Harshad Mehta has also made an embezzlement of Rs.5000 crore? Where this money has gone? The hon. Finance Minister should tell where that money has gone and where it is going today? The plight of poor people is deteriorating day by day. 40 percent population of the country is not getting anything. For whom these leaders are running the Government?

Textile mills are also facing severe problems. They are incurring losses. The whole public sector is incurring losses because officers are involved in corruption directly. I do not want to repeat the issues raised here earlier. I seek clarification from the hon. Finance Minister about MMTC. I would like to know as to why the same firm was given contract when it has not supplied 1 lakh 60 thousand tonnes of urea.

Before concluding I thank you for allowing me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI NIRMALKANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I want to exercise my right that I have derived from the Speaker's statement...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : Sir, may I submit that when his name was called, he himself pointed out that Shri Chakraborty will speak from his party...(Interruptions) He is a senior Member and he should not behave like this.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have said that he precedes me. I have not said that I will not speak. I have said that in the list submitted, the first name was my deputy leader; his was the second name and mine was the third name. I want to exercise my right. Sir, if you do not allow me, I will walk out...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You should never walk out. You are a senior Member.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, let us extend the time today if you want to complete it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Can you complete your speech within five minutes?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Let me see, let me try...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh, Shri Tej Narayan Singh, every Member of each party cannot participate in the debate on each subject. The leader of the political parties have given the names and on that basis, the list has been prepared. As per the list, the names are called.

Shri Nirmalji, you are an expert in this subject. I will be highly thankful to you if you could summarise it in such a fashion that you could finish it in five minutes' time and you are capable of doing it...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : You always talk of rules whenever my turn comes. I would like to know as to whether the rule are for me only...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What I am doing is, I will cut out my speech. I fact, my intention is very simple. One of the problems that I faced with the Finance Minister is very simple. All of us respect him as an economist etc. But he has fallen among unworthy people and that generates some problems. I will defeat one part of Dr. Manmohan Singh and I am against the other part of Dr. Manmohan Singh and that will facilitate his reply.

I begin with like this. Sir, the first is, why I am saying this will be indicated. He says something about the price rise. These are the simple figures. I will not repeat them at all. I will give you the latest figures that we have got. For May, June, July and August, the consumer price index number has crossed two digits. He was suggesting that while it comes down, it comes down rapidly. He has said, he believes in whole-sale price index because it is a comprehensive index. There is another comprehensive index which he has not mentioned. That is the GDP deflator. As we know in the service sector, apart from the commodity sector, if you take the air fares, if you take the rise in hotel fares, the GDP inflator is higher than even the more less comprehensive whole-sale price index. On the other hand, it is the consumer price index which is riding faster than the whole-sale price index, as I indicated, for the last four months.

I will not repeat it because we had a discussion on price rise. I will just mention this that we are doling out mid day meal to the students. I will not mention about other commodities. Now one of the basic requisites for primary education is of papers. Now here is how paper prices have risen. Let him tell this. In 1991, it was Rs. 14 per kg. In 1994, the paper price rose to Rs. 32 per kg. In the month of April, 1995, it was Rs.42 per kg, three times more. You provide mid day meal, deny them paper on which not only he writes but on which books are also printed. This what is happening in the economy. This is all that I want to mention about prices. I want him to satisfy the House on this.

My second point is that employment has been talked of. I specifically mentioned in the discussion on price rise about the good part of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Does he not feel that he owes an apology before the country? He promised one thing but could not deliver it. It has been mentioned both in terms of prices and pushing back of prices and trying to defend in the sense that the inflation rate is not that high. This does not prevent him to say so despite the company he keeps.

About unemployment situation, the promise was - it has been mentioned - 10 million persons a year. The Planning Commission, in the Eighth Plan said that in the course of five years, if not 50 million - in five year it would have been 50 million - 43 million people would be provided with jobs. Now the present position is, only 19 million persons after the completion of more than three years, according to their statement, have been provided with jobs. The statement has also to be questioned. In the backlog the estimate was 17 million in the year 1992 and in reply to a question, it was stated that now the present estimate is 18.7 million persons. Now even these figures are suspect for a simple reason. The calculations are made on the basis of, very funnily, - Dr. Manmohan Singh knows - that we are spending on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana so much.

19.00 hrs.

The calculated rates are so much; so many mandays would be generated. Therefore, if days by days we divide the mandays, so many people have been employed. This is the kind of calculation. He knows no less than we know that of hundred rupees of such expenditure, the estimates vary no more than between thirty rupees to seventy rupees which reaches the proper person. Therefore, even these estimates are suspect. He should have the courtesy, he should have the honesty because of his past to admit these things and apologise before the country.

The third point which I want to make is a very simple one. Sir, what is happening because of the pressure of prices, because of this quality of employment? This has been mentioned, I am just linking them up. The people below the poverty line in the course of last three to four years have increased. There can be a debate on statistics. But the conclusion by the experts calculating this is that over the last few years it has increased. The claim continues that it decreased in the late 80's. But everybody says that it has increased and one can easily understand why and how it should be so.

My next point is about devaluation. Much has been discussed elsewhere also about devaluation.

We know that several stages were crossed. One stage was that of stability. A pride was being taken that the currency is stable. Then, another stage was there that in the market there will be no intervention to hold on to that stability. Then, another phase was there when, in fact, there was intervention. And the current and last phase is beneficial for us. Why is it beneficial to us because it will cut down on imports and it will generate more exports. Now, I want him to answer. It is true that if there is a devaluation, the potential for export will increase. It is also true that if a devaluation, the potential for export will increase. It is also true that if there is a devaluation then there is a tightening on imports. I will ask him which are the imports and which are the exports that will be tightened. Does he think that a purchaser of a Mercedes Benz at Rs. 20 lakh would be inhibited from purchasing that? No, Sir. He will not be inhibited. Who will be inhibited? It is Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Government of India. When there will be a necessity of importing pulses from outside, when there will be a necessity to import edible oil from outside, they will say: 'we cannot subsidise. This instrument acts in these two different ways affecting the different segments in this way.

Please look at the exports. Which exports will be benefited? It will be only those exports which are not import-intensive. Because the cost of imports is increasing, therefore, that will have an impact on the export prices also and exports will be hampered. Those sectors which are not import-intensive, their potential will increase. What is that sector? That sector concerns our agriculture. That sector concerns our cottage industry and small scale sector. And what happens? We will be forced, in order to meet the problems of balance of trade and payment, to export and to ask: 'What are necessary to ask?' It is not the luxuries for the components of which we are importing.

Just now he was responding to some one. We are not importing. No. This is whether the worst part of Dr. Manmohan Singh is evident. We are not importing a Mercedes Benz. What are you importing? We are importing a Mercedes Benz in a completely knocked-down or semi-knocked down condition and we are assembling them.

There will be a difference between the import of the total Mercedes and this. Why do we say that we should indigenise the manufacture of the part going into the car? I once again underline this simple point that those persons for whom the refrigerator companies are bringing in refrigerators, each costing Rs.2 lakh or Rs.3 lakh or Rs.4 lakh, they will not be affected by devaluation. Those persons for whom this Sony and other TVs, costing

Rs.3 lakh and Rs.4 lakh are being marketed, they will not be affected. It is the common people, for whom imports are sometimes necessary, who will be affected. We insist that let there be import intervention in the area of pulses. Last time we said that let there be import intervention by sugar. But you will come here to say that you do not have enough funds to subsidise these items. So, these are the persons who will be affected.

Now I come to the next point. It is a very peculiar situation when somebody takes pride in devaluation. He was mentioning on another occasion that did our forefathers not campaign in another area - one shilling six pence. Right. And yet, if we look in the long range of history, let us remember that the most priced currency at one time in the world was Pound. Why? Because Great Britain was the strongest economy. Then, for a long period, it was the Dollar which dominated. Why? Because it was the United States which was the strongest economy. Today that Dollar is declining - not for the last two or three months. Today which are the strongest currencies? It is the Mark and the Yen. They are strong because their fundamentals are strong - that is the word usually used - and if the fundamentals are strong, why should there be devaluation? But it is perfectly possible that the word fundamentals are understood in different ways by different people. I shall come to that also.

There is another problem. We are told that with regard to exports as a percentage of imports, our position is improving. Right. It can improve further. The only thing that he forgets is a simple thing that today exports have to meet, along with a few other things, not only our import obligations but also our debts. We have not only to make imports, we have imported debt also and we have an obligation to meet that debt. Now, what is the volume of debt? The foreign debt is nearly Rs.3,00,000 crore. As far as I could get from the Economic Survey, it is Rs.2,70,000 crore. So, that obligation is there. When he was referring to debt service, it is this that was being underlined. As a percentage of GDP, how indebted are we, can you imagine? The figure of our total GDP for 1993-94 was Rs.7,00,000 crore. It could be that today it is Rs.8,00,000 crore - that figure is not provided by them. Our debt is Rs.3,00,000 crore foreign and Rs.4,00,000 crore internal. Our debt is equivalent to our GDP. It is this that is becoming dangerous. And we have to pay interest also. For foreign debt we have to have foreign currency but for internal debt, we have to have our own income. Instead of tackling the problem, they have consulted the dictionary in order to find out a new word.

A new word is now being thrown about which is not about deficit in the budget. But it is 'primary deficit'. Why is it that it is called 'primary deficit'? It is because the interests have to be excluded, as if that is not part of our obligation. They think if we just use that word 'primary' that saves the situation. But it does not.

Therefore, what I am suggesting is that this is the kind of problem which has been hinted at by others and, perhaps, I am summing up the things a little. I want to mention about one thing. Yesterday, during the discussion on supplementary Grants, I was very sad to see the pattern of expenditure. There is a big fiscal deficit, uncontrollable deficit. As the elections come closer this deficit will be still bigger. Why is it so? He need not be told that it is the revenue deficit which is more ruinous than the other part. This deficit is occurring despite the fact that in terms of fundamentals our capital expenditure was more important and that is being cut despite this deficit being there. That was our fundamental thing. As I said yesterday during the debate on the Supplementary Grants, I was trying to see that at least requesting this expenditure there will be a bias towards the capital expenditure. But, to my regret I discovered that the revenue expenditure, once again, is more. Their demand is more for revenue expenditure than for capital expenditure.

Sir, I know you are looking at the clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will be very happy if you kindly cooperate. Please conclude.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Yes sir. I am rapidly coming to a close.

Sir, I have got a simple question. People ask me about it. Why is it that this is becoming unmanageable? Sir, here is a document which I want to lay on the table of the House if you permit. Are our revenues not increasing? They are. I am very proud of it. But he will never say one thing. The better part of him will want him to say but the worst part of him will not permit him to say that whatever revenue rise is taking place that is not adequate. Why is it not adequate? Certainly the revenue is raising. It is partly because of real growth and more because of the rate of inflation. Here is a list, about which I mentioned to him earlier, of 5,000 companies each earn more than one crore of rupee as profit. Do you know how much income tax they pay? Sir, elsewhere it was mentioned that the Reliance company was never paying tax. Do you think that it the only company? Here is the list. There are 5,000 companies who do not pay any tax at all. In this list there are some who pay tax with all the noises about very high rates of taxation etc. The maximum rate of taxation here is only 8 per cent. Is there no resource?

why do you keep such loopholes in your tax proposals? Despite tremendous pressure in the form of fiscal deficit you are not amending it and in fact this is a not a new provision at all.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee is not here. I would have complimented him. There was a time when he was the Finance Minister, he introduced one thing. We were repeatedly fighting with him at that time in the Consultative Committee meetings. He agreed that 30 per cent tax would have to be given from the gross profit, whatever deductions may be there. Unfortunately, after two years, this clause was taken away and we are told that we cannot manage our finances and we refuse to manage our finances.

I can lay this document on the table of the House. There is nothing secret about it. If you permit me, I will do that.

There is the other problem. In the economy it is said that there is a tremendous stringency in the banking and financial sector. It is right.

There is no doubt and as a response to that, call money rates went upto 135 per cent. The banks borrowing from other banks had to pay in order to meet some obligations at that high rate. Nobody will mention it, there is a crunch. Nobody will ever mention it to you and I will lay that paper also on the Table of the House, provided the Chair permits me. It says that Rs.37,000 crores of bad debt is there in the bank. What does it mean? It means that Rs.37,000 crores of advances are locked up in the bank. Why?

Sir, liberalisation has been talked about. The condition of liberalisation, as has been indicated, is transparency. In the course of the last few years it is precisely in the opposite direction that they have brought in amendments in the Banking Regulation Act, by inserting secrecy clauses. It is not a situation of helplessness at all. I do not believe that the Indian people are helpless. I do not believe that we have to bow our head before our foreign masters, multinationals or their institutions. These things are possible. There is one condition only. Whom do we want to please in the economy? Are you here to represent the vast masses, 75 or 80 per cent of the population or are you here to satisfy the foreign multinationals, Indian big business, smugglers and stock market brokers? It is this that has to be decided. It is this, if his better part - I do not say his better half asserts over his worse half, the problems can be solved.

Sir, I will mention one or two points more. It is sometimes said that the fundamentals are all right. Why? The industry is growing. I am surprised and I feel disgusted when these kinds of contradictory statements are made. Last year it was said that our

imports are fine and they are picking up, but mainly capital goods were coming. This year it is said that the economy has improved significantly, because capital goods are not being imported. It is disgusting. No sensible economist will talk in this fashion. Fundamentals do not mean only what is happening today. Fundamentals mean, where are we going? This is determined primarily by your investment rate.

Sir, they take credit about agriculture and say that agricultural prices have risen. I have a statement here and I want to mention that. The investment rate, not only, is not rising comprehensively. It is coming down. Look at agriculture. Look at the quality of the replies that are doled out to us. It says that the investment in agriculture at 1981 prices decreased from Rs.4,864 crores in 1980-81 to Rs.4,792 crores in 1989-90. This has possibly devastated the past. After that, it declined. However, according to the quick estimate for 1993-94, it increased to Rs.5,228 crores. One does not feel ashamed to claim credit for these things. In four years, the difference in growth is nine per cent. In four years, the growth in investment is nine per cent when the rise in price in those four years is near about or ranging between 40 and 50 per cent.

This kind of statement that it can come from a Party which is ruling such a country like ours is because they have no concern for the country at all. No responsible and sensible person will try to take credit on the basis of these kinds of facts. Sir, I am concluding by making this simple statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Nirmal Kantiji...

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, will you not permit me to conclude also?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nirmal Kantiji, if you are really gracious to conclude it within one minute, I will with folded hands salute you!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I want to draw your attention to a simple thing. Everybody knows it, I need not tell him, that growth is not the sufficient indicator, the growth is helpful. It has been pointed out by very responsible economists that along with growth — the example I will quote is that of Kerala — if there is equality or less inequality in the economy, if there is adequate health and low mortality rate in the economy of the children, then only the Asian Tigers could prosper. When they embarked on liberalisation, they tried to see that these things have been achieved. It is this equality and it is this reduction of infant mortality which has been underlined. Now, the point is that they are all underlining, as my colleague here mentioned, that one of the simplest method of equality is in terms of land reforms. You cannot do but perhaps and it is so

simple they have underlined it. They have underlined it in the book. It is equality and struggle of the masses, Kerala has a higher female literacy than China, Kerala has lower infant mortality than China. Kerala has better health provisions than China. Why is it so? The simple reason is that the masses have struggled. There is a strong left movement within the Congress, in order to get the inclination in organisations of the poorer sections of the masses. I did not mention West Bengal. But since Mamta Benerjee is not here, permit me to mention that also. They have also mentioned West Bengal that even in terms of limited reforms like Barga Operation, like Panchayat System, they have generated a kind of rural market which can be a basis of take off. If you don't do that, you try to liberalise, what you can only have is : wealth in one area and abject poverty in another area and that is the story of Brazil and that is the story which Mexico underlined.

Thank you. Sir, let me have the reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you very much. Mr. Tej Narayan Singh and Mr. Ram Ashray Prasad, kindly excuse me this time. Three political parties have put their points. Now, hon. Minister of Finance.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this debate.

I think, it has been essentially a repetition of the arguments we have all heard in this House before. Let me begin by saying that it is not our claim that all is well with the economy. Considerable and significant progress has been made in tackling the basic maladies of our economy, we have put a collapsing economy back on the rails and that if we persist in this path in the years to come, we will be able to tackle more effectively than ever before the task of removal of poverty, the task of removal of unemployment and the task of improving the quality of living of our people.

Shri Nirmal Chatterjee reminded me the growth is not sufficient. I entirely agree with him. But as he himself said, one of the basic conditions for achieving or for improving the quality of our life is to create more jobs — more jobs can come only out of higher growth. While growth itself may not be a necessary condition, growth, I believe, will generate necessary resources, tax revenues with which we will be able to do those very things which he reminded us, which are essential for improving the quality of life, that is, more spending on health, more spending on education, on family literacy etc. All these things can be done only if the economy is robust, if the revenues of the State are improving. This is the basic

motivation of our economy. We are not, in any way, reeving on our cherished national objective to get rid of this ancient scourge of poverty, ignorance and diseases which still afflict millions and millions of our people. Now, the real issue is, how do we get to achieve this objective.

I have heard Jaswant Singhji, I have heard Nirmal Babu, I have heard many other speakers. I think some of them have picked up the holes, and I am not going to dispute that. But let me say that having listened to all of them, if you are searching for a consistent approach to planning of economic policies, I am afraid, I did not detect that sort of approach in what has been said. But that does not bother me because I know that we are just on the verge of elections; people, therefore, like to exaggerate. But I draw comforts from what is happening outside this House. I think, three days' ago, *the Times of India* quoted a speech that was made at a Harvard Seminar by Shri V.P. Singh where he said that 'if I were to voice my true feelings about economic policies, I would not be in the Opposition'. That tells you something about the change that has come about. Three days ago, *the Times of India* carried an interview with Shri Chandra Shekhar. I have great regard for him, I have great respect for him; I have served him. I that also, he said that he did not want to reverse what has happened, that he only want to strengthen the anti-poverty programmes — that is entirely our own way. That is exactly what the Prime Minister has been saying. Yesterday, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee spoke at the FICCI Seminar. Let me say that when I read that statement and what is often said by our B.J.P. friends in the House and sometimes outside, I think there is a vast difference. There is, I think, a lot of common ground in the country; and even on the left, when you hear Shri Jyoti Basu speaking to the American Audience, I think is a very different tone from what Nirmal Babu speaks in this House. And fortunately, the improvement in the means of transport and communications is now so great that people know where they stand.

Now, I was referring to yesterday's speech by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shri Jaswant Singh spoke very eloquently. Now, let us look at this word 'Swadeshi'. It is the Congress Party which has led the struggle for freedom of our country. We take pride in the role that the Congress played in securing Independence for India. Swadeshi was an instrument of national regeneration. But then, Panditji himself once asked : "What is the meaning of Swadeshi in the world that we live in today where no nation can be ever self-sufficient?" And then he said, 'in an interdependent world that we live in, the very meaning of Swadeshi is self-reliance, that we should

be able to finance all our imports through our own domestic efforts by way of exports and normal inflow of capital.'

Now, our friends on the BJP have been making a great deal of noise. But I think this is one issue on which they have been corrected by the supreme leader of Shri Mohan Rawale who has pointed out the irrelevance of the type of things that the BJP friends have been saying. I do not have any desire to quote Balasaheb Thackrey. But I think what he has said on this subject is now a common property. He has given several interviews on the subject. Yesterday, when I read Atal Jis speech, I found that he exactly defined 'swadeshi' as I have defined again and again on the floor of this House that in the changed contest of an increasingly interdependent world that we live in, the true interpretation of 'swadeshi' in the world of today is working for self-reliance. I venture to say that we have worked in that direction. When we took over, less than 60 per cent of our imports were being financed by our exports. But today our exports finance nearly 90 per cent of our imports which is a positive step in the movement towards self-reliance.

When we took over, we were borrowing from abroad. Our Current Account deficit was \$ 10 billion in 1991. It was equal to three-and-a-half per cent of our GDP. Last year, it was no more than 0.6 per cent. I am not saying that we have solved the problems of indebtedness. That has increased. But we have set in motion a process that if this path is pursued, the debt service ratio, which is declining - it has declined steeply since 1991 - will further decline. So, in another five or six years, India would be able, I think, to reduce greatly or to get rid of the debt. It cannot be done overnight. If I had, for example, wanted to do away with debt in one go, then there would have been such a massive unemployment in this country which you have never seen ever before. So, we have deliberately adopted a gradualistic strategy of strengthening the export base, substituting debt-creating type of flows by non-debt creating types of flows. We have had, I think, a considerable amount of success and all that I am saying is that it is not that we have solved all the problems of this country. The problems of a country of India's size and complexity cannot be solved in a period of four years. But I do assert that what we have done is correct. I think if we had gone the way we were going in 1991, India would have been probably in the same position today in which we find the Soviet Union. We have prevented a collapse of our economy. We have strengthened the growth impulses. We may not have achieved full employment. But we have created conditions in

which employment can grow year after year at a higher rate. I do not buy the argument of those who are trotting out figures - I think they are baseless figures, I would like to say with all responsibility - that poverty is increasing and also those who say that agricultural labourers' lot has worsened. We have given data in the Economic Survey that notwithstanding the rise in price - I sympathise with those who are, I think, sufferers as a result of price increase - the overall evidence is that the rise in agricultural wages, the strengthening of the Anti-Poverty Programme, strengthening of the Public Distribution system, particularly in areas where there is hard-core of poverty, has, on balance, which led to a situation where after an initial decline in real wages of agricultural labourers in 1991-92, there has been a rebound. I am not going to say that either on the price front or the employment front or the fiscal front or even on the balance of payments front we have reached the resting point. There cannot be any resting point. We have a large unfinished agenda before this nation and we will work to achieve the goals of getting rid of poverty, ignorance and disease.

Sir, on prices, I have made a comprehensive statement.

The deceleration in the inflation rate is quite clear in the current year. It is true that there is a lag between the wholesale price index and the consumer price index. But the way the wholesale price index is moving, I feel reasonably confident that the movement will also be reflected, after a lag in consumer price. But I have also said that I am not satisfied with the progress in the control of inflation. That is why, our Government have done whatever it could do to ameliorate the sufferings of its employees. Last year the Pay Commission came with their Interim Report and said that our pensioners and our employees needed an interim relief. Even though our financial system was in a difficult situation, our Government agreed to give an extra amount of Rs. 1650 crore to ameliorate their hardships.

Similarly, as I mentioned yesterday in my speech, we have strengthened the Anti-poverty programme. We have strengthened the social assistance programme. Even though Prof. Nirmal Chatterjee may decry about the role of mid-day meals, I think all over the country there is today a universal agreement that if we want to promote the cause of literacy, then probably this is one measure which will help. That does not mean that I do not share his concern about paper prices. But I think, I cannot say that all things can be done. The essence of what I would say is that, on the whole, we are moving in the right direction.

On fiscal deficit, throughout the 1980s particularly in the second half, our fiscal deficit was 8.5 per cent. We were able to borrow from the domestic market. We were also able to borrow from abroad. But in 1990-91, we reached a situation where foreigners were also not willing to lend their money. Also the rising burden of interest did create a domestic debt problem. Now how do we deal with that? We cannot deal with it overnight. We have dealt with it firstly on external front to reduce the current account deficit. We have worked to reduce the current account deficit. If it was 3.5 per cent when we took over, it will be no more than 1.5 per cent of GDP this year. If the bulk of the current account deficit in the past was financed by recourse to commercial borrowings, we are now trying to finance it as much as possible by recourse to non-debt creating type of flows. As far as domestic debt is concerned, we have also been trying to control the fiscal deficit. But there are limitations.

Now revenue deficit has been mentioned. It would have been easy for me to control the revenue deficit. Nearly fifty per cent of the money that the Central Government gives to the States goes in the form of grants. All that appears as a part of the revenue expenditure. Similarly, bulk of the expenditure on rural development, is towards grants to the States. All the expenditure on education and health is a part of revenue expenditure. And, therefore, in the Indian situation when the Indian State in the business of financing vital social expenditure, the simple-minded distinction between the revenue account and the capital account have their limitations. This is not to mean that I say that this country can pile up unsustainable revenue deficit. How can we curb revenue deficit? Shri Nirmal Chatterjee mentioned about the need to increase the tax revenues. I assure him that while staying with the system of moderate tax rates, we will broaden the base of taxation. We will collect more revenue. We will bring all tax evaders to book. I have assured the House before and I think, there will be no flinching on that commitment.

Certain suggestions have been made also. I am amenable to all good suggestions and we will work to strengthen our tax system as an instrument of raising resources in a non-inflationary way as a means of promoting both savings and investment and encouraging risk-taking ventures in our country.

That is one route. We are working towards that end and this year fortunately despite massive reductions in import duties, our import revenues have done much better than I have projected in the budget. The same is true of the personal income tax. The personal income tax in the months of April to

October has gone up by as much as 38 per cent. The biggest beneficiaries of that are going to be the States, since 77.5 per cent of that goes to the States. Similarly the corporate tax is also doing much better than I have projected in the budget and if the current trend persists, I should collect about six to seven thousand crores more than I had budgeted. All that I am saying is that we are making thousands crores more than I had budgeted. All that I am saying is that we are making efforts to improve the tax system.

The second part of the ladder is controlling expenditure. What are the constituents of expenditure? There is first, of all, subsidies. We need proper targeting. But we need subsidies in support of programmes to help the weaker sections of our society. Food subsidy has a role, limited fertilizer subsidy has a role and we will not do anything which will hurt the welfare of the poorer sections of our society. so, I have limitations. I cannot therefore do away with subsidies.

With regard to the public sector, we have a large number of public sector undertakings. Their resource generating capacity is well known to the hon. Members. But we cannot overnight change the resource generating capacity of the public sector. Over a period of time we must revitalize the public sector, so that it generates more resources. Simultaneously, those which are loss making and are a burden on the budget, we should cut those losses. Hon. Members say one thing in the House; but the amount of pressure that Shri Nirmal Chatterjee and his colleagues bring to bear on me in support of loss making units that budgetary subsidies should continue to be given, I think should also be noted. I would say that our Government will restructure the public sector, but it takes time. Meanwhile, we have said that we will not retrench. We have said that in loss making units we will not hurt the interests of workers. Even if enterprises are loss making, we will continue to pay the wages, the salaries and the bonus. If I have to take on all those commitments, then there are limitations of where can I reduce the expenditure. The only lasting solution to the problems of the fiscal deficit is to broad base the tax system. That process is well under way. The reform of the customs, the reform of the corporate tax that has been attempted in the last three or four years, I feel confident, in years to come, will yield ample dividends by way of revenue buoyancy which is already in evidence.

Beyond that, the interest is a contractual obligation. The only way I can reduce the interest burden in by reducing the fiscal deficit. There also if expenditure cannot be controlled severely in the short run, we have to move on a gradual corrective path.

That is a path that we have deliberately adopted. One way would have been, we could have a larger and more ambitious programme of privatisation. This is what countries like Mexico did. By a massive programme of privatisation they sold the public sector along with their management to the private sector, generated large resources and used that to retort it. But frankly speaking, there is not enough consensus in our country in that direction. Therefore, we have been very cautious in disinvestment.

Shri Jaswant Singhji brought up the issue of disinvestment. I have been associated with disinvestment. We have been learning by doing. There may have been imperfections which we have been correcting. But I can say in all truthfulness that the programme, as we have adopted, is free of any touch of scandals.

I think, if anybody brings to my notice any particular instance, I will be very happy to look at that particular instance ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : You look at the telecom sector. You will find what is happening ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : That has nothing to do with disinvestment.

I think, an issue has been raised with regard to the external value of the rupee. Let me say that you look at the history of other countries. Shri Nirmal Chatterjee quoted the history of various countries. He said Japan today is a strong gaint. But how did Japan reach this status? Those of you who have studied the modern history of Japan since the Meiji Revolution of the late 19th century would know, for nearly fifty to sixty years, Japan industrialized on a deliberately undervalued currency. This is how Japan built up its competitive capacity. This is how Japan came to acquire a higher share of world market. But when I listen to our friends, both on the extreme right and on the extreme left, I am reminded of a famous saying of Keynes: 'Very often practical men are slaves to some defunct economists'. This is a classic case where I think the needs of our country are not in tune with the thinking of Shri Nirmal Chatterjee.

I think, population control and the value of the rupee are two issues, on which I often find the extreme right and the extreme left agree. But I think, today, much water has flown down the river Ganga and people recognize that the only way this country can become self-reliant is to realign its full development potential, eliminate its dependence on artificial props like aids, to have a dynamic, competitive economy and that we would be able to finance all our imports through our export efforts. An

overvalued exchange rate is a disservice to the cause of self-reliance. An overvalued exchange rate is making India dependent on foreigners. It is not a wise counsel for moving towards self-reliance. It is to perpetuate India's underdevelopment. It is, therefore, something which this country must recognize. the facts are there for everyone to see.

We have reduced the import duties. We have strengthened the competitiveness of our economy. Some Members were saying that we have ruined the Indian industry. In fact, all segments of Indian industry, in the last two years, have been booming. Last year, the capital goods industry registered an increase of 24 per cent. Now, we have proved the prophets of gloom wrong. I have heard, in this every house, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee predicting the dire consequences of import liberalization. Four years have passed. Now, the Cassandras have been proved wrong. At least, he should have the courage to own up that things have not worked out the way he predicted. The Indian economy has emerged out of that crisis. We will now build on the achievements of the last four years. We need another five years to get rid of this scourge of poverty, ignorance and disease. Sir, Shri Jaswant Singhji brought up the issue of capital markets. I think, in the history of India, no government has worked to streamline the functioning of the capital market as this government has done. We have removed the capital issues control. I have been the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance. I have seen that for every little thing that the industry of Finance. If they wanted to raise money, that had to come to the Ministry of Finance. If they wanted to fix the premium, they had to come to the Ministry of Finance. If they wanted to go to the market at a particular time, that required an approval.

I was not in favour of this over bureaucratisation of our economic processes. At times, it also give rise to complaints of arbitrariness creating uncertainty and also corruption. So, we eliminated capital issues control so that hereafter these decisions can be taken by our enterprises where they should be taken, *i.e.* in their Board rooms. Simultaneously, we gave statutory powers to the Securities and Exchange Board of India. Now, the Securities and Exchange Board of India has laid down all the rules and codes of conduct for all the principal actors in the capital market - brokers, issuers of capital, underwriters and sub-brokers. Now, it takes time before we change the culture of the capital market. I have said on more than one occasion that in the past Indian capital markets have paid inadequate attention to the interests of genuine investors. They have been too much driven by the interests of issuers and brokers. They are going to change that. That process is underway. Shri Jaswant Singhji has mentioned

about duplicate shares. Duplicate shares *per se* are not illegal. There are distinct provisions in the Company Law where the companies can issue duplicate shares. But if somebody issues duplicate shares in violation of rules and regulations, I will certainly bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that this should be looked into. Shri Jaswant Singhji had mentioned about the role of the UTI. I have already asked the UTI Board to look into and satisfy itself and satisfy me that no irregularity was committed on the part of Unit Trust of India in these matters of share transactions which have come to the notice.

Similarly, the Securities and Exchange Board of India is going to look into the role of the stock Holding Corporation which is the custodian of these shares which have been mentioned by Shri Jaswant Singhji. They are also going to look into the role of all the other people who have been involved in these transactions. I would assure the hon. Members that I am interested in utmost transparency, equity, fairness and investor protection in our capital market. That is the direction in which we are moving even though I would be the last person to say that there is no scope for further improvement. This is an evolutionary process but the path is a path, we feel we are on the right path.

Now, Shri Jaswant Singhji brought up this wider issue of corruption of the economic management and reducing in bureaucratisation of economic processes. I do agree with him that that is the direction in which we ought to move. Liberalisation is not a licence for our manufacturers, for our producers to work against the public interest. Liberalisation is not a licence to exploit Indian consumers. Liberalisation is not a licence to work against the interests of this country and even when foreign companies come in, they have to operate within the four corners of laws, rules and procedures laid down in our country.

Now, the deregulation by way of removal of industrial licensing system, I would respectfully submit, is a step in the direction of removing corruption. There are still some sectors where there are residual industrial licences. I think over a period of time we should get rid of that also. The removal of substantial amount of import licencing is a step towards the removal of corruption. We have removed import controls from capital goods and intermediate goods. I know in the old days businessmen used to pay a very high amount to people to find out what are the loopholes in the red book, *i.e.* the Import and Export Book. We have eliminated the scope for those type of things. Consumer goods are still on the banned list. I have said that this is a matter on which

the House should reflect because I believe that we can protect our consumer goods industries through tariffs and through exchange controls, but if you are going to have these import controls and justify them in the name of *swadeshi* and all sorts of things, then you will have, I think, considerable scope for corruption still built into our trade regime.

I respectfully submit to this House that we have to consider this. We have reduced the excise duties and we have reduced the import duties. Now, the hon. Members have complained that this has not been reflected in reduction in prices. Now, I would not say that all companies have not reduced their prices. Many companies have reduced their prices. But there are companies which have not reduced their prices because they feel that we have created a system where their input costs go down, but there is not enough pressure on them from the market because if we have a regime in which imports are totally banned, they have a near monopolistic position. So, their input costs go down, but they are under no pressure to reduce their final prices. Some people have said, I think, Shri Chakraborty also said, that their profits have gone up. Their profits have gone up precisely because of the mistaken ideology that you people hold that we should not be liberalised.

Let me say that when I talk of liberalisation of consumer goods, I am not saying that India should be flooded with imported consumer goods. I think, we should have a foreign trade policy, tariffs and exchange controls which will provide and should provide legitimate protection to Indian industries. But we should not have a regime which as often in the past has happened, that consumer goods were available but they became available, *courtesies* : smugglers. Anybody who has lived in Bombay, in Madras or in Calcutta would tell you that for the last 20 years, almost every imported consumer goods was available in these metropolitan cities, but *courtesies*, smugglers. For 50 year, they pretended that India does not need import of gold and yet we know that large amounts of gold were being smuggled into India year after year, smugglers made fortunes, they acquired tremendous amount of influence as a result of all that, there was illegal import of gold. Our Government has worked to reduce, I think, the scope for smuggling. The reduction in import duties, elimination of import controls, liberalisation of import of gold, these are all apart of that process. But there is still, I think, ground to be covered.

We have now thrown open infrastructure sector to participation by the private sectors. I do agree with the hon. Members that since we cannot recreate

conditions of perfect competition in infrastructure, there will be need for regulatory authorities, but these regulatory authorities must regulate the conditions of entry, must provide the level playing field and that the rules of the game should be as transparent as possible. Maybe, some mistakes were committed when we opened up the power system. But there is such a thing as learning by doing. I think, lesson have been learnt. Instead of decrying the process of liberalisation, let us work together, to have a system which is not as I said, a lesson to cheat our country, whether by domestic producers or by foreign producers, but enables the market processes to be used in the service of our people, to strengthen our economy, to strengthen our resolve to move towards an economy which subserves the larger interests of our people.

Sir, this is the broad thrust of the economic policies that our Government have been pursuing. I would conclude by appealing to the hon. Members that it take years to build confidence, but it takes very little time to destroy confidence. We may have differences among parties; competitive politics is a fact of life. It is a stuff which reinvigorate the parliamentary democracy, but nothing is achieved by denigrating or denying the achievements of our nation. These achievements of the last four years are not the achievements only of the Congress Party. The fact is that we have saved the collapsing economy and that we have converted a crisis into an opportunity to build a healthy economy.

20.00 hrs.

It is tribute to India's farmers. It is a tribute to India's workers. It is a tribute to India's entrepreneurs. Only a few moments ago, the House, as a whole, paid a handsome tribute to the scientists and technologists of ISRO. In the same way, I think, our farmers, our workers and our entrepreneurs deserve the compliments of this House.

I have several friends in the world, in the banking community. In June, 1991, they were all saying, well, maybe your country does not have more than six months before you declare bankruptcy. From that situation, we have come to a situation where today India figures on all the top journals and newspapers of the world as a success story. This sort of debate does not weaken the self-confidence of the Indian people.

I think, India is on the march. Even in West Bengal, I compliment the young man of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu, for the lead that he is giving to build a new West Bengal free from the fear of war and exploitation. As I look around, all Chief Ministers, I think, are basically today of the same mindset.

Yesterday, as the hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat spoke at the CII, I did not see much difference in what I say and what he said.

There may be minor differences about emphasis with regard to the consumer goods. But I think the healthy attitude is there. I heard Shri Jaswant Singh when he was asked a question about his views on 'Coca Cola'. If I remember correctly, he said: why do you get worried? We will have more choice. We have got more drinks.

I think, that is a sign of march of our nation. As I said, when I read statements of Shri V.P. Singh, when I read statements of Shri Chandra Shekhar, when I read statements of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee yesterday at the FICCI, I am encouraged to believe that a new India is in the making. Let us make a success of it so that by the end of this decade, we should make the future happy. That is the collective wish and resolve of all the people of our country. And this House, I think, should strengthen all our people in that solemn resolve.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We are not satisfied with his reply...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Finance Minister has congratulated you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have made a wonderful contribution.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I hear him patiently without interrupting him. It is most unfortunate. Earlier, we pointedly raised questions and he has refused to answer them. So, we walk out in protest.

20.02 hrs.

Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee and some other hon. Members then left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : We are walking out of the House because we are not satisfied with the reply of the Government.

20.03 hrs.

(Then Shri Tej Narayan Singh left the House)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay-South Central) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no clarification has been made about Urea. This has resulted in price rise in the agricultural commodities...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : It is only lip-sympathy that you are extending to the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I was under the impression that you were very much impressed by the reply of the hon. Finance Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Urea was procured at the rate of Rs.246 per tonne whereas the contract was awarded to the company which was reluctant to supply 1,60,000 tonnes of Urea at the rate of Rs.202 per tonne. We want a clarifications in the regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mohan Rawale, we are still sitting in the House. The concerned Minister will be there.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, you will be given an opportunity. Now Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya will speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : That is why the prices of agricultural commodities and eatables have risen. Corruption is in the root cause of this whole phenomenon. It involves a scandal of Rs.3,000 crores- an amount which is more than that of Bofors.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened very keenly to what the hon. Finance Minister said but no measures have been taken to transform the living standard of the common man and to mitigate their sufferings inflicted on them by inflation. The Government has tried to create a very good atmosphere but the benefits of the new economic policy have not reached the intended beneficiaries. The condition of the rural poor farmer and labourer has worsened. The Textiles industry a source of earning bread for many workers is on the brink of being perished.

The result of inviting foreign companies and collaborating with them has not been as good on the life of general public as we had visualised. Hence, the Government should take effective measures to salvage the common man of the difficulties faced by him due to the prevalent economic situation so that he becomes happy. So, some concrete measures of respite should be announced...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Honourable Finance Minister has given an exhaustive reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Why was Urea procured at a higher price of 246 per tonne when they did not supply 1,60,000 tonnes...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : It has nothing to do with the economic policy. You may put this question to the concerned Minister.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, it comes under the economic policy.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want to have a particular answer to your question, you may put the same question following proper procedure, bring it on the floor of the House and get a satisfactory reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I did not get a satisfactory reply to it. Therefore, on behalf of Shiv Sena, I walk out in protest.

20.04 hrs.

Then Shri Mohan Rawale left the House.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, my point is that we failed to take measures to meet the shortage in the Power Sector and all the industries, trade, commerce and farmers are faced with power shortage. But the Government has not been able to take appropriate measures. Hence, the common man is in trouble...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, you are all very happy that the hon. Finance Minister has replied exhaustively to the debate.

Now, we shall take up the Supplementary List of Business, namely, Papers to be laid.

20.04½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification Under Customs Act, 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. 165/95-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe preferential rates

of basic customs duty on specified goods imported into India from SAARC countries, under Section 159 for the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 8409/95]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I thank you all very much that you were able to sit for a long time and complete the business with great love and affection.

Now the House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. on the 8th December, 1995.

20.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 8, 1995/Agrahayana 17, 1917 (Saka).

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