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TENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 6, 1993 | Agrahayan 15,
1915 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House with profound sorrow about the passing away of Shri Samarendra Kundu, former MP and former Union Minister of State for External Affairs.

Shri Kundu was ill for the past few months and was receiving treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He passed away early this morning. He was 63.

He was a member of the fourth, sixth and ninth Lok Sabha. He was Union Minister of State for External Affairs during August, 1977—July, 1979. He made valuable contributions in the parliamentary debates. His special interests were rural development, education, ecology, environment, trade union movement and international affairs. He was member of various parliamentary Committees, like Estimates Committee and General purposes committee. He was Chairman of the Committee on Environment and forests. He was a member of Consultative Committees on Steel as well as Department of Atomic Energy, Space, Electronics, Ocean Development and Ministry of Science and Technology.

Shri Kundu engaged himself very actively in the socio-cultural development of

Adivasis and rural poor, adult education and improvement of medical facilities. He was associated with several social, cultural and educational institutions.

A widely travelled person, he participated in various international conferences including the World Youth Conference at Tokyo in 1968, 36th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Harare and World Conference on Environment and Ecology in North Korea in October, 1990.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend. I am sure the house will join me in conveying our sincere condolences to Shrimati Kundu and other members of the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.03 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : We do not want to disturb the Question Hour. But three blasts have occurred in three trains, Bombay Rajdhani, Calcutta Rajdhani and the A.P. Express simultaneously this morning. I do not see the Railway Minister here. I request, through you, that a statement should be laid before the House as soon as possible.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : There has been a fire also in the dining car.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Some hon. Members have been travelling by the Rajdhani Express.

SHRI RAM NAIK : There should be a statement because there has been a spate of bomb blasts.

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise this afterwards.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter, causing concern and no information in this regard has been given to the House. This accident occurred in my constituency, Kota. We should be informed as to what happened.

MR. SPEAKER : Though it is your constituency, please raise the matter later on.

(*interruption*)

[[*English*]]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Three coaches have been damaged. The Railway Minister should come and make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it later on also.

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANTI INDIA PROPAGANDA BY PAKISTAN

†

*41. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA

DR. D. VENKATESWARA
RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has raised the Kashmir issue at the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) Summit held at Limassol, Cyprus recently;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian delegation thereto and the response of the other member countries to the Indian view on the matter;

(c) whether anti-India material was distributed by Pakistan among the delegations and media persons during the Summit;

(d) whether Pakistan has made efforts to defame India at other international fora also in the recent past; and

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

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

STATEMENT

In her intervention during the Executive Session at the Commonwealth Summit (CHOGM) on 22 October, 1993, the Prime Minister of Pakistan referred to regional tensions from Somalia to J&K and Bosnia, and said that it was necessary to pursue the resolution of these conflicts through the guiding principles of the UN.

In keeping with Commonwealth tradition, in terms of which bilateral issues are not raised at CHOGM, the leader of the Indian delegation, Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, did not respond directly to the Pakistan Prime Minister's reference to Kashmir. In his intervention, Finance Minister indicated our hope that success of the bilateral talks proposed by PM for the progressive resolution of outstanding issues between India and Pakistan would not be vitiated by negative publicity or attempts to internationalise essentially bilateral issues.

The restraint shown by the Indian delegation was greatly appreciated by other member countries attending CHOGM.

Anti-India propaganda material was distributed to media persons at the official

media centre in Limassol on 21 October, 1993.

Pakistan has been raising the Kashmir issue and indulging in anti-India propaganda at various international fora. The issue was raised at the Vienna Human Rights Conference in June 93, at the current session of the UNGA and at various meetings of the OIC. Pakistan has also attempted to table a draft resolution against India on the Kashmir issue in the Third Committee of the UN.

Appropriate steps have been taken by the Government to counter Pakistani propaganda and attempts to internationalise bilateral issues. Government have taken the consistent stand that Pakistan should desist from such efforts and join India in sincere efforts to resolve all issues peacefully and bilaterally in terms of the Simla Agreement.

SHRI MONORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is distressing that Pakistan is misusing all international forums by raising this bilateral issue, particularly Jammu and Kashmir. In CHOGM, on 22nd October, 1993, the Prime Minister of Pakistan has referred to Jammu and Kashmir and brought the reference from Somalia to J&K and Bosnia and pressed for a resolution to be passed, whereas our Prime Minister beforehand had already invited the Prime Minister of Pakistan to discuss this bilateral issue after her election. It is surprising that though she had accepted the invitation to discuss it bilaterally and to sort out this issue and the problems, this matter was raised as CHOGM by her. Our Finance Minister, who was there when this matter was raised by her at CHOGM, had not directly intervened in the matter. I would like to know the actions the Government of India has subsequently taken to protest such action, every now and then, in all the international forums.

Sir, some leaflets, some propaganda materials, had been distributed to the media persons. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the contents of those anti-India propaganda material and also

the action taken by the Government of India.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that Shrimati Bhutto raised the question of Kashmir in the meeting of the Commonwealth Summit Conference. She only referred to tensions from Somalia to J&K and Bosnia and said that it was necessary to pursue the resolution of these conflicts through the guiding principles of the U.N. Our leader of the delegation, the Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, gave a reply in his intervention and hoped that success of the bilateral talks proposed by PM for the progressive resolution of outstanding issues between India and Pakistan would not be vitiated by negative publicity or attempts to internationalise the question.

Sir, with regard to his second point about the distribution of propaganda material, the material was distributed there. And it is a fact that as soon as the delegation reached there, they distributed the propaganda material. Immediately we protested... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : To whom ?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : We protested to the local Government as well as the Secretariat of the Commonwealth. And as a result, that material was stopped being distributed.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, throughout the length and the breadth of the country, we are aware of Pakistan's direct involvement in promoting and encouraging terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Time and again the Spokesmen of the Government of India had also appreciated that such actions as training the terrorists promoting with men and material to subvert the activities in Jammu & Kashmir and also promoting the secessionist activities are going on in our border. In view of these, what action the Government of India has taken to apprise the world body and the other countries in the appropriate forums by taking up these issues ? What are their reactions ?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : Sir, it is a fact that Pakistan continues to aid and abet terrorism in Kashmir. In this regard we have already informed the local Missions of different countries here. Our Mission in New York is also keeping informed all the Governments and the Missions there. In our bilateral meetings with the visiting guests here in this country, myself as well as my colleague Mr. Salman Khurshid have been informing all of them. Similarly, in other ways also, such as, by giving them leaflets and apprising them of the true situation in Kashmir, our Missions are playing an important role in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY : That, Pakistan is carrying an anti-India propaganda in various parts of the world is known to the Parliament. In connection with the next month's secretary level meeting of both the countries, the secretary, Government of India, in his statement used the word compromise and said that he would do so. When an officer of the rank of Secretary speaks in this manner and the way our country opposes Pakistan in America and other places, it seems that there are drawbacks in our propaganda machinery for which all this takes place. We have not been able to lobby against Pakistan in America as the former has done against us. Therefore, what would be the government's information to the House regarding Pakistan's lobbying at the international level ?

[Translation]

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : That our foreign secretary used the word, compromise, is wrong. It has been contradicted and was a misreporting. There is no doubt that in America, anti-India propaganda by Pakistan is very aggressive. But we are also making efforts form a lobby and very soon the matter would be finalised. Pakistan's preparations against India, particularly Kashmir, in a few page ago, will be sternly encountered.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Sir, we are well aware that Pakistan has undertaken aggressive lobbying for the past many years on the Kashmir issue and is trying to internationalise the issue. But we are falling short of something. The primary reason I feel is the lack of coordination between various Ministries, whether it is the External Affairs Ministry or the Home Ministry or the Defence Ministry. This fact was very clear in the Hazrat Bal affair where all the Ministries took contradictory stance in many incidences. Pakistan's stand was very clear, that is, to damage the shrine in the garb of laying a trap and making our security forces to attack. It is creditable that the Government did not fall into the trap and handled the situation very effectively. .. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Come to the question please.

SHRI SUDHIR SAMANT : But these facts were not known to the Ministries and the people at large and the international media. My question is : what measures have been taken to ensure that there is proper coordination between different Ministries and to utilise the international television network and the print media ?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Member that there is no coordination between the different Ministries. He has mentioned about Hazrat Bal. The success of the Hazrat Bal affair is the net result of the coordinated efforts of the Home Ministry as well as the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The Government of India has done well in other spheres also. Pakistan was making much propaganda outside the country about the Hazrat Bal affair.

But since we settled the matter very amicably with patience and we have come out successfully, Pakistan has not been able to play mischief there and it has been appreciated everywhere.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I add that India's position that Kashmir was part of India, is part of India and will remain part of India, is very well conveyed to all countries. Pakistan has really nothing to claim on Kashmir and that is why it goes for small things here and there. I think we should not worry about these small squibblings. This only gives more publicity. We should keep our firm stand and not worry about Pakistan making all kinds of little squibblings which is to gain propaganda and to keep this as an international issue. We should not fall in that trap. Thank you.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is continuously spreading propaganda, using all international fora, on Kashmir and against India. As per today's news from Dhaka, this was raised in International Conference of Parliamentarians also, and every time our response is that we opposed, we are preparing a note and we will complain to them. It is evident that you are doing your duty. But it has no impact on Pakistan. It continues with its propaganda. Please say whether the Indian government is in a position, is capable to take such action that you would force Pakistan not to undertake such propaganda or would you only observe diplomatic niceties by handing over a protest note and thereby end your responsibility ?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : It is true that Pakistan raises the Kashmir issue in all international fora and it makes anti-India talks. You made a reference regarding Dhaka. Chaudhry Saheb, who is also sitting, was presiding, gave a befitting reply on that very moment. Whenever this issue is raised by Pakistan in any international forum we face it boldly and give appropriate reply. As you have said about diplomatic nicety, I would like to say that it is our duty to put our point of view before other countries and convince them that the propaganda being carried out by Pakistan against India is wrong. I think most of the countries appreciate our approach. There is no use of making a noise un-

necessarily over the issue. I am also of the opinion, as the hon. Minister Shri Dinesh Singh has said, that there is no need to over react to any act of Pakistan rather we should ignore it. There is no two opinion about it that Kashmir is our integral part and will remain for ever.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : This ignorance is out of weakness and not out of strength. (Interruptions).

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may we have the assurance from the hon. Minister that this extremely welcome dialogue between India and Pakistan including issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir, which is to commence on the first of January, 1994 at the Foreign Secretary level, will be kept going without being unnecessarily broken so that over a period of time we can ensure that through friendly dialogue with our closest neighbour, Pakistan, we are able to arrive at a solution of problems between us instead of attempting on either side to find third party support for our respective positions ?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : Sir, it has always been our policy to resolve the issues between India and Pakistan by a dialogue. It has been the practice in the past and even now our Prime Minister has written to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the talks may take place. The Foreign Secretary level talks are taking place, as has been explained, by the hon. Member. I would like to assure him that it is a bilateral matter. It will be discussed between the two countries and we do not require the intervention of any third party in our bilateral talks.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have taken note of the fact that Pakistan never misses an opportunity to raise this question at any international forum. Naturally when they raise it we rebut them. But the point is

want to make is this. In view of the fact that Pakistan is likely to raise such questions at all fora, what level of pre-conference diplomacy do we engage in? Do we caution the organisations or the sponsors of the conference that Pakistan is likely to commit such a mischief and that they should, in advance of the conference, use their good offices to make Pakistan desist from committing such a mischief and befouling the atmosphere of the conference?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : Sir, this is a common fact that whenever there is a conference and we know that Pakistan is likely to raise this question we always try to explain to the participants our point of view and also emphasize that in a particular conference no bilateral issues can be raised. That had always been explained and that was explained in the Commonwealth Conference also.

TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

*42. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :**

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve multinational companies in the operation, maintenance and expansion of telecommunications network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the multinational companies thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a totally evasive answer because operation, maintenance and expansion of telecommunications cannot be separated or isolated from the production. I went to refer to the statement of the Chairman of the Telecom Commission. He says:

“We want to encourage multiple competition in all sectors of telecommunication for attracting funds from multinational companies or from within the country. We will attempt to attract funds from both sides.”

So, this is the statement, but the Minister is evasive. My specific point is that it cannot be separated from production. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that multinational companies have already garnered 85 per cent of the domestic market and several indigenous manufacturers of components and assemblies—about 35 in number—are starving for orders to supply telecommunication equipments such as fielding equipment, electronic exchanges, rural automatic exchanges, installing equipment etc.? They are not getting orders for the last six months from the Department of Telecommunications. I want to know whether it is a fact. If it is a fact, what steps the Government proposes to take to keep the indigenous industry running and prosper?

SHRI SUKH RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, telecommunication services can be divided into two parts. One is basic service and another is value added service. As far as the value added service is concerned, we have already taken a decision to associate the private sector for providing value added services. But as far as the basic service is concerned, we have yet to take a decision whether we have to associate the private sector also for providing basic services. This is a very major decision and only the Cabinet is competent to take this decision. We have already prepared the National Telecom Policy and that has already been referred to the Cabinet Secretariat. Certain meetings have already taken place in this regard. The Revised Telecom Policy has also been sent and

that also has been examined by the Screeening Committee. So, whatever the Chairman of the Telecom Commission has said, it may be his personal view as long as the Government does not take any decision.

As far as the indigenous industries are concerned, I do not agree that they are suffering and we are not protecting them. Only for the large digital system which is the latest switching technology, we require those technologies in our country. Of course, it is only the Indian companies, which are doing it in collaboration with the multi-national companies which have registered themselves in this country. We see that it may be one-time import because these are the new technologies. But then, these equipments have to be manufactured here within the country.

As far as our indigenous industries are concerned, their interests are well protected. It may be taking some time to place indent on them. But whatever they are manufacturing for our telecom sector, we are purchasing from them and their interests are well protected. It is only for the latest technology which we have inducted in the country, they are trying to set up this industry and that also does not come into conflict with our own industry.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Regarding this proposed policy, I would like to know whether the Government have made up their mind specifically in regard to the area they want to open up, the number of technology they want to induct regarding value added service and the criteria of tariff structure.

Have you made adequate provision for level field playing for indigenous units to compete with the multi national companies?

SHRI SUKH RAM : As this House knows, telecom is a very important sector for our economic growth but the financial constraints stand in our way. For instance, for the Eighth Five Year Plan, we need Rs. 40,500 crores for installa-

tion of 75 lakh lines. I think, this number is also very inadequate keeping in view the demand of the country. But against that financial requirement, we have been allocated only Rs. 25,000 crore and the balance has to be raised through bond by MTNL. We are trying to take funds from some other sources also and we are trying our best.

Now there is a possibility. We have sent a proposal to the Cabinet for its approval as to what extent, the private sector is to be associated. There are proposals, as you have pointed out, by some multi national companies also and they are being examined as to which extent, they can be allowed. Of course, those companies have to get registered here within the country according to our law. It is being examined to which extent they have to be allowed to participate in rendering basic service. I cannot say that at the moment, because the decision has to be taken by the Cabinet.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is your personal view ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUKH RAM : As far as the industries are concerned, I have told you, we are protecting their interests. Only the new technologies which we are importing, they may be manufacturing certain equipments. Those have to be purchased from them. The inflow of technology also we are encouraging in this country.

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADYAY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to allow the multinational companies including the US companies the liberty of fixing the tariff and, if so, what are the reasons; and secondly whether Government is going to make any provision for a dual rate of return on investment and, if so, what are the reasons.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I do not think it is possible to allow any companies to impose any type of tariff. DOT has to perform its duty as the regulatory authority. So, that provision cannot be given to any company.

[translation]

Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The companies of C-DOT Technology working in India are not getting any supply order from the Department of Telecommunication for the last 6 months and as a result of it the workers in these companies are being retrenched. So I would like to ask whether these companies would be given orders ?

SHRI SUKH RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said earlier that orders are given to them. It is correct that the process of flouting tenders and examining technology and financial aspects take time. Now there is no need to obtain licence. Any one can set up industry of his own choice. We are taking equipment as per our requirements. One thing I can say with full confidence, that we are importing not more than one per cent of our total requirements. Therefore, we are purchasing material from these industries for our requirements. So long as we do not adopt other technology, we shall continue to get supply from these industries.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, the hon. minister, even after taking a final decision, is trying to mislead the House. Actually, the employees' associations have placed a report and in that report, they have said that the Eighth Five Year Plan envisages an investment of Rs. 40,000/- crores of which Rs. 29,000 crores are to be mobilised internally. This will increase the total availability of telephones in the country. The balance of Rs. 11,000 crores is to be mobilised from external sources. They are going to mobilise Rs. 29,000 crores internally and the other part can be mobilised from our own country. The workers themselves have placed proposals before the Department as to how this amount can be mobilised. But the Government is not doing anything..

The hon. Minister said that there is no effort to give service sector to the multinationals. But a parallel exchanges is built in Thiripur and it is going to be given to US Elcots. This is almost finalised. In

Markarpur in Gujarat, the exchange is going to be handed over to Erickson. In Karnataka, Purnea and Tumkur exchanges are almost going to be given. They are not going to limit their work locally but it will go into the network and that can be dangerous even to the security of the country.

So, before taking a decision, there should be a full-scale discussion in this House and we should decide what should be done in this regard. I want to know whether these things are correct. The security of the country is involved.

SHRI SUKH RAM : As I informed this House earlier in reply to another supplementary, there are certain proposals put forward by the multinationals. For instance, the U.S. West has submitted a proposal to the Government which is under consideration. We have not taken any decision. The FIPB and the CCFI are considering that also. As I have informed the House this is a very major decision, we have to go to the Cabinet and seek the decision of the Cabinet.

There is another proposal by a multinational company for providing basic services in Gujarat. All these proposals are being examined. No final decision has been taken so far by my Ministry or by the Cabinet so far.

As regards the financial aspects of the problem, I have already informed you that we have been demanding Rs. 40,500 crores. But in case we succeed in installing the requisite number of telephones in the country, we are likely to raise resources up to Rs. 29,000 crores. This is a fact. But at the same time I may inform this House that, as you are aware, there is a demand now that all the rural areas have also to be provided this facility. It has to be done. It is also our policy-decision that all the Panchayats have to be provided this facility. But then, if you have to provide these facilities for the entire country, for the entire rural areas, you need at least Rs. 6000 to Rs. 7000 crores. So, all these facts have to be borne in mind when we try to improve our services and provide this service to the entire country.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : The hon. Minister has not given full answer to the question. While answering the question about the expansion of telecommunication network, the answer in part (a) of his reply was 'No.' But the fact of the matter is the multinationals are being involved-through the supply of telephone lines, switching equipment-with our Department of Telecommunications. As things stand today, the installed infrastructure, as it is encouraged by the DOT in respect of several entrepreneurs, is around 2.5 million lines per year. Today, the persons who are in the waiting list for the entire country total around 3 millions. So, under the circumstances, to the fullest extent, we must make use of the indigenous installed capacity and over and above that, we can give it to the other multinational companies. But you have already given order to our indigenous companies only to the extent of one million lines and order to the extent of .85 million lines has been given to the multinational companies which, in no way, serves the interests of the domestic manufacturers. So, in this connection, I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister that to the fullest possible extent, our indigenous capacity would be utilized which will definitely meet our requirements during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. Will the hon. Minister assure this House in this regard?

SHRI SUKH RAM : The target for this year is about 17 lakh lines out of which one million lines have to be purchased from our domestic manufacturers. Only in the case of big cities with more than five lakh population, we are trying to install large digital systems and the latest technology we have inducted into this country. For that, we have to purchase only from them. We have to purchase only from those who have got this technology. They are setting up industries in the country. We have made it clear to them.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : It has become obsolete. The analogous cellular technology has become outdated technology.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : By the time we want the spare parts, there will not be any spare parts available *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SUKH RAM : If you try to understand the things, as I said earlier in this House, it may be one-time or two-times import. But all these large digital systems, large equipment and the switching systems have to be manufactured within the country.

And we are not making any distinction among our own indigenous manufacturers. Their interests are well protected *(Interruptions)*

Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde : Not at all. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SUKH RAM : Anyway, you may be knowing more than what I know. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : You are favouring multinationals at the cost of our own domestic manufacturers. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You are only protecting the interests of multinational companies and not of indigenous industry. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SUKH RAM : No, no. As I made it clear, we are asking multinational companies for the latest technology only and not otherwise. And all those 23 or 27 manufacturers are being given orders and they are supplying. My target is to instal two million lines in the current financial year subject to availability of funds, of course. Out of that, minimum of one million lines have been reserved for the indigenous manufacturers. And their total capacity is, if I am not wrong, 15 to 17 lakh lines. Out of that total capacity, if we are purchasing one million lines, where is the question of saying that their industry is being kept idle ?

(Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The question relates to telecommunication network and operation of the network. Any civilised system will require telephone directories for the operation of telephone. I do not know what will happen about Shimla. After the recent results, I do not know what is the position of telephone directory of Shimla. But for Calcutta, the last telephone directory was published in 1988, only in 1988. Is it being held up because the latest printing technology is not being given by any multinational? It is a shameful situation. We have been writing every time to the Minister, to the Department. There has not been any telephone directory for Calcutta for five years. I would like to know what the Minister is doing. Is it held up because of multinationals not coming forward?

SHRI SUKH RAM : I need a separate notice for this because it does not relate to the question which is under consideration. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are writing in every session and putting questions. Will you make a statement after going to your office?

SHRI SUKH RAM : You please give me a separate notice, I will reply to it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am now giving the notice in the whole House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKH RAM : No, no. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That shows how the Department is functioning.

POWER TARIFF.

†*43. DR S. P. YADAV :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking has revised its power rates recently ;

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

(c) the percentage by which D.E.S.U.'s revenue is likely to rise as a result thereof;

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

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto ; and

(g) the break-up of the out-standing dues of DESU from the Government agencies at the end of April, 1993 and the reasons for their non-recovery ?

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

Statement*

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) : There has been an increase in the cost of power generated/purchased from outside agencies due to hike in the cost of various inputs like coal, oil, freight, etc. In order to reduce the gap between the cost of power generated/purchased and the revenue realised the electricity tariff of DESU has been rationalised from 1-10-1993. The earlier and the revised electricity rates are summarised in Annexure-I

(c) : The estimated increase in revenue of DESU as a result of this revision is about 37% per annum. The estimated increase during the current year is 18.46% as the revised tariff became effective from 1-10-1993 only.

(d) to (f) : A Public Notice was issued by DESU inviting public comments/rep-

representations in connection with the tariff revision. As a result of these representations while finally approving the Tariffs of domestic consumers due consideration was given to ensure lesser burden on consumers in the lower category.

(g) The break up of the outstanding dues of DESU from the Government agencies at the end of March, 1993 is given in Annexure-II.

The main reason of non-recovery of dues has been the poor financial condition of these organisations. Strict measure like dis-connection has been avoided by DESU as these public utilities have been providing civic amenities to people. Consistent efforts at appropriate level are, however, being made to recover the outstanding dues.

ANNEXURE-I

Tariff rates at a glance as on 30-9-93 and effective from 1-10-93.

RATES AS ON 30-9-93	RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 1-10-93
I. A. DOMESTIC LIGHT , FAN & POWER	
40 Ps/Unit for first 100 U/Month	60 Ps/Unit for 1st 100 U/Month
50 Ps/Unit for next 100 U/Month	100 Ps/Unit for next 100 U/M
150 Ps/Unit for next 100 U/Month	180 Ps/Unit for next 100 U/M
200 Ps/Unit for all consumption above 300 Units/month.	240 Ps/Unit for all consumption above 303 Units/month.
B. DOMESTIC POWER	
200 Ps/Unit	240 Ps/Unit
II. NON-DOMESTIC (LT)	
150 Ps/Unit	240 Ps/Unit
III. MIXED LOAD (HT)	
Demand charges : Rs. 60/- per KVA or part thereof per month. Plus energy charges 170 Ps/Unit.	Demand charges: Rs. 100 per KVA or part thereof per month Plus energy charges 240 Ps/Unit.
IV. SMALL INDL. POWER (S.I.P.) :	
125 Ps/Unit	(i) 200 Ps/Unit for loads upto 15 KW/20 HP. (ii) 220 Ps/Unit for loads beyond 15 KW/20 HP.
V. LARGE INDL. POWER (LIP) :	
Demand charges: Rs. 60 per KVA or part thereof per month Plus energy charges 200 Ps/Unit.	Demand charges: Rs. 100/- per KVA or part thereof per month Plus energy charges 240 Ps/Unit.
VI. AGRICULTURE :	
20 Ps/Unit.	50 Ps/Unit.
VII. STREET LIGHTING :	
Maintenance charges Rs. 30/- per month per street lighting point plus energy charges 137 Ps/Unit.	Maintenance charges Rs. 40/- per month street lighting point plus energy charges 190 Ps/Unit.

N.B. : The Revised Rates are subject to adjustment of fuel cost and other provisions of the approved tariff effective from 1-10-93.

ANNEXURE— II

Break up of the outstanding dues of DESU from the Government Agencies at the end of March, 1993.

Name of the Agency	Amount due
1. N.D.M.C.	Rs. 1,02,82,29,372.30
2. Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking	Rs. 1,55,41,53,804.57
3. M.C.D.	Rs. 10,73,65,597.22
4. D.D.A.	Rs. 13,89,60,134.13
5. M.E.S.	Rs. 2,73,19,078.64
6. P.W.D.	Rs. 1,58,08,600.49
7. Police Department	
(i) Traffic Signals and Blinkers	Rs. 51,22,313.00
(ii) Police Booths	Rs. 6,30,982.00
(iii) Sirens	Rs. 7,85,676.00

Speaker Sir, I may be permitted to make a small correction.

In Annerure-I to the reply. under the heading 'DOMESTIC LIGHT, FAN AND POWER' line 5, instead of 'above 308 Units/month' may be read as 'above 300 Units/month'.

[Translation]

DR. S. P. YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply that the connections have not been disconnected because these are of public utility. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about transmission loss in India. Though you are not resorting to disconnection but why the steps are not being taken to check the theft of electricity in Delhi. Besides, I would like to know the reasons for the increase of power rates

[English]

SHRI P. V. RAMGAYYA NAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that some of the public utilities within the Delhi Administration like the NDMC, Water and Sewerage Disposal Undertaking and MCD owe some money to the DESU.

And I have already stated that we are not resorting to disconnection because it

will cause untold inconvenience to the consumers finally. Other steps are being taken to recover these dues from the various Government bodies and departments.

Regarding transmission and distribution loss in Delhi, it is around 21.91 per cent as against the All-India average of 28.7 per cent. So, it is not very far above than the All-India average and steps are being taken to reduce further transmission and distribution losses during the current Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

DR. S. P. YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, although the hon. Minister has not stated clearly about the steps being taken yet I would like to know whether the recovery is not being made due to some political reasons also. Besides, I would like to know whether DESU administration is under your control and if not, whether the Government is going to privatise the Electricity Department. If so whether multinational companies are being invited for it.

MR. SPEAKER : You are expanding the scope of your question.

[English]

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, his question contains several bits. The main question is not very clear but, I would answer to the extent I could understand it. He said; "What steps are being taken?" I have already said that various steps are being taken like system improvement, stricter enforcement and vigilance, levying of heavy penalties and even resorting to disconnections in the case of private consumers.

With regard to his second question, definitely, Sir, the Government of India has control over DESU through the Delhi Administration. Both the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Power exercise control and we have been in constant touch with DESU authorities to improve their efficiency, particularly to reduce their losses and improve their collections.

And in fact, Sir, DESU has improved its collections in the current year. As against Rs. 68.86 crore collected in November 1992, this year, they have collected almost Rs. 80 crore in the month of November, 1993. They have been progressively increasing their collections and billing and there is a perceptible improvement in the collection of revenue by DESU.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides public of Delhi, all members of Parliament and yourself too are also well aware of the shortage of electricity in Delhi. There is a great shortage of electricity in Delhi and there is a great resentment among the people against the manner in which rates of power have been increased. It has been stated in the reply that due to the revision of rates the revenue will increase about 37 per cent. The survey report says and it is also admitted by the hon. Minister, that the theft of electricity is 40 per cent and if it is checked properly there would be no need to revise the rates. I would like to ask the Minister that the theft of electricity which is about 40 per cent.....

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MR. SPEAKER : He has stated it as 21 per cent. There is a vast difference between 21 per cent and 40 per cent.

SHRI KALKA DAS : I would like to ask as to what steps the Department has taken to check the theft of electricity in Delhi. The hon. Minister has stated one of the reasons for the revision of rates that there is the increase in the prices of coal and other things. I would like to say that all the deficiencies could be made up by improving the administration of DESU and checking theft of electricity. Steps should be taken to remove the deficiencies so that there may not be any need to increase the rates otherwise it would create discontentment among the people. My submission is....

MR. SPEAKER : You have not to submit but to ask the question.

SHRI KALKA DAS : My question is as to what steps are being taken by the Department to check the theft of electricity and to improve DESU administration.

[English]

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have already answered that point raised by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : You can repeat the answer if the question is repeated.

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : The T&D losses in DESU is not 40 per cent as stated by the Hon. Member; I have already submitted that it is only 21.81 per cent as against an all India average of 20.7. I have already said that we are taking up systems improvement programmes and also tightening up vigilance and enforcement and also regularising some of the connections which could not be regularised so far.

Reduction in T&D losses has also been achieved through reduction in the billing gaps, enforcement measures to curb the theft/pilferage of electricity, installation of shunt capacitors and improvements in the

maintenance of the transmission and distribution network.

As regards the increase in the tariffs, we had already explained that due to increase in the cost of inputs like coal, gas and others and because of the continuing losses that are being suffered by DESU we have to make some marginal adjustments in the tariffs with effect from 1st October, 1993. We have taken into consideration all those things and we have given certain concessions at the lower category of tariffs.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS : I have asked as to what steps are being taken to check the theft of electricity ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has given reply. If you do not listen what he can do.

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not listened, you please tell me.

MR. SPEAKER : If you have not listened then I cannot help you. Please sit down now.

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should help me.

MR. SPEAKER . Please sit down.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in the end of his reply that people's reactions on the proposed increase were invited. It has also been stated in the written reply that—

[English]

As a result of these representation from the public, while finally approving the tariffs of domestic consumers, due consideration was given to ensure lesser burden on consumers in the lower category.

[Translation]

Just now you have reconsidered it. If you carefully go through your reply you can understand that for the lower category

of consumers, who consume electricity upto 100 units per month the increase is 50 per cent i.e. from 40 paise to 60 paise for another hundred units i.e. from 100 to 200 units you have increased from 50 paise to 100 paise which means an increase of 100 per cent. Whereas for 300 units and above the increase is only 20 per cent. It shows that the increase for lowest category of people is 50 per cent and for middle class the increase is 100 per cent but for the higher class who consume electricity in five star hotels, airconditioning and for other luxurious things the increase is merely 20 per cent. For agricultural use you have increase the rates from 20 paise to 50 paise i.e. an increase of 150 per cent. You have stated in the reply that due consideration has been given. Mr. Speaker, Sir, should I expect that this thing will be reconsidered and the Government will take step to reduce the rates of power for the farmers and lower class people ?

[English]

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have prepared a comparative statement of tariffs in Delhi, compared to other States in the Northern region.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, it is not my question. Kindly do not allow him to answer like this.

SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Let me complete the answer.

Even after the revision, we are lower than the lower categories in almost all the States in North India and we are higher than the higher categories of all other States in the Northern region. So, in spite of the revision, DESU has not increased the rates as compared to other States in the region. It is a fact that we have increased the rates because in the earlier revisions in 1991,....

MR. SPEAKER : The main question put is this. You have raised the tariff more in respect of the people who are consuming less electricity than those who

are consuming more electricity. So, what is the rationale ?

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : That is correct, Sir. In the last revision which was made in 1991, there was more increase in the higher categories and less in the lower categories and the large bulk of the consumers fell in that category. So, we had compensate for the less increase taken place last year. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a deliberate attempt to mislead the House. The written answer is one, the statistics are different. So, there is a deliberate attempt to mislead the House. It cannot be anything, but an attempt to mislead the House. Then, how did he say, "...to ensure lesser burden on consumers in the lower category" ?

[Translation]

You think that no one will read it here.

[English]

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, the answer is based on facts. In the notification, some higher rates....

[Interruptions].

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good question. Let him answer it properly. Please do not interrupt him. *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN : He has not given any reply to it so this question should be postponed. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You should be equally interested in the reply also.

[Interruptions].

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : I will answer the first part. The increase in 1991 for the consumers consuming upto 100 units was 48 per cent ; from 100 upto 200 units, it was 56 per cent.

[Interruptions].

MR. SPEAKER : He does not want a comparison between that you did some time back and now in Delhi and other places. He wants the rationale for increasing the tariff in the manner in which you have done.

[Interruptions].

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : I have already explained this. *(Interruptions)* I am explaining this. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : You must allow him to complete.

[Interruptions].

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, I am explaining the reasons. The increase in the 200 to 300 category was 100 per cent in 1991; and for over 300 category, it was 167 per cent last year. We have increased considerably on the higher categories in the previous revision. Now, we have increased a little more. For the 1-100 category that is the poorest category, we have increased only by two per cent—48 per cent to 50 per cent was the increase. For the 100 to 200 category, it has gone up to 100 per cent. For 200-300 category, it was reduced. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES : Sir, You must protect the House. *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

This question relates to the poor so he should not mislead like this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete it. *[Interruptions]*.

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : I am giving a proper answer. As regards the 'consideration' referred to in part (d) (f) of the reply, originally, DESU wanted to have two category i.e. 0.50 and 50 to 100 units.

In the final notification, that has been removed and concession was given up to 100 units.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, Sir.

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : I will explain.

MR. SPEAKER : Probably, you need more time to explain and they seem to ask more questions. I will allow you half-an-hour discussion. You give a notice. *[Interruptions]*.

Written Answers to Questions

[Translation]

LETTER BOX FACILITY

*44. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHURY :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNI-HOTRI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are several villages in the country without letter box facility ;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide letter box facility in those villages ;

(d) if so, the time by which such facility is likely to be provided ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b)

State-wise break down of villages without a letter box is given in the Statement attached.

(c) to (e) : The present target is to provide a letter box in all village with population over 500. It is expected to achieve the target within two years.

STATEMENT

Details of Villages without letter boxes, State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Villages without letter boxes
1	2	3
1.	Assam	13,388
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11,007
3.	Bihar	56,861
4.	Delhi	NIL
5.	Gujarat	361
6.	Haryana	299
7.	Himachal Pradesh	13,140

1	2	3
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3,745
9.	Karnataka	3,302
10.	Kerala	NIL
11.	Madhya Pradesh	43,526
12.	Maharashtra	70,246
13.	Goa	91
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,688
15.	Manipur	NIL
16.	Meghalaya	1,567
17.	Mizoram	187
18.	Nagaland	123
19.	Tripura	1,473
20.	Orissa	28,720
21.	Punjab	734
22.	Rajasthan	14,075
23.	Tamil Nadu	2,913
24.	Uttar Pradesh	34,841
25.	Sikkim	174
26.	West Bengal	17,327
	Total	3,20,788

**VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF
NETHERLANDS**

*45 **SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI :**
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Netherlands visited India recently;

(b) if so, the broad details of the talks held by him with Indian leaders on various bilateral and multilateral issues and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreement on commerce was signed during the visit between the two countries ; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (d) The Dutch Prime Minister, H. E. Mr. R.F.M. Lubbers, visited India from 26-28 October, 1993. He called on the President, held talks with PM and received the Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha, EAM, Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, Minister for Human Resource Development, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism and MOS for Industries.

The main areas covered in the talks with the Dutch Prime Minister included recent developments in Europe and in South Asia, disarmament, terrorism and the enhancement of bilateral economic relations in various fields. On the political side, the talks resulted in greater understanding of each other's concerns and perspectives. On the economic side, the visit is expected to lead to the strengthening and deepening of economic relations.

A 21-Member high level Dutch business delegation accompanied the Dutch P.M. The Dutch businessmen were briefed on India's economic reform programme and interacted extensively with their Indian counterparts. They welcomed the liberalisation of the Indian economy and conveyed their serious intent to expand their presence in the Indian market by exploring new opportunities opened up by India's economic reforms.

No agreement on commercial relations was concluded during the visit of the Dutch P.M.

STATEMENT ON KASHMIR BY U.S. OFFICIAL

*46 SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent statement made by the US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs on Kashmir;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the US;

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

(e) whether any other country has also expressed its stand on Kashmir in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) to (f) At a background briefing to South Asian journalists on October 28, 1993 at the Foreign Press Centre in Washington, US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Robin Raphel called into question the status of Kashmir. She stated that the US Government did not recognise the Instrument of Accession and regarded the whole of Jammu and Kashmir as disputed territory the status of which remains to be resolved. She questioned the effectiveness of the Simla Agreement in resolving the Kashmir dispute and downplayed Pakistan's role in supporting terrorism in India.

2. On receiving word about the US official's comment on Kashmir, Government made a demarche with the US Government, making clear the serious concern with which this qualitative shift in the US position was viewed in India. It was pointed out that when the US overlooks the continuing reality of external support to terrorism in India, it only encourages Pakistan to persist with its interference. The External Affairs Minister also issued a statement stating categorically that we do not accept anyone's right to question the status of Kashmir which is, was and shall remain an integral part of India. EAM expressed surprise at the timing of the American pronouncement as it came just when it appeared that the armed

terrorists inside the Hazratbal shrine were about to release civilian hostages held by them.

3. Following an interim response on November 1, 1993, the US Under Secretary of State (for Political Affairs) Peter Tarnoff on 2 November, 1993, in a one-to-one meeting with Ambassador Ray conveyed a more categorical and authoritative statement of the US position.

4. In addition, in a written communication dated November 4, Under Secretary Tarnoff conveyed US Government's authoritative position to our Ambassador. Whilst reaffirming the known US position that "for more than four decades the consistent US position has been that the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir is disputed territory". Tarnoff went on to state that "the US view is that negotiation between Governments of India and Pakistan, as envisaged by the Simla Agreement, provide best means for resolving the dispute over Kashmir. As a practical matter, US believes this process of bilateral negotiations needs to take into account the wishes of Kashmir people." Tarnoff's letter also mentioned that "it is a historical fact that parties to the dispute differ in their interpretations of various documents, resolutions and accords that address the status of Kashmir. What is important now is to narrow and ultimately resolve these differences through pragmatic, good faith negotiations. Moreover, the US has always supported India's territorial integrity." Tarnoff reiterated that the US Government is firmly committed to strengthening our already good bilateral relations and expanding our cooperation in dealing with regional and global issues.

5. The British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, during his visit to India from November 15-16, made it clear that the British Government did not regard US Assistant Secretary Raphael's questioning of the validity of the Instrument of Accession as helpful. Juridical argument relating to events that had occurred almost five decades ago were peri-

pheral to a political solution of the Kashmir issue at the present day and time. Douglas Hurd is reported to have stated "I do not believe that the answer lies in the juridical argument, but in political steps forward which I have tried to sketch but which it is agreed are for others to take".

6. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's vital interests. Negative assertions regarding the status of Jammu and Kashmir only strengthen Government's resolve to defend India's territorial unity and integrity.

TRUCKERS' STRIKE

*48. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the truck operators went on strike throughout the country recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total loss suffered as a result thereof;

(c) whether any settlement has been arrived at by the Union Government with truck operators in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) and (b) : The Truck Operators went on a nation-wide strike twice in the recent past from 31st July to 6th August 1993, demanding abolition of Path Kar, Octroi and other matters and from 16th September to 28th September, 1993, demanding reduction of composite fee from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 3000. It has not been possible to estimate the loss on account of the strike.

(c) and (d) : The strike was withdrawn by the Truck Operators on the basis of an assurance given by the Government that a Special Meeting of the Transport Development Council would be held on 1st October, 1993. The Special Meeting of the Transport Development Council was held on 1st October, 1993. The Transport Development Council resolved to adopt a two-tier system for levy of 'Composite Fee' for National Permits, Rs. 3000 in all the States except the States of Haryana, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which had agreed to charge a composite fee of Rs. 5000.

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO CHINA

*49. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has visited China recently;

(b) if so, the bilateral and multilateral issues that figured in his talks with Chinese leaders and the broad outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements were signed between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the salient features of each of these agreements and the follow-up steps taken by the Government for their implementation ?

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

(a) to (d) The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. NARASIMHA RAO, visited China from September 6—9, 1993. His talks with five of the seven Chinese Politburo Standing Committee members covered a wide range of subjects of mutual interest.

2. The Prime Minister discussed a range of bilateral issues including high-level visits, exchanges and cooperation in

various fields including trade, economic, scientific, educational and cultural fields, and the boundary question. Regional issues such as relations with India's neighbours, including our concerns regarding the rapid accretions to Pakistan's armed strength and international issues such as reform of the UN, were also discussed. The overall impression from these discussions was of a shared desire to continue the momentum of dialogue between India and China while seeking to enlarge the areas of agreement between the two countries. The visit was useful both in the bilateral and international contexts since there is a significance and utility to independent centres of power in the multipolar world, like India and China, coming together and meeting. Bilaterally the visit marked one more step towards building a structure of durable peace with India's largest neighbour. It is Government's hope to continue this process.

3. The visit resulted in the signing of four agreements, namely, an agreement on the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China, an agreement on cooperation in environmental protection, an agreement on cooperation in radio and television and a protocol on the extension of border trade through Shiplika Pass.

4. The agreement on peace and tranquility along the LAC is an enabling agreement under which both countries will put into place confidence building measures such as redeployment of forces, prior notification of military exercises, steps to prevent air intrusions, and more regular and frequent meetings of border commanders. An expert group is being established to work out these arrangements and to determine the LAC where there are differences as to its alignment. The agreement is without prejudice to the respective positions of the two countries on the boundary question. The expert group is expected to meet soon.

5. The agreement on environmental protection provides the framework for cooperation on bilateral matters as well

as global environment issues such as bio-diversity, global climate change and protection of the ozone layer. High priority areas identified for bilateral co-operation through exchange of experts and data and collaborative research projects, seminars and training projects, include waste management, pollution control, environmental, impact assessment, environmental education and legislation. The agreement on radio and television cooperation provides for the exchange of songs and music and other radio television programmes and mutual exchange of television delegations and coverage teams. The border trade protocol provides for Shipki Pass to be used as an additional route for border trade between India and China. Trade marts will be located at Namgya in Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh and Jiubs in Tibet. Border trade through Shipki Pass is expected to resume in 1994 and the provisions of the other two agreements are also being put into effect.

[*Translation*]

INDIAN LABOURERS ABROAD

*50. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints of harassment of Indian labourers working abroad ;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during 1992 and 1993 and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the number of such labourers brought back to the country during this period ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

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

ACCIDENTS OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY

*51. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-GAVA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an increase in road accidents due to unplanned development and encroachment on both sides of the National Highways;

(b) whether some States have enacted laws similar to that of the Bombay Highway Act, 1955 with the approval of the Union Government to control such accidents effectively;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent any such proposal to the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

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

(a) Ribbon development and encroachments on National Highways is one of the several contributory factors for road accidents.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) : Yes, Sir, The administrative approval of the Union Government to the Rajasthan Highway Bill, 1992 has been conveyed already in the last year.

POWER SHROTAGE

*52. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the declining trend in supply of power to agricultural, domestic and industrial sectors in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of demand and supply of power in each State at present;

(c) the reasons for the declining trend; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to meet the power shortage in each State during 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE) :

(a) and (c) Consumption of electricity in the country by different categories of consumers/utilities, as reflected by energy sales, during the period 1988-89 to 1991-92 is as under :—

ENERGY SALES (MU)

Year	Total	Domestic	Commercial	Industrial	Traction	Agricultural	Others
1988-89	160196.43	24767.67 (15.46)	9915.17 (6.19)	75411.64 (47.08)	3772.26 (2.35)	38878.37 (24.27)	7451.32 (4.65)
1989-90	175418.95	29576.75 (16.86)	9548.08 (5.44)	80694.32 (46.00)	4069.66 (2.32)	44055.95 (25.12)	7474.23 (4.26)
1990-91	190357.39	31982.37 (16.80)	11180.99 (5.8)	84248.96 (44.24)	4112.38 (2.16)	50321.40 (26.44)	8551.29 (4.49)
1991-92	207644.79	35853.70 (17.2)	12031.61 (5.79)	87288.57 (42.04)	4519.56 (2.78)	58557.17 (28.20)	9394.09 (4.52)
1992-93	220670.74	39581.19 (17.94)	12379.97 (5.61)	89488.45 (40.55)	5584.81 (2.53)	63773.49 (28.90)	9862.83 (4.47)

Note : Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of the total sales.

As may be seen from the above table consumption in all the sectors is increasing but the pattern of consumption is undergoing a change. While the percentage of domestic and agricultural consumption is increasing, the percentage of industrial consumption is decreasing. Hence it is not correct to say that the trend in supply of power to domestic category is declining. There is a significant increase in consumption by the agriculture sector which is a key sector of development of the country. Also some major industries are putting up their own captive power plants to supplement the supply given by the State Grid.

(b) Statewise power supply position during April 93—October 93 is given in the enclosed Statement I.

(d) A target of capacity addition of 4439.25 MW comprising 954.65 MW hydro, 3264.6 MW thermal 220 MW nuclear has been fixed for the year 1993-94 out of which 973.9 MW has been commissioned during April-November, 1993. Statewise/Projectwise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Various measures being taken to improve the availability of power include maximising the generation from the existing generating system implementation of Renovation and Modernisation Programme, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures and assistance from neighbouring states and systems.

STATEMENT I
ACTUAL POWER SUPPLY POSITION FOR
APRIL 93—OCTOBER 93

(Figures in MU net)

Region/State/System	April 93—October 93			(%)
	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	
NORTHERN REGION				
Chandigarh	422	422	0	0.0%
Delhi	6685	6571	114	1.7%
Haryana	7025	6499	526	7.5%
Himachal Pradesh	914	914	0	0.0%
Jammu & Kashmir	1945	1673	272	14.0%
Punjab	12190	11717	473	3.9%
Rajasthan	8495	8051	444	5.2%
Uttar Pradesh	18895	16917	1978	10.5%
Total (N.R.)	56571	52764	3807	6.7%
WESTERN REGION				
Gujarat	17025	16234	791	4.6%
Mahya Pradesh	12355	11765	590	4.8%
Maharashtra	25615	24425	1190	4.6%
Goa	495	492	3	0.6%
TOTAL (W.B.)	55490	52916	2574	4.6%

(Figures in MU net)

Region/State/System	April 93—October 93			
	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	(%)
SOUTHERN REGION				
Andhra Pradesh	16035	15106	929	5.8%
Karnataka	12350	9552	2798	22.7%
Kerala	4520	4430	90	2.0%
Tamil Nadu	15515	15077	488	2.8%
TOTAL (S.R.)	48420	44165	4255	8.8%
EASTERN REGION				
Bihar	4955	3331	1574	31.8%
D.V.C.	4530	3964	566	12.5%
Orissa	5141	4530	610	11.9%
West Bengal	7480	7029	451	6.0%
TOTAL (E.R.)	22105	18904	3201	14.5%
NORTH EASTERN REGION				
Arunachal Pradesh	88.1	58.4	29.7	33.7%
Assam	1409.8	1303.3	106.5	7.6%
Manipur	165.9	163.4	2.5	1.5%
Meghalaya	157.2	157.2	0.0	0.0%
Mizoram	66.4	64.9	1.5	2.3%
Nagaland	86.5	85.5	1.0	1.2%
Tripura	156.1	138.3	17.8	11.4%
TOTAL (N.E.R.)	2130.0	1971.0	159.0	7.5%
ALL INDIA	184706	170720	13986.0	7.6%

STATEMENT II

GENERATING CAPACITY ADDITION PROGRAMME FOR THE
YEAR 1993-94

Sl. No.	Name of the project and unit No.	H/T/N	State/Organisation	Capacity (MW)	
1	2	3	4	5	
NORTHERN REGION					
1.	Pampore GT-1	T	J & K	25	
2.	Pampore GT-2	T	J & K	25	
3.	Salal St. II-2	N	J&K/NHPC	115	
4.	Salal St. II-3	N	J&K/NHPC	115	
5.	*Chamera St. I-1	N	HP/NHPC	180	
6.	*Chamera St. I-2	N	HP/NHPC	180	
7.	*Chamera St. I-3	N	HP/NHPC	180	
8.	Dadri ST-1	T	UP/NTPC	146.15	
9.	Dadri ST-2	T	UP/NTPC	146.5	
10.	*Tanda-4	T	UP	110	
11.	Anpara 'B'-4	T	UP	500	
			Central State	Pvt.	Total
	Hydro	770	—	—	770
	Thermal	293	660	—	953
	Nuclear	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL	1063	660	—	1723
WESTERN REGION					
12.	*Utran ST-1	T	Guj/GEB	45	
13.	Birsinghpur-2	T	MP	210	
14.	*Uran WH-1	T	Mah.	120	
15.	Uran WH-2	T	Mah.	120	
16.	Trombay CCGT GT-1	T	Mah./Pvt.	100	

*Slippage from 1992-93

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Kakrapar-2	N	Guj/NPC	220	
			Central State	Pvt.	Total
	Hydro				
	Thermal		495	100	595
	Nuclear		220		220
	Total		220	100	815
SOUTHERN REGION					
18.	*Penna Ahobilam-1	H	AP	10	
19.	*Penna Ahobilam-2	H	AP	10	
20.	Upper Sileru ST. II-1	H	AP	60	
21.	Upper Sileru St. II-2	H	AP	60	
22.	Rayalseema-1	T	AP	210	
23.	*Yelahanka DG set-1	T	Karnataka	21.32	
24.	*Yelahanka DG set-2	T	Karnataka	21.32	
25.	*Yelahanka DG set-3	T	Karnataka	21.32	
26.	*Yelahanka DG set-4	T	Karnataka	21.32	
27.	*Yelahanka DG set-5	T	Karnataka	21.32	
28.	*Mallapur-1	H	Karnataka	4.5	
29.	*Mallapur-2	H	Karnataka	4.5	
30.	*Kallaca-1	H	Kerala	7.5	
31.	*Kallaca-2	H	Kerala	7.5	
32.	Neyveli-7	T	TN/NLC	210	
			Central State	Pvt.	Total
	Hydro				
	Thermal		164.0		164.0
	Nuclear		210		526.6
	Total		210		480.6
EASTERN REGION					
33.	Kahalgan-2	T	Bihar/NTPC		
34.	*Tenughat-1	T	Bihar	210	
35.	*Eastern Gandak-1	H	Bihar	5	
36.	*Eastern Gandak-2	H	Bihar	5	
37.	*Eastern Gandak-3	H	Bihar	5	

1	2	3	4	5
38. *Sone Western Canal-3	H Bihar		1.65	
39. Farakka-5	T WB/NTPC		500	
40. Kolaghat-4	T WB		210	
41. *Upper Rongnichu-3	H Sikkim		2	
42. *Upper Rongnichu-4	H Sikkim		2	
	Central State		Pvt.	Total
Hydro	—	20.65	—	20.65
Thermal	710	420.0	—	1130.0
Nuclear	—	—	—	—
Total	710	440.65	—	1150.65

NORTH-EASTERN REGION

43. *Lakwa GT-5	T Assam		20	
44. *Lakwa GT-6	T Assam		20	
45. Lakwa GT-7	T Assam		20	
	Central State		Pvt.	Total
Hydro	—	—	—	—
Thermal	—	60	—	60
Nuclear	—	—	—	—
Total	—	60	—	60

ALL INDIA

	Central State		Pvt.	Total
Hydro	770	184.65	—	954.65
Thermal	1213	1951.6	100	3264.6
Nuclear	220	—	—	220.0
Total	2203	2136.25	100	4639.25

*Slippage from 1992-93

GENERATING CAPACITY ADDITION PROGRAMME AND ACHIEVEMENT
DURING THE PERIOD APRIL—NOVEMBER, 1993

Sl. No.	Name of the Project & Unit No.	Capacity (MW)		State Executing Agency	Date of	
		Prog.	Ach.		Rolling	Commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HYDRO						
1.	Chamera I U-1	180	—	HP/NHPC		
2.	Chamera I U-2	180	—	HP/NHPC		
3.	Chamera I U-3	180	—	HP/NHPC		

1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Salal II U-2	115	—	J&K/NHPC		
5. Sone W. Canal U-3	1.65	1.65	Bih/BHPC	15-04-93	28-08-93
6. Eastern Gandak U-1	5.00	—	Bih/BHPC		
7. Mallapur U-1	4.50	4.50	Kar/KPCL	30-10-93	
8. Mallapur U-2	4.50	—	Kar/KPCL		
9. Upper Rongnichu U-3	2	—	Sikkim/DDP		
10. Upper Rongnichu U-4	2	—	Sikkim/DDP		
11. Kallada U-1	7.5	—	Ker/KSEB		
12. Kallada U-2	7.5	7.5	Kar/KSEB	27-08-93	
Sub-Total (H)	689.65	13.65			
THERMAL					
1. Lakwa GT U-5	20	—	Assam/ASEB		
2. Lakwa GT U-6	20	—	Assam/ASEB		
3. Yalahanka DG Set-1	21.32	—	Kar/KEB		
4. Yalahanka DG Set-2	21.32	21.32	Kar/KEB		26-11-93
5. Yalahanka DG Set-3	21.32	21.32	Kar/KEB	23-09-93	19-10-93
6. Yalahanka DG Set-4	21.32	21.32	Kar/KEB		27-07-93
7. Yalahanka DG Set-5	21.32	21.32	Kar/KEB		14-05-93
8. Utran St U-1	45	45	Guj/GEB		17-07-93
9. Neyveli U-4	210	210	TN/NLC		19-06-93
10. Kolaghat U-4	210	—	WB/WBSEB		
11. Anpara 'B' U-4	—	500	UP/UPSEB		19-07-93
12. Trombay CCGT U-1	—	120	Mah./TEC		29-07-93
13. Uran WH U-1	120	—	Mah./MSEB		
14. Dadri CC ST-1	146.5	—	UP/NTPC		
15. Pampre GT-1	25	—	J&K/PDCL		
Sub-Total (T)	903.10	960.28			
NUCLEAR	Nil	Nil			
Total (H+T+N)	1592.75	973.93			

ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF COCHIN SHIPYARD

*53. **SHRI SRIKANTA JENA** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Cochin Shipyard incurring loss;
- (b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the estimated loss suffered by the Shipyard during each of the last three years ?

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

(a) and (b) The Cochin Shipyard has been incurring losses since its inception except for a period of two years during 1980-81 and 1981-82. The main reasons for the losses suffered by Shipyard are the wide gap between the International Parity Price (IPP) of ships determined after taking into account the average price in 3 major shipbuilding areas of the world namely Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Far East and the actual cost of construction of ships in the yard, heavy interest burden on loan portion of capital investment made by the Govt. in the Company, low productivity and longer delivery time.

(c) Loss during the last three years:

	Accounting Loss	Cash Loss	Margin
	(Rs in crores)		
1990-91	20.97	(-)	1.29
1991-92	14.92	(+)	7.28
1992-93	7.95	(+)	19.06

2559 LSS/94—5

(Translation)

FOOD PROCESSING UNITS

*54. **DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA**

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

- (a) the number of proposals received by the Government for setting up of food processing units and the number of units out of them granted permission during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the units made operational out of them, State-wise; and
- (c) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be granted permission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI):

(a) to (c) Since 1991-92, 592 proposals were received by the Government. From the fiscal year 1991-92, Government have approved 464 proposals/projects in the food processing and deep sea fishing sectors which include proposals for joint ventures, export oriented units, units with NRI/OCB investments, units requiring industrial licence and proposed for which Plan assistance is sought. The above involves an investment of slightly over Rs. 5,000 crores and foreign equity investment of over Rs. 1,250 crores. As per the available information, 77 of the above have been implemented. State-wise distribution of the number of proposals received and proposals indicated to have been implemented are given in the Statement attached. Action on all the remaining proposals have been initiated. Besides, 2369 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEM) indicating an investment of about Rs. 28,570 crores have been filed for which no approval is necessary.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of proposals/units received	Tantative number of proposals implemented
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50	5
2.	Assam	5	—
3.	Bihar	8	4
4.	Gujarat	15	8
5.	Haryana	32	7
6.	Himachal Pradesh	14	2
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	—
8.	Karnataka	23	2
9.	Kerala	32	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	16	2
11.	Maharashtra	53	11
12.	Manipur	—	—
13.	Meghalaya	—	—
14.	Nagaland	2	—
15.	Orissa	8	2
16.	Punjab	19	1
17.	Rajasthan	26	—
18.	Sikkim	1	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	37	7
20.	Tripura	1	—
21.	Uttar Pradesh	51	10
22.	West Bengal	24	5
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	2	—
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
25.	Chandigarh	—	—
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—
27.	Delhi	14	6
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	17	2
29.	Mizoram	9	—
30.	ondicherry	2	—
31.	Lakshdweep	2	—
	Total	464	77

[English]

NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

*55. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made/propose to make any efforts, as a Member of NAM and the UN, to activate the North-South dialogue on International Cooperation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved so far?

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

(a) Yes Sir. India has supported initiatives undertaken under the aegis of the Non-aligned Movement and in the UN General Assembly on the subject. On behalf of the Summit Level Group on South-South Consultation and Cooperation (G-15), India had addressed a message on the subject of North-South consultation to the industrialised countries on the occasion of the Tokyo Summit of the G-7 held in July, 1993.

(a) Statement showing the message issued by India as Chairman of G-15 is attached herewith.

STATEMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE G-15 TO THE
G-7 SUMMIT TOKYO, JULY 1993

1. Momentous changes have taken place the world over in the last three years. We have entered an area where confrontation has given way to a search for co-operation and partnership.

2. These provide the world community with an opportunity for the establishment of a durable, just and equitable world order. They open doors to a global partnership for global benefit.

3. Reducing tensions, resolving imbalance among countries and overcoming obstacles to global growth will be possible only if countries regardless of their respective levels of prosperity and development, agree to work together.

4. G-15 represents nations which together account for a significant proportion of the world's population and economic strength. They would like to put these attributes at the service of a interdependent community of nations striving for peace and progress. The efforts of the G-15 are directed at enlarging social and economic progress, and realizing the untapped potential for self-advancement amongst their people. In this context, the G-15 seeks

(i) a mutuality of interests between the G-7 and the G-15 to coordinate global efforts guided by the humanitarian imperative of eradicating poverty, hunger and disease that porticularly afflict the poorest; and

(ii) the combined resolve of nations to enhance growth and remove economic inequalities, because stagnant and widely desperate standards of living amongst the people of the world are not conducive to international peace and stability.

5. The G-15 is for a constructive dialogue between the industrialised and developing countries in addressing matters detrimental to the growth and stability of the world economy. We appreciate the acknowledgement by the lending industrialised countries that they have a special responsibility in sustaining a world order founded in the universal, immutable ideals of justice, equity, openness and non-discrimination. The G-15 favour the structuring of a North-South partnership, which by supporting self-reliance in the developing world will strengthen the dignity, self-esteem and productive capacities of the underprivileged of the world.

6. The world economy continues to continue to confront serious structural problems. Present approaches have failed to

address the fundamental and casual factors impacting on the global economic. The core issues, that adversely affect the international economic situation must be jointly addressed by the developed and developing countries in a spirit of partnership. North and South must coordinate their actions to achieve the following :

1. Evolve solutions to the structural problems impeding the global economy taking a holistic view of interlinked issues such as trade, debt and resources. The continued growth of markets in goods and services are likewise linked to maintaining competitive disciplines and increasing the real purchasing power of consumers, both in the North and the South.

2. Strengthen the multilateral economic process to mutual benefit. The maintenance of an open, global economy depends critically on an equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and multilateral trading system. This is of prime importance for the expansion of world trade and enhanced economic prospects for all countries. No effort must be spared to obtain an early balanced and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

3. Protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development requires concerted international cooperation in diverse areas including the transfer of environmentally sound technology and the availability of new and additional financial resources.

4. Encouraging the transfer of technology and promoting investment with a view to optimising on the world's scarce reserves of human skills, capital, and natural resources.

5. Dealing with the issues of debt, money and finance. Debt reduction initiatives must be strengthened and broadened for all classes of debtor countries and must be more effectively implemented. There should be a commitment to ensuring a substantial increase in the net transfer of resources at concessional terms.

6. The World Conference on Population and Development planned for 1994 would be addressing problems arising from high rates of population growth and their impact on development in developing countries. All countries should work together in fostering public commitment and raising the necessary financial and technical means that will enable effective measures to ensure the formulation and implementation of appropriate demographic policies.

7. The United Nations should play the central role in a collective effort to define the New World Order which should be based on the Rule of Law and on the principles and purposes of the UN Charter relating to the concepts of sovereignty, equality and universality and the acknowledgement of national specificities. The revitalization of the United Nations should also be reflected in a strengthened role and function for the General Assembly and greater democratization of the Security Council.

7. Transparency, non-discrimination, consensus, equal respect for the dignity of all individuals, societies and nations have to be the guiding principles for the international community on matters large and small. Be it world trade, environment and development, resolution on the global debt crisis, the restructuring of the United Nations, global financial arrangements, or economic assistance for the poorest members of the world community, these values have to be the touchstone of global initiatives and actions. The alleviation and eradication of poverty has to remain in the forefront of global action, together with adequate resource flows for sustainable development.

8. The G-15 would urge that regular consultation be instituted between the groups representing developing countries and the industrially advanced countries. Political stability and economic progress, the unhindered development of human resources, the exchange of goods, services

and technologies across national frontiers are all inextricably linked with the welfare of the world community.

9. The countries of the South see the future of the human society as evenly poised. Our global community of nations has the choice today of international co-operation and growth. It is our earnest hope and understanding, that can reinforce co-operation and growth. It is our earnest hope that, animated by good sense and by joint action of all members of the world community, we shall transform present opportunities into a durable structure for peace and stability serving the well-being of people in all parts of the world.

Indo-US Bilateral Talks

*56. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL :

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

(a) whether Indo-US talks were held during September, 1993;

(b) if so, the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed in the talks and the broad outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements have been reached on these issues between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) to (d) The Third Round of Indo-US bilateral talks on disarmament, non-proliferation and security related issues was held in Washington from September 15—17, 1993.

2. These talks covered the entire range of global arms control trends, regional security issues and initiative designed to promote stability and confidence building. The talks facilitated a better understanding of each other's position. There was some

convergence of views on issues like a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a multilateral convention on the cut-off in fissile material production for nuclear weapons purposes. India has all along advocated that it could support such initiatives if they are global in scope, comprehensive, non-discriminatory and verifiable. India's strong opposition to the US approach to view security issues in South Asia within an Indo-Pakistan construct was conveyed in clear terms. Preliminary exchange of views on a multilateral approach to disarmament, non-proliferation and regional security was also undertaken.

3. The US agreed to commence internal consultations to prepare for a review of the Indo-US MOS on high-tech transfers in early 1994. It was conveyed to the US Government that high technology trade between India and the US was an important fact of bilateral relations. It was emphasised that denial of high technology, as in the ISRO-Glavkosmos case, and suggestions to the effect that we do not develop our own technology are not acceptable to us. It was reiterated that our indigenous programme of development of high technology cannot be equated with the acquisition of missiles by Pakistan, especially since long range missiles deployed in India's neighbourhood adversely affected India's security.

4. The US appreciated our willingness to resume official-level talks with Pakistan once the newly elected government was in place in Pakistan. It was conveyed to the US side that India had decided to voluntarily seek an extension of safeguards on Tarapur. This step was welcomed by the US.

Kashmir Issue In United Nations

*57. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of Kashmir was referred to by various Member States during the course of their general statement

in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) this year;

(b) if so, the names of the Member-States which made such a reference and their categorisation as positive, negative and neutral from the Government point of view;

(c) whether a draft Resolution has been introduced in the UNGA on the question of alleged violation of human rights in Kashmir;

(d) if so, the names of the sponsors and the salient features of the draft Resolution; and

(e) the counter steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) USA, Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had made reference to Kashmir in their statements at the UN General Assembly this year. The Government of India are opposed to any attempt to internationalise the Kashmir issue.

(c) No sir.

(d) and (e) The question does not arise.

TELECOM NETWORK

*58. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :— Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Economic Research Unit of the Department of Telecommunications has carried out any study regarding the telephone-population ratio in the cities including the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the details of the telephone-population ratio in Delhi and other satellite cities in the NCR as revealed by the aforesaid study;

(c) whether, in view of the aforesaid study, it is proposed to revise the plan for expanding the telecom network of NCR,

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the objectives to be achieved thereby; and

(e) the other steps envisaged to discourage rush for telephones in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS :

(SHRI SUKH RAM)

(a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above. However, a total of 3.67 lakh lines of net additional switching capacity have been planned during the 8th Five Year Plan for the NCR Towns other than Delhi.

(d) The 8th Plan proposals envisage the average waiting period for telephone in NCR towns to be less than one year and that for large telephone systems including Delhi not to exceed two years.

(e) The relatively shorter waiting period for telephone in NCR towns around the capital is likely to reduce the rush for telephones in Delhi.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT

*59 SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated productivity of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port for the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) the reasons for low productivity ?

(c) the number of hours per day this Port was expected to work and the number of actual hours per day it worked during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the utilisation of optimal productivity ?

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

(a) The Productivity at Jawaharlal Nehru Port during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 was as under :—

CARGO:	199 -91	1991-92	1992-93
CONTAINER (TEU/Crane/Hour)	9.2	10.1	9.6
DRY BULK (MT/Ship/Day)	2202	3028	2915

(b) The brief reasons for low productivity are as under :—

Container Terminal

(1) Due to inherent defects in the container handling equipments, breakdowns were more than normal.

(2) Excess, idle time during meal-break and shift change periods.

(3) Due to the shortage of container handling equipments.

Bulk Terminal

(1) Excess idle time during shift change and meal recess periods.

(2) Due to inherent deficiencies in the bulk-handling equipment.

(3) Due to hygroscopic nature of the cargo, productivity gets affected, especially in the monsoon period.

(c) The number of hours per day the Port is expected to work is 22. Average number of hours per day the Port has been working for the last three years is 18.

(d) Steps taken to improve Productivity are :

Container Terminal

(1) Technical audit was undertaken to find out the design defects of the equipment and suggest measures to improve the

maintainability and reliability of the equipments. Implementation of its suggestions is in progress and modifications have been carried out to reduce downtime.

(2) Additional equipment has been hired.

(3) Additional yard area is being paved for better yard planning.

(4) Negotiations are going on with the labour unions to work without interruption during shift change/meal break, which would reduce idle time and enhance productivity.

(5) M/s. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) have been appointed to study the working of the container terminal and suggest ways to improve the level of productivity.

Bulk Terminal

(1) Technical Audit was carried out to analyse and suggest modifications to be carried out for improving reliability and maintainability of equipment. The suggested modifications are being carried out in a phased manner.

(2) Contracting out the bagging plant operations is under consideration.

NAVIGABILITY OF RIVERS

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to explore the possibility of making the stretch of Yamuna passing through Delhi fit for navigation ;

(b) whether there is also any proposal to explore the Navigational facilities in some other rivers in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including studies if any conducted in this regard ?

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

(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) As Yamuna has not been identified as a river for development as a National Waterway, it is responsibility of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to develop it for navigation. However, a hydrographic survey was conducted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India on the Yamuna passing through Delhi from Wazirabad barrage to Okhla barrage for a distance of 23 kms., as a part of the training programme for INAI personnel in November-December, 1988. The study indicated availability of depth varying from 0.3 meter to 14 metre and the minimum navigable depth requirements could be obtained by dredging wherever required.

The report of the above survey as forwarded to the Delhi Administration in January, 1989 for further necessary action by suitably incorporating the navigational requirement in their Yamuna Development Project.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. Out of the 10 Waterways identified by NTPC (National Transport Policy Committee) for consideration for declaration as National Waterways studies were conducted in Ganga, Brahmaputra and West Coast Canal and the same were declared as National Waterways during 1986, 1988 and 1993, respectively. Studies were also conducted in Sunderbans, Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadi, Brahmani and Narmada. While Sunderbans is being considered for declaration subject to environmental clearance etc., the other four rivers are not considered for immediate declaration due to non-availability of sufficient water or less cargo potential or both. The rivers of Goa and Tapi are yet to be studied.

It is also proposed to undertake studies on East Coast Canal from Calcutta to Paradip & also on West Coast Canal from Quilon to Kovalam.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN KERALA

381. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new telephone exchanges in Kerala ;

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

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

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

(b) 3 new telephone exchanges are planned to be opened in Kerala Circle during the year 1993-94. They are :

(1) Punnagra—512 ILT (Alleppey)

(2) Nilamel—256 Port C-DOT

RAX-(QUILON)

(3) Puliymmala—128 Port C-DOT RAX-(Idukki)

(c) The exchanges at Pannagra has already been commissioned. New exchanges proposed at Nilamel, Puliymmala are expected to be commissioned during the 4th quarter of 1993-94.

[Translation]

TRANSPORT POLICY

382. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the experts of United Nations Development Programme (U.N. D. P.) have suggested to review the transport policy of the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) The United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services with assistance from UNDP fielded a Transport Needs Assessment Mission in order to review the country's current transport scenario, critical issues and assess its transport needs. The Mission's Report is yet to be received.

[Translation]

To be answered on the 6th December, 1993

PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP IN UNSC

383. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: (SHRI B. DEVARAJAN) : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Netherlands is in favour of India being accepted as a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC);

(a) whether there are other countries also, who are in favour of India, on this issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the suggestions made by the Dutch Prime Minister regarding the UN Security Council's role?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c) Netherlands has not mentioned India in her response to UN Secretary General's letter in-2559 LSS|94—6

viting comments of the member-States on a possible review of the composition of the Security Council in pursuance of UNGA Resolution 47/62. At this stage, candidacy of specific countries is not being discussed. The Dutch Prime Minister expressed the need for expansion of the security council in general terms.

NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

384. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has come across the problems faced by the newspaper industry as enunciated in the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Newspaper Society held on September 22, 1993, in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the specifics there about and Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken to make small newspapers particularly, language weeklies viable and self reliant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) The Government have come across newspaper reports on the Annual General Meeting of Indian Newspapers Society (INS) held on 22nd September, 1993. The thrust of the Newspaper reports was on the demand of the INS to further liberalise the Newsprint Import Policy. The increase in prices of indigenous newsprint effected a number of times recently and the demand of the INS to reduce customs duty on some specific items used by the Newspaper Industry were also highlighted in the reports.

In pursuance of its policy of safe-guarding the freedom of Press and its growth. Government provides more and more services to Small & Medium newspapers such as special consideration for accreditation, providing government advertisements, locally relevant development stories, photographs etc. besides ensuring easy availability of newsprint at various regions. But since the Press is not under the control of the Government, a viable and self reliant Press depends largely on the managerial skills of the Publishers.

[Translation]

STD/PCO IN RAJASTHAN

385. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ISD/STD/PCO units set up in Rajasthan during 1992-93 ; and

(b) the amount spent by the Government thereon during this period and earnings made therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of ISD/STD/PCOs set up in Rajasthan during 1992-93 is 1341.

(b) The amount spent by the Government thereon during 1992-93 is Rs. 1,78,40,310 and the earnings made therefrom is Rs. 17,19,01,946.

[English]

INDIA-PAK CRICKET MATCH

386. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani fans attacked Indian supporters and burnt the Indian flag during an India-Pakistan cricket match held in London recently ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with UK ; and

(d) if so, the response of the UK thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

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

(b) A Cricket match between "Gavaskar Eleven" and "Imran Khan Eleven" was held at the Crystal Palace, London on 30th August, 1993. Just before the match concluded, some Pakistani supporters rushed on to the field, damaged the pitch, broke the wickets and attempted to intimidate the Indian players, leading to the match being abandoned. The hooligans later also burnt the Indian flag.

(c) Yes, Sir. Even before the incident, our High Commission in London had alerted the British Government to the possible disruption of the match by Pakistani elements. After the incident occurred, the matter was immediately taken up by our High Commission with the British Government, urging necessary legal action against those responsible for hooliganism and criminal intimidation. The matter was also separately taken up by the Government with the British High Commission in New Delhi.

(d) The British authorities expressed deep regret at the incident. A criminal case was registered by the police and three persons arrested.

INDIAN LABOURERS IN SINGAPORE JAIL

387. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several labourers are languishing in jails of Singapore for want of rehabilitation assistance from India ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) As of October 30, 1993, there were 251 persons claiming Indian nationality in jail in Singapore for illegal stay in that country. Some of them require travel documents,

which can be issued only after their Indian nationality is established in consultation with the concerned RPOs or the State Governments in India. This is in the process of being done. Thereafter, they would be liable to deportation by the Singapore Government.

The situation arises because Indian workers get exploited by unscrupulous elements. Cases of employment racketeering are reported to the concerned agencies for remedial action.

(Translation).

POST OFFICES IN U. P.

388. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) The number of villages in Uttar Pradesh without post office by the end of 1991-92 :

(b) the district-wise number of villages in the state having post office, category-wise ;

(c) the district-wise number of villages without post office at present; and

(d) the district-wise and category-wise number of post offices proposed to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) :

(a) The number of villages in Uttar Pradesh without post office as on 31-3-1992 was 90285.

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

(d) Target for opening of 93 Extra Departmental Branch Post offices and 12 Departmental Sub Post Office has been fixed for the Circle during the current Annual Plan 1993-94.

(English).

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

389. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections pending as on January 1, 1993, Circle-wise ;

(b) the number of additional applications received during January to September, 1993;

(c) the number of connections installed during this period ;

(d) the number of applications pending as on October 1, 1993; and

(e) the number of applications which are pending for more than one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) :

(a), (c) and (d) : Details are given in the attached statement.

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

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Circle District	No. of pending application as on 1-1-93	No. of connections provided upto 1-10-93	No. of application pending as on 1-10-93
1.	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	186905	57606	199466
2.	Assam	14471	12250	12951
3.	Bihar	36302	33369	48812
4.	Gujarat	231468	72410	241387
5.	Haryana	89186	25414	76616
6.	Himachal Pradesh	15104	7181	17204
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	22382	2142	23672
8.	Karnataka	191602	53311	199522
9.	Kerala	296227	64528	325913
10.	Madhya Pradesh	108220	67225	95648
11.	Maharashtra	264880	56728	287604
12.	North East	7796	8895	7823
13.	Orissa	9837	9535	11070
14.	Punjab	179380	27179	204578
15.	Rajasthan	178973	46768	193928
16.	Tamil Nadu	189668	41996	225680
17.	Uttar Pradesh	149636	64554	157735
18.	West Bengal	16906	8621	22283
19.	Bombay	221282	91087	218758
20.	Calcutta	54509	20609	68757
21.	Delhi	375035	65807	355260
22.	Madras	104359	18025	115534

Fraud against Pepsi

390. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEER-APPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Indian American investors have filed a law suit in a Federal District Court due to their alleged involvement in fraud:

(b) if so, the main allegation made against Pepsi;

(c) whether Pepsi was also earlier involved in a number of fraud cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI TARUN GOGOI):

(a) to (d) : M/s. Pepsi Food Ltd., have informed that a case filed by two Indian Americans against one of the bottlers is pending in the Federal District Court where Pepsi Foods Ltd. has been cited as a co-respondent. The same two Indian Americans had filed the same suit in another superior Court of California which was dismissed.

[Translation]

Consumption of Power

391. SHRI UDAY PRATAAP SINGH: SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT: SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: SHRI KHELAN RANI JANGDE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual per-capita power consumption in each State and the country as a whole as on June 30, 1993;

(b) the reasons for less supply of power to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in comparison to its requirement; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to bring Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh at par with the national level ?

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

Statewise per capita consumption of electricity during 1992-93 is given in statement. Figures upto June, 1993 have not become available so far.

(b) : The actual power supply position in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is given below:—

Period April–Oct. 1993

(Figures in MU net)

	Uttar Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
Requirement	18895	12355
Availability	16917	11765
Shortage	1978	590
%	10.5	4.8

The main reason for power shortage in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is due to demand out stripping the availability of power.

(c) : Various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in Uttar

Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh include maximising the generation from the existing generating system, implementation of Renovation & Modernisation Programme, Reduction in transmission & distribution losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures and assistance from neighbouring states and systems.

STATEMENT
STATEWISE PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY DURING 1992-93
(UTILITIES AND NON-UTILITIES)

Name of the Region/State	(In KWH) 1992-93
NORTHERN REGION	
Haryana	506.68
Himachal Pradesh	207.33
Jammu & Kashmir	186.40
Punjab	680.56
Rajasthan	247.36
Uttar Pradesh	178.93
Chandigarh	707.24
Delhi	823.91
Sub-Total	282.44
WESTERN REGION	
Gujarat	525.11
Madhya Pradesh	278.44
Maharashtra	444.01
Goa	545.12
Daman & Diu	1014.70
D & N Haveli	1172.93
Sub-Total	404.83
SOUTHERN REGION	
Andhra Pradesh	304.50
Karnataka	304.89
Kerala	194.41
Tamil Nadu	365.56
Pondicherry	855.06
Lakshadweep	182.80
Sub-Total	307.76
EASTERN REGION	
Bihar	112.29
Orissa	286.04
West Bengal	157.75
A & N Islands	159.72
Sikkim	113.93
Sub-Total	158.25
NORTH EASTERN REGION	
Assam	90.91
Manipur	105.04
Meghalaya	127.78
Nagaland	72.85
Tripura	58.53
Arunachal Pradesh	66.67
Mizoram	71.53
Sub-Total	89.15
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	281.48

GRANTS FOR POWER SECTOR IN GUJARAT

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

(a) whether the Union Government have enhanced the total outlay for power sector in Gujarat for 1993-94; and

(2) if so, the details of the schemes to be initiated for improving the power sector in Gujarat during the above period?

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

(a) and (b) : No, Sir. For augmenting the power supply in Gujarat during the year 1993-94, Utran Thermal Power Station St. I (45 MW) has been commissioned in July, 1993 and Unit-2 of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project is scheduled for commissioning in December, 1993.

[English]

BLOWN UP OF MICROWAVE STATION IN A.P.

393. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether naxalities have blown up microwave station in Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to curb such activities of the naxalities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the early hours of 20-10-93, Veeravalli Microwave Repeater forming part of Hyderabad-Warrangal 140 Megabit per second digital microwave system was bomb blasted by Radicals. The radicals entered the complex and threatened the watchman/mazdoor at gunpoint through the window. Meanwhile three militants entered the equipment room, breaking open the main door and planted three bombs inside the equipment room. The mazdoor was taken out by the radi-

cals and then the bombs appear to have blasted. The Microwave equipments, waveguides and Air-conditioner have been completely damaged. Front door is completely broken and cracks have also appeared in the walls and roof of the building.

(c) In March, 93 the then Chairman, Telecom., Commission had written to the Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Govt. to provide proper protection to vital Telecom installations in the State. Eleven Telecom Stations were identified for provision of police protection on a permanent basis and eight of them have already been provided with. In addition, round the clock security has also been provided at Veeravalli which was not taken as a susceptible site earlier. Close liaison is being kept with the State Government authorities for adequate security arrangements at all susceptible installation in A. P.

POST OFFICES IN CHANDIGARH

394. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Post Offices presently working in Chandigarh, Sectorwise;

(b) whether there is a persistent demand for opening new Post Offices in Sector 24, 28, 45, 38, 41, 43 and Maloya Colony and proposals for Sector 38, 45 and Maloya Colony were found justified according to the existing norms and sent to the Government for approval;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in according the necessary approval; and

(d) whether the Government have considered the necessity of opening extra departmental sub-offices/branch post offices to meet the growing needs of the Union Territory of Chandigarh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM).

(a) Post Offices at present working in Chandigarh, Sectorwise, have been shown in the attached statement.

(b) Requests for opening of post office in Sectors 24, 28, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45 and Maloya Colony were received and examined. Prima facie examination showed that there is no justification for opening Post Office at most of the places mentioned above. Proposals for opening post offices at Maloya Colony, Sector 38 and

Sector 44 are, however, under detailed examination.

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

(d) It is not the policy of the Govt. to open Extra-Departmental Offices in urban areas.

STATEMENT

Detail of Existing Post Offices in Chandigarh.

Sl. No.	Sector	Name of the Post Office.
1.	Sector-1	1. New Secretariat Post Office.
2.	"	2. Vidhan Sasdan Post Office.
3.	Sector-2	1. High Court Post Office.
4.	Sector-7	1. Raj Bhawan Post Office.
5.	Sector-8	1. Sector-8 Post Office.
6.	Sector-9	1. Sector-9 Post Office.
7.	"	2. Mini Secretariat Post Office.
8.	"	3. CDA Western Command Post Office.
9.	Sector-10	1. Sector-10 Post Office.
10.	Sector-11	1. Sector-11 Post Office.
11.	Sector-12	1. PGI Post Office.
12.	"	2. Engineering Post Office.
13.	Sector-14	1. Panjab UNI
14.	Sector-15	1. Sector-15 Post Office.
15.	Sector-16	1. Sector-16 Post Office.
16.	Sector-17	1. Bus Stand Post Office.
17.	Sector-17	2. Chandigarh GPO
18.	Sector-18	1. Sector-18 Post Office.
19.	Sector-19	1. Sector 19 Post Office.
20.	Sector-20	2. Sector 20 Post Office.
21.	Sector-21	1. Sector 21 Post Office.
22.	Sector-22	1. Sector-22 Post Office.
23.	Sector-23	1. Sector-23 Post Office.
24.	Sector-26	1. Grain Market Post Office.
25.	Sector-27	1. Sector-27 Post Office.
26.	Sector-29	1. Sector-29 Post Office.
27.	Sector-31	1. Sector-31 Post Office.
28.	Sector-34	Sector-34 Post Office.
29.	Sector-36	Sector-36 Post Office (Temporarily Closed till construction of Departmental building)
30.	Sector-40	Sector-40 Post Office.
31.	Sector-46	Sector-46 Post Office.
32.	Sector-47	Sector-47 Post Office.
33.	Industrial Area Post Office.	
34.	New Industrial Area Post Office.	
35.	Ramdarbar Post Office IME Area Phase-II	
36.	Government Press Post Office	

VACANT POSTS AT PASSPORT OFFICES

395. SHRI R. JEEVARATHNAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pending of passport applications at the passport offices in the country due to non-filling up of the vacant posts;

(b) the reasons for non-filling up of such posts; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacant posts without any delay?

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

(a) The backlog of passport applications was caused by a variety of factors such as sharp increase in the input of applications in 1991 and 1992, a shortfall in the availability of passport booklets and shortage of staff.

(b) and (c) Vacancies have been occurring in different grades of the Central Passport Organisation from time to time on account of retirement etc. These vacancies are being filled through promotion, recruitment or deputation of eligible officers as provided under the rules.

[Translation]

SOYA PLANT IN M. P.

396. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING

INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to unstarred question No. 2973 answered on August 16, 1993 and state :

(a) whether the information for the setting up of new Soya-Plants in Madhya Pradesh and also to provide technical know how to farmers has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) :

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

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN M. P.

397. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of telephone exchanges set up so far in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the name of the places where new telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up during the year 1993; and

(c) the district-wise details of the Gram Panchayats where telephone facility has been provided during 1991-92 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) :

(a) The details are given in Statement-I.

(b) Names of places are given in Statement-II.

(c) The details are given in Statement-III.

STATEMENT I

Number of telephone exchanges set up in M.P. is given below:

Total No. of Exchanges as on 31-10-1993—1953

I. During 7th Plan

(a) Telephone exchanges working as on 31-3-85—629

(b) Telephone exchanges opened during 85-90—463

(c) % set up 73.6%

II. During 90-93

(a) Exchanges working as on 31-3-90—1092

(b) Exchanges opened during 90—93—861

(c) % set up 78.5%

STATEMENT II

Sr. No.	Name	District.
1.	Datrenga	Raipur.
2.	Muriya	Rajnandgaon
3.	Penchi	Guna
4.	Daurana	Guna
5.	Gopalia	Guna
6.	Garhibadhot	Shivpuri
7.	Pandula	Morena
8.	Gayatrinagar	Dewas
9.	Dattaigaon	Dhar
10.	Nawasa	Dhar
11.	Sejawata	Ratlam
12.	Kalarbanki	Seoni
13.	Chamarikhurd	Seoni
14.	Baretha	Narsinghpur
15.	Bagoli	Balaghat
16.	Miragpur	Balaghat
17.	Shahpur	Mandla
18.	Kahaiya	Mandla

STATEMENT-III

Sl. No.	District	No. of Gram Panchayats where Telephone facility was provided in 1991-92
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	68
2.	Bastar	204
3.	Betul	42
4.	Bhind	25
5.	Bhopal	65
6.	Bijaspur	225
7.	Chhatarpur	98

1	2	3
8.	Chhindwara	82
9.	Damoh	84
10.	Datia	44
11.	Dewas	43
12.	Dhar	82
13.	Durg	90
14.	Guna	72
15.	Gwalior	112
16.	Hoshangabad	83
17.	Indore	85
18.	Jabalpur	172
19.	Jhabua	57
20.	Khandwa	84
21.	Khargone	145
22.	Mandla	51
23.	Mandsaur	103
24.	Morena	101
25.	Narsinghpur	87
26.	Panna	10
27.	Raigarh	150
28.	Rajpur	265
29.	Raisen	76
30.	Raigarh	41
31.	Rajnandgaon	88
32.	Ratlam	54
33.	Rewa	57
34.	Sagar	151
35.	Sarguja	45
36.	Satna	101
37.	Schore	85
38.	Sooni	49
39.	Snahdol	45
40.	Shajapur	112
41.	Shivpuri	32
42.	Sidhi	54
43.	Tikamgarh	76
44.	Ujjain	125
45.	Vidisha	95

[English]

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN KERALA

398. PROF. (SMT.) SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have identified areas for promotion of Food Processing Industries in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received investment proposals from foreign investors and Non Resident Indians for these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) : While the Ministry has not conducted any study to identify specific areas for promotion of food processing industries in Kerala, under the Plan schemes formulated by the Ministry, assistance is provided to State Governments, etc. for conducting such studies. No proposal from the Government of Kerala has been received seeking assistance for conducting such studies. This Ministry's 8th Plan schemes, summary of which enclosed as statement envisages providing assistance for viable proposals for development of food industries. Under these schemes, in 1992-93, assistance to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs have been provided to Kerala for setting up of cold chain for fish. Similarly a proposal for assistance under the Plan scheme for establishment of a poultry processing plant is under examination.

(c) and (d) : Government have received two proposals for deep sea fishing projects with foreign/NRI equity participation one of which has already been approved and action on the other has been initiated for a scheme of Integrated Horticulture Development in Kerala. European Economic Community has approved an assistance of 28.7 million ECU. The programme envisages of increasing the production of high value Horticultural crops,

development of modern processing industry for processing of these fruits and vegetables, etc. The programme also envisages, inter-alia, an R&D component, extension services, marketing support, etc. Kerala Government has informed that project is progressing as per schedule.

Statement

A. GRAIN PROCESSING SECTOR.

1. Post Harvest Technology Centre, IIT, Kharagpur.
2. Paddy Processing Research Centre Thanjavur.
3. Regional Extension Service Centres.
4. Research and Development Schemes.
5. Rice Milling Machinery and Allied Equipments Testing Centres.
6. Modernisation of Rice Mills.
7. Setting up of Food Engineering Centre.

B. FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROCESSING

1. Scheme for setting up food processing and training centre in the rural areas.
2. Scheme for assistance for establishment of F&VP units.
3. Scheme for strengthening backward linkages between processors and growers. Testing Centres.
4. Scheme for Assistance for development of infrastructure for mushroom cultivation and processing.
5. Assistance for development and processing of Hops.
6. Generic advertising on processed food and for providing marketing assistance.
7. R&D in F&VP.

C. MEAT & POULTRY PROCESSING.

1. Establishment of National Livestock Products Development Council.
2. Development of Pork processing.

3. Development of sheep, goat and rabbit meat processing.
4. Development of Poultry & egg processing.
5. Development of Buffalo meat processing.
6. Development of infrastructure for storage and transport of meat for export.
7. Development of marketing facility.
8. Development of trained manpower for meat processing industry.
9. R&D for meat processing and specialised packaging.

D. FISHERIES & FISH PROCESSING

1. Assistance for participation in deep sea fishing and processing.
2. Grant-in-aid providing interest subsidy on loan for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessel.
3. Assistance for diversified fishing.
4. Scheme for effective implementation of MZI Act by providing funds for installation of communication facilities for the Coast Guard.
5. Scheme for setting up of cold-chain.
6. Scheme for tuna and other fish processing.
7. Assistance to National Marine Fisheries Development Board.
8. Fishery Survey of India.

E. CONSUMER INDUSTRY

1. R&D scheme on soyabean products and Indian traditional foods and packaging.
2. Investment in Public Sector Enterprises.

(a) MFIL

(b) NERAMAC

F. SECRETARIAT ECONOMIC SERVICES

1. Scheme for strengthening of nodal agencies.
2. Scheme for strengthening of Directorate of F&VP for information,

training, education and quality system for development of F&VP.

3. Scheme for participation in National and international exhibitions.
4. Scheme for promoting studies in food processing.
5. Scheme for performance awards in Food Processing Industries.

THEFT OF TAPES

399. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question Number 2224 answered on August 9, 1993 and state :

(a) whether the Government have completed the inquiry regarding theft of tapes in Doordarshan, and

(b) if so, the action taken against the officers found involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) (a) and (b) : Doordarshan Kendra Delhi filed an F.I.R. with the local police station on 29-7-1993. The matter was also investigated departmentally and it was observed that there were certain lapses in the functioning of the video library. As a consequence, the services of two casual employees of the library have already been dispensed with and warnings have been issued to two librarians and the in-charge of the library has been transferred. Meanwhile an investigation by the Assistant Director General (Security) is in progress.

INDIAN TELEGRAPH ACT, 1885

400. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendments; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Amendments are under consideration.

RADIO PAGING SERVICES

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

(a) whether a proposal for providing radio paging services and cellular licences in twenty seven cities has been pending for over a year ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the stage at which the matter stands at present ; and

(c) the steps being taken for early clearance of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir. It is proposed to franchise Radio Paging Service in 27 cities and Cellular Mobile Service in 8 cities.

(b) and (c) Regarding Radio Paging Service tenders were invited for twenty seven cities and all the bids were evaluated on the basis of eligibility criteria and a shortlist was prepared. All the shortlisted bidders were issued financial tenders. In the meanwhile some of the bidders who were not shortlisted filed civil writ petitions in High Courts of Chandigarh and Delhi and a stay was granted by High Court at Chandigarh. Since then the case in the High Court at Chandigarh has been dismissed and there is no stay by the Delhi High Court. The financial tenders have been received and are at present under evaluation. The case in the High Court of Delhi is pending and the matter is sub-judice.

As regards Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, eight bidders two in each city of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were

provisionally selected. Some of the unsuccessful bidders filed civil writ petitions in the High Court of Delhi. The list of eight provisionally selected bidders was revised in the light of the judgement delivered by the High Court of Delhi. At present some of the unsuccessful bidders have filed special leave petitions in the Supreme Court and the hearings in the case are going on.

BRIDGES IN U.P.

402. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of national and State highways passing through Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh which either do not have any bridges over them or are in bad shape ;

(b) whether the bridge over Varanasi-Gorakhpur Highway in Chandwak in Uttar Pradesh has fallen ;

(c) if so, whether any funds have been sanctioned to construct/reconstruct those bridges ; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done and the funds sanctioned for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Constitutionally, this Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. All other roads/bridges are essentially the responsibility of State Government concerned. The number of national highways passing through Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh which either do not have any bridges over them or are in bad shape is nil.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation.]

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN BIHAR

403. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some hydro-electric projects on the

rivers in Bihar during the current Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places identified for these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Six hydro-electric Projects are presently under implementation in Bihar. Details of these projects are given below in the statement :

STATEMENT**HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN BIHAR**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Distt./ River	Commissioning Schedule
1	2	3	4
1.	Eastern Gandak Canal 3 × 5 MW	1 West Champaran Gandak	2/94, 3/94, 5/94
2.	Sone Western Canal 4 × 1.65 MW	Rohtas; Sone	Already commissioned during 1992-93 & 1993-94
3.	Sone Eastern Canal 2 × 1.65 MW	Aurangabad Sone	2/95 (1994-95), 3/95
4.	Chandil LPC 2x4 MW	Singhbhum Subernrekha.	1995-96
5.	North Koel 2 × 12 MW	Palamu; Koel	1995-96
6	Koel Karo (NHPC) 4 × 172.5 MW 1 × 20MW	Ranchi, Gumla & Singhbhum South Koel & North Karo.	2001-2002

EXPLORATION OF MINERALS IN GUJARAT

404. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (G.S.I.) has conducted any survey in Gujarat for exploration of minerals and metals during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the details of the places where survey have been undertaken and the esti-

mated quantity of the metals and minerals found during the period ; and

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

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

(b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) have carried out survey and exploration for locating Manganese, Tungsten, Basmetals (Po-Zn-Cu) in Panchmahal and Banas-

kantha district; for gold in Jamnagar district, for Wollastonite in Banaskantha district; for lignite in Mudia, Pranpur and Fulra dam area in Kuchchh district and Rajpardi and Vasten area in Bharuch district, Gujarat. Exploration carried out by GSI and other organisations for lignite in Ranandhro, Akimota, Umarsar, Mata-nomadh, Lakhapet, Julpa, Hamla, areas, Kuchchh district and Bhavnagar district in Gujarat have established a total reserve of 432.71 million tonnes.

Results of exploration for other minerals so far carried out by GSI are not encouraging.

(c) Lignite deposits occurring in Kuchchh and Bharuch districts are exploited by Gujarat Minerals Development Corporation (GMDC), a State Government Undertaking.

MCD BY VSNL

405. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Department of Telecom. and the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for 1993-94 in Delhi on October 26, 1993 ; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by Department of Telecommunications with the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) for the year 1993-94 on 26-10-1993.

(b) (1) The document specifies the Objectives of the Company targets in respect of important performance parameters to be achieved by the Company during 1993-94 as well as the enhanced delegation of powers and other support to be given by the Government to the Company.

(2) As per MoU the salient objectives of the Company are :—

- (i) To plan and provide full range of telecommunications services including Value Added Services like Business Network, 64 Kbps Service etc., from VSNL Gateways in India to all parts of the world to user at sea, on land and in air.
- (ii) To achieve and maintain high degree of customer confidence by continuous upgradation of technology, service performance and prompt attention to customers.
- (iii) To continuously enhance the quality of services.
- (iv) To enlarge the availability of Overseas Telecommunications Services.

P&T OFFICES IN GUJARAT

406. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present district-wise number of the Post and Telegraph offices and the telephone exchanges in Gujarat ;

(b) whether the present number of Post and Telegraph offices is inadequate to cope with the requirement to the population ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government during the last two years to increase the number of such offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The present district-wise number of the Post and Telegraph Offices and the telephone exchanges is given in the statement attached.

(b) No, Sir, Post offices are opened as per justification and availability of funds.

(c) During the last two years, 192 post offices and 7 telegraph offices have been opened.

DETAILS OF NUMBER OF POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE AND TELEPHONE EXCHANGES, DISTRICT-WISE

Sl. No.	Name of District.	No. of post offices	No. of Telegraph Offices	No. of Telephone Exchanges	
1.	Ahmedabad		564	26	27
2.	Amreli		325	104	45
3.	Banaskantha (palanpur)		448	36	70
4.	Bharuch		496	91	46
5.	Bhavnagar		470	71	63
6.	Dangs		56	4	3
7.	Gandhinagar		80	55	6
8.	Jamnagar		388	88	61
9.	Junagadh		539	182	69
10.	Kheda (Nadiad)		622	172	106
11.	Kutch (Bhuj)		504	77	39
12.	Mehsana		601	146	89
13.	Panchmahals (Godhra)		531	121	57
14.	Rajkot		505	111	84
15.	Sabarkantha (Himatnagar)		563	92	88
16.	Surat		635	106	56
17.	Surendranagar		335	87	51
18.	Vadodara		671	84	57
19.	Valsad		555	107	43

[English]

TRUNK CALLS FROM DELHI BY M.Ps.

407. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Members of Parliament, who complained to his Ministry/him that they were not in a position to talk to their home towns by booking trunk calls from their Delhi Telephones for months together ;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received from June to October, 1993 ; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard complaint-wise ?

2559 LSS/94—8

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) the information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

CONTRACT CARRIAGES IN DELHI!

408. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal plying of contract carriages in Delhi as chartered buses is going on unchecked ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to put a ban on the plying of these carriages ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Enforcement Wing of the Transport Department prosecutes the buses which violate the conditions of Contract Carriage Permits or ply without permits under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules thereunder.

NEWS IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES FROM AIR/DOORDARSHAN, DELHI

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

(a) the number of daily news bulletins telecast/broadcast in Hindi, Urdu, English,

Sanskrit and regional languages from AIR and Doordarshan Delhi and their duration thereof.

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of news bulletins in regional languages from AIR and Doordarshan in Delhi ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

New bulletins broadcast/telecast from All India Radio/Doordarshan, Delhi.

ALL INDIA RADIO

Languages	Total No. of news Bulletins	Duration
<i>Home Services;</i>		
Hindi	24	2 hrs. 40 mts.
English	22	2 hrs. 30 mts.
Urdu	03	30m ts.
Sanskrit	02	10 mts.
Regional Languages.	38	6 hrs. 20 mts.
<i>External Services.</i>		
Hindi	05	50 mts
English	10	1 hrs. 12 mts. .
Urdu	06	50 mts.
India Languages	06	55 mts.
<i>Doordarshan</i>		
Hindi	05	53 mts. 55 mts.
English	04	45 mts.
Urdu	01	05 mts.

**PERFORMANCE OF STATE ROAD
TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS**

410. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of State Road Transport Undertakings in various States is in bad shape for the past three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof Statewise and yearwise ;

(c) whether the performance of the State Road Transport Undertakings have been

reviewed at Minister's level recently ; and

(d) if so, the details of the major decisions taken at this meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Information in respect of net profit and loss, vehicle productivity and staff productivity of the SRTUs is given in the enclosed statements I, II and III respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT-I

Net profit/Commercial Profit in State Road Transport Undertakings

(Rs. Crores.)

State Road Transport Undertakings	1990-91 Actuals	1991-92 Actuals	1992-93 Rev. Est.
1	2	3	4
1. Andhrapradesh	-11.92	-31.13	-57.26
2. Arunachal Pradesh	-2.41	-1.80	-1.97
3. Assam	-15.36	-17.81	-24.00
4. Bihar	-22.74	-26.87	-49.70
5. Goa (Kadamba)	0.34	-0.31	-0.67
6. Gujarat	4.29	0.92	-78.93
7. Haryana	-18.97	-10.22	10.60
8. Himachal Pradesh	-15.41	-18.38	-25.57
9. Jammu & Kashmir	-15.90	-16.83	-21.50
10. Karnataka	1.30	-19.09	-38.44
11. Kerala	-30.99	-39.54	-32.04
12. Madhya Pradesh	0.24	0.27	-2.09
13. Maharashtra	5.58	-26.72	-9.67
14. Manipur	-1.46	-1.70	-1.86
15. Meghalaya	-1.69	-1.71	-1.20
16. Mizoram *	-3.47	-3.92	-4.36
17. Nagaland	-4.10	-4.13	-5.14
18. Orissa	-12.09	-11.77	- 7.30
19. Punjab Roadways	-30.26	-25.05	-16.59
20. PEPSU RTC	-20.88	-17.89	-11.50
21. Rajasthan	-8.59	13.96	5.44
22. Sikkim	-0.87	-0.73	-2.61

1	2	3	4
23.—38. Tamilnadu	—42.28	—21.33	—29.59
39. Tripura	—3.12	—3.49	—4.00
40. Uttar Pradesh	—40.42	—33.43	10.29
41. Calcutta STC	—23.79	—21.65	—17.86
42. North Bengal	—5.75	—7.34	—9.81
43. South Bengal STC	—3.98	—3.30	—0.85
Total	—324.70	—350.99	—428.20

STATEMENT—II

Vehicles productivity in State Road Transport undertakings.

(KMS. PER BUS HELD PER DAY)

State Road Transport undertaking	1990-91 Actuals	1991-92 Actuals	1992-93 Rev. Est.
Andhra Pradesh	273	282	286
Arunackal Pradesh	108	106	102
Assam	120	128	140
Bihar	69	74	86
Goa (Kadamba)	230	236	240
Gujarat	26	273	283
Haryana	269	283	300
Himachal Pradesh	159	183	178
Jammu & Kashmir	38	47	64
Karnataka	255	260	276
Kerala	229	233	245
Madhya Pradesh	202	205	210
Maharashtra	230	242	249
Manipur	46	71	76
Meghalaya	92	96	108
Mizoram	70	67	84
Nagaland	101	93	94
Orissa	204	218	214
Punjab Roadways	225	236	238
PEPSU RTC	236	252	260
Rajasthan	194	248	266
Sikkim	70	72	72
Tamil Nadu	335	346	359
Uttar Pradesh	204	213	220
Tripura	153	124	113
Calcutta	128	139	146
North Bengal STC	226	242	222
South Bengal STC	139	130	140
All India Average	241	253	263

Source : Annual Plan 1993-94 discussions.

STATEMENT—III
STAFF PRODUCTIVITY
 (Revenue earnings Kms. per worker/day)

State Road Transport undertaking	1990-91 Actuals	1991-92 Actuals	1992-93 Rev. Est
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	33.0	34.6	34.0
Arunachal Pradesh	21.4	21.9	22.4
Assam	15.9	16.4	18.3
Bihar	9.3	10.4	11.9
Goa (Kadamba)	31.4	32.7	36.4
Gujarat	38.8	39.8	43.1
Haryana	48.7	50.2	53.1
Himachal Pradesh	34.0	35.0	33.3
Jammu & Kashmir.	9.9	12.3	14.9
Karnataka	39.0	38.0	40.0
Kerala	25.0	26.2	29.0
Madhya Pradesh	26.1	25.7	26.3
Maharashtra	30.6	32.2	33.7
Manipur	8.0	8.0	12.0
Meghalaya	17.2	17.4	19.5
Mizoram	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nagaland	15.1	14.3	15.7
Orissa	23.0	27.0	27.0
Punjab Roadways	42.2	43.8	45.3
PEPSU RTC	43.2	45.9	48.0
Rajasthan	26.9	34.9	38.6
Sikkim	20.2	20.9	20.9
Tamil Nadu	43.2	44.9	47.9
Tripura	12.0	10.2	9.0
Uttar Pradesh	28.8	29.8	30.6
Calcutta STC	11.6	13.1	14.3
North Bengal STC	30.5	30.2	30.5
South Bengal STC	22.0	24.0	22.5
All India Average	33.0	34.8	36.3

Source : Annual Plan 1993-94 discussions.

**FUNCTIONING OF TELEPHONE
MORE EXCHANGES**

411. **SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA** : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of complaints have been received about the unsatisfactory functioning of the telephone exchanges at Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon ; and

(b) if so, the nature of such complaints and the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of these exchanges ?

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).

PONG DAM OUSTEES

412. **SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE** : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a committee to look into the grievances of the Pong Dam Oustees ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. KANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) In pursuance of directions of the Supreme Court State Governments of Haryana Pradesh and Rajasthan have decided on 16-10-1993 to constitute a State Level Committee and District Level Committees in order to devise a machinery for the redressal of the grievances of the Pong Dam Oustees. The details are given in the attached statement. The matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court of India.

STATEMENT

Constitution of a machinery/Committees for redressal of the grievances of the Pong Dam Oustees.

To look into the various grievances arising out of the resettlement of the Pong Dam Oustees from time to time, a State level Committee of the following would be constituted :-

Rajasthan	Himachal Pradesh
1. Chief Secretary	1. Chief Secretary
2. Principal Secretary, Revenue	2. Financial Commissioner and Secretary (Revenue)
3. Secretary (Irrigation)	3. Secretary (Irrigation)
4. Commissioner, Command Area Development (CAD)	4. Divisional Commissioners, Kangra.
5. Colonisation Commissioner, Bikaner.	5. Deputy Commissioner (R&R), Talwara.
6. Collector, Ganganagar District.	

The Committee would meet every six months. The meeting would be chaired by the Chief Secretary of either State by rotation.

Rajasthan	Himachal Pradesh
Ganganagar District	
1. Collector, Ganganagar.	1. Deputy Commissioner, Kangra.
2. Superintendent of Police, Ganganagar.	2. Deputy Commissioner, (R&R), Talwara.
3. Concerned Superintending Engineer (Irrigation)	
4. Sub Divisional Officer (C) Rai Singh Nagar.	
5. Sub Divisional Officer (C) Suratgarh.	
Bikaner & Jaisalmer Districts	
1. Commissioner, Colonization.	1. Deputy Commissioner, Kangra.
2. Superintendent of Police, Bikaner/Jaisalmer.	2. Deputy Commissioner, (R&R), Talwara.
3. One officer from Command Area Development Department not below the rank of Executive Engineer.	

Besides, District level Committees for the districts of Ganganagar, Bikaner and Jaisalmer have been constituted as under :—

This committee will look into the grievances of both the sides, and whenever it is not possible to resolve any issue, that would be referred to the State level Committee.

The meetings of this Committee will take place once in two months by rotation at Ganganagar and Bikaner. The Committee may also meet in Kangra District as and when necessary.

BIHAR THERMAL POWER STATION

413. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the residents of Kathara Coalfield Area have been facing acute problems due to the fly ash emitted from the Bihar Thermal Power Station of Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to mitigate the problems of the residents of the above area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Kathara Coalfield Area has been affected due to pollution caused by the Bokaro Thermal Power Station "A" of

Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) situated nearby.

(b) Bokaro Thermal Power Station "A" is more than 35 years old, therefore, it is not possible to achieve the standard norms of emission rate with the existing facilities.

(c) The Damodar Valley Corporation has decided to undertake a thorough study of the residual life of the defaulting units and also economical viability, through US Aid. Suitable action plan under renovation and modernisation will be drawn up based on the findings of this study.

INDIAN WATER TRANSIT AND TRADE WITH BANGLADESH

414. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks were held recently between Indian and Bangladesh regarding Inland Water Transit and trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken during this discussion; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented ?

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

(b) As a result of Bilateral Talks between India and Bangladesh held during 13-14, September, 1993, the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh has been renewed for a further period of 2 years w.e.f. 4-10-93 to 3-10-1995.

Transit facilities for Indian inland vessels through specified waterway routes in Bangladesh are provided under the protocol. The Govt. of Bangladesh has also agreed to maintain two specific stretches which are primarily used by the Indian Transit vessels. For this purpose it has been agreed to pay a sum of TK 137 lakhs in 1993-94 and TK 150 lakhs in 1994-95 to Bangladesh. The Protocol also provides for sharing of inter-country traffic on 50 : 50 basis by the two countries.

(c) It has already been implemented w.e.f. 4-10-1993 and shall remain in force up to 3-10-1995.

MICA MINES

415. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Mica Mines which were under operation during 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1992 and the number of employees working in those mines and also in Mica Industry during the corresponding period;

(b) whether the industry is not viable any more; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) The number of

Mica Mines and employees during 1980, 1985, 1990-91, 1991-92 was as under :—

No. of reporting Mines	Average daily Labour employees
1980 — 275	— 6,662
1985 — 166	— 4,222
1990-91 — 137	— 2,942
1991-92 — 133	— 2,840

(b) and (c) Industry is facing problems presently due to recession, substitution of mica and its product, and the deeper mines becoming operationally uneconomically viable.

Revival of this industry can be through production of value added items like mica paper and mica based insulated materials, improvement and diversification of mica Indian mica and its products, technological improvement and deversification of mica and mica products.

C-DOT EXCHANGES

416. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any representation from Members of Parliament for establishing Trunk Media 30 Channel VHF system and 512 I.L.T. or 512 C-DOT Exchange for rural areas of West Bengal have been received by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Few demands have been received from some Members of Parliament for installation of electronic exchanges and provision of STD facility by using 30 Channel, UHF systems at some places.

(b) Action is being taken to meet the above demands subject to technical feasibility and availability of finances.

POST OFFICES IN ORISSA

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

(a) the details of the Post and Telegraph
Offices in Orissa at present, district-wise;

(m) whether the number of existing post
and telegraph offices is not in commen-
surate with the requirement of the popula-
tion;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Govern-
ment during the last two years to increase
the number of such offices; and

(d) the number of new post offices and
sub-post offices proposed to be opened
during 1993-94, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d)
The information is being collected and
will be laid on the table of the House.

[*Translation*].

ROAD ACCIDENTS, DELHI

418. SHRI LAL BABU RAI :

DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS
PATEL :

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE :

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS-
PORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents caused by
Red Line buses and other STA buses in
Delhi up to October 30, 1993 and the
reasons therefor;

(b) the number of persons killed in
these accidents; and

(c) the steps taken to check the acci-
dents caused by the red line buses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and
(b) Government of National Territory
of Delhi (Transport Department) have
informed that 101 persons have been killed
2559 LSS/94—9

in 568 accidents caused by Red Line buses
due to rash and negligent driving upto
30th October, 1993.

(c) The steps taken by State Transport
Authority, Delhi as well as Delhi Police
to check the accidents caused by Red
Line buses are given in the Statement
attached.

STATEMENT

Steps taken to reduce accidents in Delhi

The following steps have been taken by
STA, Delhi and Delhi Police to reduce
the accidents.

1. Refresher Courses for the drivers of
the public service buses were started in
November, 1992. The drivers of the buses
were subjected to proficiency test 1080
drivers have been given refresher courses/
passed proficiency test at Govt. Motor
Driving Training School of Transport
Department till August, 1993.

2. The Transport Department, Delhi has
set up a complaint cell and 82 permits
of Red Line buses were suspended/
cancelled between the period April, 1993 to
November, 1993 which involved in road
accidents. In addition, 17 permits of Red
Line buses were suspended/
cancelled on account of complaints for not following
the time schedule and route violation in-
cluding misbehaviour. In addition to dis-
cipline the drivers, Delhi Traffic Police
prosecuted 65972 Red Line bus drivers
for various offences from 1-1-1993 to
30-10-1993. 22,000 prosecutions were
made by the Transport Department upto
August, 1993 against Red Line buses.
2982 cases of over-speeding of Red Line
buses were impounded during 1-10-92 to
31-8-1993.

3. Measures have also been taken by
Transport Department to ensure strict
compliance of provisions of Motor Vehicle
Act with regard to issue of driving licen-
ces as well as fitness of the vehicles.

4. The Delhi Police have also taken
following steps to check the accidents.

(i) Strict and rigid enforcement to
traffic rules and regulations.

- (ii) Organising special drives against rash and negligent driving, driving without licence, drunken driving and red light jumping etc.
- (iii) Regular prosecution of violators by issue of notice.
- (iv) Introduction of traffic signals| Blinkers in accident prone area.
- (v) Deployment of more traffic policemen in accident prone area.
- (vi) Special mobile checking on National Highways.
- (vii) Prosecution through most modern equipment i.e. Alcometer and Radar Gun.

THEFT OF PARCELS IN GUJARAT

419. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many parcels have been stolen from the various Head Post Offices in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years;

(c) the number of foreign parcels out of them;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) while it is not true that many parcels have been stolen during 1991-92, 3 cases of parcels duly received but subsequent disposal not traceable have been reported in Gujarat Circle.

(c) None of the 3 cases involved a foreign parcel.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The loss in these cases have been recovered from the officials at fault and the claims of the parties concerned have also been settled.

TELECOM EXPANSION PLAN

420. SHRI N. K. BALIYAN ;
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR (DEEPA) :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any plan for expansion of telecom facilities in Uttar Pradesh has been chalked out by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) The total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) and (c) For the year 1993-94 for Uttar Pradesh a net switching capacity addition of 1.47 lakhs lines, Panchayat phones 10,000, Telex connections 200 and matching Transmission schemes for providing STD to THQs are planned. The estimated cost of the plan is about Rs. 446 Crores.

SUPPLY OF POWER TO STATES

421. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the policy adopted by the Union Government for the supply of power to the States from the central pool;

(b) the quantum of power supplied to each State from the central pool during 1992-93;

(c) whether the supply of power made to the States is not in accordance with the demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Policy adopted by the Union Government for the

supply of power to the States from the Central pool is given in Statement-I.

(b) Statewise Entitlement vis-a-vis actual drawal from Central Sector station during 1992-93 is given in Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The supply of power to each state from the Central Sector is being made in accordance with the Central Formula. However 15 per cent of the power from the Central Sector Stations which is at the disposal of the Central Government is being allocated amongst the various beneficiaries of the region normally based on the relative percentage shortage from time to time.

STATEMENT—I

A. CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION OF POWER TO THE STATES FROM CENTRAL SECTOR THERMAL/ATOMIC POWER STATIONS :

- (i) 15 per cent power is kept as unallocated at the disposal of the Centre to meet the emergency requirement of individual States from time to time;
- (ii) 10 per cent power is allocated to the State in which the power station is located; and
- (iii) the remaining 75 per cent power is allocated amongst the States of the region (including the "Home State") in accordance with the energy consumed by, and the Central Plan assistance to the states during the last five years. The needs of the Union Territories are also met through appropriate allocations.

B. PRESENT CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION OF POWER TO THE STATES FROM CENTRAL SECTOR HYDEL STATIONS :

- (i) 15 per cent of the generation capacity will be kept as "Unallocated" at the disposal of the Central Government to be distributed within the Region or outside, depending upon overall requirements;
- (ii) 12 per cent power from energy generated by the power station would be supplied free of cost to those States of the Region (including the State where the hydroelectric project is located) where distress is caused by setting up the project at the specific site, like submergence, dislocation of population; the allocation being made in proportion to the extent of such distress. The "energy generated" figures for the purpose would be calculated at the bus bar level, i.e. after discounting auxiliary consumption but without taking into account the transmission line losses. The extent of distress caused would be assessed for the purposes of allocation of 12 per cent free power by the Central Electricity Authority in consultation with the concerned States;
- (iii) The remaining power (73 per cent) would be distributed between the States of the Region on the basis of the Central Plan assistance given to various States in the Region during the last five years, the two factors being given equal weightage.

STATEMENT—II

(All Figures in MU)

Statewise Entitlement vis-a-vis Actual drawal from Central Sector Stations

Northern Region

Baira Suil/Salat/Singrauli/Rihand/Auraiya;Anta/NAPP/Unchahar/Dadri/Tanakpur

Name of the State	Entitlement	Actual drawal
Delhi	4895.9	3489.0
Haryana	3230.0	3935.8
Himachal Pradesh	349.3	436.3
Jammu & Kashmir	3080.6	2432.3
Punjab	4535.8	3528.9
Rajasthan	4242.3	4994.1
Uttar Pradesh	11081.4	12930.5
Chandigarh	236.3	124.0
Bihar	—	279.9
BBMB	—	0.5
Total	32151.6	32151.6

Western Region

Korba/Vindhvachal/Kawas/KAPP

Gujarat	4721.0	4268.5
Madhya Pradesh	7051.1	8774.3
Maharashtra	6008.9	5573.4
Goa	1423.2	588.0
Total	19204.2	19204.2

Southern Region

Ramagundam/MAPP/Neyveli-II

Andhra Pradesh	5017.4	6782.6
Karnataka	3538.4	3609.5
Kerala	2333.7	1231.5
Tamil Nadu	6578.7	5844.6
Goa	217.4	217.4
Total	17685.6	17685.6

Eastern Region

Farakka STPS/Chukha HEB

Bihar	1302.2	2177.3
DVC	1045.0	1078.2
Orissa	644.0	548.7
West Bengal	1558.3	772.1
Sikkim	53.1	26.3
Assam	—	—
Total	4602.6	4602.6

North Eastern Region

Loktah (NHPC)/Khandegaon/Kopili(NEEPCO)

Name of the State	Entitlement	Actual drawal
Arunachal Pradesh	79.4	41.4
Assam	576.9	834.0
Manipur	241.3	253.6
Meghalaya	146.4	6.1
Mizoram	99.9	73.0
Nagaland	121.4	113.7
Tripura	127.6	71.1
Total	1392.9	1392.9

[ENGLISH]

PENDING POWER PROJECTS IN

MAHARASHTRA

422. SHRI ANNA JOSHI :

SHRI DHARMANNA MON-
DAYYA SADUL :

SHRI RAM KAPSE :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the pending proposals for setting up of new power pro-

jects in Maharashtra awaiting approval of the Union Government;

(b) the action taken by the Government on these proposals, so far;

(c) the number of proposals included in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government propose to fix a minimum time limit for approval of these projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) : Details are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Status
HYDRO		
1.	Bhivpuri Pumped Storage Scheme (90MW)	The scheme though found to be in order from techno-economic angle by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in May'91 has not been cleared for want of an agreement between Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh of and Karnataka regarding Westward diversion of Krishna waters.
2.	Chikaldhara Pumped Storage Scheme (4 x 100 MW)	The scheme has been referred by the State Govt. to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance.
THERMAL		
3.	Barge Mounted Power Plant (110 MW) Near Dabhol	The State Government of Maharashtra had referred these proposals to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance for executing the projects in the private sector. Dabhol Project has been cleared by the CEA subject to certain conditions.
4.	Dabhol CCGT (2015 MW)	
5.	Khaperheda TPS (2 x 210 MW) Units 5 & 6.	

(c) : Out of the above proposals 1st Phase of Dabhol CCGT (695 MW) is scheduled to be commissioned in the terminal year of the 8th Plan i.e. 1997.

(d) to (e) : The techno-economic clearance of Power Schemes is dependent upon availability of various inputs, certain statutory and other clearances from other Ministries/agencies and timely submission of requisite replies/clarifications from the project authorities. Hence, it is not feasible to assess as to how long it may take for according techno-economic clearance to these projects. Completion of these projects is dependent upon availability of sufficient financial allocations, timely supply of equipment by manufacturers and proper management by the project authorities. Central Electricity Authority is conducting periodical meetings with the concerned project authorities in various states for timely completion of power projects and for resolution of outstanding issues.

[Translation].

**ADVERTISEMENT ARREARS OF AIR/
DOORDARSHAN**

423. **SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :**

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN ;
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VEE-
RAPPA :**

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

(a) whether AIR and Doordarshan have accumulated heavy arrears in its advertisement revenue;

(b) if so, the annual rise in the arrears of advertisement revenue for AIR and Doordarshan separately during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(c) the reasons for non-recovery of the arrears;

(d) the existing procedure to recover the dues on account of commercial services of AIR and Doordarshan; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : (a) and (b) : The quantum of arrears is a constantly fluctuating figure from time to time. Arrears of advertisement revenue for the last two financial years are as follows :

	AIR	Doordarshan
1991-92	Rs 28.73lakh	Rs. 9.41 crores*
1992-93	Rs. 32.66 ,,	Rs. 5.38 ,,

*including Rs. 46 crores due from Ministry of Human Resource Development

(c) Arrears are inherent in the system of accreditation advertising agencies and the attendant credit facility. Arrears are recovered from defaulting agencies through vigorous pursuits.

(d) The accredited agencies are entitled to a credit period of 45 days. On delayed payment, interest is charged @18% per annum. If any agency defaults payment on more than three occasions during the course of the financial year, that agency is automatically deaccredited. In the event of any dispute, the matter is referred to a sole arbitrator. Awards of the arbitrators are filed in the competent courts for the decree.

(e) AIR and Doordarshan are taking recourse to all the contractual provisions to ensure timely payment of dues, including encashment of bank guarantee/deaccreditation of errant agencies, arbitration and legal action.

It has also been decided to black-list those agencies which do not clear their old arrears within six months.

**TELEPHONE CONNECTION IN
GUJARAT**

424. **SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA :**

**DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS
PATEL :**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Gujarat as on date, district-wise and category-wise ;

(b) the number of persons allotted telephone connections district-wise and category-wise during the last three years ;

(c) the number of persons likely to be allotted telephone connections during 1993-94 ;

(d) whether the Government propose to expand the telephone exchanges in the State particularly in Gandhinagar district ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Number of persons on Waiting list for telephone connections District-wise and category-wise as on 31st October, 1993 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Number of telephone connections provided district-wise during the last three years is given in Annexure. Category-wise information is under compilation and will be placed on the table of the house

(c) 81000.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is proposed to add 1,26,616 lines in the Gujarat Telecom Circle out of which 375 lines are proposed in Gandhinagar District.

STATEMENT

DISTRICT-WISE & CATEGORY-WISE WAITING LIST AS ON 31-10-93 AND NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS PROVIDED DISTRICT-WISE DURING LAST 3 YEARS

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of persons on W/L for telephone connections as on 31-10-93			No. of Telephone connections provided during		
		OYT	SPL	GENL	90-91	91-92	92-93
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ahmedabad	2949	4331	46864	9190	9416	19271
2.	Gandhinagar	12	49	2451	339	1707	1470
3.	Baroda	3951	3412	32976	301	2034	7850
4.	Rajkot	248	289	12553	527	3250	4073
5.	Surat	6738	3584	44433	2287	7912	12001
6.	Nadiad	22	91	4462	1984	3015	6001
7.	Bhavnagar	634	532	10564	1631	827	1697
8.	Bhuj (Kutch)	219	59	6110	840	1536	2708
9.	Bulsar	1274	192	11104	665	2095	3273
10.	Dangs	1	—	20	—	7	59
11.	Jamnagar	7	213	2852	603	1644	1288
12.	Junagadh	79	96	4461	1056	2260	1245
13.	Amreli	51	71	1990	270	415	710
14.	Mehsana	465	320	13032	1906	3333	3535
15.	Himatnagar	6	67	2797	666	1003	2515
16.	Palanpur	32	61	4916	665	1333	3920
17.	Surendrnagar	21	98	2059	333	460	1653
18.	Bharuch	472	154	4675	2719	2593	3501
19.	Godhra	78	106	3096	601	223	2505
TOTAL		17259	13725	211415	26583	45963	79275

[English]

STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS

425. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH-
RAO GUNDEWAR :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the profit/loss of each State Electricity Board at present in the country ;

(b) the number of cases of misuse and theft of power detected/registered in each State during each of the last three years ;

(c) the number of persons against whom action was taken in regard to (b) above during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to convert the loss making Boards into profit making ones and also to check the misuse and theft of power in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The audited

final accounts of most Electricity Boards for the year 1992-93 are still not available. The details of the profit/loss of the State Electricity Boards for the year 1991-92 and the cumulative profit/loss as on 31st March, 1992 after reckoning subsidy and interest during construction is given in the statement enclosed.

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

(d) State Governments have been advised to undertake measures such as rationalised tariff, regular payment of rural electrification subsidy, improvement in Plant Load Factor, reduction in T&D losses etc. to improve the finances of the State Electricity Boards and to reduce their losses. The Conference of the Power Ministers held on 8th and 9th January, 1993 also discussed the ways and means to improve the performance of SEBs, both in physical and financial terms, and has adopted an Action Plan which includes, inter alia, liquidation of arrears of subsidy in a phased manner, reduction in outstanding dues, tariff rationalisation, fixation of minimum agricultural tariff, supply of electricity on metered basis etc. Besides, theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT SHOWING DETAILS OF THE PROFIT/LOSS OF THE SEBs FOR THE YEAR 1991-92 AND CUMULATIVE LOSS/PROFIT AS ON 31-3-1992 RECKONING AFTER SUBSIDY AND IDC.

(Rs. in crores)

Sr. No.	SEBs	1991-92	Cumulative as on 31-3-1992
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	84.44	313.64
2.	Bihar	-113.72	-1003.13
3.	Gujarat	70.05	25.30
4.	Haryana	-228.15	-946.96
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2.73	-111.80
	Karnataka	24.30	-157.40
7.	Kerala	-34.73	-139.51

1	2	3	4
8.	Madhya Pradesh	83.97	471.29
9.	Maharashtra	125.19	351.67
10.	Orissa	24.74	-60.24
11.	Punjab	2.72	-309.89
12.	Rajasthan	61.80	-544.47
13.	Tamil Nadu	84.30	407.55
14.	Uttar Pradesh	54.00	-394.2
15.	West Bengal	-92.22	-531.0
16.	Assam	-174.58	-1131.25
17.	Meghalaya	8.00	-18.79

*Interest during construction
AUTONOMOUS POWER BOARD FOR
DELHI

426. SHRI TARA CHAND
KHANDELWAL :
SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM
KAMBLA :
SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to handover the power generation, procurement, supply and distribution to an autonomous power board in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which the board is likely to be set up and start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal to set up an Autonomous Electricity Board for Delhi on the pattern of a State Electricity Board under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The entire proposal is under active consideration.

TELECAST OF CRICKET MATCH
BETWEEN INDIA & PAKISTAN

427. DR. S. P. YADAV :
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:

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

(a) whether the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has lodged a protest regarding live telecast of cricket match played between India and Pakistan in England in August, 1993 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reasons for telecast of unofficial cricket match between India and Pakistan by Doordarshan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No protest has been lodged with Doordarshan or the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matches were telecast by Doordarshan keeping in mind, the viewers interest.

[Translation]

EXPLORATION OF GRANITE DEPOSITS IN BIHAR

428. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Union Government to explore the granite in Bihar ;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM

SINGH YADAV) : (a) No Sir, since granite is a minor mineral which comes under the purview of the concerned State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

THEFT OF TELEPHONE CABLES IN DELHI AND BOMBAY

429. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI

ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested in connection with theft of telephone cables in Delhi and Bombay and the punishment awarded to them ;

(b) the method adopted to trace the persons involved in such theft cases ;

(c) the number of such incidents taken place in Delhi and Bombay and Gujarat during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (till date) ;

(d) whether any proper arrangement has been made to check such incidents ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (e) Informa-

tion is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

INDIANS IN JAILS IN GULF COUNTRIES

430. **SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian citizens languishing in jails in the Gulf region, country-wise ; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their early release, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) The information is given in the Statement attached.

(b) As soon as an Indian Mission/Post comes to know about the arrest of an Indian national abroad, a request is made for seeking consular access to the Indian national under arrest. The Consular Officer from the Indian Mission/Post concerned visits the detainee and tries to ascertain grounds and circumstances leading to his arrest. Where necessary the Mission takes up the matter at a higher level with the host Government for speedy and fair trial or review of sentence. Indian Mission/Posts also take care to see that Indian detainees are treated fairly within jails.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	No. of Indians in jail
1.	Bahrain	119
2.	Iraq	1
3.	Kuwait	52
4.	Oman	66
5.	Qatar	56
6.	U.A.E.	500
7.	Yemen	5
8.	Saudi Arabia	

(after conviction)

(approximately)

The exact number and details of detainees at any given time are not known as Saudi authorities do not inform the Indian Mission regularly about Indian nationals in jails. However, on the basis of communications received from the Saudi Foreign Office, the number of persons arrested and jailed during the last three years is as follows :

1991	1992	1993 (as on Oct. 30)
478	496	867

VACANT POSTS IN AHMEDABAD REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICE

431. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of posts are lying vacant for a long period in the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad ;

(b) if so, the category-wise posts still vacant in this office ;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the public as a result thereof ;

(d) whether there is any proposal for the upgradation of Ahmedabad regional Passport Office ; and

(a) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Details of posts lying vacant at Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad are given in the Statement attached.

(c) Promotions to the posts of Superintendent, Assistant and UDC in the Central Passport Organisation, including posts at Ahmedabad have been effected. Steps have also been taken to fill up the vacant posts of LDCs.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Post	Sanctioned Strength	Occupancy	Vacancy
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Regional Passport Officer	1	—	1
2.	Assistant Passport Officer	1	—	1
3.	Public Relations Officer	2	1	1
4.	Superintendent	3	4	+1
5.	Assistant	6	15	+9
6.	Upper Division Clerk	23	14	9
7.	Lower Division Clerk	39	30	9
8.	Stenographer	1	—	1
7.	Group 'D' Posts	9	8	1

AIR/DOORDARSHAN KENDRAS IN UTTAR PRADESH

432. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

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

(a) the places in Uttar Pradesh where new stations of AIR and Doordarshan have been set-up during 1991-92, 1992-93 and

the transmission power of each of these station ;

(b) whether the Government have fixed any target of setting up AIR/Doordarshan Kendras in U.P. during the Eighth Plan Period ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) (i) No new AIR stations were set up in Uttar Pradesh during 1991-92 and 1992-93.

(ii) Three Doordarshan projects were commissioned in Uttar Pradesh during 1991-92 and 1992-93 as given below :

Sl. No.	Year	Name of Station	Project with Power
1	2	3	4
1.	1991-92	Churk	Transposer (10 W)
2.	1991-92	Mussoorie	Transposer (10 W)
3.	1992-93	Bareilly	HPT (10 KW)

(b) and (c) : Yes, Sir, Statement is given below :

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Station	Project with power	Target-date
1	2	3	4
Sanctioned Projects			
AIR			
1.	Mussoorie	Relay Centre (2 × 5 KW FM Tr.)	Technically ready.
2.	Uttar Kashi	Relay Centre (1 KW FM Tr.)	03/1994
3.	Pithoragarh	Relay Centre (1 KW FM Tr.)	03/1995
4.	Chamoli	Radio Station (1 KW FM Tr.)	03/1995
5.	Pauri/Srinagar	Radio Station (1 KW FM Tr.)	03/1995
6.	Aligarh	Relay Centre (2 × 3 KW FM Tr.)	03/1995
DOORDARSHAN			
1.	Sikanderpur	LPT	1993-94
2.	Champawat	LPT	1993-94
3.	Kotdwar	LPT	1993-94
4.	Mohammedabad	LPT	1993-94
5.	Chaukhatia	VLPT	1993-94
6.	Didihat	VLPT	1993-94
7.	Joshimat	VLPT	1993-94
8.	Mau	HPT	1995-96
9.	Almora	LPT	1994-95
10.	New Tehri	LPT	1994-95
11.	Haldwani	LPT	1994-95
12.	Mahoba	LPT	1994-95
13.	Mau Ranipur	LPT	1994-95
14.	Ganjdundwara	LPT	1994-95
15.	Auraiah	LPT	1994-95
16.	Naugarh	LPT	1994-95
17.	Bageshwar	VLPT	1994-95

Projects for which locations have been approved in the Annual Plan 1993-94 for which financial sanctions are in progress :

DOORDARSHAN

- HPT, Sitapur
- HPT, Balrampur
- HPT, Attara/Banda
- LPT, Radauli
- LPT, Kasganj
- LPT, Karan Prayag
- LPT, Nanpara
- LPT, Etah
- LPT, Basot
- LPT, Sirakota Vaikuntham
- LPT, Lalganj
- LPT, Bagokar
- VLPT, Dev Prayag
- VLPT, Chamoli
- VLPT, Lansdown
- VLPT, Binsar
- VLPT, Pratapnagar
- PGF, Mau
- PGF, Allahabad
- PGF, Mathura
- PGF, Varanasi

[English]

SECOND STEEL PLANT IN ORRISA

433. **DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA :**

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Project for establishment of second steel plant submitted by Government of Orissa has been approved;

(b) if so, the total cost of the Project and the arrangements of the funds as envisaged in the scheme;

(c) the cost benefit ratio of the scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons for its non-approval ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The Govern-

ment of India have approved the foreign investment proposal for setting up of a steel plant in Orissa under the name "Kalinga Steels (India) Limited". This plant is being set up in pursuance of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Government of Orissa and Dr. Swraj Paul of the Caparo Group Limited. According to the approval conveyed, the estimated project cost is Rs. 6400 crores which will be met through an equity of Rs. 1600 crores and a debt of Rs. 4800 crores. Government of Orissa have indicated that the equity and debt is as under :—

Equity—Rs. 1600 crores comprising :—	
	(Rs. in crores)
(a) Caparo Group	270
(b) Govt. of Orissa & its associates	150
(c) Mutual Fund	50
(d) Other associates	170
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
	640
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>

Balance equity of Rs. 960 crores will be raised through partially convertible debentures.

Debt—Rs 4800 crores comprising :—	
	Rs. crores
(a) Non-convertible debentures	960
(b) Suppliers credit	600
(c) Interest during construction	1210
(d) Term Loan	2030
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
	4800
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>

(c) and (d) : The Government of Orissa has indicated that the cost benefit ratio of the project will be known only after the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is prepared and detailed financial analysis carried out.

DABHOL POWER PLANT

434. **SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE :**

SHRI RAM KAPSE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred

Question No. 2237 on August 9, 1993 and state :

(a) whether the final decision has since been taken by the Government for completing the power station at Dabhol in Maharashtra;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) The first phase of the Project is likely to be commissioned in 1997.

(c) Does not arise.

RELATIONS WITH SAARC COUNTRIES

435. DR. SUDHIR RAY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen further the bilateral relations with SAARC countries, country-wise;

(b) whether there is any improvement in the fields of trade and commerce with these countries;

(c) whether cultural exchanges are also increasing with these countries and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : Country-wise information is as under :

PAKISTAN

(a) In his congratulatory message to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on 19th October, 1993, the Indian Prime Minister proposed a wide ranging and sustained bilateral dialogue on all matters of mutual concern, including issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir. Prime Minister Bhutto, in her reply, stated that her Government is prepared to engage in serious and purposeful discussions between the two countries.

In a joint statement on 24th November, the two countries declared that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan would meet in Islamabad from January 1-3, 1994.

(b) One of the main reasons for stagnation in India-Pakistan trade has been the letters reluctance to engage in non-discriminatory trade with India. Though imports from Pakistan are treated entirely at par with any other country, under our import regime. Pakistan's trade policies discriminate against India as it allows only certain number of items to be imported from India.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. Cultural exchange programme with Pakistan has lapsed.

BHUTAN

(a) Bilateral relation with Bhutan are progressing smoothly. The Prime Minister visited Bhutan in August 21-22, 1993 and an agreement for another hydel project at Kurichu in Bhutan was initialled.

(b) Trade figures have shown an increase in the first half of the year.

(c) & (d) There is no cultural exchange agreement with Bhutan, but cultural exchanges take place regularly.

NEPAL

(a) Bilateral relations with Nepal are progressing smoothly.

(b) The revised trade regime from April 1993 has increased trade. Trade figures have shown an increase in the first half of the year.

(c) & (d) There is no cultural exchange agreement with Nepal, but cultural exchanges are regular and active.

BANGLADESH

(a) Government of India is committed to further strengthen its relations with Bangladesh through mutual consultations and cooperation.

(b) There is consistent improvement in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh. The Bangladesh trade for 1992-93 stands at Rs. 1054 crores.

(c) & (d) India and Bangladesh have a Cultural Exchange Programme under which active cultural exchanges take place.

SRI LANKA

(a) Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, who took over as the New Prime Minister of Sri Lanka in May '93 visited India in June '93, his visit provided a useful interaction with the new Government in Sri Lanka. Official level talks were held in Colombo in November, 1993. The two sides agreed on recommendations for the consideration of the Foreign Ministers in the next Joint Commission meeting.

(b) Trade between the two countries has grown from a total value of US \$65 million in 1989 to US\$ 313 million in 1992. There are regular contacts between the officials and the private sectors in the two countries in order to diversify areas of commercial cooperation.

(c) and (d) A cultural exchange programme was signed in October 1991 for the years 1992-94.

MALDIVES

(a) During the current year, our Minister of State, External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid and Railways Minister have already visited Maldives. From Maldives side, visits of their Foreign Minister and Justice Minister have taken place. High level visits from both sides are also in the offing.

(b) Efforts at improvement in the field of trade and commerce between the two countries continue.

(c) & (d) Consequent upon signing of the Cultural Exchange Programme between the two countries in December, 1992, an exchange of programmes is to commence shortly.

NTPC's DUES AGAINST SEBs

436. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL :

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL .

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)'s outstanding dues to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is more than three thousand crores of rupees at present ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the accumulation of these huge outstanding dues and failure of NTPC to recover them ; and

(c) the steps taken to recover these dues from the State Electricity Boards and to prevent further accumulation of dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir, NTPC's outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) inclusive of surcharge were Rs. 3130.70 crores as on 31-10-1993.

(b) The reasons for accumulation of NTPC arrears against SEBs are non-payment of NTPC monthly energy bills in full from time to time. NTPC has pointed out to major defaulting SEBs, concerned State Governments and Regional Electricity Boards that payments for electricity are neither being made in full nor on time. In spite of the above, most of these SEBs continued to draw power on the basis of allocation and the level of the arrears has gradually increased.

(c) Apart from regular follow up of payments with the SEBs and respective State Governments, the following steps wherever possible have been taken to recover these dues and prevent further accumulation :

- (i) Adjustment of arrears by recoveries from central appropriation ;
- (ii) Regulation of power supplies by shutting off or restricting supply

to SEBs commensurate with their payments.

[Translation.]

PUSH BUTTON TELEPHONES

437. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State :

(a) the improvements brought about in push button telephones in India ;

(b) the circle-wise details of such improvement made during the last year ; and

(c) the action taken by Government during 1991-92 and 1992-93 under this improvement drive circle-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Based on the feed back from the feild units the Centralised agency of DOT brought about modifications in dialing unit and PCB. Also the testing methods of quality of instruments were improved along with proper packing and transportation.

(b) The quality of Push Button telephones supplied by both the Public sector and Private Sectors is being continuously and constantly monitored by Quality Assurance Circle of the Department which has offices throughout the country. Individual Telecom Circles refers their problems to QA Circle only.

(c) As mentioned in (a) and (b) above. [English]

PRIVATISATION OF IISCO

438. SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA);
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA ;
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to hand over Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) to a firm in the private sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for taking that decision ;

(c) whether the Government have received representations in this regard ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Various Central Trade Unions have represented to the Government expressing their opposition to the proposal for seeking private participation in the modernisation of IISCO. An all party delegation of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly also called on the Steel Minister in August, 1993 and urged that modernisation of IISCO be taken up through the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) without enlisting private participation for the purpose.

It has not been possible to take up the modernisation of IISCO through SAIL because of resource constraints. Government is, therefore, examining the possibility of private sector participation in the modernisation of IISCO.

TELECAST OF HERO CUP MATCHES

439. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN :

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

(a) whether there was a demand for the telecast of CAB diamond jubilee celebration matches for the Hero Cup ;

(b) if so, whether some of the matches were not telecast by Doordarshan ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether some foreign Television networks wanted to cover these matches live ; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not giving permission to them ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matches were not covered since the contract to do so was given to some other agency.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The permission to telecast from India was denied since broadcasting in India is the exclusive privilege of the Central Government through AIR and Doordarshan.

NEW POWER PLANTS IN GUJARAT

440. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAL THAKORE :

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the power generation targets fixed for Gujarat State upto September 30, 1993 ;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposals in regard to setting up new power plants in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan period ;

(c) if so, the names of the districts in which these plants are to be set up ; and

(d) the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The power generation target fixed for Gujarat State during the current year upto September, 1993 is given below :—

(In MUs)

Sl. No.	Gujarat Electricity Board	Target
1.	Thermal	12200
2.	Hydel	467
3.	Nuclear	80
	Total	12747

(b) to (d) The following sanctioned projects are scheduled for commissioning in the State of Gujarat during the 8th Plan (1992—97) :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (IN MW)	District
1.	Kadana Unit 3-4 (Hydro)	120.00	Panchmahal
2.	Kutch Lignite U-3 (Thermal)	70.00	Kutch
3.	Sihka Unit-2 (Thermal)	120.00	Jamnagar
4.	Utran Gas Based TP (Gas)	78.00	Surat
5.	Kawas CCGT (Gas)	538.00	Surat
6.	Kakrapar (Nuclear)	440.00	Surat
7.	Gandhar CCGT (Gas)	615.00	Bharuch

In addition Gujarat will receive as its share 16% of the power generated from the Inter-State Sardar Sarovar Hydel Project (1450 MW).

VISIT OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY

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

(a) whether the British Foreign Secretary visited India recently and had wide-ranging discussions with Indian leaders ; and

(b) the main issues on which he had discussions with the Government and the outcome thereof ?

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

(b) The main issues discussed included bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism, intensification of Indo-UK economic relations, Indo-Pak relations, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and developments related to human rights. The talks resulted in greater understanding of each other's concerns and perspectives. Prospects for Indo-British economic relations in the areas of trade, investments and joint ventures were also enhanced as a result of the visit.

INSTRUCTIONS ON ISSUE OF VISA BY GREAT BRITAIN, US AND CANADA

442. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Governments of Great Britain, US and Canada have issued instructions to their diplomatic missions abroad not to issue any entry permit to any unmarried individuals to visit their countries ;

(b) if so, whether genuine students and scholars from India are likely to be affected by this decision ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Government are not aware of any internal instructions issued by the Government of U.K., U.S.A. and Canada to their Missions in India to this effect.

(b) While there has been tightening of immigration regulations in general by foreign countries, genuine students and scholars who satisfy the requirements of such regulations of a particular country can obtain student visa.

(c) Government have no locus standi in the matter as grant of visa by a foreign Mission is a sovereign prerogative.

KUWAITI PRISONERS OF WAR IN IRAQ

443. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kuwait has sought Indian assistance to persuade Iraq to release the Kuwaiti Prisoners of 1991 Gulf War and to respect the border between the two countries in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions ; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard ?

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

(b) Government has consistently called for strict adherence to all the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions in regard to these two issues.

PENDING POWER PROJECTS IN KERALA

444. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of power projects proposed by the Government of Kerala pending with the Union Government for clearance ;

(b) the time by which these are likely to be cleared ; and

(c) the details of power projects in the State receiving funds from foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Details of Power projects submitted by the Government of Kerala to the Union Government are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Status
1.	Pooyankutty H.E. Project (240 MW)	Techno-economic & investment clearances have been accorded. For forest clearance, the project has been referred to Ministry of Environment & Forests.
2.	Athirappally H.E. Project (160 MW)	Since the revised proposal involves changes in scope of civil works as well as energy benefits, CEA has requested the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) to submit a fresh project report. Forest clearance has also to be taken by Govt. of Kerala from the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests.
3.	D.G. Station at Kasargode (60 MW)	CEA had cleared the project but KSEB is now required to change the site and obtain fresh clearances.
4.	D.G. Power Plant Kozhikode (126 MW)	KSEB is making an environmental impact study whereafter the project will be submitted by it to CEA for seeking techno-economic clearance.

The time for according final clearance will depend upon time of submission of project report and details therein.

(c) The Lower Periyar Hydro-electric Project (3×60 MW) is being executed by Kerala State Electricity Board with assistance from the World Bank. The Project is scheduled for commissioning in 1995-96.

TELECAST OF VIOLENCE SCENE BY DOORDARSHAN

445. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of IN-

FORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan propose to take effective steps to reduce the extent of telecast of scenes of violence in its various programmes ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) By and large, Doordarshan programmes do not contain scenes

of violence. Doodarshan also takes adequate care to avoid scenes of excessive violence in the films telecast on its channels.

[*Translation*]

PENSION SCHEME IN DTC

446. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a continuous demand for the introduction of pension scheme in the Delhi Transport Corporation ;

(b) whether Government have considered the aspects of this demand ;

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

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

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

(b) to (d) In November, 1992, the Government had sanctioned the introduction of Pension Scheme in DTC on the Central Government pattern w.e.f. 3-8-1981, to be operated by L.I.C. on behalf of DTC. However, due to certain differences between L.I.C. and DTC over the implementation of the scheme, it could not be implemented so far. DTC has now decided to implement the scheme on its own and their proposal is under Government's consideration.

POWERS PROJECTION IN MADHYA PRADESH

447. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for getting hydro-electric projects completed by private sector companies ;

(b) the number of proposals approved by the Union Government so far and the number of them yet to be approved ; and

(c) the reasons for delay in approval of all the proposals ?

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

(a) : Two.

(b) : Government of Madhya Pradesh have entrusted the Maheshwar HEP (400 MW) and Tawa HEP (12 MW) to M/s. Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Ltd. (Promoted by M/s. S. Kumars) and M/s. Hindustan Electro Graphite (HEG) for execution in the private sector. These two projects have obtained almost all clearances as State Sector Projects which have to be transferred to the private Promoters. The revised proposal for Maheshwar HEP submitted by the private promoter has been found acceptable for clearance from technical and cost aspects by CEA.

(c) : Does not arise.

[*English*]

SHORTAGE OF POWER IN GUJARAT

448. SHRI HARIBHAI M. PATEL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the anticipated shortfall of power generation capacity in Gujarat in the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans ;

(b) whether any coal linkage has been provided for new projects to meet this shortfall ; and

(c) if not, how the shortfall is proposed to be met ?

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

(a) : Based on the Fourteenth Power Survey of the Central Electricity Authority, the power supply position in Gujarat in the terminal year of the VIII Plan (1996-97) is anticipated as under :

	Peak (MW)	Energy (Mk w h)
Requirement	5,487	33,645
Availability	3,802	27,645
Shortage	—1,685	—6,000
Percentage	—30.7	—17.8

The Ninth Five Year Plan targets have not been formulated so far.

(b) Coal/Lignite linkages have been given for Sikka Extn. Unit-2 and Kutch Lignite Unit-3 respectively.

(c) Towards mitigating the shortfall to some extent, the following power projects have been identified to give benefit during the VIII Plan in the State of Gujarat :

Name of the Scheme	Total I. C. (MW)	Benefits during the 8th Plan (1992-97) MW	Likely Schedule of Commissioning
1. Kadana II Unit-3&4	2 × 60	120	1995-96
2. Sikka Extn. Unit-2	1 × 120	120	1992-93
3. Kutch Lignite Unit-3	1 × 70	70	1996-97
4. Utran CCGT	3 × 33 + 1 × 45	78	1992-93
5. Sardar Sarovar (16% Share)	6 × 200 + 5 × 50	232	1995-96 (80 MW) 1996-97 (152 MW)

Besides the benefit of 620 MW during the VIII Plan from the above projects Gujarat will get substantial power as its share from the Central Sector projects likely to be commissioned during the VIII Plan.

[English]

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN KARNATAKA

449. SHRI V DHANANJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of subscribers in Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu district Karnataka have been waiting for a long time to get new telephone connections ;

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

(c) the steps taken to provide such connections early and to improve telecom services specially in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Waiting list as on 1-11-93

Dakshina Kannada District = 24255
Kodagu District = 2367.

(c) About 10,000 new connections are likely to be provided during this year. As per 8th plan objective the waiting period for telephone connection is to be reduced to 2 years in large telephone system and telephones practically on demand in rural/tribal areas by the end of 8th plan period (92—97). The expansion of the exchanges are being planned accordingly to meet the objective and also to improve the Telecom

services in rural area small electronic ex-changes are being installed to serve rural areas and every panchayat village is to be provided with a telephone by 31st March, 1995.

[Translation]

PENDING PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

450. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending, Passport Office-wise as on January, 1, 1993 ;

(b) the number of passport applications received, office-wise during January—September, 1993 ;

(c) the number of applications finally disposed of during this period ;

(d) the number of applications rejected ;

(e) the number of passports issued ;

(f) the number of applications under process as on September 30, 1993 ; and

(g) the number of applications included in the above, which are pending for more than three months ?

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

(a) The information is given at statement attached.

(b), (e) & (f) The information is given at Statement attached.

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

(g) Information is not maintained in the format. However, statement-II attached, Column V indicates the number of applications pending for more than one month.

STATEMENT-I

Applications pending at Passport Office as on 01-01-1993 (all figures are provisional)

S. No.	Station	Pendency
1.	Ahmedabad	40437
2.	Bangalore	18504
3.	Bareilly	11092
4.	Bhopal	3188
5.	Bhubaneswar	2978
6.	Bombay	47349
7.	Calcutta	23483
8.	Chandigarh	82499
9.	Cochin	62679
10.	Delhi	34024
11.	Goa	2074
12.	Guwahati	3663
13.	Hyderabad	37459
14.	Jaipur	50861
15.	Jalandhar	116026
16.	Kozhikode	168942
17.	Lucknow	87406
18.	Madras	65417
19.	Nagpur	827
20.	Patna	42993
21.	Trichy	157081
22.	Trivandrum	83853

STATEMENT-II

Status of fresh passport applications from Jan to 1st Oct 1993
(All figures are provisional)

(I) Office	(II) Receipts	(III) Issue	(IV) Applications under process as on 1-10-93	(V) More than one month pendency
Ahmedabad	85853	103015	23055	11211
Bangalore	87459	65547	40586	23112
Bareilly	46476	50830	6872	2912
Bhopal	19833	19165	4034	1221
Bhubaneshwar	7037	7873	2237	610
Bombay	159503	154991	51676	19527
Calcutta	31459	40509	13403	5820
Chandigarh	57683	68338	72086	62662
Cochin	90721	140496	12385	11172
Delhi	99545	99503	33881	12610
Goa	12631	12066	2592	145
Guwahati	6014	6894	2781	1699
Hyderabad	158093	167095	26859	12928
Jaipur	51523	87336	14056	8800
Jalandhar	64219	80130	83392	73547
Kozhikode	150659	255266	61146	52552
Lucknow	99455	102299	83293	66840
Madras	119570	161772	23162	19862
Nagpur	10093	9609	1362	57
Patna	34848	35932	42104	38531
Trichy	166682	258307	56552	36354
Trivandrum	95037	157441	20862	10814
	1648663	2084414	678376	472986

[English]

INTERNATIONALISATION OF GANGA
WATER SHARING BY BANGLADESH

451. SHRI DHARMANNA MON-

DAYYA SADUL :

SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRI S. B. SINDAL :

SHRI BIRSINGH MAHATO :

DR. D. VENKATESWARA
RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangladesh has been making
efforts to internationalise the issue of
Ganga water sharing;

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

(c) whether the Prime Minister of that
country raised this issue during her recent
address to the UN General Assembly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Bangladesh has raised the issue of Ganga Water Sharing at different international fora such as, United Nations General Assembly and Food and Agriculture Organisation.

(b) Government of India has taken up the matter with Government of Bangladesh and conveyed that Bangladesh's attempt at internationalising the issue was unacceptable to India and India would not compromise on this important matter where our vital interests are involved.

(c) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia had raised the issue of Ganga Water Sharing on Oct. 1, 1993, at the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

(d) In keeping with its principled stand, India remains committed to devising an equitable, long-term and comprehensive arrangement on water sharing with Bangladesh through bilateral discussions. India continues to be ready for a constructive bilateral dialogue with Bangladesh on the subject.

EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY WITH CHINA

452. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with China envisaging transfer of pulverised coal injection/blast furnace technology from China to India and from the DRI (Sponge iron) technology from India to China;

(b) whether another agreement has been signed between Orissa Sponge Iron Limited and CMIFC for supply of Coal based sponge iron technology to China; and

(c) if so, other details of technology transfer involved in the process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Limited (MECON) has signed a Licence Agreement with Beijing Central Engineering & Research Incorporation of Iron & Steel (CERIS) of China for transfer of technology from China to India in the area of pulverised coal dust injection system for use in blast furnaces. This technology is widely adopted in blast furnaces in order to decrease consumption of metallurgical.

In order to develop coal based sponge iron industry in China, the Chinese Metallurgical Import and Export Corporation have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Orissa Sponge Iron Limited (OSIL) in September, 1992 for import of technology including basic and detailed engineering from India for coal based direct reduction of iron ore.

[Translation]

NEW POST OFFICES IN DELHI

453. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether post-offices in Delhi particularly in East Delhi is disproportionate to the requirements;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to open more post offices in the capital; and

(c) if so, the details with locations thereof and by which time these are likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) : No, Sir. But it is proposed to open 6 more departmental sub-pst offices in Delhi under Annual Plan 1993-94. The details of locations have not been finalised, however, they are targeted to be opened by 31-3-1994.

[English]

**TELEPHONES OUT OF ORDER UNDER
CALCUTTA TELEPHONES**

454. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether several hundreds of tele-
phones are out of order for a long time in
different telephone exchanges under
Calcutta Telephones;

(b) if so, the details with reasons there-
for; and

(c) the steps taken so far to restore
these telephones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Some tele-
phones are out of order for a long time.
Percentage of such telephones constitute
only 0.7 per cent of the total number of
telephones working in Calcutta Tele-
phones.

(b) This year rainy season continued
upto end of Oct. '93. This coupled with
large number of damages caused to the
underground cables by various utility
agencies resulted in a larger number of
cable faults, which are taking more time
for restoration inspite of out best efforts.

(c) Additional Maintenance Personnel
have been deployed for rectification of
faults. Maintenance personnel are working
beyond normal working hours and on
holidays for early restoration.

The following preventive measures have
been taken :—

(a) Constructions of underground
cable duct has been taken up in a big way
for protection of underground cables from
external damages.

(b) Old life expired and unservicable
paper core cables are being replaced by
jelly filled cables.

(c) Better co-ordination with various
utility agencies are ensured to minimise
the damage caused to cables.

2559 LSS/94—12.

(d) Thermo-shrink jointing kits and
Modular Connections are being used to
prevent joint failures.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ASSAM

455. SHI PROBIN DEKA : Will the
Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT
be pleased to state:

(a) the number and total length of
National Highways passing through
Assam;

(b) the percentage of the length of
these National Highways to the total
country; and

(c) the details of the work which are
under execution on various National
Highways in Assam at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) There
are 13 National Highways in the State of
Assam having a total length of 2296 Km.

(b) 6.74 per cent.

(c) Projects aggregating to Rs. 224.92
crores for road and bridge works are
under execution on various National High-
ways in Assam at present.

WINDING OF DOT

456. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) wheher the Government have initia-
ted action to wind up the Department of
Telecommunications as part of the new
Telecom Policy;

(b) whether a large number of em-
ployees are likely to be rendered surplus
as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Govern-
ment for their safeguards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of
reply to part (a) above.

CHILDREN'S FILMS

457. **SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA** : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of children's films of good quality;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to produce children's films of good quality; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) The National Centre of Films for Children and Young People (N'CYP), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has been set up to produce, acquire and exhibit good quality and value based children's films. With the grant-in-aid released by the Government, the N'CYP produces approximately 4 feature films and 4 short films in a year. The quality of children's films produced by N'CYP has shown considerable improvement during the recent years. The N'CYP films, namely, Abhyam, Taru, Ballu Shah, Muz Se Dosti Karoge, Cycle and Lavanya Preeti have won awards in the recent years. N'CYP also procures rights for certain good quality foreign films to augment its stock of good films.

TELEPHONE OPERATIONS IN GUJARAT

458. **DR. K. D. JESWANI** : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone operations are mostly non-functional at the district and village level in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of electronic exchanges in operation in rural areas of the State; and

(d) the time by which every village in Gujarat is likely to be provided telephone connection and steps being taken to implement the policy effectively ?

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

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

(c) The total No. of electronic exchange in operation in rural areas of Gujarat is 756.

(d) The 8th Five Year Plan envisages telephones in all Gram Panchayats. To this end work is progressing as targeted.

HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED

459. **SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK** : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic viability of the Hindustan Copper Limited has deteriorated; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to boost the economic viability of HCL ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has been earning profit since 1987-88 till 1992-93. However, HCL apprehends cash losses during the current financial year 1993-94 mainly due to sharp decline in the international price of copper and sluggish market conditions adversely affecting realisable copper prices particularly when copper metal is freely importable now. Besides, HCL faces inherent problems of poor grade of ore, limited known reserves of copper ore in the country, low scale of operations, high input costs, etc.

HCL has conceived a Revamping Plan which inter-alia, envisages expansion of existing smelter at Khetri Copper Complex, Rajasthan from 31,000 tpa to 1 lakh tpa based on imported copper concentrates and also expansion of copper mines of Surda and Rakha in Eastern Region and Kolitana in Western Region, phasing out of uneconomic mines, rationalisation of work force, etc. for improving of ability of the operations of the company.

[Translation]

NEWS IN SANSKRIT

460. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHA-
JAN : Will the Minister of INFORMA-
TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast news in Sanskrit on Doordarshan.

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH
DEO) : (a) to (c) For a variety of
reasons including demographic pattern, con-
straints on telecast time, resources and
manpower, it has not been found possible
to telecast news bulletins in Sanskrit in
the National Network.

(English)

S.T.D. FACILITY IN MAHARASHTRA

461. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) the places where S.T.D. and group
dialling system have been established in
Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts (Maha-
rashtra) upto November 1, 1993;

(b) the time by which S.T.D. system
will be installed at Malwan, Deogad,
Rajapur, Lanja and Devrukh; and

(c) the places where electronic exchanges
have been established upto November 1,
1993 and the places where such exchanges
are proposed to be established in near
future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The names of
places provided STD in Sindhudurg and
Ratnagiri districts are given in the State-
ment-I. Group Dialling is not established
in these two districts.

(b) The time by which the STD is
proposed to be commissioned at Malwan,
Deogad, Rajapur, Lanja and Devrukh is
noted in the Statement-II.

(c) The names of places provided with
electronic telephone exchanges as on
Nov. 1, 1993 in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri
Districts are listed in the Statement-III.
The list of places proposed to be provided
electronic exchanges by March 31st, 1995
are listed in the Statement-IV.

STATEMENT-I

(A) Places provided STD in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts upto November 1, 1993

Sindhudurg

1. Kudal
2. Swantwadi
3. Vergrule
4. Kankawali

Ratnagiri

1. Ratnagiri
2. Khed
3. Lote
4. Chiplun
5. Dapoli

(B) Group Dialling not established in these two districts.

STATEMENT-II

Target for providing STD Facility

Station	Proposed Date
Malwan	March 1994
Deogad	March 1995
Rajapur	March 1995
Lanja	March 1995
Devrukh	March 1995

STATEMENT-III

Places in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts (Maharashtra) provided with Electronic Exchanges (As on November 1, 1993)

Sindhudurg District		Sindhudurg District		Sindhudurg District	
Sl. No.	Name of the Place	Sl. No.	Name of the Place	Sl. No.	Name of the Place
1.	Deogad	2.	Mithbav	3.	Mond
4.	Shirgaon	5.	Vijaydurg	6.	Wada
7.	Kankavali	8.	Kasarda	9.	Kharepatan
10.	Nandgaon	11.	Phondaghat	12.	Sangave
13.	Kasal	14.	Mangaon	15.	Khapen
16.	Achara	17.	Katta	18.	Malvan
19.	Masure	20.	Amboli	21.	Aronda
22.	Banda	23.	Bhedshi	24.	Dodamarg
25.	Kamalveer	26.	Redi	27.	Swantwadi
28.	Shiroda	29.	Vaibhavwadi	30.	Talawada
31.	Vengurla				
Ratnagiri District.					
1.	Alore	2.	Ganekhadpoli	3.	Maldoli
4.	Margtakhane	5.	Pophali	6.	Savarda
7.	Dabhol	8.	Dapoli	9.	Harnai
10.	Panchanadi	11.	Guhagar	12.	Hedvi
13.	Shrungar Tali	14.	Talavali	15.	Furus
16.	Khed	17.	Lote	18.	Mumbake
19.	Savanas	20.	Shiv-Budruk	21.	Bhambed
22.	Lanja	23.	Satavali	24.	Mandangad
25.	Adiware	26.	Jaitapur	27.	Nata
28.	Oni	29.	Panchal	30.	Rajapur
31.	Sagave	32.	Basani	33.	Harcheri
34.	Hatkhamba	35.	Jaigad	36.	Jakadevi
37.	Karanjari	38.	Khandala	39.	Malgund
40.	Neware	41.	Pali	42.	Pawas
43.	Purnagad	44.	Saitwada	45.	Ambed
46.	Devrukh	47.	Kadvai	48.	Makhjan
49.	Nayri	50.	Sakharpa	51.	Sangameshwar

STATEMENT-IV

List of Places proposed to be provided Electronic Exchanges by March, 1995

Sindhudurg Distt.

1. Tale Bazar

Ratnagiri Distt

1. Chiplun

2. Murmai

3. Latwan

4. Lavej

5. Ratnagiri

6. Taravali

**DOORDARSHAN STUDIO AT
MATHURA, AGRA, U.P.**

462. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Doordarshan Studio Centre either at Mathura or Agra or to enhance the transmission range of the existing Doordarshan Kendra in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) Agra and Mathura districts are well covered by the existing TV network. There is, therefore, no proposal to augment the capacity of the TV transmitters functioning at Agra and Mathura. However, it has been envisaged to provide a limited Programme Production Facility at Mathura, subject to availability of resources for the purpose.

[English]

ETHNIC PROBLEM IN SRI LANKA

463. SHRI ANBARASU ERA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any request from Sri Lanka for any assistance for a suitable political settlement to the prevailing ethnic problem in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to take any initiative for a political settlement on the issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government remains committed to the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of Tamils in Sri Lanka, within the framework of the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri

Lanka. We support a politically negotiated settlement involving all those parties which have eschewed the path of violence.

**LPTV TRANSMITTER AT CHEN-
GANNUR IN KERALA**

464. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position of the proposed Low Power T.V. transmitter at Chengannur in Alleppey District, Kerala; and

(b) by when it is likely to be commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) A Low Power TV Transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Chengannur in Alleppey district of Kerala under Annual Plan 1993-94. A suitable site for proposed transmitters is being identified. The normal lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 2 years after formal approval of the project by the competent authority.

[Translation]

**SUPERSESSON IN GOVERNMENT
SERVICES**

465. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government take supersession as a major punishment in Government service;

(b) whether there is any provision to inform the concerned officer and seek explanation from him before superseding him;

(c) whether hundreds of employees have been superseded in Bokaro Steel Plant without serving any notice to them or seeking explanation from them;

(d) whether most of the employees out of them belong to the weaker sections scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and minority sections of the society; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

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

[English]

W.B. ASSISTANCE FOR KARNATAKA

466. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has withheld loans/financial assistance to Power sector in Karnataka,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to impress upon the World Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) The World Bank has cancelled its loan assistance under Karnataka Power Projects I & II. The loans earmarked for Karnataka Power Corporation were cancelled w.e.f. 1-8-1993 and for Karnataka Electricity Board w.e.f. 25-10-1993. The loans were cancelled on the ground that in the opinion of the World Bank, the project-authorities were not complying with the provisions of loan covenants.

(d) Considerable efforts were made time before the cancellations by the Govt. of Karnataka with the support of the Central Govt. to explain its position with respect to the various covenants. The Bank has been approached by it, to reconsider its decision regarding the cancellations.

DIRECTORATE OF FIELD PUBLICITY

467. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3903 answered on August 23, 1993 and state :

(a) whether the Committee set up by the Government to revamp the working of the Directorate of Field Publicity 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 INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri U. C. Agarwal (retired Secretary, Department of Personnel) set up to study the aspects relating to the services and cadres of all the Media Units and Organisations of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, which inter-alia, included the Directorate of Field Publicity, has submitted its report to the Government on 16-11-1993.

(b) and (c) The recommendations made in the report are under the active consideration of the Government.

CONSTRUCTION OF ALAPPUZHA BYEPASS, KERALA

468. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal regarding construction of Alappuzha Bypass Phase-II in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

EXPLORATION OF SILVER ORE IN RAJASTHAN

469. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for exploration of Silver Ore Mines in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of silver mines identified so far alongwith their locations; and

(d) the progress made in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out exploration for Silver Ore deposits in Bharak area of Bhilwara District, Rajasthan including detailed mapping drilling and sampling in Mataji ka Khera, Baghera Block. In situ silver Ore resources are estimated at about 36,000 tonnes with an average grade of 435 gms ton on the basis of the exploration.

(c) and (d) : No workable silver mines have been identified so far in Rajasthan though silver is being recovered as a by-product at the smelters of Hindustan Zinc Limited and by Hindustan Copper Limited in Rajasthan.

CONSTRUCTION OF BYEPASS ROADS IN TAMIL NADU

470. DR. (SHRIMATI) K. S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the bypass roads proposed to be constructed and the roads presently under execution in Tamil Nadu ;

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(c) the likely date of completion and commencement of the works ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Bypass	Sanctioned cost	Expenditure upto	Target date of completion	Budget provision 1993-94 Rs. in lakhs
		Amount Rs. in lakhs	March, 93 Rs. in lakhs		
A. Under Execution					
1.	Madras bypass NH-5, 45 (LA).	398.00	283.17	December '93	1.28
2.	Vaniambadi bypass NH-46 (Const:)	24.70	15.98	December '93	9.02
3.	Vellore bypass NH-46	39.40	34.19	December '93	11.02
4.	Namakkal bypass NH-7 (LA)	83.11	0.07	March '95	20.00
B. Proposed					
5.	Coimbatore bypass NH-7	Due to meagre allocations of funds, it is not possible to take up the work for the present.			

GRANT TO STATES

471. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-SAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the grant given by the Union Government to States to take up original work and repair work relating to National Highways during each of the last three years;

(b) the requirements of States and the amount allotted to them during the above period year-wise;

(c) whether due to insufficient allocation of Central Grants many State Governments including Maharashtra are finding it difficult to ensure proper maintenance of National Highways; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The requirement and allocation for original and repair works during past three years is as under :

Year	Original (Development) Works		Maintenance & Repairs	
	Requirement	Allotment	Requirement	Allotment
(Rs. in crores)				
1990-91	394.15	337.25	257.91	150.32
1991-92	450.47	374.84	291.29	163.41
1992-93	647.48	419.37	330.00	165.14

(c) and (d) Full funds as per norms are not available for repair and maintenance of National Highways because of resource constraints. Various States including State of Maharashtra, keep the National Highways in traffic worthy condition, within the available funds.

[Translation]

HIGH POWER TRANSMITTERS AT SANTHAL PARGANA AND HAZARIBAGH.

472. SHRI SIMON MARANDI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up high power TV transmitters at various district headquarters in the Santhal Pargana and Hazaribagh Commissionery (Bihar);

(b) if so, the number of such proposals;

(c) the location of TV transmitter which is proposed to be set up in Sahibganj district and the likely expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the transmitter is likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) : There is no proposal, at present, to set up any TV transmitter in Sahibganj district of Bihar.

[English]

TV TRANSMITTERS IN KOTTAYAM DISTRICT IN KERALA

473. SHRI P. C. THOMAS :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up TV transmitter station at Kanjirappally Taluk in Kottayam district, Kerala :

(b) if so, the capacity of the proposed TV transmitter station ;

(c) whether the site has been selected for the purpose ;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up other such stations in Kottayam district ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. A Very Low Power (2×10W) TV Transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Kanjirappally under Annual Plan 1993-94 in Kottayam district of Kerala. A suitable site for the proposed transmitter is being identified. The actual implementation will depend upon approval of the scheme by the competent authority.

(d) : No Sir.

(e) : Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Dtc Plots

474. SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for commercial use of vacant in different depots of the Delhi Transport Corporation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the profits likely to be earned as a result ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) to (c) : The Government is finalising an Inter-connected package for the rehabilitation of the Delhi Transport Corporation which inter-alia contains the proposal for commercial development of lands available with DTC Depots.

[*English*]

Mining Finance Corporation

475. SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

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(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a separate Mining Finance Corporation ;

(b) if so, the objective of setting up such corporation and the broad outline of the scheme; and

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

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

(b) to (c) : Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

TV Transmitter in Ajmer

476. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

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

(a) whether a decision was taken by the Government to set up a high power TV transmitter at Ajmer in Rajasthan ;

(b) if so, when the said decision was taken and the amount sanctioned therefor and the expected capacity thereof ;

(c) whether the location for the said TV transmitter has been identified ;

(d) if so, the latest position in this regard; and

(e) by when the work is likely to be started for its implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. The location for setting up of a High power 10KW TV Transmitter at Ajmer in Rajasthan was approved under Doordarshan's Annual Plan 1990-91. The scheme is, however, yet to be formally approved by the competent authority.

(c) to (e) : The location earlier identified at Taragarh Fort has not been agreed to due to high cost involved on construction of approach road upto the site. Surveys are being conducted to identify suitable alternative sites. The normal lead time for completion of a project of this magnitude is 3-4 years after the scheme is formally approved.

MILK PLANT IN U. P.

477. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up a Milk Plant in Uttar Pradesh to process baby food etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount proposed to be invested in the said plant and the present status of the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) :

(a) to (c) : Central Government does not set up the Food Processing Industries directly. Since delicensing of milk products industry, Government has received 265 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEM) for the processing of milk and manufacture of milk products in Uttar Pradesh. Out of which 36 IEM's indicate intention to produce baby food among other milk products. As per available information, one project with an investment of Rs. 9.95 crores has been implemented.

[English]

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN KARNATAKA

478. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased

(a) whether the union Government have made any assessment for encouraging food processing industry in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard and the total investment to be made for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) :

(a) and (b) : While the Union Government has not conducted any studies by itself, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under Plan Schemes is providing assistance to State Governments/other institutions and organisations for conducting studies in Food Processing Sector for further development. Financial assistance of Rs. 7,99,000 has been extended for conducting such studies in Karnataka.

(c) Since Liberalisation 53 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda have been filed in respect of Food Processing Industries involving an investment of Rs. 226 crores. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated several Plan Schemes for the development of food processing industries. The summary of the schemes formulated for implementation during the 8th Plan is given below in the statement. A project for development of Sheep, Goat, Buffalo and Pigment has been identified with total cost of Rs. 284 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 71 lakhs has already been released to Bangalore Animal Food Corporation, Bangalore.

Statement

SUMMARY OF PLAN SCHEMES

A. GRAIN PROCESSING SECTOR :

1. Post Harvest Technology Centre, IIT, Kharagpur.
2. Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur.
3. Regional Extension Service Centres.
4. Research and Development Schemes.
5. Rice Milling Machinery and Allied, Equipments Testing Centres.
6. Modernisation of Rice Mills.
7. Setting up of Food Engineering Centre.

B. FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROCESSING :

1. Scheme for setting up food processing and training centre in the rural areas.
2. Scheme for assistance for establishment of F&VP units.

3. Scheme for strengthening backward linkages between processors and growers. Testing Centres.
 4. Scheme for assistance for development of infrastructure for mushroom cultivation and processing.
 5. Assistance for development and processing of Hops.
 6. Generic advertising on processed foods and for providing marketing assistance.
 7. R&D in F&VP.
- C. MEAT & POULTRY PROCESSING :**
1. Establishment of National Livestock Products Development Council.
 2. Development of Pork processing.
 3. Development of sheep, goat and rabbit meat processing.
 4. Development of Poultry & egg processing.
 5. Development of Buffalo meat processing.
 6. Development of infrastructure for storage and transport of meat for export.
 7. Development of marketing facility.
 8. Development of trained manpower for meat processing industry.
 9. R&D for meat processing and specialised packaging.
- D. FISHERIES & FISH PROCESSING :**
1. Assistance for participation in deep sea fishing and processing.
 2. Grant-in-aid providing interest subsidy on loan for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessel.
 3. Assistance for diversified fishing.
 4. Scheme for effective implementation of MZI Act by providing funds for installation of communication facilities for the Coast Guard.
 5. Scheme for setting up of cold-chain.
 6. Scheme for tuna and other fish processing.
 7. Assistance to National Marine Fisheries Development Board.

8. Fishery Survey of India.

E. CONSUMER INDUSTRY :

1. R&D scheme on soyabean products and Indian traditional foods and packaging.
2. Investment in Public Sector Enterprises.
 - (a) MFIL
 - (b) NERAMAC

F. SECRETARIAT ECONOMIC SERVICES :

1. Scheme for strengthening of nodal agencies.
2. Scheme for strengthening of Directorate of F&VP for information, training, education and quality system for development of F&VP.
3. Scheme for participation in National and international exhibitions.
4. Scheme for promoting studies in food processing.
5. Scheme for performance awards in Food Processing Industries.

Indian Post Office Act, 1898

479. SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3926 on August 23, 1993 and state :

- (a) the details of "public participation in policy making";
- (b) whether the amendment to the existing Act or new legislation is necessary to implement the above suggestion; and
- (c) the concrete steps being taken to implement the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The Committee constituted to examine the Indian Post Office Act and to recommend necessary changes has, inter-alia, recommended the constitution of a Policy Advisory Board composed of public men and representative of users to advise the government

on matters of policy related to postal services in the country.

(b) Since what has been recommended is a statutory body, the recommendation has been made in the context of revision of the Post Office Act.

(c) Constitution of a Policy Advisory Board is, however, not among the accepted recommendations of the Committee.

TELEPHONES IN HOSPITALS OF GUJARAT

480. SHRI N. J. RATHVA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cost-free telephones provided in the hospitals of Gujarat, especially in tribal areas;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide Trip, facility during 1993-94; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, A total of 31 free telephones have been provided at all district and major hospitals in citits of Gujarat where the emergency patients are submitted. Since there are no major hospitals in the tribal areas, the number of free telephones provided is NIL.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

CHILDREN FILM FESTIVAL IN ORISSA

481. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to organise the Children Film Festival, 1994 in Orissa;

(b) if so, the site selected for holding this Film Festival; and

(c) the expected date of the commencement of the festival ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) The National Centre of Films for Children and Young People (N'CYP), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, organises International Film Festivals for Children and Young People once every two years. The next such festival will be held in November, 1995. However, under the scheme of district-level film festivals of N'CYP films, a programme of 9 such festival has commenced in Orissa from the end of November, 1993 and will continue upto January, 1994. The N'CYP is expected to cover about 5 lakhs children in about 10 districts of Orissa by such festivals during 1994-95. The districts likely to be covered are :

1. Baunda Khondmal
2. Bolanger
3. Kalohandi
4. Koraput
5. Puri
6. Cuttack
7. Khurda
8. Sundargarh
9. Behrampur
10. Dhenkanal

Dulhasti Hydro-Electric Project

482. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present status, revised estimated cost and capacity of the Dulhasti Hydro-Electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to restart the work at the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) had in October, 1989 awarded the work of execution of Dulhasti Hydro-electric Project (390 MW) in Jammu and Kashmir on turn-key basis

to a French Consortium. The Consortium had suspended the work at site in August, 1992 on grounds of the security environment. Till then most of the infrastructural work and about 27 per cent of the major civil works had been completed. About 75 per cent of the work relating to engineering and design and preparation of detail construction drawings has also been completed. The Consortium have supplied about 28 per cent of the electro-mechanical equipment and another 50 per cent of the equipment is ready for shipment. The revised cost of the project is provisionally estimated at Rs. 2363 crores.

(b) The Government has strengthened the security arrangements in and around the project area. Efforts have also been made to persuade the French Consortium to resume work at site.

POWER GENERATION IN NORTHERN INDIA

483. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAN-SAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power generation by the power stations in Northern India has fallen steeply recently and there has been unchecked excess drawal from the Northern Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereto; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) Monthwise break-up of total generation in the Northern region during April 1993—November 1993 is given in the Statement-I. Statewise overdrawal in the Northern region by the utilities from the grid during April 1993—November 1993 is given below in Statement-II. As it may be seen from Statement-I that the generation in State Sector is having an increasing trend during September, 1993. However, generation at Bhakra Beas Management Board has been reducing due to reduced inflows into the hydro reservoir which is an abnormal phenomenon during Winter season. There is slight reduction in Central Sector generation in November 1993 as compared to October 1993 which is mainly due to reduced water inflows in NHPC stations and reduction in gas-based generation due to planned maintenance of gas-based machines during the month of November 1993.

As may be seen from Statement-II, in the recent past all the utilities except Haryana and Rajasthan have been underdrawing from the Grid with the reference to their entitlement. Haryana has been overdrawing due to very poor generation at its thermal power stations.

STATEMENT—I

Break-up monthly total generation in the Northern Region w.e.f. April, 1993.

(All figures in MU)

Month	State Sector Generation	BBMB Generation	Central Sector Generation	Total Regional Generation
04/93	3388.84	835.15	3276.06	7500.06
05/93	3827.28	1112.18	3262.80	8202.26
06/93	3616.82	1223.74	3449.84	8290.40
07/93	3293.32	1232.55	3490.02	8015.89
08/93	3966.93	1316.48	3253.57	8536.98
09/93	3479.64	1020.49	3189.98	7690.11
10/93	3689.66	689.30	3550.01	7928.97
11/93	3763.47	673.53	3323.00	7760.00
	(Approx.)		(Approx.)	(Approx.)

STATEMENT—II

Statewise monthly generation in the Northern Region and overdraw by the utilities from the Grid w.e.f. April, 1993

(All figures in MU)

States	Own Gen.	Entitlement	Actual drawal	Overdrawal(+) /Underdrawal (—)
1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh				
04/93	..	58.25	50.62	(—)7.63
05/93	..	63.92	60.77	(—)3.16
06/93	..	72.71	60.41	(—)12.30
07/93	..	74.93	62.14	(—)12.79
08/93	..	73.46	68.76	(—)4.70
09/93	..	61.23	57.20	(—)4.03
10/93	..	60.88	51.37	(—)9.51
11/93	..	60.61	44.29	(—)16.33
Delhi				
04/93	188.39	698.90	689.21	(—)9.69
05/93	218.17	704.35	756.52	52.18
06/93	161.68	712.33	762.19	50.46
07/93	190.21	726.83	763.11	36.28
08/93	256.19	681.80	751.62	69.82
09/93	204.86	647.86	643.24	(—)4.63
10/93	234.82	731.35	623.49	(—)107.86
11/93	246.85	699.84	581.95	(—)117.89
Haryana				
04/93	239.99	480.35	543.95	163.51
05/93	207.46	571.63	648.19	76.66
06/93	209.63	620.02	700.95	88.94
07/93	217.83	590.87	690.06	199.49
08/93	305.55	614.28	696.68	82.40
09/93	280.48	547.48	652.10	104.62
10/93	267.96	464.84	580.38	116.54
11/93	241.23	415.21	526.70	111.49
H.P.				
04/93	82.95	81.85	38.17	(—)43.69
05/93	133.37	98.52	56.18	(—)42.34
06/93	131.26	75.11	54.80	(—)20.31
07/93	100.69	69.48	51.24	(—)18.24
08/93	85.43	63.46	43.01	(—)20.48
09/93	140.62	60.15	38.48	(—)21.67
10/93	91.56	68.86	39.49	(—)29.37
11/93	54.86	70.93	43.69	(—)27.24

1	2	3	4	5
J & K				
04/93	78.35	216.65	173.11	(-)43.54
05/93	72.63	236.12	152.98	(-)83.14
06/93	80.85	201.21	145.44	(-)55.77
07/93	82.35	168.52	125.95	(-)42.55
08/93	81.45	172.85	149.30	(-)23.54
09/93	74.60	205.50	171.55	(-)33.95
10/93	46.02	222.48	187.99	(-)34.49
11/93	42.31	193.54	192.22	(-)1.32
Punjab				
04/93	652.55	673.89	671.01	(-)2.89
05/93	1082.25	780.82	719.46	(-)61.36
06/93	1161.10	863.25	902.32	30.07
07/93	897.54	820.71	845.33	24.26
08/93	1059.45	857.36	856.08	(-)1.28
09/93	872.92	755.49	633.25	(-)62.24
10/93	895.61	592.05	602.07	10.02
11/93	990.11	510.99	430.84	(-)80.15
Rajasthan				
04/93	480.57	482.90	564.29	81.39
05/93	465.15	562.33	624.80	62.47
06/93	407.12	577.20	580.54	3.34
07/93	304.46	591.45	502.13	(-)9.32
08/93	455.76	599.17	630.98	31.81
09/93	404.11	500.89	617.40	116.52
10/93	527.96	528.69	632.95	104.27
11/93	553.13	515.20	585.26	70.05
U.P.				
04/93	1666.04	985.26	943.74	(-)41.52
05/93	1648.25	959.26	955.32	(-)3.94
06/93	1465.28	1078.74	984.23	(-)94.50
07/93	1500.24	1141.44	1061.18	(-)80.26
08/93	1723.10	1074.04	936.97	(-)137.07
09/93	1502.05	991.95	891.47	(-)100.48
10/93	1625.73	1109.68	1061.81	(-)47.58
11/93	1637.32	1045.17	1102.59	57.42

[Translation]

OUTSTANDING DUES OF DESU

485. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to U. S. Q. No. 30 on 26-7-1993 regarding outstanding dues of DESU and state :

(a) whether the required information has since been collected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) According to DESU an amount of Rs. 1028.84 crores was due from consumers as on 31-3-1993.

The details of the first 13 big and medium industrial units against whom maximum amount is due are given in the statement attached.

Action taken by DESU to realise the outstanding amounts include issuing disconnection notices to defaulting consum-

ers, disconnection in the event of non-payment and contesting cases in the courts if consumers approach the court. Follow up action is also taken to recover the dues from Government Departments and local bodies.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	K.No.	Name of the Party	Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Remarks
1.	XI-1144	M/s. Stretchlon (P) Ltd.	14,06,87,919.38	Matter subjudice.
2.	XI-299	M/s. Swantra Bharat Mill	6,18,71,931.72	-do-
3.	XI-337	M/s. Cycle Equipment	1,59,93,332.47	Supply disconnected, matter subj.
4.	XI-386	M/s. Metal Forging	3,55,30,670.44	-do-
5.	XI-420	M/s. Steel Ball Bearing	3,08,84,164.44	-do-
6.	XI-469	M/s. Complex Steel	7,14,62,556.54	-do-
7.	XI-1135	M/s. Saraff Steel	1,94,16,918.10	-do-
8.	XI-1141	M/s. Wootz Steel	2,62,76,724.34	-do-
9.	XI-1142	M/s. K.S. Forge	5,32,37,746.01	-do-
10.	XI-1143	M/s. Sonal Udhog	4,83,92,121.54	Recovery stayed.
11.	XI-1157	M/s. Sagun Steel	7,61,81,876.96	-do-
12.	XI-1169	M/s. Shiva Alloys	1,89,95,657.73	-do-
13.	XI-1171	M/s. Shubh Metal	2,28,33,058.76	-do-
14.	XI-1174	M/s. Alankar Metal	3,01,57,970.86	Supply disconnected matter subj.
15.	XI-1187	M/s. Summon Steels	1,49,15,854.86	Recovery stayed.
16.	XI-1191	M/s. Bansal Metal	12,48,00,088.69	Supply discted., matter subjudice.
17.	XI-1252	M/s. K.L. Rathi	2,31,21,914.39	Matter subjudice. recovery stayed.
18.	XI-1811	M/s. Goenka Alloys	3,37,77,547.10	-do-
19.	XI-1814	M/s. Mittal Casting	8,24,48,822.35	Supply disconnected matter subj.
20.	XI-1183	M/s. Duggar Fibre	2,00,56,532.96	Matter Subjudice, recovery stayed
21.	XI-1109	M/s. Superior Steel	1,50,49,155.67	-do-
22.	XI-1147	M/s. Sahu Refrigeration	1,40,08,711.57	-do-
23.	XI-1155	M/s. Lamoa Steel	2,32,99,436.39	-do-
24.	XI-1172	M/s. Alliance Paints.	1,55,95,714.77	-do-
25.	XI-325	M/s. Ajanta Iron & Steel	3,41,18,091.35	-do-
26.	XI-300	M/s. D.C.M. Silk Mill	1,45,88,084.51	-do-
27.	XI-1817	M/s. Singla Trading & Leasing Co.	1,91,22,661.41	-do-
28.	XI-1821	M/s. Matsya Metal	1,83,42,081.66	-do-
29.	XI-1829	M/s. Cee Gee Steel	2,16,75,949.75	Supply disconnected, matter subj.
30.	XI-1148	M/s. Emm Bee Cee	1,31,18,179.67	Matter subjudice.
Total			1,13,99,71,476.39	

CONSULTANCY SERVICE BY NHPC

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

(a) whether the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has set up an integral consultancy wing to provide consultancy services to other organisations within and outside the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has, with a view to diversifying its activities and encashing the vast experience and expertise gained by it over the last 18 years in the investigation, design, construction and operation of hydro power projects, set up a full fledged consultancy wing. This wing can provide under one umbrella, a range of specialised services for various hydel projects both in public and private sector, coming up in the country.

LOAN REPAYMENT BY CALCUTTA PORT TRUST

487. SHRI SANTAKUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) has made any request to the Union Government to reschedule its loan repayment obligations; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

RESIDENCE OF INDIAN AND U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONS

488. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an alleged dispute over the renewal of lease for the residences of Indian and U.K. High Commissions in London and New Delhi respectively; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve the dispute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) The lease of the residence of Indian High Commissioner in U.K. expired on 5th April, 1990 and that of the residence of the British High Commissioner in New Delhi on 31st December, 1989. While there is no dispute regarding the renewals, it has not been possible to work out mutually acceptable terms.

(b) The Government is considering all options including, if necessary, the purchase of alternative accommodation for the Indian High Commissioner in London.

INDO-IRELAND PEACE MAKING MEDIATION

489. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Ireland have agreed to accept mediation by the United Nations in regard to peace-making and settlement of conflicts and to play a more active part in the enlargement of cooperation with the European Community in the areas of trade, investment and technology; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

SHORTAGE OF PIG IRON IN GUJARAT

490. SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of pig iron in Gujarat ;

(b) the requirements of pig iron foundries in the State;

(c) the allocation of pig iron made by the Government so far for that State; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for allocation of more quantity of pig iron to the State for smooth functioning of the iron and steel industries in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SON-TOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Government have not received any report about shortage of pig iron in Gujarat.

(b) Estimates of demand are made on all India basis and not for individual States.

(c) The allocation of pig iron made by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) for the Small Scale Sector through Gujarat Small Industries Corporation (GSIC) for 1993-94 is 1.28 lakh tonnes.

(d) Allocations are made by DCI&S keeping in view the actual trend of past

consumption and availability from main producers. Substantial quantities of pig iron are also now available from secondary producers. Pig iron is reported to be easily available in the market of competitive price. GSIC has also not requested for additional allocation of pig iron so far.

[Translation]

P&T SERVICES IN GUJARAT

491. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the revenue earned by the Government from Telephone, Posts and Telegraph services separately in Amreli region of Gujarat during 1991-92 and 1992-93; and

(b) the amount spent on these services during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The Revenue earned by the Government from Telephones, Posts and Telegraph Services separately in Amreli region of Gujarat during 1991-92 and 1992-93 is as under :—

(In thousands of Rs.)

	Telephones	Posts	Telegraphs
1991-92	96442	9092	103
1992-93	33552	8442	105

(b) The amount spent on each of these services separately during the above period is as under :—

(In Thousands of Rs.)

	Telephones	Posts	Telegraphs
1991-92	11530	14604	324
1992-93	24190	16880	409

[English]

REBATE IN RENTAL FOR FAULTY TELEPHONES

492. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced for rebate in rental for faulty

telephones which remain out of order for more than seven days, if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether this announcement/policy is only for the capital or for States also ;

(c) if it is not for States/UTs, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) by when the Government propose to extend this facility to the subscribers of telephones in the entire country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, instructions already exist permitting prorata rebate in rental if the telephone services remain interrupted for 7 days or more due to departmental reasons. In case the interruption continues for more than 14 days, full month rental rebate is permitted.

(b) Instructions are applicable in all the telecom circles/districts viz. throughout India.

(c) and (d) In view of 'b' above, does not arise.

NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY

493. **SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the minerals/ores dereserved after the announcement of the national mineral policy during year 1993-94 ;

(b) the main objectives behind the dereservation ;

(c) the reaction of private sector and the response of foreign investment after the dereservation ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The minerals/ores dereserved under the National Mineral Policy during 1993-94 are iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals. This policy aims at speeding up the pace of minerals development through greater involving of the Private Sector.

(b) and (c) The effect of these policy changes will be fully noticeable after consequential amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 have been made.

VISIT OF U.S. OFFICIALS

494. **SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Embassy officials had visited some Kashmiri leaders in Delhi recently ; and

(b) if so, the details of the meeting ?

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

(b) A First Secretary from the US Embassy met Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on the afternoon of 21 October, 1993 for about an hour. The meeting followed a specific request to the US Government by members of the US Congress at the House Asia and Pacific Subcommittee hearing on October 19 to look into Abdul Ghani Lone's condition following reports that he had been beaten and injured during a protest march to the Hazratbal mosque. During the meeting in AIIMS the US official enquired about Shri Lone's condition, the demonstration and the alleged beating and whether Shri Lone had been brought to Delhi on his request. The latter is reported to have told the US official that he was aware that US Congressmen had been asking about his condition.

PEPSICO AND PROCTOR GAMBLE'S PROJECTS

495. **SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA :** Will the MINISTER of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared Pepsico and Proctor and Gamble's proposals to set up 100 percent export oriented units ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) M/s. Pepsico of USA has been granted approval to set up a 100% Export

Oriented Unit in Tamil Nadu for the manufacture of Polyester Chips and PET Performs for bottles. M/s. Proctor and Gamble has not been granted any approval to set up 100% Export Oriented Project.

U.S. VISITORS TO KASHMIR

496. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
 SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:
 SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADYAY :
 SHRI SUDARSAN RAY CHAUDHURI :
 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 SHRI RABI RAY :
 SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some US visitors indulged in activities prejudicial to the country as reported in 'The Tribune' dated November 11, 1993 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein including the names of the persons who had visited Kashmir and the activities indulged in by them and the specific steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ;

(c) whether the Government had checked up the antecedents of these visitors before issuing visas to them ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether any such foreign visitors have been persecuted for such activities during the last six months ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (f) Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Government are aware that on September 13, 1993 four persons including two US nationals Mr. Paul Manafort and Ms. Karen Levinson, visited Kashmir posing as a CNN television team from the US. Their activities in Kashmir altered local author-

ities that everything was not above board. They were taken around Srinagar by a stringer of the Voice of America and met militant leaders in Srinagar and Sopore, interviewed people on the streets and took television pictures. Official enquiries revealed that the US nationals represented firms hired by Pakistan as lobbyists.

Government immediately informed US Cd' A about the clandestine activities of the US nationals hired by Pakistan as lobbyist, in infringement of our regulations. The matter was taken up with both the local bureau of CNN in Delhi as well as their head office in Atlanta. CNN office in Delhi has since denied having deputed anyone to Srinagar and has put out a word of caution on their network against such deception. The Foreign Correspondents Club of South Asia has passed a resolution deploring the masquerade by the US nationals as journalists.

Both Manafort and Levinson had declared themselves as tourists in their visa applications. Accordingly, tourist visas were granted as per regulations, there was no reason to check their antecedents from CNN as their visa applications indicated correctly that Manafort was an Attorney with the US firm of Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly and that Levinson was a Consultant with Burson Mastellar, one of the largest advertising and public relations firm in the world. The purpose of their visit to India was clearly stated as tourism. However, the team misrepresented itself as belonging to CNN in their verbal conversation with the local police of J&K and in their requests for meetings, for instance, with the Governor of J&K.

Government have not prosecuted any such foreign visitors for such activities during the last six months.

P&T OFFICES AND TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

497. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post and Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) Information regarding Post Offices is enclosed in the statement below. Information regarding Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF POST OFFICES PROPOSED TO BE OPENED IN UTTAR PRADESH AND MADHYA PRADESH DURING THE 8th FIVE YEAR PLAN.

Year	Target		Opened	
	EBOs	DSOs	EBOs	DSOs
UTTAR PRADESH				
1992-93	75	10	75	10
1993-94	93	12	52	Nil
			(Opened so far)	
MADHYA PRADESH				
1992-93	55	5	55	5
1993-94	35	5	11	Nil
			(Opened so far)	

INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONES

498. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHURY :
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has decided to provide the facility for transfer of telephones and installation of S. S. category telephones on priority basis ;

(b) if so, the number of telepoone connections provided under the above facility ;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend this facility to other parts of the country also ;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) Sir, S.S. category has been made current w.e.f. 29-10-1993 in M.T.N.L., New Delhi. OBs for 668 applicants for new telephone connections have been issued and are being provided with telephone connections. In M.T.N.L., Bombay, S.S. category is already current. As regards shifting of telephone connections, all eligible telephones are being shifted on demand subject to feasibility.

(c) and (d) S.S. category itself is a priority category for providing telephcne connections and is applicable in all the Telecom. circles/Districts in the country.

(e) Does not arise.

INDO-UK EXTRADITION TREATY

499. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRI ANNA JOSHI :
DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the treaty with UK on extradition etc. has been ratified and become effective recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of its usefulness for both the countries ;

(c) the schemes formulated for the implementation of the treaty and the steps taken in that regard ;

(d) whether the Government propose to seek extradition of offenders from U.K. ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Indo-UK Extradition Treaty has come into force on 15.11.1993 upon exchange of Instruments of Ratification on that date. The Treaty will help the two countries fight terrorism, drug-trafficking and organised international crime.

(c) the implementation of the Treaty will be governed by the provisions of the Extradition Act, 1962 as amended in 1993.

(d) and (e) No proposal to seek extradition of fugitive offenders from UK is pending at present with the Government.

NATIONAL PERMIT SCHEME

501. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR : Will the Minister of **SURFACE TRANSPORT** be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to abolish National Permit Scheme for truckers ;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to furnish their views in this regard; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this matter ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CLOSED MINES

502. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of **MINES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of mines have been closed in the country vide as per the notification issued vague Ministry is not clear about it on January 26, 1992 ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard State-wise ;

(c) the loss suffered in production and revenue as a result of closure of these mines ;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to rehabilitate the labourers of these mines ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

SELECTION OF FILMS

503. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING** be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted by the National Film Development Corporation in regard to the selection of films for telecast on Doordarshan Satellite Channels ;

(b) the total number of Hindi and regional language films telecast on these channels and the total amount paid to film producers for these films along with the rate thereof during the last one year ; and

(c) the total number of films selected for telecast on prime and satellite channels ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The following criteria has been adopted for selecting Hindi/Regional films for these channels :—

- (i) films should have a 'U' certificate;
- (ii) films should be conducive for family viewing ;
- (iii) films should have entertainment/ educational value.

(b) 107 Hindi films and 13 regional language films have been telecast till 29-11-93. An amount of Rs. 30,85,000 was spent for acquiring the telecast rights of films specifically for these channels.

(c) No figure can be indicated since selection of films for telecast on the various channels of Doordarshan is an ongoing activity dependent upon Doordarshan's programme requirement from time to time. [English]

BAWANA GAS-BASED POWER PROJECT

504. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state ;

(a) the names of the bidder companies which participated in the tenders for the 450 MW Combined Cycle Gas-based Power Project at Bawana ;

(b) the details of the company which has been allotted the tender and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the entire process of evaluation and selection of the bidders ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Out of the proposals invited by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) for establish-

ment of a Combined Cycle Gas-based Power Plant at Bawana, six entrepreneurs were short-listed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) who were the consultants for the Project. However, detailed project reports were furnished by the following four parties :—

1. Asea Brown Boveri-NTPC (ABB-NTPC).
2. Straw Products Limited (SPL) alongwith C.M.S. Energy, USA.
3. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL-reportedly of Ambanis) alongwith Kuljian, USA and D.C.L., India.
4. M/s. Northern Engineering Inc., (NEI), USA.

All the four promoters or their Co-promoters, as above have the relevant experience, for which weightage has been given in the evaluation report furnished by the CEA as consultant.

(c) and (d) The matter is being further processed by DESU.

DOORDARSHAN COVERAGE

505. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

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

(a) the per cent age of population covered by Doordarshan in the country, State-wise ;

(b) the number of Doordarshan Kendras and sub-kendras in the country as on 30 September, 1993 with State-wise break-up ;

(c) the population per Kendra and sub-kendra taken together State-wise ;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up additional sub-kendras in North-East Bihar ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) The requisite details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Whereas the installation work of the Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Godda has been completed, the LPT at Supaul is under implementation and it is expected to be ready during 1994-95. Besides, an LPT is envisaged to be set up at Phulparas in Madhubani district of Bihar.

STATEMENT
DOORDARSHAN NETWORK
(As on 30-09-1993)

Sl. No.	State/ U.T.	No. of PPCs	Number of				Total	Population covered (%)
			HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Trans- posers		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Assam	3	3	9	0	2	14	82.0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	5	28	0	2	35	79.4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	2	16	0	19	44.4
4.	Bihar	2	5	26	0	1	32	91.7
5.	Goa	1	1	0	0	0	1	99.9
6.	Gujarat	2	3	28	1	0	32	76.8
7.	Haryana	0	0	5	0	0	5	98.5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	6	5	2	14	58.7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	3	2	15	1	21	90.4
10.	Kerala	1	2	13	0	0	15	86.3
11.	Karnataka	1	4	25	0	0	29	68.8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	6	47	0	1	54	60.1
13.	Meghalaya	2	2	1	1	0	4	97.2
14.	Maharashtra	2	5	38	0	1	44	81.7
15.	Manipur	1	1	1	3	0	5	66.4
16.	Mizoram	0	1	0	2	0	3	53.1
17.	Nagaland	1	1	2	3	1	7	47.2
18.	Orissa	2	3	22	0	1	26	77.0
19.	Punjab	1	3	4	0	1	8	99.9
20.	Rajasthan	1	2	30	1	2	41	61.6
21.	Sikkim	0	0	1	3	0	4	63.1
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	2	23	0	3	28	91.3
23.	Tripura	1	1	0	0	1	2	93.3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2	8	43	10	4	65	92.4
25.	West Bengal	1	4	13	2	0	19	96.0
26.	Delhi	1	1	0	0	0	1	99.9
27.	A & N Islands	0	0	2	6	0	8	99.0
28.	Daman & Diu	0	0	1	1	0	2	99.9
29.	Pondicherry	1	0	1	3	0	4	99.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3
30. Lakshdweep Islands		0	0	0	9	0	9	90.0
31. Chandigarh		0	0	1	0	0	1	99.9
32. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0	0	0	1	0	1	43.6
National/Total		31	68	380	82	23	553	83.6

NOTE:

- Coverage figures are inclusive of fringe areas (where elevated antennae & boosters are required for satisfactory reception)
- Terra in conditions not taken into consideration.

LEGEND

- PPC — Programme Production Centre
 HPT — High Power Transmitter
 LPT — Low Power Transmitter
 VLPT — Very Low Power Transmitter.

POWER SUPPLY TO FARMERS

506. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed by the Union Government to provide grants for power supply to the farmers for each State during 1993-94 ; and

(b) the actual amount provided so far, State-wise ?

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

(a) Union Government does not provide grants for power supply to the farmers and hence no targets have been fixed during 1993-94.

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

SPEED GOVERNORS

507. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA :
SHRI MRUTYUNIAYA NAIYAK :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Court of Delhi has given directions for the installation of 2559 LSS/94-15

Speed Governors in the buses of all categories by September 30, 1993 ;

(b) if so whether this direction has been complied with ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the Court's directions expeditiously ?

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

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d) : Does not arise in view of the reply to (b) above.

RAISING OF KASHMIR ISSUE AT UNGA

508. SHRI S. B. SINDNAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has decided to make coordinated efforts to highlight the issue of alleged human rights violation in the Kashmir valley during the current Session of United Nations General Assembly

by (UNGA); and (b) if so, the stand taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Government has rejected the OIC's biased and distorted opinions in this regard. Government's statements I dated 19-10-93, Statement II dated 27-10-93 and Statement III dated 26-11-93 are attached.

STATEMENT-I

Government of India have seen the statement of the Secretary General of the OIC, made yesterday, on the events at the Hazratbal Mosque in Srinagar. The statement is one sided and has been issued without relevance to the facts. The responsibility for the acts of arson and intimidation of those frequenting the Mosque rests with the terrorists who have desecrated the Mosque and even threatened to blow it up. As we had indicated yesterday, Government of India have evidence that these terrorists have been armed and aided by Pakistan. The Secretary General of the OIC has not only ignored the fact that it is the terrorists who are responsible for the escalation of tension, but has also made unacceptable observations and gratuitous recommendations with regard to the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. We deplore and reject these sweeping, simplistic and biased references.

Statement-II

The OIC meeting at the Ambassadors' level was convened in New York at Pakistan's request on 25 October, 1993 to discuss the Hazratbal situation. After the meeting a statement was sent to the President of the Security Council by the Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN. Government of India regrets that the contents of this statement are completely distorted and unrelated to the real situation on the ground. The Pakistan Permanent Representative's letter and the enclosed statement made to reference to

the militancy, terrorism, incitement to violence or incessant and wilful breaking of the law. The damage and the threat of damage to the shrine, its precincts and the holy relic by the militants and the fact that certain persons are held hostages inside the premises, are nowhere mentioned.

Once again, we have to regret that under the Pakistani instigation, the OIC appears to have been hijacked by Pakistan to serve its own agenda against India. The OIC would do well to also remember what some of its members have done in similar circumstances when holy places have been occupied.

Statement-III

With reference to the OIC Secretary-General's statement of November 25, the Government of India would like to emphasise that the Indian security forces are exercising the greatest restraint and will continue to perform their duties to subdue militancy and terrorism, and protect innocent Indian citizens in Kashmir.

The only persons held in detention are those directly associated with militancy, terrorism, breach of the peace and violations of the rule of law. Such allegations by the OIC Secretary-General are outrageous and have no relevance to the facts.

We are surprised the OIC Secretary-General has made no mention of the peaceful eviction from the Hazratbal shrine of armed men and militants. Nor has he made any appeal to the terrorists operating in Kashmir with support from outside the country, to desist from their nefarious activities and lay down their arms, which would be more consistent with the Secretary-General's declared concern for human rights and the success of the bilateral Indo-Pakistan discussions.

Regarding India's relations with the OIC States, the OIC Secretary-General must know that many, if not most of them were uncomfortable and embarrassed by Pakistan's vilification of India for political purposes and its efforts to introduce a totally prejudiced and one sided

draft resolution on human rights in Kashmir.

[Translation]

REQUIREMENT OF POWER IN U.P. AND H.P.

509. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

PROF. PREM DHUMAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of power generated in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh sepa-

rately during each of the last three years and upto November, 1993 ;

(b) the actual requirement of power in the above States ; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to bridge the gap between requirement and production of power in the above States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The required details are given below :—

Gross Energy Generation (MU)

Year	Uttar Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
1990-91	38288	2000
1991-92	43916	1859
1992-93	47266	1899
April—Nov, 1993	32435	1306

(b) The requirement of energy and its availability in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh during last 3 years and upto Octo-

ber, 1993 (latest available information) is as follows :—

ENERGY REQUIREMENT AND AVAILABILITY

(In million units net)

Year	Uttar Pradesh		Himachal Pradesh	
	Require-ment	Avail-ability	Require-ment	Avail-ability
1990-91	29940	26758	1475	1459
1991-92	31540	28280	1456	1446
1992-93	32415	29118	1531	1531
April—Oct. 93	18895	16917	914	914

(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability, various measures are being taken to improve the availability of power in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh which include maximising generation from the existing generating stations, implementation of Renovation & Modernisation Programme, Reduction in transmission & distribution losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures and assistance from neighbouring States and systems. Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have been allocated power from Unallocated output of Central sector stations in the Notification Region, in

the ratio of relative percentage shortages in the constituent systems of the Region to take care of the seasonal variations of load. At present Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have been allocated 7 per cent and 5 per cent respectively from the unallocated portion.

RESOLUTION ON HAZRATBAL SHRINE

510. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the resolution passed in the Pakistan

National Assembly regarding lifting of military siege around Hazratbal Shrine;

(b) if so, whether Government have lodged any protest to that country in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) On 1st November, 1993, a Joint Session of the Parliament of Pakistan passed a resolution on the Hazratbal Shrine.

(b) Government did not lodge any specific protest in this context. However, our Official Spokesman on 17th October, 1993 had stated that Pakistan will doubtlessly orchestrate statement and resolutions on the Hazratbal issue in every possible forum and that Government of India would treat such propagandistic statements as brazen falsehoods and unacceptable.

(c) Regrettably, Pakistan issued a number of provocative and strident statements on the Hazratbal Shrine.

DEVELOPMENT OF DOCKS

511. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the docks for which development work is in progress during the current year;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the additional income likely to be earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Development of all the Major Ports namely Calcutta, Haldia, Bombay, Jawaharlal Nehru, Madras, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Kandla, Mormugao, Paradip, New Mangalore and Tuticorin is in progress during 1993-94.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 450.00 crores is likely to be incurred on the Development works during 1993-94.

(c) The additional income of the Port as a result of expenditure incurred on Development works cannot be predicted, since it depends on a number of factors like actual traffic materialisation, etc. Moreover, income cannot be earned on all developmental works like Welfare Schemes, etc. [English]

MAINTENANCE OF TELEPHONE INSTRUMENTS

512. SHRI TARA CHAND

KHANDELWAL:

SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI RAM KAPSE:

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to keep off from the installation and maintenance of telephone instruments of subscribers as reported in the Times of India dated October 13, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider its decision; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

STATEMENT MADE BY HIGH COMMISSIONER OF PAKISTAN

513. DR. S. P. YADAV:

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent statements made by the Pak High Commissioner to India on Kashmir; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Speaking to the press at Madras (1-9-1993), Pakistan High Commissioner reportedly claimed that Simla Agreement does not prohibit Pakistan from raising the Jammu & Kashmir issue at international fora. Pakistan High Commissioner also stated that Pakistan was willing to have bilateral negotiations on the Kashmir issue.

Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in violation of the Simla Agreement and vitiate the atmosphere of bilateral relations.

Government are committed to resolve all differences with Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations. In this context, Government have proposed comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan. This offer has been accepted by Pakistan. The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries are scheduled to meet in Islamabad from 1—3 January, 1994.

[*Translation*]

PENDING POWER PROJECTS FOR GUJARAT

514. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT :

SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :
SHRI N. J. RATHVA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the power projects for Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for supply of gas pending with the Union Government for approval, as on June 30, 1993 and the quantity of gas or additional gas required by each of such project;

(b) the date from which such proposals are pending; and

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) The names of the power projects of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh pending for Government approval, as on 30th June, 1993, for supply of gas with the required quantity, are shown in the Statement attached.

(c) The pending schemes can be considered for Government approval, after they have received techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority and all the essential inputs/clearances including funding arrangements, have been tied up.

STATEMENT

S1. No.	Name of the Project and Capacity (MW)	Date of receipt of F.R.*	Gas requirements	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
GUJARAT				
1.	Pipavav Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Project St. I (615 MW)	10/89	2.25 MCMD	This project was techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority in March, 1991, subject to confirmation of 2.25 MCMD of gas by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The gas linkage for the proposed scheme has not been tied up.

*Feasibility Report.

1	2	3	4	5
MADHYA PRADESH:				
2.	Gwalior Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Project (200 MW)	6-7/93	0.75 MCMD	This scheme is lieu of the earlier scheme of 817 MW returned to the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board in September, 1992 as no surplus gas is available along HBJ pipeline for supply of gas for new schemes as per the projections of availability and demand of gas indicated by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Presently, the plant is proposed to be operated on Naphtha till gas becomes available. The scheme has not been given techno-economic clearance by the CEA as none of the essential inputs/clearances have been tied up.

Feasibility Report*VISIT OF KING OF SWEDEN****515. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the King of Sweden visited India recently;

(b) if so, the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed during his talks with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up any proposals with that country for the increased bilateral economic cooperation, joint initiatives for the global disarmament and for working to check terrorism; and

(d) if so, the response of the Swedish Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The King of Sweden paid a State visit to India from 10—18 October 1993.

(b) In the margins of the State visit, talks were held between the accompanying Swedish Foreign Minister and EAM. Views were exchanged on regional developments in Europe and South Asia, disarmament issues, terrorism and human rights. The talks resulted in greater understanding of each other's concerns and perspective. Prospects for enhancing bilateral economic relations have also improved as a result of the interaction between the accompanying high-level Swedish business delegation and their Indian counterparts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN METRO CITIES

516. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons in the waiting list for new telephone connections

in the four metropolitan cities during last three years, otherwise :

(b) the yearwise number of connections released during this period ; and

(c) the time schedule fixed for clearing the waiting lists ?

Cities

Bombay

Delhi

Calcutta

Madras

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Total number of persons in the waiting of four Metro cities

are given below yearwise for 3 years

Cities	Waiting as on		
	31-3-91	31-3-92	31-3-93
Bombay	231373	213470	210867
Delhi	297146	317143	340360
Calcutta	41170	43917	66295
Madras	73233	91509	109352

(b) Yearwise working connection released are as given below :

Cities

Bombay

Delhi

Calcutta

Madras

Cities	Connections provided during		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Bombay	46260	92125	107168
Delhi	62009	84710	83558
Calcutta	10184	15544	26208
Madras	13753	12177	21979

(c) As per 8th plan objective the waiting period for telephone connections is to be reduced to two years in large telephone system and telephone practically on demand in rural and tribal areas by the end of 8th Plan (92—97). The exchanges are being planned to meet the above objective accordingly.

HIGH LEVIES ON STEEL

517. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether secondary steel electric arc furnace industry of the country has been adversely affected on account of high levies on inputs and rise in the cost of imported steel scrap ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revive/recover the financial viability of these industrial units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH
MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The performance of mini steel plants (electric arc furnace units) has been adversely affected due to various factors such as demand recession, shortage of power and increase in input costs including rise in international scrap prices. The industry has represented for various reliefs and the proposals made are under the consideration of Government.

[Translation]

STD/PCO IN DELHI

518. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN
SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the existing number of STD/P.C.O. functioning in Delhi;

(b) the total amount of income earned therefrom during the year 1992-93;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints about the evasion of revenue thereby; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, 2259 STD PCOs are functioning in Delhi Telephones.

(b) The total amount of income earned from these PCOs during 1992-93 is Rs. 34.53 crores.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

[English]

WAGES OF PORT AND DOCK WORKERS

519. PROF. (SHRIMATI) SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an "Expert Committee" to revise the wages of port and dock workers employed in major ports of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) A Bipartite Wage Negotiation Committee has been formed on 22nd June, 1993 to go into the wage structure of Class III and IV port and dock workers of Major Ports and allied matters w.e.f. 1st January, 1993.

NEW CHANNELS

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

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestions for a "Via Media" state control of Doordarshan's National and Regional Channels and five new channels

being placed under the control of the proposed "Prasar Bharati Corporation";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) The Ministry is undertaking a complete review of the satellite channels including interim arrangements.

WORLD BANK LOAN FOR POWER SECTOR

521. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the conditionalities laid down by the World Bank and International Finance Corporation for granting loans to the Indian power sector;

(b) whether the Government have accepted these conditionalities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and their likely impact on general electricity tariffs, particularly in agriculture sector;

(d) the details of the arrears outstanding against various State Electricity Boards of central power generating utilities at present; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) Multilateral funding agencies including the World Bank have suggested certain measures to improve the financial health of the power sector in India. These include achieving by State Electricity Boards (SEBs) of statutory rates of return, rationalisation of their tariff structure and timely recovery of their receivables. The Central Government has been concerned about these issues for quite

some time and these have also been discussed at various levels including in the periodical State Power Ministers' Conference convened by it. A number of corrective measures including adopting an action plan for improvement in the financial and physical performance of SEBs have been initiated.

(d) A statement showing the details of outstanding dues payable by the State Electricity Boards to the Central Power generating corporations as on 31st October is attached.

(e) Amongst the measures taken to reduce the outstandings due to the Central agencies is a decision to recover the amounts by appropriation out of the central assistance being given to the States.

STATEMENT

Outstanding Dues Payable to Central Sector Power Corporations As on 31-10-93

(Rs. in Crores)

S1. No.	SEBs/State	REC 10/93	NTPC 10/93	NEE PCO 10/93	DVC 10/93	NHPC 10/93	PFC 10/93	PGC 10/93
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.01	105.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.03
2.	Assam	27.37	0.00	88.49	0.00	30.62	0.00	9.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.10	0.00	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00
4.	Bihar	134.94	148.01	0.00	469.57	16.06	15.36	25.53
5.	Gujarat	0.22	152.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	05.87
6.	Goa	0.00	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Haryana	5.29	370.37	0.00	0.00	88.55	2.22	35.46
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.04	13.57	0.00	0.00	18.20	0.00	3.48
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.27	149.58	0.00	0.00	40.54	0.04	15.73
10.	Karnataka	1.27	40.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.17	13.55
11.	Kerala	44.35	35.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.87
12.	Madhya Pradesh	72.93	210.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20
13.	Maharashtra	0.86	147.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.83
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	5.67	0.00	20.52	0.05	1.98
15.	Meghalaya	3.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	1.34	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.18
17.	Nagaland	0.02	0.00	3.07	0.00	1.38	0.00	0.30
18.	Orissa	60.19	37.66	0.00	0.00	4.87	0.00	14.89
19.	Punjab	0.35	50.11	0.00	0.00	18.96	0.22	28.16
20.	Rajasthan	15.40	196.93	0.00	0.00	1.74	0.00	44.65
21.	Sikkim	0.25	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.51	132.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.97

(Rs. in Crores)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23. Tripura		0.07	0.00	4.18	0.00	1.94	0.00	0.65
24. Uttar Pradesh		213.22	561.69	0.00	0.00	1.5	6.19	128.10
25. West Bengal		58.14	68.59	0.00	117.00	10.32	3.22	6.91
26. DESU		0.00	248.73	0.00	0.00	13.33	0.00	39.61
27. DVC		0.00	159.74	0.00	0.00	23.14	0.00	17.53
28. DNH		0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29. UTC		0.00	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30. NEEPCO		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.97	0.00	0.00
31. Damn & Diu		0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08
32. Pondy		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42
33. Co-operatives		4.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84
34. State Govts.		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		618.82	3131.12	104.06	586.57	298.07	29.64	460.54

Cummulative outstanding dues from SEBs to Central Power Sector Corporations = Rs. 5228.82 crores.

[Translation]

NAVIGATIONAL FACILITIES IN GANGA

522. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been chalked out to provide navigational facilities through Ganga river; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the scheme ?

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

(b) Allahabad-Haldia stretch (1620 kms.) of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system had been declared as National Waterway No. 1 with effect from October, 1986 and is being developed for passenger and cargo traffic. During the current financial year schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.63 crores are in progress for development of navigation channel in Haldia-Patna stretch.

Schemes for construction of terminals at Patna and Calcutta have been sanctioned and are in progress. Besides, a scheme for giving two IWT vessels to private operators free of hire charges for one year, and a scheme for providing compensation for non-availability of infrastructural

facilities at 10 paise per tonne km. moved by IWT on National Waterway No. 1 & 2 has been sanctioned.

(English)

IMPORT OF FILMS, DOCUMENTARIES, T.V. SERIALS ETC.

523. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :
SHRI KODAKANI GOWDANA SHIVAPPA :

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

(a) the number of films, documentaries, televisions serials and animation films imported during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) The number of imported Celluloid and Video films certified for public exhibition during the last three years is given below in statement-I. The details of feature films, documentary (series), TV Serials and animation films imported by Doordarshan during the last three years are given below in Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Imported Celluloid and Video Films, Certified for Public Exhibition during 1991, 1992 and 1993

	CELLULOID FILMS			VIDEO FILMS		
	Long other than feature	Feature	Short	Long other than feature	Feature	Short
1991	165	124	211	—	5	704
1992	198	80	116	7	3	622
1993 (Upto October 93)	91	146	146	3	5	313
Total	454	350	473	10	13	1639

STATEMENT-II

Details of Foreign Programmes imported by Doordarshan during the preceding three years

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| I. FILMS: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black Beauty 2. Three Musketeers 3. Count of Montecristo |
| II. DOCUMENTARIES (SERIES) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hockey Techniques & Tactics 2. Magic Ball 3. Expeditions to Animal Kingdom 4. The Why & Wherefores 5. Eco-legico 6. Get to Know Your Body 7. Marcopolo 8. Greatest Cricketers 9. Pele—The Game of Billion |
| III. SERIALS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Far Pavilions 2. Dempsey & Makepeace 3. Girls Nos. 3+4 4. Ludwig Von 5. Prog.—a crime Detection 6. Derrick 7. Peter's Toy Box |
| IV. ANIMATION FILMS: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pingu 2. Kids First. |

UK ON KASHMIR

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in 'The Statesman' dated November 11, 1993 regarding perception of the Government of UK on UN resolutions on Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of that country has urged India and Pakistan to resume bilateral dialogue in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government to these gestures of the U.K. ?

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

(b) In a statement made in the House of Commons on November 5, 1993 the British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State stated that "neither India nor Pakistan fully implemented the resolutions of 1948 and 1949, which Britain supported and they have to some extent been overtaken by events. We believe the Kashmir dispute ultimately be solved only for by peaceful agreement between India and Pakistan provided for under the 1972 Simla agreement. We have urged both countries to resume their bilateral dialogue."

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have consistently been of the view that all issues between India and Pakistan can only be resolved peacefully and bilaterally in terms of the Simla Agreement. Bilateral talks between India and Pakistan at the level of Foreign Secretaries are already scheduled to be held from 1—3 January, 1994.

SAARC

525. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the role

played/proposed to be played by India to further strengthen the SAARC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : India is committed to SAARC as an instrument of regional cooperation aimed at promoting the welfare of the people of South Asia and has accordingly shared its expertise and knowledge with the other Member States through unreserved participation in SAARC activities. Our financial contributions, calculated at approximately 32 percent of the common costs of the Association have also always been promptly paid-up.

It has been our view that SAARC should enter more substantive areas of core economic cooperation and in doing so, make itself more meaningful to the lives of the people of South Asia. The SAARC member States have signed the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) in April 1993 and have already taken initial steps in the process of operationalisation of SAPTA. India will play a positive role in this process.

KAYAMKULAM THERMAL PLANT

526. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-
THALA :

PROF. P. J. KURIEN :

SHRI P. C. THOMAS :

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 37 on July 26, 1993 and state :

(a) whether the Union Government have since tied up the funding source for the construction of Kayamkulam Thermal Project in Kerala;

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

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) Till date, financial tie up has not been arrived at for the construction of Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project in Kerala by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).. The project has been posed to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan for financial assistance. The commissioning schedule can be estimated after Government clearance to the project is accorded and orders for main plant and equipment has been placed on the suppliers.

MONEY ORDERS IN RURAL AREAS

527. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of money orders are not delivered in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce theft and tampering in the case of money order delivery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) no Sir. There have, however, been occasional complaints about delay/non-payment of money orders in the rural areas.

(b) The money orders are neither tampered with nor stolen. Sometimes these are lost in transit. Whenever a complaint about its non-payment is received, immediate enquiries are made and a duplicate money order is got issued and paid. Regular monitoring on the payment of money orders is done.

[Translation]

POSTAL DELIVERY SYSTEM

528. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the postal delivery system in Delhi and other states has deteriorated during last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the postal delivery system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) While it is not true that postal delivery system in Delhi and other States has deteriorated, it is a fact that in most urban areas postal delivery has been under great pressure due to increase in volume of mail and inadequate manpower for effecting delivery. The Department has already taken up with Ministry of Finance proposal for sanction of additional posts of postmen and sorting postmen.

[English]

BEER INDUSTRY IN BIHAR

529. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up industrial units to process beer at Biharsharif, Jehanabad, Gaya, Buxar, Patna and Chhapra in Bihar;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Government does not set up beer units. However, the Government has received applications for grant of LOI for setting up beer manufacturing units at Gaya and Patna.

(b) and (c) : All these applications, except one from M/s. Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation, have been rejected.

[Translation]

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH
DECEMBER, 1993

NASIRABAD-MHOW ROAD

530. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have submitted any proposal for declaring the road from Nasirabad (Rajasthan) to Mhow (M.P.), as a National Highway;

(b) whether various institutions have submitted any representations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) The State Governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and various other authorities have proposed the declaration of the road in question as National Highway during the 8th Five Year Plan. However, owing to limited allocation of funds for National Highways in the 8th Plan, it is

difficult at this stage to declare any road as National Highway in any State including Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

CONVERSION OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES INTO ELECTRONIC EXCHANGES

531. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of telephone exchanges converted into electronic exchanges in the country till October 31, 1993; and

(b) the total number of telephone exchanges opened in Uttar Pradesh during 1993, the district-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The percentage of telephone exchanges converted into electronic exchanges in the country during 1-4-93 to 31-10-93 is 17.13%. The percentage of no. of electronic telephone exchanges to total no. of exchanges in the country till 31-10-93 is 76.83%.

(b) The total number of telephone exchanges opened in Uttar Pradesh during 1-1-93 to 31-10-93 is 96. The district-wise details given in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

List of New Telephone Exchanges opened in U.P. Telecom. Circle during 1-1-93 to 31-10-93

Sl. No.	Name of district	Name of Station
1	2	3
1.	Agra	1. Jaingara 2. Baraut 3. Sanjai Place.
2.	Allahabad	4. Bharwari (Ind.) 5. Manjhanpur 6. Handia (Ind.) 7. Phaphanau (Ind.) 8. Hanumangany
3.	Aligarh	9. Lodha 10. Nazzal Pur 11. Raipur Dalpatpur 12. Hathras (Ind.)

1	2	3
4. Banda		13. Bhauri
		14. Chhilla
		15. Kalinzar
		16. Kartal
		17. Khapata
		18. Pahari
		19. Sardhana
		20. Shivrampur
		21. Manikpur (IInd.)
		22. Tindwari (IInd.)
5. Ballia		23. Dokti
6. Bareilly		24. Bareilly (IInd.)
7. Budaun		25. Gunore
8. Dehradun		26. Nayagaon
		27. Dehradun
		28. Massorie (IInd.)
9. Deoria		29. Baghochghat
10. Etawah		30. Basrehar
		31. Phaphund
11. Faizabad		32. Amaniganj
		33. Kotwa Sarak
		34. Tanda (IInd.)
		35. Newda
		36. Akbarpur (IInd.)
		37. Jalalpur (IInd.)
12. Ferozabad		38. Nagla Gula
13. Gharia had		39. Chholas
		40. Loni (IInd.)
		41. Modinagar
		42. Rajnagar, D-2
14. Gorakhpur		43. Balpur
		44. Bhanpur
		45. Kokhai
		46. Mahabir Chhapra
15. Hamirpur		47. Chham
		48. Mahoba (IInd.)
16. Jhansi		49. Pariksha
		50. Raksha
17. Jaunpur		51. Sigramau
18. Kanpur		52. Derapur
		53. Panki
19. Lalitpur		54. Rajghat
20. Lucknow		55. Bijnore
21. Mahraganj		56. Nichlaur
		57. Thuthi Bari
22. Mainpuri		58. Kishni
23. Mathura		59. Patlauni
		60. Kosi Kalan (IInd.)
24. Maunath Bhanjan		61. Semri Jamalpur
25. Meerut		62. Bondary Road

1

2

3

26. Muzaffarnagar

27. Nainital

28. Pauri

29. Pratapgarh

30. Sitapur

31. Sultanpur

32. Unnao

33. Farrukhabad

34. Lakhimpur

35. Hardoi

36. Varanasi

37. Chamoli

63. Mahelka

64. Salawa

65. Saroorpur

66. Sizali

67. Bhopa

68. Garhi Pukhta

69. Betalpur

70. Lalpur

71. Durgapuri

72. Ghoordhuri

73. Kalia Saur

74. Kishanpuri

75. Vishwnath ganj

76. Fatehpura

77. Garwara

78. Kanthaula (Raniganj)

79. Katra Mohandiganj

80. Maderia

81. Mandhata

82. Sangipur

83. Machata

84. Biswan (IInd.)

85. Bandhua Kajan

86. Dhammaur

87. Gosainganj

88. Kalkshanpur

89. Korwa

90. Pande Baba

91. Shoramau

92. Fatehgarh (IInd.)

93. Gola (IInd.)

94. Sandila (IInd.)

95. Pahadia (IInd.)

96. Kedarnath.

BROADCAST OF SARAIKI LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES

532. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the external service of All India Radio broadcasts programmes in the Saraiki language;

(b) whether the time duration of the programme has remained unchanged for more than one year;

(c) if so, the reasons for not extending the time limit of the said programme;

(d) whether any efforts has been made

to make Saraiki programmes popular; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The duration of Saraiki programme could not be increased due to limited availability of programme resources.

(d) and (e) : The choice of time slot for the programmes, its repeat on All India Radio, Suratgarh and the complexion of

the programme fare are all intended to make the Saraiki programmes popular with the target audience across the border.

STEEL INDUSTRY

533. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steel industry in the country has been adversely affected on account of price hike in steel and liberalised import policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive/recover the economic viability of steel industries of the country and to save it from the uneven competition with foreign steel goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) to (c) : The steel industry in the country is facing demand recession. However, imports of steel have not shown an increase after liberalisation of the import policy; rather imports during the current year have declined as compared to those during the previous year.

VISIT OF PM TO SOUTH KOREA

534. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited South Korea recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the each of the agreements signed during the visit;

(c) whether the Government have taken any initiative to establish better trade relations with that country; and

(d) if so, the details of the areas in which trade relations have been established and proposed areas for further expansion of trade relations?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister visited Republic of Korea from Sept. 9 to 11, 1993.

(b) During the visit, an Agreement on Tourism Cooperation was signed providing for bilateral cooperation in building and management of hotels, joint ventures for developing tourist resorts, encouraging flow of tourists from Korea to India and vice versa, and cooperation in tourism related publicity. An MOU on Science & Technology providing for bilateral collaboration and joint research and exchange of scientists and technologists in the field of chemicals, electronics, polymers and plastics, textiles and garments etc; and the Cultural Exchange Programme (1993-95) envisaging inter alia, promotion of Indian languages in Korea and vice versa, cooperation in historical research exchange of scholars, promotion of Indian studies in Korea and vice-versa, provision of scholarships for Hindi study to Korean nationals, deputation of Hindi Teachers to Korea, exchange of sports teams, cooperation between Doordarshan, AIR and counterpart organisations in ROK etc., were also signed.

(c) Yes, Sir. At our suggestion, the two countries have agreed to conduct a joint study of the Indian economy to identify areas in which the two countries can cooperate. During his visit, Prime Minister addressed the meeting of the India-Korea Joint Business Council which has set an indicative target of doubling the bilateral trade to Rs. 6,000 crores in next 3 years. Prime Minister also individually met the heads of important ROK business conglomerates to encourage them to expand their activities in India.

(d) In 1992, the bilateral India-ROK trade amounted to Rs. 2,900 crores, of which Indian exports were Rs. 1,525 crores. The major Indian exports were chemicals, dyes and pigments, metallic ores, mineral fuels,

silk, aluminium and iron, boilers and electrical machinery, coffee, tea and spices, man-made filaments, oil cakes etc. Major items of import from ROK were chemicals, plastic and rubber products, man-made fibres, glass and gas-ware, iron and steel, coins copper, electrical machinery, ship boats and floating structures etc. The Indo-ROK Joint Trade Committee is scheduled to meet in early 1994 to discuss further expansion of trade relation.

CLEARANCE OF MAIL IN CALCUTTA

535. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bags are not fully cleared daily in the G.P.O., Calcutta and R.M.S. offices in West Bengal Circle, causing irregular and uncertain postal deliveries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure quick and regular postal deliveries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) No Sir, this is not the general case. However some accumulation of mail in GPO/RMS offices in West Bengal Circle takes place on occasions of bandh/strike/civil disturbances and other causes beyond the control of the Department. The concerned postal authorities monitor transmission/delivery of mails on a day-to-day basis in order to ensure regular delivery of mails.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS TO RETIRING EMPLOYEES IN GUAHATI

536. SHRI PROBIN DEKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State :

(a) the number of cases pending for telephone connections under NOYT-SS category for retiring employees of State and Central Governments in Guwahati as on October, 1993; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) Sir, a total of 29 cases are pending installation

under Non-OYT/SS category to the retiring employees of the State of Central Governments as on October 1993. These are likely to be cleared by March 1994.

FUNCTIONING OF M.T.N.L.

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

(a) whether the functioning of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is in bad shape;

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

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken to redress grievances of the consumers of M.T.N.L. services ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) The functioning of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is not in bad shape. However, during the last monsoon season, due to failure of a large number of underground cables, a large number of customers were affected, which caused temporary dislocation of services and customer dissatisfaction. However, by the remedial action taken by M.T.N.L., its underground cables had since been repaired and now the services have returned to normal.

(c) The N.T.N.L. Delhi have opened a large number of customer service centres where the grievances of the customers can be recorded and remedial action taken to set them right. In the Telecom Headquarters we have a public Grievance Cell functioning under the charge of Director (Public Grievances). Dak Bhavan, New Delhi. The customers who do not get a satisfactory response from M.T.N.L. and other field formation of the Department of Telecommunications outside Delhi can send their written complaints for their redressal.

(Translation)

P & T OFFICES IN M.P.

538. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Post and Telegraph offices set-up in Madhya Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether their number is less than the target fixed in this regard;

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

(d) the target fixed and achieved so far for this purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : POST OFFICES—(a) 364 Post Offices were opened during the 7th Five Year Plan.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES.—The total number of Telegraph Offices set up in Madhya Pradesh during 7th Five Year Plan is 35.

(b) POST OFFICES—During 1985-86, 86-87, 87-88 under the 7th Five Year Plan, no targets were fixed for opening of post offices. However 118 Post Offices were opened under the Plan during these three years. However, in 1988-89 and 89-90 targets of 235 and 184 were fixed for opening of post offices respectively as against these targets 23 and 223 post offices were opened respectively giving a total of 364.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES—No Sir. As per the objectives of 7th Five Year Plan, telegraph offices were to be opened at all District Headquarters and at important places where the opening of telegraph offices is justified. The objective was achieved.

(c) POST OFFICES—For the shortfall in achievement of targets during 1988-89 the following reasons were attributable :

1. Ban of creation of new posts since 1984.
2. Withdrawal of powers for creation of posts from DG (Posts) and his subordinate officers.
3. The time involved in referring every case of opening of post office to the Finance Ministry and obtaining approval therefrom.
4. Inherent time lag between sanctioning and opening of new post

offices which sometimes spills over into the next financial year.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES—The question does not arise in view of the above.

(d) POST OFFICES—The target fixed for opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Departmental Sub Offices in Madhya Pradesh during 1992-93 and 93-94 and their achievement are as follows :

Year	Target		Achievement	
	EDBO	DSO	EDBO	DSO
1992-93	55	5	55	5
1993-94	35	5	11	Nil

(opened so far)

TELEGRAPH OFFICES—As per objectives of Eighty Five Year Plan, the telegraph offices have to be opened at newly created District Headquarters. As no new District has been created, no telegraph office has been opened so far.

IMPROVEMENTS IN MICRO-WAVE SYSTEM

539. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of improvements effected by the Government in the Micro-wave system;

(b) the details in this regard for the last one year, circle-wise; and

(c) the details of the jobs accomplished under these improvements, circle-wise during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The Micro-wave system is being improved by augmentation/replacement of existing analog systems by using digital microwave systems. This has led to increase number of channels and higher reliability.

(b) A total of 27 Microwave systems have been commissioned. During 1992-93. Circle wise details enclosed in Statement-I.

(c) Circle-wise details of Microwave systems commissioned during 1991-92 are enclosed in Statement-II.

With the commissioning of these systems, 82 places were connected by reliable media in 1991-92 and 55 places in 1992-93.

STATEMENT-I**Circlewise details of Microwave systems Commissioned during 1992-93**

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of Systems
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Gujarat	1
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1
4.	Karnataka	2
5.	Kerala	4
6.	Maharashtra	3
7.	Madhya Pradesh	2
8.	Orissa	1
9.	Punjab	1
10.	Rajasthan	1
11.	Tamilnadu	4
12.	Uttar Pradesh	4
13.	West Bengal	2

STATEMENT-II

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of Systems
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Gujarat	2
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1
5.	Kerala	4
6.	MTNL (New Delhi)	1
7.	Maharashtra	4
8.	Orissa	3
9.	Punjab	1
10.	Rajasthan	2
11.	Tamilnadu	2
12.	Uttar Pradesh	8
13.	West Bengal	4

(English)

REPATRIATION OF CHAKMA REFUGEES

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

(a) whether Bangladesh has agreed to take back 56,000 Chakma Refugees from India; and

(b) if so, the progress made in regard to their repatriation to that country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bangladesh is committed to take back all tribal Bangladeshi refugees from Chittagong Hill Tracts based upon available records of both sides and information furnished by the concerned Village Headman.

(b) In order to persuade the Chakma and other tribal refugees to return to Bangladesh, Government of Bangladesh have announced several concessions to the returning families. Our overall assessment is that the climate is much more favourable in Bangladesh than ever before for the return of the refugees. However, the Chakma refugee leaders insist that as a pre-condition to their return, Government of Bangladesh should concede their demands submitted to the Bangladesh Government in May 1993.

REGIONAL NEWS ON BANGALORE DOORDARSHAN

541. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHURS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the duration of regional news telecast on Bangalore Doordarshan every day;

(b) whether important news of the entire Karnataka are not being covered in the present regional news bulletin;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(d) whether there is also any proposal to telecast morning news bulletin in Kannada on the Bangalore Doordarshan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore telecasts a daily regional news bulletin of 15 minutes in Kannada at 7.30 P.M.

(b) Every effort is made to cover all important events and developments in Karnataka in the regional news bulletin telecast from Bangalore.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

542. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of village yet to be electrified, State-wise;

(b) whether any targets have been fixed to electrify the remaining villages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI F. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) State-wise percentage of villages yet to be electrified upto the end of September, 1993 is given in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c) The rural electrification targets are fixed on an Annual basis by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Electricity Board, keeping in view the overall availability of resources and the proposals received from the SEB's concerned. During the year 1993-94, 3210 villages are programmed for electrification.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the State	Percentage of un-electrified villages as on 30-9-93
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.46
3.	Assam	20.00
4.	Bihar	29.67
5.	Goa	—
6.	Gujarat	—
7.	Haryana	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.07
10.	Karnataka	—
11.	Kerala	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8.07
13.	Maharashtra	—
14.	Manipur	15.43
15.	Meghalaya	51.17
16.	Mizoram	21.00
17.	Nagaland	—
18.	Orissa	29.75
19.	Punjab	—
20.	Rajasthan	19.70
21.	Sikkim	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—
23.	Tripura	30.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	25.00
25.	West Bengal	25.00
Total (States)		15.12
Total (UTs)		—
Total (All-India)		15.00

PROGRAMMES ON SARELLITE CHANNELS

543. SHRI SURENDRA PAL RATHAK:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to

(a) whether majority of the programmes being telecast over metro and other satellite channels of Doordarshan are film based;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review these programmes to maintain and preserve the cultural heritage of the country and to safeguard the interests of the younger generation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Doordarshan propose to start 21 channels by January, 1994; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SING DEO): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, A comprehensive review is currently underway.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

POST OFFICE IN GRAM PANCHAYAT

544. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Gram Panchayats in Orissa are without facility of Post office;

(b) if so, the number of such Gram Panchayats, State-wise in the country:

(c) whether the Government propose to open post office in every Gram Panchayat in the Country; and

(d) if so, by when and steps taken to achieve the targets fixed if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir. There are only 240 Gram Panchayat in Orissa Circle without the facility of post office.

(b) The details of such Gram Panchayats State-wise are given in the statement-I.

(c) Post Offices are opened in those Gram Panchayat which fulfil the norms as given in the statement-II.

(d) During the 8th Plan period, the Department proposes to open 500 Departmental sub-offices and 3000 extra departmental branch offices. Of these, 116 departmental sub-offices and 635 extra departmental branch offices have been sanctioned in 1992-93. In the current year, it is proposed to open 500 extra departmental branch offices and 100 departmental sub-offices. Post offices are opened as per prescribed norms subject to target and availability of funds.

STATEMENT—J

ANNEX 'A'

Details of Gram Panchayats without Post Office facility Statewise.

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices	Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Gram Panchayats without Post Offices
1.	Assam	20,178	14.	Arunachal Pradesh	3,385
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5,851	15.	Manipur	746
3.	Bihar	3,012	16.	Meghalaya	940
4.	Delhi	79	17.	Mizoram	398
5.	Gujarat	5,183	18.	Nagaland	940
6.	Haryana	3,176	19.	Tripura	2,347
7.	Himachal	395	20.	Orissa	240
8.	J & K	430	21.	Punjab	6,940
9.	Karnataka	192	22.	Rajasthan	713
10.	Kerala	Nil	23.	Tamil Nadu	3,082
11.	Madhya Pradesh	12,932	24.	Uttar Pradesh	57,817
12.	Maharashtra	14,209	25.	West Bengal	Nil
13.	Goa	21	26.	Sikkim	-do-

STATEMENT-II

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR
OPENING BRANCH POST OFFICES

(i) POPULATION

(a) In normal areas : 3000 population in a group or villages (including the proposed post village).

(b) In Hilly, Tribal Desert and Inaccessible areas : 500 population in an individual villages or 1000 population in a group of villages.

(ii) DISTANCE

(a) In normal areas The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office should be 3 kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas : The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(iii) ANTICIPATED INCOME

(a) In normal areas : The minimum anticipated revenue should be 33-1|3% of cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and inaccessible areas : The minimum anticipated income should be 15 per cent of the cost.

PUBLIC CALL OFFICE

545. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Understand Question No. 3982 on August 23, 1993 and state :

(a) the number of communication charge Re. 1|- per STD as per old scheme;

(b) whether such indications are notified by the Communication Centres at their premises to remove unnecessary clashes with the telephone users;

(c) if not, whether the M.T.N.L. will direct to instruct all such communication centres to do so immediately; and

(d) the number of FCOs inspected during 1991-92, 1992-93 and the number of PCOs discontinued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS;

(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The entire issue is being examined.

(d) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
[Translation]

PULSE PROCESSING MILLS IN
GUJARAT

546. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pulse Processing Mills have been established in Gujarat particularly in the tribal areas;

(b) whether adequate financial provisions have been made for this purpose under National Pulses Development Scheme; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING
INDUSTRIES (SHRI TRAUN GOGOI):

(a) : Yes Sir, pulse processing mills have been established in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) : A provision of Rs. 2.70 lakhs has been made in the National Pulses Development Scheme for 1993-94 for setting up of Dal Processors. Out of this, Rs. 2.00 lakhs is the Centre's share and Rs. 0.70 lakhs is the State share. No proposals in this regard have been received from any State Government so far.

[English]

POSTAL SAVING SCHEME

547. Dr. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have discontinued some Postal Savings Schemes;

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

(c) its likely impact on the depositors and the steps taken to protect their interest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The sale of Social Security Certificates was discontinued 3 years back w.e.f. 31st August, 1990 National Savings Scheme, 1987 was replaced by National Savings Scheme, 1992 from 1-10-92.

(b) and (c) The sale of Social Security Certificates was discontinued in view of the declining popularity of the scheme National Savings Scheme 1987 was replaced by National Savings Scheme 1992 to suit the changes made in the Tax Laws and the needs of the investors. This new Scheme enjoys the Tax Concession under Section 88 and 80 (L) of the Income Tax Act.

INDIANS IN THE US

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

(a) whether the Government have received any report regarding atrocities committed on Indian and people of Indian origin in the US during the year 1993 so far;

(b) if so, the number and details of such cases and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with that country; and

(d) if so, the number and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) While Indians have been the subject of crime in the United States, there is no indication that they are being singled out on the basis of their being Indians for the commitment of atrocities.

WARANGAL RADIO STATION

549. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether radio stations are presently classified into 'Local and non-Local';

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for such classification;

(c) whether Warangal Radio Station has been classified as 'Local' radio station and Kothagudem station as 'non-Local' radio station;

(d) whether the Government have received representations demanding conversion of Warangal as a non-local full fledged radio station instead of Kothagudem; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All India Radio, Warangal is a local radio station and All India Radio, Kothagudem is a sub-regional radio station

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is at present no proposal to convert the local radio station at Warangal into a sub-regional radio station.

JOINT VENTURE BY TCIL

550. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecommunications Consultants and a Limited (TCIL) had proposed to joint venture each in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to incorporate Indian Telecom and software know-how in these countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In Saudi Arabia, TCIL has set up a Joint Venture Company known as "TCIL Saudi Company Limited", in collaboration with M/s. National Telecommunications Company Ltd. (NATEL) and Mr. Saleh Ali Abdul Rehman Al-Turki, with an Authorised Capital of SR 2 Million and initial Paid-up Capital of SR 1 Million. TCIL's share in this JVC is 40 per cent.

2. In Kuwait, TCIL proposes to set up a Joint Venture Company in collaboration with M/s. Ahmed Yousef Behbehani Est. (AYB). The proposed Paid-up Capital of the Company is KD 1,00,000. TCIL's share shall be 49 per cent.

DUES OUTSTANDING WITH DAVP

551. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total dues of various Newspaper outstanding with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (D.A.V.P.) as on May 31, 1993;

(b) since when the payments of such dues have been pending; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) A total of 55,233 bills were pending with Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for payment as on 31st May, 1993. Out of these bills, 450 bills pertain to the period April, 1985 to August, 1991; 38,533 bills to time period September, 1991 to March, 1993 and 16,250 bills to the period April, 1993 to May, 1993.

(c) During the current year, systematic efforts have been made by DAVP to ensure that the pendency is reduced to the minimum and the parties get their payment within a reasonable period varying from a period of 7 days to 45 days. The processing of bills is being done on computer since 1st April, 1993 and a Super Mini-Computer has also been installed recently.

JOINT VENTURES BY NTPC

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

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to set up joint ventures with some foreign companies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main objectives of NTPC in this regard ; and

(c) the names of these foreign companies and the details of the agreements made by NTPC with them so far ?

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

(b) and (c) NTPC has signed "Promoters Agreements" with Spectrum Technologies USA, Inc. New York including their associates and Jaya Food Industries, Hyderabad

for equity participation by NTPC in Spectrum Power Generation Ltd. (SPGL), a private generating company, set up for implementing a 208 MW gas based power station at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. NTPC's equity in the joint venture would be 10 per cent of the total equity of SPGL.

NTPC has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ABB, Switzerland for development of a power project and in terms of which has responded to DESU for its gas based project at Bawana, Union Territory of Delhi. NTPC and ABB are one of the short listed project proponents and have jointly submitted a detailed project proposal bid to DESU in February, 1993 and bids are under evaluation..

The objectives of NTPC in participating in joint venture power projects are :

(a) The participation of NTPC in the equity of the JVCs for power projects, even though to a small extent, will repose confidence in private parties to invest thus accelerating the process of commercialisation of the sector. NTPC thus would act as a catalyst for the uplifting of power sector which would benefit the organisation also.

(b) NTPC could contribute in project implementation based on its proven technical and management skills developed in setting up both coal and gas based power stations.

(c) Considering the large investments required for projects under NTPC's own programme and its own resources being limited, NTPC could judiciously use these resources to promote more projects than it would otherwise could take up on its own in consonance with the expected private power development scenario. NTPC could thus act as a catalyst in the successful implementation of the Government policy for greater involvement of private industry in the power sector.

PUYANKUTTY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

553. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2658 answered on March 15, 1993 and state :

(a) whether Puyankutty Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala is facing further hurdles for its implementation ;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) Puyankutty hydro electric Project (2×120 MW) will be taken up for implementation after Government of Kerala obtains clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests for diversion of forest land.

[*Translation*]

POWER SECTOR

554. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister of Power has recently visited some foreign countries for seeking investment in the power sector of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of the countries/foreign companies which have agreed to invest in power sector ;

(c) the names of the places where such power projects are likely to be set up ;

(d) whether the foreign investors have put up some conditions or demanded concessions in lieu of the investment ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

(b) and (c) Minister of Power had led a delegation to U.K. and USA for seeking investment in the Power Sector of the country. The details of the projects proposed to be set up by foreign private companies are given in the Statement attached.

(d) to (f) While no conditions or concessions in lieu of the investment have been demanded, prospective foreign investors had sought a number of clarifications in the course of discussions regarding investment in specific power projects or relating to the scheme for encouraging private investment in the electricity sector. These queries are similar to the ones raised by other promoters including Indian promoters. These have been suitably addressed by the Government.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ State	Foreign/ Indian	Capacity (MW)	Prov. cost Estimate (Rs. Cts.)	Name of the Company.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jegurupadu GBPP/ (Godavari) Andhra Pradesh.	Foreign (NRI)	235.00 (Gas)	866.00	GVK Industries USA
2.	Kakinada GBPP (Godavari) Andhra Pradesh	Forgn. (NRI)	200.00 (Gas)	654.85	Spectrum Power Generation Ltd.
3.	Visakhapatnam TPS/ Andhra Pradesh	Forgn. Indian JV	1000.00 (2×500 MW) (Coal)	3000.00	Ashok Leyland & National Power (U.K.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	
4.	Kameng HEP/ Arunachal Pradesh	Indian/ Forgn.	600.00 (Hydel)	1800.00	Intercorp Ltd. Snowy Engg.	Industries Mountains (Australia)
5.	Kharsang GBPP/ Arunachal Pradesh	Forgn./ Indian JV	48.00 (Gas)	168.00	Intercorp. Ltd.	Industries Snowy Moun- tains Engg.
6.	Amguri GBPP/ Assam	Forgn.	360.00 (Gas)	1280.00	Northern Inc. Agra	Engineering Industries.
7.	Ganohar GBPP/ Gujarat	Forgn./ Indian	615.00 (Gas)	2389.43	Gujarat Corpn. Ltd.	Tootent Energy
8.	Hissar TPS/Haryana	Forgn.	500.00 (2 x 250) (Coal)	1000.00	Cogentrix Inc.	USA
9.	Yamunanagar TPS/ Haryana	Forgn.	1000.00 (4 x 250) (Coal)	3500.00	Eisenberg Cos., USA	Group of
10.	Hibra HEP/ Himachal Pradesh	Forgn.	231.00 (Hydel)	708.50	Harza Co., USA	Engineering
11.	Dhamwari HEP/ Himachal Pradesh	Forgn.	70.00 (Hydel)	245.00	Harza Co., USA.	Engineering
12.	Mangalore TPS/ Karnataka	Forgn.	1000.00 (Coal)	5088.00	Cogentix Inc.,	USA
13.	Mangalore TPS/ Karnataka.	Indian Forgn.	300.00 (Coal)	900.00	Jaiprakash Ltd., National Power (UK)	Industries
14.	Almatti Dam HEP/ Karnataka	Forgn./ Indian JV	600.00 (Hydel)	1800.00	Asia Power Co. Ltd., (TAPCO) Karnataka Power Corpn.	USA,
15.	Hospet TPS/ Karnataka	Forgn.	500.00 (1 x 500) (Coal)	1350.00	Haka Ltd., USA.	Intercontinental
16.	Raichur St. V TPS/ Karnataka	Foreign/ Indian JV	500.00 (2 x 500) (Coal)	1000.00	PPI (NEE), Karnataka Corporation.	USA/ Power
17.	Thrikkaripur TPS/ Kerala	Forgn.	420.00 (2 x 210) (Coal)	1480.00	M.A. Al-Mazroui Gen Trading Est. URE Scepture Power Co., USA	
18.	Dabhol CCGT (LMG)/ Maharashtra	Forgn.	1920.00 (LNG)	8480.00	Enron Power Develop- ment Corpn. & General Electric Corpn., USA	

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Khaperkheda TPS Units 5 & 6/ Maharashtra	Forgn.	500.00 (2 × 250) (Coal)	1632.00	Aranco Line Shipping Co. (Malta/Singapore) RR Associates
20.	Umred TPS Maharashtra	Forgn./ Indian JV	1000.00 (Coal)	3000.00	Ispath Alloys Ltd./ Mitsui (Japan)
21.	Talcher TPS/ Orissa	Forgn.	500.00 (2 × 250) (Coal)	1500.00	Spectrum Technologies, USA
22.	Kamalanga (Dhan- Kana! TPS) Orissa	Forgn.	500.00 (2 × 250) (Coal)	1500.00	International Equity Partners, L.P., USA.
23.	Ib Valley TPS/ Orissa	Forgn.	420.00 (2 × 210) (Coal)	2025.60	A E S Corp., USA
24.	Ib Valley TPS/ Orissa	Forgn.	3000.00 (Coal)	10500.00	Eisenberg Group of Cos., USA.
25.	Dubari TPS/ Orissa	Forgn./ Indian	500.00 (2 × 250) (Coal)	1548.00	Kalinga Power Corp. North East Energy Services Inc., USA/ Govt. of Orissa
26.	Lapanga TPS/ Orissa	Forgn.	500.00 (2 × 250) (Coal)	1750.00	Pioneer Energy Inc., USA Duke Engineer- ing Services.
27.	Barsingar TPS/ Rajasthan	Forgn.	240.00 (2 × 210) (Lig.)	585.73	Coleman & Associates, Australian Consor- tium)
28.	Cuddalore TPS/ Tamil Nadu	Forgn.	1000.00 (2 × 500) (Coal)	2000.00	International Contrac- ting & Marketing Corp. USA.
29.	Pillaipepetmalhaller CCGT/Tamil Nadu	Forgn.	300.00 (2 × 100 + 1 × 100 Gas)	429.49	P. Vijaykumar Reddy, MAKOWSKI Associates, USA
30.	Zero Unit (NLC)/ Tamil Nadu.	Forgn. (NRI)	210.00 (1 × 210) (Lig)	750.00	ST Power Systems Inc.
31.	Jayamkondam Lig- nite TPS/ Tamil Nadu	Indian/ Forgn.	1500.00 (3 × 500) (Lig)	4500.00	Jayamkondam Lignite Power Corp. Ltd., (TIDCO, Menally Bharat)
32.	Sagardighi TPS/ West Bengal	Forgn./ Indian JV	1000.00 (2 × 500) (Coal)	2000.00	Development Consul- tant Pvt. Ltd., CMS. Generation & WBSEB.
33.	Dankuni GBPP/ W. Bengal.	Forgn. (NRI)	20.00 (Gas)	40.00	Spectrum Technologies.
			21289.00	69471.30	

TV RELAY KENDRAS IN GUJARAT

555. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up T. V. relay kendras of 10 K.W. capacity at Sawar Kundala, Rajula and Kondinar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these Kendras are likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a Low Power TV Transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Rajula in Gujarat under Annual Plan 1993-94. The actual implementation would depend upon the approval of the scheme by the competent authority.

[English]

TELECAST OF MAHAMASTAKABHISHEKA IN KARNATAKA

557. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRIVAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahamastakabhisheka event at Shravana Belagola in Karnataka is scheduled to be held on 19th December, 1993;

(b) whether the Government propose to telecast this event live;

(c) whether there is a demand to produce a telefilm on 'Chamundarayas' contribution and his relevance to Bahubali and Mahamastakabhisheka; and

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

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

(c) and (d) A proposal for production of a telefilm was received but after careful consideration the same was not found acceptable by Doordarshan.

EXPLUSION OF DIPLOMATS

558. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have expelled some Pakistani diplomats recently;

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

(c) whether Pakistan has also expelled some Indian diplomats in retaliation.

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

(e) the number of times Indian diplomats were asked to leave Pakistan during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government, on October 18, 1993, asked for the withdrawal of three officials of the High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi and one official of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Bombay as they were indulging in activities which were incompatible with their status as diplomatic and consular personnel.

(c) and (d) On October 18, 1993 Pakistan asked for the withdrawal of four officials of the Consulate General of India, Karachi from Pakistan alleging that their activities were incompatible with their consular status. Government have stated that the allegation against the Indian officials is totally baseless.

(e) Government of Pakistan, in the last three years, has asked nine Indian officials to leave Pakistan, on four different occasions.

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

559. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL :

SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHEKJEE :

SHRI ANBARASU ERA .

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate any discussion with Pakistan to make a new initiative to solve this for improving bilateral relations;

(b) if so, whether any communications have been sent to that country in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps during the past six months to solve the Kashmir issue;

(d) whether the Government propose to make a new initiative to solve this tangle; and

(e) if so, the details in regard to parts (b), (c) and (d) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (e) On 19th October, 1993, in a message to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Prime Minister proposed wideranging and sustained bilateral discussions between India and Pakistan on all matters of mutual concern, including issues related to Jammu and Kashmir.

Prime Minister of Pakistan responded that Pakistan was prepared to engage in purposeful discussions to resolve Kashmir and other problems between India and Pakistan through peaceful negotiations.

In a Joint statement issued by the Government of India and Pakistan on 24 November, 1993, it was reaffirmed that in accordance with the Simla Agreement, Foreign Secretary-level talks would be held between the two countries at Islamabad from 1 to 3 January, 1994.

[Translation]

INDIAN WORKERS IN SINGAPORE

560. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian workers were killed in a dacoity in Singapore during September, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government to bring back dead bodies of the deceased to the country;

(c) whether the Government have given any ex-gratia payment to the family members of the deceased or a request has been made to the Government of Singapore in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Two Indians were killed in an incident of dacoity in Singapore on 17-9-93 when unidentified persons attempted to rob the work site of a construction company. There Indian nationals employed construction workers who were sleeping at the site office were attacked by the robbers. One Indian national died on the spot while another died in the hospital. The third Indian survived. The names of the deceased are Valaisamy Ariyan, aged 31 yrs. and Chokalingam Arumugam, aged 30 yrs. Bodies of the deceased were flown to India immediately by the employer. Our High Commission in Singapore rendered necessary consular services.

(c) The Singapore Government will make insurance payment to the family of the deceased Indians after establishing legal heirship. The High Commission of

India, Singapore has requested the Next of Kin on November 19, 1993 to provide documentary proof of legal heirship of the deceased.

(d) Does not arise.

METERS OF VEHICLES

561. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the meters of a large number of three wheelers and taxies in the capital show inflated billing;

(b) if so, number of such cases detected during the last six months; and

(c) the action taken against the drivers of such three wheeler and taxies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) No, Sir, The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have informed that no such case was detected during the last six months. However, during this period joint surprise raids/checkings were carried out by the Enforcement Staff along with the Delhi Traffic Police and as a result of this 5907 taxis and autorickshaws were checked/inspected on the roads of Delhi. Out of them 1407 taxis and autorickshaws were found using non-periodically verified faremeters and broken seals affixed by the Department. They were challenged by the Delhi Police on the spot. In cases where operator fails to compound the case, the challan is sent to the Court by the Delhi Police.

REPAIRS OF BRIDGES, U.P.

562. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of bridges over national highways in U.P. which have collapsed during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of bridges among them which have since been repaired and the time by which the remaining bridges are likely to be repaired; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the repair works ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No bridge on National Highway in U.P. has collapsed during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

PAK PLEA TO WORLD TO PUT PRESSURE ON INDIA

563. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan has addressed letters to Heads of Government of a number of countries urging them to persuade India to engage in a substantive dialogue with Pakistan to resolve the J & K issue;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any letter or message from any country in regard to above mentioned initiative of the Pak Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(b) Government remains committed to the Simla Agreement under which all differences between India and Pakistan are to be resolved peacefully and through bilateral negotiations. There can be no role for any third party.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

FKE DRIVEN LICENCES

565. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "90 per cent Redline drivers have fake licences" appearing in the Pioneer dated October 25, 1993;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

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

(b) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi verified the news item through a survey conducted on 28th October, 1993. Out of 613 buses surveyed only 33 Drivers were found to have licences issued by the States other than the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi. 16 Drivers did not possess driving licence at the time of survey. They have been prosecuted.

(c) The Enforcement Branch of the Transport Department periodically check the enforcement of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act including those of licences.

GUJARAT STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

566. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of power generated by the Gujarat State Electricity Board during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the total quantum of power generated was sufficient to meet the requirement of the State; and

(c) if not, the names of the central power stating from which the power was supplied to the Gujarat State Electricity Board and the quantum thereof, during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) During the year 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 the energy generation by Gujarat State Electricity Board was 17434 MU, 18123 MU and 20304 MU respectively.

(b) The details of actual power supply position in Gujarat during the last three years i.e. 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 are given below :—

(Figures in MU net)

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Requirement	23305	25505	26500
Availability	22358	24417	25712
Shortage	947	1088	788
%	4.1	4.3	3.0

(c) The details of entitlement vis-a-vis actual drawal of Gujarat from central sector power stations in Western Region are furnished below :—

Name of Central Sector Station	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	Entitlement	Actual drawal	Entitlement	Actual drawal	Entitlement	Actual drawal
Kobra/Vidhyachal STPS	3552.9	3518.6	4318.1	4171.7	4174.9	3812.6
Tarapur APS	859.2	859.2	772.2	772.2	876.3	876.3
Kawas GPP	—	—	—	—	531.5	448.8
Kakrapar APP	—	—	—	—	14.6	7.1

NATIONAL MEDIA POLICY567. **SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA :**

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :
SHRI KODAKANI GOWDANA
SHIVAPPA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a National Media Policy; and

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b).

At present there is no concrete proposal to bring out a National Media Policy. However, there is a proposal to constitute a sub-committee of the Consultative Committee members attached to the Ministry for preparing a Positional Paper/ Working Paper on the subject. Consultations are also to be held with Media Experts for their view on the subject.

INDO-PAK TALKS

568. **SHRI RABY RAY :** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan met at Limasool and discussed various bilateral issues : and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met at Limassol on 24-10-93 during the Commonwealth Summit. Foreign Secretary reiterated Government's offer of a sustained and comprehensive dialogue between India and Pakistan on matters of mutual concern, including all aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir issue.

Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan are scheduled to meet in Islamabad from 1 to 3 January, 1994.

DEEP SEA FISHING INDUSTRY569. **PROF. UMMAREDDY VEN-KATESWARLU :****PROF. RAM KAPSE :**

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

(a) whether the Murari Committee constituted by the Government to look into causes of sickness of the deep sea fishing industry has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the report and the action being taken thereon; and

(c) if not, by which time the Committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Committee is expected to submit its report within a period of two months.

PERFORMANCE OF SAIL

570. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of **STEEL** be pleased to state :

(a) the profit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (proposed);

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SON-TOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The profit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1991-92, 1992-93 and projection for 1993-94 are as under :

Year	Profit before Tax (Rs./Crores)
1991-92	367.30
1992-93	423.40
1993-94 (Estimated)	120.00

(b) The saleable steel production of SAIL Integrated Steel Plants during 1991-92, 1992-93 and the plan for 1993-94 are given below :

Year	Production (000'T)
1991-92	8028
1992-93	8335
1993-94 (Plan)	8600

(c) Detail of in-position manpower in different units of SAIL as on 1-4-1991 and 1-4-1992 and 1-4-1993 are given below:

Plan/Unit	1-4-91	1-4-92	1-4-93
A. Steel Plant			
Bhilai Steel Plant	58406	57613	55975
Rourkela Steel Plant	29223	28823	29753
Bokaro Steel Plant	31701	31105	30523
Alloy Steels Plant	47992	48341	48228
Salem Steel Plant	6834	6779	6888
SUB TOTAL (A)	175516	174026	172711
B. Central Units			
Central Mktg. Orgn.	4383	4301	4160
Raw Materials Division	8574	18450	18410
Growth Division	6115	5948	5597
Other Central Units	2438	2486	2506
SUB TOTAL (B)	31510	31185	30673
Total (A+B)	207026	205211	203384

ICWA EMPLOYEES

571. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any Memorandum from Indian Council of World Affairs' Employees Association during the month of September, 1993 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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

(b) The Employees Trade Union have pointed out the deteriorating state of affairs in the Indian Council of World Affairs and have demanded action to re-vamp and revitalate the Council. They have demanded its take over by the Government. It may be pointed out here that the Indian Council of World Affairs is an autonomous body and it is not the policy of the Government to take over such autonomous bodies. However after extensive consultation, the Government has decided that a high powered committee should be established to look into the problems being faced by I.C.W.A. and suggest solutions. But, as the Govern-

ment has no control over the I.C.W.A., it being an autonomous body any supervisory/advisory committee can only be constituted in pursuance of a request made by that organisation. The Government, presently, is trying to persuade the governing body of the Council to pass a resolution requesting the Government to set up such a high powered committee. The committee once established, could look into the complaints, demands and allegations of the Trade Union.

TRAINING OF TERRORISTS ACROSS THE BORDER

572. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have shown to the UN the evidences regarding receiving of shelter, training, money, weapon and equipment by terrorist elements from across the border (Pakistan);

(b) if so, the response of the UN and other member countries thereto;

(c) whether the Government have also launched diplomatic efforts at the UN to counter the move of internationalisation of Kashmir issue by Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) The Government of India are committed to Simla Agreement which calls for discussion of all issues by India and Pakistan bilaterally. As such, the Government did not take the lead in raising Pakistan related issues at the UN. However, whenever Pakistan raised Kashmir issue in UN fora, we had

pointed out that Pakistan has consistently provided shelter, money, weapon and equipment to terrorist elements.

(b), (c) and (d) As a result of the diplomatic efforts made by GOI, Pakistan did not find the necessary support and has ultimately decided not to table a proposed Resolution in the Third Committee of the UNGA on human rights in Kashmir.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

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

(a) whether the Government have since decided to convert the Geological Survey of India into a commercial organisation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

POSTAL FACILITIES IN ASSAM

574. SHRI PROBIN DEKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether facility of Post Office has been provided in all the village in Assam; and

(b) if not, the number of villages provided with this facility and the number of villages yet to be provided the same, district-wise ?

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

(b) The district-wise number of villages with post offices and without post offices is shown in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

Details of number of villages with Post Offices and without Post Offices in Assam District-wise

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Villages with post Offices	No. of villages without post offices
1.	Berpeta	188	848
2.	Bongaigaon	115	764
3.	Cachar	241	748
4.	Darrang	151	1157
5.	Dhemgi	74	1037
6.	Dhubri	126	1168
7.	Dibrugarh	112	1174
8.	Goalapara	95	650
9.	Golaghat	188	803
10.	Hailakandi	97	215
11.	Jorhat	139	639
12.	Kamrup	205	1095
13.	Karbi Anglongl	126	2380
14.	Karimganj	127	757
15.	Kokrajhar	101	925
16.	Morigaon	89	552
17.	Nalbari	256	528
18.	N.C. Hills	67	455
19.	North Lakimpur	170	951
20.	Nowgaon	229	1231
21.	Sibsagar	240	612
22.	Sonitpur	198	484
23.	Tinsukia	178	995

RESTRUCTURING OF DOT

575. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-DAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications is being converted into six Corporations ;

(b) if so the broad features of the proposed restructuring and how far it is likely to improve the existing telecommunication system in the country ; and

(c) details of its financial pattern ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(Translation).

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

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

state : (a) whether the Government propose to set up Press Information Bureau offices in some big cities in the near future ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any representation has been received from various newspapers journalist associations and representatives of public in this regard ; and

(d) the measures being adopted by the Government to provide authentic official information to the newspapers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) : Under VIII Five Year Plan, Press Information Bureau has a scheme for opening up offices at various places including some big cities. The implementation of the scheme will, however, depend on availability of funds etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Authentic official information to newspapers is provided by Press Information Bureau through press releases, press briefings etc.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN CHANDIGARH

[English]

577. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 2888 on August 16, 1993 and state :

(a) whether the proposed work on expansion of exchange capacity during 1993-94 in Chandigarh is going on at the stipulated rate; and

(b) if not, the reason therefor ?

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

(b) Not applicable.

TAXATION ON NETWORK ENTERTAINMENT

578. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cable TV operators have urged the Government to come up with uniform guidelines for any taxation on the network entertainment; and

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

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

(b) Entertainment tax is a State subject

[Translation]

EXTRACTION OF GOLD

579. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the extraction of gold has been started in the newly identified gold mines during the last two years ;

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

(c) the quantity of gold extracted so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No newly identified gold mine has been commissioned during the past two years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

"NAMASKAR SERVICE"

580. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the "Namaskar Service" on S.T.D. in other parts of the world as in case of America ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) The extension of "Namaskar Service" on S.T.D. in other parts of the world depends on bilateral agreement between two countries. Presently there is no such proposal pending. Proposals as and when are received, would be examined.

[English]

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN U.P.
581. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of hydro-electric projects being established or proposed to be established by the Government in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) the funds allotted project-wise, in the last three years, yearwise ; and

(c) the steps taken for speedy completion of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Presently, Sobla Hydro-electric Projects (2×3 MW) is under execution in Pithoragarh District of U.P. and no other hydro-electric project is being established or proposed to be established in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of U.P.

(b) The State Government had allocated Rs. 4.2 crores for Sobla H.E. project in the last three years as per details given below :—

Allocated by U.P. Govt.
(Rs. lakhs)

1990-91	NIL
1991-92	220
1992-93	200.5

(c) The Project is under close monitoring and meeting has been held with the State Government to review the progress on the project. The project is scheduled for commissioning during 1993-94.

RADIO PAGING SERVICE

582. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Radio Paging Service ;

(b) if so the main idea behind the introduction of Radio Paging Service ; and

(c) by when it is likely to be introduced ?

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

(b) To utilise the capacity available on the FM transmitters of AIR to transmit data signals without affecting main programme.

(c) No firm date for the introduction of this service can be indicated at the present juncture.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

583. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for installation of telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise as on November 1, 1993 ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to add more telephone lines in the existing exchanges; if so, the details thereof, exchange-wise ;

(c) whether the Telecom Department propose to open more telephone exchange in Hyderabad ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the time by which the waiting list as on December 31, 1992 is likely to be covered in Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (e) The information is being compiled. The same will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.

TELECOM SYSTEM

584. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEER-APPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to transform telecom system into information, education, entertainment, intelligence and knowledge delivery systems ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

COAL HANDLING AND TRANSPORT PROJECT NEAR PARADIP, ORISSA

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up coal handling and transport project near Paradip port in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the total areas acquired or proposed to be acquired for the proposed project ;

(c) the number of people likely to be displaced as a result thereof ; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for their rehabilitation ?

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

(b) to (d) The land was acquired long back. The encroachers were already existing at the time of taking possession of the

land by the Port Trust. About 1700 families are likely to be displaced. Steps for their rehabilitation have been taken with the joint efforts of the Port Trust, Fisheries Department of Government of Orissa and State administration. As areas have already been earmarked for rehabilitation purpose, the Port is not facing any problem on this account.

SWISS TEAM'S VISIT TO PUNJAB

586. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-powered team from Switzerland has visited Punjab as reported in the 'Times of India' dated September 15, 1993 ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) A two-member team of the Swiss Ministry of Justice and Police visited India from 8—15 September, 1993 in order to gather information relevant to asylum seekers of Indian origin in Switzerland.

(b) The objective of the visit was related to maintaining the status of India as a "safe country" on the basis of which the Swiss Government has been rejecting claims of asylum applicants from India to refugee status. The Swiss team held discussions with officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs and also paid a field visit to Chandigarh and Amritsar.

NEW CHANNELS OF DOORDARSHAN

588. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRYAPPA : DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA :

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

(a) the details of new channels started by Doordarshan recently and the areas

where it can be received without dish antenna ;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the coverage of the newly introduced channels including metro channel in more States without dish antenna ; and

(c) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The details are as follows :

(i) Metro (Entertainment Channel) : This Channel is available terrestrially at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta Madras and Lucknow.

(ii) Sports Channel

(iii) Business News and Current Affairs Channel

(iv) Enrichment Channel

(v) Music Channel.

These channels are available terrestrially only in Delhi, at present.

(b) and (c) Some of the cities identified for extending the terrestrial transmission of the metro channel are Bhopal, Cuttack, Ahmedabad, Patna, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore and Jaipur.

PASSPORT OFFICES IN KERALA

589. SHRI P. C. THOMAS .
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether passport offices in Kerala have been computerised ;

(b) if so, the details of increase in efficiency of functioning of Cochin, Trivandrum and Calicut Passport offices including output development and speed of issue of passports as a result thereof ;

(c) the number of passport applications pending in each of these passport offices as on November 15, 1993

(d) the average number of passports issued in a month and the average time taken for the issue of a passport by each of these offices ;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the issue of passports ; and

(f) whether the Government propose to increase the staff strength of these offices in view of the workload as on November 15, 1993 ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The number of fresh passport applications pending in these passport offices as on November 15, 1993 was as follows :

Cochin	—	20,168
Kozhikode	—	54,149
Trivandrum		13,754

(d) Based on figures for Jan-Sept. '93, the average number of passports issued per month by these offices in 1993 was approximately as follows :

Cochin	—	15,600
Kozhikode	—	28,400
Trivandrum	—	17,500

The approximate time for issue of passports varies at each office depending on the workload, staff position etc. As of November 15, 1993 the approximate time being taken by these offices for the issue of a passport where the application was complete in all respects was as follows :

Cochin	—	9 weeks
Kozhikode	—	13 weeks
Kozhikode	—	5 weeks

(e) Government have taken a number of measures to expedite the issue of passports, which inter alia include augmentation of staff strength, increase in the supply of passport booklets, an incentive scheme and

a review of systems and procedures to increase productivity and reduce delays.

(f) Government assess the staff strength required at these offices from time to time based on the workload and deploy the requisite staff as far as possible.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRAN

590. SHRI K. PRADHANI :
SHRI ARVIND TULSIRAM
KAMBLE :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister of India visited Iran in September, 1993 ;

(b) if so, the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed with Iranian Leaders and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the broad details of the bilateral agreement/treaty/communique signed and the areas identified for bilateral cooperation in various fields ?

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

(b) PM and the Iranian leadership carried out an in depth review of Indo-Iran relations, and identified the priority areas for further strengthening bilateral economic cooperation. There was an exchange of views on the post Cold-War international and regional situation, especially in the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and Central Asia.

PM's visit has strengthened Indo-Iran bilateral relations and has contributed to the evolution of a closer understanding on international and regional issues of mutual concern.

(c) A Joint Communique was issued upon the conclusion of PM's visit which sets out the perception of the two countries on the major issues in the post-Cold-War international and regional situation.

Two MOU's on Cooperation in Science and Technology, and on Cooperation in

Surface Transport and Transit Facilities, were all signed during PM's visit. The MOU on Cooperation in Science and Technology envisages increased, exchanges of scientific delegations and holding of scientific workshops, symposia, etc.

The MOU on Cooperation in Surface Transport and Transit Facilities envisages joint development of road, rail and port infrastructure to facilities trade and economic cooperation of India and Iran with the Central Asian States.

[Translation]

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR STEEL INDUSTRY

591. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken to constitute a standing committee for the steel industry ;

(b) if so, the object of the committee ; and

(c) the time by which the constitution of the committee is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH
MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the Committee is to review the status of the Steel Industry and recommend to Government various policy measures required to increase steel production in the medium and long-term perspective.

(c) The committee was constituted vide Government Order No. 10(20)92-SAIL dated 15th October, 1993.
[English]

NORTHERN POWER GRID FAILURE

592. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 183 on August 9, 1993 and state :

(a) whether the committee constituted to look into the cause of the grid disturbance in the Northern Region on the night of 6th/7th June, 1993 has since given its final report ;

(b) if so, the main findings of the committee ; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement these findings to check the recurrence of such disturbances in future ?

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

(b) and (c) The Committee has concluded that the Bus fault at Singrauli 400 KV Switchyard can be reasonably attributed as the cause of the disturbance. The Committee is, however, of the opinion that there is no way in the medium term that the regional grid can be made fool-proof. The Committee has however made various short, medium and long term recommendations such as modification to islanding scheme for Delhi; maintaining grid discipline, capacitor installation, strengthening of Transmission and Distribution System, instant speech communication facilities between various concerned authorities, regular use of Thermovision camera etc. These recommendations have been brought to the notice of concerned authorities for implementation.

MEDIATION OFFER ON KASHMIR BY U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL

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

(a) whether the U.N. Secretary General has offered to mediate in resolving the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The U.N. Secretary General in his report on the work of the Organisation submitted in September 93 had observed as follows :

... I have also expressed my readiness, should the two countries request it to exert every possible effort to facilitate the search for a lasting solution." The response of the Government of India contained in the official spokesman's statement reaffirmed its "firm belief that such negotiations should be conducted bilaterally in the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement and without external interference."

Chocolate Processing by US Company

594. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a US based multinational company has been allowed to set up its chocolate manufacturing units in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions agreed upon in this regard by the said company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) M/s. Mars Incorporated, USA, was granted approval for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in India for the manufacture of cocoa based confectionery products excluding products reserved for small scale sector. There will be 100 per cent foreign equity participation amounting to US dollar 10.00 million in the paid up capital of the Company. The approval is subject to the following conditions :—

(a) The outflow of foreign exchange on account of dividend payment will be balanced by export earnings ;

(b) There will be no repatriation of any dividends for at least 5 years

from commencement of operations and the entire earnings will be reinvested in India.

International Terrorism

595. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have raised the issue of international terrorism, especially the State sponsored terrorism, at various international fora including the UN during the last two years ;

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

(c) the response of the UN and the other member countries thereto ; and

(d) the future strategy of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, India has been actively participating in the work of the UN on identification of ways and means to enhance international cooperation and on measures to eliminate international terrorism. Resolutions passed in this regard condemned in unequivocal terms terrorism in all its forms including the State sponsored or aided or abetted or instigated terrorism. These resolutions have been drawn on the basis of wide support and consensus involving all delegations including India. India has also successfully raised the issue at the Non-aligned Conference Summit in 1992 and the Commonwealth Summit in 1993.

Financial position of NTPC

596. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation is facing resource crunch at present ;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make NTPC financially self-sufficient ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) For new projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) the fund availability is a constraint due to non-payment of dues by State Electricity Boards (SEBs).

(c) Funds are likely to be available for 1993-94 capital programme by borrowing from the market. The other steps taken include recoveries through central appropriation, persuasion of State Governments and SEBs for prompt payments and regulation/diversion of power supplies from central projects in respect of defaulting SEBs.

Extradition of Amanullah Khan

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

(a) the efforts made by the Government regarding extradition of Amanullah Khan from Belgium ; and

(b) the progress made in the matter so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) A formal request for extradition of Amanullah Khan from Belgium has been made to the Government of Belgium on 29th October, 1993.

(b) The matter is to be considered further by the competent Belgium Court of Appeal.

RED LINE BUSES

598. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ 3030 dated 16-8-93 and the news item captioned STA Dances to Redline's tune appearing in the Indian Express dated 6-9-93 and State : (a) whether in the Brochure of the

Scheme to introduce 3000-STA buses in Delhi, it has been stated that the routes can be change/extended/diverted at the request of the bus operators.

(b) if so, the reasons for changing the routes of 974 Redline buses at the request of the operators;

(c) the facts of the newsitem;

(d) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of persons who own more than one route under the scheme, with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The Brochure provided that the routes would be subject to change by STA in accordance with the requirements of commuters, traffic conditions and the other factors considered relevant.

(b) Certain routes were not viable. Representations were received in the Ministry of Surface Transport and also in STA that routes should be changed. Therefore, it was decided that pending receipt of report of RITES, the allotted routes may be suitably modified on a temporary basis and thus the routes were extended/diverted keeping in view the request of the operators and the interests of the commuters.

(c) The Transport Department of Delhi have informed that the Press Report is not based on facts as the routes had not been altered on monetary consideration, and that the ** ** * altered routes are being patronised by the commuters. Further, the number of buses did not increase from 600 to 1100 in West Delhi but only increase from 600 to 800 by way of extension of routes. Since June, 93 no route has been extended.

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

(e) Under the scheme only one permit has been granted to one individual and therefore, the question of one person having more than one route does not arise.

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH DECEMBER, 1993

ROAD TO VAISHNODEVI SHRINE

599. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board headed by the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, had decided to construct a motorable road to the Cave Shrine for the benefit of Pilgrims from the bosc came in Katra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations in this regard from the public; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (b) The road in question does not come within the purview of the Central Government. It is, however, reported that the Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board is financing construction of motorable road to fair weather standards from Katra to Bhavan v'a Tarakot hill at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.00 crores.

(c) and (d) No reference has been received in the recent past.

TRIPARTITE TALKS ON GANGA WATER SHARING

600. SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangladesh is seeking to involve Nepal on discussions of River waters issues and also insisting on tripartite talks on this issue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the position of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bangladesh since 1978, has been proposing to trilateralise the river waters issue by suggesting construction of storage dams in Nepal. Nepal has not shown any inclination to involve themselves in such talks. Government is committed to arriving at an equitable, long-term and comprehensive arrangement on water sharing with Bangladesh through bilateral discussions.

RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

601. DR. RAMESH CHANDRA TOMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote economic and cultural relations with Israel; and

(b) the number of official level talks held with that country in this regard after the establishment of diplomatic relations?

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

(a) A Cultural Agreement and an MOU for Economic Cooperation between India and Israel were signed during the visit of the Israeli Foreign Minister to India. Subsequently, in pursuance of the Cultural Agreement, a Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1994-96 was signed in September 1993. Drafts of a Trade Agreement and a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement have been exchanged, which will be finalised in due course.

(b) About 20 talks at official level (including ministerial) have been held so far in Israel and India since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1992, covering the fields of agriculture, tourism, science and technology, civil aviation, culture and trade.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

602. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals sent to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for widening of the old National Highways in the State during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Union Government on these proposals during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) During the last three years, the U.P. State PWD submitted nine proposals amounting to Rs. 107.88 crores for widening of National Highways.

(b) Three proposals amounting to Rs. 104.21 Crores have been sanctioned. Five proposals have been returned un-sanctioned to U.P. State PWD and one proposal is under examination.

PROHIBITION BY SRI LANKA IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

603. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
SHRI B. DEVARAJAN :

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Sri Lanka have recently promulgated any ordinance regarding prohibition of use boats in territorial waters from Mannar to Trincomalee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with that country;

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

(e) the number of incidents of firing by Sri Lankan Navy on Indian fishermen and number of them killed in each such incident during the last one year; and

(f) the action taken by the Government on each of these incidents and to prevent their recurrence in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (d) Or 1-9-1993 the Government of Sri Lanka promulgated a security ordinance, declaring a prohibited zone in Sri Lankan territorial waters from Mannar on the West Coast to Trincomalee on the East Coast. The Government of Sri Lanka cited security reasons for this measure. The Government of India expressed its concern at this regulation, pointing out to Sri Lanka Government that this regulation interfered with the right of innocent passage of Indian vessels and went against traditional rights of fishermen for access to the island of Kachchativ, which are guaranteed under the Maritime agreements of 1974 and 1976 between India and Sri Lanka.

On 17-9-1993, Sri Lanka Government superseded the above ordinance by fresh measures which recognise the traditional rights of Indian fishermen for access to Kachchativ. However, the fresh measures have also not met our concerns and therefore, this matter has again been taken up by the Government with the Government of Sri Lanka. The subject is presently under discussion between the two Governments.

(e) and (f) During the last one year, a total of eleven incidents of reported firing by Sri Lanka Navy on Indian fishermen have come to the Government's notice. Each of these incidents was strongly taken up by the Government with the Government of Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka have confirmed firing by Sri Lankan Navy in only one of these incidents, which took place on the night of September 1-2, 1993 and in which two Indian fishermen died. According to Sri Lankan authorities, this incident was a case of mistaken identity. This issue

was discussed at Foreign Secretary level talks between the two Governments held in Delhi on 15-10-1993; both sides agreed on the need for effective measures to prevent such incidents in future.

(Translation)

VOICE MAIL SERVICE

604. SHRI MHESH KANODIA :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR (DEEPA) :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Voice Mail Service' has been launched;

(b) if so, when and the extent to which it has become successful;

(c) the total number of persons benefited at present;

(d) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for its publicity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Voice Mail Service has been launched in Delhi & Bombay w.e.f. 15th August, 1992. So far 305 customers in Delhi and 355 in Bombay have taken the service. The Service is being provided successfully. Proposals have also been invited from Indian Registered Companies to provide this service on franchise basis.

(d) and (e) Adequate publicity is being made by way of press advertisements and through exhibitions.

(English)

VII PLAN OUTLAY FOR ROAD TRANSPORT

605. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the outlay of VIIth Plan for the expansion and conversion of National

Highway according to 20 years frame work of Planning Commission;

(b) under the total Kilometers which have been converted into National Highway during VIIth Plan;

(c) whether the amount allocated in the VVth Plan for the projects has been spent; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) An amount of Rs. 1494.11 crore was allotted for the expansion and improvement of National Highways during the 7th Five Year Plan.

(b) A length of 1902 km was added to the National Highway network during the afcresad period.

(c) and (d) An expenditure of Rs. 1481.68 crore was incurred for various projects on National Highways which is close to the allotments made during the VIIth Plan.

Statement on Kashmir by U.S.

606. DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether US Ambassador to Pak has charged Pak of assisting terrorists operating in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the salient features of the statement of the US Ambassador; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATHA) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of recent news reports to the effect that the US Ambassador to Pakistan has charged Pakistan with assisting terrorists operating in Kashmir. The US Ambassador to Pakistan reportedly made these statements in late October, 1993 while addressing the English Speaking Union of Pakistan.

(c) Despite recent statements, the fact is that on 14th July, 1993 the US Secretary of State, after a full review of the facts and of the law, determined that the available information did not warrant a finding, for now, that Pakistan had repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

Power Projects

607. DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major power plants alongwith their power generation capacity proposed to be established by the beginning of next financial year;

(b) the total estimated amount involved in these projects, and

(c) the states where these projects are to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) The details of the power projects that are programmed for commissioning during 1993-94 are given in the Statement attached.

Statement
Generating Capacity Addition Programme for the Year 1993-94

Sl. No.	Name of the Project and Unit No.	H/ T/ N/	State/Orgn.	Capacity (MW)	Latest Estimated Cost (Rs. Crores)	
NORTHERN REGION						
1.	PAMPORE GT-I	T	J&K	25	142.00	
2.	PAMPORE GR-2	T	J&K	25	308.95	
3.	SALAL ST. II-2	H	J&K/NHPC	115		
4.	SALAL ST. II-3	H	J&K/NHPC	115	2,400.00	
5.	CHAMERA ST. 1-1	H	J&K/NHPC	180		
6.	CHAMERA ST. 1-2	H	HP/NHPC	180		
7.	CHAMERA ST. 1-3	H	HP/NHPC	180	979.20	
8.	DADRI ST. -1	T	UP/NTPC	146.5		
9.	DADRI ST.-2	T	UP/NTPC	146.5		
10.	TANDA-4	T	UP	110	475.91	
11.	ANPARA 'B'-4	T	UP	500	3,825.00	
			Central	State	Pvt.	Total
	HYDRO		770	—	—	770
	THERMAL		293	660	—	953
	NUCLEAR		—	—	—	—
	Total		1063	660	—	1723
WESTERN REGION						
12.	UTRAN ST. 1	T	GUJ/GES	45	227.04	
13.	SIRSINGHPUR-2	T	MP	210	—	
14.	URAN WH-1	T	MAH.	120	845.00	
15.	URAN WH-2	T	MAH.	120		
16.	TROMBAY CCGT CT-1	T	MAH./Pvt.	100	510.00	
17.	KAKRAPAR-2	N	GUJ/NPC	220	745.00	
			Central	State	Pvt.	Total
	HYDEO		—	—	—	—
	THERMAL		—	495	100	595
	NUCLEAR		226	—	—	220
	Total		220	495	100	815
SOUTHERN REGION						
18.	PENNA AHOBILAM-1	H	AP	10	18.60	
19.	PENNA AHOBILAM-2	H	AP	10		
20.	UPPER SILERU ST. II-1	H	AP	60	54.30	
21.	UPPER SILERU ST. II-2	H	AP	60		
22.	RAYALSEEMA-1	T	AP	210	1,273.00	
23.	YELAHANKA DO SET-1	T	KARNATAKA	21.32	282.98	

Sl. No.	Name of the Project and Unit No.	H/ T/ N/	State/Orgn.	Capacity (MW)	Latest Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)
24.	YELAHANKA DG. SET-2	T	KARNATAKA	21.32	
25.	YELAHANKA DG. SET-3	T	KARNATAKA	21.32	
26.	YELAHANKA DG SET-4	T	KARNATAKA	21.32	
27.	YELHANKA DG SET-5	H	KARNATAKA	21.32	
28.	MALLAPUR-1	H	KARNATAKA	4.5	20.40
29.	MALLAPUR-2	H	KARNAKA	4.5	
30.	KALLADA-1	H	KERALA	7.5	14.37
31.	KALLADA-2	H	KERALA	7.5	
32.	NEYVELI-7	T	TN/NLO	210	941.59
		Central	State	Pvt.	Total
	HYDRO	—	164.0	—	164.00
	THERMAL	210	316.6	—	526.6
	NUCLEAR	—	—	—	—
	Total	210	480.6	—	690.6

EASTERN REGION

33.	KAHALGAON-2	T	BIHAR/NTPC	210	1855.19
34.	TENUGHAT-1	T	BIHAR	2100	835.00
35.	EASTERN GANDAK-1	H	BIHAR	5	52.56
36.	EASTERN GANDAK-2	H	BIHAR	5	
37.	EASTERN GANDAK-3	H	BIHAR	5	
38.	SONE WESTERN CANAL-3	H	BIHAR	1.65	32.86
39.	FARAKKA-5	T	WB/NTPC	500	603.65
40.	KOLAGHAT-4	T	WB	210	0.00
41.	UPPER RONGNICHU-3	H	SIKKIM	2	0.32
42.	UPPER RONGNICHU-4	H	SIKKIM	2	
		Central	State	Pvt.	Total
	HYDRO	—	20.65	—	20.65
	THERMAL	710	320.0	—	1130.0
	NUCLEAR	—	—	—	—
	Total	710	440.65	—	1150.65

Sl. No.	Name of the Project and Unit No.	H/ T/ N/	State/Orgn.	Capacity (MW)	Latest Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)
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NORTHERN-EASTERN REGION

43.	LAKWA GT-5	T	ASSAM	20	98.30
44.	LAKWA GT-6	T	ASSAM	20	
45.	LAKWA GT-7	T	ASSAM	20	

	Central	State	Pvt.	Total
HYDRO	—	—	—	—
THERMAL		60		60
NUCLEAR	—	—		
Total	—	60	—	60

ALL INDIA

	Central	State	Pvt.	Total
HYDRO	770	184.65	—	954.65
THERMAL	1213	1951.6	100	3264.6
NUCLEAR	220	—	—	220.0
Total	2203	2136.25	100	4439.25

NEWSPRINT IMPORT POLICY

608. DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society has urged the Government to further liberalise the newsprint import policy :

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the request made by Indian Newspaper Society Chief in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) has been demanding further liberalisation of the Newsprint

Import Policy. Consistent with its policy of safeguarding the freedom of Press as also the growth of the indigenous newsprint industry, the Government has already begun its liberalised newsprint import policy since April 1, 1992.

PAYMENT OF DUES BY NTPC

609. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation owes any amount to the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Coal India Limited (CIL) for supply of gas and coal respectively;

(b) if so, the total amount involved therein;

(c) whether due to non-payment of dues. GAIL has stopped supply of gas to NTPC power generating plants in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh ;

(d) if so, the particulars of these plants and the quantity of power supply affected thereby in Northern Grid;

(e) whether the non-payment of dues by NTPC has been primarily responsible for the unprecedented power crisis in Delh and adjoining areas;

(f) whether his Ministry has ordered any inquiry in the matter and fixed responsibility on the defaulting officers;

(g) if so, the details thereof ; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to clear the dues of GAIL and CIL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) owes Rs. 81.02 crores to M/s. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Rs. 78.72 crores to Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 29-11-1993.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. GAIL stopped supplies to NTPC's gas power projects (GPP) at Dadri GPP in Uttar Pradesh. Also gas supply for Auraiya GPP in Uttar Pradesh and Anta GPP in Rajasthan was restricted. As a result, there was a loss in generation at these plants in the Northern Region for 244.87 MU.

(e) No, Sir. The overall generation by NTPC was as per the target inspite of reduction in gas supply.

(f) to (h) The NTPC's arrears with M/s. GAIL & CIL have arisen mainly because of non-payment of NTPC dues by the SEBs. Despite this, the NTPC has taken steps to reduce outstanding of M/s. GAIL & CIL in a phased manner. In the above background, no individual can be held responsible.

ROAD ACCIDENTS, DELHI

610. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the various news items relating to road accidents, Red line buses etc., appearing in "The Indian Express" dated September, 1993 ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

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

(b) The Red Line services were started in Delhi in September, 1992. The number of such buses as on today is 2350. 101 persons have been killed in 568 accidents caused by Red Line buses due to rash and negligent driving upto 30th October, 1993.

(c) The steps taken by State Transport Authority, Delhi as well as Delhi Police to check the accidents caused by Red Line buses are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Steps taken to reduce accidents in Delhi.

The following steps have been taken by STA, Delhi and Delhi Police to reduce the accidents.

1. Refresher Courses for the drivers of the public service buses were started in November, 1992. The drivers of the buses were subjected to proficiency test. 1080 drivers have been given refresher courses| passed proficiency test at Govt. Motor Driving Training School of Transport Department till August, 1993.

2. The Transport Department, Delhi has set up a complaint cell and 82 permits of Red Line buses were suspended|cancelled between the period April, 1993 to November, 1993 which were involved in road accidents. In addition, 17 permits of Red Line buses were suspended|cancelled on account of complaints for not following the time schedule and route violation including misbehaviour. In addition to discipline the drivers, Delhi Traffic Police prosecuted 65972 Red Line bus drivers for various offences from 1-1-1993 to 30-10-1993. 22,000 prosecutions were made by the Transport Department upto August, 1993 against Red line buses. 2982 cases of over-speeding of Red Line buses were impounded during 1-10-92 to 31-8-1993.

3. Measures have also been taken by Transport Department to ensure strict compliance of provisions of Motor Vehicle Act with regard to issue of driving licences as well as fitness of the vehicles.

The Delhi Police have also taken following steps to check the accidents.

- (i) Strict and rigid enforcement of traffic rules and regulations.
- (ii) Organising special drives against rash and negligent driving, driving without licence, drunken driving and red light jumping etc.
- (iii) Regular prosecution of violators by issue of notice.
- (iv) Introduction of traffic signals|Blinkers in accident prone area.
- (v) Deployment of more traffic policemen in accident prone area.
- (vi) Special mobile checking on National Highways.
- (vii) Presecution through most modern equipment i.e. Alcometer and Radar Gun.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of train accidents is a very serious one and the

House should be immediately informed about the matter.

[English].

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Where is the Railway Minister ? [Interruptions].

[Translation].

MR. SPEAKER : The questions you want to raise are very important ones and time will be given for discussing them. But the hon. Members should speak one by one. If all the members speaking at the same moment, how the house will function. You might have forgotten that we had decided that this activity will run for 15-20 minutes and after that the rest of the business will be conducted.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (ROSER) : Halt-an-Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : The issues, which are left today, can be taken up tomorrow. So, keep this things in mind and co-operate with me. The cyclone issue is very important. Other issues will be taken up there after.

[English].

SHRI P. G. NARAYANA (GOBICETTIPALAYAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to cyclonic storms and floods, severe damage has been caused to the property and lives of people in Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu have been severely affected twice in the past 20 days by the cyclone. Yesterday and day before yesterday, the cyclone claimed more than 30 lives. The cyclone hit Nagapattinam and Thanjavur districts and devastated infrastructure, uprooted thousands of trees. Standing paddy crops have been damaged to a great extent. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless. Nearly 30,000 huts were completely wiped out.

The telecommunication and power systems have been totally affected not only in the coastal districts but also in Uallalar and Ramesamay Padayachier districts.

Nagapattinam district is not accessible at all because of a large number of breaches in the link roads and also road-blocks created by the uprooted trees. Traffic was worst hit in the entire Nagapattinam district.

Our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is visiting the flood-affected areas today to have an on-the-spot study of the situation. The Chief Minister has already sanctioned Rs. 10,000 to the next-of-kin of the deceased. Relief operations are in full swing. Ten days back, in Nilgiri district due to landslide near Coonoor, more than 70 people have been buried alive. Several huts were wiped out. Traffic was completely cut off. In Madurai district, we have lost more than 25 people. Severe damage has been caused to standing crops, roads and bridges. So, altogether we need more than Rs. 500 crore for giving relief to the affected people. A Central team must be sent immediately to Tamil Nadu to assess the situation and the damage caused due to this. I urge-upon the Central Government to give financial assistance to help the relief operation immediately.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I think, this will take some time for discussion. I am going to allow it. [Interruptions].

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

12.04 Hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER [English].

MR. SPEAKER : With your permission, I will allow the Prime Minister to introduce the new Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, I have the honour to introduce, rather re-introduce, my Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, on the point raised by my friend, I have just requested Balramji to pay a visit immediately. It is not good, while the thing is on, for

the people to go from outside because that dislocates the arrangements being done there. The hon. Member has said that the Chief Minister is also visiting, tomorrow she will visit, Sir, and later on, after a few days, I myself could visit.

[Interruptions].

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (VIJAYAWADA) : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, paddy crop have been damaged. [Interruptions].

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Sir, I have taken steps. I have asked the Relief Commissioner of my team to be already on the move. They will get the information and they will give a report. I myself will be going and we shall coordinate all these things.

Secondly, regarding the situation in Latur where the earthquake had taken place, I would like to make a statement tomorrow so that we can have a full discussion on that also. [Interruptions].

MR. SPEAKER : This is an interim statement. We will take it up later. [Interruptions].

SHRI RAM NAIK (BOMBAY NORTH) : Sir, we have had three bomb blasts. Yesterday, when the Rajdhani Express was coming from Bombay to Delhi there was a bomb blast in that train. Again, from Howrah to Delhi, there was another bomb blast. There was fire in the third train. These are serious things. In the last one year there have been 12 bomb blasts in Bombay suburban trains and now, this is going on. I feel that the railway security is not being looked after properly. So, I demand that there must a statement from the Railway Minister about all these instances which include the security arrangements which are being made because if it happens in the Rajdhani Express where every passenger is being checked, it means security is not there. So, I demand a statement from the Railway Minister and Sir, you should kindly allow a full-fledged discussion because there have been so many acci-

dents. In Bombay, there was a serious accident in which 26 ladies were killed. Therefore, on these accidents and bomb blasts in railways, there should be a full-fledged discussion and the Minister must make a statement so that the discussion can be fruitful. *[Interruptions]*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM) : Sir, you were kind enough to call him as he is trying to raise the same issue in the morning. Now, most of our MPs who have started yesterday and who were to have arrived here in the morning are not able to arrive; they will arrive after 2 PM. Now, this is a very serious matter in this sense also that from the 6th December, this is happening all over the country, from Bombay to Delhi, from Howrah to Delhi and from Hyderabad to I do not know where. This is an indication that forces of destabilisation who may have been curbed in the hustings are not yet dead and Sir, we want that the Railway Minister should indicate to us about all this. He has very correctly raised the question of safety in trains. There are plenty of safety measures at the airports but there are none for these trains and important stations. We, therefore, very earnestly request the Railway Minister to come here and explain the kind of arrangements and safety measures which he is going to provide in future.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister would like to make a statement on this matter.

[Interruptions]

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an accident took place in my Constituency, but no proper arrangements were made there and no care for the injured was taken for two hours.

[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : In this House.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

[Interruptions]

12-11 hrs.

RE : RECONSTRUCTION OF BABRI MOSQUE DEMOLISHED IN AYODHYA ON 6TH DECEMBER, 1992

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (RO-SERA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is the 6th of December and it was the day when Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar achieved salvation, but on the very day, Babri Masjid was demolished. Today it is a matter of joy that a secular Government has come to power in Uttar Pradesh. But I would like to submit that one year has passed since the incident took place on 6th of December, but the Union Government has taken no initiatives to resolve the Ayodhya dispute. I level this charge on the Union Government. We have repeatedly demanded in this House that the case, which has been referred to the Supreme Court, should be referred to the court under Article 138(2), in stead of Article 143 so that the court might deliver it's judgement, instead of opinion.

I remember that the hon. Prime Minister had said in this House that the Bharatiya Janta Party Government which was in power was not ready for that. So the case was referred under Article 143. Thereafter, when the President's Rule was imposed in Uttar Pradesh, we had said that now the case should be referred under Article 138(2) and the Government should implement the verdict to be given by the Supreme Court. It should also request the Supreme Court to give a verdict on the Ayodhya district at the earliest. The hon. Home Minister is sitting here. We would like to know as to why the Government is keeping mum even after the lapse one year's period.

** Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (PONNANI), Sir, today is the 6th December, 1993. It was that on the same day, last year the Babri Mosque was demolished. That was the bleakest day in the history of this country and that tarnished the image of our country throughout the world and shattered the secular fabric of our Constitution. At that time, on the same day, the entire Muslim Delegation met the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister categorically and solemnly promised that the mosque would be constructed at the same spot. He stated that it would be rebuilt. So far, it has not been done. Not only has the Prime Minister betrayed the nation by not constructing the mosque, but he has also not kept the promise made by him on 15 August. On 15 August, 1992, he declared from the Red Fort and later on he also assured all the delegations that the mosque would be protected. But he could not keep his promise and thus he betrayed the nation. Therefore, we told him on 6th December that we had no faith in him and that he should resign and go, since he had betrayed the nation. At that time, the Prime Minister promised that the mosque would be rebuilt. But that has not been done so far. Now, one year has passed but nothing has been done. On the other hand, there have been insults to injury by way of acquisition of the mosque site and the reference under Article 143 for the opinion of the Supreme court. We want that the mosque should be constructed immediately at the same spot and the reference to Supreme Court under Article 143 should be withdrawn. The order relating to the acquisition of the mosque site should also be withdrawn. We must be given an assurance that the mosque would be built on the same spot. Thus, secularism will be re-established in this country and there will be communal harmony in the country. Integrity of our nation can thus be safeguarded. The Home Minister is present here. I demand that he must make a statement and give a reply.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (MADRAS CENTRAL) : The hon. Member has made a reference to the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya. But I am sorry that he has not mentioned the fact that due to the tectful handling of the Prime Minister, we could save the Hazrat Bal Shrine. As a mature politician, he could have appreciated that too. Every one in this august House is aware that the Hazrat Bal Shrine incident is a national issue. Cutting across party lines, we must appreciate the tectful handling of the issue. [Interruptions].

Unfortunately, the BJP, which claims that it is the major saviour of our national unity and integrity, has made use of this issue for petty political and electoral gains. Hon. Members of this august House are aware that the Hazrat Bal Shrine along with 70 innocent people who were present there in the shrine for prayers was captured by the terrorists. The dialogue continued for nearly one and a half months. Some of the political leaders like Shri L. K. Advani wanted that the military forces should enter the mosque kill the terrorists. But the Prime Minister did not want to use force..... [Interruptions].

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? What do you expect from the Government at this point of time ?

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : They should appreciate it. This is a national issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody appreciated you also. Please sit down.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : I will take just one more minute. There was an electronic kit installed inside the shrine by the terrorists.

It is a shocking news. Under the guise of some journalist they went in the shrine and installed some electronic kit having direct contact with Pakistan. Thanks to our army who detected it and jammed it, otherwise there would have been bloodshed in the shrine. Unfortunately, the

BJP raised slogans saying "Biryani for the terrorists."

MR. SPEAKER : If you are really interested in discussing this matter, raise it properly so that you can also do justice. Please do not disturb the House.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA : Sir, I am not disturbing the House. All I want to say is that this House should pass a resolution appreciating the good stand taken by our mature Prime Minister, the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Army and Paramilitary forces.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir, today is the anniversary of a very heinous act that had taken place one year back. I am referring to the demolition of Babri Masjid, a place of worship in this country. It was a day of shame for the whole nation. A deliberate attempt was made against the secular fabric of the country and communal poison was spread affecting the very integrity of the nation. Sir, all right thinking people of this country had objected to that and had expected that the perpetrators of the crime would be punished as soon as possible so that nothing like this can happen in future.

Sir, happily, people of this country have not waited for the Government to act. They have themselves given their very clear verdict and we must congratulate the people of Uttar Pradesh for the very clear manner in which they have defeated the forces of division, disruption and of communalism. Sir, we must salute those people. What is worrying the whole nation is that this issue is not being tackled by the Government at the Centre. Mere reference to the Supreme Court does not help. Everybody knows that mere opinion will not help in the matter but even that opinion is not being forthcoming. We have made a request to the Government. Repeatedly, we have also made a request to the hon. Supreme Court that mere opinion need not be asked and the whole issue should be settled by the judiciary unless the parties concerned are able to settle it amicably.

I do not know why the Prime Minister cannot take a decision now. Now, he need

not wait for the good wishes of the BJP Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh as he was earlier trying to give the excuse. A time has come, and people also want, when finally a solution has to be found out so that nothing like that can happen in future in this country which will tarnish our image before the entire world. By this act our image was tarnished. People were scoffing at us, laughing at us saying, "Is this a civilized country where something like that could happen ?"

Let us redeem ourselves. The voters have given their verdict. Let this Government get up from their stupors. The 'Moni-baba' attitude will no longer do. Therefore, kindly do something and finally decide this issue once for all so that our country can maintain its fabric as a secular nation and unity and integrity of the country is maintained.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPORE) : Sir, while supporting what my friend Somnathji has said, I would just like to add one thing. I believe, the Government cannot be desirous of allowing a state of tension and suspense to continue in the country on the basis of what had happened last year. Everybody wants that the matter should be amicably settled either by the parties concerned coming together or by the verdict of the Supreme Court. There is no third way out.

So, I would like to know whether the Prime Minister, at the earliest possible opportunity, would care to make a statement in this House as to what the Government is proposing to do, either about construction or re-construction at the site of Ayodhya. It is because, he had made certain commitments earlier and we do not know the fate of them now.

Secondly, I want to know whether the much more sensible and facile solution which we are proposing viz. that the matter should be referred under Article 138, to the Supreme Court, so that a binding award can be given, what has happened to that ? what has been referred is an opinion which will not be binding on anybody. Everybody is free, either to reject it or to accept

it, to keep the tension going. We do not want that. Because whatever the results of the elections may be, the referendum which Mr. Advani was referring to, has been answered by the people, apart from the fact that in Ayodhya itself, they could win only one seat out of all the seats in Ayodhya area. What would be the clearer referendum than that ?

But, now to settle the matter once and for all, I would request the Hon. Prime Minister to inform the House about taking a decision for withdrawing the reference under Article 143 and referring it under Article 138 to the court so that let there be a binding award which everybody can respect and adhere to.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SAGAR (BARABANKI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Samajwadi Party and our National President Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had strongly condemned the incident of 6th of December. In recently held elections in Uttar Pradesh, the communal forces were rejected by the public. In Faizabad, where the incident took place, the Bharatiya Janta Party lost 8 seats out of 9. But the Government has not yet decided about the action to be taken there. The public has given its decision. I would like to request the Government through you that the Government should take action on it immediately and the guilty should be identified and action must be taken against those.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the recently held elections in our country the public had given its decision in such a way that neither any one has won nor has any one lost. I feel that this has decreased the tension prevalent in the country to a large extent. The country heaved a sigh of relief and today is a very important day in many ways. This is not the question of demolition of Babri Masjid alone, but it is also linked with Sankatmochan temple and Sita rasoi, which were constructed before Babri Masjid. The Ram Chabutara much was constructed after the Babri Masjid. It was certainly shameful for democracy of this country that a large and

responsible political party like the B.J.P. violated the dignity of law guaranteed by the Constitution. I do not think that the decision given by the people has made a lot of candidates win or loose the elections. I only think that the people of this country had given their verdict on the subject which we were not able to decide. For this purpose, we continued to fight in this House, but were not able to decide. So, on behalf of this House, I would like to congratulate the people for their decision. Shri Advani is one of our respectable leaders. He was on one path and we were on the other. Therefore no solution could be found, but today, there are different ways to celebrate this day in the country. Now the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has again decided to march upto Ayodhya on 6th of December. I would like to urge to our friends from BJP that we are facing already a lot of problems in our democracy in this country and we have to fight those, if you do not agree with any body, you can raise your voice within the limits of democracy. But if a new dispute takes place by visiting there we should not go there. Neither we nor the Members of the BJP have any right to cause tension again in the country, which has defused to some extent by the sincere efforts of people of this country. Now, I would like to request to all cross-sections of the House that we should not try to disrupt the tension free atmosphere of the country and put our view within the frame work of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that the very ideology on which our freedom struggle was fought, was under the cloud. Now we have overcome that crisis. This day will always be remembered as a black day in the democratic history of our country. But the decision given by the people of this country have decreased the tension. It is now the responsibility of the Members of all the parties not to create such a tension again. On behalf of the House, I would like to congratulate the generous public of this country, particularly of Uttar Pradesh who solved the problems which we were not able to solve. As our friend Shri Somnath Chatterjee said just now that the case should be referred to the Supreme Court under Article 138(2) of the

Constitution and the verdict given by the Supreme Court should be implemented strictly. The question is not of Hindus or Muslims, but it is the question of law and order and so the Government should react to the situation. This is not the time to make suggestions only. The Supreme Court should give its verdict and it should be strictly implemented. The people have shown us how to maintain the dignity of democracy. While thanking them I would like to tell the Government that it should lead the country on a right path. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an hon. Member from Tamil-Nadu gave my reference in the context of the incident occurred at Hazratbal. I will speak from the very point. It would have been better if the Home Minister had himself informed the House in this regard. I have read a news in one of the newspapers today. The terrorists who laid siege of Hazratbal for nearabout one month threw a challenge to the country and told the entire world that Srinagar is not under the Government of New Delhi, but is ruled by them and they dictate their terms to the Indian Government. Thereafter, a lot had been said about the agreement and it was said that we had won without shedding even a single drop of blood. At that time there was a doubt in the minds of the people which has been proved from the news appeared in the newspapers in which it is stated that all the terrorists except 6 have been released and there is a possibility that those 6 persons would also be released after the adjournment of this Session. I do not know what deal was struck with them, but the House should be taken into confidence in this regard. The intention of the terrorists was to internationalise the issue and they have become successful in their objective.

Several of our hon. friends have mentioned the incidence of 6th of December. It is quite but natural that this day would have its own importance. It was also told here that the Government was not able to solve the problem and it was solved by the people of this country. I accept it from

the very beginning that the Bhartiya Janta Party could not fulfil their expectations. Therefore the results of the elections were quite contradictory to their expectations. But I think the statement made by our friend Shri Sharad Yadav is more appropriate that from these results, such conclusions should not be drawn that we have won and they have lost or the vice-versa. (Interruptions) The public wins always, because it is the deciding factor.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : You had fought the election on that ground. (Interruptions).

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Yes, I have said, at the outset, I accept that the verdict is not in accordance with my expectations or in accordance with my objectives. It falls much short of my objectives. But this also should be taken note of.

[Translation]

The Bhartiya Janta Party had its stake in these 5 States. In total, my party got 3 crore 57 lakh votes and the Congress got 2 crore 59 lakh votes. There was a difference of 1 crore votes. In Uttar Pradesh, we got 1 crore 83 lakhs votes and the party, which is at present in power there, got 1 crore and 40 to 45 lakh votes. If the decision of the people will have to be accepted, this fact should also be kept in mind that the people have totally rejected the Congress the Janta Dal and other important parties there. (Interruptions).

The Communists were never able to hold grounds there and took the support of others. But their supporting parties have themselves lost their base. In regard to the present discussion, Shri Sharad Ji mentioned that the values we held during the freedom struggle, should be upheld. Such people were there at that time also, who opposed 'Vande Matram' and their number might have fallen down today, but those who support them, are also not doing any good to the country. (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Should the mosque be demolished for this ?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : No—Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the verdict of the courts are seen, it can be found that it has nowhere been described as a mosque. Even, the chargesheet which has been filed against me in the Lucknow High Court and for which, I have to present myself in the court tomorrow, describes it as a disputed structure. I think, it is unfortunate and unjustified. The Government and all the major political parties are continuously describing it as a mosque after the incident of 6th of December and this is great injustice done not only to the Bharatiya Janta Party but also to the whole country. We have given this impression for people all over the world. [English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Whatever it is, whether it was a mosque or a temple, was it a place of worship or not? It was a place of worship, which you destroyed. (Interruptions).

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Indrajitji, the Home Minister himself when he visited there performed worship and it was a Hindu place of worship with a structure, which was disputed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Then, why did you destroy it ? (Interruptions).

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why did you demolish it ? (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Who gave you the authority to demolish a Hindu temple ?.. (Interruptions).

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : No one gave me the authority.. (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : The secularism of the country is disputed and, therefore, we have become a communal country. What is this ! 'Mere dispute' means what? You cannot forget a structure which was standing there. It was a structure which was standing there. It was a place of worship. Advaniji was merely saying it as a disputed structure. He cannot make it a disputed structure by himself (Interruptions).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Who started the dispute ? When was it started ? (Interruptions).

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Indrajit, I am merely saying that the description of that structure as a mosque is wrong according to the Court and also according to the Government's version.. (Interruptions). [Translation]

Had it been a Mosque then the court would never have ordered that the statue of Lord Rama should not be removed from there. Though it was an interim order it was a court order.

[English]

I am merely saying that what is said by me is what is said by the court.

[Translation]

People who take the pretext of court have destroyed a structure, a structure over by repeatedly calling it a mosque... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY (Jagatsinghpur) : You have destroyed that

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I have not destroyed anything. But those who did that have destroyed a structure, a structure over a temple. It was a de facto temple of Rama over which the structure was that of the former mosque. After 1936...

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I would like to request Shri Advani not to go into this dispute whether it was a mosque or a temple. The stay order had been issued and as per the order of the court the whole complex was to be protected ; Was it destroyed or not ?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : If we do not make it disputed, then I'll say that if they had not called it a mosque then the riots in Bombay would not have taken place

The riots that took place in the country were triggered off because of this. But I agree with Mr. Sharad.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): The BJP called it Babri Masjid while taking out Ramshilas throughout the country in 1989. There were certain people in Delhi who talked of going to Ayodhya for 'namaj' and they had boy-cotted the Republic Day celebrations also. You kept calling it Babri Masjid from 1986 to 1989.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (Main-puri) : With due regards to you, I would like to say that as you just said that had it not been called a mosque the riots would not have taken place in Bombay. I would like to know from you whether the incidents that are taking place these days would not have taken place if the mosque or temple or the disputed structure had not been pulled down. There have been bomb blasts in five trains. (Interruptions)...
[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY (Katwa) : I want to know from Shri Advani... (Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER : Please leave something for tomorrow. Let us go to some other item.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY : Sir, he has yielded. I want to know from Shri Advani, be it a mosque or a temple or a disputed structure, whether what happened on 6th December last year was the right thing that happened in this secular country. Let him say clearly.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Was it planned or was it accidental ?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I have said it umpteen times. I can repeat it again and that was said on that very day and subsequently in a very longish article that I wrote that I regard that incident as an unfortunate incident.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY : Do you condemn it?'. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I do not condemn it... (Interruptions) I am not going to be browbeaten by anyone.
[Translation]

You strongly condemned it but I still maintain whatever I said earlier.
[English]

That incident would not have taken place.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Shri Salveji, I hold your Government primarily responsible for December 6 incident. (Interruptions)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : You have been doing it.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I hold your Government primarily responsible.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : You may do that.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I am not going to yield to you. I can yield to my colleagues who have a consistent stand, not like your Government.

[Translation]

Please reply to question put by Shri Sulaiman Sait.

[English]

He has said that your Government has betrayed him... (Interruptions)
[Translation]

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Dou you approve or disapprove... (Interruptions)... what is the definition of 'unfortunate'...

(Interruptions) ..

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Whatever I said was within limits and based on the ruling of the court. Even today's charge-sheet accuses me that this disputed structure was destroyed because of us and our conspiracy.

[English]

This is remarkable.

[Translation]

My submission is that if we keep saying that whatever took place on the 6th of December was a conspiracy and so on and so forth,

[English]

Then, we will reach nowhere.

[Translation]

The people who were... (Interruptions) ... It is not a Commission of Inquiry. I will give reply to the Commission of Inquiry also. It was raised here that it should be considered under Section 138(2) and not under Section 143. It is surprising that it is being raised by those people who approved the Ordinance and passed the Bill. [English]

Under which all those pending suits abate, so that nothing remains for reference under article 138(2) Somnath ji will advice you better.

[Translation]

We had opposed that Ordinance and the Bill also. We had opposed Section 138(2) at that stage also because no case has been disposed off under this section even after 40 years. The Supreme Court will not be able to dispose off all the suits even after 20 more years. When we were in power, they didn't listen to us. Later, they headed the Government and started saying that now they are considering it under Section 143 and not under Section 138(2). It is so because that would take much time.

[English]

This was the argument given by the Government itself subsequently when they had come to... (Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They had joined hands with you.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : They have joined hands with you.

[English]

Basically, from the purely legal angle, there is no question of article 138(2). There is no question even in respect of article 143. I really do not know why even after one year, nothing has happened. The Government does not seem to be even concerned about it. The Government is in a mess because of the questions pertinently posed by Shri Sulaiman Sait. Having made certain declarations, having made certain announcements, what right has the Government to say that now if it is proved by the Supreme Court that there used to be a temple earlier at that place, then a temple would be constructed and a mosque will not be constructed and a mosque will not be constructed... (Interruptions). In fact, I was surprised to find that the Prime Minister justified his stand in respect of announcement of reconstruction of the Babri Mosque on the ground that if he had not done it immediately, may be Nawaz Sharief of Pakistan may have made that announcement. I was really flabbergasted to find the Prime Minister giving this kind of reply, and it was in the India Today interview. That is why I say that so far as December 6 is concerned.

[Translation]

The Bhartiya Janta Party, the Viswa Hindu Parishad, the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and the Bajrang Dal, all are of the view that the construction of the temple should be started at the very same place where the foundation stone was laid during the Rajiv Gandhi regime and the

same assurance was also given by the Prime Minister to Sadhus at the time of holding discussions with them. Had it taken place the incident that occurred on December 6, could have been avoided. But it was not done and the Government did not provide any assistance in this regard. Had the Allahabad High Court taken an early decision in this connection this unfortunate incident would not have taken place. The above said delay and the hurdles created by the Government led to this unfortunate incident of December 6. In my opinion, it is an unfortunate incident. Several hon. Members of Parliament have the views that on 6th December, secularism came to an end in this country. But in my opinion secularism is not so weak in our country that it will end with the demolition of a structure only. Secularism is not created by these political parties. Its roots are very deep in our traditions and history and are prevailing since ages. No state can be a religious state. India is not a religious state. The main reason for India being a secular state is that India is a Hindu dominant state. Otherwise, it would have been a religious state in 1947 itself. *(Interruptions)* [English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : Sir, it is not correct.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I am not yielding to you. [Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): What do you mean by Hindu Rashtra? [English]

Why are you raising slogans of Hindu Rashtra.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I will tell you. I did not raise that slogan. In 1947 the country was divided on the basis of religion. *(Interruptions)* I am not yielding to you please.

Sir, in 1947 India got independence, but at the cost of partition. The country was divided on the basis of religion. Pakistan

declared itself a theocratic State. If India had done something similar, perhaps the world may not have blamed her. But those who understand the history and culture and tradition of this country would not have accepted it. Therefore, I say that theocracy is alien to Indian tradition and culture. We cannot become a theocratic State. This country is secular because of its culture and history and tradition and that is principally because it is a Hindu country.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Do you want to change it?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : I do not want to change it. But those who interpret secularism in a perverse manner identified it with vote bank politics. They are responsible for the very sharp reaction which is being created in certain sections. I do not approve of this reaction also. As I said, what happened on Sixth December last year was unfortunate. But if the blame lies on any party, it is squarely on the Congress Party and the Congress Government. *(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, to keep the record straight, it is very necessary to react to some of the points which were raised by the hon. Members. Actually, I was going to make a statement on the Hazratbal issue itself. But hon. Member Advaniji thought it necessary that he should immediately take up this issue in one shape or the other.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : If the hon. Member from Tamil Nadu had not referred to me personally, I may not have raised it.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHAUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I should also be allowed to speak. Since long I am sitting here and waiting for my turn to speak. After the incident of December 6, the Prime Minister has given an assurance that the mosque will be constructed on the same place. One whole

year has passed and nothing has been done in this regard. I would like to demand that the mosque should be constructed at the same place and the case which was referred to Supreme Court should be withdrawn and handed over to Lucknow Court.

For all these reasons and the Government's inaction for the last one year, the feelings of Muslims have been badly hurt in the country. It cannot be tolerated and we cannot remain meek spectators of such type of incidents.

[*English*]

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Since it is raised, I cannot keep quiet, Sir, I can say without any fear of contradiction that there has not been any kind of understanding when this Hazratbal issue was solved. The Prime Minister and myself have been repeatedly saying that there has been no understanding. They have surrendered unconditionally and in spite of that if the..

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Then why did you release all of them?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Debate will not held as per your wishes.

[*English*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Mr. Home Minister, please give me a moment. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I recall numerous statements made by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the spokesman of the Government of India that law will take its course, meaning that those who have indulged, who have entered the country without passport, without visa, with fire arms, sophisticated ammunition got control of the Hazratbal mosque and then forced the Government to utilise the Army for one full month to lay a siege on Hazratbal mosque will be dealt with according to law. Has there not been violation of numerous provisions of law? If law is to take its course, how can they go scot

free? How can they be allowed to go back to Pakistan? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I do not think that there is any scope for converting this into a regular debate.

MR. SPEAKER : You just respond to some points and then if it is necessary a regular statement can be made.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : That is why I thought it necessary that I should respond to it. Definitely, it is the Government's commitment that law is going to take its own course.

It is through the courts that they got their bails which is being objected to. In fact, the Government has not done anything by which the hon. Members can possibly say that we had entered into some kind of an understanding and what is being stated either by the Prime Minister or the Home Minister is not correct. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how did the foreign terrorists enter the country. They came to India and entered Hazratbal. At that time what your department was doing? (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : The hon. Member Shri Advani said that he considers the 6th December, 1992 incident as very unfortunate. But he is prepared to go further and say about the part which has been played by the Bharatiya Janata Party. I am prepared to leave aside all other things. The hon. Member Shri Advani will recall whether they have given assurance in the National Integration Council and on the floor of this House. Have you or have you not given an affidavit in the Supreme Court? A large number of affidavits have been filed and it was stated that you are going to honour whatever commitment you have given to the National Integration Council and to the Supreme Court. Your the then

Chief Minister is being paraded throughout the country and he openly says : "I am responsible, I have done this." You have to be consistent. I do not think that the hon. Member Shri Advani is going to disown what he has been stating so far.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
It is not only contempt of court, but he had admitted contempt of court.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Yes and he takes pride in stating that. He is being paraded throughout the country to show what a great act of heroism he had performed. Now, you come here in this House and say that it is very unfortunate. Are you prepared to condemn the same ? If you are not prepared to condemn the same and if you are threatening that since the *Sadhus* were saying, you should have done this, but you did not abide by that and that is why you are free to take the law into your own hands, then it is not correct. This is the kind of argument you are putting forth. This is a very unfortunate thing that in a democratic set up this kind of a language should be used on the floor of the House that since the Government did not do this we were forced to do that, thereby indirectly admitting that you are responsible for destroying the structure. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI LAL K. ADWANI : Do not put words into my mouth, Mr. Home Minister. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that those who did it were in a mood of exasperation because of the obstructions put by the court. (*Interruptions*). The former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh gave two commitments to the court, made two statements to the court. Firstly, he stated that he would protect the structure and secondly he would not use force, he would not fire upon the *kar sevaks* and when he found that both the things could not be discharged simultaneously, he had the responsibility and the sense of accountability to go and tender his resignation to the Governor and not like you (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
When the Supreme Court said only puja can be done, why were so many people brought there ? (*Interruptions*).

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SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was the duty of the leaders who were there to tell the people who were going to destroy that structure to kill them before they destroy it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : Sir, there are two more points on which I would like to react immediately. One is the point which the hon. Member Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait has raised. I am sure he is aware of the fact that having made the reference under Article 143 of the Constitution, thereafter the Prime Minister made a statement of reconstruction of the mosque. What does reconstruction mean? I do not think the Prime Minister has said that the reconstruction is going to be at the same site. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I understand, looking at the Press, you are saying a number of things. You are more interested in seeing that something is printed in the paper.

Having made a reference under article 143, it is beyond anybody's power to say that either a mosque or a mandir is going to be constructed at the very site unless the opinion is given by the Supreme Court. It is a very delicate thing. But things are being twisted in such a manner which have become suitable for one party or the other. I would respectfully submit that we have made a reference under article 143 and we are awaiting the opinion of the Supreme Court.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Has he promised a Ram temple on the site?

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani) : He has said, it would be "re-built". Re-build means, what?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : That does not necessarily mean at the same site.

(*Interruptions*). If it is to be such a thing then of course, the reference under article 143 has to be withdrawn first. I do not

think, we have done it, This kind of construction which you are trying to put on us is not correct. That is why, we have to be absolutely clear on this issue. He will have to await the decision of the Supreme Court and its opinion.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : This is a very serious matter. The Prime Minister made a statement which is known to the country and known to the whole world. It is totally unfair that that statement should be interpreted in this House by the Home Minister in a way which is beyond the understanding of everybody who heard that statement. I do not say whether that statement was right or wrong or whether the Government stands by that statement or not.

It is not fair, Mr. Speaker, that when Mr. Advani makes a statement we try to pinpoint him and Advaniji can change his words any time he likes. But the same cannot be done by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is responsible to the dignity and honour of this House and dignity and honour of the whole country. So, if that statement means what the Home Minister says now, the Prime Minister should come to Parliament and correct the whole thing because I am not bothered what people say here or people talk about, but in the whole world again, the credibility of the Government will be under question.

Mr. Speaker, I have been of the view that Mr. Sharad Yadav has suggested that this matter should not have been made again a matter of controversy. The Prime Minister has made some promises; some assurances have been given by the present Chief Minister of U.P. They should have been given some time and the process of reconciliation should have been there in order to solve this matter. But this again is being created in a sort of confusion and the greatest confusion is being created by the Government side. There is confusion on both sides. But from that side, I can understand confusion because Advaniji says, it is a disputed structure, but the whole world knows that it was a mosque, because fortunately or unfortunately, history is a recorded thing. The people know history

of the world. So, it is not the verdict of Chandrashekhar or Advani or Narasimha Rao that is going to make any difference. For 500 years or 400 and odd years, that was a mosque. It did not remain a mosque or people did not worship there, is another matter. But the whole world knows that it was a mosque. So, confusion will not be created, whether you call it a disputed structure or mosque or Ram Lala temple. But we should not try to confuse the people. Mr. Advani, a man of your seniority, a man of your wisdom should not play upon the words. This is why, I say that Mr. Chavan, you should as the Home Minister, should not interpret the statement or the declaration of Mr. Prime Minister in a way it create more confusion not only in the minds of the people of this country who are agitated but also in the minds of the people who are outside. *(Interruptions).*

13.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : After Shri Chandra Shekhar's talk, I would like to mention one thing. If the Prime Minister came out with that statement, then what is the justification of referring it to the Supreme Court or any court? Then it would have been decided. Why do you refer it.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cassette of T.V. telecast should be brought here, then you will know as to what the Prime Minister has actually said. But today such things are being told here. I would raise the issue of privilege if such type of things will take place here in this House. *(Interruptions).*

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Now the matter is before the Supreme Court. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolarpur) : Let the telecast or the broadcast of the Prime Minister be brought here. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Let the record be consulted on what the Prime Minister in his first statement said in this House after 6th December. Let the record be consulted. He did say that it will be reconstructed on the same site. Afterwards, he never refuted it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : The Prime Minister could not save this structure on the 6th of December. What was the validity of the Prime Minister making a statement on 7th December that it will be reconstructed? Was there any relevance? Do you think that you can find any relevance in the statement made by the Prime Minister on this controversy? Why did he refer? He referred in order to get some more time. You are hesitating to take a firm decision and if the Government would have taken a firm decision, the matter would not have been that complicated. Today Shri Advaniji may say I was in Government for some time but the same Shri Advani agreed the matter to be referred either under Article 138 or 140 or whatever it is and they were ready to accept everything decided by the Supreme Court. But you were talking one thing to them and talking another thing to the nation and this is why all this confusion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue is not as to what has been said by the hon. Prime Minister about the location of the proposed construction of mosque. It is not the controversy whether the mosque will be constructed or not. The dispute is as to where it should be constructed.

So far as the construction of the mosque is concerned I would like to say that no one will object to the construction of the mosque if the Muslims of the country and Muslims of Ayodhya would select a place far from the Rampanamabhoomi. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : We do not need the mercy of Shri Advani,

The mosque should be constructed where it was located, earlier. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen some hon. Members were willing to speak on this issue and therefore a short time has been allotted for it. But we can get the benefits of this debate only when we can find out a solution through this debate. We should not play on words; we should keep in mind the substance. Now, what is the use of extracting meaning of the statements made by the Cabinet or the Minister of Home Affairs. We should not have a dispute over these things; rather we should deal with it in such a manner so that we could reach at a justified point. I think that there should no further discussion on it.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT GIVING REASONS FOR IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION BY THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE, 1993.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance, 1993, under rule 71(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4544/93]

Notification under the Inter-State Migrant workmen (Regulation of Employment and conditions of Service) Act, 1979.

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) ON BEHALF OF SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I beg

to lay on the Table a copy of the **Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central (Amendment) Rules, 1993** (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 573(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 1993 under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the **Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979**.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4545|93]

Notification under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and Reviews on the working of and Annual Reports of Shipping Corporation of India Limited for the year 1992-93, Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited for 1992-93 etc

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : I beg to
lay on the Table :—

(1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Examination of Dredge Masters and Dredge Matches) Amendment Rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 409 in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 1993 under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4546|93]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619-A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(a) (i) **Review by the Government on the working of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1992-93.**

(ii) **Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4547|93]

(i) **Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1991-92.**

(ii) **Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1991-92, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.**

(3) **Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (b) of item (2) above.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4548|93]

(4) (i) **A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust for the year 1992-93.**

(ii) **A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the New Mangalore Port Trust, for the year 1992-93.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4549|93]

(5) (i) **A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Madras Port Trust, Madras, for the year 1992-93.**

(ii) **A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Madras Port Trust, Madras for the year 1992-93.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4550|93]

(6) (i) **A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1992-93.**

(ii) **A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of**

the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4551|93]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4552|93]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4553|93]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4554|93]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of

the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4555|93]

(11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :—

- (a) (i) Annual Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4556/93]

- (b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Madras Port Trust for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Madras Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4557/93]

- (c) (i) Annual Accounts of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4558/93]

- (d) (i) Annual Accounts of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4559/93]

- (e) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4560/93]

- (f) (i) Annual Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4561/93]

- (g) (i) Annual Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4562/93]

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ALUMINIUM COMPANY LIMITED AND THE MINISTRY OF MINES FOR THE YEAR 1993-94

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) of Understanding between the National Aluminium Company Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4563/93]
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COTTON COR-

PORATION OF INDIA LIMITED AND THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES FOR THE YEAR 1993-94

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) of Understanding between the Cotton Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4564/93]

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE FOR THE YEARS 1993-94

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 VASNIK) ON BEHALF OF SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) of Understanding between the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4565/93]
NOTIFICATION UNDER INCOME-TAX ACT, 1961

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 :—

- (1) The Income-tax (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 1993 published in Notification No. S.O. 684(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1993.

- (2) The Income-tax (Seventeenth Amendment) Rules, 1993 published in Notification No. S.O. 693(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4566|93]

Protection of Human Rights, 1993, Kalakshetra Foundation Ordinance, 1993, Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioner (Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1993 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : I beg to lay on the table :—

- (1) A copy of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution :—

- (i) The Protection of Human Rights Ordinance, 1993 (No. 30 of 1993) promulgated by the President on the 28th September, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4567|93]

- (ii) The Kalakshetra Foundation Ordinance, 1993 (No. 31 of 1993) promulgated by the President on the 29th September, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4568|93]

- (iii) The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioner (Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1993 (No. 32 of 1993) promulgated by the President on the 1st October, 1993

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4569|93]

- (iv) The State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 (No. 33 of 1993) promulgated by the

President on the 15th October, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4570|93]

- (v) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 (No. 34 of 1993) promulgated by the President on the 27th October, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4571|93]

(2) A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertaking given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Lok Sabha :—

Lighth Sabha

- (i) Statement No. XXXII—Fifth Session, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4572|93]

- (ii) Statement No. XXXII—Eighth Session, Part-II, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4573|93]

- (ii) Statement No. XXXIV—Ninth Session, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4574|93]

- (iv) Statement No. XXXV—Tenth Session, 1988.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4575|93]

- (v) Statement No. XXX—Eleventh Session, 1988.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4576|93]

- (vi) Statement No. XXIX—Thirteenth Session, 1989.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4577|93]

- (vii) Statement No. XXIII—Fourteenth Session, 1989.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4578|93]

NINTH LOK SABHA

- (viii) Statement No. XXIV—Second Session, 1990.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4579|93]

- (ix) Statement No. XX—Third Session, 1990.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4580|93]

- (x) Statement No. XVIII—Sixth Session, 1990.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4581|93]

- (xi) Statement No. XVII—Seventh Session, 1991.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4582|93]

TENTH LOK SABHA

- (xii) Statement No. XVI—First Session, 1991.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4583|93]

- (xiii) Statement No. XIII—Second Session, 1991.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4584|93]

- (xiv) Statement No. XI—Third Session, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4585|93]

- (xv) Statement No. IX—Fourth Session, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4586|93]

- (xvi) Statement No. VI—Fifth Session, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4587|93]

- (xvii) Statement No. V—Sixth Session, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4588|93]

- (xviii) Statement No. 1—Seventh Session, 1993

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4589|93]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION LIMITED AND THE MINISTRY OF POWER FOR THE YEAR 1993-94.

(SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) of Understanding between the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of POWER for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4590|93]

Proclamations under Article 356 (3) of the Constitution in relation to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Proclamations (Hindi and English versions) under article 356(3) of the Constitution :—

(1) Proclamation dated the 3rd December, 1993 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier Proclamation issued by him on the 15th December, 1992 in relation to the State of Himachal Pradesh, published in Notification No. G. S. R. 727 (E), in Gazette of India, dated 3rd December, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4593|93]

(2) Proclamation dated the 4th December, 1993 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier pro-

clamation issued by him on the 6th December, 1992 in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 730(E), in Gazette of India, dated the 4th December, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4594|93]

(3) Proclamation dated the 4th December, 1993 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier Proclamation issued by him on the 15th December, 1992 in relation to the State of Rajasthan, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 731(E), in Gazette of India, dated the 4th December, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 4595|93]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

STRIKE NOTICE BY POSTAL EMPLOYEES UNIONS

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Sir, the staff unions representing postal employees of all grades and the extra-departmental agents have decided to go on strike from 7th December, 1993. The unions had given a Charter of Demands which has 27 items. Several round of discussions at the level of Postal Services Board were held with the unions and I had also discussed the issues with them on the 2nd December, 1993.

One of the main demands relates to grant of pay scale and other benefits like pension, leave and subsistence allowance for around three lakh extra-departmental agents. These extra-departmental agents serve mainly in the rural areas in their own villages and are engaged part-time on an average for 3 hours. They are not regular Government servants. They are paid an allowance based on their workload and are also entitled for dearness allowance, gratuity and covered by an insurance scheme. These agents can pursue their own

*Not recorded.

2559 LSS/94—24.

profession, trade or avocation in addition to their postal duties. The Government during discussions have offered the appointment of an ED Committee with an independent Chairman to look into the various demands in addition to an immediate payment of Rs. 35| per month to each ED Agent as interim relief costing Government exchequer approximately Rs. 13 crores per annum.

The other demands of the unions relate to several benefits for different grades of employees including revision of pay scales of some cadres. There is a scheme of Joint Consultative Machinery in the Department of Posts for settlement of disputes and grievances which has been functioning very well. The Government, during discussions, as a goodwill measure, have offered to settle some of their demands immediately like payment of Rs. 100| per month as an allowance for those Postal Assistants who work on multi-purpose counter machines in the post offices, an increase in the Holiday Duty Allowance for Postmen and relief to Group D officials who even on their promotion to a Group C scale would be able to retire at the age of 60 years. In the face of the above and the fact that the Govt. have already announced in interim relief to Central Govt. servants and the constitution of the V Central Pay Commission which will look into all demands for revision of pay scales, there is absolutely no justification whatsoever for the postal employees to go on strike causing considerable hardship and inconvenience to the people.

I have faith that the postal employees will see reason and will not go on strike, especially when I have assured that the doors for negotiations and talks are always open. However, if the strike takes place tomorrow, the Government will take action against the striking employees in accordance with the extant rules and would maintain maximum possible postal services with the aid of loyal workers. I am sure the cooperation of all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament would be available to ward off the proposed strike keeping in view the

nature of the public service that the Department of Posts is rendering. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I have given notice on the postal employees strike.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I appreciate the economic problems of the Government. Also, I do not approve of the strike by the employees. At the same time, the plight of the ED Staff should be more sympathetically looked into. They should be given better facilities. They are treated as slaves. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (GANDHI NAGAR) : The postal employees also have a very strong case. It should not be taken like tois. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I have given notice on the postal employees strike. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You follow some rules at least. You cannot raise it like this. It is not going on record. (Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : I have given a Call Attention Notice on this. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But I have to admit it. Simply because you have given it, it does not come on record.

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table following 19 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 27th July, 1993 :—

(1) The Betwa River Board (Amendment) Bill, 1993

(2) The Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1993

(3) The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Bill, 1993

(4) The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Amendment) Bill, 1993

(5) The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances (Amendment) Bill, 1993

(6) The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 1993

(7) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1993

(8) The Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1993

(9) The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1993

(10) The Madhya Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1993

(11) The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1993

(12) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1993

(13) The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1993

(14) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1993

(15) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1993

(16) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, 1993

(17) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 1993

(18) The Extradition (Amendment) Bill, 1993

(19) The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1993

*Not recorded.

13.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES FOURTEENTH REPORT

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsour) : I beg to lay the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

13.06 1/4 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Sixth Report

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur) :

I beg to lay the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Human Rights Commission Bill; 1993.

13.6½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO IRREGULARITIES IN SECURITIES AND BANKING TRANSACTIONS

Motion re : appointment of a Member of Rajya Sabha to the Committee.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA (Barmer) : I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint one member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee to enquire into irregularities in securities and banking transactions in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri Yashwant Sinha from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint one member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee to enquire into irregularities in securities and banking transactions in the vacancy

caused by the resignation of Shri Yashwant Sinha from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Motion just moved by Mr. Mirdha is a Motion to fill up a casual vacancy in the JPC which is really odd because I presume that the JPC has about completed its labour and it was to submit its report. This is being done towards the fag end of the Committee's tenure. There can be no technical objection to it. So, I cannot oppose this Motion. But I would like to submit that according to the press report, JPC report is to be given to the House around 21st of this month and there will be only two days more for the House. In this House, this session at least, we should have an opportunity to discuss this JPC report because it has been talked about or so long and debated in the country, outside and periodically something or the other discredits us.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : 23rd December may be fixed for this discussion.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : And last day some other business comes up, then it is all I think, the BAC must consider fixing some day for this. If the JPC can submit its report earlier, it would be still better. This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint one member of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee to enquire into irregularities in securities and banking transactions in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri Yashwant Sinha from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

13.07 hrs.

STATE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : On behalf of Shri Manmohan Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : I introduce the Bill.

13.07-1|4 hrs.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT GIVING REASONS FOR IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION BY THE STATE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : On behalf of Shri Manmohan Singh, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4591/93]

13.07-1|2 hrs.

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER AND OTHER ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**(CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL***

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 6-12-93.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991."

MR. SPEAKER : Would you like to speak now or should we take it up after the lunch break ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzartapur) : Yes, Sir, after the lunch break.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : There is one more Bill for introduction.

MR. SPEAKER : But he has to speak on it.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : The Motion has been moved, let us take the opinion of the House. He has to go to the other House.

MR. SPEAKER : But he is opposing the introduction and it will take some time. There will be a discussion on that. That is the difficulty. Somebody on your behalf or even the Parliamentary Affairs Minister may be allowed to do that.

13.1|4 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

14.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)
CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER
AND OTHER ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
(CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
AMENDMENT BILL CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Item No. 17. Shri George Fernandes was on his legs.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Mujaffarpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have given a notice against the introduction of this Bill and I would like to draw your attention towards two things. Firstly I hold that this Bill is in tune with the rules of the House and secondly it is violating so many provisions of the Constitution. As such it is not possible to introduce this Bill. It would be against the spirits of the Constitution. Mr. Speaker Sir, Election Commission, is certainly a constitutionally elected body but it is not an official body. It is an autonomous body and no official intervention can be made in its working. I am sorry to say that the objective of introducing this Bill was not to enforce any new legislation as per the provisions of the Constitution regarding Election Commission but it has a limited objective for promoting party politics. I am levelling this charge against the Government with full responsibility. The way Government has been treating the Election Commission is condemnable. I do not want to comment here upon the behaviour and the statement made by the Chief Election Commissioner. That should not be discussed here since we have to give special notice in order to make my statements in that regard. But the Government has been planning to foil all efforts made by the Election Commission to hold free and fair elections and this ordinance symbolises it. It was a general feeling that after making efforts to hold elections through this ordinance and fac-

ing advantages/disadvantages you would not bring forward this ordinance for enacting a law in this regard after the elections were over in four States.

But we are astonished as the way the Government thought to present it before the House to enact a law in this regard. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, all the sections of this Bill violate the sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Article 324. We would like to know as to who bestowed upon you this right and under which section you have brought this ordinance vide which you want to confer the powers of the Chief election commissioner provided in the Constitution. Among these election commissioners. This is the ultimate objective of the Ordinance. I would come to Chapter three later, which deals with the rules. But rule 4 of the new legislation only states that the status, facilities and rights admissible to Chief Election Commissioner would also be admissible to other election commissioners. The previous legislation permitted the appointment of two other election commissioners, and at the same time also clearly speaks about the facilities to be given to Chief Election Commissioner as well as to other two Election Commissioners under 324(2). While the Chief Election Commissioner would continue the other two election commissioners would be approved by the President under laws legislated by Parliament. Section 324(3) enumerates that if more election commissioner are to be appointed then the Chief Election Commissioner would continue to be the Chairman of the Commission. The sole objective of the Government in bringing this Bill is to provide equal status to the two election commissioners like the one which is being enjoyed by the CEC by circumventing the legislation enacted in 1991 but under the present Constitution, the Government has no right to do that.

The pay and allowance payable to them are not that much important but ultimately it has its relevance, within Government as well as outside the Government. The status of the Chief Election Commissioner is

equal to the judge of the Supreme Court. The facilities and pay and allowances will also be equal to the judge of the Supreme Court. Similarly, the pay and perks of Election Commissioners will be equal to that pay and perks admissible to the High Court Judges. Your only intention to make charges in it was to bring the status of CES equal to the other two ECs. In other words you want to create three ECs. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my humble submission in this respect is that it is not possible because under section 324(2) of 324(3) of our Constitution, the Government do not have any such powers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I would come to the rule and procedure of House and I would submit that this ordinance is not possible under this rule also. I would like to draw your attention towards Rule 80. It says—

[English]

“The following conditions shall Govern the admissibility of amendments to clauses or schedules of a Bill.”

[Translation]

Under rule 80, a Member can bring an amendment to a Bill. When the Government wants to introduce any amendment to any Bill, in this case the rule does not clarify the type of amendment possible if a Bill already exists. Since I could not locate any such rule, I studied Parliamentary Practice and Procedure and May's Parliamentary procedure but I could not locate the rule regarding introduction of amendment by the Government. When I did not find any rule, I presume that Rule 80 would be applicable. How an amendment can be introduced under Rule 80 and what are the amendments which can be refused by the Speaker or the Deputy dealing with such amendments? I want to submit that if these rules are applicable on an M.P. Then these rules should also be applicable to the Government in the same manner. Since enactment of laws and their implementation is Government's, business if there are any limitations for me the same are applicable to the Government also.

Now Rule 80 says :—

[English]

“(f) An amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates.”

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I would like to draw your attention to page 473 from the book written by Kaul and Shakhdar.

[English]

Every Bill has a title succinctly describing the nature of the proposed measure.

[Translation]

The long title of the Bill to which Amendment is being made is as follows :—

[English]

“THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER AND OTHER ELECTION COMMISSIONERS (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL.”

[Translation]

The Bill already existing is :—

[English]

Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991.”

[Translation]

I have already read out to you the long title of the Bill. The long title and the title are in the same statement. Its long title is :—

[English]

An Act to determine the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners and for matters connected therewith or incidental there.

[Translation]

Now what amendments do you intend to bring in this Bill, the amendments being brought by you do not have any connec-

tion with any section of this law. The Government is bringing amendments regarding the way the Election Commission should transact its business and the existing Act is regarding the service conditions. There is sea difference between the two. Therefore, my submission is that the Government cannot introduce this amendment. Now I would like to draw your attention towards page 509 of Kaul and Shakhdar:—

[English]

The following conditions govern the admissibility of amendments to clauses and schedules of a Bill:

- (a) The amendment should be within the scope of the bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates."

[Translation]

I have already submitted that the scope of the original Bill, which the Government wants to amend is totally different. It cannot be introduced here.

Now I come to para (c) of admissibility of amendment.

[English]

"An amendment should not be such as to make the clause which it proposes to amend unintelligible and ungrammatical."

[Translation]

If you have its copy with you, please consult it. The Government has presented page 3 of Amending law before the House. Chapter three enumerates the aims and objectives of Bill. Rest is incidental. Chapter three has been introduced a fresh in it. Its heading is Transaction of Business of Election Commission i.e. the law is regarding service conditions and violating its original scope. The Government is dealing with the transaction of business of Election Commission.

[English]

Now, please see Section 9 which says:

"The business of the Election Commission shall be transacted in accordance with the provisions of the Act."

Now, what is the business of the Election Commission

[Translation]

We would like to have a clear reply from the Minister of law in this regard.

[English]

What is the business of the Election Commission which shall be transacted in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

[Translation]

Section 324(1) clearly states the functions of Election Commission. In addition it also speaks clearly as to now the job will be performed under Representation of People's Act.

[English]

But Article 324(1) says:

"The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission)."

[Translation]

Since the Government has only mentioned the Business of the Election Commission I would like to know as to what the Government intends to do under this law, which it is going to enact on the basis of the ordinance introduced for this purpose.

[English]

What is the business of the Election Commission which shall be transacted in accordance with the provisions of the Act? I will again refer to the rule that an amendment should not be such as to make the clause which it proposes to amend unintelligible or ungrammatical

[Translation]

It is something more than unintelligible. It has no meaning. It is just to be fool the whole world. This is no business of Election Commission. All the business of election commissions have been specified in the constitution. Election Commission has its own responsibilities, judicial, semi-judicial, administrative, advisory and it advises the President. Its executive responsibility is considered to be the most important. It has the responsibility of preparation of electoral rolls and holding polls and the declaration of results

[English]

So, which is the business which shall be governed by this Act, Mr. Law Minister "

[Translation]

Just go through section 10. It is not a confusion, not be fooling but efforts deliberately made to take all powers in their hands. It has made fun of the Election Commission.

They should study all the clauses one by one. Because, they have to put a check on the tricks being played with the Election Commission of the country

[English]

"10(1) the Election Commission may, by unanimous decision regulate the procedure for transaction of its business as also allocation of its business amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners."

Here, the word used is 'may'. Does it also mean 'may not'.

[Translation]

You know law very well. What does 'may' mean here? 'Shall' or 'may not'.

Then I come to sub-clause 10(2) of it :

[English]

"The business of the Election Commission shall be transacted in accordance with the provisions of the Act". What are the provisions that you are enunciating? The first provision is that the Election commission, by unanimous

decision, regulate the procedure for transaction of its business as also allocation of its business amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

[Translation]

You first provide that the Election Commission may frame rules, but it is further provided that all the business may be transacted unanimously. It means that you may not frame the rules. The Government is providing this power to all the three Election Commissioners. The Government has appointed two more Election Commissioners besides one Chief Election Commissioner. It is further provided.

[English]

Now, Clause 10(2) says "Save as provided in sub-section (1), all business of the Election Commission shall, as far as possible, be transacted unanimously". As far as possible has been added to it.

[Translation]

Now I come to Sub-clause 10(5).

[English]

All business of the Commission shall, as far as possible, be transacted unanimously. This is what Clause 10(1) and 10(2) say.

Now, Clause 10(3) says .

"Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), if the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners differ in opinion on any matter, such be decided according to the opinion of the majority."

[Translation]

What is left therein. Where is the dignity of Election Commission? What scope is left? There is no dignity of Election Commission in it. The Election Commission has got to take a decision in this regard. Either elections are declared or not, the dispute remains as it is. That dispute is resolved only when some telegram is received. You have said that a decision would be taken according to the majority

opinion. For that, you have said, that there shall be a debate first and then a decision would be taken according to the majority opinion.

14.58 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the Chair]

The Election Commissioner has to fix the date of elections and moreover it has to settle executive and judicial matters under its jurisdiction. The Government is making all such provisions. As per the provisions if consensus in a matter is not arrived at then the matter shall be decided according to majority opinion. This implies that the Election Commissioner is not able to perform his duty. As a matter of fact the Government is interfering in his jurisdiction and is preventing him from discharging his duty freely. Ultimately, what is the dispute between the Government and the Election Commissioner? The Government has absolutely no right to subvert the whole election process by hitting at the office of Election Commission. I, therefore, oppose it on the ground of constitutional provisions and rules and I do request that the Government should withdraw this Bill. This Bill cannot be introduced here under the rules.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, rules provide that when an hon. Member raises objections on grounds of legislative competence, then a more general and detailed discussion shall follow or can follow. I am not going to repeat any of the points which my esteemed colleague, hon. George Fernandes has raised. I shall restrict myself simply to the legislative competence of the House about this Bill which intends to replace an earlier ordinance. I would not go into the patent political *mala fide* of the Government. I will also not go into the ham-handed manner in which the Government went about changing the entire election procedure. I will also not go into reflecting on the manner and method of the selection of personalities that went to inhabit the office of the Chief Election Commissioner.

2559 LSS|94—25.

15.00 hrs.

These are issues of substance and these ought really to be taken up when the Bill proper, if admitted by you, is taken up for consideration. They are very substantial issues. The Government brought about this ordinance because the intention of the Government was *mala fide*, because the intention of the Government was to convert the entire election system as such.

Why I limit myself to the aspect of the question of legislative competence is because at the present moment it is only on grounds of legislative competence that the House can deny permission to the Government for leave to introduce this particular piece of legislation.

My friend has referred to Article 324 of the Constitution which provides for three separate terms. There are three nomenclatures; Election Commission, Chief Election Commissioner and then there are Members of the Election Commission. What this ordinance attempts to do is to confuse the distinction between these three and to obliterate the difference in the process nullifying the very purpose, intent and the direction of the original provision of Article 324. If a Bill attempts to completely obliterate the difference between an Election Commission, the Chief Election Commissioner and the Members of the Election Commission through an ordinance then I think you are attempting to turn on its head the entire Constitutional arrangement which governs the office of the Election Commission.

My next substantial point is that should the Government in its wisdom or absence of wisdom nevertheless wish to do such a thing then the only manner in which it can do so is by amending the Constitution and by amending Article 324, in whatever way it wishes to do so. In my view the Government cannot amend the Constitution through an ordinance and if the Government cannot amend the Constitution through an ordinance, then a Bill that purports to replace the ordinance

can also not be permitted entry through back-door to attempt to completely overturn the arrangements of our election system and through the back-door to attempt to amend the Constitution.

I will not refer to the observations of the hon. Supreme Court in this matter but I believe on the grounds that I have already listed it stands established that outside of the pale of the mala fide intentions of the Government, the legislative competence of the House does not extend to amending the Constitution through either an ordinance or a Bill attempting to replace the ordinance. We request for your ruling on this matter before we can proceed further with the leave to introduce the Bill. Sir, it would be better if you reserve your ruling on this because this is a highly contentious issue.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : How can it be done ? We are still at the introductory stage. I have only to satisfy the Chair that this House is competent to consider and pass this Bill. You may kindly look to the Seventh Schedule, Entry 72 which says that the Election Commission is in the Union List. In 1991 we passed a law about the Conditions of Service of the Chief Election Commissioner. This was assented to on 25th January, 1991.

It is now an Act of Parliament viz. Act 11 of 1991. This relates to the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991. So, this House has already passed in 1991, this principal law and now we seek to amend this Act of parliament in the shape of this Bill.

I have already submitted with regard to the list. (*interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : You should not mislead the House that the Bill has already been passed. 'Conditions of Service' is different.

[*English*]

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Please listen to me. I do not appreciate this. Once an Act of Parliament is passed and you have determined the Conditions of Service of Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners, there is no reason why the same should not be amended. I am saying that the legislative competence of Parliament is decided by division and Entry. There is Entry 72 in the Union List. So, we are competent to bring this Amendment under Entry 72.

So far as the provisions with regard to Election Commission in the Constitution are concerned, there is no dispute. Article 324 as such is there and later on there are other Articles. Article 324(1) says :

"The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution shall be vested in a Commission." So, the Election Commission is an institution which is given the power of superintendence, direction and control.

There is no dispute.

So far as the provision of a multi-member Commission is concerned, I just want to bring to your notice Article 324(2). It says :

"The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President." Now, I am submitting about the competence of the Parliament. My learned friend is arguing that Parliament is not competent to lay down the Conditions of Service in the working of the Election

Commission specifically. The same Article 324(5) says this :

“Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine.”

So, these two sub-Articles clearly give legislative competence to this House. If you have still any doubts, I would like to inform you that we had passed this Act in 1991. I am just amending the same Act.

There are two or three points which my learned friend Shri George Fernandes has raised. They do not relate to the competence of this Parliament. He says that by amending this Act, we are doing something hanky-panky with the Conditions of Service viz. by bringing the Election Commissioners to the level of the Chief Election Commissioner. They are not matters relating to the competence of Parliament. So, the notice which my learned friend has given for today's debate is that Parliament is not competent to legislate. This is my first submission. For that Article 324 is my answer. Entry 72 is the correct Entry on which we can proceed.

He has also certain points regarding other Articles. We are not going to amend other Articles. I will draw his kind attention that we are also going to amend the Long Title. His objection was that the same Amendment cannot be made. You read Section 2. We are amending Section 2 in the present Bill. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in the long title, for the words “and for matters”, the words “and to provide for the procedure for transaction of business by the Election Commission and for matters” shall be substituted.

We are amending this specifically to provide for the chapter which our friend Shri George Fernandes has pointed out. So, it is absolutely in order because we

are amending that provision also and the earlier Act.

Now my learned friend—I never expected it—quoted Rule 80. Let us see. Rule 80 deals with amendments to the clause and clause by clause consideration of the Bill. I am only at the introduction stage. This provision relates to the Bill when it is being considered on merits and when there are amendments sought to be made to that Bill, afterwards at the time of consideration. That rule does not apply, as a matter of fact, to the present stage of the Bill. I am at the introduction stage and there is only one objection which is according to the traditions of this House when a Bill is introduced. Normally there is only one objection, which is allowed and that is, that Parliament is not competent to legislate it, on which a debate is allowed. I do not want to waste the time of the House talking about that. I have already submitted that this House had been able to pass it in 1991. I am amending the same Act. That is why, I said that he has, word by word, discussed the merits of the whole Bill. Today we are charged with this.

Let me introduce the Bill. He can argue much more on this. I will answer him. There is no question of any mala fide intention against anybody. As a matter of fact, if you kindly remember, during the last session we all wanted that there should be a multi-member Commission. It is a different matter that the hon. Member wants Government to have consultations when other members are appointed. Shri Jaswant Singh is nodding; I am happy. I was present in all those deliberations where we all sat together. Actually we were charged with dragging our feet in bringing these two additional Members of the Election Commission.

Then there was a demand from a majority of the Advocate-General of this country, from various States, led by one of the most prominent Advocates-General of the country that there should be a multi-member Commission. So, in order to fulfil that demand, of a majority of the opposition leaders this has been done though belatedly. I agree that it is a little delayed. It should have been done

then and there. We have brought this and during this discussion hon. Members can suggest to me how we can improve the efficiency of the Election Commission. I am very happy for the concern expressed by the hon. Members for the Election Commission as a whole. Let there be no personalities involved in it. I would request—for Heaven's sake—let us not confuse personalities with institutions. The institutions matter. If the Election Commission functions efficiently, it will be a success of democracy and the rule of law in the country. We will be the happiest people if such a situation is there. There have been several occasions when there have been controversies. We have been able to sail across those controversies and I am happy that we have had very good elections recently. So, it is the common concern and the people of India do understand whenever there is any aberration on any side. But let us not give prominence to personalities. Some may not understand this problem today. But tomorrow they may be faced with the same problem. Institutions have to function according to law, whether it is the Election Commission, the Supreme Court or the High Court or even Parliament. Everybody has got a role defined in the Constitution.

If I overstep in my submission to Parliament from what is contained in Article 324, by twisting of Article 324, it will not help me or you either. It says that there shall be an Election Commission. Now, take for instance as you say whether he should remain as the Chief Election Commissioner. Can anybody dispute it? He is the Chief Election Commissioner. Just as we have a Chairman of the UPSC—and the UPSC is an institution—there is a Chairman. But even there, the Chairman allocates the work. He may. The word 'may' has been used deliberately. We may say, that you 'shall'. It is an institution. So, we have left it to him. If the Chief Election Commissioner likes to function unilaterally, very good. But if they want tomorrow, like the UPSC, that this Member may deal with four States, and another can deal with four States and the Chief Election Commissioner can still supervise their

work, what is the harm in it. I do not understand why anybody should be annoyed about it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are not able to understand the implications of the rules.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : You fully understand what I am saying, but you are saying like this (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Now please do not interrupt me.

You have said something, to which I am answering now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are not answering anything. You are confusing. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : I cannot improve my intelligence or your intelligence. We are both equals.

We are discussing an institution. It is for this House to grab this opportunity. Let us debate this issue. We should not come in the way of debate. Sir, I have submitted that we have full competence. So, kindly allow me to introduce this Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Chairman, I would like to make one submission. I greatly value the learned intervention by the hon. Minister for Law. The point is simple—legislative competence. The hon. Minister has suggested that this is already covered under a certain entry and that after all what he is doing is to regulate the conditions of service of the Commissioners in the Election Commission. My submission is different. My submission is that under the guise of calling it "conditions of service" the entire system and functioning of the Election Commission is being perverted. It merits a much

closer examination of the points that we have raised. If the introduction of this Bill is deferred by 24 hours, Heavens will not fall and it will enable the Chair and the House to apply itself with much greater depth to a very vital issue. After all it is through elections all of us reach here. If we vitiate the Election Commission or the Election Commissioners' functioning, how will we all reach here?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : With great respect to my friend, I would submit that deferring it is no solution. We should **debate this issue...** (*Interruptions*). We are setting up a very bad precedent when we first say that we are not competent. No Parliament should say that it is not competent unless it is legally justified. I take serious objection to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I shall put the Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991".

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, this is a very serious matter. I am not prepared to allow the Government to get away with subverting the Constitution. Here, the Constitution is being subverted. I have no doubt about it. Others may have some doubt. But in my mind there is absolutely no doubt. This is an exercise in subverting the Constitution in the same manner as the Religion Bill was brought here. They could not amend the Constitution there. Therefore, they came with the Bill, which this House had the good sense to reject. This was brought through an ordinance when the House was not in Session and therefore, they can bring it here today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you demanding division?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Yes, I am demanding division.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Lobbies be cleared.

15.21 hrs. [Mr. Speaker in the chair]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Lobbies have been cleared. The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991."

The Lok Sabha divided.

Division No. 1] [15.25 hrs.

AYES

ACHARIA, Shri Basudeb
 ANJALOSE, Shri Thayi John
 AYUB KHAN, Shri
 BARMAN, Shri Uddhab
 BHAKTA, Shri Manoranjan
 BHONSLE, Shri Prataprao B.
 BROHMO CHAUDHURY, Shri Satyan-
 dra Nath
 CHARLES, Shri A.
 CHATTERJEE, Shri Nirmal Kanti
 CHATTERJEE, Shri Somnath
 CHAUDHARY, Sqn. Ldr. Kamal
 CHIDAMBARAM, Shri P.
 CHOUDHURY, Shri Saifuddin
 DAS, Shri Anadi Charan
 DENNIS, Shri N.
 DIGHE, Shri Sharad
 DOME, Dr. Ram Chandra
 GALIB, Shri Gurcharan Singh
 GHANGARE, Shri Ramchandra Marotrao
 GHATOWAR, Shri Paban Singh
 GIRI, Shri Sudhir
 GUPTA, Shri Indrajit
 ISLAM, Shri Nurul
 JAFFER SHARIEF, Shri C. K.
 JEEVARATHINAM, Shri R.
 KALIAPERUMAL, Shri P. P.
 KAMBLE, Shri Arvind Tulshiram
 KARREDDULA, Shrimati Kamala Kumari
 KUDUMULA, Kumari Padamasree

KULI, Shri Balin
 KURIEN, Prof. P.J.
 MALIK, Shri Purna Chandra
 MANDAL, Shri Brahmanand
 MANPHOOL SINGH, Shri
 MARBANIANG, Shri Peter G.
 MATHEW, Shri Pala K.M.
 MATHUR, Shri Shiv Charan
 MISRA, Shri Satyagopal
 MOLLAH, Shri Hannan
 MUKHOPADYAY, Shri Ajoy
 NAIK, Shri G. Devaraya
 NANDI, Shri Yellaiah
 ODEYAR, Shri Channaiah
 PADMA, Dr. (Shrimati)
 PALACHOLLA, Shri V.R. Naidu
 PATEL, Shri Uttambhai Harjibhai
 PATIL, Shri Vijay Naval
 RAI, Shri M. Ramanna
 RAM, Shri Prem Chand
 SANIPALLI, Shri Gangadhara
 SAWANT, Shri Sudhir
 SAYEED, Shri P.M.
 SELJA, Kumari
 SHANKARANAND, Shri B.
 SHARMA, Shri Chiranji Lal
 SHINGDA, Shri D. B.
 SHUKLA, Shri Vidyacharan
 SINGH, Shri Ramashray Prasad
 SREENIVAASAN, Shri C.
 SULTANPURI, Shri Krishan Dutt
 TARA SINGH, Shri
 THORAT, Shri Sandipan Bhagwan
 TINDIVANAM, Shri K. Ramamurthee
 UPADHYAY, Shri Swarup
 URS, Shrimati Chandra Prabha
 VAGHELA, Shri Shankersinh
 WASNIK, Shri Mukul Balkrishna

YADVA, Shri Ram Saran
 YUMNAM, Shri Yaima Singh
 ZAINAL ABEDIN, Shri
 NOES
 ABDUL GHAFUOR, Shri
 ADVANI, Shri Lal K.
 BALIYAN, Shri N. K.
 CHAUDHARY, Shri Rudrasen
 CHHATWAL, Shri Sartaj Singh (Hoshan-
 gabad)
 CHIKHILLA, Shrimati Bhavna (Junagarh)
 CHOUHDARY, Shri Ram Tahal (Ranchi)
 FERNANDES, Shri George
 GANGWAR, Dr. P. R. (Pilibhit)
 GANGWAR, Shri Santosh Kumar (Barei-
 lly)
 JASWANT SINGH, Shri (Chittorgarh)
 JOSHI, Shri Anna
 JOSHI, Shri Dau Dayal
 KASHWAN, Shri Ram Singh
 KATRERIA, Shri Prabhu Dayal
 KUMAR, Shri Nitish
 KUSMARIA, Shri Ramkrishna (Damoh)
 MISHRA, Shri Ram Nagina (Padrauna)
 MUNDA, Shri Kariya (Khunti)
 NAIK, Shri Ram
 ORAON, Shri Lalit
 PANDEYA, Dr. Laxminaran
 PASSI, Shri Balraj
 PASWAN, Shri Ram Vilas
 PATEL, Shri Chandresh
 PATIDAR, Shri Rameshwar (Khargone)
 PRASAD, Shri Hari Kewal
 RAI, Shri Lall Babu
 RAI, Shri M. Ramanna
 RAJE, Shrimati Vasundhara
 RAM SINGH, Shri
 RAWAL, Dr. Lal Bahadur (Hathras)
 RAWAT, Prof. Rasa Singh
 RAY, Shri Rabi

*Wrongly voted for Ayes.

SHARMA, Shri Rajendra Kumar
 SINGH, Shri Hari Kishore
 THAKORH, Shri Gabbhaji Mangaji
 TOMAR, Dr. Ramesh Chand (Hapur)
 TRIPATHI, Shri Lakshmi Narain Mani
 VERMA, Prof. Rita
 VIRENDRA SINGH, Shri
 YADAV, Shri Ram Kripal
 YADAV, Dr. S.P.

MR. SPEAKER : Subject to correction* the result of Division is

AYES—70
 NOES—43

The motion was adopted

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : I introduce the Bill. Sir, I may just mention to the hon. House that sub-clause (a) and (b) of Clause 5

*The following members also recorded their Votes;

Ayes :—

Shri S. B. Sidnal
 Shri Anwari Basavarj Patil
 Shri Probir Deka
 Shri Kewel Singh
 Shri K. P. Reddaiah Yadav
 Shri Prabhu Lal Rawat
 Shri Umrao Singh
 Shri G. Ganga Reddy
 Shri Roshan Lal
 Shri Harchand Singh
 Kumari Frida Topno

Noes :—

Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao
 Vadde
 Shri Muhi Ram Saikia
 Shri Ram Naresh Singh
 Shri Shiv Sharan Sinha
 Shri Shanker Singh Vaghela
 Shri Jiwan Sharma.

and sub-clause (a) of Clause 7, and Clause 8 of the Bill, when enacted, will involve an expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India.

Actually, these words should have been in bold letters. They are not in bold letters, so, I am mentioning to the House that this involves an expenditure. This is for the notice of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : O.K.
 15.25 hrs.

Explanatory Statement giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4592/93]

15.26 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S EMOLUMENTS
 AND PENSION (AMENDMENT)
 BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the

President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

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SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.27 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to implement proposed rail link from Jaipur-Todaraisingh to Nathdwara via Kekri Shahpura and Bhilwara, in Rajasthan.

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR (Bhilwara) : Sir, Rajasthan has very small network of broad-gauge rail links and there are certain areas where, despite potentialities, the infrastructure in the form of railway network has been totally absent. Rail link proposed from Jaipur-Todaraisingh to Nathdwara via Kekri, Shahpura and Bhilwara is one of some such important projects which deserved Railway Board's attention as the present Minister of Railways, when he visited the town of Gangapur in District Bhilwara in 1981, had announced to sanction this rail link. After that, several engineering-cum-traffic surveys have been conducted and each time adequate data were supplied to the Survey Team by the concerned authorities of the Government and the representatives of Trade, Commerce and Industry and Member of Parliament and M.L.As. The proposed rail link will shorten the length between Jaipur and Nathdwara by forty kilometre and pass through a very rich mineral and agricultural potential zone of the State. The Minister of Railway has

several times assured the people's representatives that this rail link will be sanctioned in the new proposals of the Railway Board. It is surprising to note that taking the plea of paucity of funds, such an important proposal is being ignored.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Railway to reconsider this proposal in view of its importance to the area.

(ii) Need to provide adequate funds to Rajasthan Government for providing drinking water in Bikaner and other Parts of the State.

[Translation]

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH (Bikaner) : Mr. Speaker, Sir wells in several villages of Rajasthan are having hard water. There are no canals and ponds either in those villages. There is no drinking water facility for human beings and animals in those villages even after so many years of independence.

There are many such areas in Rajasthan. Tahsils like Loon-Karnasar, Bikaner, Kolayet, Nokha and several villages of Jayal tahsil are such areas that fall under my constituency of Bikaner. The farmers of these tahsils travel ten to fifteen miles to fetch drinking water on camel-back and much of their time is wasted in fetching drinking water.

Similarly, people have to incur heavy expenses for setting diesel engines on those wells of different villages whose water is sweet and worth drinking and that are very deep. The poor village farmers cannot bear so much expenses. It is, therefore, absolutely imperative to provide electricity to those villages on priority basis. It is the duty of the Government to provide facility of drinking water to every citizen in every village.

I would, therefore, like to submit to the Central Government to provide

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

adequate financial assistance to the State Government of Rajasthan so that proper drinking water facility could be made available in Bikaner.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have come to know that discussions on Dunkel Proposals have to be concluded in the House today itself even if the House may have to sit late. I would like to submit that discussions on such an important issue should not merely be for formality's sake; the discussion thereon may be stretched to day as long as it is possible. Nevertheless, some more time should be allotted for that purpose keeping in view the thin attendance of Members during the noon hour of business, you can very well imagine the number of members likely to sit late in the evening. Ritually we may conclude a discussion on the Dunkel proposals, but that will not be a justice done to the issue. Though we do respect the decision of the Business Advisory Committee and do not want to say anything against it because its decision carries weight, yet the Chair and this august House enjoy certain rights. I would, therefore, request to reconsider this decision and extend the time for a discussion on this issue

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Dunkel proposal issue is linked with GATT in many ways. The Government have its own point of view in this regard. I am, however, aware that there are some persons in this house and outside as well who are serious about this issue. We know that this Government is out to mortgage the very sovereignty of this country by signing the Dunkel proposals. This is my personal opinion in this regard. I would, therefore, like the Government to ensure that discussions on Dunkel proposals should not merely be a formality. I believe that the discussion on it would prove to be

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the most important discussion ever held on any matter in this august House. I would, therefore, like to request that the Government should not impose any time constraint for holding discussion on that issue. I do not, of course, mean that this discussion should be held for an indefinite period, but concluding the discussion tonight itself as a formality will be a gross injustice to this House and to this country as well. I would request that the Government should by honouring the sentiments of the Members of this House irrespective of the decision of the Business Advisory Committee, provide continuation of discussion on this issue for whole day tomorrow.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH) : Even during the last session this issue was introduced in the House on the last day for holding a discussion thereon; Even during that time the general opinion of the Members was that there should be a detailed discussion on that matter. We have today about two and a half hours left at our disposal. It will be of hardly any use to hold a non-serious debate on that issue in order to conclude it today itself. I would, therefore, like to submit that the Government should undo the decision taken by the Business Advisory Committee and should allow a discussion thereon for two-three days so that what is causing concern to the whole of the country could be expressed here. Discussion held in a hurry to conclude the complete course of question and answer today itself will not be proper.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (SHEOHAR) : I would like to know as to what is wrong in holding a discussion on this topic for two-three more days if the Government has not made any commitment on any international forum.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me and please do not hold discussion on it right now.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : I would specially request that the Government should allow a discussion on this matter for two full days.

MR. SPEAKER : If you patiently listen to me, you will not require speaking any further.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, actually it was to start at 2 O' clock. Much time has already been lost. We can take it and continue for tomorrow also.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you want to take the time of the House when I am going to decide it in a particular fashion ? Is it necessary that every time you should get up and speak ?

I do agree that this is an important subject and the Members should be allowed to speak on this point. But I would like to bring to your notice that this matter has been discussed on the floor of the House, not once, but more than once. Every time we took up the discussion on this important topic, the suggestion made was that it should be referred to a J.P.C. This House should discuss it rather than referring it to a J.P.C. We will like the Members to make their considered statements, without repeating the points which have been made by others. If the points are repeated on the floor of the House, the matter does not become more clear. So, without repeating the points, if any Members wants to speak for any amount of time, he would be given the time. But, if the matter is being just repeated, there is no point and the presiding officer would certainly say that this matter has come on record and it is not necessary to repeat it.

So, with this rider that the points may not be repeated, the Members shall have the time to discuss it. We will sit late today and we will give more time to the Members and if it is necessary we will take it up tomorrow also.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sitting late and discussing any matter does not take away the seriousness of the debate. We have had very important debates in our House late in the evening. When we go late in the evening, the more seriousness of the debate, the more important the debate, the greater the attention the Members pay and greater is the attendance of the Members in the House. I am not suggesting that the time should be curtailed and it should only be a ritual. We want a full-scale and good discussion on this subject. But, we will try and see that as many Members as possible participate today and we can have the reply tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : I understand your constraints. But supposing some Members want to speak I will use my discretion and without affecting your business we will try to see that everybody gets an opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should at least consider the point that only 110 members participated in voting for the division that was just concluded in the wake of objection regarding introduction of a Bill. The attendance has been awfully thin. I would say that it would become a ritual if the discussion is concluded right today. Today is only the opening day and even otherwise it is hoped that on

Monday the sitting of the House is over by 6 O' Clock.

Therefore, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it would not be proper that after holding the discussion on the matter today, reply is given tomorrow itself as suggested by him. But there should be a fulfilled discussion on it and reasonably sufficient time should be given for the same.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377— Contd.

15.31. hrs.

(iii) Need to make Indian languages the medium for examination conducted by UPSC.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian languages should be made the medium for examinations conducted by UPSC for the sake of democracy, social justice and social integrity of the country. Hindi has been declared the official language under the Constitution of India. It is very necessary to give proper status to regional languages at the state level and official language Hindi at the national level for the smooth administrative functioning. However, English continues to occupy a predominant position even after 46 years of independence. If Indian languages are made the medium for examination conducted by UPSC, it would increase the dignity of these languages, promote national integration and provide opportunities to the regionally talented candidates to come forward and join Government services. The Parliament has also passed a resolution to that effect twice to provide that the medium of all the examinations should be Indian regional languages. However, these Resolutions have not been implemented effectively so far. Since Indian languages have not been made the medium for examination conducted by UPSC

there is a widespread resentment and discontentment among the Indian youth. I would, therefore, like to urge the Central Government not only to make these languages the medium of UPSC examinations with immediate effect, but also to do away with the compulsion of English as a medium of such examinations and thus give a dignified status to Hindi for that matter.

(iv) NEED TO INTRODUCE RAJ- DHANI EXPRESS BETWEEN DELHI— BOMBAY—V.T. VIA CENTRAL RAIL- WAY ROUTE.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL (Erandol): There are two Rajdhani Express trains running between Bombay-Central via Kota and Baroda on Western Railways. However, there is not even a single Rajdhani Express for Bombay V.T. via Central Railway route. There is general feeling among the people residing at Agra, Jhansi, Bhopal and Nasik for introducing Rajdhani Express. The difference in distance between Bombay and Delhi via Western Railway and Central Railway route is about 140 kilometres only and the running time will be only one hour and twenty minutes more. The proposed train will be touching Bhopal and two Railway Divisional Headquarters of Jhansi and Bhusaval. It will also touch the historic city of Agra and industrially affluent town of Nasik.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Railway to introduce Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Bombay V.T. via Central Railway route.

(v) NEED TO IMPLEMENT KAYAM- KULAM THERMAL POWER PROJECT IN KERALA.

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE (Alleppey) : Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Central Government the inordinate delay in implementing the Kayamkulam Super Thermal Power Project in the State of Kerala. It is facing acute power shortage. After the disintegration of erstwhile U.S.S.R. which had agreed to fund the project, the Central Government had promised to seek help from Japan.

But it is known that OECF has not agreed so far to fund the project as they do not see the coal linkage feasible. The coal can be brought from Talcher to Alleppey Fort via Paradeep. For this, a little improvement has to be done in the Alleppey Port. This will be a great help to both the project and for the development of Alleppey.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to initiate urgent measures to manage OECF assistance. I also request that the NTPC should implement the project even if OECF refuses assistance. The people of Kerala are much agitated over this matter and on the 14th December a bandh is being observed in Alleppey district for the same.

15.41 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER
EXPLOSIONS ON FIVE PRESTIGIOUS
PASSENGER TRAINS ON 5/6-12-93**

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. K. Jaffar Sharief) : It is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of the unfortunate occurrence to 5 prestigious passenger trains at various locations on three Zonal Railways in the late hours of last night and early this morning. Blasts of explosive devices occurred on 2306 Dn Rajdhani Express running from New Delhi to Howrah, 2301 Up Rajdhani Express ex-Howrah to New Delhi, 2951 Dn Rajdhani Express ex-Bombay Central to New Delhi, 9022 Up Flying Rani Express ex-Surat to Bombay, and 2723 Dn Andhra Pradesh Express ex-Secunderabad to New Delhi. While the explosion in 2306 Dn Rajdhani Express occurred around 23.00 hrs. on 5-12-1993 between Kanpur and Allahabad stations of Northern Railway causing injuries to 2 Bearers, all the other four explosions have taken place this morning between 05.00 hrs. ad 07.10 hrs. In all, 1 passenger has been killed and 18 others have sustained injuries.

The explosion on 2723 Dn A.P. Express ex-Secunderabad to New Delhi took place in one of the Second Class coaches while entering Maula Ali station on Secunderabad-Kazipet section of South Central Railway at 07.10 hrs., leading to death of 1 passenger and injuries to 11 others. The

injured have been admitted in the Railway Hospital at Secunderabad. On Western Railway, 2951 Dn Rajdhani Express suffered an explosion between Indergarh and Amli stations on Kota-Gangapur City section. The explosion took place in a Chair Car, resulting in injuries to 4 passengers. In another incident on Western Railway on Surat-Bombay section, the explosion took place on 9022 Flying Rani Express while the train was entering Bhestan station in a double decker Second Class coach, resulting in injury to 1 passenger who has been admitted in the Civil Hospital at Surat. In the fifth incident of the series, 2301 Up Rajdhani Express running from Howrah to New Delhi also had an explosion this morning in one of the Chair Cars between Panki and Bhaupur station on Kanpur-Tundla section. Fortunately, in this incident, one more device was recovered from another coach which exploded subsequently at Bhaupur station.

In all these occurrences senior Railway and Civil officers reached the respective sites and necessary medical and allied arrangements were made. The cases are being registered with the police. Fortunately, none of the explosions led to fire on running trains. Ex-gratia payments to the affected passengers are being made.

The planting of these devices on selected prestigious trains seems to indicate a design to create scare among public. Security arrangements have been strengthened in coordination with the respective state police authorities. The directives have been given to the Railways to intensify checks and inspections of empty coaching rakes coming from maintenance lines as also on the persons leading to any suspicion. Instructions have also been given to deploy dog squads wherever necessary. Special checking arrangements are being made at the platforms, coaches and other strategic locations. The Ministry of Home Affairs have been requested to conduct detailed investigations into the blasts.

My colleague, Shri K. C. Lenka, all Railway workers and I extend our heartfelt condolences to the relatives of the deceased and sincere sympathies to the

injured in these unfortunate incidents. (Interruptions).

Mr. SPEAKER : Please understand that when a statement is made by the hon. Minister, we do not have the practice of allowing the Members to speak on that statement. If you want, I will allow a little bit of discussion tomorrow after the Question Hour.

15.43 hrs.

MOTION RE : IMPLICATIONS OF THE DUNKEL DRAFT TEXT ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : I beg to move :

"That this House do consider the implications of the Dunkel draft text on trade negotiations with special reference to its effect on India's interests."

The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, which is the 8th round of negotiations since the foundation of GATT liberalise international trade was launched at Punta del Este in Uruguay in September, 1986. The negotiations cover not only the traditional GATT subjects such as tariff and non-tariff measures on goods and the improvement of GATT rules and disciplines but also included new subjects such as Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) and trade in Services.

These negotiations were initially expected to conclude at a ministerial meeting in Brussels in December, 1990. However, due to differences between the major industrialized countries, particularly on agriculture, the

Brussels meeting ended in a stalemate. In the phase of negotiations which ended in December, 1991, a serious attempt was made to resolve all outstanding differences. However, complete agreement could not be reached inter alia on TRIPs; Agriculture and Textiles. To break the impasse the then Director General of GATT submitted a comprehensive document on 20th December, 1991 which embodied the results of the negotiations and presented compromise proposals where agreement had not been possible.

These proposals have been the subject of debate in the public, industry and media. The matter was also discussed in Parliament first through a private members resolution in March 1992 and thereafter on a Government motion in December, 1992. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce and the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Commerce have also discussed these proposals extensively. Earlier this year I had also invited leaders of political parties for discussions and had benefited from their views.

Hon. Members will recall that Government has circulated two papers addressing the concerns raised in the country on Uruguay Round issues. The first paper was circulated in May 1992 and the second in August 1993.

Sir, currently negotiations have entered what is widely believed to be the final phase and there is a general expectation that the Round would be concluded by 15 December. India has always had a stake in the continuation of a rule-based multilateral trading system, and we are participating in the negotiations to ensure a successful conclusion of the Round with balanced results acceptable to all participants.

The debate in India has focussed most on issues concerning agriculture

and intellectual property rights. I would like to first take this opportunity to clarify certain doubts which have been expressed on the impact of the Dunkel proposals on our agricultural sector. First of all, our developmental schemes concerning agriculture including research, extension, irrigation, soil conservation etc. are totally exempt from any restrictions or disciplines. Secondly, there is no obligation on us to undertake any reduction commitments in respect of any of the input subsidies that we provide to our farmers, because such subsidies are far lower than the ceilings proposed in the Draft Final Act.

Thirdly, there is no obligation on us to establish minimum market access opportunities for agricultural products. I had invited the present Director General of GATT to visit New Delhi at the end of October. These implications of the text had been explicitly raised with him, and he had confirmed our conclusions. Our trading partners have also been confirming these to us.

Another set of misgivings has been expressed regarding the effect of the proposals on agriculture on our public distribution system. The language used in the text could create the impression that it might impinge on the public distribution system. We have been assured by our trading partners that they have no dispute whatsoever with India's continuance of its public distribution system. This also I was able to confirm with the Director General, GATT, and we are negotiating to achieve changes in the language which will put the matter beyond any shadow of doubt.

The most emotive issue of all has been the misapprehension that we will have to grant patents for seeds and that our farmers will not be able to retain seed for planting their subsequent crops nor be able to make

across-the-fence exchanges. Sir, I would like to assure the House that there is no obligation on us to patent seeds and we do not intend to do it. The matter has been deeply gone into and a view has emerged that having some sort of protection for plant breeders is in our own interests. To set all doubts at rest, Government intends to shortly draft suitable legislation which will incorporate the farmer's right to retain his seed from one crop to another and to exchange seed in the traditional manner.

One of the most difficult areas in negotiations has been that of patents in the proposed Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). There are two basic issues involved: patenting of genetic material, and compulsory licensing in cases of non-working of patents. Bio-technology is a new field and there is no unanimity or uniformity regarding the scope of patenting in this field even in the developed countries. The draft agreement is itself ambiguous. We are seeking to obtain an explicit exclusion of naturally occurring genetic material, however derived, from the scope of patentability.

Another area of concern has been the question of Government retaining the right to grant compulsory licence for the manufacture of a patented item, in public interest. Apart from compulsory licensing for Government non-commercial use and compulsory licensing in cases of settled anti-competition practices, these are rigorous conditions attached to the grant of compulsory licences in the draft agreement on TRIPs. Grant of a compulsory licence on the sole ground that the patent is not being worked in a country is not envisaged. We are trying to obtain a provision for compulsory licensing in cases where patents are not worked. However, no agreement has been possible on this issue so far.

While the commitment to finally phase out import quotas and integrate textile trade into the normal GATT regime within a period of 10 years represents a step forward, the draft agreement on textiles has been a source of great disappointment to us. The quota regime which we had hoped would end earlier is proposed to be prolonged for another ten years. The greatest amount of liberalisation in the trade will also take place at the end of the transition period. We are still trying to obtain enhanced market access in textiles and lock it in the multilateral process.

The next few days are going to be crucial to the negotiations. I have touched briefly upon some of the most widely raised issues. A consideration of these by hon. Members of the House will undoubtedly provide very valuable inputs to the Government for participating in the concluding phase of the negotiations and securing our national interests as best as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That this House do consider the implications of the Dunkel Draft text on trade negotiations with special reference to its effect on India's interests.”

One thing should be very clear to all of us that the Dunkel proposals are before us. The Government has not come to any final conclusions. They would go by your advice. So the proposals and your views on the proposals will be very helpful to the Government.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : If you permit me, I would just like to share some information about the state of negotiation and what would happen. There is a misapprehension that perhaps, everything is going to be concluded by 15th December. Firstly, it is not correct. Up to 15th December, if the negotiations continue, then thereafter there will be some

ministerial level meeting some time around April. And from 1st of January, 1994 till 31st December, 1994, will be given to all the contracting parties and the Government of contracting parties to formulate their views about the proposals whether they would like to enter into the contract or not. But the negotiation at the negotiators level is likely to be concluded by the 15th of December.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MID-NAPORE) : Does it mean that you are not to sign it by 15th?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : No question of signing. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (VIJAYAWADA) : But that is binding and the draft will be finally ready. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : That means, there will be ministerial meeting and then there will be ratification and so many other things.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : At the official level, it is likely to be concluded by 15th December. Thereafter, some time in April, there will be a ministerial level discussion because the whole process started in 1986 after the ministerial level meeting. In between it is being discussed at the official level. The Brussels meeting of Ministers in December could not conclude anything positively. Therefore, it was deferred. And now if the negotiation is over by 15th December, then the ministerial level meeting will take place some time around April.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (CHIT-TORGARH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for at least tentatively putting across to us the significance of the date of 15th December. I am really inclined to be re-assured by what he has suggested that 15th of December is merely a

date and we have got one more year. But, Sir, you have very varied experience. You have yourself handled this matter. Once at the official level a major international effort of this kind is concluded or not concluded by 15th of December and thereafter for the hon. Minister of for any Government to assert that they will be in a position to up-turn it, to overturn it would perhaps convey a very wrong impression. There are certain commitments that the Government has already made during the process of negotiations. There are further commitments and concessions that the Government through its ability would either obtain or would give, as due process of negotiation, before the 15th of December. It is possible that there are certain cards that the hon. Minister would keep in his pocket which he would pull out only at the ministerial level in April. That is what most Governments do. I think, that is really a matter much more of the negotiating detail or the tactics of negotiating in an international forum rather than a matter of substance. Are we to understand from the hon. Minister's suggestion that the date of 15th December has no value whatsoever, that it has no relevance, that on the 15th December if the rounds are not concluded even at the official level, nothing will happen and that until the whole of the next year there is an opportunity for the country to further debate this issue further refine these proposals? (*Interruptions*) Despite the clarification which I value and which the hon. Minister provided, I am not left with a sense of re-assurance that what concludes on the 15th December or is attempted to be concluded on the 15th December is not something definitive, is not something binding and that the whole chapter of the whole book is available up till April or until the next year. I am sure, the hon. Minister during the course of his reply would throw light on this aspect. But I referred to it in the very first instance because he

clarified of his own what the significance or the importance of the 15th December is.

16.50 hrs.

I am sure, Sir, everyone in this House will share with me my sentiment, as indeed the Treasury Benches and the hon. Minister for Commerce with whom I have had the pleasure of having to work in the other House for a very long period of time. In various incarnations, I had seen him and I am seeing him now, for the first time, in his new incarnation, Sir, as the Minister for Commerce. And I have no doubt, he will bring to this new responsibility the same ability and acumen that he had displayed in the discharge of his earlier responsibilities. Nevertheless, some doubts and worries remain. But as I started by saying that at least on one aspect, I would like to make the position of my party very clear. And I have no doubt in the statement of that principle, all parties assembled in this House would also be in agreement and that, Sir, the only principle against the criteria, against the litmus paper test of which, we can examine what the Government is doing and that is : in the pursuit of arriving at an equitable international trading agreement, are our national interests being subserved? Is the nation's economic sovereignty being preserved and the measures that are being advocated through GATI negotiations, are they going to serve national, economic, commercial or fiscal good?

I have a difficulty with this discussion and my difficult is the difficulty that has been voiced earlier by various other friends; and, despite the hon. Minister's attempts to explain the relevance of the 15th of December and his informing us that this matter has been discussed in his Ministry's Consultative Committee and that this House also will examine it, I have a feeling which I must voice that this

discussion that we are holding today in Parliament is rather proforma; that it is not just simply a question of too little too late. I think it is more in the nature of a Parliamentary sop. But, when I say this, I mean no disrespect to the caution that you have given to all the Members that the Government will pay heed or attention to what we have to say. I rather feel that when just merely seven working days.

MR. SPEAKER : What I was trying to make clear to the hon. Member is that in this discussion the advice given to the Government would be more important than the criticism levelled against them because they have not yet come to any final conclusion. If there is any point which you want to make, you can make. They will accept or reject it and if they reject it, they will explain.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Fine, Sir, I appreciate the point. I will, therefore, heed your caution here again and I will restrain myself from critical references.

The point I was trying to make is that really now there are seven working days left between now-today-and the 15th of December; by a rough calculation, there are only seven working days left. The process of governance being what it is, by the time the Government assimilates what we are saying, and is able to communicate to its negotiators that this is what the advice of the Parliament is, I am not reassured in my mind that the Government would really be heeding to the Parliament's advice; that is why, I voiced the view that what is being attempted now is a kind of sop being thrown to the Parliament so that we feel as if we are also part of the decision-making process. I do not think we are in a position to really influence the Government's decision in this respect.

There is another preliminary difficulty which I would like to voice. Some of the provisions, starting from the Uruguay Round or GATT, you can call them Dunkel proposals or as modified by Mr. Sutherland or whatever, I hold, Sir, that some of these provisions directly affect the right of the States of the Union. There are aspects of commercial interests or economic interests or industrial activities which influence the functioning and the rights of the States of the Union.

Whether it is on 15th December or subsequently that you do what you are doing, once the country is committed to these negotiations, has the Government examined the consequences of these commitments to the rights of the States of the Union? Further, has the Government examined that if you are going to affect the rights of the States of the Union, what exactly are you doing? Are you going to completely upturn the entire constitutional arrangement that we have governing the Centre-State relations in respect of economic, fiscal or commercial matters and are you therefore going to revamp the entire Constitution of India? We would like to be educated and informed on this aspect of the implications of Dunkel proposals and the Government acceptance of them on the fiscal and financial and economic inter-relationship between the States and the Union Government.

The Government has of course every right to negotiate international commercial arrangements on behalf of the Union. Yet, I do not think that anyone has given a right to this Union Government or any Union Government for that matter to barter away the rights of the States. Not just barter away the rights of the States, but indeed a commitment is being made by the Government which will bind many successive ge-

nerations of India to a certain kind of trading arrangement.

I have a second difficulty. I would like to have the benefit of the Government's views on it. Under the beguiling impressions that what is being attempted is a regulated international trading mechanism which applies equally to everybody, I am afraid I am left with a sense of unease in this regard because I feel that a lot of these measures—whether they are GATT or MTCR or the NPT—are interrelated. After all if control can be exercised over technology and hence also over capital under the guise that this falls within the purview of the Missile Technology Control Regime, if essential scientific instruments or research instruments or our attempts at moving in a certain direction are thwarted on grounds of Non Proliferation Treaty, then how is it that the Government states that notwithstanding the fundamentally illiberal, the fundamentally strangulating nature of the MTCR or the NPT merely because an illusion or a promise has been made of a larger, regulated liberal international trading arrangement, therefore give up and accede to GATT and accede simultaneously to MTCR and simultaneously to Non Proliferation Treaty ?

I am afraid—it is a view that I hold—that in international relations, it is international economic relations that are rather calling the shots and in economic international relations, aspects of high technology like missile technology or our peaceful nuclear programme, where great restrictions are placed upon us, unless we examine this whole thing in the totality of the picture, I am afraid we might be going down a path from which there is no coming back also committing the nation and succeeding generations of the nation to a situation wherein national interests would not be best subserved.

I have a few clarifications to ask and a few suggestions to make to this Government. The first aspect is on market access. The Government has informed us earlier that under market access though there is no binding obligation on nations to bring their tariffs to any globally uniform level, it is the expectation of the Dunkel Draft that 40 per cent tariff will be the higher margin.

It includes industrial raw materials and capital goods. Then we are informed that it is subject to certain exceptions. I am sure the hon. Minister understands what I am saying. The Government itself in its information has stated that this 40 per cent is not uniform. The expectation is that you bring it down to 40 per cent. But, in the matter of capital goods, it is subject to certain exceptions. What are those exceptions ? In which case—in the case of industrial raw materials or capital goods—will those exceptions apply ?

There is also a provision. This is a highly complex subject and the Draft proposals themselves run into many hundreds of pages. I do not claim to be a specialist in this field. This is a job which really is that of a specialist. Therefore the suggestions or the questions that I am asking are really the questions of a concerned public activist, political activist belonging to a political party and the questions that I ask are questions that really merit broader process of education of the country at large. When you are saying that this is subject to certain exceptions, what are those exceptions? It is my understanding that the tariff is to be brought down and if it is already lower than 40 per cent, then it is to be reduced to a maximum of 25 per cent. We would like the Government to clarify a bit more on this.

The hon. Minister for Commerce was good enough to explain on patent rights and seeds. He was good enough to explain that the rights of our agriculture so far as patent rights are concerned will not be affected; that the Government contemplates bringing forward legislations to the effect that this will not compromise the entire agriculture chapter of the Dunkel Draft proposal.

Also, Sir, there are two other aspects of the agriculture chapter, as it were. One is the aspect of subsidies. It is my understanding that so far as India is concerned, the existing subsidies, in any case, are much lower than the subsidies that are being offered in the European countries. If the French are worried, they are worried because the subsidies there are already either in excess of ten per cent and that our subsidies, in fact,— I might be corrected on the exactness of my figure—vary between a total percentage of two to three per cent. Therefore, not only do we have an ability to increase the subsidy, but that subsidy does not really worry me. My worry under the agriculture chapter is not so much. So, I will wait until the Government does what it has to do about the seeds aspect. It is about our buffer stock and the public distribution system. No matter what we say about the process of liberalisation, no matter what we say about the industrialisation of the country, India is a country that is essentially dependent on the vagaries of the monsoon. It is the monsoon that determines the well-being of our country. I would like the Government to explain to us as to what are the conditions of provisions that are being dictated, that are being demanded in the Dunkel Draft, when it comes to the maintenance of buffer stocks by sovereign States, not just the maintenance of buffer stocks, but along with maintenance of buffer stocks, the public distribution system will also be affected.

I do not want to keep on repeating this point because I am sure the hon. Minister understands what I mean by the question of buffer stock and public distribution system under the chapter on agriculture.

Sir, I am not satisfied on the textiles chapter and I am not satisfied with what the hon. Minister has said. After all, it is admitted by the hon. Minister himself that the Government itself is also not satisfied. Why is it that a major item of export by India, by a number of developing countries for that matter, is back-loaded rather than being front-loaded?

For ten years, India is not to get the benefit of an equitable, liberal, global trading regime. What is being done is to put textiles at the end of these ten years. And even at the end of these 10 years, it is subject to the vagaries of a shifting international situation. Who knows what will happen at the end of 10 years. I for one could never have foreseen in 1983 what the shape of the globe in 1993 was going to be or what it is today. I do not think any commentator in 1983 could have authoritatively said that in 1993 this is what the globe is going to look like.

We are committed—I hear from what is being said by the hon. Minister—to signing this at the official level certainly on 15th of December. Are you committing the entire textile industry of the country to this kind of inequitable and unacceptable back-loading for the next 10 years, whereas the other benefits continue to flow elsewhere, and at the end of those 10 years, there still being no guarantee that the proposals as envisaged now would be implemented.

I will now come to trade related investment measures, popularly and abbreviatedly referred to as 'TRIMS'.

I would like to quote very briefly because it will better enable me to put across what I have to say in regard to balance of payments provisions. We have been informed that the proposals curb the freedom of developing countries as contained in GATT rules to apply quantitative trade restrictions for balance of payments purposes. They make no distinction between certain articles which are highly technical—article 18 for developing countries and article 12 for developed countries—in requiring the contracting parties to conform to their commitments to publicly announce as soon as possible a time-schedule for the removal of the restrictive import measures taken for balance of payments purposes. It is a very important aspect because inherent in this particular provision lies the seed of international dictation on currency regulation within the country.

If I attempted to elaborate this point, firstly, it will take too long. I am sure the hon. Minister has understood what I am saying, and rather than keeping on repeating it, I would request that the hon. Minister provide a clarification to this particular aspect of the Dunkel Draft proposals.

The provision in article 18, which allows the developing countries to determine the incidence of restrictions on different products or classes of products in such a way as to give priority to the importation of those products which are more essential in the light of their policy of economic development, has been done away with. This is a provision. It is related specifically to developing countries. It is a beneficial provision. Why is this being done away with? Why has the Government accepted a provision which is for the benefit of developing countries? Why are you accepting the removal of this? Why are you simultaneously accepting that the developed world will dictate to us what kind of currency regulation, currency policy we have. Broadly,

three concerns arise in respect of TRIMS. I would request the Government to clarify these.

This is something the BJP has been saying for a very long time. Whereas we are advocates of deregulation, we are advocates of debureaucratisation, we are advocates of lifting the deadening hand of the Government from the creative genius of India.

We believe that in the prioritisation of this programme, internal liberalisation must precede external liberalisation, and the sequencing of the measures that you adopt or the fine tuning of these measures must take care of the internal or indigenous industry before you permit the global competition in a full-fledged form to be present in the country. There is, therefore, a valid fear that we have that after these trade related investment measures are implemented, the Government may not be able to impose any phased manufacturing programme or indeed what we mean by encouraging the indigenous as against the external local content rule. When I say local content rule, I am talking of the entire small scale sector which is the ancillary industrial sector of the country. The small sector or the ancillary industry is really about the local content rule. In the other House, the hon. Minister piloted the nationalisation of Maruti. There was a certain commitment made by the Government then that the indigenous content of Maruti will be a certain percent. Now, when I remind the Government of those promises, there is the taste of ashes in my mouth. I would request the hon. Minister to explain the Government's position regarding the local content rule about indigenous industry.

The other difficulty which I foresee in TRIMS is this. Currently we are saying that if you wish to invest in the country, make certain export commitment, given our balance of

payments difficulty. It is considerably better now and it has improved but it is not that we are completely out of the woods. We have, therefore, pursued the policy and the BJP has been advocating that there ought to be an obligation upon certain sectors which are coming for investment, an obligation which we commonly call export obligation. Once these TRIMS are introduced, to which the Government is now committed to signing, we will not be able to adhere to such an export obligation or any such thing.

16.23 hrs.

(SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*) For example, Pepsi Cola is patented. You started by saying that Pepsi Cola can do what it wishes to do in the country and it can produce beverage with some drinks as others do not drink and that it can make potato chips or whatever it does. I am now informed that some other potato manufacturing company is coming. (Interruptions) New licence has been given to Kentucky fried chicken. These are not lot of facetious questions that I ask. Under TRIPS, Kentucky fried chicken will have patent right. But will *tandoori* chicken have patent rights. (Interruptions). It is not a facetious question. You are granting licence to Kentucky fried chicken to come and sell fried chicken here in India and they have patent right. Now, I am asking whether *tandoori* chicken will have patent rights or not in the United States of America. (Interruptions). My query might appear to be light-hearted. But I am deliberately putting it in terms which are understood simply.

I think junk food called McDonalds is an obscenity and in my view it is best kept out of India ! I don't think India needs another breakfast cereal. We don't need McDonalds to serve fast food. You know Sir, the most efficient and the most edible and the fastest food chain in the world. that serves hot food constantly, are

the *dhabas*. You have to just go the length and breadth of the country, and you find that all the *dhabas* on the trunk routes, serve very good food. Also Sir, I am sure you are aware of the great excellence achieved by Udipi restaurants. They serve first rate food. Is there a possibility that we have patent rights on *masala dosa* ? I say this because there must be equal treatment. If you are ready to give Kentucky fried chicken and the McDonalds certain position in the country what about the *masala dosa* ? Would you have a reciprocal arrangement about *masala dosa* and about all the various other items ?

I give these examples not to reduce the importance of the question, but in fact to make it simpler to understand. When we talk about all these things, it is really something so vast, so complex and at the present moment, so in equitable and balanced in favour of the developed world, unless Government exercises the greatest restraint and the maximum amount of caution, we will be tying down succeeding generations of India to a regime that will remain in equitable ! And all this is in one unified whole too ! You want freedom on McDonalds, on coca cola, on pepsi cola and on Kentucky fried chicken, but you don't want freedom on missile technology control regime and you don't wish to share high technology items. On those, you will place restrictions ! That is why my worries arise.

Let me take you Sir to the question of TRIPS. So far as drugs are concerned, I am afraid, the honourable the Minister has not answered the most important question that has worried the country in regard to TRIPS. As a consequence of the extension of product patents, particularly, in the pharmaceutical world, drug prices in India would go up very steeply. I know that the Government has gone into a very involved exercise to make a claim to the country that the application of

product patents to pharmaceuticals will result in drug prices only in some particular area to go up. I would like the hon. Minister to set our doubts at rest. I have very grave apprehensions that this is like getting a foot in the door and one it is conceded, the entire field which has been captured by the Western world relating to pharmaceuticals and product patents would in fact be taken away. It would cause a great deal of distress to Indian citizens because India is still able to sell, despite the wholly unbalanced situation in the **entire drug pricing would, reasonably and modestly priced drugs to needy Indians.**

I am afraid once the Dunkel Draft proposals are accepted, the drug prices will be placed outside the field of availability to the common Indian. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister about the drugs of the Ayurvedic system or the Unani System. **What will happen to Homoeopathy, although Homoeopathy is not of Indian origin. Today the Homoeopathic drugs are amongst the cheapest drugs available to the Indians. Homoeopathy has its origin in Germany. What will happen to homoeopathic drugs? Somebody in Germany will claim the patent right for homoeopathic drugs and today what is available for a low price will become very costly. This is one aspect of the pharmaceuticals which needs to be clarified.**

With your permission I would like to reel out my worries. Importation, being treated as working of the patents, will result in domestic market being served solely by imports and will preclude any possibility of local manufacturing in India. You place pharmaceuticals under Drugs, the cost of production goes up, external production keeps its prices down and so importation becomes cheaper. That is the second aspect. I would request the hon. Minister to clarify this point and set our doubts at rest.

The third point relating to the TRIPS is extension of the term of patents to 20 years. A-20-year term to patent is arbitrary. To my mind it is too long. It results in limiting access to new technology and it will result in the country being denied, if not denied, certainly, delayed in the introduction of new life saving **drugs also, whether they relate to cancer, HIV or AIDS.** So much research is taking place in drugs at so many places. Is the country going to be denied access to these for 20 years to come merely because of this provision?

Fourthly, products for which patents are filed after the date of entry in the course of agreement cannot be marketed in India by Indian companies because of the introduction of what is called as pipeline protection. I need not go into the elaborate explanation of what the pipeline protection is.

The hon. Minister has just now said that we will sign somewhere on the 15th of December and so we have got one full year. In the month of April, the Minister will meet and then there will be ratification, etc. etc. One year is perhaps there but in the pipeline is Dunkel Draft which is beginning to close and there is what is called pipeline protection. I would like the hon. Minister to explain to the Parliament the provisions of Pipeline Protection and explain it with sufficient clarity so that the nation is convinced that this provision will not be to the detriment of national interest.

There are a number of other points and I find it necessary for me to voice them because I am not going to get another chance to have either consultation or exchange of views with the hon. Minister.

The next point is about the Automatic licence of the right which would become impermissible in the

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new regime. Would the hon. Minister please explain the Government's thinking on this particular aspect ?

Then there is a very major difficulty which really affects the system of the entire Evidence Act.

The burden of proof, Sir, as far as India is concerned lies on the accused. If we accuse some one of charges, we have to prove them. So the accused should be treated as innocent until proven guilty.

In case of Dunkel Draft, when it comes to patent violations, it will lie with some company in the United States of America or the United Kingdom to claim a violation of patent. It will then be upon the Indian company to prove that there is no violation. It will not be upon the foreign company to prove that there is a violation. The former Minister of Commerce is shaking his head and saying that this is not so. I would request the present Minister of Commerce, when he clarifies this position, to confirm this. The burden of proof will lie after the TRIPS come into force on the accuser for violation of patent rights.

Sir, I have some worries in regard to research and development. I have worries about plant variety protection and agriculture. I have worries about patenting of what the Minister has himself mentioned about biotechnology and genetic material. I fear that these areas which are of very high concern to the country will be affected adversely.

I would request the hon. Minister to clarify this aspect. Because unless this is clarified, I will find it difficult to be convinced in my mind that the Government is addressing itself to this vital aspect of preservation of national interest.

Sir, under the Chapter "Services", if my understanding of where the negotiations have reached is correct, that banking and

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insurance must be open but the movement of personnel is not simultaneous with it. I would request the hon. Minister to confirm to me what is the implication of opening the services sector, if there is no opening of personnel? This is highly imbalanced and inequitable arrangement. Of course Sir, there are larger banks. My good friend Shri Ram Naik, who is also an hon. Member in the Joint Parliamentary Committee, is saying that they are looking into the state of banking in the country. I am inhibited from commenting on the state. Pending submission of the Report, I will not even say what is the present state of the Indian banking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : The Standing Committee on Finance is also there which is looking into banking. So, you quote from that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't quote.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The Chairman is saying that I should not quote. So, I will not quote from that. It is common hearsay. I am informed and it is also seen in the press that the state of Indian banking is disastrous, appalling. Given the state of Indian insurance which is the very inefficient monopoly, the GATT proposal ill-serves the Indian citizens. So, you open up the services sector. It means, you open up the banking, insurance and all the related fields but it is not open to the personnel. For example, if the State Bank of India, today decides to go and open branches in the Republic of Russia, the State Bank of India can go but the personnel cannot go. If movement of services can take place, why not movement of personnel? I would request the hon. Minister to clarify this aspect.

Sir, there is one other aspect that worries me under Services and that is this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is called factors of production. Capital will have free flow not the labours.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : That is precisely my point. The Government is tying us down.

I would like the hon. Minister to explain this. There is one another aspect of worry under 'services' and that is 'audio-visual'. The Government has not explained its position in regard to the audio-visual. I am sure you and other hon. Members in this House are now familiar with the invasion of the audio-visual from the sky.

The audio-visual invasion of India has already taken place. The Dunkel Draft requires all the signatories to open out their nations to audio-visual freedom. If there is audio-visual freedom, I would request the government, to clarify, given by now globally famous and renowned esteem of an agency called Doordarshan, given the fact that the Doordarshan subscribes very limited and patently parochial interests, given the fact that Doordarshan is continuously losing even viewer interest, given the fact of the audio-visual invasion of India that has already taken place through Star TV etc., what is the aspect of the Dunkel Draft proposals on audio-visual freedom? What is the Government of India's stand on it and where do the negotiations precisely stand?

I consider it necessary to highlight the aspect of audio-visual just as I consider it necessary to relate the Dunkel Draft with the MTCR and NPT, etc., that these are inter-related aspects. Audio-visual is a cultural invasion of India. There is already existing a certain mental enslavement of the country and economic and commercial enslavement must not follow. That is the simple criterion or yardstick that I applied at the very beginning. Again, and in the light of all this, if audio-visual freedom to invade the country is also occurring; and not only audio-visual, but if liberalization of this is considered, then where will it stop? Will media

also not be included? If a certain very big investor in the field of media was to just put 25 million dollars, he would be able to buy out the largest circulating newspaper in the country. If that is the intention, if the freedom of investment results in the capturing of Indian media and a simultaneous invasion of the audio-visual, I do not know, if the original purpose with which I started, that national interests above all must govern the attitude of the government in signing or not signing the Dunkel Draft, the national economic interest and economic sovereignty, these aspects worry us.

Unless, therefore, the Government satisfies us on these aspects, I am afraid, I for my Party will find it very difficult to lend wholehearted or even partial support to the Government's proposition.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to be enlightened from the BJP. They have given names of 13 members to speak but time will not permit. I think they should do something from the Party itself so that it does not create any confusion.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Justice has to be done to all parties.

Anyway, this debate will go on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P. Chidambaram.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The former Commerce Minister!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this debate on the Dunkel proposals.

Last year this was debated on more than one occasion. The first was on a Private Member's Resolution and inevitably it had to be spread over several days, it was a rather unsatisfactory debate. Then, again towards the end of the last year, we had another debate. But that was a brief one and I think, constraints of time and the desire to adjourn early did not raise that debate to a great level. Even today Sir, we cannot congratulate ourselves on

have begun this debate. On the first effective day of sitting of this Session, we found that there are only 114 Members present and perhaps now only half of that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : By the time we finish, I do not know how many Members will be present.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I think, the subject deserves greater attention, greater degree of seriousness and if I may say so with respect, I think it deserves greater attention even by the media.

Sir, when I was first introduced to the subject of Uruguay Round, I was a total *novice*, no less than my hon. friend, Shri Jaswant Singh. But, I think it was a great education in trying to understand how the world works; how world trade takes place; what had happened in the years since the Kennedy Round and the Tokyo Round; why we appear to have missed the bus and why it is necessary today despite our reservations, despite many disappointments, to negotiate for ourselves a package which is acceptable and consistent with our national interests.

Sir, it is easy to portray the Dunkel proposals as a colonial imposition. We must remember, and this I believe is a lesson in humility, that our share of world trade is only 0.4 per cent. Why it is at such a dismal level is not the subject matter of today's debate. But the fact is a hard fact. Our share of world trade is 0.4 per cent. We are therefore not a major player in world trade. We were one of the first of the 28 or so contracting parties, which concluded the first General Agreement on Trade and Tariff in 1948. Today that body has grown to about 108 members. Many countries, which are smaller than India, which were poorer than India, which had per capita incomes lower than the per capita income of India, and which had virtually no exports, have overtaken us, outclassed us and have acquired for themselves a larger share of world trade: like France. Of France's
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global imports, imports from India is about 0.21 per cent. What does it mean? It means that France can do without India's imports. India cannot do without exporting to France.

In fact, if you go down the line country by country starting with the largest trading partner, the E.C., the United States and the areas to which trade has grown most impressively, the Asia Pacific Region, every country with which India trades can do without goods from India. We cannot do without exporting our goods and services to those countries. We are not a major player and for that reason what we do and what we do not do will not have a major impact on the rest of the world. I can give my reasons why we have reached such a situation. I am sure hon. Members will give their own reasons. We may agree on some of them and we may not agree on some of them. But, I think, the principal reason why India became a very small player is the policy of autarchy. An inward looking, protected, non-competitive, closed economy has led the Indian economy to a situation where we are not a major player in the world trade. That is my view. It is a view that is increasingly shared by the people in this country, a view which is articulated by the Government and a view which has gained acceptance among large sections of the people of this country. It is, therefore, in our own interest to joint the world and to do business with the rest of the world.

Sir, GATT is no monster. GATT is not some alien force. GATT should not remind us of the East India Company. GATT is a set of rules. It is a set of laws. I do not mean any disrespect at all to my learned friend. I hold him in great respect. One of the reasons why he has raised some questions is that he has not looked upon the present GATT proposals for what they are. They are only amendments to the existing rules and new rules are also made. It is not possible to understand the Dunkel proposals if you read it without reading the basic GATT text which is in force today. The GATT text in force is a set of rules and the Dunkel

proposals proposes amendments to those rules or add to the body of the rules. So, when we look at the proposals we must look at the existing rules. We must ask what is this proposal regarding the existing rule; does it amend, does it add to them? Without reference to the basic rules which are already in force, the Dunkel proposals will surely not make much sense.

Is it in our own interest to have world trade done according to the rules or is it in our own interest not to have rules? I think, it is a basic question. It is good to ask this question and I think we should answer this question. What will happen if GATT proposals are not there? If the Dunkel proposals are not there, we still have to do business according to the existing rules. It is not as though there is a vacuum. There are rules today and we, among other countries, were at Punta del Este. Our delegation was led by the then Minister in charge, Shri V.P. Singh and I think, he showed a great deal of statesmanship and wisdom in agreeing to sign that declaration subject to protecting our safeguards. Again in Montreal two years later, there was a midterm review. I think, the Minister in charge showed great wisdom in taking the process forward. Why? If we do not improve the set of rules which we have today we would still have to do business on the rules which we have pronounced to be unsatisfactory. There is, of course, another way out and perhaps some will suggest that way out : get out of GATT and no rules bind us. I only wish to point out that China which has been always out of GATT is knocking at the doors of GATT to get into GATT. Surely, no one who wishes great things for India can suggest that we should get out of GATT at a time when even China wants to get into GATT.

And what happens if we get out of GATT? We would still have to do business with the world. We need six billion dollars for petroleum imports; we need about ten million dollars for importing raw materials, capital goods, and components; we need foreign ex-

change even to run our Missions abroad; we need to import equipment for our Defence forces. Simply to keep the Indian economy going, we need twenty billion dollars worth of foreign exchange. And this has to be earned. The Government of India today has a budget deficit. I suppose, the Finance Minister tells the Reserve Bank and someone in the Reserve Bank brings up the printing press and say : print more currency, which explains the increase in the money circulation and inflation. There is no easy way to print Dollars or Pounds or Yen or Marks. We would have to earn them by exporting goods. And if we are out of GATT, what do we do? We would still have to negotiate with each country for a trading arrangement. On the day we get out of GATT, we would lose the 'most-favoured nation' status. We would still have to enter into bilateral agreements with every single country of the world or take the top thirty or forty trading partners of India and negotiate with them a trade agreement by which our goods will enter their markets and, in return, some of their goods will enter our markets. And none of these trade agreements, none of these trade arrangements will be any better than GATT rules. There is no country in the world today—and I would like the Minister to confirm this—which is willing to offer us a more favourable status, more favourable trading arrangement that what is envisaged in the GATT system or the GATT rules.

There are concerns and I shall come to the concerns towards the later part of my intervention. Let me address the concerns of Mr. Jaswant Singh first because I think he has articulated, as the first speaker on the side of the Opposition, points which have been made times without number throughout this country. The National Committee on Intellectual Property Reforms, the Gene Campaign, farmers' organisations, scientists, all have spoken up and said many of the things which Mr. Jaswant Singh said. The point is each of these concerns has been addressed by the Government. Take, for example, the Gene Campaign. I invited Dr. Suman Sahay to meet with

me and listened to her arguments, asked her to tell me which provision of the proposals affected the farmers. And I took great pains to explain to her as to why we think her understanding of the provisions was wrong and why we think the correct interpretation of the proposals is in a particular manner. I am only using that as an example. A group of Ministers was set up. Very distinguished people came and gave evidence. In fact, the CPI(M)'s General Secretary, Mr. Surjeet, at the end of his presentation, came to me and complimented me for speaking up against a possible danger of subscribing to the TRIPS Draft as it is, namely, that some drugs' prices will go up far beyond the reach of the common man. Economists came to us, diplomats came to us, scientists came to us. Government, for the first time, conducted a very transparent and open discussion with not only Members of Parliament but with very responsible sections of the people. Therefore, even if this debate comes towards the end of the negotiations in Geneva—and we apprehend that the Trade Negotiating Committee will include its discussions on the 15th of December—it is good that such a debate takes place.

17.00 Hrs.

It is good that the hon. Mr. Jaswant Singh has raised these questions. I think it is good that the Government will have an opportunity to answer these questions definitively and conclusively.

It would also be in our interest—and I submit this with great respect to the Minister—towards the end of this debate to agree upon half-a-dozen points on which we must express our unanimity that we demand improvement in Geneva. We cannot today reverse the process of negotiation. With us or without us, there will be a GATT agreement. What we can do is to express, in the strongest terms, the unanimous voice and opinion of this Parliament that India, a country with 850 million people, demands improvement in the Geneva talks on certain areas of vital concern, not only to India but to all other developing countries.

With that rather long prefatory statement may I address, Sir, address myself to some specific issues? Firstly I will speak about States' rights. I do not see how States' rights are involved. There is nothing in the Dunkel text or Dunkel proposal which effect the rights of individual States in the Indian Union. The acceptance of the GATT system and the new GATT rules will have a great impact upon India's macro economic policy-making particularly on imports and exports, on patents on investments, on agriculture and on services. Each of these areas is an area with which this Parliament is concerned in laying down the policy and making law. There is nothing at all in the Dunkel proposal which impinges upon the rights of the States of India. I assume what hon. Mr. Jaswant Singh mentioned was their rights under the Constitution, either under the Chapter dealing with Centre-State relations or under List 2 or List 3 of the Seventh Schedule. There is nothing at all in the Dunkel proposal which takes away or subtracts or diminishes the rights of the States to make laws or make policies.

The main concern, I think, we should have is about market access. Why do we do trade? And why do we need more trade? We need more trade because it will bring us greater investment, greater technology and better prices for our producers. Today our farmers get prices which are far less than international prices. In fact that is one of the reasons. Why we are not hit by the reduction in subsidy clause. We have taken 20 products. In 17 of these agricultural products, Indian farmers get prices far less than international prices. Why should our farmers get prices less than international prices? The only way in which our farmers will get full value for their labour is when they get a fair price, a full and fair international price and that can be achieved only when our products find their way to every market in the world. I will come to that a little later. Let me go back to the main subject of market access. On market access the Dunkel proposals contain no conclusions just as in services also the Dunkel proposals contain no conclusions.

Hon. Mr. Jaswant Singh remarked what have we done about services, what have we promised, what have we offered and what have we concluded. The Dunkel proposals contain no conclusions on tariff reduction in goods as well as in services. All that Arthur Dunkel, the then Secretary-General has recommended in his proposals of December, 1991 is that the contracting parties should, continue bilateral, perilateral and multilateral talks in order to reach conclusions on goods and services.

Now what we have offered is—as far as I am able to recall and understand—30 per cent reduction across the board on tariffs on raw materials, components and goods.

When we made that offer, a 30 per cent reduction seemed very ambitious. Today, after the budget presented by Dr. Manmohan Singh, it is universally accepted that we have brought down tariffs, we need to bring down tariffs further and by the year 1995-96, we should be on level with other countries in the world. So, reduction in tariffs, by itself, is not an alarming proposition. In fact, it is a stated goal. We should continue to reduce tariffs across the board for raw materials, components and capital goods. That is the only way in which we will make our products competitive.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (JADHAVPUR): Without signing the Dunkel Draft you have submitted to his conditions.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We have not signed the Dunkel Draft because there is no concluded Dunkel Draft to be signed. But that apart, by autonomous decision making, we believe that we need to reduce tariffs. If you oppose market access, you must also stand up and say that tariffs should not be reduced in this country and tariffs should go back to 300 per cent or tariffs should go back to 150 per cent. That is not the policy of the Government and that is not the policy, I believe, which is shared by large sections of the House. I realise there is a very articulate section in this House which

opposes reduction in tariffs. (Interruptions) I do not deny that at all. There is a very articulate section which very pleasantly and very effectively puts its point of view, but the largest section of the House believes in the policy we have followed, namely tariffs must be reduced, and tariffs have been reduced in the last three budgets. And believe me, if I read the mind of the Government right, tariffs will again be reduced, come February 28, 1994. Therefore, when we talk of market access, the offer that we made two years ago that there will be a 30 per cent reduction across the board on tariffs is, to me, no longer a very material point because we have reduced tariffs, we intend to reduce tariffs and we intend to make the Indian market more accessible even as we want other markets to be accessible for Indian goods.

Sir, the next crucial area is agriculture. We are basically a large producer of agricultural goods and in the last two years, thanks to the new policies that have been adopted, there has been a tremendous increase in agricultural exports and I think it is for the good. When we made a calculation a couple of years ago, we found that only one-half per cent to one per cent of India's agricultural produce is exported. This year, we will perhaps export about Rs. 2,500 crore worth agricultural produce whereas the potential of this country is to export, as I said once to my learned friend in this House, Rs. 30,000 crore worth agricultural products. We can be a world leader in cotton, silk, sugar, tea, coffee, marine products, rice, wheat and tobacco. A vast number of agricultural products can be exported out of this country which will give to our farmer for the first time international prices.

Now, what is the impact of Dunkel Draft on agriculture? The Dunkel Draft says four things. The Dunkel proposals say that domestic support must be reduced by 20 per cent. The short answer to that is, it does not apply to us and we would not have to reduce any kind of domestic support for at least the period of the Dunkel proposals, namely 10 years.

On the contrary how will this benefit us? In fact, there is a raging battle in France today and this battle is raging in Germany today. When those countries are forced to reduce domestic support, their prices will go up, our products will flow into France, our products will flow into Germany and our products will flow into world markets. Dunkel's second impact is, export subsidies must be reduced, budget outlays must be reduced by 36 per cent and quantities must be reduced by 24 per cent. Again, Sir, this has no application to us at all.

The aggregate measure of support, the AMS as calculated through a very complex formula, says that it cannot exceed 10% of the total value of the output. When you look at the international prices, we find that in 17 out of 20 products, AMS is negative in this country. There is nothing that we need to fear from this paragraph. It is only in three products, namely sugarcane, tobacco and groundnut that there is a positive subsidy but this is far less than 10% and there is no reason to believe that we will ever exceed 10%. In fact, if our goods get higher prices and better prices, this figure which is already less than 10% will become even smaller and not bigger.

The third is about tariffication. We have no obligation to tariffify because we are saved again by the BoP clause. There is no obligation for tariffication by India.

Fourthly, the requirement that we should give a minimum market access to agricultural products. Again India is exempt because of BoP clause which saves us from tariffication.

Taken together, the Dunkel proposals on agriculture are a great boon to the Indian farmers. The Dunkel proposals on agriculture will make the cost and price of agricultural products produced in the Western countries, particularly, European countries far higher, making them less competitive and we, in fact, will become more competitive. You will find, Sir, if and when the Dunkel proposals on agriculture are implemented, there is a

great spurt in export of agricultural produce from India. If we genuinely care for the interests of the Indian farmers, we must welcome wholeheartedly the Dunkel proposals on agriculture because, they are a great boon to Indian farmers. Our products will go to every part of the world and we will get international prices.

The next major area in Dunkel proposals is TRIMS, investment measures. I, for a moment, was flummoxed, when Mr. Jaswant Singh made this as a major point. In our paper for discussion, we thought it was such a subsidiary point that we did not even devote a chapter for TRIMS. If I may take liberty with him, the clock seems to have stopped for Mr. Jaswant Singh two years ago. What are we talking about? We are talking about export obligation; we are talking about local content, earlier called Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP). Autonomously, even before the Dunkel text was finalised by Mr. Arthur Dunkel, even before the debate was started in this country, we have given up PMP and we have given up imposing export obligations except in certain specified sectors. We think, this is right. We think, this is the correct policy to adopt. A make or a buy decision is an economic decision. I do not know whether all this is necessary for this debate. But basically a decision to make or buy must be left to the enterprise, must be left to the industry. I do not think, Government should impose any such decision upon the industry. This is the internal liberalisation you are talking about. When you talk about internal liberalisation for Indian industry, in the same breath, you say that the Government should tell the industry, you should make and not buy or you should buy and not make. When we talk about Phased Manufacturing Programme, PMP, we impose the decision upon the Indian industry that you shall not buy something but you shall make it. If it is cheaper to buy rather to make, I think, we should buy. If it is better to make rather than to buy, I think, we should make. This is a decision which the

industry has to take which the enterprises should take autonomously based on purely economic considerations. Therefore, rightly, we threw the PMP out of the window. That was done, if I recall, some time in late 1991.

Again on export obligations, yes when a foreign investment proposal comes to India today, the Government does impose certain export obligations. But this is not in all sectors. In many sectors, we impose an export obligation.

In some sectors we indicate a desired level of export which should be achieved. But in many other areas, we are not so much concerned about export obligation as we are concerned about the flow of goods and services into the country the flow of technology, and the flow of capital.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why do you enter in those areas and not liberalise those areas?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am coming to it. Mr. Jaswant Singh said that this will mean indiscriminate investment and there cannot be direct investment in certain areas. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Even today, under the industrial policy, there are only 35 areas open to foreign direct investment where automatically we allow an investment level of 51% of equity. I agree with Mr. Nirmal Kant Chatterjee and others. It is for us to decide whether 35 should remain 35 or 35 should become 45 or 45 should become 55. That is a right which we have and there is nothing in the Dunkel proposals which tells us that you must open up every sector for foreign investment. Please show me the chapter or verse of the Dunkel proposals which tell us to do that. There is nothing at all which says that. What has happened in the last two years is a mixed bag of good and bad. There I am willing to accept some part of the criticism. What has happened in this country is, as foreign direct investment flowed into this country, we found that in some soft areas as also

FDI has come in. Nobody is denying that. But do not throw the baby with the bath water.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What does your recognition mean? You do not deny. But what do you do?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Eighty per cent of FDI has come in the core-sector and into water power, telecommunications, capital goods, electronics software, marine products, food processing and into areas which are vital for the well-being of this country. 20% of the FDI has indeed come into soft areas. Perhaps if we had been a little more firm and a little more vigilant we might have reduced some of this FDI.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Within the 80%, how much is stopped?

DR. ASIM BALA (NABADWIP) : You try to dilute the Dunkel proposal. Kindly tell us vividly about agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have not yet touched upon textiles or pharmaceuticals nor do I presume to be able to talk about every aspect. The Minister will talk about it. I am trying to touch upon as many subjects as possible within the time allotted to me.

80% of investment has come into core sectors and our industrial policy still remains. I think the criticism that is addressed against us is that the policy remains a very directed investment policy. I believe, and this is my view that in the next few years, our investment policy must be based upon directed investment. Maybe after five years or ten years we can liberalise further and say that the direction of investment need not be according to a pattern suggested by Government. But as we are liberalising, as we are globalising, it is important that direct investment should go to core areas. In the last two years, I think the record of this Government has been extremely good. 80% of FDI has gone into the

core areas. If necessary, we can read out the list of industries where investment has gone. It is only in 20 per cent of the FDI which has gone into the soft areas. But that is sometimes unavoidable. It is inevitable. Sometimes if we wish to establish good relations with certain countries, sometimes if we wish to open up new relationships with another country, it may be necessary in order to attract investment in certain core areas, as a bargaining point, as tactical point to allow some investment in soft areas. But one must be conscious that the bulk of the investment will go into the core areas, hard areas. There is need for capital and there is need for technology. There is nothing in the Dunkel proposal which militates against following such a policy.

I come to textiles. This has been an area of concern and disappointment. The multi-fibre agreement is one of the most anti-GATT agreements. It is regressive. It favours developed countries. It imposes unacceptable burdens upon developing countries. It tries to take away the comparative advantage which a country like India has acquired over the years in textiles.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the MFA is, in fact, anti-trade. But the MFA is not something which came up today. The MFA has been there for years and the MFA has been rolled over from time to time. What has happened today is under the Dunkel proposals, the MFA will be phased out in 10 years. Now, we have lodged a strongest protest to the 10 years' phase out and we have asked for a much shorter time. But what happened in Geneva? What happened in Geneva was that India was the only country to oppose it. When we were about to vote, Pakistan was the only other country which stood with us to oppose the roll over of MFA until the new proposals came up for phasing it out over 10 years. No other country in the world would stand by us. Pakistan stood by us. We were assured that improvements would

be given in Geneva; that our concerns... India's and Pakistan's concerns... would be addressed in Geneva. But as the package was unfolded, we found that many of our concerns have not been addressed. The integration percentages are unacceptable. They are 16, 17 and 18 percent leading to that famous expression that the agreement is back-loaded and not front loaded. It simply means that only 51 percent will be integrated in the first 10 years and 94 percent will be integrated on the first of January 2003—now perhaps by 2004 or 2005. The growth percentages are unacceptable. The growth percentages are only 16 percent, 25 percent and 27 percent. The new coverage today covers products which are not under restraint. For example, cotton, pure silk, hand-knitted carpets, synthetic fibres are there. Altogether, the package is unsatisfactory. But, for two years India has waged a lone battle with the developed countries, with the U.S., with the E.C. There is no country in the world which joined us in the battle, not Bangladesh which is now a major exporter of textiles; not Hong Kong which is a major exporter of textiles. The only thing that we could secure was, when we pressed the point, the U.S. gave us an extra 50 million metres of textile goods to be imported in that country. When we raised this point with the E.C., the then Vice-President Mr. Andreessen, a great friend of India—you can hardly find anyone showing so much a sympathy for India's point of view—promised to see what he can do in the talks in Geneva on behalf of the E.C. Mr. Arthur Dunkel himself promised that while he cannot assure that the 10 year period would be reduced, he would stand firm against the further extension of the 10 years' period. Every other country has promised us that its Parliament or Government will make laws to implement the MFA phase-out in 10 years. Today, the danger is not in MFA being phased out only in 10 years. The danger comes from Mr. Clinton who has promised Mexico that he would try for a phase out of 15 years. When Mr. Clinton signed the NAFTA agreement

with Mexico, he promised Mexico that he would try to extend the 10 year period to 15 years. That is where the danger comes from. So, we must do our best to see that the 10 years phase-out is reduced from 10 years to seven or six years. But today, the threat comes from not those who want to hold on to that 10 year period but it comes from a very powerful trading bloc, the NAFTA which will come into being on the first of January, 1974, which threatens to unravel the package and say that the 10 years period must be extended to 15 years.

Sir, this world is an unequal world. This is a cruel world. We have to do business in an unequal, cruel world. I think our negotiators have done a remarkable job in trying to win as many concessions and as many improvements as possible in Geneva. But given the cruel, unequal world in which we function as a minor player in world trade, how much can we secure, how much we have to yield, how much we can get is a matter on which only the Government can speak authoritatively.

But I must bring to the notice of this House and the people of this country that we are battling against the most severe odds. I would be happy if the MFA is phase out is reduced from ten years to eight years. Last year in Davos, Hong Kong which is a major exporter, I spent a lot of time with them talking to them. Will they join us in pleading for reduction of MFA from ten years to a lesser number of years? They said, 'no'. Singapore says no; Jamaica says no; Bangladesh is quiet; Pakistan gives us muted support. Who in this world among the major textile exporters is willing to stand by us? None. Well, I will be happy if the ten year period is reduced. I think, I will be happier if we can stop the NAFTA tirade for unravelling the package and extending ten years to fifteen years.

There is the area of services. Again, as I said, there is no concluded package on services in the Dunkel proposals, they only

want us to negotiate. There is what is known as the offer list and the request list. India has made an offer list, India has made a request list and negotiations are in progress. What our negotiators have been able to arrive at, I am not in a position to say. I do know if there is no concluded package. It is the Government policy not to throw open many service sectors to foreigners. Service providers abroad wish to enter the Indian market because there is a large market, a growing market. But India wishes to defend its service sector. India wishes to strengthen and improve upon its own banking, insurance, transport and telecommunication. While India would therefore, welcome technology, welcome capital, welcome joint ventures, we are not going to throw open indiscriminately or throw the doors open completely to all service providers in this country. At the same time, we should look to the opportunities that will open to us as service providers.

My learned friend mentioned only about the movement of personnel. That is indeed one area. The movement of skilled personnel is a major area in which India can be a service provider.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Which country will take Indian workers?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If we are able to secure movement of skilled personnel, India will indeed be a great beneficiary in the services sector.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : A very big 'if'.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Indian service providers today are able to move, for example, in computer and software. What we want is other services area to be thrown open to us for our service providers. Education and medical services are the areas in which we have tremendous strength. Our strength is the human resources. There are a million Indians in the United States; there are another million or so Indians in Europe. There are several million Indians in Asia and Africa. A large number of Indians are

service providers of the highest order of skills. It is to our advantage to ensure that many services areas are opened up for movement of skilled personnel. This is not only in computer software but in education and medical services and in many other services we can become service providers.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUM DUM) : Why skilled only. Why not semi-skilled ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There are policies restricting immigration on semi-skilled labour and unskilled labour. Like we would not today accept, I know here in this House a view has been expressed that we would not accept large scale immigrants of Bangladesh coming to India as unskilled labour. Many other countries will not accept unskilled Indian labour moving in. It is a will of the wisp it is a dream. You cannot chase a mirage. But the skilled labour of a high order can move from India all over the world. In fact, they are moving all over the world. It is to our advantage to ensure that the services sector is opened up. In return, we would have to open up some of our services sectors. But that is an autonomous decision. We can decide what sectors will be opened up, what sectors will not be opened up. For example, in telecommunication, we have opened up hardware, we have opened up value added services. We have not opened up on basic telephones services. Similarly we can open up in sectors which we believe is right for us. But let us understand that there is no way in which the services sector will be opened up for Indian skilled personnel unless there is some measures of reciprocity. What we will open up and what we will not open up is for us to decide. But the answer is not to say, "our doors are closed but the doors of other countries shall be opened up our skilled personnel to move from country to country". (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMEAGH) : You have to explain more about the service sector.
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MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb him; he is not a Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, with regard to TRIPS, this has been a very contentious area, an area of great concern to all of us, an area in which many of us have had an opportunity to express ourselves, and Sir, it is something which has given rise to a large degree of concern. I think a very wrong message has gone that India's intellectual property laws do not conform to the world's laws.

TRIPS embraces seven subjects : copyright, trademark, trade secrets, industrial design, integrated circuit, geographic indications or geographic locations and patents. In six of the seven areas, India's laws compare very favourably with the laws of the world. There is nothing in India's laws about which we need to be ashamed about, and on every occasion and in every forum, we have explained to the world that our laws in six of the seven areas compare very well with the laws of other countries. In fact, in some areas like computer software, we are ahead of the laws of other countries.

As early as 1983, India recognized copyright in computer software. Many countries' laws do not recognize copyright in computer software even today. Our Copyright Act, our Trademarks Act require some small amendments, which we have made in our own interest and there is nothing in the Copyright Act, there is nothing in the Trademarks Act which we do not have, which we need to explain to anyone or which we need to be ashamed about. Our laws are extremely good and our laws have helped us. It is only in the area of patent that there is a great deal of concern.

SHRIMATI NALINI BHATTACHARYA : There the Indian law is bad :

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I did not say that the Indian law was bad, Madam.

Sir, the first Patent Act which we made was in 1857. Many of us may not have

looked at that Act and I would urge Members to look at that Act. The first law recognized product patent. It recognizes national and non-discriminatory treatment. It has a good law made about a hundred years ago. And at that time, nobody cavilled against product patent or national and non-discriminatory treatment. In 1970, the law was amended in this country and we introduced a new patent regime. Many elements in the patent regime are good and compatible with the world's laws.

For example, we have a product patent, except in three areas—food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals—in which Indian law recognizes only a process patent. Our patent period is 14 years except where we have process patent where we recognize only seven years.

We have a provision for compulsory licensing and there is a provision for compulsory licensing in most parts of the world. We have also a unique provision, unique to Indian law, known as the Automatic Licence of Right.

That applies to food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. In Punta del Este where the declaration was signed, we signed the declaration saying that we recognise the validity of protecting the intellectual property, but we also wish to utter a word of caution that protection of intellectual property should not become a barrier to trade. So our commitment to IPR laws is in order to foster trade and anything that will come in the way of hindering or hampering the flow of trade is unacceptable to us.

The Dunkel proposals will require us to change our patent laws. There is no question about that; there is no gain saying that fact. It will require us to change our patent laws. Dunkel requires us to grant product patent for every product, which means we must have a product patent for food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Intellectual property is in the product. Today it is universally accepted that unless the product is patented there is not likely

to be any kind of transfer of technology or any kind of investment in that area. What they demand is a protection for the intellectual property in the product. Dunkel requires the period of patent to be extended to twenty years. This again is almost universally accepted. We can argue about seven years or fourteen years; but the universal demand appears to be for twenty years.

How do we address our concerns? We have through negotiations secured a large number of clarifications. When I had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Arthur Dunkel; and again when Shri Pranab Mukherjee had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Peter Sutherland, a large number of clarifications have been obtained. These have been issued in the form of a press note; I believe the press note has circulated or made available; it is not necessary to go into all the aspects of the press note. Let me confine myself to TRIPS. Who has prospered and benefited under the present regime? What are the consequences of the new regime? These are the hard questions which must be addressed.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry has indeed benefited from the present IPR regime, by what is known as reverse engineering, by taking a product and copying it and doing it in a different way. Taking advantage of the availability of raw material and cheaper labour here, we are able to produce the same product at a much cheaper price. It has benefited the Indian people, it has augmented our exports. The holder of the patent calls it theft. Indian companies call it reverse engineering. I do not wish to enter into any ethical questions. But I wish to point out that every country in the world can stop the entry of India's pharmaceutical products if they infringe a patent. This has nothing to do with Dunkel— a point which is always missed. If a product infringes a patent, a country can stop its import like the United States today stops the import of many products of India which according to them infringes the

patent of another owner, the holder of the patent. So we will not be able to export these products if they are patent infringing products. We can sell them in the domestic market; we can sell them to the people of our country. Out of 270 drugs which are listed as life saving drugs by the World Health Organisation about ten to twenty are patent drugs. The rest are off-patent. At any give time it is only twenty per cent of the drugs available anywhere in the world which are patented drugs, the rest are off-patent.

For every new patented drug, there is an alternative off-patent drug. What will happen if product patent becomes a rule for drugs is that the prices of patented drugs will go up.

The only empirical study available today is a study by Mr. Arvind Subramaniam which has estimated the increase to be between 20 per cent to 70 per cent, the average being about 45 per cent. That is the only empirical study available today and there is no other empirical study. *(Interruptions)* Sir, either Members should quote another study or Members should accept a fact I am placing, namely the only empirical study available is a study by one Mr. Arvind Subramaniam.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
But, you are accepting it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : In the absence of any other evidence and being the only empirical study, I accept it; and I have no hesitation in accepting it.

It is 20 per cent to 70 per cent, the average being about 45 per cent. But, even that according to me is bad and unacceptable. I am not defending a 45 per cent increase as an acceptable increase. I will tell you why it is so, in a moment. It has again been estimated that only 30 per cent of the Indian people have any access to allopathic drugs. What goes in the name of

primary health centres and what goes in the name of public distribution of drugs is so pathetic that in terms of real access, only about 30 per cent or 35 per cent of the Indian people have access to allopathic drugs. If prices go up even by 45 per cent, that access will be reduced and not enhanced.

The point is so obvious and I accept that point that the access will be reduced. So, what do we do? What we do therefore is to take one of several options that are available to us. What we do, what we are doing and what we have been doing is trying to negotiate in Geneva to win this arrangement and seek exceptions. I think, we have been able to get some clarifications in compulsory licensing. But, there are three or four clear options available to the Indian people and to the Indian Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRINATHURAM MIRDHA (Nagpur) : Kindly do not interrupt him, sentence by sentence. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Does not matter, Nathu Ramji, we are used to it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, it is the question of life and death. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not intervene. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are listening it for one hour. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have no objection. I have no complaint. I do not mind it. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We want to hear you. But, some clarifications are needed. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have no complaint, Somnathji. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are closely listening. Everybody is perturbed, I know. Are you not perturbed ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am telling you. Am I saying anything irrelevant ?

There are options available to us. The first option is the drug price control order. Today, it is an order directed towards production control as well as price control. Dunkel proposal, as I read it—I think I read it as carefully as I can and the clarification has been obtained from Mr. Peter Sutherland as well as from Mr. Dunkel and from the Secretariat in GATT—has nothing which takes away the sovereign right of a country to impose drug price control. So, the first option that I would recommend to the Government is to ensure that this is stated unambiguously : that we have the absolute right—this Parliament has the absolute—right to impose drug price control on drugs which we consider to be essential, where the prices have gone beyond the reach of the common man.

That option is available.

The second is a clause in the Dunkel text itself which talks about non-commercial public use. Non-commercial public use, as we have understood it and has been explained to us, means that the national Government will be entitled to make these drugs available at Government cost and compulsory licensing is available for non-commercial public use. Rules are made by men. There are ways in which rules can be interpreted with a certain amount of

ingenuity. With a certain amount of legal competence, rules can be interpreted and applied.

Compulsory licensing is available today under the Dunkel proposals for non-commercial public use. I would strongly recommend to the Government that we take advantage of this clause and use compulsory licensing for non-commercial public use by the national Government itself making available these drugs—which we consider essential, life-saving and important—at Government cost. That is another option available to us.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What is the meaning of 'non-commercial public use' ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Where the national Government makes available drugs at Government cost, that is called non-commercial public use. And for that, compulsory licensing is available. Today, the Government of India decides or the Parliament decides to tell the Government of India that drugs 'a', 'b', 'c' or 'd' must be made available to the people of India, and the Government undertakes this responsibility to make it available at Government cost. You can compulsorily license an Indian manufacturer to manufacture that drug notwithstanding that it is protected by patent.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That is why you are closing down IDPL.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is a question you can address to the Government. Whether IDPL is closed down, I do not know. If it is inefficient and sick, it should be made better. If it is not fit, naturally it will die.

The third option that is available to us is to interpret article 30, para 1 and article 8, para 1, that in pursuit of public policy objectives, compul-

sory licensing is permissible. So, Government states public policy objectives which are backed by law. I think, it is possible to compulsorily license drugs for implementing public policy objectives.

The last option, of course, for us is what we are trying very hard in Geneva and, I hope, we will succeed in to ensure that there is an unambiguous statement that importation is not equivalent to local manufacture.

17.48 Hrs. (SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA in the Chair)

Now, I was able to secure at least the EC's approval—the EC's point of view on this. EC seems to agree with us that importation is not equal to local manufacture. It is only the United States which maintains that importation is equal to local manufacture. I think, there is still an opportunity for us to get an unambiguous statement out of Geneva that importation is not equal to local manufacture.

I think, therefore, that while the Dunkel proposals will impact our patent laws, and we will have to make some changes, while I am concerned that the drug prices will increase, at least with patented drugs, we should not present to alarming a picture and make it appear that the entire medical system and health system of India will collapse if we are forced to accept the proposals, as they stand, without any clarification or improvement that we are trying to seek.

There are one or two small aspects of TRIPS which hon. Mr. Jaswant Singh mentioned. First, he mentioned about reversal of burden of proof. It is again based on inadequate understanding of the proposal. That paragraph will apply only if one or two conditions is satisfied.

In the second situation, the initial burden of proof is on the complainant. Only thereafter the burden shifts to the Indian manufacturer who indulges in "reverse engineering". It applies only to a process patent. It does not apply to a product patent. Anyone will bear one out that even Indian Law today under section 106 of the Indian Evidence Act incorporate the same principle.

If anything is within the special knowledge of a person, then the burden is upon him. So, if anyone indulges in reverse engineering in a process patent when the initial burden is discharged by the complainant that the product as a result of that process is an infringement of that patent, then the burden shifts to the infringer and the infringer, under Section 106, has to disclose the process that he has adopted. So, I do not think there is anything great about the reversal of burden of proof. A five minute discussion on the Evidence Act will clarify that there is no change in the law that has been brought about in the Dunkel proposal. (interruptions). The only area which we will have to finally give up is the automatic licence of right. But so far, I have not heard an argument from anyone as to why this feature is available only in the Indian law of all the laws in the world. This automatic licence of right is something which is difficult to understand and it impossible to convince one's interlocutors as to why we need automatic licence of right when we have the compulsory licensing provision. Look at the TRIPS package. Put the positives and negatives. Capital will flow to our country, technology will come to us, new patent drugs will come to us and perhaps there will be a great deal of manufacture because the Indian market is too large for anyone to support importation. There are negatives in the sense that prices will increase to as much as 70 per cent of 100 per cent ; access will

be reduced to our people but there are compensatory provisions and the Government must show a great deal of alacrity and wisdom in using the compensatory provisions to take care of the adverse impact of the Dunkel proposals, if we are forced to accept them as they are.

Sir, I do not wish to continue of TRIPS except to express my concern about **steds and naturally occurring genes and life-forms. On seeds, again a major campaign has been launched in the country.** I do not doubt the motives of anyone who is presenting his point of view but I think it is based upon a great deal of misunderstanding. There is no requirement to patent seeds. The requirement is to make a law or an effective sui generis system. This has been studied in great deal in consultation with scientists and lawyers and to the best of my understanding, Government is clear in its mind that we can make an effective sui generis system based upon the previous UPOV Agreement which does not in any way require us to patent seeds. Talks have clarified beyond doubt that there is no requirement at all for a farmer to buy seeds for every crop. A farmer can keep his seeds, can use them for successive crops, can use them for propagation and for what is called across the fence exchange and research as well. Researchers rights are not affected; farmers rights are not affected. It does not affect for non-commercial exchange and propagation. We are absolutely clear about it and it is wrong and unfair to raise the ghost again and again after it has been clarified beyond doubt. Subject to farmers rights being protected, subject to researches rights being protected, as we have protected them, we must protect the plant breeders rights. There is no way in which R&D will flourish in this country unless we protect the plant breeders rights and unless we protect the plant breeders rights, ICAR and similar organisations will not be able to

carry on research in this country. We must protect farmers rights as we have protected them; we must protect researchers rights as we have protected them and we must also protect the crucial plant breeders rights.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER :
How will you do it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :
Farmers rights are protected because today non-commercial exchange is exempted, propagation is exempted, across the fence exchange is exempted and exchange of seeds within the community is not covered by the Dunkel proposals. Researchers rights are protected because researchers can exchange seeds and that is not covered by the Dunkel proposal and there is no requirement to patent seeds; we can make a sui generis system of law which will protect farmers rights and researchers rights. Having protected the two, we must also protect the plant breeders rights. Please talk to any agricultural scientist and he will tell you the importance of protecting plant breeders rights also.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (VIJAYAWADA) :
Will you yield for a minute please? You are a legal luminary and we want to know something from you. Mr. Hoda has stated that the developed countries have not accepted to the exchange of seeds by farmers. Till now, this has been a traditional right enjoyed by farmers. Can you clarify it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I don't know what Mr. Hoda said. If Mr. Hoda said that, I think it is not quite right.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : He is Additional Secretary General of the GATT. If he says something like that, what does it mean.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He is the Deputy Director General of GATT. I think, he more than anyone

else whom I worked with, championed Inida's rights and secured for India a great deal of improvements and concessions. I don't know what Mr. Hoda said and where he said it. He never said that to me. I don't know if he has said that to the Minister now. The point is Government has put out a press note where it has been clarified, quite clearly and categorically, that farmers' rights are not affected. Across the fence exchange and exchange of seeds within the village community, which is what takes place in your village or in any village, is totally protected. Let us now say this once and for all and let us put this ghost to rest. Farmers' rights are totally protected. Researchers' rights are totally protected. Having protected the two, by a sui generis law which will be made in this Parliament, we must also protect the plant breeders' rights.

Madam, I just want to express some concern about naturally occurring genes and life forms. I think no public interest is serviced by such patenting. I want to briefly make a statement—very briefly, just in two minutes—on the history of what has happened and what it has led to. The Dunkel text provides for patenting of micro organisms. This is not new. The European Patent Convention adopted in 1973 also provided for patents for micro organisms. That was in 1973. In 1980, the US Supreme Court recognised, for the first time, patents for genetically modified organisms and in 1988 came the famous oncomouse. Madam, I submit that mankind has not realised the dangerous zone into which it stepped when the Oncomouse was patented. We are breaking completely new ground. It raises not only economic issues. Serious ethical, moral and religious questions are involved in patenting micro organisms, particularly naturally occurring genes

and life-forms. That is why animal rights groups, environmentalists and religious groups like the World Council for Churches have spoken against patenting naturally occurring life-forms and genes. The oncomouse is a terrible invention or discovery. We don't know what to call it. Is it a discovery or is it an invention? The normal mouse lives to about 18 months. An Oncomouse has a life of about six months. It develops horrible tumours. But it has been recognised as a genetically modified life form and has been patented because of some perceived public utility. Now, where will this lead us? The first question that arises is: is this an invention or a discovery? Is biotechnology which interferes with naturally occurring life forms an invention or discovery? And if it is a discovery, it cannot be patented. The second question is, if you accept and patent biologically modified animals today, what about human genes? There is a project dealing with the DNA of human beings. I think questions which are very complex and very serious are thrown up by patenting micro organisms and naturally occurring life-forms. These questions have not yet been seriously debated or even understood. It will therefore be totally unsafe at this point of time to recognise patents in micro organisms. A recent study published by the British Medical Association traces the history of genetic technology and it comes to the conclusion, that the issue of patenting of life forms is complex and important. The Report says:

"We believe that it would be premature to adopt the European commission's draft Directive on patenting without a fuller and more public exploration of the issues involved. At present, conflicting interpretations have been made including

one that the Directive would in effect permit patenting of not only genetically modified but also naturally occurring plants and animals which had not previously been described. We do not believe that living organisms should be patented and urge the European Commission to oppose any relaxation of regulations which would result in such patents being permitted."

18.00 hrs. Madam, our view in India is broadly the same. We are stoutly opposed to patenting of any naturally occurring genes and life-form. I would urge the Government to stand firm and oppose any attempt to patent the naturally occurring life-forms and micro-organisms.

In conclusion, I would say that the Uruguay round presents to India a great opportunity. It has been estimated that the additional on incremental trade will be 270 billion dollars. We will get our share. Our share today is 0.4 per cent but the estimate is that we should gain about 5 billion dollars. It is not much. Because we are a minor player, we cannot aim for a major share today. It presents an opportunity, an opportunity which we seem to have missed after the Tokyo round is present today. There are disappointments. There are aspects which are unsatisfactory. There are problems. But, if you accept my thesis that we live in a cruel and unequal world, we have to enter that world, we have to play the game according to the rules which the world accepts. We have to win and strike hard bargains. We have to improve our bargaining capacity and our trading strength. And, I believe in 6-10 years as we improve our strength as a player in the world we will see the advantages of joining the world rather than remaining away from the world. The

option of not accepting the GATT system for India is in my view an unacceptable option. We have to join the GATT system. We have to secure improvements, which we are trying to do, but we will have to join the GATT system and improve our position as a major trading partner.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Madam, he has forgotten the last sentence, which is, "And, therefore, the world is neither cruel nor unequal".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Speaker has already announced that the House will sit for some more time after 6.00 o'clock. So, let us at least extend the sitting for half-an-hour.

(Translation)

Shri Nitish Kumar (Barh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the discussion on Dunkel Proposals only two learned Members of this House have expressed their views. While speaking on this subject, they have concentrated primarily on the technical aspect of the matter. However, I, being the representative of the commonman of this country, would like to convey their feelings and their concern in their language in this House.

Shri Chidambaram while speaking on this subject just now taught us like children and added to our knowledge by emphasising that GATT is a law, a rule that already existed there and only the ignorant persons are raising a lot of hue and cry against it. What has actually happened is that there has been some amendment in the existing rules and there is nothing else in it. Had he been present here at the moment, I would have asked him if GATT is only an amendment to the existing rules and why agriculture and services have been included in it? The earlier provisions of GATT did not cover these two subjects. Wherefrom they have been included in it? If it is only an amendment to the previous rules, these should not have been

included in it. He was to create a confusion. Had Shri Arthur Dunkel been here to listen to this speech today, he would have felt ashamed to hear his arguments in favour of these proposals which speak of his learnings and mental subjugation. It is something really very unfortunate. I do believe that it is not the personal view of Shri Chidambaram alone but that of the Congress Party as a whole. Even this Congress Government sticks to that point, because what Shri Chidambaram stated here was published in the form of a booklet under the title 'Dunkel Ek Bhramatmak Prachar, in both English and Hindi versions and distributed lakhs of its copies all over the country. Shri Chidambaram's statement is on those very lines. It gives an impression that the Congress Party has made up its mind in favour of these proposals.

At the very outset of this discussion, the hon. Speaker had submitted that the Government had still not made up its mind, to which the hon. Minister of Commerce agreed and also assured us that whatever suggestions are given by the hon. Member during the discussion, they would be given due consideration at the time of putting our signature on the agreement. But I regret to say that now we are being forced to agree to everything. This is a clear indication that the Government has made up its mind in this regard.

Similar views have been expressed by our negotiator Shri Balkrishna Zutshi. He was speaking in a meeting held here and also in the Press Conference held thereafter. In this country whether they are Ministers or negotiators—all of them tend to express their concern about the common man of this country by making public statements or through Press, but they have not done the same in that forum where they ought to have done it to have certain concessions in this regard. In case they have done it, then what sort of assurances, they are talking about. Whom has given those assurances and where? Now when the matter is being discussed here, I regret to say that this discussion is simply for the sake of discussion, because

they have already made up their mind to sign the agreement.

Today, the hon. Minister adding to our knowledge has informed us that the negotiator would complete the work assigned to him by the 15th December and thereafter the matter would be taken up at Ministers level. In this regard, I would like to remind the hon. Minister of his categorical statement during the last session that the agreement should not be reached at without having an extensive discussion in the House and thereby taking the House into confidence. On that statement, the hon. Prime Minister had said that since it was a question of an agreement at international level, the Government would not give any guarantee in this regard. It was such a question that the agreement might be signed if documents would be signed for the economic bondage of the country after 15th December, which is nothing but the confirmation of an agreement to accept national subjugation. An apprehension in this regard is, therefore, not unnatural. The statement of the hon. Prime Minister itself has created this apprehension.

A few days ago the hon. Minister of Commerce in the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee to the concerned Ministry had stated that the Government had expressed their concern to Shri Peter Sutherland when he came here and he did appreciate it. A common man of this country would like to know the concerns of the Government. The Government expressed their concern and he, in turn, appreciated it. But what was the result? We are concerned about the outcome. The general public wants concrete results. If concrete results are not there and the provisions under GATT remain as they are, our expression of concern has been of no avail.

Therefore Madam, before expressing my views and the concern of the common man, through you, I would certainly like to submit that when it is being discussed in the House, the House must be taken into confidence.

Not only in this House it is being discussed all over the world. Recently, on 18th November the Republican Party had passed a resolution in the Korean National Assembly that they would not accept any liberalisation in rice imports, because it will not only affect the 60 lakh farmers, but also would cause an upheaval in Korean Political, Social and Economic spheres.

When the Korean Parliament passed this resolution, the Korean Government did not remain silent. It informed all the nations that its Parliament had passed this resolution and urged the world to understand their concern and to support them. But what are we doing? The kind of discussion we have initiated in the House, and we have chosen a man, who in the name of Dunkel proposals, in the name of so called liberalisation, is leading us towards slavery. The Congress party, on its behalf has chosen its greatest lawyer in the House for one-and-a-half hours (to defend its policies). This points towards the fact that we are not sitting here to express our commitment, we are taking part in the discussion for the sake of it. And they would do every thing according to their will.

These people talk of reputed intellectuals. They had just now said that they would not accept the patents. There is nothing great if they do not accept the patents. As under GATT there is an option to accept either patent or the *Sui Generis* system.

In the last session the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in the Rajya Sabha and the Agricultural Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar in Lok Sabha had said that we would safeguard the interests of our farmers through *Sui Generis* system. What is *Sui Generis* system? It is nothing. In the case of plant breeders right and *Sui Generis* system, GATT would not be able to save us. *Sui Generis* system does not confer any rights. We are not accepting patents but accepting the *Sui Generis* System. *Sui Generis* is no less dangerous than the former.

say that in this matter they have got the assurance. What right has GATT to give any assurances? As far as the question of *Sui Generis* is concerned, whatever laws are framed and whatever discussion takes place in this regard, it takes place in Europe, not in GATT. Under that, if we need any protection under the *Sui generis* system, then we would have to follow the provisions of the European Convention.

European Convention of 1978, which was in force till 1991, had given much exemption. As per that convention the interests of the farmers were safeguarded in the case of seeds. But according to the European Convention of 1991, the interests of the researchers have been safeguarded, not those of the farmers. Researchers' Right is protected only so far as they carry out experiments in the laboratory. If, an experiment in the laboratory is successful, then it cannot be used by others. He is giving us sermons. If our ICAR carries out research on that patent, then it cannot send its (results) outside. It is being said that the rights of the farmers are protected. It is protected only to the extent that the farmers can keep their seeds. But for this also they will have to give royalty to the plant breeders.

Today Shri Chidambaram was saying that after the protection of the rights of the farmers and the researchers, must we not protect the rights of the plant breeders. Who are the plant breeders? It is the Cargill, the multi-national companies. The day the multi-national companies enter into the field of seeds, your ICAR will be blown away like a leaf in the wind. Ever since the ICAR was established, it has made remarkable progress. But ICAR would not be able to compete with the MNCs, as the research budget of every multi-national company is equal to the budget of the Government of India. In this way the multi-national companies, will enter the field of plant breeding because you are opening the market for them. When the multi-national companies will come, they will safeguard their interest. If any concession is

forthcoming it can only be given by the plant breeders, not by GATT. It is a grand misconception that is being created in this country that we would be able to defend the rights of the farmers through the *Sui Generis* system.

A bigger lie than this has not been spoken in this century. GATT can nowhere interfere in this. Either you get the exemption or not, it depends on the pleasure of the plant breeders. Who will be the plant breeder? The multi-national companies. It depends on the sweet will of the multi-national companies to give or not to give you the exemption.

Here it is told that the interest of the farmers are safe. The honourable Members present here, who are associated with farming, would be knowing that the nation's seed demand is about six lakh tonnes. Out of this we are able to give two lakh tonnes of seeds through State Seeds Corporations and National Seeds Corporation. Only two lakh tonnes of seeds are given through all such organisations. Where does the remaining four lakh tonnes of seeds come from? It comes from the farmer, who saves the (required) seed for himself and also sells them to his fellow farmers. This supplies four lakh tonnes of seeds. It means we are able to supply one-third of the requirements. Even today the farmers, meet the deficiency by transacting among themselves and by selling the seed elsewhere. The multinational companies set their eyes on such a big market. This has been done deliberately so that the farmer can keep the seeds for his use but cannot sell it or give to others. Where will he go? Who will fill the gap of four lakh tonnes. It will be filled by the multinational companies like the Cargill. I want to congratulate the farmers of Karnataka, but I am not advocating violence, as the farmers there set fire to the office premises of Cargil Company. I want to warn the Commerce Minister of India, that if this happens and in the field of seeds, in the guise of plant breeders, and by spreading the propaganda of deceit

regarding allowing the multi-national companies to come, then the day is not far when the farmers would take to the streets and will set a fire the farms, gardens, and offices of the multinationals and no one would be able to stop them. You want that we should sign the document of slavery. But the people of this country will never accept this. You are living under an illusion. You have been the king of the fools. The people of this nation would not be taken in by your dubious propaganda. You are not the well-wisher of the farmers. The electoral success in one or two States has gone to your head and I doubt, if you would be able to correctly gauge the feelings of the people of the country. Really, you will commit such a blunder that the future generations would never forgive you. The nation's market in the field of seeds would be opened to the foreigners. Whatever you want to do in the name of small plant breeders, it would crush the small plant breeders. Neither any plant breeder nor the ICAR would survive here. Only the system of multi-national companies would survive here. Then they would sell their seeds at exorbitant prices. And once they succeed in convincing the farmers, through the ads that their seeds are superior and once they develop a habit of using these seeds, they would become their slaves. Farming would become so costly that small and marginal farmers would be dispossessed of their lands. I am saying this seriously. Policies do not change in isolation, it takes place in a series.

The resolution regarding the agricultural policy was placed in this House. Land reforms are nowhere mentioned in it. Similarly, when agriculture would become expensive the small and marginal farmers would be uprooted. It simply means that such type of agricultural Policy is in the making which will do away with land reforms and land ceiling, in his country and thus pave way for big farms. I want to say that when the small and marginal farmers would be dispossessed big farmers would come into existence. The land would go into

the hands of multi-nationals. Here more than 60 per cent of the farmers are small and marginal. When they would be dispossessed, what alternative employment would you give to them. There would be no provision of employment for them. They would remain unemployed. And the upheaval it would cause, you cannot imagine. It is possible that the unity and integrity of the country would be jeopardised. Unemployment would be on such a large scale, it would be cataclysmic and nothing worth the name of law would remain. It is a trick to enslave the nation. An attempt is being made to spread the misconception with dexterity. I would like to express my views on what he said regarding the field of agriculture and aggregate measure of support compared to what he kept saying on patents, what does the documents of Congress party say? By quoting the documents of the Congress party, I do not want to waste the time of the House. But in this document, America termed India as a patent thief. Chiming in with this, he confirmed it in the Congress document and he referred to the drugs manufactured by the pharmaceutical industry here as spurious drugs. Hon. Minister, duplicate drugs means spurious drugs. You have termed the drugs produced in the pharmaceutical industry, in India as spurious in your document.

America said patent thief and he said, all the drugs produced by the pharmaceutical industry are spurious. And if spurious drugs are being produced here, then you have no right to remain in power even for a second, because you have been giving spurious drugs to the patients in the entire country. This either amounts to your slavery or incompetency. What sort of situation is this and in turn you pat yourselves on the back? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Manjiladuturan) : Where is it written? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is written. It is your document only, not

of Janata Dal. You may read it. It is in this. (*Interruptions*) Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I do not want to quote this type of document. (*Interruptions*) . You read it in Hindi. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR : The only information I want from you, is to know the page on which it appears. You may read it in Hindi. You tell us, so that we may also trace it out.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : First para, page number 16. The only difference is that today these pharmaceutical companies are in the field of export. They have begun to realise that market for spurious drugs, made after duplicating them is shrinking. (*Interruptions*)

This is being said in your document. These are being termed as spurious drugs. (*Interruptions*)

It has been said by them, that the drugs manufactured in India are spurious. Now they say drugs would not become expensive. (*Interruptions*)

I do not know, I wonder from where these people get all these documents. There is a drug, called Renetidin, excuse me if the pronunciation is not correct. This drug is manufactured in India by Glaxo. It is available in India for Rs. 29.03. In Pakistan, 300 gr. of this drug is available for Rs. 260.40. In England, for Rs. 481.31 and in America, for Rs. 744.65. So, do you want such a patent regime—it can be termed as new patent regime—should be allowed here, so that the drug which is available in India for Rs. 29.03 should be made available for Rs. 744.65. Can an Indian afford this drug?

Today, a large number of people die for want of drugs in the country. Not more than 25 per cent of the people in India can afford to buy these medicines. You want to keep several drugs out of the reach of those 25 per cent of the people. Tichlofed is an ulcer drug. It is a common-

anti-inflammatory drug, Its need can arise any time. It may be required if one is injured. In India, it is manufactured by CIBA company. Its cost is Rs. 5.67 and it is either available in 40 gr. or 50 gr. pack. In Pakistan it is available for Rs. 55.80, in England for Rs. 95.84 and in America, for Rs. 249.47. Do you want that this anti-inflammatory tablet or drug, available in India for Rs. 5.67 should be sold for Rs. 249.47 ? He is an advocate of new patent regime. American brands the entire pharmaceutical companies of India as patent thieves. But I want to tell you as to who is a patent thief.

TRIPS was discussed here. Intellectual Property Rights and plant breeders' rights were mentioned, which is meant for patents of seeds in the agricultural field, also came up for discussion. It means what right has America on patenting the patents. When America was discovered, were wheat and rice grown there? Every thing came from outside. A person stole a plant and took it there and later he became the President there in 18th century. What right does she have to call other nations as patent thieves ? What patents are being stolen and where?

I was to cite an example that watermelons were grown in California. And watermelon transactions worth millions of dollars used to take place. Once the water melon crop was hit by a fungus, causing immense anxiety. Water melons produced in the desert of Rajasthan were taken there and their genes were extracted and they mixed it with the genes of their watermelons and developed fungus resistant watermelon seeds and became rich. In this way we too should get royalty.

My submission is that no other country is as big thief of patent as America, but the same America is calling us patent thief. It is most unfortunate that one of the hon. Members of the Congress Party is rather advocating the New Patent Regime and speaking against our own Patent Law.

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If these hon. Members advocate for the Patent Regime, we should be given royalty, because we had advocated for the implementation of Mandal Commission Report and gave the slogan of social justice, but the benefit was taken in the form of votes by the Congress Party in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, only because they implemented it. Therefore, we should be given our due share of royalty... *(Interruptions)*. He is just like our family member. It does not matter if the profit is divided. We won't ask for royalty from him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) :

People have given you the reward you deserved. Now why are you insisting on it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The people will teach you a lesson. Don't be too happy.

Hence, the New Patent Regime he is referring to, is a document of slavery for the country, who included agriculture and other services into it? The Congress party has tried to present it clearly... *(Interruptions)*. When the Uruguay discussions on GATT were held in 1986, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh being the then Minister of Finance, had led the Indian delegation at Ministerial level. The Congress Party in the document released has deliberately tried to blame him indirectly. Whatever decision has been taken regarding Dunkel Proposals so far... *(Interruptions)*. All this is in records. If I am wrong, there are so many learned Ministers who may refute my statement. Today, efforts are being made to bring other services under GATT.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh was leading the Indian delegation. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI A. CHARLES : I think it will be a disaster. (*Interruptions*)

TRANSLATION

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : When Shri Vishwanath Partap Singh led the delegation, America and other Western Countries put their full pressure to bring other services under GATT. However, he like Angad, remained firm and refused to bow. This gave rise to a dead-lock, because he did not agree to bring other services under it. He emphasised that other agreements could be made for this purpose. As soon as Shri Vishwanath Partap Singh was out of power, the Government included the services in GATT. And now this is the subject which is being discussed here. Shri Mani Shanker Aiyar is a very learned person and we do respect him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am less learned as compared to you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The hon. Member can go through the record to see the factual position.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : When he took part in Uruguay meeting, he was our leader and now when the consequences of that meeting are coming before us he is your leader. The people have told you as to where do you stand. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He made every possible effort that other services should not be brought under GATT. Despite denials, other leaders at that time were ready to agree with. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Track-2 was adopted in his presence only. Has he taught this much economics to you. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You burst into flames just to listen the name of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh. (*Interruptions*) [*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, please address the Chair.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Madam, I am trying my best to address you. But he is interrupting without my yielding to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you about to complete?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Not at all. Please give me some more time. Please let me explain the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In that case we have to extend the time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time by another half-an-hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar may continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES : Is there any sense in what Shri Nitish Kumar is saying?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Why are you wasting my time?

SHRI A. CHARLES : You are wasting the time of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : In the negotiations for international agreements, the present leadership has not been able to put their stand properly and forcefully that is why they have failed to get any relief so far. It was stated during the meeting of the Consultative Committee of Commerce Ministry that it was due to the initiative taken by the third world countries that agriculture had been brought under it. Are the interests of the third world countries and all other countries same? It is necessary that what is in the interest of another country must be in the interest of our country too. I have also cited the example of Korean Parliament. (*Interruptions*) I have also warned the Government about the crisis which the third world countries will face in the coming days. But despite this they are not likely to get any relief. In the field of agriculture minimum market excess norms will be impelled and we are bound to give permission for im-

port of 3% foodgrains out of the total consumption since 1986 to 1988. Moreover, this percentage of import would not restrict to 3% rather it would gradually reach upto 5%. We are to show the minimum compulsory Excess—this is the assumption of the Government. However, arguments have been given that this rule does not apply to us, because our balance of payment is not balanced. But who is to decide whether it is balanced or not. It is the IMF which is to decide. The hon. Minister of Finance may claim that our balance of payment is improving gradually. If we have about 800 crore dollars in our reserve, he takes it as an improvement in the situation. When Shri Manmohan Singh claims that the balance of payment has improved it means that 3—5 percent of market will have to be opened. It is just a defiance. The IMF and the world bank have their own formula to improve the balance of payment and that is liberalisation for trade dealings ultimately leading to the import of foodgrains. According to the provisions of GATT if the balance of payment improves the market will open and if not, then the provisions of the World Bank would be applicable. Last year about 30 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported. We had opposed it and demonstrated at the Bori Port against the unloading of that wheat because import would bring down the prices in domestic market and this would certainly not boost up the morale of our farmers. Consequently, they would produce less food grains thus giving rise to the situation of starvation. It is wrong on the part of the Government to claim that the situation would improve. Minimum market excess would be there and prospects for the sale in the international market would widen.

Madm Chairman, I would like to ask as to which are the commodities to be sold in the international market is it Basmati rice. America has developed another quality named 'Texmati' on the formula of Basmati. They stole patent

and the Government could not do anything. Therefore, it is useless to expect the Government to ascertain as to what is to be exported and what is to be imported. There is to need to make fool of the farmers. Only a handful of people would take the benefits, but the interests of the farmers and the freedom of rural parts of the country cannot be sacrificed for the sake of it. Only 2000—3000 farmers are likely to have their reach in the international market and the interests of crores of farmers cannot be sacrificed for it. The Government want to reduce the support from 10 per cent downward, and plead that it does not apply to them. At the same time Shri Chidambaram says that the calculation formula has not been prepared so far and that no specific assistance can be claimed. However, the argument of the Government of India is only that if the percentage of assistance is reduced from 10 to a lower level, only then they would benefit and would reduce the subsidy. Who is ready to get the subsidy reduced? The hon. members may take the instances of America, Japan, Canada where 200 per cent subsidy is provided and nobody is ready to get it withdrawn. So much so that the farmers in France are not ready for it. We would like to appreciate the farmers of France who forced their Government to bow to them and created a situation by means of agitations during the last two years whereby the Government could not go against their interests. But it is something unfortunate for our country that the farmers here are not organised. That is why the Government play with their interests and rights and create class-distinction so as to lessen their welfare and get votes. They are expert in this job. Farmers in France opposed the Government's decision of reducing subsidy and refused to accept it. Now the Government is also acting on their advice.

When there was a proposal in the world to reduce the subsidy from 36 per cent the farmers were not ready to get it

reduced even to 20 per cent. What are the commodities the prices which are likely to come down thus making it possible for the Indian farmers to compete. What would be the use of it if they are unable to do so in this country. So far as the question of calculation of aggregate measures of support is concerned, two types of assistance is likely to be provided. Subsidy with regard to 17 items is negative and only to three items i.e. cotton, sugarcane and groundnut is positive. Farmers are being exploited in this country. Injustice is being done to them. The specific subsidy under aggregate measures includes only fertilizer subsidy, water subsidy, electricity subsidy, seed subsidy and credit subsidy. The Government withdrew the subsidy on fertilizers ever before signing the Dunkel Draft. Whom the Government is making fool of? At present 6 per cent subsidy is being provided, whereas the Government has been reiterating to bring down the percentage from 10 downwards to this effect. The National Front and the Left Parties had forced the Government in the Parliament to provide subsidy to the small and marginal farmers. Even today the matter of electricity charges was being discussed in the House during the Question Hour. It is only a particular section, the farmers who are affected by revision in electricity charges. In this manner, it is the second important item for which subsidy that was being provided earlier has been withdrawn. Every other day the Government tries to revise the water charges. It has been the topic of discussion throughout the country. The Government want the water users to give full charges. It means that subsidy on water is likely to be withdrawn. The Government has taken all these measures even before discussing them. What does it mean? Thus the non-product subsidy on the items included in the assessment of the aggregate measures of support is being withdrawn gradually. All the measures being taken are against the interests of farmers.

The Government has been advocating the TRIMS. Now the matter of services has been raised by Shri Jaswant Singh. It has been pointed out that our market will be opened with regard to services. Dr. Manmohan Singh is never tired of praising the foreign banks. He was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India but he condemns the working efficiency of the nationalised banks and their employees. But Dr. Manmohan Singh is as much to be blamed for this as others. Will foreign banks be opened here now? Will the same policy be followed in the field of Insurance Companies and telecommunications sector. The agreement on GATT proposals proposed to be signed in the name of concessions to other services would help only the multinational companies to establish here. Whereas the Indian people have no scope to go anywhere. Gone are the days when any educated Indian citizen could go anywhere—England, America, Canada etc. A number of restrictions have been imposed these days. Germany has fixed a quota. Now there are problems everywhere. So far as the scholarship to Indian students in other countries is concerned, people have been coming to us with their problems they are facing to go to the countries like England, America, Canada etc.

If a student fails to appear in one semester due to any reason he is not allowed to go there next time. Restrictions are being imposed on the students who go there on scholarship and also on those who are skilled in any specific field. Which service have been given concessions? When the input with regard to seeds become costlier, they alongwith pesticides and insecticides will have to be imported. All this will lead to expansion of the trade of multinationals. Our people would be rendered jobless. In that situation even skilled persons would not be able to go abroad. They will be refrained from doing so. However, the opportunities regarding services will be open for them.

Just now Shri Chidambaram pointed out that we are living in a world of unequal trade and that we have sacrificed our self-respect. But it is not so. He

says that we are minor players having contribution of just 0.6 per cent. He also said that they would interpret the rule. Who interprets the rule? A capable or an incapable person? When we are just minor players in the world trade how can we interpret the rule. Therefore, it is just like cheating.

Madam Chairman, the prevailing situation in the country is such that the GATT is being signed under pressure and India is unable to adopt a clear attitude. Whatever negotiations take place at international level, the Indian delegation fails to take a firm and strict stand. Proper lobbying is also not done in this regard.

[*Translation*]

We should have opened a forum with the people of the Third World. They said they do not agree. Today Korea can say that they would not agree at any cost. Only Korea can say that they would not accept import liberalisation in basic food stuff, India cannot. We export in the field of textile but the concessions to be provided in this field would be effective only after ten years. Whatever agreement we are going to enter into in regard to patents, TRIPS or intellectual property rights it will be effective after ten years in textiles. The earlier provision makes it 15 years and America is calling it back-loading period. Mr. Chidambaram is saying that it would be a good thing if they made it 10 years. It is a good thing. The period of 10 years itself was unjustified enough and now it is being extended to a period of 15 years and they feel that it would be better if it were to be brought down to 10 years. America will do what it wishes. We are not getting any concession in any field and our Central Government is answerable for that. They have a tendency to surrender. I would like to warn the Government through you, that it is going to create a terrible situation which is beyond the imagination of the people in power because East India Company

had enslaved our country in the name of trade. Now, hundreds of multinational companies will destroy our culture and enslave our people. When India was enslaved even at that time there was no dearth of people who believed that English were there for our welfare. People who are in favour of multinationals and GATT, and IMF were in favour of English at that time. Now the people having the same psyche are saying that all this is in our favour. Nobody who believes in the philosophy of Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi will tolerate any thing like that and will not let another East India Company acquire a firm footing here. Are the other countries going to decide what we should have in our country? A thing called food security will cease to exist. The Public distribution system will be badly affected and the needy people would no longer be able to avail of low priced foodgrains because it will be under the control of GATT and other countries. Who are the people to be benefited. Through public distribution system shops will no longer be decided by the Government of India. In view of their pusillanimity it will be decided by GATT. And they did not make arrangements in advance. A three member committee was constituted. And the Ministry of Food constituted a committee to separate a big class from the public distribution system and took its report. It means that a separate PDS set up under the Ministry of Food took its report first. Now they will promise to expand it but it will be constricted and the food security will cease to exist. A country without any food security cannot be safe. Its unity, universality, integrity and freedom get threatened. That's why, we cannot compromise on food security. I would like to warn that by doing away with the concept of food security, constricting public distribution system, abolishing subsidy by GATT, we will not be able to provide support price to the farmers and with the inflow of imported goods, foodgrains into the markets our farmers will not be able to produce foodgrains. And if

you put stress on the increase of exports and the need to have a link with the world, non-foodgrain items will start to be produced in this country. The whole country will become Champaran.

When the English were in need of indigo they started to grow indigo plants and as a result the traditional crops were destroyed. One crore persons died of a horrible famine that took place in Bengal. This situation was created as a result of doing away with the traditional crops in that State. When outside forces give incentives and try to grow something of their choice it leads to the destruction of traditional crops. And as a result thereof our people will not be able to grow foodgrains required to sustain life everybody knows what became of P.L. 480. Though we got foodgrains at cheaper rates but it harmed us. I do not want to go into the details as to how the things reached such a pass. But the day the concept of food security is done away with we will lose our freedom. The big countries also disintegrated in the absence of the concept of food security. It was one of the cause leading to the disintegration of the erstwhile U.S.S.R. A country which cannot face the world with alacrity or if a hungry man is suffering from hunger-pangs he is forced to compromise in some way. Only a few principled persons stick to their principles despite hunger but most of them are sometimes forced to surrender to hunger pangs and even sell themselves. Similarly, if a country loses its food security then the whole country will be forced to fall prey to slavery. The rulers like you can create such a situation in two minutes which makes one surrender.

That's why, the whole of this document which tries to delude one into believing that it doesn't go against his interests is against the interests of the formers and masses of India. People are in need of all the medicines in India

but when it comes to patenting them, do you know what is the root of allopathy medicines. There are so many medicine which had their root in our Ayurvedic system. You should stake a claim that America has made some medicines based on our 'Charak Sanhita' and they should pay us royalty and not that we are patent thieves. We are worried about these things.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chair has told that we are not to take this discussion in this manner. We are to express our worries here and if we have any suggestions to make we can put them forward. That's why I would like to make a few suggestions through you. There are many tasks before us and one of them is cross-retaliation. There is no time to go into details. I won't take much time of the House but I would urge the Government that if any hope is left now it should make efforts to maintain the unity in the Country. You have done what you wanted to do. Now if you stick to your guns the whole notion will stand by you and there is no need to surrender to the world. You should recognise the strength of our country. You should stand up with head held high and should never compromise on certain things. You should never accept cross-retaliation.

I would like to say only one thing. They talk of multilateral trade regime and say that we cannot get out of it. If we try to get out of it we will have to enter into a bilateral trade arrangement. This is correct, but what protection have we got from GATT ? GATT is being discussed and the discussion on TRIPS, intellectual property rights and patent is yet to be completed. What protection have we got from this ? America imposed 301 against us. America has powers to do that and retaliate. These days America is indulging in hegemony the world over and we also look awe-struck before its hegemony and have been putting up with it. If we were to receive any protection from GATT, multilateral

trade regime then why did we not get it ? If you are advocating it, we want to know as to why did we not get any protection from GATT against 301 imposed by America ? America wants to impose special 301 through GATT by making it more comprehensive. It does not want to withdraw any of its provisions.

I do not want to go into whatever has been said about Reverse Burden of proof or cross-Retaliation because nothing can be a matter of more injustice. And it is being advocated by giving Indian evidence. If an allegation has been leveled against a person in the case of bride burning or rape then it becomes the responsibility of the accused to prove himself innocent. In case other than these two, the prosecutor has to prove his accusations against the accused and has to produce proof in the court if he wants him punished. It is unfortunate that as in the cases of bride-burning and rape in this case also the responsibility is being shifted to the other party.

I can go on and on about this. There is no limit to that. That's why I would like to make a few suggestions. No provision of cross retaliation should be accepted at any case in regard to institutional cases. Efforts should be made to have a specific definition of the formulation of the world economic policy. Some equipments used in Dunkel proposals under TRIPS, TRIMS services are not to be accepted, Our freedom is to be protected and to accept them only after voicing doubts or making announcements. The Indians should be entitled to easily getting employment in foreign markets in certain cases regarding services under TRIPS. The multinational companies should not be permitted to enter the field of banks, Telecommunication and life Insurance. So far as TRIPS is concerned the patenting of living creatures should not be accepted at any cost because it is unnatural and sheer injustice. It is just impossible to accept the patenting of the life of living beings. What we are going to accept should not be accepted at any cost. If we are forced to accept the intel-

lectual property rights then in such a case we should find protection for some things.

The right of the farmer to produce; develop and process seeds should be reserved, because farmers exchange seeds with each other. All the opportunities should be provided to the scientists and plant growers to get genetic material and genetic manipulations required to develop a new breed.

The germ plasma deposited in national and international gene banks should be kept out of intellectual property rights. The onus of proofs should not be accepted at any cost. Indian Patent Law 1970, which undertakes process patenting, should be protected. Our aim of self-reliance should not be defeated under TRIMS. The foreign investors should be under compulsion to use the local material, technique and equipments. Their access to foreign exchange should be limited to the extent they earn foreign exchange.

Madam, permission had been granted to Pepsi and they were told to export a fixed quantity, but they are not exporting those things for which permission had been granted to them but other items are being exported and they have taken over another agency.

19.00 hrs.

We have an example of a multinational company before us. It violated the rules set down for exports and is exporting other items which were exported earlier through other agencies. It has not increased our exports. So, the multinational companies do not stick to their words.

In view of these things I would like to request the House that the dangerous provisions of Dunkel proposals should at no cost be accepted. Everybody should rise above party lines in this matter and be united. We must not accept all those documents which will be harmful to our economic universality and we should learn a lesson from the Parliament of Korea. We claim to be the largest democracy in the world. We will request the Parliament to go against the Dunkel proposals. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal is the next speaker. Shri Pal, would you like to speak today?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): I will speak tomorrow, Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K. Before we adjourn, the Report of the Business Advisory Committee has to be presented. May I request Shri Shiv Charan Mathur to present the same.

19.01 hrs.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT**

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR (BHILWARA): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Tuesday, the 7th December, 1993, at 1100 hours.

19.02 hrs. The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 7, 1993/Agrahayana 16, 1915 (Saka).