

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES** **(English Version)**

**Thirteenth Session**  
**(Tenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XXXVIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

*Price : Rs. 50.00*

**(ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.)**

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates  
(English Version)

Tuesday, March 14, 1995/Phalguna 23, 1916 (Saka)

<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
6/1	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
24/19 149/3	Dr. Viswanathan Kanithi Dr. Viswanathan Kanithi	Dr. Viswanatham Kanithi
31/8	The Ministry of Railways	The Minister of Railways
53/11	Dr. Amrit Lal Kalidas:	Dr. Amrit Lal Kalidas Patel :
54/32	(Shri S.K.Krishna Kumar)	(Shri S.Krishna Kumar)
83/18	Prof. Ashok Anandrao Deshmukh	Shri Ashok Anandrao Deshmukh
89/8(from below) 175/23(from below)	Shri Surya Narain Yadav	Shri Surya Narayan Yadav
100/20	(Shri Ajit Singh)	(Shri Ajit Singh)
143/10	Prof. Savitri Lakshmanan	Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan
180/6(from below) 181/14, 35 182/13, 20, 34 last 183/17, 29	Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
193/11(from below)		(Shri Manmohan Singh)
254/2(from below)		
255/10, 13	Sprit	Spirit
255/29	nervousness	nervousness
256/9(from below)	unlearn	unleash
259/3(from below)	does not behave	does not behave
262/4	ideals for mankind	ideals for mankind
264/1	hon. Ministry	hon. Minister

## CONTENTS

(Tenth series, Vol. XXXVIII, Thirteenth Session, 1995/1916 (Saka)  
No. 3, Tuesday, March 14, 1995/Phalgun 23, 1916 (Saka)

	COLUMNS
Obituary References	1—6
Written Answers to Questions:	
*Starred Question Nos. 21—40	6—25
Unstarred Question Nos. 164—187, 189—384, 386, 387 and 389—393	26—177
Re: Postponement of Elections in Bihar	178—193, 196—199
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	178
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	180
Shri Indrajit Gupta	184
Shri Srikanta Jena	187
Shri Chandrajeet Yadav	188
Shri Chiranji Lal Sharma	191
Dr. Mumtaz Ansari	191
Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri	197
Shri Jaswant Singh	198
Shri Vidyacharan Shukla	199
Papers Laid on the Table	193—196
Assent to Bill	196
Public Accounts Committee	199
Eighty-Seventh Report— <i>Presented</i>	
Railway Convention Committee	199-200
Ninth Report and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Railways	200
Eleventh and Twelfth Reports and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	200
Sixteenth Report— <i>Presented</i>	
Election to Committees	200—203
(i) Estimates Committee	200
(ii) Public Accounts Committee	201
(iii) Committee on Public Undertakings	201
(iv) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	202
Matters Under Rule 377	203—205
(i) Need to construct a fly-over on railway crossing at Kothapura and provide certain other railway facilities in Ferozepore and Faridkot in Punjab	
Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar	203
(ii) Need to appoint a High Power committee to look into the problems of air passengers	
Shri C.P. Mudala Giriappa	203
(iii) Need for early clearance to the projects/proposals of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi	
Shri B.L. Sharma Prem	204
(iv) Need to connect Ajmer (Rajasthan) by air	
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	204
(v) Need to sanction a railway gate near Raninagar Junction, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal	
Shri Jitendra Nath Das	205
Patents (Amendment) Bill— <i>Introduced</i>	205-206
Railway Budget, 1995-96— <i>Presented</i>	206—232
Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief	206
Supplementary demands for grants (Railways), 1994-95	232—241
Statutory Resolution Re: Disapproval of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Ordinance and	
Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Bill— <i>Contd.</i>	241—263- 263—266
Shri Rupchand Pal	241
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	247



	COLUMNS
Shri Sharvan Kumar Patel	248
Shri A. Asokaraj	249
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	250
Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh	254
Shri Virendra Singh	255
Shri P.C. Thomas	257
Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	258
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	259
Shri. K.P. Singh Deo	263
Business Advisory Committee	263
Forty-Seventh Report— <i>Presented</i>	

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 14, 1995/Phalgun 23,  
1916 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock  
[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]*

### OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as we meet today after one month, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of five of our former colleagues namely Sarvashri P.R. Chakravarti, M.K.M. Abdul Salam, Ram Kishan, Chandra Shekhar Singh and M. Satyanarayana.

Shri P.R. Chakravarti was a Member of Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Dhanbad Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. Earlier he had been a member of Delhi State Legislative Assembly during 1952-56 and had also served as Chairman of Estimates Committee of the then Assembly.

Born and educated at Dhaka, he was a teacher by profession and had served as the member of University Court and Executive Council of Universities of Dhaka and Delhi. He was associated with various social service organisations and was member of governing bodies of several colleges and educational institutions.

A widely travelled person, he visited USA as adviser to Indian Delegation to the United Nations Organisation. He had special interest in the field of sports.

Shri Chakravarti passed away on 12 February, 1995 at Krishnagar, West Bengal at the age of 92 years.

Shri M.K.M. Abdul Salam was Member of Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62 representing Tiruchirapalli Parliamentary constituency of Tamil Nadu. Earlier he had been a Member of Madras Legislative Council during 1952-56. A businessman by profession, Shri Abdul Salam was an active social and political worker. He also served as member of Tiruchy Municipal Council and Tiruchy Library Committee. He worked for improving the lot of weaker section of the society.

He actively participated in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contribution thereto.

Shri Abdul Salam passed away at Tiruchirapalli on 13 February, 1995 at the age of 74 years.

Shri Ram Kishan was a Member of Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-68 representing Hoshiarpur Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab.

Earlier he had been a member of Punjab Legislative Assembly during 1952-57 and 1962-67 and also served as Deputy Minister and later as Minister of State in the State Council of Ministers during April 1956 to March 1957 and March to December 1962. In 1964, he became the Chief Minister of Punjab and served the State with distinction for two years.

Popularly known as Comrade, Shri Ram Kishan participated in the freedom struggle and was associated with Naujawan Bharat Sabha in 1929-1930. A prominent social and political worker, he ceaselessly worked for welfare and upliftment of weaker sections of the society and took keen interest in the development of khadi and village industries.

A widely travelled person, he had special interest in economics and rural upliftment.

Shri Ram Kishan passed away on 22nd February, 1995 at New Delhi at the age of 82 years.

Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 representing Varanasi Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1967.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh was an active political worker. He was associated with various trade union organisations of his area and had served there in various capacities.

A well-known social worker, ariament from 1948 to 1950 and 1950-52 respectively. He was also nominated twice to Rajya Sabha in 1954 and 1960. Earlier he had been a Member of Madras Legislative Council during 1952-54.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Satyanarayana plunged into freedom movement at the young age of 18. A close associate of Gandhiji, he actively participated in the Quit India Movement and was imprisoned between 1942 and 1944.

A doyan among protagonists of the Hindi movement in South he joined the National Language Movement in 1921 and was the Secretary, Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti during 1936-38 and ably served as the General Secretary of Dakshina Bharat Hindustani Prachar Sabha Movement for a long time.

A person of varied interests, he was associated with a number of social, educational and cultural organisations. He was Joint Secretary, Indian Cultural Academy, Akhila Bharathiya Hindi Parishad, Delhi and member of Hindustani Shorthand and Hindi Typewriting Committee and Expert Translation Committee for translating the Constitution of India 1950-51.

He also served as the editor of two periodicals namely, 'Dakshina Bharat' and 'Hindi Prachar Samachar'. In recognition of his contributions, he was conferred with prestigious national awards namely 'Padmashri' and 'Padmabhushan'.

Shri Satyanarayana passed away on 6th March, 1995 at Madras at the age of 93 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, what has happened yesterday to a very serious matter. The deliberate postponement of the election in Bihar is nothing but unconstitutional. It is nothing but stifling the democratic rights of the people. It is a deliberate connivance and a conspiracy to impose Central rule which cannot be tolerated ....*(Interruptions)*.... What is happening in Bihar....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Why the election in Bihar has been postponed?....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: What is happening in Bihar is a raping of Parliamentary democracy.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): We want to know what is the remedy.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How can it be done? It cannot be done. The Government has not explained what is going to be done. What is going to happen in Bihar? Will there be President's rule? The Congress is in collusion with the BJP as both are demanding President's rule in Bihar. Do the voting rights of the people depend upon the good wishes of the Elections Commission?*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Elections in Bihar are being postponed deliberately. ....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdun): Let the Prime Minister resign!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We like to know whether the voting rights of the people depend upon the good wishes of the Government which is acting in collusion with BJP. It is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Government. We cannot tolerate it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why are they afraid

of holding elections in Bihar? Why do they want to impose President's rule there? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Let the Prime Minister come. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Members know very well as to how effectively they can raise the issues in this House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Democratic rights have been trampled upon.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us continue with the Question Hour and, after that, I think, you will be able to raise the issues which you want to discuss.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Parliamentary democracy is in jeopardy. Assembly elections in Bihar are being postponed not only once, but twice.

MR. SPEAKER: You should raise this issue at the proper time and in the proper manner.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: This Government have no right to remain in power. Congress has been defeated in two big states. The Government should resign on moral grounds. *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is nothing but a subterfuge to impose President's Rule in Bihar. This is what the Government is doing with them.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: The Prime Minister should come to the House, tender his resignation and should seek a fresh mandate *(Interruptions)*

PROFESSOR RASA SINGH RAWAT: If the Government have any sense of morality, it should resign *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We want elections. Why are you not holding elections? What exactly do they want? Why are the elections being postponed in Bihar *(Interruptions)*

Let the Government categorically say what their intention is. Why are the elections in Bihar being postponed?

*[Translation]*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I had given a notice for the adjournment of Question Hour. I would request for a direction on this.

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: There is a conspiracy among the Prime Minister, the Election Commission and the BJP to postpone the election in Bihar.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, why do you not ask the Prime Minister to come? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Democracy is being murdered with the conspiracy of these people....(Interruptions) The Prime Minister should be called here.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given a notice of an adjournment Motion. What has happened to that?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We are simply interested to know whether there will be election in Bihar or not. Let the Government clarify this position. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record....(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I understand that they want everyone to hear you, but if you all will speak together, nobody will be able to hear you, so you can raise this issue after half-an-hour.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Whatever is happening in Bihar is strictly between the Election Commission and the Government of Bihar. The Central Government has no role to play in the matter. We have been strictly following the instructions of the Election Commission. The Election Commission is interacting with the Bihar Government. We have nothing to do with these matters. We are following the instructions of the Election Commission. The Election Commission is deciding in its wisdom whatever it thinks fit. The Bihar Government and the Election Commission are the ones who are involved in this matter. The Central Government has no role in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I thought you were going to say 'let us take it up after the Question Hour.'

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If hon'ble Minister is going to say something then we would like to put our submission first.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Why are they demanding President's Rule in Bihar?

11.19 hrs.

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

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): This all is being done at the instance of Prime Minister and BJP. Democracy is being murdered in Bihar (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now as the discussion has started, you may continue it further (Interruptions) I would like to request that this matter is not related to Bihar and Election Commission only. I would urge upon the Government. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 O' Clock.

## WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Soil Survey and Land use Research Institutions

\*21. SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the soil survey and land use research institutions of the Central Government;

(b) the budgetary grants given to these institutions during 1993-94;

(c) whether the Government have evaluated the working of these institutions; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BAL RAM JAKHAR): (a) The National Bureau of soil Survey and land use Planning (NBSS&LUP) and All India Soil and Land Use Survey (AIS&LUS) are the two Central Government Institutions for Soil Survey and Land Use Research. AIS&LUS has its Headquarters at New Delhi and NBSS&LUP at Nagpur.

(b) The budgetary grants provided during the year 1993-94 to these Institutions are Rs. 442.5 lakhs for NBSS&LUP and Rs. 540 lakhs for AIS&LUS.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The working of these institutions are evaluated periodically by both external teams and internal monitoring. The latest Review Team (1989) Commended the work done by the Institute (NBSS&LUP) in terms of preparation of soil resource maps of different states of the country in 1:250,000 scale and that of the country in 1:1 million scale. The work done by AIS&LUS has also been commended by the evaluation team for its use in the implementation of the centrally sponsored programmes on River Valley Projects and on Flood Prone Rivers.

### Wildlife Week

\*22. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Wildlife Week was observed recently;

(b) if so, the programmes and schemes launched and projects undertaken in connection therewith;

\* Not recorded.

(c) whether a census of wildlife population was made; and

(d) if so, the population of different wildlife species, especially the endangered species, sanctuary and reserve-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Week was observed from 2nd October, 1994.

(b) State Govts. organised Wildlife programmes at various Centres and institutions in which the State Education, Tribal, Wildlife Departments and non-governmental organisations participated.

Nature camps and group visits by school children to nearby national parks/sanctuaries were also arranged. National Zoological Park, Delhi organised the programme in Delhi on behalf of this Ministry.

(c) and (d). The Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

*Census of major species of wild animals are conducted periodically by the states and not specifically during the Wildlife Week. Reserve-wise figures of population of wild animals are not compiled and collated in this Ministry. However, the population of some of the major species in the country are given below:*

Name of the Species	Year	Population
1. Tiger	1993	3750
2. Leopard	1993	6828
3. Elephant	1993	22000-27000
4. Indian Lion	1990	284
5. Rhinoceros	1993	1495

#### Quake Victims

\*23. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Central Government for the reconstruction of earthquake affected villages of Lature and Osmanabad;

(b) the amount of Central and World Bank assistance given so far for resettlement of the quake victims;

(c) whether full compensation has been received by the affected people;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the time by which full compensation is likely to be given to all the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a): A comprehensive rehabilitation project is

being implemented with assistance from the World Bank for the reconstruction of damaged houses and for the economic and social rehabilitation of the earthquake affected areas in Maharashtra.

(b) As per the terms of the agreement of the rehabilitation project, World Bank reimburses the expenditure incurred by the State Government from time to time. Upto January, 1995, an amount of Rs. 30.68 crores has been reimbursed by the World Bank.

(c) to (e). Government of Maharashtra has already distributed the ex-gratia payments to the next of the kin of the deceased as well as to those rendered disabled in the earthquake. The remaining assistance is to be provided under the ongoing earthquake rehabilitation programme which will be completed by 30th June, 1997.

#### Central Warehousing Corporation

\*24. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has any plans to go in for international collaboration in scientific warehousing technology and marketing especially with regard to agricultural produces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have made an assessment of post-harvest losses in perishable agricultural commodities due to lack of adequate scientific warehousing and infrastructural facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to augment container and warehousing facilities for proper transportation?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH):(a) and (b). Central Warehousing Corporation has entered into Memorandum of Understanding with M/s. American President Lines (APL), an international shipping company for pre-cooling and road transportation of refrigerative containerised cargo for export of perishable commodities from its Container Freight Station, Patparganj (Delhi). Apart from this Memorandum of Understanding, there are no other specific plans for international collaboration.

(c) and (d). No specific survey for estimation of post-harvest losses has been undertaken. A Group constituted by the Government of India in 1981 under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan who was Member (Agri.), Planning Commission, at that time had put up an estimate of losses ranging between 25% to 40% on account of inadequate warehousing and infrastructural facilities.

(e) Central Warehousing Corporation is presently operating 13 Container Freight Stations including one as a joint venture with Punjab State Warehousing Corporation at Ludhiana to encourage multi-modal transportation systems. CWC also has plans to set up Container Freight Stations at 7 more new locations.

### Drug Detection Test

\*25. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of international athletes have been banned from participating in competitions for consuming drugs;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue directives to all the Organisers in India for conducting drug detection tests;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Sports-persons, National Sports Federations and coaches entrusted with the training of the National Teams have been informed about the harmful effects of drugs. Directives have also been issued to National Sports Federations to conduct dope test during domestic tournaments.

(d) Question does not arise.

### Assistance for Horticulture

\*26. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:  
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Governments for providing assistance to promote horticulture;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government have received any progress reports in regard to promotion of horticulture and utilisation of funds from these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Government of India have launched an ambitious programme for development of horticulture during the VIII Plan period with a total outlay of Rs. 1000 crores. Under this, assistance is being provided to the States/Union Territories for implementing various development schemes.

(b) In all 15 schemes covering development of different crops, promoting beekeeping and use of plastics and developing infrastructure for post harvest handling, marketing and exports, are being implemented. The total assistance provided to the States during the last 3 years is as follows:

1992-93:	Rs. 54.51 Crores.
1993-94:	Rs. 109.08 Crores
1994-95:	Rs. 176.67 Crores.

(Proposed)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The progress reports received so far indicate utilisation of funds as follows:

1992-93	—	Rs. 33.28 Crores.
1993-94	—	Rs. 67.92 Crores.

Similar information for 1994-95 is yet to become available.

[Translation]

### Consumer Protection Act, 1986

\*27. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have been approached by the Union Government in regard to implementation of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 in an effective manner;

(b) the names of the States which have not given any response in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to strictly implement this Act?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution has, from time to time, been pursuing with the States/Union Territory Administrations, for effective implementation of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) and (c) As per information available, 31 State Commissions and 457 District Fora are functioning all over the country. The State of Jammu & Kashmir has enacted a separate legislation in the form of Jammu & Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987 under which one State Commission and two Divisional Fora are functioning.

[English]

### Montreal Fund

\*28. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects relating to the development of eco-friendly technology sent to and got approved by the Montreal Fund;

(b) the total amount of Fund apportioned for India by the Fund for the year 1994-95; and

(c) the reasons for not sending more projects to the Montreal Fund for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) India had submitted thirty-four projects to the Executive

Committee of the Multilateral Fund, including one project on the development of Technology. Out of these thirty projects have been approved so far.

(b) Specific amounts are not apportioned from the Multilateral Fund for any country. Funds are approved on a project by project basis. The total amount of fund assistance involved in the thirty approved projects is US \$ 11.4 million.

(c) Projects received from enterprises are processed and sent to the Multilateral Fund. Necessary information is provided to enterprises consuming or producing Ozone depleting substances to help them prepare project proposals.

[Translation]

### Consumption of Fertilizers

\*29. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare consumption of fertilizers in the country during the last two years; State-wise;

(b) the position of consumption of fertilizers before the decontrol;

(c) whether there has been a steady drop in the consumption of fertilizers after the decontrol;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the position; and

(f) the details of financial assistance provided to the farmers for ensuring the appropriate use of fertilizers during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) A statement indicating the State-wise estimated per hectare consumption of fertilizers in the country during the last two years is enclosed.

(b) to (d). The table below gives the consumption of fertilizer nutrients in the country from 1991-92 to 1993-94:

(Lakh tonnes)

Year	N	P	K	Total
1991-92	80.46	33.21	13.61	127.28
1992-93	84.27	28.44	8.84	121.55
1993-94	87.89	26.69	9.08	123.66

The phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were decontrolled with effect from 25.8.1992. While the consumption of Nitrogen has gone up after decontrol, the consumption of phosphatic fertilizers has come down and the consumption of potassic fertilizers during 1993-94 has improved after a decline in 1992-93.

(e) and (f). Subsequent to decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, there was steep hike in their prices. In

order to cushion the impact of this price rise and to improve their consumption, the Government of India provided concession on sale of these fertilizers to the farmers. During 1994-95 (current year) a concession of Rs. 1000/- per tonne on MOP and indigenous DAP, Rs. 435/- to Rs. 999/- per tonne on indigenous complexes (depending on the grade) and Rs. 340/- per tonne for SSP is being given and a provision of Rs. 517/- crores has been approved.

### STATEMENT

Per Hectare Consumption of Fertilizers for Cropped Area  
(N+P+K)

(Estimated)

Sl. No.	State	1992-93 (Kgs)	1993-94 (Kgs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.77	116.99
2.	Karnataka	62.95	64.96
3.	Kerala	67.19	58.53
4.	Tamil Nadu	114.59	111.93
5.	Gujarat	68.24	63.71
6.	Madhya Pradesh	34.35	33.52
7.	Maharashtra	56.38	59.47
8.	Rajasthan	27.11	27.77
9.	Goa	45.05	39.39
10.	Haryana	109.27	120.59
11.	Himachal Pradesh	31.20	29.17
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	41.08	39.15
13.	Punjab	159.53	159.55
14.	Uttar Pradesh	84.40	88.75
15.	Delhi	187.77	238.41
16.	Assam	6.87	8.65
17.	Manipur	47.70	47.42
18.	Meghalaya	12.44	13.38
19.	Nagaland	3.45	5.06
20.	Sikkim	8.18	7.37
21.	Tripura	19.84	17.48
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.98	2.30
23.	Mizoram	12.36	9.70
24.	Bihar	58.71	57.68
25.	Orissa	20.68	21.16
26.	West Bengal	84.39	85.98
All India		66.52	67.68

[English]

### Arsenic Pollution

\*30. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an international team of scientists conducted an enquiry into the arsenic pollution in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of persons affected by the arsenic pollution;

(d) the assistance, if any, rendered by the Union Government to the State Government for helping the victims of arsenic pollution;

(e) the remedial measures being taken at the Central level to check the arsenic pollution in ground waters in the affected districts in West Bengal; and

(f) Whether the report submitted by School of Environmental Studies, Jadavpur is receiving active consideration by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) to (d) and (f) A statement is attached.

(e) So far, studies have indicated that arsenic is in-built in the geological formations of West Bengal and therefore it may not be possible to check the arsenic pollution in ground water. In-depth studies have been initiated to understand the phenomenon of arsenic pollution in ground water.

#### Statement

(a) According to available information, no international team of scientists has conducted any such enquiry. However, a three day international conference on "Arsenic in Ground Water: Cause, Effect and Remedy" was held during 6-8 February, 1995 at Jadavpur University, Calcutta. Proceedings of this seminar have not been received.

(b) and (c) No systematic epidemiological survey has so far been conducted. However, a preliminary survey indicates that the six arsenic affected districts namely; 24 Parganas (North), 24 Parganas (South), Nadia, Burdwan, Murshidabad and Malda have a total population of 302.767 lakhs of which 1.75 lakhs people show manifestation of arsenic-related skin diseases.

(d) To study and tackle the arsenic pollution in West Bengal the Union Government has extended financial assistance for the following projects;

- (1) Epidemiological study of chronic arsenic toxicity in West Bengal at Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Calcutta for Rs. 4.939 lakhs.
- (2) A Sub-Mission comprising 11 members from five organisations to assess the reasons and extent of pollution of ground water at a cost of Rs. 10.82 lakhs.
- (3) The first phase of the action plan for setting up of a water supply system in arsenic affected areas of West Bengal at a cost of Rs. 961.85 lakhs with a Union Government's contribution of Rs. 721.39 lakhs.
- (4) Water supply scheme (approved in February, 1995) in arsenic affected areas of Malda district at a cost of Rs. 3,848.00 lakhs.

(f) A three year R & D project has been submitted by the Jadavpur University to the Ministry of Rural Development. Rs. 4.125 lakhs for the first year has been released

by Union Government through the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.

[Translation]

#### Agricultural and Milk Production

31. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the targeted growth rate for agricultural and milk production, separately in each five year plan, including the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the achievements made in comparison to these targets, plan-wise;

(c) whether there has been decline in the growth rate of agricultural and milk production in several States during the above period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) A statement giving targets and achievements of rates of growth for agricultural and milk production during various plan periods is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Actual achievement in agricultural growth in various States is determined by various factors including behaviour of rainfall and weather in the base and terminal years for which the growth rate is measured. Most of the States have exhibited higher growth rate of agricultural production in more recent period i.e. 1980-81 to 1992-93. However, some of the State have shown deceleration in the rate of growth of agricultural production in recent years. This was mainly attributed to adverse rainfall and weather conditions in those States as also stagnancy in area under crops.

(e) In order to increase the rate of growth of agricultural production, efforts are directed for increasing the yield per hectare of various crops. In this connection, various crop production oriented schemes are being implemented by the Government including Integrated Cereal Development Programme — Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; National Pulses Development Programme; Oilseeds Production Programme; Special Jute Development Programme; Intensive Cotton Development Programme etc. Besides, programmes for increasing the use of fertiliser in low consumption area and extension of irrigation facilities and high yield varieties are being implemented to improve the productivity of crops.

In regard to increase the milk production, the strategies being pursued are — Genetic improvement of nationally important cattle breeds by selective breeding in their hometracts and upgrading in other selected areas; Cross-breeding of non-descript cattle with exotic dairy breeds; Genetic improvement of important buffalo breeds by selective breeding and upgrading of non-descript buffaloes in other areas; Development of feed and fodder resources; Organisation of effective animal health services



to support the production programme; Implementation of Operation Flood Programme; and Integrated dairy development for non-operational, hilly and backward areas.

#### STATEMENT

(A) Plan-wise Compound Growth Rates (Targets and Achievements) based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Agriculture and allied sector.

Five Year Plan	Period		Compound Growth Rate (Percent per annum)	
	From	To	Targets	Achievements
I	1950-51	1955-56	*	2.88
II	1955-56	1960-61	*	3.35
III	1960-61	1965-66	*	-0.28
IV	1966-69	1973-74	*	2.63
V	1973-74	1978-79	3.34	3.36
VI	1979-80	1984-85	3.83	5.52
VII	1984-85	1989-90	2.50	3.41
VIII	1991-92	1996-97	3.1	3.50**

\*Sectoral Five Year Plan Growth rate targets in a formal inter-industry consistency framework, which requires the use of an input-output model for the economy were set Fifth Year Plan onwards.

\*\*Average of 1992-93 to 1994-95.

#### TARGET AND ACHIEVEMENT UNDER MILK PRODUCTION\* (Million tonnes)

Plan	Target	Achievement
Sixth Plan	38.0	41.5
Seventh Plan	51.0	51.5
Eighth Plan	70.0	63.5 (for 1994-95 anticipated)

\*Targets of Milk Production were not set in the Plans upto the Fifth Plan.

[English]

#### Compensatory Afforestation

\*32. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified area in hectares for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest land diverted to non-forestry purposes;

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

(c) the area of land developed under compensatory afforestation during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, State-wise; and

(d) the target set for 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):  
(a) Yes, Sir. An area of approximately 3.85 lakhs hectares has been identified for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes.

(b) to (d) A Statement showing the state-wise details of land identified for compensatory afforestation, area covered under compensatory afforestation during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 and target fixed for 1995-96 is attached.

#### STATEMENT

(Area in Ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Area identified for comp. afforestation	Upto 1991-92	Land developed under compensatory afforestation				
				1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (till Dec., 94)	Achievement (till Dec., 94)	Target for 1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14,600	4,706	1,383	3,068	1,990	11,147	4,000
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	1,006	300	266	—	—	566	514
3.	Assam	1,213	554	24	—	—	578	635
4.	Bihar	1,788	60	—	8	—	68	1,720
5.	Goa	94	93	—	—	—	93	1
6.	Gujarat	19,720	9,888	—	3,070	2,379	15,337	2,500
7.	Haryana	566	507	—	—	154	661	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7,433	2,282	433	228	—	2,943	2,300
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,425	288	—	—	—	288	1,137

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10. Karnataka	10,400	9,515	118	46	885	10,564	—	—
11. Kerala	711	108	215	317	—	640	72	—
12. Madhya Pradesh	2,32,611	64,104	—	25,524	—	89,628	30,000	—
13. Maharashtra	47,847	23,306	105	6,095	13,400	42,906	4,000	—
14. Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Meghalaya	249	270	—	—	—	270	—	—
16. Mizoram	3,030	—	—	—	610	610	2,000	—
17. Orissa	15,535	12,157	—	—	—	12,157	3,666	—
18. Punjab	464	136	—	71	20	227	218	—
19. Rajasthan	4,170	985	98	945	1,093	3,121	1,049	—
20. Sikkim	213	596	—	134	718	1,448	—	—
21. Tamil Nadu	873	333	305	—	89	727	74	—
22. Tripura	380	219	—	—	63	282	98	—
23. Uttar Pradesh	16,902	5,682	—	1,496	1,749	8,927	1,500	—
24. West Bengal	1,114	604	—	—	—	604	536	—
25. A.&N. Island	1,994	2,046	—	—	—	2,046	—	—
26. Ddra & Nagar Heveli	262	262	—	—	—	262	—	—
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,84,604</b>	<b>1,39,001</b>	<b>2,947</b>	<b>41,002</b>	<b>23,150</b>	<b>2,06,100</b>	<b>56,020</b>	<b>—</b>

#### Soil Erosion

\*33. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present estimated loss of soil due to wind, water and natural calamities, State-wise; and

(b) the effective steps taken by the Government to conserve the soil?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) It is estimated that about 5334 million tonnes of soil is lost due to water erosion in the country. However, State-wise estimation is not available. Also, no quantitative estimates have been made on the loss of soil due to wind erosion and natural calamities.

(b) A number of programmes are being implemented by Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development which, among others, help in conservation of soil through appropriate land and water management practices. Prominent among them are Centrally Sponsored Schemes of (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects (ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood prone Rivers (iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (iv) Watershed Development Project in the Shifting Cultivation Areas of North-Eastern India under the Ministry of Agriculture and Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development.

Besides the above, Soil Conservation Programmes are also being implemented by various State Govts. in the State sector.

#### Pollution in Delhi

\*34. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any recent study to know the extent of rise in the atmospheric pollution in Delhi and the various forms of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere since the beginning of 1994;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in the atmospheric pollution today as compared to pollution at the beginning of 1994;

(c) whether the Government have critically examined the deficiencies in the measures taken so far to check the rising atmospheric pollution in the city; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to remove the deficiencies in the measures to control the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir. Under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, the trend of ambient air quality of Delhi in terms of major air quality parameters such as levels of Suspended Particulate Matter, (SPM), sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen is regularly monitored. Data collected from six locations across the city of Delhi has been examined upto December, 1994.

(b) The average levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen in the ambient air at these six locations are within the prescribed limits. While the level of suspended particulate matter is showing an increasing trend at some locations during winter.

The average levels of air quality parameters at six locations in Delhi are shown in the Table below:

Table: Status of Ambient air Quality in Delhi Metropolitan Area During 1994.(microgrammes per cubic metre).

LOCATION	JAN '94			DEC '94		
	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	SPM	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	SPM
ASHOK VIHAR (R)	23	32	351	24	34	463
SHAHZADABAGH (I)	24	32	466	26	44	328
SIRIFORT (R)	10	28	308	16	30	476
JANAKPURI (R)	12	28	405	17	37	466
NIZAMUDDIN (R) + (C)	17	38	445	13	34	472
SHAHDARA (I)	22	32	470	23	28	358

(R): Residential Area

(I): Industrial Area

(R) + (C): Residential + Commerical Area

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Since vehicular pollution is the main source of atmospheric pollution in Delhi, the measures taken and proposed by Government to control this include the following:

- (i) Gross and mass emission standards for all categories of vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Department of Transport, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. An intensive public awareness campaign has been launched by the Transport Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards and need for taking measures for control of pollution from vehicles.
- (ii) The Transport Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has started a drive for random checking of vehicles at seven major traffic intersections of Delhi, found visibly polluting. On an average, 25% of the vehicles have been found polluting. Action taken includes prosecution and cancellation of Pollution Under Certificates/Certificates of Fitness.
- (iii) Private petrol pumps and workshops numbering 120 have been authorised by the Department of Transport, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for checking of pollution, tuning of polluting vehicles and issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificates. Approximately 12.01 lakh vehicles have availed this facility between July, 1990 and November, 1993. Of these, 3.25 lakh polluting vehicles have been tuned and pollution emitted from these vehicles have been brought within the prescribed standards.
- (iv) It has been decided to introduce unleaded petrol in Delhi from April 1, 1995, for new four-wheeler petrol-driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters.

### Fisheries in North-Eastern States

\*35. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up any programme for developing fisheries and generating employment in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether the Government have already programmed for intensive development of inland fish farming and technical and financial inputs for scientific fish farming in backward regions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the assistance provided by the Government for this purpose during each of the last three years; and

(e) the extent to which the programme has been implemented by the Government and the extent to which the said employment generating scheme has been successful during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) (a) Yes, Sir. For development of fisheries and generating employment, the Government have taken up programmes for freshwater aquaculture development through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and Strengthening of Infrastructural facilities for Inland Fish Marketing in the North-Eastern States.

(b) and (c) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture, 51 FFDAs have so far been sanctioned to North-Eastern States. The State-wise distribution is : Arunachal Pradesh (2), Assam (23), Manipur (8), Meghalaya (1), Mizoram (5), Nagaland (8), Tripura (3) and Sikkim (1). These Agencies provide technical, financial and extension support to the fish farmers. The assistance provided to fish farmers includes construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, inputs for first-year, running water fish culture, integrated fish farming, establishment of prawn/fish seed hatcheries, etc. Assistance is provided to the States for establishment of a Training Centre and the farmers are

also given training in improved practices of fish farming.

(d) Central assistance given to the North-Eastern States for aforesaid ongoing fisheries programmes during each of the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Schemes	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1. Freshwater Aquaculture Development	25.19	54.00	130.00
2. Inland Fish Marketing	—	57.50	—

(e) The FFDAs in North-Eastern States have brought about 2303 ha. water area under scientific fish culture, benefiting 5342 fish farmers during the last three years. The Agencies have also trained about 20,626 fish farmers in improved practices of fish farming during the said period. With the introduction of FFDAs, the average productivity from ponds and tanks in North-Eastern States has increased from 1460 kg/ha in 1991-92 to 1720 kg/ha during 1993-94.

#### Technology Mission for Dairy Development

\*36. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Technology Mission for Dairy Development has been launched in order to streamline and coordinate dairy development programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which TMDD helps in augmenting the milk supply specially in rural areas; and

(d) the progress made under TMDD during the last 2 years and 1994-95 so far; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR):

(a) and (b) The Technology Mission on Dairy Development (TMDD) was launched by the Government of India in August 1988, with the following objectives, namely:—

- \* to accelerate the pace of increasing rural employment and income through dairy development on cooperative lines;
- \* to improve overall dairy productivity through application and adoption of modern technology;
- \* to ensure greater availability of milk and dairy products;
- \* to dovetail State Government programmes in Animal Husbandary, Dairying, poverty alleviation etc. with those of the dairy cooperatives;
- \* to dovetail research programmes of the Central Government research institutes, agriculture universities; and the

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for optimum results. The TMDD has Committees at the National, the State and the District levels. At the National

level, an Empowered Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, is responsible for ensuring necessary intervention on policy issues, technological matters, Operational linkages, evaluation studies Cooperative Development and Manpower Development. The State and the District level coordination committee are chaired by the Chief Secretary and the District Collectors respectively.

(c) The TMDD has a major coordinating role to bring together different agencies involved in dairy development through operational linkages, policy interventions and time based research programmes in the critical areas of milk production, enhancement and quality control by assigning these to the relevant Central Government Institutions, the State Agricultural Universities and the NDDB. The TMDD has taken up programmes for strengthening field level infrastructures and communication so as to provide veterinary care to milch animals in case of emergencies as also for the strengthening of the Frozen Semen production stations of the State Animal Husbandary Departments for improving the breeds of milch animals.

(d) The progress made in the annual milk production during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as follows:

#### Provision Estimates of Milk Production

(Thousand tonnes)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (*)
1. Andhra Pradesh	3103	3766	4100
2. Arunachal Pradesh	21	42	42
3. Assam	658	776	820
4. Bihar	3195	3215	3250
5. Goa	30	30	31
6. Gujarat	3795	3546	3650
7. Haryana	3715	3850	3950
8. Himachal Pradesh	610	635	655
9. Jammu & Kashmir	600	630	650
10. Karnataka	2590	2736	3107
11. Kerala	1889	2001	2120
12. Madhya Pradesh	4879	4975	5160
13. Maharashtra	4102	4250	4450
14. Manipur	83	84	111
15. Meghalaya	52	54	56
16. Mizoram	9	12	15
17. Nagaland	44	45	45
18. Orissa	542	560	585
19. Punjab	5583	5970	6400
20. Rajasthan	4586	4958	4850
21. Sikkim	30	30	32
22. Tamilnadu	3468	3524	3963
23. Tripura	34	35	38
24. Uttar Pradesh	10649	10991	11400
25. West Bengal	3023	3095	3250
Total States	57290	59810	62730

#### Union Territories

1. Andman & Nicobar Island	24	25	25
2. Chandigarh	37	38	40
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	3	4
4. Daman & Diu	1	1	1

5.	Delhi	235	260	270
6.	Lakshadweep	1	1	1
7.	Pondicherry	27	28	29
Total UTs		329	356	370
Grand Total		57619	60116	63100

(\*) Anticipated

#### Central Tobacco Research Institute

\*37. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are monitoring the Lab to Land programme of Central Tobacco Research Institute for transfer of technology to tobacco farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether further intensive work is likely to be done by CTRI in this regard; and

(d) the details of plans chalked out by the Government to encourage tobacco cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The programme of lab to land is monitored through review of quarterly progress report by the Zonal Coordinator and through workshops and group meetings.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. During the Year 1995-96, the KVK, CTRI, Rajamundri prepared plan for adopting another 82 farm families belonging to weaker section, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and landless labourers. These families will be provided training in nursery raising of Tobacco and also in rural crafts.

#### Ganga Action Plan

\*38. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the Ganga Action Plan in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) whether the declared objectives of the Ganga Action Plan have been achieved till today;

(c) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount spent under the Plan so far; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (e) The progress of works under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I and the funds released to the States are given in the attached *Statement*.

(b) to (d) The declared objectives of the Ganga Action Plan have been, by and large, achieved. The Water quality of the Ganga satisfies the prescribed levels of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen. However, at Kanpur the prescribed level of BOD is not met because

the main sewage treatment plant is not yet complete and nearly half of its sewage is to be taken up for treatment in Phase-II.

#### Statement

State	No. of Schemes Completed	Amount Released to States (Rs. in Crores)
Uttar Pradesh	102 (106)	173.46
Bihar	41 (45)	52.21
West Bengal	95 (110)	177.50
Total	238 (261)	403.17

The figures shown in brackets represent the number of schemes taken up.

#### Movement of Essential Commodities

\*39. DR. VISWANATHAN KANITHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any restrictions imposed by the Union Government or States on the free movement of the essential commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of States that have passed rules for restricted movement;

(d) whether such restrictions are allowed to continue; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (e) The only essential commodities in respect of which Central Government has issued Orders for regulating the movement are urea and milk. Under the Fertiliser (Movement Control) Order, 1973. Movement of urea from one state to another can be made only in accordance with an authority issued by the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture or the Director of Agriculture of a State Government or any other officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf. Under the Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992, no person can manufacture or carry on business in milk or any milk product or create any manufacturing facility unless he has made an application for registration of the unit.

Under Sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 20 of the Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992., The Controller appointed under this order has issued an order dated 1st March, 1995 prohibiting export of milk from certain districts of Madhya Pradesh to any place out-side that state with effect from 1.3.95 and upto 25.5.95.

Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments have also been delegated the power to regulate the storage, transport, distribution, disposal, acquisition, use or consumption of essential commodities, other than fertilisers subject to certain conditions. In exercising these powers in regard to distribution or disposal of food stuffs to places outside the State or in regard to regulation of transport of any food stuff, State Governments have to obtain the prior concurrence of the Central Government.

The Central Government treats the entire country as a single food zone. State Governments have been requested to ensure that barriers set up by them for verifying payment of local charges and taxes do not impede the movement of foodgrains. State Governments which had imposed statutory restrictions on inter-State and intra-State movement of foodgrains were requested to send formal proposals for obtaining concurrence of the Central Government for the removal of such restrictive provisions. At present, only Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have statutory restrictions on movement of foodgrains. These States are also being advised to remove the prevailing movement restrictions on the foodgrains.

#### Primary Education

\*40. SHRI TARA SINGH:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is steep decline in learning levels in Primary Schools in the country as per study conducted by NCERT;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any policy and issue guidelines to improve the standard of education in the country, particularly at primary levels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the 1993-94 NCERT-NIEPA study had brought out that the learning levels were generally low in primary schools in the 46 districts covered by the study. All but three of these districts are low female literary districts.

(c) and (d) Since the National Policy on Education, 1986, the Government of India have been assisting the States to improve quality of Primary Education through schemes such as Operation Black Board and Teacher Education. Based on the NCERT-NIEPA study, area specific strategies for improving quality have been built into the District Primary Education Programme.

#### Sugar Stock

164. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) stocks of sugar with Public Distribution system as on January 1, 1995;

(b) the estimated requirements of sugar for the public Distribution System for the year 1995;

(c) the estimated availability of levy sugar for the PDS during the year 1995;

(d) whether any shortage is anticipated; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) Sugar season is reckoned from October to September. Accordingly, with the estimated carryover stock of 18.33 lakh tonnes of indigenous sugar as on 1.10.1994 and the balance of about 8.77 lakh tonnes of sugar earlier imported alongwith the estimated production of 120 lakh tonnes during 1994-95 season, the total availability of levy sugar is expected to be about 50.16 lakh tonnes as against the estimated requirement of 42.70 lakh tonnes for 1994-95 season at the existing monthly levy allocations. Thus it is expected to be sufficient to meet the Public Distribution System requirement during the season 1994-95.

#### Modernisation of Railway Stations

165. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects for renovation, beautification and alteration of existing facilities on stations in Rajkot and Bhavnagar Divisions of Western Railway during the last three years and the details of such projects for 1995-96; and

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Renovation/beautification/alteration of facilities at Railway Stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken on condition/need basis, subject to availability of funds and relative priorities. Details in respect of such works undertaken, in Rajkot and Bhavnagar Divisions, during the last three years are as under. Suitable works in this regard will also be undertaken during 1995-96, subject to overall availability of funds and relative priorities of various stations and works.

Station	Work	Expenditure (In lakh of Rupees)		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
BHAVNAGAR	Improvement to platform surface	9.50	9.00	—
TERMINUS				
RAJKOT	Kota stone flooring on main passenger platform	—	—	2.00
HAPA	Raising & extension of island platform	1.00	4.05	—
HAPA	extension of waiting hall	—	1.00	2.00
THAN	Raising of BG platform	3.05	3.00	—
BHANWAD	Raising of platform	0.50	1.60	—
LAKHABAWAL	New station building	—	—	4.00

### Integrated Dairy Development Scheme in Gujarat

166. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achievement made under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas in Gujarat during the last three years upto January, 1995;

(b) the funds allocated to Gujarat under this scheme during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the funds for the above areas of the State have not been allotted for the year 1994-95; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas of Gujarat was approved during March 1994. Hence, there were no achievements during 1992-93 and 1993-94. The rephased target for the year 1994-95 and achievements upto January 1995 are given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Components	Physical Target	Progress Achievement	Financial Targets	Progress Achievement
1. Input Programme				
(a) Health & Breeding input Camps (numbers)	476	283	14.20	6.84
(b) Privatisation of veterinary Services (numbers)	5	Nil	25.00	Nil
(c) FMD Control Programme (numbers)	157500	86067	9.40	6.38
2. Cooperative Dairy Development Programme (Dairy Coop. societies covered)	60	55	34.45	11.12
3. Strengthening of Processing Facilities ('000 litres per day milk)				
(a) Chalala Dairy	60	Nil	150.00	Nil
(b) Chilling Centre in Jamnagar	20	Nil	50.00	Nil
(c) Chilling Centre in Kutchh	10	Nil	25.00	Nil
4. Integrated Pasture Development Programme	11	Nil	74.61	Nil
5. Creation of Cheese Manufacturing Unit at Kutchh Dairy.	—	Nil	100.00	Nil

(b) to (d) A sum of Rs. 150.00 lakh was released to the State Government during 1993-94. The State Government has not reported any further requirement of funds.

### Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

167. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills currently operating in Uttar

Pradesh are getting about 33 percentage of the total available sugarcane;

(b) whether this percentage is less than the national average;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring the existing percentage of availability of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh to the national average?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) During the sugar season 1993-94, drawal of sugarcane by the factories in Uttar Pradesh had been 27.6% as against a National average of 43.2%. The lower drawal of sugarcane by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh had mainly been due to inadequate installed capacity of sugar factories, delay in payment of cane prices by the sugar mills diversion of sugarcane to alternate sweeteners.

(d) In order to improve the drawal of sugarcane by the factories in Uttar Pradesh, as well as in other parts of the country, Government has taken the following measures:—

- (i) Letters of intent for new sugar factories and expansion projects have been issued to augment the licensed/installed capacity.
- (ii) Incentives in the form of higher freesale quota have been announced for early crushing period.
- (iii) A new incentive scheme has been announced on 10.3.93 under which new sugar units in "High Recovery Areas" will be entitled for 100% freesale for 8 years and those in "Other Recovery Areas" to 100% for 9 years and 66% in the 10th year.
- (iv) State Government have been requested to ensure prompt clearance of cane price dues to the farmers by the sugar factories.
- (v) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1994-95 season has been raised to Rs. 39.10 per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 0.5% subject to a premium of Rs. 0.46 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above that level upto 10% and Rs. 0.60 for every 0.1% point increase in the recovery above 10%.
- (vi) An advance announcement of SMP for 1995-96 season has also been made at Rs. 42.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% subject to premium for higher recoveries.

#### Health Hazards by Synthetic Detergent

168. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an informative documentary under the name and style 'WHITE LIES' was sponsored and certified by his Ministry on November, 26, 1992;

(b) whether the said documentary was not shown in television;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the said documentary was related to the health hazards caused by the essential chemical ingredients contained by synthetic detergent and the expert opinion expressed in the said film shows the difficulty of bio-degradability of the inputs in synthetic detergent;

(e) whether the fact that 40% increase in the consumption of synthetic detergent is coming from the rural areas where the water-treatment facilities are very scarce, has attracted the attention of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The documentary "WHITE LIES" was commissioned by the Ministry. It was, however, certified by the Central Board of Film Certification and not by the Ministry.

(b) and (c) The film was sent for telecast on Doordarshan. The position regarding its telecast on Doordarshan is being ascertained.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government is not aware of any survey having been conducted to assess the increase in the consumption of synthetic detergents in the rural areas.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Appellate Tribunals

169. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up Appellate Tribunals of the status of National Consumer Redressal Forum at any place in Southern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for setting up of only one National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in the country. The Commission is already functioning at New Delhi.



### Introduction of Superfast Train

170. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce super-fast train between Howrah and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

### National Cooperative Development Corporation

171. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal of various projects received by the National Cooperative Development Corporation from the Government of Bihar;

(b) the stage at which these proposals are pending; and

(c) the time by which decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) During 1994-95 the National Co-operative Development Corporation has received project proposals from Government of Bihar related to the following schemes:

(i) Share Capital assistance to Primary Marketing Co-operative Societies;

(ii) Integrated Co-operative Development Projects in selected districts;

(iii) Externally aided Rural Growth Centres in Bihar.

The details of the project proposals including releases made by National Co-operative Development Corporation are indicated in the statement attached.

### STATEMENT

Assistance given to Bihar by NCDC

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Proposals received	Amount released	Remarks
(a)	Share Capital assistance to Primary Co-operative Marketing Societies (PCMS)	Proposal for Rs. 37.50 lakh in respect of 47 PCMS	Rs. 37.50 lakh	Nil
(b)	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects in Selected Districts (ICDP)	i) ICDP at Ranchi at a block cost of Rs. 770.53 lakh	—	Bihar Govt. has to clear overdues for an amount of Rs. 1203.00 lakh.
		(ii) ICDP at Singhbhum at a block cost of Rs. 643.13 lakh.	—	Appraisal of new projects can be done after clearing the overdues.
(c)	Externally Aided Rural Growth Centres in Bihar	i) Margin Money Assistance for Rs. 131.00 lakh in respect of 262 cooperative societies.	—	Sanction being issued
		ii) Reimbursement of Rs. 1718.32 lakh (loan for construction of godowns and margin money assistance).	Rs. 951.82 lakh	Proposal for advance release of Rs. 766.50 lakh is under consideration.
		iii) Reimbursement for maintenance of project Implementation Team Cell for Rs. 23.53 lakh	Rs. 16.45 lakh reimbursed	Release of balance amount of Rs. 7.88 lakh under consideration.

[English]

### Pollution due to Burning of Low Quality Coal

172. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incidents of increase in pollution level in Kota and in other parts of the country due to burning of high ash low quality coal in thermal power plants or in other industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of environmental degradation on this account; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) and (b) The Indian coal presently supplied to all thermal power plants including the plant at Kota, has an ash content varying from approximately 35 to 45 per cent. The process of utilising such high ash coal would affect the ambient air and water quality due to emission of fly ash and its disposal problems.

(c) The action taken by the Government include the following:

(i) All thermal power plants have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards on a time bound basis. Besides, while issuing clearance to new plants Government stipulates a green belt to be provided around the power plant and continuous monitoring of air and water quality by the units concerned. Further, they are required to prepare and comply with a fly ash utilisation programme. Newer plants are required to comply with fly ash utilisation to the maximum extent possible;

(ii) Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO) has been entrusted with the work of identifying entrepreneurs for establishing brick making projects utilising fly ash in Rajasthan. Action has been initiated for use of fly ash bricks for public works within a radius of 100 kms. of Kota Thermal Power Station;

(iii) Government has sanctioned three projects for setting up of non-coking coal washeries at Bina (Singrauli Coal fields), Piparwar (North Karanpura Coal Field) and Kalinga (Talcher Coal field);

(iv) Coal India have called for promotion of private entrepreneurs, both Indian as well as foreign, through global tender for setting up of non-coking coal washeries under Build-Own-Operate scheme; and

(v) Steps have been initiated for checking quality control of coal despatches through Coal Controller's field units.

### Construction of Road Under Bridges

173. PROF. SAVITHRI LAIKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered any proposal for the construction of road under bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 48 in Chalakudy;

(b) if so, whether the Southern Railway has approved this work;

(c) if not, the reasons for not approving this project by Southern Railway;

(d) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railways consider construction of Road over bridges, in replacement of those level crossings, proposals for which are sponsored by the concerned State Government agreeing to sharing of cost for such works as per rules. No proposal has been received from the State Government/Local Authority for the construction of road under bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 48 in Chalakudy.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### City Booking Office at Gumala

174. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action for opening a City Booking Office of Railway at Gumala District Headquarters in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Passenger Facilities & Computerised Reservation

175. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic passenger facilities provided at Alleppey and Shertallai stations of Kerala are inadequate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce computer reservation system at Alleppey station; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Facilities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled are made available at Alleppey and Shertallai Railway Stations. As a measure of further improvement, works pertaining to extension of platform shelter at Alleppey and extension of platform no. 1 & the island platform at Shertallai have also been taken up at costs of Rs. 11.10 lakh and Rs. 6.30 lakh, respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### National Board of Accreditation

176. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Council for Technical Education in pursuance of its policies to give a fillip to technical education in the country has set up the National Board of Accreditation; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the responsibilities of this National Board of Accreditation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has constituted the National Board of Accreditation in September 1994. The responsibilities of the Board include, among others, framing policies, guidelines, norms, standards, procedures, formats etc. for administering the accreditation process; wide dissemination of such information; making decisions on the accreditation of institutions and programmes and its review; evaluation of institutions and programmes; and advising the AICTE in the matter of accreditation.

[Translation]

### Environmental Clearance to Pharmaceutical Industries

177. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide for three years environmental approval to the pharmaceutical industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Recently, the representatives of pharmaceutical industries represented to the Ministry of Environment & Forests that the consent to operate issued to them by the State Pollution Control Boards may be made valid for a

period of three years or until there is any change in the industrial processes or treatment and disposal technologies, whichever is earlier. Steps have been initiated to issue directions to the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.

[English]

### Kshipra River

178. DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme submitted to the Government to make Kshipra river pollution free in Madhya Pradesh and the position of the efforts being made alongwith the amount sanctioned for this purpose;

(b) the date on which the scheme was sent to the Government by the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the details of the works required to be undertaken by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) to (d) The National River Conservation Plan for abatement of Pollution in the major rivers of the country formulated by this Ministry envisaged river Kshipra as a component of the Plan. In pursuance of the implementation of this Plan, the Ministry of Environment and Forests asked the Government of Madhya Pradesh to submit a proposal for pollution abatement of river Kshipra, among other major rivers of the State. The State Government then submitted a proposal for pollution abatement of river Kshipra on 25th October, 1993 at an estimated cost of Rs. 3404.00 lakhs.

The proposal *inter-alia* includes interception and diversion of Nandakheda and Alakhdam drains, construction of two sewage treatment plants of 56 MLD and 10 MLD capacity each; construction of two Dhobi Ghats, 8714 nos. pour flush latrines, 20 community toilets, 2 units of improved wood based crematoria, solid waste management and afforestation at critical points along the river. The proposal has been included in the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) which is at an advanced stage of consideration of the Government of India. The implementation of works on the project will commence soon after the NRCP is finally approved by the Union Government.

### Retiring Rooms at Stations

179. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give a face lift to retiring rooms at important railway stations which are in bad shape; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Improvement to Retiring rooms is a

continuous process. Efforts are made by the Railways to ensure provision of amenities and proper maintenance and upkeep of retiring rooms at stations. Inspections are conducted by the railway authorities and the deficiencies made good wherever noticed. The names of the stations, where improvement of retiring rooms have been taken up during 1994-95 and the cost of which is more than Rs. 2 lakhs are as under:—

- (i) Madhupur
- (ii) Trivandrum Central
- (iii) Secunderabad
- (iv) Ahmedabad
- (v) Jaipur

#### National Screening Committee on Text Book

180. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY:  
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the observation made by the National Screening Committee on Text Book in respect of evaluation of History books for class six in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any anomaly has been found by the committee in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government have issued any directive to the State Government in this regard; and

(d) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on these directives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The National Steering Committee on School Textbooks Evaluation had, *inter-alia*, observed that the history portion of the Social Studies textbooks brought out by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for class VI needs to be replaced. It also came to the notice of the Committee that syllabus on which the NCERT's textbooks are based has been broadly adopted in Andhra Pradesh. Accordingly, they felt it appropriate for the educational authorities of the State Government to consider the suitability of NCERT's textbooks for adoption/adaptation.

The report of the Committee along with its recommendations has been sent to the concerned State Government for implementation.

#### Onion Farmers

181. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, due to good rainfall and weather conditions there is huge onion production in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is lot of discontentment among farmers in view of NAFED not buying their produce;

(c) whether the farmers are selling onions at very uneconomical prices in view of its perishable nature; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to good rainfall and whether conditions, production of onion this year particularly in Maharashtra is expected to be more by 15% to 20% against last year production of 37.17 lakh MTs.

(b) and (c) NAFED has been buying onions mainly from Maharashtra to meet domestic as well as export requirements. The price of good onions is ruling between Rs. 100-150 per quintal in Maharashtra which is not uneconomical compared to cost of production.

(d) For giving market support, Government of India alongwith State Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) on the specific request of State Government. Efforts are being made to increase export of onions to Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Maldives and Seychelles by NAFED so that sizeable quantity of onions can be procured and exported which would provide market support to onion growers.

#### Paddy Cultivation in Kerala

182. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Kerala seeking financial assistance for the paddy cultivation in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the details of financial assistance released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal seeking financial assistance from Government of India under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Area (ICDP-Rice)" for 1994-95. The proposal was for implementing the scheme in all the blocks of the state and also included

some programme components not covered under this scheme.

(c) Based on the norms provided under the scheme, Government of India has approved an outlay of Rs. 61.75 lakh comprising Rs. 54.02 lakh as central share for the implementation of the scheme during 1994-95. The detailed proposal for some of the components is still awaited from the states.

(d) the Central share of Rs. 54.00 lakh has already been released to the state.

#### **Local Trains and Platforms**

183. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility of season tickets has not been available for passengers of Diva-Vasai diesel local trains on Western Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which this facility will be made available;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the frequency of these trains and to make them available on Sundays also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether platforms are available on all the stations of this line;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which platforms are likely to be constructed on the stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The facility of season tickets is available for Diva-Vasai passengers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to make these services available on Sundays. Provision of additional services including increase in the frequency of these trains is a continuous process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability.

(e) to (g) All stations of this section are provided with suitable platforms. However the work of levelling and provision of coping on the platform at Kaman station has been taken up and is scheduled to complete by 31.3.95.

#### **Electrification of Railway Line from Erode to Cochin**

184. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the electrification of railway line from Erode to Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent on this work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) The electrification of Erode-Palghat-Emakulam including Cochin Harbour Terminus section is an approved work. Due to resource constraint the section is being electrified in phases. In the 1st phase, the work of electrification of Erode-Palghat section is being undertaken. The complete section is targetted for electrification by March, 98, subject to availability of funds. The estimated cost is Rs. 167.76 crores at present.

[Translation]

#### **Fares for Sleeper Class**

185. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of amount collected from wait-listed passengers for reservation in sleeper class during the last one year who were not given reservation;

(b) whether the Government are considering any action plan to provide at least sitting facility for these passengers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No such statistics are maintained.

(b) and (c) To clear waitlisted passengers, additional coaches are attached wherever feasible and justified. The passengers on the waiting list can also travel in general coaches attached to the trains.

[English]

#### **"Impact of Burning of Hazardous Substance"**

186. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has made any study with regard to impact of burning of hazardous substance on the environment and the masses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to put a ban on the practice of burning as a method for disposal of wastes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A study was recently carried out in Delhi by the Central Pollution Control Board to determine the impact on health due to burning of hazardous material. The study revealed that indiscriminate burning of waste containing metal scrap leads to generation of toxic fumes that could have an adverse health effect on the population exposed to it.

(c) to (e) No Sir. All wastes cannot be treated alike. Some wastes can only be disposed of by burning. Therefore, it may not be possible to completely ban burning of

wastes. However, some of the hazardous and toxic wastes should not be burnt in the open but destroyed only by incineration under controlled conditions.

[Translation]

### **National Cooperative Development Corporation**

187. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any proposals to the National Cooperative Development Corporation regarding expansion of Morena and Chhindwada Plants of State Cooperative Oilseeds Federation;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed plants and since when these proposals are pending with National Cooperative Development Corporation; and

(c) the action taken by the National Cooperative Development Corporation on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have forwarded to the National Cooperative Development Corporation, proposals for expansion of Morena and Chhindwada Plants set up by the Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Oil Seed Growers Federation Ltd. (MPOILFED)

(b) Morena expansion project with a cost of Rs. 30.58 crore was submitted by the State Govt. to NCDC on 7.4.94. Chhindwada expansion project with a cost of Rs. 28.25 crore was submitted by the State Govt. to NCDC on 9.2.93.

(c) As regards the Morena Project, an appraisal was undertaken by NCDC in September, 1994. In view of the non-satisfactory functioning of the unit and the heavy losses incurred by the MPOILFED, the NCDC had suggested that the MPOILFED might improve the capacity utilisation and consolidation of its financial position and after the corrective steps are taken by the State Govt., the proposal could be considered.

As regards the Chhindwada Expansion Project, the appraisal team could not undertake visit to the project as its consideration by the NCDC was deferred till the Chhindwada unit stabilised its operations.

[English]

### **Khandsari Units**

189. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khandsari units are facing several difficulties in regard to production of Khandsari such as purchase of machinery, availability of raw material and power supply of electricity;

(b) if so, the type of assistance given to the State Governments to overcome the situation; and

(c) the quantum of increase in the production of Khandsari as a result of the assistance provided by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Central Government is presently not exercising any control on the Khandsari industry in relation to its manufacture. Their interests are being looked after by the State Governments. No assistance is being provided by the Central Government to the Khandsari industry either directly or through the State Governments.

### **Fake reservations**

190. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vigilance officer of railway has taken away some papers from Kanpur Central Booking Office for investigation regarding fake reservations and tampering with "Code" of computer;

(b) if so, the findings of the investigation; and

(c) action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On investigation the allegation of fake reservation and tampering with "Code" of computer was not substantiated.

(c) Since the allegations could not be substantiated, no action was taken against any staff.

### **Issue Price of Foodgrains**

191. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the Central Issue Price of rice and wheat;

(b) whether any committee has been appointed in this regard;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the committee;

(d) whether the Government have also agreed to increase the price of wheat and rice sold through the Public Distribution System;

(e) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be implemented;

(f) the minimum and maximum issue price of foodgrains during the last three years; and

(g) whether there has been constant increase in food subsidy given by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The Central issue price (ex-FCI godowns) of rice and wheat are revised by the Government from

time to time to partially absorb the hike in Minimum Support Prices and handling costs of Food Corporation of India.

(Rs. per qtl.)

Effective	Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice (Ex-FCI godowns) for PDS			
	Wheat		Rice	
	Common		Fine	Superfine
28.12.1991	280	377	437	458
11.1.1993	330	437	497	518
1.2.1994	402	537	617	648

(g) Food subsidy paid/released during the past five years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount of subsidy paid
1990-91	2142
1991-92	2850
1992-93	2785
1993-94	5537 (Budget—1994-95 allocation Rs. 4000 crores)
1994-95(BE)	3426

#### Issue Price of Rice

192. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether issue price of rice supplied to different States from the Central Pool was increased from time to time; and

(b) if so, the increases made during the last three financial years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH):  
a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is as under:—

(Rs. per qtl.)

Central Issue Price of Rice for PDS (Ex-FCI godowns)

Effective From	Common	Fine	Superfine
25.6.1990	289	349	370
28.12.1991	377	437	458
11.1.1993	437	497	518
1.2.1994	537	617	648

[Translation]

#### Prices of Sugarcane/Sugar

193. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the per quintal official price of sugarcane and per kg. price of levy sugar during 1991;

(b) the extent of increase in minimum official price of sugarcane and levy sugar during the last three years and the dates on which these have been made effective;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the existing minimum official price of sugarcane;

(d) if so, the time by which and the extent to which the prices are to be increased;

(e) the price of sugar during June, 1993, May, 1994 and February, 1995;

(f) the reasons for rise in market prices; and

(g) the steps taken to mitigate the hardships of the poor sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane notified by the Central Government for the sugar years 1990-91 and 1991-92 was Rs. 23/- and Rs. 26/- per quintal respectively, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%. The retail issue price of levy sugar was Rs. 5.25 per kg. w.e.f. 1.1.1989, which was revised to Rs. 6.10 per kg. with effect from 24.7.91, for supply of sugar to the consumers through the Public Distribution System.

(b) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 percent of sugar, and the retail issue price of levy sugar for the last three sugar years were as follows:

(i) STATUTORY MINIMUM PRICE OF SUGAR-CANE

Sugar Year	SMP in Rs. per Quintal
1992-93	31.00 All linked to a basic
1993-94	34.50 recovery of 8.5% with premium
1994-95	39.10 for higher recoveries.

(ii) ISSUE PRICE OF LEVY SUGAR

From	To	Rate in Rs. per kg.
24.7.91	20.1.92	6.10
21.1.92	16.2.93	6.90
17.2.93	31.1.94	8.30
1.2.94	till date	9.05

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present to increase the Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane for the current 1994-95 season, which has already been announced at Rs. 39.10 per quintal, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%.

(e) The range of wholesale open-market prices of S-30 grade of sugar in the four principal markets of the country during June 1993, May 1994 and February 1995 were as follows:

Month	June '93	May '94	February '95
Delhi—1020-1120	1350-1600	1230-1240	
Bombay—995-1080	1439-1572	1215-1239	
Calcutta—1110-1135	1440-1630	1265-1280	
Madras—1003-1133	1463-1483	1083-1203	

(f) Due to the decline in sugar production during the season 1993-94, the total availability of sugar in the country also considerably declined and the prices showed an increasing trend. The delay in the marketing of sugar imported by various private parties under OGL also contributed to the rise in prices during the middle of 1994.

(g) A portion of the requirement of sugar of the poor sections of the society is met through the Public Distribution System under which levy sugar is supplied throughout the country at a uniform retail issue price fixed by the Government. The open market prices of sugar have been contained by augmenting the availability of sugar through imports under OGL and initiating measures for increase in domestic production.

[English]

#### Doubling of Railway Line

194. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:  
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to complete the doubling of railway line between Bangalore and Jolarpettai during the financial year 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) This doubling is scheduled to be completed in the 9th Plan period.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Cost Control Service

195. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not any cost control scheme which has resulted in cost escalation of projects;

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

(c) whether the Government have examined the software package prepared by the Tata Consultancy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Railways have a cost control system.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### "Year 1995" as Railway Commuters' Year

196. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to celebrate the year 1995 as railway commuters' year; and

(b) if so, the details of the programmes proposed to be organised, particularly in regard to the improvement of passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) It has been decided to dedicate the year 1995 to the cause of the rail users. Various steps have been initiated to improve passenger amenities. These include liberalisation of refund rules, expansion of computerisation of reservation facilities, installation of more and more Self Printing Ticketing Machines for easy availability of tickets, introduction of Instant Action Groups for the safety, security and comfort of the passengers, segregation of long distance and short distance passenger traffic by the introduction of MEMU, DMU, Diesel push-pull and rail bus service, running of inter-city trains and Shatabdi Express trains for the convenience of rail users etc.

#### Gauge Conversion

197. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:  
SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:  
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:  
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway lines converted from metre gauge to broad gauge during the last three years; Zone-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Chhota Udepur (Gujarat) metre gauge is also included in it;

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

(d) whether the works progress is as per the time-schedule;

(e) the amount likely to be spent on this work; and

(f) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The sections converted into BG during the last three years till date are as under:—

S. No.	Name of Section/line	Zone	Length (Kms.)
<b>1991-92</b>			
1.	Manmad-Aurangabad	SC	114
2.	Salempur-Barhaj Bazar	NE	21
	Total		135
<b>1992-93</b>			
1.	Lucknow-Kanpur	NR	59
2.	Delhi-Rewari	NR	83



S. No.	Name of Section/line	Zone	Length (Kms.)
3.	Kotkapura-Fazilka	NR	80
4.	Lalgarh-Merta Road	NR	177
5.	Lalgarh-Kolayat	NR	47
6.	Nadiad-Kapadvanj	WR	45
7.	Sawaimadhopur-Jaipur	WR	125
8.	Bangalore-Tumkur	SR	59
9.	Mysore-Bangalore	SR	138
10.	Bangalore-Yelahanka	SR	12
11.	Guntur-Narsaraopet	SC	46
12.	Dindigul-Tuticorin	SR	196
13.	Bellary-Rayadurg	SC	54
14.	Aurangabad-Jalna	SC	64
15.	Parbhani-Parli Vajinath	SC	63
16.	Burhwal-Mehmoodabad	NE	38
17.	Mankapur-Katra	NE	30
18.	Purulia-Kotshila	SE	35
Total			1351

**1993-94**

1.	Daund-Baramati	CR	42
2.	Bathinda-Hissar	NR	157
3.	Phulera-Jodhpur-Bhagat-Ki-Kothi	NR	261
4.	Patel Nagar-Sarai Rohilla	NR	3
5.	Merta Rd.-Merta City	NR	15
6.	Mehmoodabad-Sitapur	NE	60
7.	Varanasi-Allahabad	NE	126
8.	Lucknow-Manaknagar	NE	5
9.	Lalkuan-Kathgodam	NE	29
10.	Guwahati-Lumding	NF	181
11.	Tumkur-Chikjajur	SR	215
12.	Chikjajur-Chitradurg	SR	16
13.	Mysore-Ashokapuram	SR	5
14.	Tambaram-Egmore	SR	27
15.	Narsaraopet-Donakonda	SC	75
16.	Jalna-Parbhani	SC	116
17.	Falaknuma-Secunderabad	SC	28
18.	Bolarum-Secunderabad	SC	14
19.	Falaknuma-Mehmoodnagar	SC	99
20.	Gondia-Arjuni	SE	82
21.	Jaipur-Phulera	WR	55
22.	Jaipur-Durgapur	WR	8
Total			1619

**1994-95**

1.	Parbani-Purna	SC	29
2.	Arjuni-Wadsa	SE	23
3.	Chikjajur-Chitradurg	SR	18
4.	Hissar-Rewari	NR	143
5.	Rewari-Jaipur	WR	225
6.	Birur-Shimoga	SR	63
7.	Chikjajur-Harihar	SR	60
8.	Donakonda-Giddalur	SC	84
9.	Miraj-Belgaum	SC	188
10.	Champarni-Haibargaon	NF	21
Total			854

Railways do not maintain information Statewise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The budget outlay for gauge conversion in 1994-95 is Rs. 1005.13 crores. Actual expenditure will be known after close of the financial year.

(f) Gauge conversion is being done under Project Unigauge in a Phased manner. In the Eighth Plan, 6,000 kms were to be converted of which 3824 kms have already been converted. Railways are hopeful of exceeding the target for the Eighth Plan substantially.

**Levy Sugar**

198. SHRI CHITTA BASU:  
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:  
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to hike levy sugar price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether large quantity of imported sugar is lying unsold due to sub-standard quality; and

(d) if so, the quantity lying unsold and steps taken to dispose it?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Levy sugar price for different zones are fixed every year taking into account the zonal minimum price for sugar cane, the tax or levies paid/payable thereon, drriage, the conversion cost as per schedule prescribed by BICP and escalation thereon as per BICP parameters and the return. The levy price for 1994-95 will also be fixed accordingly.

(c) and (d) The entire quantity of sugar imported by State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation Ltd. has been taken over by Food Corporation of India for distribution through Public Distribution System. As regards, private parties, import of sugar being under Open General Licence, they have not furnished details in respect of quantities of sugar sold or lying unsold with them.

**Gauge Conversion between Degana-Delhi**

199. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for conversion of Degana-Delhi section under the project unigauge;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be completed and opened to traffic for Jodhpur Mail; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The gauge conversion of Delhi-

Jodhpur via Rewari, Jaipur, Degana has since been completed.

(b) A Broad gauge Exp. Train between Delhi and Jodhpur via Rewari, Jaipur, Phulera and Degana has been introduced w.e.f. 12.3.95.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Subsidy on Foodgrains

200. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of subsidy on food is constantly increasing for the last few years;

(b) if so, the subsidy actually provided on food during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 and likely to be provided during 1994-95;

(c) whether the quantity of foodgrains being sold through Public Distribution System has declined during these years;

(d) if so, the quantity supplied to Public Distribution System during 1991-92 and 1993-94 and upto January, 1995; and

(e) the per quintal price thereof year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Food subsidy provided/released to the FCI since 1991-92 has been as follows:

YEAR	RUPEES IN CRORES
1991-92	2850
1992-93	2785
1993-94	5537

A budget provision of Rs. 4,000 crores has been made in BE 1994-95 on this account. Out of this a sum of Rs. 3,426 crores has so far been released towards food subsidy.

(c) and (d) Following quantities of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) have been supplied through the Public Distribution System during the years in question:

(Figures are provisional)  
(IN LAKH TONNES)

YEAR	RICE	WHEAT
1991-92	99.45	87.85
1992-93	93.64	74.00
1993-94	88.84	58.63
1994-95	65.28	38.04

(upto Jan., 1995)

(e) while retail issue prices of Foodgrains sold to

consumers through Public Distribution System are determined by State Governments/Union Territories Admn. concerned themselves the Central Issue Prices (ex FCI godowns) of wheat and rice for distribution through the Public Distribution System were/are as follows:

WHEAT	RATE RS. QTL.
w.e.f.	
01.05.1990	234/-
28.12.1991	280/-
11.01.1993	330/-
01.02.1994	402/-

RICE	COMMON	FINE	SUPERFINE
w.e.f.			
25.06.1990	289/-	349/-	370/-
28.12.1991	377/-	437/-	458/-
11.01.1993	437/-	497/-	518/-
01.02.1994	537/-	617/-	648/-

The Central Issue Prices of these cereals for distribution in ITDP/RPDS areas is Rs. 50 per qtl. lower than the issue price under the normal Public Distribution System.

#### Seeds Corporations

201. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make structural changes in the Seeds Corporations in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Under World Bank-aided National Seeds Project (Phase-III) assistance is being provided to various National and State Seeds Corporations for financial and operational restructuring.

(b) and (c) The measures taken for the financial restructuring consist of reduction in debt-burden and equity expansion. The various steps taken with regard to operational restructuring include participation of growers, and Government of India in the equity of some of the Corporations, and certain organisational changes for improving the operational efficiency of the concerned Corporations.

[English]

#### Public Distribution System

202. SHRI ASTBUHA PRASAD SHUKLA:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received com-

plaints about the lacuna prevailing in the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted from time to time on ways to improve the Public Distribution System;

(d) whether a meeting is scheduled to consult State Governments in this regard;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make PDS more effective; and

(f) the quantity of essential commodities supplied to States during 1994 and upto January 1995, item-wise, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (e) Public Distribution System (PDS) is a joint responsibility of the Central Government and State Government/UT Administrations. Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and bulk allocation of six key essential commodities viz. rice, wheat, sugar, soft coke, imported edible oil and kerosene. The operational

responsibility for actual distribution of allocated commodities to the consumers rests with States/UTs. Consultations are held with the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time in various forms such as meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS and with Ministers/Secretaries in charge of PDS in States wherein suggestions for improvements in the implementation of PDS are discussed. The Government had introduced the Revamped PDS (RPDS) Scheme in 1775 blocks in the country identified in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations. RPDS is benefiting an estimated population of more than 165 million living in these areas. Foodgrains meant for distribution in RPDS areas are issued at Central Issue Prices which are Rs. 50/- per quintal lower than the CIP of foodgrains for normal PDS and additional quantity of 3.2 million tonnes of foodgrains per annum have been earmarked for allocation to States/UTs for distribution in RPDS areas. Central Government is also extending financial assistance to States/UTs for construction of godowns and purchase of mobile vans in RPDS areas for strengthening the distribution infrastructure.

(f) A Statement indicating the quantities of essential commodities allocated to the State during the year 1994 and January, 1995 is attached.

#### STATEMENT

*Statewise Allocation of Wheat, Rice, Edible Oils, Kerosene, Sugar from January, 94 to January, 95 Distributed through P.D.S.*

**Figures in 000 tonnes**

States/UTs	Wheat	Rice	Sugar	Ed. Oils	Kerosene
Andhra Pradesh	195.00	2380.00	340.13	36.50	652.28
Arunachal Pradesh	7.80	95.80	4.27	0.15	10.27
Assam	300.00	499.20	131.35	0.90	272.39
Bihar	761.20	386.20	446.20	0.00	602.73
Goa	43.40	63.00	6.74	2.80	33.38
Gujarat	695.50	448.50	215.17	21.30	868.53
Haryana	148.60	39.00	86.00	0.50	167.47
Himachal Pradesh	143.00	105.30	26.64	0.50	43.56
Jammu and Kashmir	350.00	540.80	41.89	0.00	77.92
Karnataka	380.30	1278.82	239.21	10.00	490.11
Kerala	465.00	1950.00	160.83	7.50	292.54
Madhya Pradesh	586.62	585.32	337.16	0.00	481.92
Maharashtra	1040.00	929.50	402.87	11.00	1646.47
Manipur	35.10	130.00	9.54	1.00	22.83
Meghalaya	28.00	141.50	9.03	1.40	17.00
Mizoram	20.70	98.80	3.67	1.10	6.86
Nagaland	53.20	100.50	5.86	3.20	11.18
Orissa	425.00	564.70	166.83	7.80	206.51
Punjab	234.00	19.05	108.08	0.00	347.59
Rajasthan	1492.37	46.40	228.22	0.00	332.16
Sikkim	9.00	59.40	2.21	0.50	8.19
Tamil Nadu	315.00	1241.60	303.33	12.00	723.51
Tripura	23.40	210.60	13.64	0.15	23.95
Uttar Pradesh	1283.40	595.40	713.06	0.00	1097.57
West Bengal	1075.00	1036.20	349.05	10.50	809.99

States/UTs	Wheat	Rice	Sugar	Ed. Oils	Kerosene
Andman & Nikobar	8.40	51.50	2.84	0.23	4.46
Chandigarh	23.40	3.90	5.22	0.00	22.62
Dadra & Nagar H.	2.60	6.50	0.67	0.49	3.38
Damn & Diu	1.95	6.50	0.52	0.85	3.17
Delhi	972.00	260.00	127.65	1.80	261.16
Lakshdweep	0.50	6.30	0.79	0.25	0.88
Pondicherry	9.75	25.00	4.69	4.53	16.14
Total	11130.19	13906.29	4493.39	136.92	9558.64

### Electrification of Railway Track in Gujarat

203. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of railway track has been electrified so far in Gujarat;

(b) whether some railway track has been electrified recently in the State;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the railway track is likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) 651 Route Kilometre.

(b) to (d) Sabarmati-Gandhinagar section was electrified in 1993-94.

(e) Electrification of railway tracks on Indian Railways is a continuous process. Electrification projects are undertaken on techno-economic merits and operational requirements on a net work basis. As electrification projects are capital intensive, only those broad gauge routes over which the traffic density is high and the return on investment is not less than the minimum prescribed are considered for electrification.

[Translation]

### Coaches of Maharashtra Express

204. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coaches of Maharashtra Express running between Kolhapur and Nagpur are in worn out condition and the passengers face hardships for want of a pantry car in the train; and

(b) if so, the details of the action proposed to be taken by the Government to improve amenities in the above train?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The coaches of Maharashtra Express are being given regular maintenance attention to keep them in good fettle. The condition of the coaches is monitored and in case of any specific complaint, corrective action including disciplinary action against the defaulting staff, is taken. As regards provision of pantry car, adequate arrangements

exist at stations enroute to meet catering requirements of passengers of this train.

(b) Improvement of passenger amenities in the trains is a continuous process. Constant endeavours are being made to improve the quality of maintenance standards.

[English]

### Fisheries in Gujarat

205. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable scope for development of marine, inland and brackish water fisheries in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in that regard during the Eighth Plan period;

(d) the schemes under the consideration of the Government pertaining to the development of fisheries; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite clearance to those schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.K. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gujarat has considerable potential for marine fisheries with a coast line of about 1600 kms and 1.64 lakh sq. kms. of the continental shelf. Infrastructure available in the form of 39 intermediate and minor ports and 216 marine fish landing centres provide the state with considerable scope for development of marine fisheries. The 3.67 lakh ha. of coastal belt inter-spersed with a large number of creeks, low-lying land and mud flats provide enormous potential for brackish water aquaculture. In Inland Fisheries also, Gujarat has vast potential with its five major rivers, perennial tanks and ponds and small and major reservoirs.

(c) The Following major central sector/centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented during the Eighth Plan period for development of marine, inland and brackishwater fisheries in Gujarat:

- 1) Fishery harbour facilities at Major Ports
- 2) Provision of fishing harbour facilities at Minor Ports
- 3) Freshwater Aquaculture

- 4) Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farms Development
  - 5) Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries
    - (a) Motorisation of Traditional Craft
    - (b) Re-imbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil
  - 6) Welfare of Fishermen
    - i) Group Accident Insurance
    - ii) Model Fishermen Villages
    - iii) Savings-cum-Relief
  - 7) Assistance for Strengthening of Inland Fish Marketing.
- (d) No new schemes are under consideration at present for the development of fisheries in Gujarat.
- (e) Does not arise.

#### Railway Wagons

206. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the curtailment in wagon production has resulted in recession in demand for wheel and axles produced by the Wheel and Axle Plant at Yelahanka near Bangalore; and

(b) If so, the reasons for reducing wagon production and the details of the orders placed for wagons during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The wagon requirement is need based. Consistent with the need, orders were placed for 20,000 wagons in 1993-94 and 12,000 wagons in 1994-95, both in four-wheeler units.

#### Suspension of Trains

207. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the passenger trains including Shatabdi Express trains have been suspended and coaches of some of the trains have been reduced during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of such trains alongwith reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Train Accidents

208. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of accidents on Western Railway have come down during the year 1994;

(b) if so, by what percentage the rate of accidents have come down as compared to the previous three years; and

(c) the factors that contributed to this decrease in the number of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) During 1994, Western Railway recorded 60 consequential train accidents against an average of 55 during the previous three years viz. 1991 to 1993.

#### Enhancement of Foodgrains to states

209. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:  
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:  
SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government for the enhancement of quota of foodgrains and kerosene to the States due to increase in population according to the 1991 census and also for special allocation for distribution to tribals and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the quantity of sugar and kerosene oil allotted to various State Governments during July 1, 1994 to February, 1995, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States/Union Territories for Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System are made on a month to month basis after taking into account stocks in the Central Pool, demands received from the States/Union Territories, their relative needs, off take trend seasonal availability etc. An additional quantity of 3.2 million tonnes of foodgrains have been earmarked, as per projections made by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and public Distribution, for distribution under Revamped Public Distribution System Areas which includes areas under Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) in addition to areas covered under Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Designated Hill Areas (DHA). State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised to ensure availability of 20 kgs of foodgrains per month per household in the Revamped Public Distribution System areas.

Kerosene is allocated to States/Union Territories on historical basis and not on population basis. However, allocation out of additional availability of kerosene is made

to States/Union Territories allowing higher rate of growth to the States/Union Territories having lower per capita consumption of kerosene so as to reduce the disparity over a period of time.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Under the present policy of partial control, the monthly allocations of levy sugar to most of the States/Union Territories are being made on uniform norms of ensuring 425 gms. per capita per availability for the projected population as on 1.10.1986. These norms are effective from 1.2.1987. However, some States/Union Territories are being allowed allocations at higher scales in

view of the special circumstances prevailing there. Accordingly 3.5. lakh tonnes of sugar is being allocated per month as levy for distribution under the Public Distribution System for the entire country. In addition to the above Government releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as festival quota which is allocated to the States/Union Territories in proportion to their monthly levy allocations. Statement I indicating state-wise monthly allocation of sugar is attached.

Statement II indicating state-wise and month-wise allocation of kerosene oil during the period July, 1994 to February 1995 is attached.

#### STATEMENT I

*Statement showing levy sugar quota and festival quota*

(Figures in tonnes)

S. No.	State/Union Territories	Monthly normal quota	Festival quota for each year
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25281	7614
2.	Andaman Nicobar	247	74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	314	94
4.	Assam	9617	2896
5.	Bihar	33459	10078
6.	Chandigarh	372	112
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	51	14
8.	Delhi	8721*+1200 =9921**	2316
9.	Goa	500	150
10.	Daman	24	12
11.	Diu	15	
12.	Gujarat	16194	4878
13.	Haryana	6386	1924
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2019	608
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	3136@	868
16.	Karnataka	17769	5350
17.	Kerala	11953	3600
18.	Lakshadweep	71	22
19.	Madhya Pradesh	25031	7536
20.	Maharashtra	29938	9014
21.	Manipur	694	208
22.	Meghalaya	662	200
23.	Mizoram	261	78
24.	Nagaland	426	128
25.	Orissa	12393	3730
26.	Pondicherry	305*	64
27.	Kerala	73	18
28.	Mahe	15	4
29.	Yanam	7	2
30.	Punjab	7945	2392
31.	Rajasthan	16914	5092
32.	Sikkim	165	50
33.	Tamil Nadu	22547	6790

**@Includes 252 tonnes increased from February, 1994.**

(Figs in M.T.)

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Karnataka	40744	37744	37744	37744	37744	37744	37744	37744
Kerala	22528	22528	22528	24863	22528	22528	22528	22528
Tamil Nadu	55716	55716	55716	55716	55716	55716	55716	55716
Pondicherry	1239	1239	1239	1239	1239	1239	1239	1239
Lakshadweep	71	71	71	71	67	67	67	67
Southern Region	170559	167559	167559	169894	167555	167555	167555	167555
All India Total:	732173	728985	729083	734550	763245	768238	765916	769916

### Train between Ernakulam and Calicut

210. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:  
SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new express train between Ernakulam and Calicut;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to introduce a passenger train between Trivandrum and Ernakulam via Alleppey; and

(c) if so, the time by which the above trains are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) An express train is proposed to be introduced during 1995-96.

### Agarwood Smuggling

211. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Traffic India, a wing of the World Wild Fund (WWF), on Agarwood smuggling has been received by the Government;

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

(c) the measure taken by the Government to protect this endangered species of timber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No report of Traffic India, a wing of World Wildlife Fund on Agarwood smuggling has been received by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The various steps taken by the Government to protect this endangered species of timber are;

(i) Agarwood has been included in the Appendix-II of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). India is signatory to this Convention.

(ii) Central Assistance is being provided to the States/UTs for strengthening of anti-smuggling infrastructure in protected areas.

(iii) Export of wood and wood products in form of logs,

timber, stumps, roots, barks, chips, powder, flakes, dust, pulp and charcoal except sawn timber made exclusively out of imported teak logs/timber has been banned.

[Translation]

### Alleged Irregularities in Public Distribution System

212. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:  
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO  
GUNDEWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government regarding cases of sub-standard goods, black marketing and bungling on Fair Price Shops during the last two years and upto January, 1995;

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

(c) the amount involved in such cases;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against guilty officials; and

(e) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future and the details of the guidelines issued to State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (e) Operational responsibility for distribution of commodities allocated for the Public Distribution System through the Fair Price Shops is of the State Government and UT Administrations. Central Government has delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to all State Governments/UT Administrations to check malpractices in distribution and to take action against persons indulging in such malpractices. State Governments/UT Administrations are undertaking periodic inspections, including raids of Fair Price Shops. For Speedy and effective redressal of complaints against the functioning of Fair Price Shops, they are dealt with at the local administrative level such as the sub-division or the District. Details of such complaints are not maintained by



the Central Government. Central Government had advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to take effective action against persons indulging in malpractices. They have also been advised to set up Fair Price Shops level vigilance committees consisting of local persons, consumers and women to ensure people's participation in supervision of Public Distribution System.

#### **Hunting of Mongoose and Iguana**

213. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of hunting of mongoose and iguana species are on increase;

(b) whether the Government propose to declare these wild animals/species as protected;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to protect these species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There are no reports of any increase in the incidents of hunting of mongoose. Iguana is an exotic species which occurs in South America and is not found in the wild in India.

(b) to (e) All species of mongoose are already protected and their hunting is prohibited as they are included in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Iguana is not included in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as it is an exotic species. However, Monitor lizards which are similar to the Iguana and are found in India are included in Part II of Schedule 1 (Yellow Monitor lizard) and in Part-II of Schedule-II (other species of monitor lizard) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Hunting of any species included in these schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act is prohibited.

#### **Direct Train between Delhi and Aurangabad**

214. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any new train between Delhi and Aurangabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

[English]

#### **Vice Chancellors**

215. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Central Universities in the country are functioning without Vice-Chancellors;

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

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c). Out of the thirteen Central Universities only two Universities viz. Aligarh Muslim University and Visva-Bharati are functioning under Acting Vice-Chancellors, because their Vice-Chancellors have resigned. The resignations of Vice-Chancellors of AMU and Visva-Bharati were accepted on December 8, 1994 and January 31, 1995 respectively. Government has initiated steps for filling up these vacancies as per the provisions of the Acts and Statutes of the respective Universities.

#### **Food items supplied under ICDS**

216. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no regular manufacturer of high protein (soya fortified) with required quantity of protein and calorie contents of a given price value biscuits in the country;

(b) whether the biscuits are made on special orders by local bakeries which are purchased for the children under the integrated child development scheme in Delhi;

(c) if so, to what extent serving of such a product is free from irregularities and so on and the steps proposed to be taken to replace such biscuits from the reputed manufacturers; and

(d) the details of the biscuits supplied under ICDS in other States, State-wise, the source of procurement etc. as also the rates at which procured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) As the responsibility to provide Supplementary Nutrition to the beneficiaries under ICDS lies with the concerned States/UTs. No regular manufacturer of high protein (soya fortified) with required quantity of protein and calorie contents of a given price value biscuits in the country has been identified by the Government.

(b) and (c) For purchase of food items under the ICDS Scheme, the Government of Delhi floats tender notice which are published in leading Newspapers. The quotations received in response to the tender notice are examined by the purchase committee. Thereafter, the samples of valid tenders are sent to Government Laboratory, Krishi Bhavan for chemical analysis. On receipt of satisfactory test reports, the rates are checked and tenders awarded.

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

#### Cases of rape and eve-teasing

217. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of rape and eve-teasing that have come to the notice of the National Commission for Women during 1994 till date;

(b) whether such incidents have been investigated/being investigated by the Commission particularly in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) Twenty four.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Out of 24 cases of rape brought to the notice of the Commission, 1 case is from Gujarat. The case relates to the alleged gang-rape of a tribal woman in Antaras village, District Baroda of Gujarat. The Commission took up the matter with the State

Government. Meanwhile, the matter become sub-judice and as per the orders of the High Court of Gujarat, the case was being investigated by a Special Inspector General of Police.

One case of Uttar Pradesh relates to the allegations of gang-rape committed by the police on women Uttarakhand agitators on October 1-2, 1994 at Muzaffarnagar, U.P. A team of the Commission led by the Chairperson visited the main areas of Garhwal region from the 13th October to 17th October, 1994. Based on this inquiry, the Commission referred its report to the Appropriate Authority for taking suitable actions.

In all other cases, the Commission on receipt of the complaints from the aggrieved parties took notice of the alleged crimes, processed the cases and took up the issues arising out of such cases with the Appropriate Authorities for necessary action.

#### Wagons and Passenger Coaches

218. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons and passenger coaches manufactured in the country during the last three years; year-wise;

(b) the number of wagons and passenger coaches exported during 1993-94 and the names of the countries to which these have been exported; and

(c) the extent of foreign exchange earned through such export?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No wagons and coaches were exported during 1993-94.

(c) Does not arise.

#### STATEMENT

The details are as follows:

Year	Wagons (in four wheelers)		*Coaches (in vehicle Units)	
	Against Railway orders	Against non-Railway orders	Against Railway orders	Against non-Railways orders
1991-92	25778	977.5	2437	—
1992-93	26129	215.5	2659	—
1993-94	19649	713	2489	—

\*Inclusive of EMU Coaches.

#### Introduction of New Trains

219. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce new trains in Gujarat State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These are included in the Budget proposals for 1995-96.

[Translation]

#### Protection of Shahtoosh

220. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shahtoosh is included in the list of protected wild animals;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Shahtoosh shawls are being sold in the open market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the protection of this species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Shahtoosh is the trade name for the underwool obtained from the Tibetan antelope or Chiru (*Pantholops hodgsoni*) which is an endangered wild animal. This species occurs in India only in North Western Ladakh. It is mainly a seasonal visitor to this area in winter and the basic population occurs in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China.

(b) The Tibetan antelope or Chiru is included in Schedule of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which affords complete legal protection against hunting and commercial trade in the animal or its parts. The species is also included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) which prohibits international trade in the species and its parts and products. It is also covered by the negative list of exports under the import-export policy of the Government.

(c) and (d) On receiving information about the sale of Shahtoosh products in Delhi a large number of commercial establishments were raided and shahtoosh shawls, mufflers and wool found in premises of some of these firms were seized. Some consignments of shahtoosh wool and products were also detained at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi and Calcutta Airport.

#### Delhi Milk Scheme

221. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have brought some changes in the management of Delhi Milk Scheme during the last few years;

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

(c) whether DMS is constantly suffering losses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount of losses suffered by DMS and the amount reimbursed by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) has been set up with the primary objective of ensuring adequate supply of milk to the citizens of Delhi at a reasonable price. This objective has had bearing on the operations of DMS. The selling price of milk have often, been kept at a level lower than the cost of production, necessitating budgetary support for the operations. Details of budgetary support as well as losses suffered by DMS during the past three years are as under:—

Sl.No.	Year	Budgetary support	Losses (Rs. in crores) (Provisional)
1.	1991-92	45.40	35.11
2.	1992-93	28.78	33.18
3.	1993-94	10.52	15.11
4.	1994-95 (Provisional)	7.00	10.06

[English]

#### Export of Sandalwood

222. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on export of sandalwood;

(b) whether the Government have decided to remove the ban on export of sandalwood during 1994-95; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Superior quality of seeds

223. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:  
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:  
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAOVADDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the changes in marketing situation, due to implementation of GATT agreement, efforts have been made to generate superior quality seeds in the research institutions, with a view to face competition from imported seeds in the domestic market and to harness export markets for Indian seeds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research plays a major role in research and development of new varieties with the objective of augmenting agricultural productivity and production. Over 2,000 improved varieties and hybrids have been developed as a result of research efforts of ICAR till date. Some of the significant varieties developed by ICAR are KBSH-1 (Sunflower), HB-224 (Cotton), HHE-67 (Pearl Millet), Pusa Deepali (Cauliflower), Pusa Sheetal and F-1 Hybrid-1 and 2 (Tomato), Pusa Hybrid-5 and 6 (Brinjal), and Paprika.

Among some other notable achievements are raising Potato Crop through True Potato Seed, development of off-season nurseries, enhancement of inbuilt resistance to biotic stresses and qualitative improvement in breeder seed.

#### Rice Scheme under FDS

224. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to release Rs. 320 crores contemplated for the education linked 10 kg. free rice scheme for their scheme of supplying rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. launched from January 1, 1995.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cost of subsidy contemplated under Rs. 2/- per kg. rice scheme is more than the education linked 10 kg. rice supply scheme;

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

(d) the benefit sought by Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d): The Andhra Pradesh Government has estimated an expenditure of Rs. 1265 crores in 1995-96 on their scheme for supplying rice at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg. Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for Central grant to cover this expenditure. It has been reported that under this scheme Andhra Pradesh Government is providing upto 23 kg. of rice per month to every household identified as poor by the State Government. The Government of Andhra Pradesh requested for enhanced allocation of rice for implementing the scheme. The Central Government has already increased the monthly allocation of rice from 1, 90,000 MT per month to 2,10,000 MTs per month with effect from February, 95 as requested by the State Government. Central Government makes available foodgrains for the Public Distribution System to all States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh at uniform Central Issue Price on which the Central Government incurs subsidy. There is no

proposal to give additional grants or subsidy to any State/UT.

#### Switching over by Farmers

225. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are switching over to more lucrative crops like oil seed and sugarcane resulting in lower productivity of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to weave back the farmer to foodgrain cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) During the period of 1980-81 to 1993-94, the rates of growth of area under oilseed and sugarcane crops have been higher than the over all rate of growth of area under all crops whereas rate of growth the area under foodgrains was observed as negative. This showed some shifts in area in favour of oilseeds and sugarcane crops. The productivity & production of foodgrains have, however, been showing a rising trend.

(b) The farmers make their choice and allocation of and resources to various crops taking into consideration the various agro economic factors including relative productivity and profitability of crops.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of foodgrains, crop oriented production programme namely, Integrated Cereal Development-Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals and National Pulses Development Programme are being implemented.

#### National Sports Policy

226. SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the National Sports Policy and the date when it was announced;

(b) whether the policy has not so far been implemented; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

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): (a) The national Sports Policy, as laid in both Houses of Parliament on 21st August, 1984 mainly stresses on:—

(i) Promotion of sports infrastructure and preservation of play fields and open spaces.

(ii) Promotion of Sports and physical Education in

Education Institutions and in non-government institutions.

- (iii) Establishment of sports institutions of various kinds and enlisting the cooperation of voluntary sports bodies.
- (iv) Identification of talent at an early age with a view to nurture them towards sports excellence.
- (v) Providing incentives and employment to those who excel in sports.
- (vi) International Exposures to national Teams.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

#### Setting up of NCR Central University

227. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether University Grants Commission proposes to set up a new NCR Central University in near future; and
- (b) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Central Universities are not set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC). They are set up by Acts of Parliament in pursuance of decisions taken by the Government. The UGC is neither competent to set up a university nor does it propose to set up a new NCR Central University in the near future. However, a Committee constituted by the UGC some time ago had examined the need for an affiliating university for the National Capital Region.

[Translation]

#### Railway Projects in Uttar Pradesh

228. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of on-going railway projects in Uttar Pradesh which are likely to be delayed due to financial constraints; and
- (b) the details of railway projects in Uttar Pradesh whose target dates of completion have been extended owing to such constraints?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER

SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The following railway projects in Uttar Pradesh are likely to be/have been delayed due to financial constraints:

Name of the Work	Length in Kms.	Estimated cost (Rs. in crs.)	Reasons for delay
<i>New Line</i>			
Bagha-Chitauni Rail-cum-Road Bridge.	28	164.09	Due to Co-shares viz UP, Bihar & MOWR not coming forth with their shares in time.
<i>Gauge Conversion</i>			
Lalkuan-Kashipur	72	45.00	Work temporarily frozen due to its low priority and constraint of resources.

[English]

#### Encroachment of Forest Land

229. SHRI BHAWANI LAL VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the circular dated 18.9.90 circulated by his ministry, it has been mentioned that the encroachment made on forest land upto October 24, 1980 would be regularised only;
- (b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh and other State Governments have submitted proposals for regularising the encroachments made on the forests land upto October 24, 1980;
- (c) if so, the details of the proposals received, cleared and still pending with the Government alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government have taken any fresh decision in regard to the regularisation of encroachments made on the forest land upto October 24, 1980; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) Under the guidelines issued by the Ministry on 18.9.1990, encroachments taken place on forest land prior to 25.10.1980 are eligible for regularisation subject to fulfilment of certain criteria. Of the proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for regularisation of encroachments taken place over forest land, formal approval has been granted in respect of one proposal each of Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Gujarat in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry. Approval in principle has been accorded in respect of one proposal each for Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat. In case of two proposals each for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Maharashtra and one proposal each for Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh, the respective State Governments have been asked to furnish certain essential details. No fresh decision

has been taken in regard to guidelines issued by the Ministry for regularisation of encroachments taken place over forest land.

### Washing Soap

230. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether suppliers of washing soaps to the Super Bazar had applied for increase in the rates consequent upon the imposition of excise duty on washing soap in the 1994-95 budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof, supplier-wise, and the amount of increase asked for by each supplier;

(c) whether the suppliers requested the enhanced rates after the withdrawal of the excise duty on the washing soap;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the rate was brought down to the same old rates, and if not, the reasons therefor, supplier-wise; and

(e) how did the above position tally with the Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) Details as furnished by the Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar are given below:—  
Super Bazar

S.No.	Name of Supplier	Amount of increase asked
1.	Gora Mal Hari Ram	10% on the existing price
2.	Moti Soap Factory	—do—
3.	Khanna Soap Factory	—do—

Kendriya Bhandar

S. No.	Name of Supplier	Amount of increase asked
1.	M/s. Moti Soap Factory	Rs. 0.75 per Kg.
2.	Ms. Mittal Enterprises	Rs. 0.75 per Kg.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that the suppliers have reduced the enhanced rates after the withdrawal of Excise duty, except in case of Gora Mal Hari Ram which continued to pay excise duty being in power sector.

Kendriya Bhandar has also reported that the suppliers withdrew the increase stating that the excise duty had been removed.

(d) Super Bazar has reported that the increase of excise duty was subsequently withdrawn in case of Khanna Soap Factory and Moti Soap Factory. Rates were accordingly brought down except in case of Gora Mal Hari Ram, because this firm continued to pay excise duty in power sector.

Kendriya Bhandar has also reported that increase on account of excise duty was withdrawn by the suppliers.

(e) As stated in the part (b), (c) and (d) above.

[Translation]

### Bio Fertilizers

231. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to take some steps to boost the use of bio-Fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir, In addition to the present scheme of National Project on Development and use of Bio-fertiliser, the Government is contemplating to take steps to boost the use of Bio-fertiliser through the proposed Technology Mission on Bio-fertiliser, under which financial assistance is proposed to be given to the State and well established Organisations for setting up of Bio-fertiliser Production Unit for production of Bio-fertiliser and for organising training and demonstrations.

### Price Stickers

232. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the shop-keepers change high rates of goods-packets from the customers after sticking desired stickers of price indication which are available in abundance in the market;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to ban on putting of such stickers to protect the interests of the consumers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and proposal to take any other steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The relevant provision under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, related to affixing of separate label to after declarations, including the price, made by the manufacturers/Packers, on a pre-packed commodity have already been withdrawn with effect from 26th August, 1993 in the interest of consumers.

### Sugar Mills

233. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of Sugar mill in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the extent to which production capacity has been raised during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the actual production made by these mills and the number of letters of intent issued for setting up of new sugar mills during Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(d) the number of applicants to whom licences were issued?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The installed capacity of Sugar Mills of the country at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan (1985—1990) i.e., on 30.9.90 was 93.413 lakh tonnes.

(b) During the Eighth Five year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) i.e., upto 31.1.95, 154.8641 lakh tonnes of capacity has come into production making a total installed capacity of 118.2541 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) The actual production during 1994-95 of the new mills & the sugar factories expanded during the 8th Plan ( upto 31.1.95) was 11.23 lakh tonnes. As on 31.1.95, 74 letters of intent have issued for setting up of a new sugar mills in country during the Eighth Five Year Plan, The State-wise position is given below:—

Sl. No.	State	No of letters of Intent issued
1.	Haryana	4
2.	Uttar Pradesh	25
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Maharashtra	17
6.	Bihar	1
7.	Orissa	1
8.	Andhra Pradesh	15
9.	Karnataka	5
10.	Tamil Nadu	2
Grand Total:		74

[English]

#### Unidentified Shrimp Disease

234. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unidentified disease in coastal districts particularly in Andhra Pradesh has caused considerable loss of production of fish shrimp;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government against its recurrence;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide compensation to the affected farmers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

There has been some loss of shrimp production due to the outbreak of the disease in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) About 22660 ha. of brackishwater area has been estimated to be affected by the spread of this unidentified disease in shrimp. The exact causative factor for the outbreak of the disease is yet to be identified. However, some of the common diseases which cause loss of shrimp production include white spot disease and necrosis disease.

(c) Some of the remedial measures contemplated by the Government against the recurrence of the disease include:

- Regulation of shrimp culture by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh through a legislation.
- Advising the farmers to have a crop holiday and take up shrimp farming only towards the end of May or beginning of June, 1995.
- Drying the pond bottom for 2-3 months.
- Allowing natural flushing of the waste from the shrimp ponds.
- Incorporation of an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan and waste water treatment system for reducing the adverse impact of aquaculture on the environment.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Since the outbreak of is not classified for assistance under natural calamities, there is no proposal to provide any compensation to the affected farmers, as in the past.

[Translation]

#### Prices of Vegetables

235. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of vegetables registered a steep increase during the last several months;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the increase; and

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to bring down the prices of the vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Owing to the comfortable supply position, prices of almost all the vegetables, by and large, maintained an easy trend during the last several months.

(c) For ensuring supply of vegetables to consumers at reasonable prices, the Government has undertaken both short-term and long-term measures. The short-term measures include the sale of vegetables at fixed prices by the National Dairy Development Board, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and Super

Bazars in Delhi. As a long-term measure, the Government has been implementing a central sector scheme to increase the Production of vegetables in the country.

[English]

### Production of Flowers

236. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various measures taken by the Union Government to encourage the growth of flowers in the country during 1993 and 1994;

(b) the names of flowers covered under these measures;

(c) the amount spent for the growth of different varieties of flowers in each year, State-wise;

(d) whether export of different varieties of flowers has been made during the above period;

(e) if so, the variety-wise and State-wise total quantity of flowers exported; and

(f) the details of foreign exchange earned so far alongwith the names of countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a scheme on Commercial Floriculture during Eighth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 10 crores, in all the State/UTs. The programmes included under the scheme for the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 related to Establishment of Model Floriculture Centres in J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; Large Tissue Culture Units (Private Sector) in Maharashtra; Small Tissue Culture Units (Private Sector) in Sikkim, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh; and Area Expansion programme in all the States/UTs. In addition, National Horticulture Board provides assistance in the form of soft loan for integrated projects for production and marketing of horticultural crops including flowers to units in public and cooperative etc. sectors.

(b) All the flowers having commercial importance are covered under the programme.

(c) While no funds have been earmarked variety-wise; the State-wise release of funds under the scheme during 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given in the attached Statement-I.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details of variety-wise and State-wise quantity of flowers exported are not available.

(f) The countries to which the flowers were exported during 1992-93 and 1993-94 and the foreign exchange earned are given in the attached Statement II.

### Statement-I

Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture  
State-wise release of funds

(Rs. In lakhs)

State/UT	1992-93	1993-94
1. Andhra Pradesh	2.00	3.50
2. Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.50
3. Assam	—	0.50
4. Bihar	—	0.50
5. Gujarat	1.00	1.00
6. Goa	—	1.00
7. Haryana	1.00	2.00
8. Himachal Pradesh	1.00	3.00
9. Jammu & Kashmir	3.81	14.30
10. Karnataka	4.81	15.00
11. Kerala	2.81	13.50
12. Madhya Pradesh	1.00	2.00
13. Maharashtra	4.81	36.60
14. Manipur	—	2.00
15. Meghalaya	—	0.50
16. Mizoram	—	0.50
17. Nagaland	—	0.50
18. Orissa	—	1.00
19. Punjab	3.81	25.50
20. Rajasthan	1.00	2.00
21. Sikkim	3.31	13.70
22. Tamil Nadu	4.81	14.50
23. Tripura	0.50	0.50
24. Uttar Pradesh	4.81	15.00
25. West Bengal	4.81	14.50
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	0.50
27. Chandigarh	—	0.25
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	0.25
29. Delhi	1.00	1.00
30. Daman & Diu	—	0.25
31. Lakshadweep	—	0.25
32. Pondicherry	0.50	0.50
Total:	46.79	187.30

### Statement-II

Details of cut-flower exports from India during 1992-93 and 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

Country	1992-93	1993-94
1. U.S.A	271.581	403.879
2. Germany	139.587	182.890
3. Russia	—	140.852
4. U.K.	108.213	88.423
5. Netherland antinuas	—	73.662
6. Italy	93.736	69.648
7. Saudi Arabia	50.074	39.870
8. Poland	—	31.871
9. UAE	12.330	23.974
10. France	11.750	23.404
11. Sri Lanka	16.512	19.728



Country	1992-93	1993-94
12. Australia	10.213	14.861
13. Netherland	29.466	10.656
14. Japan	14.024	8.731
15. Hongkong	2.186	8.058
16. Spain	27.531	6.109
17. Pakistan	2.480	5.535
18. Bahrain	3.247	5.189
19. Canada	2.555	4.352
20. China	5.677	4.350
21. Finland	—	3.949
22. Hungary	—	3.937
23. Malaysia	—	3.302
24. Greece	—	2.984
25. Belgium	6.456	2.872
26. Israel	1.256	2.441
27. Switzerland	—	1.880
28. Oman	6.134	1.190
29. Yaman Arab Republic	1.213	1.050
30. Singapore	2.455	0.835
31. Mauritius	—	0.370
32. Kuwait	1.187	0.383
33. Bahamas	—	0.128
34. Nepal	—	0.119
35. Philippines	—	0.094
36. Kenya	0.053	0.045
37. Bangladesh	1.903	0.045
38. Egypt	8.388	—
39. Austria	3.517	—
40. Libanon	2.341	—
41. Newzealand	2.267	—
42. Switzerland	2.154	—
43. Tunisia	1.274	—
44. Denmark	1.064	—
45. Jordan	0.764	—
46. Qatar	0.644	—
47. Mexico	0.129	—
Total:		844.367 1191.662

[Translation]

#### Shifting of Traffic Accounts Office

237. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift Delhi Kishanganj traffic accounts office of Northern Railway to Allahabad;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

238. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for frequent increase in smuggling of wildlife products in the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal to make the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 more stringent;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the other measures the Government propose to take in this regard including setting up atleast one special court in every State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The principal reason for the increase in smuggling of wildlife products is the high commercial value of these contraband products in international markets.

(b) to (d) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 was last amended in 1991 to make it more stringent and effective. At present there is no proposal to further amend the Act.

(e) Various measures have already been taken to increase vigilance at all major ports of export to guard against smuggling of wildlife products. The State Government and UT Administration have also been advised to strengthen their protection enforcement machinery for this purpose. The setting up of Special Courts in every State will depend on the number of forest and wildlife offence cases pending disposal and this is also included in our strategy.

#### National Creche Fund

239. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Creche Fund has become operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals for setting up of new creche centres and Anganwadi-cum-creche centres, separately, sanctioned in Tamil Nadu and other States; and

(d) the amount of assistance given for the setting up of these centres, separately, in each State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Creche Fund set up by the Government on 21.3.1994 has become operational during the current financial year. So far 150 Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres have been

sanctioned for the States and Union Territories and 115 Creches have been sanctioned to 19 NGOs to be implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal. An amount of Rs. 32,100 has been sanctioned for conversion of 6 Anganwadis into Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres in the State of Tamil Nadu so far.

(d) A statement showing the Statewise details of the amount of assistance sanctioned so far is enclosed.

### STATEMENT

Statement showing the statewise details of Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres sanctioned to State/UTs and general creches sanctioned to NGOs under National Creche Fund

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	No. of Anganwadi cum Creche Centres sanctioned	Amount sanctioned for Anganwadi cum Creche Centres	No. of creches sanctioned	Amount sanctioned for Creches
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	53,500	30	2,12,400
2.	Assam	4	21,400	—	—
3.	Bihar	11	58,850	—	—
4.	Gujarat	8	42,800	—	—
5.	Haryana	4	21,400	10	70,800
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	10,700	20	1,41,600
7.	Karnataka	9	48,150	—	—
8.	Kerala	5	26,750	—	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	11	58,850	—	—
10.	Maharashtra	11	58,850	—	—
11.	Manipur	2	10,700	—	—
12.	Meghalaya	2	10,700	—	—
13.	Nagaland	2	10,700	—	—
14.	Orissa	9	48,150	—	—
15.	Punjab	4	21,400	—	—
16.	Rajasthan	7	37,450	—	—
17.	Sikkim	2	10,700	—	—
18.	Tamil Nadu	6	32,100	—	—
19.	Tripura	2	10,700	—	—
20.	Uttar Pradesh	14	74,900	45	3,18,600
21.	West Bengal	11	58,850	10	70,800
22.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	5,350	—	—
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	10,700	—	—
24.	Chandigarh	1	5,350	—	—
25.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	5,350	—	—
26.	Delhi	2	10,700	—	—
27.	Goa	2	10,700	—	—
28.	Daman & Diu	1	5,350	—	—
29.	Lakshadweep	1	5,350	—	—
30.	Mizoram	2	10,700	—	—
31.	Pondicherry	1	5,350	—	—
Total		150	8,02,500	115	8,14,200

### Introduction of New Train on Ranaghat Lalgaola Section

240. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new train on the Ranaghat-Lalgola section of Sealdah Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) There is no proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational & resource constraints.

### Gauge conversion between Yelahanka and Bangarpet

241. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take up gauge conversion work between Yelahanka and Bangarpet in Karnataka during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The phase-I conversion work from Yelahanka to Bangarpet in Karnataka has been approved in the Supplementary Demands for Grants 1994-95 at a cost of Rs. 25.88 crs. Preliminary arrangements for starting the work have been taken up.

[Translation]

### Passengers Amenities

242. SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger amenities at Chhapra railway station are adequate;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) Facilities, commensurate with the volume of traffic handled, have already been provided at Chhapra Railway Station. As a measure of further development, works pertaining to improvement to water supply system and provision of washable apron on platform line No. 1 have also been taken up, at this station, at a cost of Rs. 25.54 lakh.

[English]

### Hassan-Karwar Railway Line

243. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for laying of new railway line between Hassan-Karwar during 1994-95 or 1995-96;

(b) if not, whether any survey had been undertaken;

(c) if so, the estimated cost thereon; and

(d) the total distance of the line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a BG line will become available between Hassan and Karwar once the gauge conversion of Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore now in progress and the Konkan Railway line are completed.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### Investment in Agriculture

244. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision of loan in the agriculture sector is much less than the requirement of this sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated requirement of total capital in the country for agriculture sector during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(d) the actual capital made available to agriculture sector during the above period against the requirement;

(e) the factors responsible for decline, if any, in investment in agriculture sector;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation, and

(g) the estimated requirement of capital during 1994-95 for agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) A working Group was set up by the Planning Commission to assess the agriculture Credit requirements during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Yearwise assessment of the

Working Group and actual credit disbursed during the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Assessment of Credit requirement made by the Working Group	Institutional Credit disbursed
1991-92	15,129	11,202
1992-93	17,903	15,168
1993-94	21,107	17,337* (provisional estimate)

(e) There is no declining trend observed in investment credit made available to the agriculture sector in the last three years.

(f) Government of India have taken several steps to improve the flow of credit for agriculture. These include:

(i) Liberalisation of security norms for agricultural advances.

(ii) Rationalisation of the interest rates on loans and refinance.

(iii) Enlargement of scope for financing of individuals by State Co-operative Banks and district Central Co-operative Banks.

(iv) Opening of specialized branches to attend exclusively for financing innovative and high technology projects in aquaculture, floriculture, tissue culture etc.

(v) Setting up of a Small Farmer's Agri Business Consortium (SFAC) as an autonomous corporate entity with the objective of imparting employment and income generation orientation to agriculture and allied activities by adopting improved technologies and developing a proper processing and marketing networks.

(g) the credit requirement for agriculture sector for 1994-95 as assessed by the Working Group of the Planning Commission is Rs. 25,184 crores.

### Modernisation of Railway Stations

245. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to modernise Railway Stations in West Bengal and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Modernisation of Railway stations, including those in the State of West Bengal, is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted by traffic needs, subject to availability of

funds. In this regard, an expenditure of Rs. 67.36 crore was incurred during 1993-94 and an allocation of Rs. 67.25 crore has been made for the year 1994-95.

The details of works (costing more than Rs. 10 lakh each) undertaken during 1994-95, in the state of West Bengal are as under:

(Figures in lakh of Rupees)

Station	Work	Cost
Adra	Washable apron on platform no. 2 and 3	17.54
Asansol	Extension of shelter on platforms 1 & 2	41.04
Asansol	Washable apron on line no. 5	61.55
Barddhaman	Extension of shelter on platform no. 1	11.38
Barddhaman	Provision of shelter on platforms	12.00
Bariarpur	Raising of platform	13.19
Bauria	Improvements to water supply	13.64
Belur	Remodelling of station building	18.66
Dalkolha	Improvement to water supply	11.31
Diamond Harbour	Improvement to water supply	10.61
Diamond harbour	New station building	24.61
Howrah	Extension of platform no. 12	18.08
Howrah	Foot-over-bridge main to south complex	48.45
Howrah	Extension of shelter on platforms	38.88
Howrah	Extension of platform no. 9	13.20
Jalpaiguri	Provision of foot-over-bridge	10.52
Kharagpur	Washable apron on platform no. 1. and 3	28.74
Kharagpur	Additional platform shelter	26.01
Malada division	Extension of platform shed at 4 stations	15.43
Malada division	Provision of platform shed at 4 stations	15.29
New Alipurduar	Battery charging facilities	24.56
Panagarh	Extension of UP & DN platforms	15.59
Purulia	Raising of platform level	14.50
Ranaghat	Replacement of foot-over-bridge	13.59
Santragachi	Replacement of foot-over-bridge	23.35
Sealdah	Provision of platform shelter	25.67
Sealdah	Improvement to circulating area	41.79
Tikiapara	Improvement to water supply	14.15

### Pricing Policy of Sugar

246. SHRI K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar Mills Association has demanded to withdraw the dual pricing policy for sugar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has submitted a representation urging the decontrol of sugar. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to change the existing policy.

[Translation]

### Krishi Vigyan Kendras

247. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been received from the World Bank for operating the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contribution of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Budget allocation of Rs. 160 crores has been made for the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Project for Eighth Five Year Plan.

### Doubling and Electrification of Railway Line

248. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:

SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently entrusted some Railway projects to the private sector on lease basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey in regard to doubling and electrification of the Delhi-Saharanpur-Delhi (via Shamili) Railway line has been completed;

(d) the expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) While the survey for the doubling has not yet been completed, the survey for electrification of the section has been completed at a cost of Rs. 3.70 lakh.

[English]

#### **Theft cases from FCI**

249. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of thefts of foodgrains from the warehouses of Food Corporation of India have been reported during the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the guilty officials; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such thefts in future?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 57 cases of thefts involving a loss of Rs. 15.48 lakhs have been reported by various Regions of the Food Corporation of India during 1994-95 upto February '95.

(c) The cases have been reported to the Police Authorities for investigation and for launching prosecution against all the guilty.

(d) Keeping in view the storage capacity and the prevailing local conditions, Food Corporation of India, Watch and Ward staff, State Armed Police and Central Industrial Security Force are deployed to guard the Corporation's godowns. Regular checks on outgoing and incoming vehicles are done to tally stocks with gate passes. A procedure for locking, sealing and opening of the godowns has been laid down. Services of local law enforcing agencies are also being utilised as and when required. For vulnerable depots, police patrolling is arranged. Physical verification of stocks and surprise inspections of godowns are conducted on a regular basis.

#### **Price of Sugarcane**

250. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether 22 different prices of sugarcane are prevailing for sugarcane growers in the country at present;

(b) whether Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices had recommended in 1993 for a uniform sugarcane price for the entire country;

(c) whether the Union Government had accepted the recommendation of the Bureau;

(d) if so, the present position in this matter; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane (SMP) which is

uniform throughout the country, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% is fixed by the Central Government every year under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. However, various systems are being adopted by State Governments in announcing State Advised Prices (SAP) of sugarcane and thus multiplicity of prices in respect of State Advised Prices of sugarcane does exist.

(b) to (e) Bureau of Industrial Costs and prices had recommended in 1983 (and not 1993 as stated in the Question) that the Statutory Cane Price should be uniform throughout India linked to sugar recovery Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices does not now recommend sugarcane prices, and the Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane is now announced by the Government of India on the recommendations of the commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. In the State Sugar Ministers' Conference held on 5th February, 1994, a Committee of Ministers of five State Governments, namely Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra, was constituted to recommend a rational pricing policy for State Advised Prices of Sugarcane.

[Translation]

#### **Mahila Samridhi Yojana**

251. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited by the rural women under Mahila Samridhi Yojana till date in each State;

(b) whether estimated amount has been deposited under this scheme within one year since its inception; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to popularise the scheme and to achieve the equal participation of all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) Given in the *Statement* attached.

(b) and (c) The scheme envisages that every rural women 18 years of age and above would be encouraged to have an MSY account into which she can deposit any amount of money that she can save upto a maximum of Rs. 300/- in a year. The stress has been given to get more and more number of MSY accounts opened, so that larger number of rural women can participate and benefit from the scheme.

**STATEMENT**

*Statement Showing Details of achievement on Mahila Samridhhi Yojana*

Sl. No	States/UTs	No. of Accounts Opened upto January 1995	Amount Deposited Upto Jan. 1995
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1497734	134571830
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	561	86914
3.	Assam	498014	23635292
4.	Bihar	216400	21729545
5.	Delhi	2990	568347
6.	Goa	15555	2474436
7.	Gujarat	125233	25121695
8.	Haryana	137540	23280714
9.	Himachal Pradesh	62210	13941810
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	18309	2138851
11.	Karnataka	619987	76555664
12.	Kerala	320311	30770112
13.	Madhya Pradesh	675099	45038959
14.	Maharashtra	333485	52766592
15.	Manipur	5862	236608
16.	Meghalaya	834	51468
17.	Mizoram	4056	443776
18.	Nagaland	557	88222
19.	Orissa	218065	28548283
20.	Punjab	248150	27318972
21.	Rajasthan	110707	18585154
22.	Sikkim	859	28926
23.	Tamil Nadu	1562663	76715432
24.	Tripura	11127	1024257
25.	Uttar Pradesh	846392	97808643
26.	West Bengal	137983	21901082
27.	Andaman & N Islands	2596	216834
28.	Chandigarh	3546	179539
29.	D & N Haveli	1412	169510
30.	Daman & Diu	305	58196
31.	Lakshadweep	970	133496
32.	Pondicherry	12666	508996
Total		7692186	726698153

**Gauge Conversion between Mansi-Forbisganj Railway Line**

252. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any outline has been formulated by the Government in regard to conversion of metre gauge railway line into broad gauge railway line;

(b) if so, whether Mansi-Forbisganj railway line of Bihar has been included for gauge conversion during the current year; and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A survey has been taken up for conversion of Mansi-Forbisganj. Further consideration of the proposal will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Research Centre for Fruits and Vegetables**

253. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some research centres for vegetables and fruits in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their locations identified so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

**Procurement by FCI**

254. SHRI RAJ NARAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is going to introduce wheat procurement scheme during the current Rabi season 1995-96 to streamline the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of wheat procured during the last year and likely to be procured during the current year;

(d) the amount of subsidy provided to FCI for per tonne wheat, rice and sugar during the last two years; and

(e) the handling charges paid by the Food Corporation of India on procurement of per tonne wheat, rice and sugar during this period?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Food Corporation of India in collaboration with State Government/State procuring agencies will start procuring wheat from 1st April, 1995 for the ensuing Rabi Marketing Season 1995-96 at the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 360/- per quintal.

(c) A quantity of 118.69 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured by public procuring agencies for Central Pool upto 1.3.1995 in the current 1994-95 Rabi Marketing Season.

As per preliminary estimates given by the State Governments, the procurement of wheat during the ensuing Rabi Marketing Season 1995-96 is likely to be 130.00 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e). A statement is enclosed.

## STATEMENT

Amount of subsidy and handling cost on wheat and rice (per qtl.) and carrying cost during the last two years 1993-94 and 1994-95

Year	Amount of Subsidy		Levy	Carrying Cost of Handling Buffer Stock	Cost (Distribution Cost)	
	Wheat	Rice			Wheat	Rice
1993-94	176.15	164.68	30.92	117.16	117.44	124.45
1994-95(R.E.)	163.47	125.78	17.18	103.62	117.96	126.44

[English]

## Setting up of Central Hindi and Urdu Universities

255. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to open Central Hindi and Urdu Universities; and

(b) if so, the locations thereof and the time by which these will be opened?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b). A decision has been taken to establish two new Central Universities viz. Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya at Wardha and Maulana Azad National Urdu University at Hyderabad. Action has been initiated to prepare Drafts of the Legislations for constituting the two Universities.

## 'Environment and Forestry Projects of Andhra Pradesh'

256. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the project relating to environment and forest submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking foreign assistance during the last 2 years and also as on March 1, 1995;

(b) the details of the projects launched with such assistance and the progress made so far, project-wise; and

(c) the reasons for pendency in the remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). Based on information available, the details of the projects implemented or under implementation by the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and their present status are given in the attached statement.

## STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount of Foreign aid involved (in million)	Status of the Project.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Forestry Project	World Bank	US \$77.40	Ongoing
2.	Social Forestry Project.	CIDA	Ca. \$17.28	completed
3.	Industrial Pollution Control Project, Phase-II (to be also implemented in Karnataka, Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh).	World Bank	US \$180.00	Under Negotiation
4.	Environmental protection & Training Research Institute, Hyderabad.	Sweden	SEK 15.00	Ongoing

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Training Programme on Modelling and Sureillance of Dispersion and Movement of Pollution (to be also implemented by State Pollution Control Boards of Orissa, Maharashtra, Bihar and CPCB).	Norway	NOK 10.5	Ongoing
6.	Hyderabad Green Belt Project.	Netherlands	DFL 4.81	Ongoing
7.	Environmental Research & Monitoring Programme, Ramagundam.	Netherlands	DFL 1.05	Ongoing

### Sugar Production and Export

#### Funds for Agricultural Development

257. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Orissa for Agricultural Development during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the actual amount utilised by the State Government so far;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa has sought additional funds during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). An amount of about Rs. 81 crore was released to the Government of Orissa during 1993-94 and 1994-95 (till Feb. 1995) for development of agriculture under various central /centrally sponsored schemes. The actual expenditure reported so far is around Rs. 40 crore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Surplus land with Railways

258. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total surplus land possessed by Railways in the country;

(b) whether the <sup>Government</sup> have drawn up any scheme to utilise the surplus land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof? *There of*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

259. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sugar production in the country during 1994-95;

(b) whether the sugar production in the country during 1995-96 is likely to exceed the targets fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(d) whether in view of the substantial increase in the production of sugar, the Government contemplate to export a portion of the sugar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Sugar production during the current sugar season, 1994-95, upto 15th February, 1995 was 80.13 lakh tonnes (provisional). Since sugar industry is agro-based, it is too early to estimate the production during the sugar season, 1995-96.

(d) and (e). At present, there is no proposal for commercial export of sugar during 1994-95 sugar year except a small quantity to EEC, USA and Nepal.

[Translation]

#### Import Policy of Edible Oils

260. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of the Government in regard to import of edible oils;

(b) the quantity of edible oils imported during the last three years;

(c) whether certain anomalies have come to the notice in regard to present import policy; and

(d) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to modify the policy suitably?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The present policy of the Government in regard to import of edible oils is to import only the most desirable quantity in order to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils in the country and also to keep the prices of edible oils at reasonable level. The



State Trading Corporation (STC) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) have been authorised to import edible oils at concessional duty of 20 per cent. The import of edible oils other than Coconut Oil, Palm Kernel Oil, RBD Palm Oil and RBD Palm Stearin has been permitted under OGL w.e.f. 1.3.1995 at 30 per cent duty.

(b) The quantity of edible oils imported by STC for the Public Distribution System during the last three year is indicated below:—

Financial Year	Qty. in MT
1992-93	76,870*
1993-94	78,965*
1994-95	1,07,013

\*Includes 47,000 MT and 37,000 MT of Soyabean Oil received under USAID as Gift during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Procurement Price

261. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'PDS: Subsidy or Tax on the poor' published in Economic Times dated January 19, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The policy of extending Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to the farmers and the maintenance of buffer stocks, while ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers, has helped, through the years, in maintaining adequate supply of foodgrains to the consumers at reasonable prices. The MSPs ensure to the farmers an adequate return on their cost of production and also enthuse the farmers to increase production of foodgrains which is necessary for providing food security to the people of the country.

The upward revision of Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice flows from the increases made in the MSP/Procurement price of wheat and paddy by the Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Factors such as availability of foodgrains in the open market, ability of consumers to pay, the likely impact of issue prices in the general economy, the need to safeguard the interest of poor and the ability of the subsidy budget to absorb increased cost also determine the CIP. CIPs are fixed deliberately below the economic cost in order to keep them within the reach of the

vulnerable sections of the population and a huge subsidy is borne by the Govt. on this account.

The Public Distribution System functioning through a network of fair price/ration shops aims at supplementing the supply of foodgrains to the consumers particularly the vulnerable sections of the population at reasonable prices. The presence of the PDS has also a sobering effect on the open market prices of foodgrains.

[Translation]

#### Gauge Conversion of Lines

262. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Kanpur-Kasganj-Bareilly-Pilibhit metre gauge line is likely to be converted into broad gauge line;

(b) whether a decision has been taken in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Kanpur-Kasganj is included in the 1st phase of Action Plan and is planned for conversion in the IX Plan period. Kasganj-Bareilly-Pilibhit will be considered along-with the remaining lines when the next phase of the Action Plan is to be taken up.

[English]

#### Bipin Chandra Committee Report on Text Books

263. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bipin Chandra Committee on school text books has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereon indicating the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The National Steering Committee on School Textbooks Evaluation has recommended withdrawal of some History, Social Science and Social Studies textbooks of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala. Copies of report of the Committee with such recommendations have been sent to the concerned State Governments for implementation.

### Railway Line in Kerala

264. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:  
SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct any survey for laying of railway lines between Feroke and Nilamber and Vythiri and Nanjankode in Kerala;

(b) whether acquisition proceedings have commenced on these routes;

(c) the funds allocated for these projects;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala have submitted any scheme for railway development for approval;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Survey for laying new railway line between Feroke and Nilambur is in Progress. It is not proposed to conduct a survey for construction of new railway line between Vythiri and Nanjankode in Kerala, at present.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) NIL.

(d) to (f) the Government of Kerala have requested for expediting doubling of Kayankulam-Quilon, Quilon-Trivandrum and Trivandrum-Shoranur railway line. The works are already in progress and being given due priority.

### National Plan of action for Children

265. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared any action plan for children in pursuance of the National Plan of action for children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating therein the areas covered by this action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) : The State Programme of Action of Andhra Pradesh covers the following main areas:

- (i) Child Health
- (ii) Maternal Health
- (iii) Nutrition
- (iv) Education
- (v) Drinking Water
- (vi) Environmental sanitation
- (vii) Girl Child & Adolescent Girl
- (viii) Urban Child, Tribal Child
- (ix) Child Labour
- (x) Childhood Disabilities
- (xi) Children in especially difficult circumstances.

Keeping in view the child as the focus of Development, the State Programme of Action reflects the

status of children, the problems, the on-going schemes and the potential related to Andhra Pradesh. Major goals as well as specific goals, have been identified along with strategies for operationalisation of each goal e.g. reduction in infant mortality rate, reduction of maternal mortality rate, universal enrolment, retention and achievement of minimum levels of learning, universal access to the safe drinking water, increased access to sanitary means, improving status of girl child and elimination of bonded child labour.

[Translation]

### Lockers on Wheels

266. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently introduced pioneer service called 'Locker on Wheels';

(b) if so, the main features of this service; and

(c) the number and names of the trains in which it has been introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the service are: Booking on train, delivery on arrival of the train, full safety to valuable packages in steel safe lockers, provision to use private locks by party, punctuality of service, no tampering/damage to packages.

(c) This service has been introduced on 2003/2004 New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express via Kanpur.

[English]

### Extension of Cannanore Express

267. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Cannanore Express up to Quilon via Alleppey; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Wagon Manufacturing Units

268. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have reduced the quantum of orders for manufacturing wagons placed on manufacturing units in eastern India, both in private and public sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) Whether any long term plan has been formulated to see that sudden curtailment in wagon orders does not

result in hardship to workers employed in these manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Due to need based procurement of wagons, there has a reduction in wagon orders on all wagon manufacturing units in the country.

(b) The wagon building units Eastern India got orders for 8810 wagons in terms of four wheelers out of 12,000 ordered in 94-95 as against 14375 out of a total of 20,000 in 93-94.

(c) The quantum of wagon orders depends upon the transport output each year. The wagon Industry has been advised that from 94-95 to 96-97, the wagon requirement of each year is expected to be in the range of 12,000 wagons in terms of four wheelers.

[Translation]

### Subsidy on Sugar

269. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to increase subsidy on sugar with a view to make up the loss on the prices of imported sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the increase effected in comparison to the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

### Construction of New Bridge

270. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of a bridge at Matunga Road Station Platform of the Western Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The Work of provision of a new foot-over-bridge, at Matunga Road, has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 15.07 lakh and the same is targetted for completion by 31.3.1996.

[Translation]

### New Railway Lines

271. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for laying of new railway line in the coastal line connecting Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Bhimunipatnam and Kalingapatnam and

also for the railway line between Srikakulam road to Kalingapatnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### De-Licensing of Sugar Industry

272. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 40, dated June 14, 1994;

(a) whether the decision in regard to delicensing of sugar industry has since been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be taken;

(c) whether before taking a final decision in the matter the Government contemplate to have consultations with the representatives of various interests in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The present policy of Licensing of Sugar Industry, including the option of delicensing, is under examination.

The representations given by the Apex Bodies of the sugar industry would also be duly considered before taking the final decision in the matter.

### Rice to Andhra Pradesh

273. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a good production of rice in Andhra Pradesh this year;

(b) if so, the quantity procured by Food Corporation of India in the State;

(c) the price offered to the farmers;

(d) the categories/quantity of rice supplied to the State from Central pool during the last three years and upto January, 1995;

(e) whether a scheme of distribution of rice at the rate of Rs. 2 kg. on the Fair Price Shops has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh;

(f) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide financial assistance and sufficient quota of rice to the State;

(g) the amount of subsidy given to the State during this period?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is as under:

(in lakh tonnes)

year	Production	Procurement of rice by FCI
1993-94	94.87	39.87
1994-95 (Targetted)	108.00	22.64 (upto 28.2.95)

(c) Paddy is purchased from farmers at Minimum Support Prices at Rs. 340/- per qtl. for common Rs. 360/- per qtl. for fine and Rs. 380/- per qtl. for superfine varieties.

(d)

Year	Allotted to State	Offtake by State
		(in lakh tonnes)
1992	17.83	15.03
1993	22.38	21.45
1994	21.90	21.65
1995 (Jan., 1995)	1.90	1.79

(e) to (g) The scheme has started in Andhra Pradesh from 1.1.1995. A request was received from Andhra Pradesh for increase of allotment of rice from 1.90 lakh tonnes to 2.10 lakh tonnes per month from February, 1995 onwards due to introduction of scheme of supply of rice at Rs. 2 per kg. from January, 1995 and raising the maximum ceiling from 20 kg. per card to 25 kg. per card. The request of the State Government was considered and allocation of rice has been enhanced accordingly from February, 1995 onwards.

#### Asian Games at Hiroshima

274. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian men's tennis squad won for India the first ever Asiad team tennis "gold" in the 12th Asian Games held at Hiroshima;

(b) whether the Government propose to award the tennis team suitably at the National level for this achievement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact

that Indian tennis team won the first ever Asiad team tennis Gold Medal in the 12th Asian Games at Hiroshima.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have already given Special Cash Awards to the members of the team winning medals in Asian Games, 1994, as per details mentioned below:

Name of the Player	Amount of the Cash Award
1. Sh. Leander Peas.	Rs. 1,75,000/-
2. Sh. Syed Zeeshan Ali.	Rs. 50,000/-
3. Sh. Gaurav Natekar.	Rs. 1,25,000/-
4. Sh. Asif Ismail.	Rs. 50,000/-

#### Milk Processing Units

275. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the number of milk processing units in various States which are operating with and without registration;

(b) if so, the number of milk processing units registered/cleared by the Government so far and the number of units that have become operational; and

(c) the action taken against the units operating without the mandatory registration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Temple Ecology

276. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training has conducted a study in Karnataka about the effect of 'Temple ecology' on the cognitive, physical and psychological development of children; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had funded a project named "A case study of the physical and psychological development of children of the temple villages towns of Karnataka". The study has reportedly deliberated inter alia, on following aspects:

(i) impact of temple ecology on psychological development and academic achievement of the children,

(ii) importance of socio-cultural and contextual variables in the school achievement of the children, and

(iii) role of community participation in education.

### Supply of Coal Wagons

277. SHRI HARIN PATHAK. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal wagons allotted to Gujarat are inadequate to meet the requirement of the State;

(b) whether the Government would cope up with the requirement of wagons for coal, for the industries of Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Adequate allotment is being made.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Railways have withdrawn all ceiling limits for movement of coal to industries since Jan. 1994 and State Government has been asked to sponsor the programme according to the requirement of the industries.

[Translation]

### Pending Projects of Bihar

278. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of development schemes of Bihar pending with the Union Government for Environment and Forest approval;

(b) the date from which these projects are pending and the reasons for delay in clearing them; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for expeditious clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The names of development schemes of Bihar pending with the Union Government for Environment and Forest approval alongwith information on since pending and reasons therefor are given in the Statement attached.

(c) As and when a proposal is received with full details expeditious action is taken to decide the proposal.

### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Pending since	Reasons of pendency
1	2	3	4
<i>Projects for Environmental Clearance</i>			
1.	Coal brigueting Unit of Bokaro Steel Plant SAIL	October, 1993	Final stage of examination
2.	Widening to 4 lanes & strengthening of existing 2 lane in Barwadda — Barakar Section in Bihar	October, 1994	Additional informaiton yet to be received from Project Authority.
3.	Pyrites Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. Amjhere Mining Project	March, 1989	Under Process
4.	Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL), North Urmir OCP	February, 1993	Under Process
5.	Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) Ray Bachra Underground Proeject	February, 1993	Under Process
6.	Central Coalfields Ltd. Taping South OCP	April, 1993	Under Process
7.	Central Coalfields Ltd. Gobindpur OCP	April, 1993	Under Process
8.	Central Coalfields Ltd. Rohini OCP	May, 1993	Under Process
9.	Steel Authority of India Limited. Hesaidag Dolomite Project	January, 1994	Additional informaiton is awaited
10.	Steel Authroity of India Ltd. Bhawanthpur Limestone Mine	May, 1994	Additional informaiton is awaited
11.	Central Coalfields Ltd. Hurlong UG (Coal)	December, 1994	Additional informaiton is awaited
12.	Central Coalfields Ltd. Churi UG Project	November, 1991	Under Process
13.	Central Coalfields Ltd. Kedia Opencast	July, 1992	Under Process
14.	Central Coalfields Ltd. Ashok OCP	August, 1992	Under Process
15.	Central Coalfields Ltd. Konart OCP	September, 1992	Under Process
16.	Steel Authority of India Ltd. Tulsidamar Dolomite Mine	October, 1992	Under Process
	Central Coalfields Ltd. Kaveri OCP	January, 1993	Under Process

[English]

1	2	3	4
Projects	for Forestry	Clearance	(Excluding those pending with Regional Office Bhubaneswar under the power delegated to them under the revised consolidated guidelines issuedman-25010, 1992)
18.	Rajmahal Matia	OCP Lal February, 1995	under Process
19.	132 KV Transmission line from Patratu to North Khandagiri in favour of B.V.C.	February, 1995	Under Process
20	Tulasidand Mine by SAIL (Garhwa)	Dolomite July, 1994	Under Process

#### Assistance to Uttar Pradesh

279. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided any assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during the year 1994-95 for disbursing agricultural loans to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance provided during the last two years for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the assistance proposed to be provided during the remaining years of the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Central Government was providing short-term loans to State Governments, including Uttar Pradesh, for Kharif and Rabi seasons separately every year till 1993-94 to help them to purchase agricultural inputs, namely, fertilisers, seeds and pesticides and make them available to farmers in time. Sanctioning of short-term loans to States has since been discontinued as no budget provision has been made for the purpose. Loan assistance given to Uttar Pradesh during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 is given below:

Year	(Rs. Crores)
1992-93	42.55
1993-94	17.60

#### Digha-Tamluk Railway Line

280. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The total amount spent for construction of Digha-tamluk Railway line in Midnapore, West Bengal till date:

(b) the estimated cost escalation thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Rs. 23.70 crores

(b) The sanctioned cost for the project was Rs. 72.91 crores at 1988 price level. Revised cost of the project is Rs. 170 crores (approx.)

(c) New lines are totally funded out of budgetary support provided by the Planning Commission each year. Planning Commission have been requested to enhance the outlay on new lines and in case more funds are provided allocation to all projects including this would be suitably upgraded to speed up the progress.

#### FCI Godowns

281. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities were observed in godowns of Food Corporation of India in Kanpur, UP during the recent raids on December 19, 1994 by the Uttar Pradesh State high level officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against defaulters; and

(d) the steps taken to curb such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No raid was conducted in the godowns of Food Corporation of India at Kanpur on 19.12.94 by any official of the state Government of Uttar Pradesh. However three officials of the State Government visited the Food Storage Depot of the Corporation at Chanderi in Kanpur on 17.12.94 and checked the weigh bridge installed there. The machine was found in perfect working condition and no irregularity was detected.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Railway Users' Consultative Committees

282. DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of members of zonal Railway Users Consultative Committees and eligibility conditions being adopted for membership, zone-wise; and

(b) the names and number of existing members of divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee in Ratlam under Western Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[English]

**Panvel-Karjat Rail Link**

283. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the work pertaining to land acquisition for construction of Panvel-Karjat Rail Link on the Bombay-Pune Railway Line in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have completed other necessary requirements;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Field data for land acquisition in connection with the construction of Panvel-Karjat new rail line has been collected. The plans have been prepared and letters sent to Collector for publication in the relevant section of the Government Gazette. An amount of Rs. 1.00 crore has already been deposited with the state Government in March, 1994

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Land acquisition formalities are likely to be completed by 31.12.95. the work would then be taken up in consultation with Planning Commission and progressed as per availability of resources in the coming years.

[Translation]

**New Railway Stations**

284. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the 26 proposals for the construction of new railway stations under the South Eastern Railway only seven proposals have been considered by the Government during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not taking any decision in respect of majority of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Out of 26 proposals received during the year 1993-94, 8 halt stations were sanctioned during 1993-94. Out of these, three halt stations viz. Khairee, Shyamacharanpur and Kathajori have been commissioned during 1993-94 and another halt station i.e. Kadai has been commissioned during 1994-95. The construction work for remaining four halt stations viz. Gwalipur, Mangoli Chowdwar, Chataud and sudpara is in progress. Two more halt stations viz. Nimakana and Sarthili have been sanctioned during 1994-95, out of which one i.e. Nimakana has since been commissioned. Proposals for remaining 16 halt stations have not been found justified on Commercial and Operational grounds as per prescribed norms.

[English]

**Road Over-bridges in Gujarat**

285. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road over-bridges under construction in Gujarat with World bank assistance;

(b) the progress made in this regard;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the construction of those bridges; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Nil.

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

[Translation]

**Agricultural Development Schemes**

286. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have sent some schemes of agricultural development for approval to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c). No new Schemes have been received from Government of Maharashtra for approval in 1994-95. A proposal for taking up Agricultural development Project with World Bank assistance has been received from the Government of Maharashtra. The world Bank identification Mission has visited Maharashtra in February, 1994 and suggested to the State Government to take up detailed studies and prepare an agricultural Strategy paper and matrix. The state Government has also been requested to make provision of matching funds under their State Budget.

**Accidents At level Crossings**

287. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

KUMARI UMA BHARTI:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the trains accidents occurred at railway level crossings during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured in those accidents;

(c) the compensation paid to the victims of such accidents so far and the number of cases still lying pending.

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check such accidents; and

(e) if so; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The number of accidents at level crossings and persons killed and injured in them was as follows:

Year	No. of Accidents	No. of Persons:	
		Killed	Injured
1991-92	47	98	316
1992-93	51	118	192
1993-94	66	168	306

(c) Rs. 11,88,955 has been paid as compensation to the victims of train accidents at level crossings during the last 3 years. The number of cases pending are 67.

(d) and (e). Safety measures taken to avoid accidents are reviewed from time to time and new measures are introduced on the basis of the recommendations of the accident inquiry committees. Publicity through media is undertaken at frequent intervals targetted at road-users, advising them of the precautions they should take while negotiating level crossings.

Safety drives are launched to educate road users including issue of pamphlets. Ambush checks are also undertaken to penalise and educate road users.

Cooperation of the state Government is solicited to discipline the road-users in observing provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act while crossing railway crossings.

Depending upon the density of traffic and the state Governments' agreeing to share the cost, the unmanned level crossings are converted into manned ones. During 1994-95, a sum of Rupees 25 crores was provided for the conversion of unmanned crossings into manned level crossings.

[English]

#### Conference of Security Officers

288. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference was organised by the Government in December, 1994 for taking effective steps to curb crimes on moving trains and at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details of the conference including the outcome;

(c) whether any special suggestion came out for dealing firmly with chain pullings;

(d) the number of crimes committed in trains during 1994; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 14.12.94, a Conference was held on Northern Railway Hqrs. Baroda House, New Delhi which was attended by railway officers and Government Railway Police Chiefs of States over Northern Railway.

Another Conference was held on 16.12.94 at Fairlie Place, Eastern Railway, Calcutta which was attended by Railway Officers and State Railway Police Officers of West Bengal.

Crime situation on the Railways was discussed in these meetings with a view to curb crime on the Railways.

(c) The problem of Alarm Chain Pulling was one of the items discussed in the Conference held on 14.12.94 at New Delhi. It was stressed upon the State Police Authorities to take stringent steps against the offenders.

(d) As per data collected from Government Railway Police, the number of crimes committed in trains over Indian Railways during 1994 are as follows:—

Murder — 51

Dacoity — 179

Robbery — 267

Theft of passengers belongings— 7884

(e) According to the provisions of the Constitution, Policing being a State subject, maintenance of law and order and control of crime in running trains and in Railway premises other than theft of railway property and goods entrusted for carriage are the responsibilities of the State Governments. GRP in each State is entrusted with the security of passengers and their belongings and is also responsible for all law and order matters on railway premises and running trains. The Government Railway Police undertakes escorting of passenger trains, patrolling of railway premises, collection of crime intelligence, surveillance over criminals and known bad characters besides registration, investigation and prosecution of cases reported to them. The Railways on their part keep liaison with GRP and give all assistance to GRP in controlling crime. Regular coordination meetings are held between railway officials and State Police authorities and the GRP in which matters relating to law and order and crime are discussed.

#### Reservation quota in Rajdhani Express

289. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to increase the coaches and reservation quota in each class in Rajdhani Express running between New Delhi to Bombay; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the above demand?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) 2951/2952 New Delhi-Bombay Central Rajdhani Express and 2953/2954 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Bombay Central August Kranti Rajdhani



Express are by and large meeting the existing traffic needs of the passengers intending to travel by these trains between the two cities.

Extra Coach(es) is/are attached to these trains, as and when required, subject to operational feasibility.

### Employment Scheme For Fisherwomen

290. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any scheme for providing employment to women from fishing communities;

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

(c) the number of fisherwomen benefited thereunder State-wise; and

(d) the number of societies formed by these fisherwomen to market the fish products, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). The Government have not launched any specific scheme for providing employment exclusively to women from fishing communities. However, one of the main objective of all the fisheries development schemes being implemented is to provide employment to fisherfolk including fisherwomen. Adequate employment opportunities are generated through schemes such as the Integrated Fisheries Project, Freshwater Aquaculture including Fish Farmers' Development Agencies, Integrated Brackish-water Fish Farms Development, etc. Under the World Bank assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project, employment is proposed to be provided for about 14000 families/households in the selected States, out of which 30% of beneficiaries would be women and at least 10% women beneficiaries will be heads of families. The information regarding the state-wise women beneficiaries of all the above schemes as also the number of societies formed by these fisherwomen to market fish products is not available. However, the National Cooperative development Corporation has assisted four fisherwomen societies in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Nagaland for fish culture, transportation and storage purposes at a total cost of Rs. 9.92 lakhs.

### Complaints Received against Railway Officials in various divisions of Western Railways

291. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received against railway officials in various divisions of Western Railways for allegedly indulging in malpractices, misbehaviour,

dereliction of duty and other such activities during the period commencing from January 1st 1994 till date; and

(b) the details of inquiries conducted and administrative action taken in response to such complaints during that period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Division-wise details of complaints received against Railway officials of Western Railway from 1.1.94 to 28.2.95 are given below:-

Division	Malafide	Mis-behaviour	Dereliction of duty	Others
Head Quarter	3	1	1	—
Bombay Central	3	—	1	—
Vadodara	12	—	3	—
Kota	34	—	5	—
Rallam	12	1	3	—
Jaipur	8	—	1	—
Ajmer	9	—	2	—
Rajkot	1	—	1	—
Bhavnagar Para	2	—	1	—
Total	84	2	18	—

(b) Details of action taken:-

1. Filed being Anonymous	9
2. Sent to concerned department for necessary action	18
3. Vigilance Branch asked to conduct Preventive checks	23
4. Taken up for investigation	49
5. Keeping a watch on the suspects	5

Out of 49 cases taken up for investigation, 22 cases have since been finalised. Out of them, 9 cases were closed as the allegations could not be substantiated; in 6 cases action for major penalty has been initiated; in 7 cases Recorded Warnings and letter of counselling have been issued.

[Translation]

### Accident at Miraj-Satara Sector

292. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sahyadri Express met with an accident on 13th February at unmanned railway crossing at Miraj-Satara section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured in the accident; and

(d) the details of compensation paid to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, On 13.2.1995, at about 4.40 hrs., while train No. 7303 Sahayadri Express was on run between Nandre and Sangli stations of Pune- Miraj section of Hubli Division of South Central Railway, it rammed into a bullock cart at an unmanned level crossing No. 127. The bullock cart was crossing the tract in the face of an approaching train.

(c) 4 persons, travelling in the bullock cart were killed in this accident. No. other person was injured.

(d) No compensation has been paid to the victims of the mishap, as no liability accrues in the case of collisions between trains and road vehicles at unmanned level crossings in which railway passengers are not involved.

[English]

#### Super Bazar

293. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the functioning of Super Bazar was assessed and reviewed during 1993, 1994 and 1995 till date;

(b) the outcome thereof and the advice tendered by his Ministry and the effect thereof on the Super Bazar; and

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to merge Super Bazar with Kendriya Bhandar or vice-versa or to hand over both these institutions to the Government of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Periodical review and assessment of the functioning of Super Bazar was carried out three times in the calendar year, 1993, five times in the calendar year 1994 and during 1995 till date no review has been done. The Ministry have suggested measures for further improvement in the working of Super Bazar for obtaining better operational results keeping the over-all service motive of Super Bazar in view.

(c) There is no proposal to merge Super Bazar with Kendriya Bhandar or vice-versa. There is no proposal to hand over Kendriya Bhandar to Govt. of Delhi. There is no decision at present to transfer the Super Bazar to the Govt. of Delhi.

#### Import of Pulses

294. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to allow duty free import of pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of impact of import of pulses on domestic prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has been monitoring the prices of Pulses on continuous basis. Import of pulses is on OGL. The decision regarding Import of Pulses at a particular import duty is taken as and when considered necessary. There is a gap of the order of nearly 3 million tonnes between the demand and supply of the pulses in the country. The import of over 6 lakh tonnes of pulses during 1993-94 and 3.18 lakh tonnes during April to November 1994, has helped in augmenting the supply of Pulses but these are not adequate to bring down the prices of Pulses in the open market

#### Rail Route in Gujarat

295. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals regarding rail routes sent by the Government of Gujarat during the last three years till date;

(b) the total length of the rail routes district-wise as per the proposal;

(c) the schemes accepted for implementation;

(d) the progress made in allocating funds for implementation of the proposals accepted; and

(e) the reasons for rejecting some of the proposals of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) At Statement is attached.

(d) A sum of Rs. 1 crore has been released for Kapadvanj-Modasa new railway line while Rs. 137 crores and Rs. 3 crores have been allotted to Delhi-Ahmedabad and Rajkot-Veraval Gauge conversion projects, respectively in 1994-95.

(e) Unviability of some of the projects and constraint of resources.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Government of Gujarat have requested, inter alia, for the following projects:—

(i) Conversion of Ahmedabad-Delhi MG line into BG.

- (ii) Conversion of Rajkot-Veraval MG line into BG, and extension upto Kodinar.
- (iii) Conversion of Wankaner-Dahinsara-Navlakhi and Dehinsara-Maliya Miyana MG sections into BG.
- (iv) Conversion of Surendernagar-Rajula MG line into BG and extension upto Pipavav.
- (v) Conversion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj NG line into BG and extension upto Modasa.
- (vi) Conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj MG line into BG
- (vii) Construction of new line between Ambaji and Khad Braham.
- (viii) Construction of a new BG line between Bhavnagar and Tarapore.
- (ix) Provision of a new link to Alang Ship-breaking yard.
- (x) Conversion of Dhrangadhre-Kuda Salt siding into BG.

(b) Such information is not maintained civil district-wise.

(c) Gauge conversion has already been completed on Nadiad-Kapadvanj and is in progress on Ahmedabad-Delhi and Rajkot-Veraval sections. Extension of Nadiad-Kapadvanj line upto Modasa, which had been frozen temporarily, is being resumed. Conversion of Wankaner-Dahinsara-Navlakhi-Maliya Miana will be taken up in 1995-96 while that of Gandhidham-Bhuj will be taken up after Planning Commission accord their approval.

[Translation]

### Speed of Trains

296. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the maximum speed prescribed for the trains operating in the country;
- (b) whether the speed of the trains operating in the country is considerably very low as compared to the trains operating in other countries;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have formulated and scheme to increase the speed of the passenger as well as goods trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The maximum permissible speed of trains in India is 140 Kmph.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) However, running of passenger carrying trains at 160 Kmph and freight trains at 100 Kmph is being planned.

[English]

### Pesticides residues on tobacco leaf

297. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the Central Tobacco Research Institute to find the way to reduce pesticides residues on tobacco leaf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the work done so far by the CTRI in regard to reduction of pesticide residue on tobacco leaf; and

(d) the further steps proposed to be taken in this direction to enhance profitability for tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Based on the research work done, the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has recommended (1) Adoption of integrated pest management package consisting of pesticide formulations based on organophosphorus and carbonate compounds which undergo degradation to the extent of 90% during flue curing and restriction on the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons like DDT; (2) Application schedule for spray of recommended pesticides with sufficient interval between spraying, harvesting and curing to facilitate degradation of residues in flue cured leaves during post-harvest operations; (3) Development of high yielding varieties with inbuilt resistance to pests and diseases; (4) monitoring of pesticide residues in different tobacco types grown under different agro-climatic zones;

(d) The CTRI has proposed (1) analysis of pesticide residue level in soils in new tobacco areas; and (2) wide publicity for adoption of recommended package of pesticide application to minimise the problem of pesticide residue in tobacco leaf through Tobacco Board, R&D Units of industry and other related agencies.

### Evaluation of Computer and Electronic System

298. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have made any review/evaluation of introduction and functioning of computer and electronic system in Railways;

(b) if so, to what extent the declared objectives of this system have been achieved; and

(c) to what extent this system has been successful to control Ticket-Racketeering and accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Evaluation of the functioning of computers has been in respect of computer systems in the Zonal Railway headquarters and Production Units where the

computers have been operational for sufficiently long time. The stage for overall evaluation for other systems have not yet arrived.

(b) In the evaluated areas of computer functioning, it has been found that the objectives of better Management Information Systems such as more accurate and timely availability of statistics, reduction in the drudgery of human efforts for repetitive calculations etc, were met.

(c) Computerisation has eliminated malpractices in the issue of reserved tickets by railway staff. Computerisation coupled with electronic system have helped in reducing certain types of accidents.

[Translation]

#### Adverse Effect of Kesari Dal

299. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding adverse effects of consumption of Kesari Dal on health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to impose ban on its sale;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (g) The sale of Kesari Dal is banned in all the States/UTs except State of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The sale of this dal has been banned because it contains a Neurotoxin-B-N-Oxalyl-Aminoalaminine (BOAA) and this has been shown to be a powerful Excitotoxin to the Central motor neurones. Epidemiological studies conducted by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and I.C.M.R. in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh indicated a link between the consumption of Kesari Dal and out break of Neurolathyrism.

[English]

#### Pollution in Gujarat

300. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution level of air, water and sound in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Vapi and other cities of Gujarat is rising every year;

(b) if so, the level of such pollution in these cities;

(c) the action taken to reduce such pollution level; and

(d) the level of pollution in these cities in comparison to the international standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a), (b) and (d) There is no definite trend in the level of the pollution in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Vapi and other cities of Gujarat which would indicate a rise in the pollution every year. The concentration levels in respect of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are within the limits while those of suspended particulate matter and noise are beyond the limits at certain location at some periods of sampling.

(c) The action taken to reduce the pollution level include the following:—

(i) The Gujarat State Pollution Control Board has issued directions to industries under the provision of the water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to comply with the prescribed standards.

(ii) The Gujarat State Pollution Control Board has so far filed about 2000 cases under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, 328 cases under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and 228 complaints under Section 133 of the Cr. PC against the defaulting industrial units.

(iii) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(iv) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(v) Industries have been directed to comply with consent requirements of the States Pollution Control Board.

(vi) Financial incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas to confirming industrial estates. Financial incentives are also given for utilisation of solid waste such as fly ash and phospho-gypsum.

(vii) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The State Governments

have been asked to ensure that the prescribed limits are being complied with.

### **Demand and Supply of Timber**

301. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between demand and supply of timber is widening;

(b) if so, the present demand and supply ratios, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the gap between demand and supply of timber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the inventories made by Forest Survey of India, the annual demand of timber is 27 million cubic metre as against the estimated production of about 12 million cubic metre. However, specific study of demand and supply ratios of timber has not been undertaken in all the States of India.

(c) Various steps taken by the Government to reduce the gap between demand and supply of timber are:

(i) National Forest Policy, 1988 lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fire and encroachment.

(ii) States/Union Territories have been advised to involve village communities and voluntary agencies to ensure protection and regeneration of degraded forest lands.

(iii) In order to increase the forest cover a massive programme of afforestation including Social and Farm Forestry under the 20-Point Programme is under implementation in all the States/Union Territories.

(iv) Import Policy for timber has been liberalised.

(v) Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction and furniture.

(vi) A scheme for involvement of industry in plantation on degraded forest lands is under consideration of the Government.

### **Procurement of Wheat and Paddy**

302. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in 'Hindustan Times' dated January 2, 1995 under the caption 'where money keeps moving' regarding systematic totally regularised corruption totalling a staggering amount of Rs. 1200 crores in the procurement of paddy and wheat in Punjab, through Government agencies like the Food Corporation of India;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Besides the Food Corporation of India, a number of other agencies like the State Food Department Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation (Punsup), Punjab State Marketing Federation (Markfed), State Warehousing Corporation in Punjab. Food Corporation of India themselves cannot, therefore, investigate the complaint. However, the Corporation have decided to refer the matter to Central Bureau of Investigation for a thorough investigation.

### **Traffic Apprentices**

303. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the period of apprenticeship undergone by Railway employees before their absorption in service is not counted for service benefits; and

(b) if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The period of apprenticeship counts for the purpose of increments, minimum service required for further promotion, pensionary benefits, eligibility for privilege passes etc. It is not taken into account for the purpose of seniority as the seniority counts from the date of coming over to a working post after successful completion of the apprenticeship.

### **Prices of DMS Products**

304. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:  
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were frequent fluctuations in the prices of milk and other milk products produced and sold by Delhi Milk Scheme during the last two years and 1994-95;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stabilise the prices of all commodities produced by DMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No Sir. There has been no change in the selling price of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) milk and yoghurt during the last

two years. However, having regard to the prevailing market prices the selling prices of DMS Ghee and Table Butter were revised as under:—

Date w.e.f.	Ghee 1Kg. Poly- pack	Tin	Ghee 2Kg. Tin. 500 gms. (Rs./pack)	Table Butter 500 (Rs./pack)	White Butter 500 gms. (Rs. Pkt.)
11.4.92	90.00	95.00	190.00	39.00	40.00
19.6.92	84.00	89.00	178.00	35.00	36.00
2.1.93	80.00	87.00	174.00	34.00	35.00
22.4.94	90.00	—	—	39.00	40.00
7.12.94	110.00	—	—	47.00	48.00

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to parts (a) and (b) above.

#### Drip Irrigation

305. SHRI TARA SINGH:  
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to encourage the farmers to use drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in the country;

(b) the names of States which are not implementing these systems at present;

(c) whether the Union Government have recently revised the existing norms for providing assistance in the use of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the farmers growing any type of commodity are likely to be covered in the revised norms; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Government of India has taken following steps for promoting use of drip and sprinkler system of irrigation:—

#### A. DRIP SYSTEM

1. Providing subsidy up to 50 percent or Rs. 15,000/- per ha. for drip system for horticultural crops except tea, coffee and rubber including oil palm.

2. Providing subsidy up to 75% or Rs. 22,500/- per ha. for drip demonstration in the state farms.

3. Training of farmers in the use of these systems.

#### B SPRINKLER IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Subsidy on sprinkler systems to the extent of 50% of the cost to the small and marginal farmers 75% of the cost to the farmers belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and 25% of the cost to the farmers belonging to other categories subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per beneficiary under oilseeds and pulses.

Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme, subsidy on sprinkler set is being provided @50% of the cost of the sets for one acre unit limited to Rs. 10,000 per set.

(b) All the States/UTs are covered under drip system scheme. As regards sprinkler system, this is not implemented for oilseeds crops in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura and Kerala. Similarly, the sprinkler system is also not implemented for pulses in the States of Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Sikkim and Tripura.

The sprinkler system for cotton is implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

(c) to (f) A proposal to revise the existing norms for providing assistance in drip and sprinkler irrigation system to farmers is under consideration.

#### Over bridge in Indore

306. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for construction of railway over-bridge in Indore is lying pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) to (e) Construction of a road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 246 at Indore is an approved work of 1987-88. Railway, who are to construct the bridge across the railway tracks, will commence the work after the work of construction on approaches, which is to be done by State Govt. commences.

#### City Forest

307. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to create city forest in each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fund earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Some of the State Governments had approached the Government of India for financial assistance to enable them to take up programmes for creating City Forests in certain towns and cities of those States. The Ministry of Environment and Forests also felt that the national afforestation effort requires action in urban and semi-urban areas, along with on-going efforts in rural areas. The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (N.A.E.B.) has, therefore, forwarded a proposal to the Planning Commission for a new Plan Scheme for providing central assistance to the State Governments. No fund has so far been earmarked in this behalf.

#### Super Bazar Branches in States

308. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to open branches of the Super Bazar in States in the near future;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to open new branches of Super Bazar in the States at present. Super Bazar has not yet been registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act.

#### Direct train between Delhi and Kotdwara

309. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce direct train between Delhi and Kotdwara; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Extension of Railway Line

310. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Samastipur-Darbhanga broad gauge line to Sitamarhi Narkehaganj sector linking it to Gorakhpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER

SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. However, Darbhanga will be linked by BG in 1995-96 on completion of Samastipur-Darbhanga conversion.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

#### Development of Women

311. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have formulated any action plan for the economic, social, political and cultural development of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Union Government have been requested to provide sufficient amount of the States for implementing the proposed scheme;

(c) if so, whether these proposals have been examined; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the Union Government have agreed to provide the amount for implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) No, Sir. No such action plan has been formulated. However, both States are implementing various programmes/projects for the development of women.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

#### Sub-urban Railway System

312. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the sub-urban railway system in some States and Union Territories of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost involved; and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Strengthening and upgradation of the existing rail network in the suburban areas of various States and Union Territories is a continuous process and is done on the basis of needs, priority and availability of the resources. There is no specific programme or project on hand to upgrade suburban railway system of any particular area.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Accident of Saharanpur-Delhi Express**

313. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:  
SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 4546 Saharanpur-Delhi Express collided with a truck on the 5th February, 1995 at an unmanned railway crossing near Nithaura village in Loni (Uttar Pradesh); and

(b) if so, the details of casualties as a result of this accident?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. While 4546 Saharanpur-Delhi Express was on run, one truck loaded with bricks collided with the train at unmanned level crossing No. 9-C near Nusratabad Kharkari halt on Shahdara—Shamli section of Delhi division of Northern Railway on 5.2.95 at about 9.20 hrs.

(b) In this accident 10 persons, all occupants of the truck, were killed.

**Filling of SC/ST Vacancies**

314. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation have not filled up the posts of various categories reserved for the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). So far as the Food Corporation of India is concerned, vacancies in Category I are worked out on All-India basis and the vacancies in Category II are worked out on Zonal basis. The vacancies in Categories III & IV are worked out on Regional basis. There are vacancies reserved for SCs/STs in 2 offices of the Food Corporation of India in Gujarat viz. Regional Office and Office of Joint Manager (Port Operation), Kandla.

Vacancies in Categories III & IV in Gujarat region could not be filled up earlier because there was no recruitment at the entry level post. The Executive Committee/Board of Director of the Food Corporation of India has recently approved recruitment in specific entry level posts and the decision has been communicated to the Zonal Managers on 23rd Nov., 1994. Action has already been initiated by Sr. Regional Manager, Ahmedabad for filling up of the vacancies reserved for SC/ST.

So far as the Central Warehousing Corporation is concerned there is no backlog in Gujarat region.

**Reservation for Sportsman**

315. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given any directives to the State Governments to award grace marks or to reserve quota for outstanding sportsmen for their admission in professional and other colleges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b). The Government has not issued any directive to the State Governments in this regard. They have, however, been requested to consider giving special weightage to the sports persons who have excelled.

The University Grants Commission has framed and approved the guidelines which, *inter-alia*, provide that 10% seats in the first year of the under-graduate level degree courses may be reserved for sports persons who have represented the State or the country in the national or international level sports events. However, for admission, such sports persons should have obtained the minimum out-off percentage of marks in their previous examinations. These guidelines further envisage that 3% seats may be reserved for such sports persons for admission to the B.Ed. course.

[Translation]

**Accident at Ghaziabad**

316. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ordered an inquiry into the railway accident that occurred recently at Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of compensation given to the next of kin of the deceased and injured, separately; and

(d) the measures proposed to check such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An enquiry by Senior Officers was conducted into the rear-end collision of Up Nagaldam goods train standing at Ghaziabad and Up Diwana goods train on 21.9.1994 at 23.05 hrs. on Northern Railway.

This rear-end collision resulted in derailment of train engine alongwith 4 loaded BOX wagons of Up Diwana goods train and derailment of rear Brake Van alongwith 4 loaded BOX wagons of Up Nagaldam goods train.

In this accident, Driver and Assistant Driver of Up Diwana goods train were killed.

As per the findings of the Inquiry Committee, the accident occurred due to the passing of Home Signal of Ghaziabad station by the Driver of Up Diwana goods train in 'ON' position.



(c) Amounts of Rs. 69,008 and Rs. 58,480 as Compensation under Workmen Compensation Act payable to the dependants of the deceased Driver and the Assistant Driver, respectively have been deposited with the Commissioner, Workmen Compensation for disbursement to the dependants/legal heirs of the deceased.

(d) The following safety measures have been taken to arrest such accidents:—

- (i) Nearly 17,000 drivers with less than 10 years active driving service have been specially screened and deficient drivers given out-of-course crash training.
- (ii) 40,000 station staff have also been subjected to an out-of-course screening and deficient staff were imparted non-scheduled safety training.
- (iii) Regular counselling of staff is done to prevent accidents.
- (iv) Stringent action to the extent of 'dismissal' or 'removal' from service is being imposed on staff causing serious train accidents.
- (v) The elimination of collisions has been made as one of the mission areas for the General Managers of the Railways.
- (iv) Nearly 60,000 of staff attended Safety Camps and refresher training courses during the last one year.

#### Rhinoceros

317. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the population of Rhinoceros as per the last two census, State-wise;

(b) whether Rhinoceros are being killed on large scale to get their skin and horns;

(c) if so, the detail thereof; and

(d) the schemes launched by the Government to protect this endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The census of Rhinos is not carried out annually. The estimated population of Rhinos from 1989—1993, in different areas, where census was carried out, is as follows:

State	1989	1991	1992	1993
<b>ASSAM</b>				
Kaziranga NP	1250+	1129	—	1164
Manas NP	85	—	—	80†
Pobitora	165	—	—	56

State	1989	1991	1992	1993
Orang	100	97	—	97
Laokhowa	3	—	—	—
Other Pockets	40	—	—	—

1543

#### WEST BENGAL

Jaldapara	27	—	33	—
Gorumara	12	—	11	—
	39		44	

#### UTTAR PRADESH

Dudhwa	9	—	11	—
--------	---	---	----	---

(— Census not carried out)

(+ As per the local estimated reports)

(b) and (c). There have been cases of Rhino poaching mainly for its horns and the number of Rhinos poached during the last three years is as follows:

	1992	1993	1994
Assam	66	70	27
West Bengal	2	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—

(d) (i) A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of the species and its habitat. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments. A special scheme of 'Conservation of Rhinos in Assam' has now been transferred to the State Govt. alongwith resources since 1992-93 as per the recommendations of the National Development Council;

(ii) Rhino is placed in Schedule 1 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 getting the highest level of protection.

(iii) Trading in Rhino parts, and products is also banned by law;

(iv) Central Assistance is provided to State Governments for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure;

(v) Cooperation of Police, BSF, DRI and Army is also taken, as and when required, in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders;

(vi) India is a member of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and abides by the regulations of international trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof under the provisions of the Convention;

(vii) With a view to providing alternative home for Rhinos and also to rehabilitating them in their erstwhile habitat, scheme for 'Rehabilitation of

Rhinos' has been started in Dudhwa National Park and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

#### Kamal Nayan Kabra Committee

318. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kamal Nayan Kabra Committee has given its recommendations in regard to future trading for smooth marketing of major commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted and implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Kamal Nayan Kabra Committee which was appointed by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution in June, 1993, inter alia to review the operations of the forward markets, the working of the commodity exchanges and to assess the role of the Forward Markets Commission to effectively regulate the functions of futures trading etc. has since submitted its report to this Ministry.

(c) and (d) The Government has not taken any decision on the recommendations of the Committee as it involves consultation with various Departments and other organisations concerned.

#### Steel Brakes

319. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow wagon industry to purchase their own steel brakes in 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this would not create difficulties for the public sector wagon industry?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Reference made is apparently to steel and air brake equipment. For 95-96, the wagon industry has been advised to purchase these items themselves as availability of these items has improved considerably.

(c) No difficulty is expected since the availability of these items is adequate.

#### Catering Services

320. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received from the commuters for poor quality of catering service in various trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps proposed to be taken to improve the quality of food in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1994-95, 185 complaints were received.

(c) Steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure wholesome, hygienic and good quality of food items and service to the travelling public include regular and intensive checks, crash training programme for staff, induction of reputed and professional caterers, improving the base kitchens, variety of menu, etc. Opinion polls are conducted regarding quality of food and service and improvements are accordingly effected. Staff and contractors found responsible are taken up suitably.

#### Contract system in FCI

321. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract system has been abolished in all the godowns of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Labour Cooperative Society had worked well in all the depots in Kerala;

(d) if so, the time by which Labour Cooperative Society is likely to be set up in all the godowns of FCI;

(e) whether a Committee appointed by the Food Corporation of India to study the performance of the Labour Cooperative Society System has submitted its recommendations; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. The work load in most of the depots/godowns of the FCI varies from day to day and month to month in view of the seasonal/intermittent nature of the operations. The Contract System is, therefore, continuing, under law, in many of the FCI depots/godowns, as it enables the FCI to have operational flexibility.

(c) The Labour Co-operative Society System had been working well, by and large, in the godowns of FCI in Kerala till May, 1994 when workers in 8 depots struck work at the behest of the FCI workers union demanding direct payment by the FCI. However, 3 of these depots have already resumed the operations under the same system.

(d) While no time frame can be given, the Food

Corporation of India has been giving/extending certain to be retained incentives like exemption from payment of earnest money deposit, preferential treatment in acceptance of tenders, making counter offer in case their offers are not competitive, providing for payment of security deposit in instalments to Labour Co-operative Societies to induce the labourers to form their own labour co-operative societies in more and more depots.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Committee had recommended certain additional incentives to help the societies in building reserve funds for labour welfare and reimbursement of expenditure incurred by the societies on contribution to EPF. The Board of Directors of the FCI have since accepted the recommendations of the Committee. Necessary instructions have also been issued in this regard by the FCI Headquarters to all concerned.

#### Munabao-Kholeropur Check Post

322. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to re-open the Munabao-Kholeropur railway checkpoint on Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are reports of infiltration and drug smuggling through this check post; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this infiltration and drug smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of apprehension of infiltrators and seizures of drug from Munabao during the last 3 years are as under:

	1992	1993	1994	1995
i) Infiltration from area of Munabao (No. of persons)	13	99	89	31
ii) Drug smuggling	—	—	70 Ltr. Acetic Anhydride	—

(d) The Government is vigilant and is taking all necessary steps by gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by the concerned Central and State agencies, strengthening and deployment of para-military forces at strategic locations, intensified patrolling, setting up of additional check-posts and supply of various equipments for effective observation during day and night etc.

#### Fishermens Model Villages

323. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal to provide model villages and other relief schemes for infrastructural development for fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the State Government has also re-submitted a proposal for fish landing centres / harbours in Maharashtra; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Gujarat Committee Report

324. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non implementation of the recommendation of the Gujarat Committee Report regarding the promotion of Urdu even after the expiry of 19 years of its submission; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) After the receipt of the Gujral Committee report, the Government considered the same and it was decided to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ali Sardar Jafri to examine the recommendations of the Gujral Committee and to assess the status of their implementation and to advise the Government regarding their implementation. The Jafri Committee has submitted its report to the Government which is under consideration.

Meanwhile in conformity with the recommendations of the Jafri Committee, a decision has already been taken to set up the Maulana Azad National Urdu University at Hyderabad as a Central University and the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language has been set up as a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act in place of the Taraqqi-e-Urdu Board.

[English]

### Railway Line in Andhra Pradesh

325. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no existing railway line on the Telapur-Patancheru-Sangareddy-Medak upto Siddipet via Ramnnapet route of South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a survey had been conducted in the past; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) to (e) Telapur to Pattancheru is already an existing broad gauge line.

A preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for extension of this broad gauge line from Pattancheru to Peddapalli via Sangareddy, Medak, Ramannapet, Siddipet and Karimnagar was conducted in the past. However, the survey report revealed that the project was financially unremunerative with a negative rate of return. In view of the same and the acute resource constraints being faced by Railways, the work could not be taken up.

However, a new broad gauge line from Peddapalli to Nizamabad via Karimnagar has been sanctioned, which is targetted for completion in the 9th Five Year Plan period.

### Taraqqi-e-Urdu Board

326. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Committee set up to enquire into the working of the Taraqqi-e-Urdu Board;

(b) if so, the features thereof and recommendations made therein;

(c) whether the recommendations have been accepted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the extent to which they have been implemented so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have noted that the Committee have observed in the report mainly that (i) the available information in regard to Expert Panels and its working was incomplete; (ii) that adequate publicity was not given in newspapers in regard to the schemes of grants-in-aid; (iii) that a book rejected by an Expert Panel was given for translation; (iv) that the manuscript of a rejected book was sent to another expert for obtaining favourable comments; (v) that frequent tours were undertaken unnecessarily by officers of Bureau; (vi) that funds were released for conducting a seminar which were neither sought for nor sanctioned etc.; (vii) that existing vacancies in BPU should

be expeditiously filled in; (viii) that an OSD with administrative experience should be appointed.

(c) and (d) Government have since constituted the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language to promote, develop and propagate Urdu language; to take action for making available in Urdu Language the knowledge of scientific and technological developments as well as knowledge of ideas evolved in the modern context; and to undertake any such activity for promotion of Language as may be deemed fit by the Council.

### Rationalisation of Management Services

327. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the high-powered Committee on "rationalisation of management services on the Indian Railways"; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The recommendations made by the Committee to Study Organisational Structure & Management Ethos of Indian Railways cover the changes to be made in the Organisational Structure & Management System to enable Indian Railways to function as business led enterprise.

(b) The Committee's Report, conceptual in nature, suggested/required setting up of various Committees/Task Forces to consider the implementability of various recommendations and, if so, evolve modalities and procedures for the same. As per the Committee's recommendations, various task forces have been set up for an in-depth study of some of the important items covered in the report with a view to decide feasibility of their implementation.

### Kendriya Vidyalaya in Cannanore

328. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Kendriya Vidyalaya in Tellichery, Cannanore District, Kerala;

(b) whether any undertaking has been given by the Government of Kerala or any other organisation for providing the land for such Kendriya Vidyalaya; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) A request was received in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Tellichery, Cannanore District, Kerala which, inter alia, mentioned that the State government had agreed to provide some land for the Vidyalaya. the District Collector has been sent a set of norms, terms and conditions regarding opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya, with a request to send a complete proposal.

### Requirement of Motormen

329. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of motormen of Western Railway Suburban Section as on December 31, 1994;

(b) the number of motormen actually appointed by December 31, 1994; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the total requirement of motormen in the interest of their health and safety of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The total requirement of motormen as on 31.12.94 was 336.

(b) Number of motormen actually appointed (i.e. staff in service) was 284.

(c) A panel of 65 Direct Recruit candidates has been received from Railway Recruitment Board, Bombay Central and pre-appointment formalities are in progress after which they will be given necessary training and put on duty.

### Smuggling of Biomaterial

330. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Biomaterial Smuggling" appeared in the 'Statesman' dated October 10, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to impose a ban to prevent smuggling of precious biomaterial like flora and micro-organisms out of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government is examining the possibility of regulating the transfer of genetic/material from the country under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992.

[Translation]

### Import of Sugar

331. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:  
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar imported and proposed to be imported during 1995;

(b) the total value thereof and the countries from which it has been imported;

(c) the basis of sugar imports projection, stating the annual rise in sugar consumption in 1994 as compared to the consumption in 1993 and the likely increase in the demand in 1995;

(d) the price at which sugar is to be imported and the foreign exchange involved therein;

(e) whether the domestic sugar prices are likely to be affected by the import of sugar;

(f) the production of sugar from January 1, 1994 to February, 1995; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Government, with a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar for the Public Distribution System in the event of sugar production not coming upto the expected level, have allowed forward contracting for about 5 lakh tonnes of imported sugar for July and August deliveries. So far, a quantity of about 3.63 lakh tonnes has been contracted by STC & MMTC at an approximate value of Rs. 505.22 crores, involving a foreign exchange of US \$1554.53 lakhs, at an average price of US \$ 428.25 per metric tonne C&FFO of the quantity contracted, 1.08 lakh tonnes is of Brazilian origin, 0.73 lakh tonnes of Thai origin & the origin of the remaining quantity will be known when actual shipments are effected.

(e) The impact of import of sugar on domestic sugar prices would be known only when actual import of sugar takes place.

(f) The production of sugar from January 1, 1994 to February 15, 1995 is about 14.8 million tonnes (Provisional).

(g) In order to make the country self-sufficient in the production of sugar, adequate licensing of new sugar factories and Expansion projects has been undertaken. Other measures include increase in the cane price, provision of incentives for setting up of new sugar factories/expansion projects, incentives for early/late crushing etc.

[English]

### Connecting Gandhinagar with National Capital

332. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2047 dated March 8, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the survey undertaken to connect Gandhinagar with the National Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The survey is in progress.

(c) The survey is expected to be completed by October, 95. The work will be taken up depending upon the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

[Translation]

### Passenger Facilities

333. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the basic and additional amenities being provided to the commuters under the Action Plan to remove deficiencies in respect of passenger amenities at various stations;

(b) the names of stations where such facilities have already been extended; and

(c) the expenses incurred so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) A survey had been conducted to identify stations having deficiencies in respect of basic passenger amenities, viz. waiting halls, benches, drinking water, latrines, platforms, etc. as on 1.4.1991. An Action Plan has accordingly been taken up to remove all such deficiencies by 31.3.1995 at more than 2000 stations so identified all over the Railways. As regards, additional amenities, over and above the basic amenities, their provision is a continuous process and the same are provided at stations in a need-based manner depending on the volume of traffic handled, subject to overall availability of funds and relative priorities of various stations. In this regard, an expenditure of Rs. 67.36 crore was incurred during 1993-94 and an allocation of Rs. 67.25 crore has been made for the year 1994-95.

### Theft of Coal and Booked Goods

334. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of coal and booked goods in wagons during the last one year in each zone, particularly Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this regard and the value of goods seized from them; and

(c) the concrete steps proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) The following concrete steps are being taken to prevent such incidents:—

- Escorting of trains carrying valuable and important consignments as far as possible.
- Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other vulnerable areas/sections.
- Joint checking at inter-change points to take stock of the condition of wagons/seals carrying consignments vulnerable to theft etc.
- RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.
- Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.
- Dog squads are deployed for patrolling in vulnerable yards and areas as per their availability.
- Close Coordination between the RPF, the GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to deal with criminals and receivers of stolen property.
- Based on the crime intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of the criminals/receivers of the stolen property in order to bring them to book.

### STATEMENT

Theft of coal (1994):		Value of Property (in Rs.)		
Railway	No. of cases Regd.	Stolen	Recovered	Arrests
C.R.	61	45,695	5,235	63
E.R.	306	6,43,881	6,75,539	239
N.R.	108	5,53,199	7,391	62
N.E.R.	3	660	660	3
N.F.R.	1	500	500	1
S.R.	—	—	—	—
S.C.R.	28	13,156	13,156	81
S.E.R.	7	570	570	12
W.R.	220	34,847	34,847	334
Total	734	12,92,508	7,37,898	795

### THEFT OF BOOKED GOODS (1994):

C.R.	130	1,14,18,919	1,11,79,006	115
E.R.	3,435	1,61,29,710	13,41,505	230
N.R.	1,046	72,74,084	11,38,806	320
N.E.R.	59	2,46,705	29,891	12
N.F.R.	1,290	78,90,904	1,74,719	67
S.R.	46	2,18,454	16,638	67
S.C.R.	37	8,63,471	8,52,462	154
S.E.R.	166	22,12,442	18,96,295	194
W.R.	671	3,58,972	3,07,561	173
Total	6,880	4,66,13,661	1,69,36,883	1332

Regarding Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, it may be stated that Railways do not maintain information Statewise.

[English]

**Derailment at Tulsipur**

335. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that seven coaches of 187 Up passenger train derailed at Tulsipur between Gorakhpur-Gonda;

(b) if so, number of persons killed and injured therein;

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

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) the actions taken against the persons responsible; and

(f) the measures proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Seven coaches of 187 Up Passenger train got derailed between Gainsari and Tulsipur stations on North Eastern Railway on 22.1.1995. As a result of this derailment, 3 passengers lost their lives, 16 sustained grievous injuries and 99 sustained simple injuries.

(c) to (e) Statutory inquiry into this accident has been conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle. His report has not yet been received. Action against persons found responsible would be taken based on the findings and recommendations of the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(f) The following safety measures have been taken to arrest accidents:—

- (i) Nearly 17,000 drivers with less than 10 years of active driving service have been specially screened and deficient drivers given out-of-course crash training.
- (ii) 40,000 stations staff have been subjected to an out-of-course screening and deficient staff were imparted non-scheduled safety training.
- (iii) Instant Action Groups have been launched on certain nominated trains to check entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches or persons carrying inflammable/explosive material.
- (iv) Regular counselling of staff is done to prevent accidents.
- (v) Satringent action, to the extent of 'dismissal' or 'removal' from service, is being imposed on staff causing serious train accidents.
- (vi) The elimination of collisions has been made as one of the mission areas for the General Managers of the Railways.
- (vii) Nearly 60,000 of staff attended Safety Camps and refresher training courses during the last one year.
- (viii) Overdue track renewals on all important routes are being liquidated.

(ix) 500 unmanned level crossings are being manned at a cost of Rs. 25 crores.

(x) The track circuiting works on Rajdhani and Shatabdi routes have been speeded up.

(xi) Carriage and wagon examination of rolling stock has been strengthened and rationalised.

**Railway Station at Aayare Road**

336. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a representation to construct a railway station at Aayare Road near Dombivali on Diva-Vasai Railway Line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposal for opening of a new halt station at Aayare Road on Diva-Vasai section has been examined but has not been found operationally feasible or financially justified.

[Translation]

**Inter-city Trains in M.P.**

337. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the inter-city trains running in Madhya Pradesh at present;

(b) the number of such trains out of them linked with the industrial areas of the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of inter-city trains in this State in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Madhya Pradesh is centrally located and is served by North-South, East-West trains and some of these trains provide service linking different towns of Madhya Pradesh to intercity timings both day time and overnight. These trains include:—

1. G. T. Express
2. Tamil Nadu Express
3. Nizamuddin-Indore Express
4. Malwa Express
5. Howrah-Ahmedabad Express
6. Howrah-Bombay Mail
7. Gondwana Express
8. Taj Express

## 9. New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express

## 10. Amarkantak Express

## 11. Mahanadi Express

Introduction of DMU Push-Pull service between Bhopal and Indore to intercity timings is being planned for 1995-96.

[English]

### Conversion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj MG Line

338. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of conversion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj MG Line and its extension up to Modasa (new BG Line) has been held up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the hurdles and to speed up its completion according to the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The work was held up for a few years due to lower operational priority and constraint of resources. However, it has been defroze in 1994-95 and Rs. 1 crore has been provided in this financial year. Preliminary arrangements for restarting this work are on hand.

(c) The work would be progressed for completion in the coming years subject to availability of resources.

### Research Projects

339. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has recently issued new guidelines for undertaking research projects in various disciplines by permanent teachers in universities and colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating *inter-alia* the eligibility for participation, the amounts earmarked for projects in various disciplines, duration etc., and

(c) the amount earmarked for this scheme for 1994-95 and likely to be earmarked for 1995-96?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the scheme of Major and Minor Research Projects as approved by the UGC at its meeting held on 28th April, 1994 are as under:—

#### I. Major Research Projects:

Any permanent teacher with Ph.D. degree who wishes to avail of financial support for a Major Research Project should submit the Research Project, through his

department/institution, to the UGC after the same has been scrutinised by a duly constituted Research Committee consisting of atleast two faculty members and one outside subject-expert to be appointed by the head of the institution.

The following will be the maximum level of assistance for Major Research Projects.

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| (i) Science, Engineering and Technology.        | Rs. 7.00 lakhs |
| (ii) Humanities, Social Sciences and Languages. | Rs. 5.00 lakhs |

The revised guidelines further provide that academicians may be allowed to work on Research Project, upto the age of 70 years.

The Project is awarded for a period of 3 years which is extendable by 2 years on a year to year basis, depending upon the progress of the work done.

#### II. Minor Research Project:

Any college teacher who wishes to avail of financial support for a Minor Research Project, should submit the Research Project to the UGC through his/her Deptt. College and the proposal may be forwarded by the Principal of the College to the University to which the college is affiliated and the Director of Collegiate Education.

The level of assistance for Minor Research Projects is as under:—

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| (i) Science, Engg. & Technology.                | Rs. 40,000/- |
| (ii) Humanities, Social Sciences and Languages. | Rs. 30,000/- |

The project is awarded for a period of 2 years which is extendable by six months depending upon the progress of the work done.

(c) According to the information furnished by the UGC, an outlay of Rs. 5.75 crore has been earmarked for the scheme in 1994-95 and Rs. 8.20 crore in 1995-96.

### Cancellation of sugar contract

340. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Food Corporation of India has recently recommended for the cancellation of import of sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sugar import is affecting foreign reserves; and

(d) if so, the plans of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Director of Food Corporation of India, vide his letter dated 15.10.1994, had requested for cancellation of the balance imports of sugar being undertaken by State Trading Corporation of India/Minerals & Metals Trading



Corporation Ltd. mainly on the grounds of delay in the arrivals of imported sugar, improvement in the availability of sugar, better prospects for the current season etc.

(c) and (d) The decision to allow import of sugar under Open General Licence has been taken after considering all aspects, including the foreign exchange position.

### Promotion of Gymnastics

341. PROF. SAVITRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give due priority to Gymnastics in the coming Olympic and Asian Games;

(b) if so, what are the infrastructure developed for this sport; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Government to promote this game?

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): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present standard Gymnastics Halls are available at very few places i.e. LNCPE, Trivandrum and Gwalior, Tellichery in Kerala, NSNIS Patiala, Sports Authority of India Centres in Delhi and Calcutta. Sports Authority of India Centres have been provided with imported equipment. Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Rai and Allahabad Gymnastics Association, Allahabad also have halls and Gymnastics equipment. Some of the states have multi-purpose indoor halls in which Gymnastic coaching and competitions are held.

(c) Gymnastics being a mother sports discipline, needs to be promoted in all educational institutions by the state Governments. Facilities with standard equipment would also need to be created. For improving the overall standards, Gymnastics Federation of India and its constituent units would have to prepare long term development plans for all Levels and hold more competitions so as to popularise the sport. The standard of coaching and officiating would also need to be upgraded by having regular training courses. For the comparatively elite gymnasts it would be necessary to have better coaching and competition exposure.

### Investment in Dairy Sector

342. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to invest Rs. 2500 crores in dairy sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached with the foreign countries for joint venture; and

(d) if so the projects approved so far alongwith the investment involved in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

### Adulteration in Ornaments

343. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Aabhoosan vyavsaai par milavat va munafakhori ka saya: Sarker ki udaar nitiyon se vyapariyon ko to fayada huva par upbhokta abbhi loot rahe hain" appearing in Dainik Jagaran dated October 31, 1994;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard/protect the interest of the common man from profiteering and adulteration in the selling of ready-made ornaments; and

(c) the number of cases registered by the Government on this account with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) If a ready made ornament has been purchased and is found to be defective, the aggrieved consumer can file a complaint in the consumer courts set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(c) The Ministry does not compile this information.

**Oza Committee**

344. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Railways have set up Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Oza;
- if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;
- whether the Committee has given its reports;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the report?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Oza Committee was asked to examine various alternative alignments for the Konkan Railway in Goa State considering all representations in that regard and recommending the best alignment to be followed.

- Yes, Sir.
- A statement is attached.
- The report has been accepted in toto.

**Statement**

The Committee in its final report has recommended that "the approved alignment of the Konkan Railway would be the most useful for the service to the people both for passenger and goods traffic" and that "it could not be doubted that the present alignment is the best alignment from 'environment impact' angle". The Committee has further stated—"looking to all these circumstances, cost, convenience and minimum damage to environment and forests, the present route appears to be the best and the only route."

However, considering the need to avoid environmental damage and to take care of the sentiments of the people, the Committee has recommended certain improvements in the scheme which are briefly listed below:

- To provide viaducts on Dewar island and Zuari approach wherever the embankment is higher than 10 mtrs.
- The hillock on Dewar island damaged by earthwork should be terraced.
- Anti-vibration measures should be taken in the tunnel near the Chapel on the hill to prevent any damage.
- Additional waterways be provided in the Khazan lands wherever fishing boats have to pass.
- Fencing/boundary wall be provided where the railway track is passing through settlement areas. Necessary foot bridge be provided where school children have to cross.

**Supply of Railway Wagons in Rajkot**

345. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- the number of Railway wagons provided for loading and unloading purposes of export/import of goods to Gandhidham and Kandla stations on Kachh District in Rajkot division till date;
- whether the Government propose to increase the number of wagons provided for this purpose; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) During 1994-95 (upto February, 1995) details of wagons provided for loading and unloading are given below:

(wagons in 4-wheeler units)

	BG	MG
Loading	139448	124179
Unloading	62573	2388

(b) and (c) The wagons on Indian Railways are in common pool and are supplied in different areas according to priority and demand.

**Production of Burley Tobacco**

346. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to encourage the cultivation of Burley tobacco in Andhra Pradesh;
- if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any explanatory trials have also been conducted in different zones of the country to identify the new areas for the production of high quality Burley tobacco;

(d) if so, the names of areas identified so far; and

(e) the time by which production of Burley tobacco is likely to start in these new areas along with the measures contemplated by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Burley tobacco is grown in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. Crop Production technologies have been evolved by Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI). This Institute is also conducting research for evolving new varieties and increasing its productivity.

(c) to (e) Exploratory trials are conducted in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh and Vijayanagaram and Kakakulam districts of Andhra Pradesh. Some trials were also conducted at Rajagada District of Orissa for identifying new areas for the production of high quality Burley tobacco. Exploratory trials conducted in Orissa is not yielding encouraging results and hence further trials were

suspended. Production of Burley tobacco in the new areas depends upon the demand and supply position in the domestic and international market which is being dealt by Tobacco Board, Guntur.

### Pending Projects of West Bengal

347. SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for Environmental as well as forest clearance for Submarekha Project in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the names of such other proposal from West Bengal pending with his Ministry for environment and forest clearance;

(d) since when these projects are pending and the reasons therefore; and

(e) steps taken by the Government to clear such proposals within a stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Submarekha project was received in February, 1994 for environmental clearance but not for forest clearance.

(b) Submarekha project was accorded environmental clearance in September, 1994.

(c) and (d) Following two projects are pending with this Ministry for environmental clearance only.

Name	Date of receipt	Reasons for pendency
1. O.5 MTPA steel products at Jagdishpur of M/s Durgapur projects Ltd.	28.9.94.	Additional information is awaited.
2. Sagardighi Thermal Power Station, 2X500 MW, West Bengal State Electricity Board.	15.2.1993	Revised EIA report is awaited.

Since no proposal has been received for forest clearance under F.C. Act 1980, therefore, the question of forest clearance does not arise.

(e) The project proposals will be considered for a decision from environmental angle within three months, from the date of submission of complete information to this Ministry.

[Translation]

### New Scheme for Suburban Passengers

348. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Railway has introduced a new scheme namely "travel as you wish" for the suburban passengers;

(b) if so, the details and objectives of the said scheme;

(c) whether similar scheme is proposed to be introduced on other railway zones also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) and (d) the scheme is proposed to be introduced on Central Railway system also.

### Statement

The system introduced by Western Railway involves sale of rail travel coupons booklets of three types viz.

**Type I:** Costing Rs. 30 which includes 10 coupons of Re. 1 each and 10 coupons of Rs. 2/- each.

**Type II:** Costing Rs. 30 which includes 10 coupons of Rs. 2/- each and 2 coupons of Rs. 5/- each.

**Type III:** Costing Rs. 50 which includes 15 coupons of Rs. 2/- each and 4 coupons of Rs. 5/- each.

The coupons which are provided with certain security features have been given extended validity for single use any time upto the end of a financial year. The passengers can buy booklets of these coupons and whenever they want to travel on Western Railway suburban system, they simply have to tear off the coupons aggregating the fare for the intended distance of travel and thereafter insert these coupons for validation into any of the several coupon validating machines which are provided at vantage points at entrance of the suburban railway stations. These machines print 3 entries on insertion of every coupon. These entries are the date, the time and the station boarding from. The passengers can decide upon the amount of coupons which they have to utilise by simply reading the fare table which is being exhibited on top of every machine.

The objective is to reduce the waiting time of passengers in front of booking windows.

[English]

**Fish and Shrimp Culture**

349. DR. VISEWANATHAM KANITHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any crisis in the fishing and marketing it in general and shrimp culture in particular;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps contemplated to alleviate the difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) While there is no report regarding any crisis in fishing and marketing it in general, loss of shrimp production due to outbreak of certain diseases in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, has been reported.

(c) Some of the steps contemplated to prevent the recurrence of the shrimp disease include:

- (i) Regulation of shrimp culture by the Government of Andhra Pradesh through a legislation.
- (ii) Advising the farmers to have a crop holiday and take up shrimp farming towards the end of May or beginning of June, 1995.
- (iii) Drying the pond bottom for 2-3 months.
- (iv) Allowing natural flushing of the waste from shrimp ponds.
- (v) Incorporation of an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan and waste water treatment system for reducing the adverse impact of aquaculture on the environment.

**Non-Payment of Dues**

350. SHRI TARA SINGH:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether controversy between the Department of Civil Supplies and Food Corporation of India on the issue on non-payment of certain dues is going to affect the Public Distribution System in the capital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the supplies being made by FCI to the State Governments through PDS have been found sub-standard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. Though there are some disputed claims which are yet to be settled between the Civil Supplies Department (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi) and the Food Corporation of India, these are not going to affect the Public Distribution System in Delhi.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act standards only are issued to the State Governments and their authorised agencies for distribution System outlets. The State Governments and their authorised agencies are given all facilities to check the quality as well as the quantity of the stocks before taking actual delivery of these commodities. Jointly drawn, sealed samples are also given to concerned State Government representatives for display at the retail outlets. Once the stocks are taken out from the Food Corporation of India godowns, the responsibility for the subsequent distribution and maintenance of quality/quantity rests with the concerned State Governments/Agencies.

**Surplus Foodgrains**

351. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to dispose of their surplus stocks of foodgrains to the poor at rates lower than that charged under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rate at which it is likely to be distributed;

(c) whether such type of instructions have been given to State Governments; and

(d) if so, details of such collaboration with State Governments on the issue of disposal of surplus food stocks?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement is attached.

**STATEMENT**

*Details of Schemes announced for making available to the poor at subsidised rates, the surplus stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool*

	Schemes	Quantity/rate at which issued	Remarks
1	2	3	4
(i)	Supply of foodgrains (rice and wheat) to hostels where at least two third of the resident students belong to SC/ST/OBC category.	1.68 lakh tonnes per year, @Rs. 500 less per tonne than the Central Issue Price of rice/wheat under PDS.	The State Govts. have been instructed to give wide publicity to these schemes at District levels so that maximum benefits accrue to all the eligible categories.

1	2	3	4
(ii)	Supply of foodgrains (rice and wheat) for five years for employment generation by means of manufacture of food products by below poverty line families.	3.5 lakh tonnes in rural areas and 1.5 lakh tonnes in urban areas per year Rs. 1,000/- less per tonne than the Central Issue Price of rice/wheat under Public Distribution System.	The State Govts. have been instructed to give wide publicity to these schemes at District levels so that maximum benefits accrue to all the eligible categories
(iii)	Supply of additional foodgrains for distribution in Revamped Public Distribution System areas.	3.2 million tonnes per annum @Rs. 500 less per tonne than the Central Issue Price of rice/wheat under Public Distribution System.	The State Govts. are permitted to draw foodgrains for this purpose out of their monthly allocation of foodgrains under Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

#### Integrated Cereals Development Programme

352. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have modified the existing norms for selection of development blocks under the Integrated Cereals Development Programme during 1994-95;

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

(c) whether all the States are likely to be benefited by the Scheme after the modifications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The blocks having comparatively larger area coverage under Cereals and the productivity levels lower than State/National average have been identified under the Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for the implementation of field demonstration and farmers' training during 1994-95.

(c) and (d) Twenty Five States and one Union Territory of Pondicherry are benefited by the Scheme.

[English]

#### Licences to Vehicles Causing Pollution

353. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has issued instructions for cancellation of licences of vehicles causing pollution in Delhi under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received objections from Delhi Pollution Control Committee and others in this regard;

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

(d) whether these instructions are also applicable to other States and Union Territories; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) The Central Pollution Control Board had issued directions under Section 18(1) (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on 26.9.1994, to the effect that the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) ensures that the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and the State Transport Authority (Directorate of Transport) of Delhi do not operate or ply any bus or other heavy motor vehicle, whether owned by DTC or under its control or under the charge/control of Directorate of Transport, Delhi, unless such buses/heavy motor vehicles conform to the prescribed emission standards.

(b) there was no objection from the DPCC, except a request for some clarifications regarding the application of the direction. These were provided to the DPCC.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The directions issued to DPCC are not applicable to the States or other Union Territories for which specific directions in each case would be required.

[Translation]

#### Illegal Hunting

354. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the incidents of illegal hunting of the wild animals in Bihar during the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the incidents of illegal hunting in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) and (b) According to the information provided by the State Govt. of Bihar, there have been no incidents of large scale illicit hunting of wild animals in the State during the last one year, excepting the traditional tribal

hunt in the Dalma Hills of Singhbhum district held on 2nd May, 1994 in which a total of 33 wild animals were killed. In addition, there are occasional cases of killing of wild animals by villagers mainly for protection of life and crop and such cases are being dealt with under the Wildlife (Protection) Act and other relevant laws.

(c) Regular patrolling is undertaken by the Forest staff and prompt action to arrest the offenders and instituting cases against them is taken to check the incidents of illegal hunting in the State. However, as far as the tribal hunt in Dalma Hills is concerned steps are being taken to mobilise public opinion against the practice through mass media and personal contact.

[English]

### **Navodaya Vidyalayas**

355. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of teachers in all the Navodaya Vidyalayas of Uttar Pradesh; resulting in adverse effect on teaching;

(b) whether Government propose to fill up the posts lying vacant in these schools for several years; and

(c) if so, the time by which the vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has intimated that there were some vacancies in the Navodaya Vidyalayas located in Uttar Pradesh. For filling up these vacancies, the Samiti has already conducted Departmental Promotion Committees for promotion, and has also advertised those vacancies, which are to be filled by direct recruitment. To avoid adverse effect on teaching, some teachers have been recruited on a short-term contract basis. The Principals of the Vidyalayas have also been authorised to make Part-time appointments till the posts are filled up on a regular basis.

### **Sale of Imported Sugar**

356. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether imported sugar has been distributed in Delhi and outside during 1994 and upto February, 1995 through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, names of the States and Union Territories with selling rate of each kilogram;

(c) whether sale of imported sugar prior through Fair Price Shops was made in open market Rs. 13.50 per Kilogram;

(d) whether sale of imported sugar in open market did not gain any popularity amongst consumers;

(e) whether sale of same imported sugar to card-holders through FPSs was forcible and against tastes of card-holders;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) whether the Government propose to take action against guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) the allocation of levy sugar from the month of September 94 to March 95 was blend of imported sugar and indigenous sugar. Both indigenous sugar as well as imported sugar was distributed at a uniform retail price of Rs. 9.05 per kg. throughout the country through Public Distribution System.

(c) the Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. had operated a scheme for sale of imported sugar in the open market through Consumer outlets such as Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and Private shops in Delhi, Bombay etc. on the condition that retail price would not exceed Rs. 14.50 per kg.

(d) to (f) No such specific complaint has been received from any State Government/UT Administration.

(g) Does not arise.

### **Meeting on Rights of Child**

357. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level meeting on the rights of the child has been held in New Delhi in late 1994;

(b) if so, the details of participants in the said meeting;

(c) the suggestions and recommendations made therein; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Meeting was organised by the Indian Council for Child Welfare assisted by UNICEF and supported by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India from November 21—23, 1994 at New Delhi, with the objective of providing an NGO input into Government of India Report for presentation to UN Committee of Experts. About, 150 Experts, Representatives of NGOs, Government Departments, UNICEF and ICCW officials attended the Consultation.

(c) and (d) The suggestions and recommendations made therein, among others, include improving quality, outreach and access in areas like primary health, immunisation, nutrition, integrated child care, ensuring adequate resources, strengthening integration and convergence and focussing on disadvantaged children, eliminating social discrimination, empowerment of women,

free and compulsory education, as the basis of fundamental and sustainable change in the present situation, strengthening laws and activating mechanisms for enforcement, energising local government's promotion of innovative and effective community participation, need for sensitisation and mobilisation of civil society as well as people's representatives. The Government has noted the suggestions and recommendations.

In addition to a number of schemes and programmes being implemented by the Department of Women & Child Development, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme is a major effort seeking integration and convergence of services for holistic development of children and focussing on disadvantaged sections by providing required health and nutritional services. This programme is primarily village based and enlists the help and participation of voluntary organisations, social activists, academic institutions and professionals and has a built-in scope for convergence of services. Most of the population covered by the ICDS programme belong to the disadvantaged groups. Efforts are on to further expand and strengthen the various programmes wherever possible subject to resource availability.

#### STATEMENT

*Details of expenditure incurred during last three years i.e. 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95 on the historical places in tribal area, Gujarat*

Sl. No.	Name of monument	Village	Taluka	District	Expenditure incurred			
					1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (as on 6.3.95)
1	2	3	4	5	6	6-A	6-B	6-C
1.	Old Ruined Temple of Mahadeva	Bavka	Dahod	Panchmahals	6,859	4,203	8,072	1,50,000
2.	Fateh Burj	Vyara	Songadh	Surat	3,039	1,858	3,752	2,054
3.	Ancient Site	Kamrej	Kamrej	Surat	—	—	—	—

#### Nagarjuna Sagar Dam

359. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposal for construction of Tail Pond Dam Power House downstream of Nagarjuna Sagar Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

#### Historical Places in Gujarat

358. SHRI N. J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the ancient forts and historical places in Gujarat specially in the tribal areas which are under the preservation of Archaeological Survey of India till January, 1995;

(b) the amount spent on the preservation, renovation and maintenance of these forts and historical places during the last three years and during the current year, till date; and

(c) the amount collected in the form of entry fee from these places during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) There are in all 203 centrally protected monuments, archaeological sites and remains in Gujarat and out of which three are located in tribal areas.

(b) The statement showing expenditure incurred on preservation, renovation and maintenance at these three monuments is enclosed;

(c) No entry fee has been imposed at these monuments?

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 30 MW pumped storage scheme involving construction of a tail pond dam at 21.06km down stream of the existing Nagarjuna Sagar Project was received in December, 1987 and was accorded environmental clearance during the same month. A revised proposal with 50 MW installed capacity was subsequently received in March, 1991 which involved submergence of forest land in Tiger Valley. Proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of requisite forest land, however, has not so far been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Decision on the scheme would be possible only after the receipt of the proposal for compensatory afforestation.

### **Agriculture in concurrent list**

360. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:  
SHRI P.C. CHACKO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Constitution to include the subject of Agriculture in the Concurrent list;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the subjects likely to be included in it from State list and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the State Governments and agricultural experts in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response of State Governments and experts thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d): A proposal to bring Agriculture under the concurrent list with a view to ensure that there is unhindered implementation of agricultural policies to benefit the whole country is being worked out in consultation with all concerned.

[Translation]

### **Local trains on Delhi Palwal route**

361. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of commuters has been increasing day-by-day on Delhi-Palwal route;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the number of local trains on the above route; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c): The number of commuters on Delhi-Palwal route have been increasing over a period of time. Introduction of additional services on various sections including Delhi-Palwal is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability.

[English]

### **Import duties on edible oils**

362. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to cut the import duties on edible oils and arrest rising domestic prices;

(b) if so, whether unrestricted imports or edible oils had been allowed last year with the retention of 65 per cent duty;

(c) if so, whether the traders have been demanding to bring down the duty at which National Dairy Development Board and State Trading Corporation are permitted to import;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to allow the traders to import at concessional rate at which NDDB and STC do; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a): In order to augment the availability of edible oils and to moderate open market prices the import of selected edible oils have been allowed under OGL at 30 per cent duty w.e.f. 1.3.1995.

(b) The import of edible vegetable palmolein oil only was placed under OGL with 65 per cent duty w.e.f. 20.4.1994.

(c) There was a demand for reducing the import duty on edible oils at par with the National Dairy Development Board and State Trading Corporation by the private traders to facilitate more imports and to reduce costs.

(d) and (e) The import by NDDB and STC are undertaken with different considerations. The duty in respect of OBL imports has already been brought down considerably viz. to 30 per cent. There is no proposal to further reduce the said duty so as to bring it at par with the concessional duty of 20 per cent allowed to STC and NDDB.

### **Stoppage at Palghat**

363. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:  
SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for providing a stoppage of Hazrat Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express at Palghat Jn.; and

(b) if so when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) Very soon.



### Libraries in rural areas

364. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up mobile libraries in rural areas/villages in the local language of the area;

(b) if so, the States where these libraries are likely to be set up; and

(c) the time by which all the rural areas are likely to be covered?

THE DUPLY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c): No, Sir. However, there is a scheme of "School-cum-Village Library" under which a library will function in an existing school building with a part time librarian. All the States/Union Territories come under the purview of this scheme. The scheme proposes to have at least one such library in each Panchayat all over the country by the end of the 9th Five-Year Plan.

### Export of Foodgrains

365. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to export rice and wheat in near future;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof, item-wise and the countries to whom foodgrains are likely to be exported;

(c) whether it is a fact that the fair price shops are not provided with sufficient quantity of rice and wheat in time; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b): Yes Sir. In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, Government has authorised the Food Corporation of India to export non-durum wheat from its stocks during 1994-95 within the ceiling of 5 lakh tonnes released for export from the open market. However, Food Corporation of India has not been able to export any quantity of wheat during 1994-95 directly. Food Corporation of India has also been authorised to sell wheat up to 3 lakh tonnes to State Trading Corporation and Mineral and Metal Corporation at open market sale price for the purpose of export. Government has also authorised FCI to export 30000 MTs of Superfine Rice to his Majesty's Government of Nepal at FCI's economic cost. In addition, FCI has also been authorised to sell 75000 MTs Rice to S.T.C. at the open market sale price for export to Bangladesh. Exports are proposed to be continued during 1995-96 also. The quantity of foodgrains and countries to which foodgrains are likely to be exported will depend upon demand, prices in the international market etc.

(c) The Central Government allocates fodgrains (Wheat & Rice) from Central Pool to the various States/ Union Territories on a month to month basis on the demands received from them, availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various states and union territories, seasonal availability, office-trends and and other related factors, for Public Distribution System. Internal distributions of foodgrains allocated for the Public Distribution System is a matter within the administrative jurisdiction of State Governments/Union Territories Adminstration. The actual off take of foodgrains during 1994-95 has been less than the quantities allocated to the States/Union Territories in most cases.

(d) Does not arise.

### Benefit to sugar Importers

366. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the benefit accrued to the importer as a result of duty free import of sugar;

(b) whether the importers of duty free sugar had to sell the imported sugar to the people at reasonable profit;

(c) if so, the prices per kilogram at which it was imported and at which it was sold to the people; and

(d) the loss in foreign exchange suffered due to this import?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d): To bridge the gap between demand and supply of sugar and to ensure adequate availability of sugar at reasonable prices, Government has allowed duty free import of sugar under Open General Licence. The private importers have imported sugar as per their own best commercial judgement and are also arranging its sales in the open market themselves. Import of sugar being undertaken under Open General Licence, they are not furnishing the details in respect of quantity, rate, country of origin and their selling price etc. to the Government.

State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation have also imported sugar at an average C & F price of about US \$ 387 per MT for Public Distribution System at a uniform rate of Rs. 9.05 kg.

### Assistance to Sugar Mills

367. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of financial assistance for augmenting and modernisation of sugar mills having less capacity received from the Government of Gujarat during 1993-94 and till date;

(b) the number of proposals out of them cleared so far; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the remaining proposals?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a): No proposal, relating to expansion/modernisation of any sugar undertaking in Gujarat having less capacity, have been received during 1993-94 and onward so far. Further no proposal relating to expansion-cum-modernisation of any sugar undertaking in Gujarat is pending with the Ministry of Food for sanction of loan from the Sugar Development Fund.

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

#### Inquiry into Derailment

368. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL.  
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry into the derailment of Udayan Express at Yelahanka on December 31 has been greatly condemned by the experts questioning the constitutional authority of the Commissioner for Railway Safety to conduct a probe under the provisions of the Indian Railway Act of 1989;

(b) if so, whether according to the experts, it is not in the interest of natural justice, "to permit the Railway sit on judgement over its own crimes";

(c) whether experts have also demanded that the inquiry should be conducted by some sitting judges of the Supreme Court or High Court;

(d) if so, whether the Government have agreed with the suggestions of experts; and

(e) if not, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e): No, Sir. Excepting one press report appearing in a section of the press on 10.1.1995 carrying the view of a city lawyer of Bangalore, no communication has been received by the Ministry of Railways from any other quarter or expert in railway operation. The press report contained several inaccuracies regarding the constitutional position of the Commissioner for Railway Safety, who is functioning independent of the Ministry of Railways and works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. This position has been clarified for the benefit of general public and printed subsequently in the same newspaper. Since the press report was based on inaccuracies, no follow-up action need be taken.

#### Setting up of Godowns

369. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:  
SHRI SATYA DEC SINGH:  
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:  
SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns owned/hired by the Food Corporation of India/Central Warehousing Corporation in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the total storage capacity increased in all the States;

(c) whether the procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India is likely to be more than the available storage capacity during 1995;

(d) the quantity of foodgrains got spoiled during the last two years, year-wise;

(e) the loss suffered by the Food Corporation of India on this account;

(f) the steps taken by the Government for constructing/hiring more godowns, specially in hilly areas, State-wise; and

(g) the time by which these are likely to be available to the Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a): Number of total godowns owned/hired by Food Corporation of India including godowns hired from Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporations and private godowns in 1991. The statement showing number of godowns owned/hired by C.W.C. is 451. State-wise position is enclosed.

(b) Between the period December, 1993—December, 1994 the total storage capacity of CWC and FCI has been increased by 4.10 lakh tonnes and 34.31 lakh tonnes respectively.

(c) No Sir. The storage capacity at macro level is considered adequate to accommodate the likely procurement of foodgrains during 1995. However, in order to take care of storage deficiencies at micro level the field officers of FCI have been authorised to hire additional storage capacity wherever necessary.

(d) and (e) The quantity damaged and loss suffered by the Food Corporation of India on this account during the last two years are given below:

Year	Quantity in MTs	Loss in rupees
1992-93	10,307.609	*NIL
1993-94	11,338.279	7,28,98,511.48

\* The sale proceeds of the damaged grains was more than the book value of the grains, the FCI did not suffer losses on this account.

(f) The Central Warehousing Corporation and Food Corporation of India propose to construct during the remaining two years of the 8th Five Year Plan, a capacity of 2.06 lakh tonnes and 3 lakh tonnes respectively including one lakh tonnes capacity in the hilly and inaccessible areas of Jammu and Kashmir, U.P. Hills, H.P. and hill states of N.E.F. Region. The construction of capacity by CWC in the hilly areas would depend upon the exact demand emanating from these areas subject to business potential available in those areas. The Capacity created by FCI is utilised for foodgrains whereas the capacity created by CWC is partly for foodgrains and partly for other commodities. Further, as a long term strategy the following steps are being taken by FCI to meet the storage requirement:

- (i) Construction of on-going works is expedited;
- (ii) Food Corporation of India's own CAP storage capacity is being increased to the extent land is available in its godown premises.
- (iii) National Airport and Defence Authorities are being approached to hire abandoned air-strips for creating large CAP complexes; and
- (iv) Encouraging Private Parties to construct plinths for open storage as well as covered godowns.
- (g) It is estimated that a result of this long-term strategy resorted as above, about 2 to 3 million tonnes of an additional capacity will be available to Food Corporation of India by March, 1990.

#### STATEMENT

*Number of Godowns state/Union Territory wise owned/Hired by Food corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation*

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Godowns Owned/Hired by CWC	Godowns Owned/Hired by CWC
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54	155
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	03
3.	Assam	05	41
4.	Bihar	17	59
5.	Goa	02	01
6.	Gujarat	27	55
7.	Haryana	16	134
8.	Himachal Pradesh	02	17
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	16
10.	Karnataka	21	40
11.	Kerala	05	32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	40	156
13.	Maharashtra	61	73
14.	Manipur	01	03
15.	Meghalaya	06	06
16.	Mizoram	01	04
17.	Nagaland	01	05
18.	Orissa	10	48
19.	Punjab	30	487
20.	Rajasthan	14	108
21.	Sikkim	—	03
22.	Tamil Nadu	27	31
23.	Tripura	02	07
24.	Uttar Pradesh	51	294
25.	West Bengal	47	83
26.	Chandigarh	01	17
27.	Delhi	14	10
28.	Pondicherry	01	03
		451	1891*

\* This includes the godowns hired from C.W.C.

#### Setting up of Kendriya Vidyalaya

370. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the opening of Kendriya Vidyalaya in the complex of Government Printing Press Koratty, Kerala;

- (b) if so, by when the work will commence; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) As per information received from Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan there is no proposal to open Kendriya Vidyalaya at Koratty, Kerala.

### Sale of Fruits and Vegetables

371. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fruits and vegetables sold through the Mother Dairy's outlets in Delhi are generally stale, of poor quality and costly in comparison to open market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the quality of the fruits and vegetables sold through these outlets as also to sell them at comparable prices if not at less prices than the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The objective of Fruit and Vegetable outlets in Delhi is to provide remunerative prices to farmers for their produce and making it available to the consumers at a reasonable price.

### Railway Projects in Maharashtra

372. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects including the projects for new railway line, gauge conversion, electrification and doubling of railway lines in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the steps taken to link backward regions of Maharashtra by railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) & (b): The details of projects relating to new lines, gauge conversion, doubling and electrification of rail lines, currently in progress in Maharashtra and their targetted date of completion are as under:—

Name of Project	Length (kms.)	Targetted date for Completion
<b>I. New Lines</b>		
i. Panvel-Karjat (Land acquisition)	28.5	31.12.1995
ii. Amravati-Narkhed	138.0	Land acquisition is in progress. The actual construction will be taken up once land acquisition is completed by the State Government.
<b>II. Gauge Conversion</b>		
i. Miraj-Latur	359.0	Planning Commission's approval has just been received. Preliminary arrangements for taking up this work are on hand.

ii. Prabhani-Mudkhed-Adilabad	248.0	Completed.	
(a) Parbhani-Purna		1994-95	
(b) Purna-Nanded		1995-96	
(c) Nanded-Mudkhed		1996-97	
(d) Mudkhed-Adilabad			
iii. Gondia-Chanda Fort	242.0	Completed.	
(a) Gondia-Wadsa		1996-97	
(b) Wadsa-Chanda Fort			
iv. Sholapur-Gadag	300.0	Planning approval received and the preliminary arrangements for taking up the work are being made.	Commission's has been and the arrangements for the work are being made.
<b>III. Doubling</b>			
Nil			
<b>IV. Electrification</b>			
i. Manikgarh-Gadchandur (Branch line of Vijaywada Balharshah)	29.0	March, 1995.	
ii. Majri-Rajpur (Branch line of Wardha-Balharshah)	21.0	March, 1995.	

(c) Railways have undertaken various projects in Maharashtra for providing vital infrastructure for development of the backward areas, in consultation with the Planning Commission, considering overall developmental requirements of such backward regions. Some of these projects are:—

- Amravati-Narkhed new rail line.
- Gauge conversions Purna-Nanded-Mudkhed-Adilabad, Gondia-Chanda Fort, Miraj-Latur and Sholapur-Gadag sections.
- Electrification of Manikgarh-Gadchandur section.

### Derailment of Udyan Express

373. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI P. KUMARSAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the derailment of Bengaluru bound Udyan Express from Bombay near Bangalore on December 31, 1994;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) if so, the extent of loss of life and property as a result thereof;

(d) the details of compensation provided to the victims; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c): A statutory inquiry has been

conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. The Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, incorporating the findings, has not yet been received. As a result of this accident, 8 persons died, 21 suffered grievous injuries and 27 sustained trivial injuries.

(d) The payment of compensation to the dependents of killed and to injured will be arranged on receipt of judgement and decree of Railway Claims Tribunal, Bangalore. However, an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1,00,250/- has already been paid to the families of killed and to the injured passengers.

(e) Based on the findings of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, persons found responsible for this accident shall be taken up under the extant rules.

[Translation]

#### **Animal Husbandary and Dairy Development**

374. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign assistance provided for the promotion of animal husbandary and dairy industry during each of the last three years and 1994-95; project-wise;

(b) the progress made so far, project-wise; and

(c) the amount spent out of the aforesaid assistance, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Information has been called for from the State Governments which are the Implementing Agencies for Animal Husbandary & Dairy sector foreign aided projects and will be laid down on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

#### **Tobacco Research Institute**

375. SHRI S.M. LAJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Tobacco Research Institute has developed any important agro-techniques for tobacco cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether those techniques have been passed on to the tobacco farmers; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to popularise such new techniques among the tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Tobacco Research Institute has

developed improved location specific flue-cured varieties (Hema, Gowthami, VT-1158, CM-12, Bhavya, Swarna) burley tobacco (Banket-A1), chewing tobacco variety (Meenakshi, Pusa Tobacco-76 Vaishali special), Natu tobacco (Natu special) with inbuilt resistance to biotech and abiotic stresses. In addition, use of phyto-chemicals and bio-control agents has been optimised for managements of major pests. Energy saving devices in curing of FVC tobacco have been developed besides production of high quality pure seed to meet the requirements of farmers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) These technologies have been transferred to the tobacco farmers in collaboration with Tobacco Board, Tobacco Development Council, Tobacco Companies having Research and Development Divisions, Indian Tobacco Development Association, State Agriculture Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras by conducting on-farm demonstration trials etc.

#### **Non-Availability of Items at Fair Price Shops**

376. SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH RAO GUNDEWAR:  
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ:  
SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:  
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:  
SHRI GURDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inadequate and irregular supply of ration throughout the country;

(b) whether complaints have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to restore the broken down condition of modified rationing system;

(d) whether price rise of ration-substance has resulted in highprices of things in the open market;

(e) if so, the steps taken to maintain status-quo of prices;

(f) whether Fair Price Shops are reluctant to accept imported sugar;

(g) whether sugar was not available at Fair Price Shops in Delhi and other parts of the country in time despite importing lakhs of tonnes of sugar;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor, and estimated shortage of sugar during the last six months, State-wise;

(i) whether stock of sugar has been supplied to FPS for the months of February and March;

(j) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(k) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of sugar, edible oils and other essential

commodities and to ensure supply to PDS at reasonable rates and time?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) and (k): The Central Government makes bulk allocation of six key essential commodities supplied through the Public Distribution System. The operational responsibility of implementing the public distribution system including distribution of these commodities within the State/UTs vests with them. Complaints/suggestions relating to Public Distribution System are generally dealt at the district/local levels in the States/UTs for effective and speedy redressal of these grievances. Such details are not maintained by the Central Government. A quantity of 57.23 lakhs MTs of wheat, 87.48 lakh MTs of rice, 71.06 MTs of kerosene and 42.99 lakh MTs of sugar are reported to have been distributed through Public Distribution System during 1993-94. Central Government has taken adequate measures to maintain supplies of these commodities through Public Distribution System.

(d) and (e): The Central Government has been continuously advising the States/UTs to keep a strict watch over the price situation and to ensure adequate and uninterrupted supply of essential commodities to the public particularly in lean season.

(f) to (j): The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that adequate supply of Sugar could not be made to a number of fair price shops during December 1994 and January 1995 due to problems of coordination between Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC). The reluctance of the fair price shops owners in Delhi to accept imported sugar due to their demands for revision in margins etc. is also stated to be one of the reason for inadequate supply of sugar to fair price shops in Delhi. The Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that they have decided to take over the distribution of levy sugar from FCI with effect from March 1995 to solve these problems.

#### Development Projects of Railway Stations

377. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the development projects undertaken at Railway stations between Shoranur and Mangalore during 1994 and proposed to be undertaken during 1995-96; and

(b) name the Railway stations on this sector which earn the highest revenue?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a): Development of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted by traffic needs, subject to availability of funds. Accordingly, the following works taken up on railway stations between Shoranur and Mangalore during 1994.

During 1995-96 also, similar works will be undertaken at stations wherever so warranted by the traffic requirement, subject to availability of funds and relative priorities of various stations:—

(Figures in lakh of Rupees)

STATION	WORK	COST
MANGALORE	Provision of additional platform	7.50
	Provision of dormitory accommodation for passengers	2.00
MANGALORE CALICUT	Provision of electronic display system	8.00
KASARGOD KANHANGAD PAYYANUR	Provision of platform shelter	6.60
KANHANGAD	Extension of shelter on platform no. 1	6.36
PAYYANUR	Extension of shelter on platform no. 2	3.08
	Raising of platform no. 1	2.35
CANNANORE	Provision of paid waiting hall	9.85
	Extension of shelter on island platform	9.26
	Provision of additional retiring room	6.00
TELLICHERRY	Provision of shelter platform no. 2	6.89
MAHE	Extension of shelter on platform no. 1	5.65
QUILANDI	Raising of platform no. 2	5.83
	Extension of platform No. 2	3.72
CALICUT	Improvement — circulating area	4.00
	Widening of platform no. 1	4.00
CALICUT	Improvement to kitchen of refreshment rooms	2.50
CANNANORE		
PARPANANGADI	Provision of platform no. 2	6.80
TIRUR	Provision of foot-over-bridge	12.35
KUTTIPPURAM		
PATTAMBI	Concrete paving of platforms	5.74
KANHANGAD		
SHORANUR	Extension of shelter on platform no. 2 & 3	9.64

(b): Mangalore.

#### Revamped Public Distribution System

378. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the added benefits obtained by the revamped Public distribution system recently introduced;

(b) whether there is any proposal to entrust the distribution to the Gram Panchayats;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) is not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Central Government issues foodgrains meant for distribution in the areas covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) at specially subsidised Central issue Prices which are lower than the normal Central Issue Price for Public Distribution System by Rs. 50 quintal. Central Government has advised the State Government/UT Administrations that the end retail prices of foodgrains in the Revamped Public Distribution System areas should not exceed the Central issue Prices by more than Rs. 25 per quintal. States/UTs have been advised to ensure availability of 20 kgs. of foodgrains per month per household in the Revamped Public Distribution System areas. Central Government provides financial assistance to States/UTs for construction of godowns and purchase of vans in the Revamped Public Distribution System areas. The operational responsibility for distribution of commodities allocated for Public Distribution System is that of the State Government/UT Administrations. It is for them to decide whether distribution should be entrusted to Gram Panchayats.

#### **Availability of Quality Seeds**

379. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether improved quality seed for different crops are adequately available to the farmers in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to encourage the production of better quality seeds and make them available to the farmers adequately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTION ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b): Overall quality seed availability of different crops for 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 71.69 lakh quintals and 80.00 lakh quintals respectively against requirement of 67.79 lakh quintals and 69.47 lakh quintals.

(c): For quality seeds production and to make them available to farmers adequately, there is a well established infrastructure which includes State Seed Organisations, National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India in addition to Private Sector organisations.

The Government of India has also launched National seeds Project to improve infrastructure, production capacities, seed quality control facilities for both public private sectors. Quality Seed production and distribution is also encouraged under various central crop development schemes.

[Translation]

#### **Express Parcel Trains**

380. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI P.C. CHACKO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any weight limit and targets have been fixed to deliver the booked goods to their destination within a fixed time limit by the newly introduced express parcel trains; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the freight/fares charges?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Parcel trains have been newly introduced between Wadi bundar and Shalimar, Bombay and Delhi and Amalsad and New Azadpur. No weight limit has been set. Parcels are loaded as per the carrying capacities of the parcel vans. Freight/Fares are charged as per normal parcel rates applicable for parcel/perishables. Trains from Amalsad to New Azadpur is carrying only one perishable i.e. Cheeku. So far 8 parcel trains have been sent from Wadi bundar to Shalimar, 6 from Bombay to Delhi and 10 from Amalsad to new Azadpur. There is no guaranteed time and no special charges levied.

#### **Rail Coach Factory In Gujarat**

381. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up rail coach factory in Gujarat, particularly in Tribal areas;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Coach manufacturing capacity in the country is adequate to meet the requirement of the Indian Railways.

[English]

#### **Female Infanticides**

382. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey on the incidents of female infanticides has been conducted by the Government in some selected States recently;

(b) if so, which were the States selected;

(c) the comparative data amongst these States as per the survey; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such infanticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

**HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI):** (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A survey on female infanticide has been sponsored in nine selected States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Reports in respect of the States of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have been received. The study in rest of the States is in progress.

(d) Various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the welfare and development of women and girl child. Attempts are also being made to project positive images of girl child so as to bring about changes in societal attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness on various issues relating to girl child. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000 A.D.) for the Girl Child focusing survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been institutionalised through the ICDS structure.

#### Konkan Coastal Railway

**383. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail Indian Technical and Economic Services (RITES) New Delhi had carried out survey on Konkan coastal railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey was carried out to mark the alignment between Dasgaon and Ratnagiri and deciding the location of bridges, tunnels, stations etc.

(c) The construction of the line is being carried out in this alignment.

#### Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project

**384. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government accorded the final environment as well as forest clearance to Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project in Kerala:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total hectare of the forest land likely to be destroyed as a result thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):**

(a) to (c) The environmental clearance to the Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project in Kerala was accorded by the

Ministry on 3.6.1985. However, the proposal of the State Government of Kerala for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project was rejected on merits on 31.1.1991. Subsequently, on the request of the State Government to reconsider the proposal, an Experts' Committee was constituted for site inspection of the project area. The State Government was requested to furnish certain details and its comments on the report of the Experts' Committee. These have been received and are under examination.

(d) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Kerala, the proposal for Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project involves diversion of 3001.8 hectares of forest land.

#### Trading in Wheat and Rice

**386. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:** Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recommended to the States to delicense trading in wheat and to liberalise the stock-holding limits on wheat and rice keeping in view the comfortable stock position of foodgrains this year;

(b) if so, the response received from the States in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had reiterated their recommendations to the States again on October 31, 1994; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the States have accepted these recommendations?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi Meghalaya, Karnataka, Nagaland, Mizoram and Daman & Diu have taken action to delicense trading in wheat. State Governments of Gujarat, Kerala, Sikkim, Lakshdweep and Pondicherry have intimated that wheat trading has not been under licensing in these States. Orissa and Punjab are not in favour of delicensing wheat on account of the existing local conditions.

As regards stock-limits, the State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Delhi have informed that they have since removed the stock limits. No stock limits existed on wheat and rice in Orissa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Both in respect of stock limits and wheat licensing other States/Union Territories have been reminded.



### Tender of White Sugar

387. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to reject all the tender offers of white sugar;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there has been significant decline in the international sugar prices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have not invited any tender for purchase of white sugar. However, STC/MMTC have entered into forward contracts for the purchase of about 3.63 lakh tonnes of imported sugar.

(c) and (d) The average London Daily Price of white sugar has declined from an average of US \$ 413.44 per metric tonne in January, 1995 to an average of US \$ 400.48 per metric tonne in February, 1995.

[Translation]

### Palace on Wheels

389. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:  
SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 'Palace on Wheels' running between Delhi and Rajasthan has been suspended;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government propose to restore the above train?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Due to conversion of the route of 'Palace on Wheels' from metre gauge to broad gauge, the metre gauge 'Palace on Wheels' tourist train has temporarily ceased to operate from 1.2.95 for a period of three months only during the current tourist season. It is being replaced from 1.9.95 by a new Broad Gauge 'Palace on Wheels' tourist train.

[English]

### Loss Due to Flood in Gujarat

390. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether unprecedented heavy rains and floods occurred in Gujarat again in September this year, wreaking enormous loss and damage to life, livestock and property;
- (b) if so, the details of loss to life, livestock, property and crops thereby; and
- (c) the details of additional Central assistance, if any,

sought by the State Government and the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to reports received from the State Government, some Central and South Gujarat districts were affected in September, 1994 by floods as a result of very heavy rains and release of water from Narmada and Ukai reservoirs. The extent of loss of life and damage to the property caused as a result of the September floods is given below:

(i) Loss of Human Lives	128
(ii) Loss of Livestock	8400
(iii) Damage to Cropped area	8.80 lakh Ha.
(iv) Estimated damage to public property	Rs. 530.00 Crores

(c) A Memorandum was received from Government of Gujarat seeking Central Assistance of Rs. 303.52 crores for relief and rehabilitation measures in the areas affected by floods during South West Monsoon 1994. Under the existing scheme, the State Government is required to undertake such measures in the wake of natural calamities using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund. Government of India has released to entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1994-95 amounting to Rs. 63.75 crores, including advance release of the last quarterly instalment to enable the State Government to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the flood affected areas.

### Research Centres for Milch Animals

391. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the research centres for high yielding milch animals;
- (b) whether the Government propose to set up more such centres particularly in Gujarat;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The following institutions and their regional stations are conducting researches for high yielding milch animals:

- (i) National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana.
- (ii) Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar, Haryana.
- (iii) Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut, Uttar

Pradesh.

(v) Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

(vi) Colleges of Veterinary Sciences and Departments of Animal Sciences of State Agricultural Universities in Several States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The existing Research Centres cater to all the States in the country including Gujarat.

#### Movement of Containers

392. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India and the railways have banned movement of containers to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent of loss caused to the exporters on account of this ban;

(d) whether any concrete steps are likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) A temporary regulation of traffic to Jawaharlal Nehru Port had to be imposed for a period of 5 days in the first week of January, 1995 due to inability of the Port to handle the containers. Normal flow of traffic has since been restored.

#### Sale of Rice by Rice Exporters

393. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All-India Rice Exporters Association had sought Government's permission to sell rice at Re. 1/- kg less than the open sale price;

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

(c) whether the Government had declined to give permission to the Association in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Government has received a number of requests from Exporters including the All India Rice Exporters Association for supply of rice by FCI at prices lower than the open Market Sale Price of FCI. However, it has not been found possible to accede to such requests.

11.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twelve of the clock.

12.01 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

#### RE: POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS IN BIHAR

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): The situation still remains absolutely fluid. We would like to know what the Government's view in this regard is ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Let us hear something. Let us at least hear what Shri Somnath Chatterjee likes to say.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Let us hear what I want to say. Let us hear what both of us want to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Provided all of them sit down and I am allowed to call each one of you. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, our petition is that you should call us also ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are constrained to bring to your notice a very serious development that has taken place. It has shaken the very democratic roots of our country. In a parliamentary democracy, election has to be held. People will have to be given the opportunity to exercise their franchise. The election was announced in Bihar. But we find that dates are being shifted from time to time on the plea of law and order situation. Nobody is taken into confidence; no political party is consulted and nobody knows about it either at the all-India level or in the State. One person, maybe he is a constitutional authority, is taking a decision for which no rational basis is being asserted. The period was given for campaigning. Dates has been fixed for holding the elections before the expiry of the duration of the Assembly. Elections would have been held and the new Government would have come into power. That should be left to the people of Bihar to decide as to whom they want to have in the Government and to whom they want to put in power in that State. But what is happening is, we find that the election dates are being postponed on the plea of law and order situation. Over and above, what we find is that the Congress Party which is in power in the Centre, is asking for imposition of the President's Rule also in that State. They are also asking for the postponement of the elections. And very significantly also, the major Opposition Party inside this House is also demanding imposition of the President's Rule. The Congress Party, the Congress Government and the BJP are acting in tandem in asking for the imposition of the President's Rule and for postponing the elections. This is nothing but a deliberate affront; this is nothing but a deliberate attack on the democratic rights of the people of Bihar. This is a subterfuge which is being adopted for the purpose of imposition of the President's rule because both the Congress and the BJP know that they have no chance of success in Bihar.

This is the connivance and this is the conspiracy that is being made. ...*(Interruptions)*. It is very serious. It is a

matter of great concern for the future of parliamentary democracy in the country. The question of election and the question of rights of the people of this country to participate in the election is dependent on the sweet wish or sweet will of one individual. Today we find a situation is being created where the constitutional authority appears to have been pressurized for the purpose of taking a particular decision to suit the interests of the ruling party here or a particular political party in this country.

Sir, I would like to know how elections will be held in this country in future. In every State it can happen in future. In every State, elections can be postponed on the ground of law and order or some other problem can be referred to deployment of forces can be taken as a plea for postponing the elections. What is happening in Bihar? Generally, we know for so many days votes have not been counted because it will have some impact on the elections to be held in other States. But what about Bihar? Why has counting of votes in other States taken place when he said that he will postpone the elections? How is this authority acting? Even election analysis has been stopped on the basis of order from the Election Commission and two days later the same has been withdrawn. Everybody in India has to wait for the *ipse dixit* of one individual as if this House has nothing to do or the people have nothing to do. Even the right to exercise their franchise or the right to express their views through the ballot box is not being allowed. Any and every election in future will be under a cloud and will depend on one person and in this process you cannot go on imposing President's Rule in State after State in future. This is what is happening. I would like to know what the Government's role is. Has the Government expressed its view? Parliament was not in session then? We could not express our view. How can you hold an election in one place in one State after the declaration of results in other States? These votes were not counted for so many days. There must be some basis, some principle. It cannot be arbitrary. What we find today is another dose of extension. I am not mentioning any name but I have information and I am saying on the floor of the House with all sense of responsibility that I came to know around 8.30 p.m. yesterday from the Minister that there is going to be a postponement of elections. How could it be done?... (Interruptions). It appears that orders have been issued at 12 O' clock midnight. How could it be known to him? Obviously, there is going to be President's Rule. I would like to know the perception of the Government. You allow the period of the Assembly to expire and then there will be a demand by the Leader of the Opposition that now you have to impose President's Rule because the period of the House has expired. There you are acting in tandem with the main Opposition. How can it happen? This is a very serious situation. If that is so, let us get rid of parliamentary democracy in this country. It cannot be that one individual will decide the fate of it.

Therefore, Sir, we are very seriously perturbed about it. We cannot but express our greatest concern whether you will allow the parliamentary democracy as it is conceived by our Constitution to function or it will depend

upon the good wishes of one person overtly or covertly encouraged by the ruling party acting in collusion, apparently on this issue, with the main Opposition.

Sir, I demand that the Government make the position clear. This Parliament should express its view. There will be no further extension at all. Whatever steps are to be taken, will be taken and there will be no imposition of President's Rule in Bihar before elections are held. This has to be categorically asserted by this Government. Otherwise there will be no point in this Parliament functioning today.. (Interruptions)

What is the role we can play? We cannot be mute spectators here. Therefore I demand that the Government must make its position very clear. We would like to express our views that this will not be permitted. People of this country will not accept this position any longer. Enough is enough. We want to say this. People cannot accept this type of arbitrary exercise of power. I strongly oppose this.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that you have allowed discussion on such an important issue. It would have been better if discussion had been held after 'Question Hour' because then 'Question Hour' would have also been utilised for this subject. But it seems that some questions are agitating the minds of hon. Members at present. Firstly the defeat of the ruling party in recent elections reveals that the public has lost faith in the ruling party and it should seek a fresh mandate.

The second question relates to Bihar. Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is the biggest democratic country and delegates of several newly emerged democratic countries are visiting our country to know about our democratic system. Elections have same importance in democratic system as heart in human body. The framers of the constitution and the Law makers had an intension that elections should be free and fair and citizens the voters since the age of 18 could decide the fate of the country, by exercising franchise. Recently many States i.e. Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Orissa had elections where ruling party had been defeated. Malpractices during election, i.e. booth capturing, misuse of power, insincerity towards public and frightening of voters have not been reported at any place. It is good for the country and pride for democracy that no such complaint has been received from anywhere. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Not even in Manipur. Ninety-nine per cent polling was there.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Manipur was threatened with election violence and a worker of my party was shot dead, even then people in a large number exercised their franchise there. They expressed their faith in democracy. I would like to know that why the case of Bihar is being kept pending? Why apprehensions are being

expressed about Bihar? Why questions are being raised and political parties are apprehensive about holding free and fair elections in Bihar. Why Election Commission has become extra-ordinarily active regarding Bihar. I do not find any personal enmity between Election Commission and the Government of Bihar and such decisions are not taken on the basis of petty considerations. Earlier, 5, 7 and 9, these dates were decided for holding elections in the State which were quite suitable... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Even before that there were other dates.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: It would have been better if elections had been held and results declared and accepted before expiry date of Legislative Assembly. The dates were changed and 11, 15 and 19th were declared. We had a little objection on these dates as 'Holi' fell on 17th. There were some practical problems in holding election before and after two days of 'Holi'. People of Bihar expressed their inconveniences. 'Holi' is a festival of hustle and bustle, especially in Bihar. Election Commission was told that elections on these dates will create problems, thus it was to be decided again. Now 15, 21 and 25 have been fixed for holding elections this will further augment problems and expenditure on election campaign.

I had been to Bihar for seven days there is no proper power supply and no roads facilities in the States. You cannot be sure whether the road is full of pits or the road itself is in a pit. Situation is very pignant there but elections give us an opportunity to look into the State of affairs. The elections will continue upto 25th...

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): There is no law and order. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: I am coming to that point. Elections will continue upto 25th, ballot boxes will be collected and counting will continue upto 29th. The case regarding Purnea is a different one. There are several such issues, as is the saying goes "Hari Anant Hari Katha Ananta" (the God is an infinite entity and thus tales about him are also limitless). In my opinion the verbal meaning of 'Sheshan' is 'Shesh Na', which means nothing is left. But something should be left. There is also a serious aspect of this issue. The tenure of Bihar Legislative Assembly is going to expire and Article 172 is quite clear on it:

[English]

"Every Legislative Assembly of every State, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the Assembly."

[Translation]

There is no question of extending the period of Legislative Assembly of Bihar. Tenure of Bihar Legislative Assembly will expire on 15th of this month and I hope that it will be done. Now the question arise as to whether the

Legislative Assembly and the Government derived from the earlier one could function properly with responsibility? Its answer can be a care-taker Government. It could be for 2-3 days but this is a question of whole month. A care taker Government can do in such circumstances if it does not interfere in the functioning at administration but the present improper conduct of Bihar Government and its conduct after the dissolution will create hurdles in holding free and fair elections in the State, therefore the question of care taker Government does not arise at all.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): The same thing applies everywhere.

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): This is not happening everywhere. Elections were conducted in other States also. Nowhere happened anything like that. Apprehensions of booth capturing were expressed nowhere else. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: You cannot deliver a judgement over it yourself.

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Let me speak now. You can give your clarifications later on.

It is true that Bihar has its own history of poll-rigging but history can be changed. The whole country should and has to be brought on the lines of free and fair elections. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: You are talking against the people of Bihar, against there traditions. That is no way. This cannot be allowed. What is your contribution to Bihar and what have you got from Bihar? You are talking against the great tradition of Bihar. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Is not your leader going to speak later? We have not disturbed you.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is the responsibility of the Chief Election Commissioner to ensure that elections in every State including Bihar are conducted peacefully, that the employees deputed for the purpose perform their duty fairly and impartially, there is no booth-capturing and elections are conducted smoothly. Then, there is the Supreme Court to adjudicate upon a complaint somebody might be having against the decision of the Chief Election Commissioner. The Supreme Court has given many decisions but it should take advise on whether the popularly elected Government that claims to be enjoying popular support and confidence works in the interest of the people and why should it vitiate the atmosphere of the State by resorting to election riggings in order to regain power after throwing all the principles over board. I would like to ask the hon. Members from Bihar as to why does such complaint come from Bihar only?

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is because neither BJP nor Congress exists there. Wherever they exist, there is no disturbance!

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: It was hoped that the

Chief Election Commissioner would make arrangements for the one-day polling in Bihar recently. You may go through the newspaper reports thereof, the fax messages sent by the workers of different political parties. I do not want to quote the words of our friend from the Communist Party who just now said that there were election riggings at the polling booths. A particular class of voters were allowed to vote and the rest were denied their right to vote. The Central Security Forces were guarding the shops and roads and there were bunglings at polling booths. The district officers and the Superintendent of police allowed the elections to be rigged. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Are you condemning the Election Commission?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: One day's polling is over and there will be further polling ahead. What does democracy stand for if the law and order situation is not under control, if the voters cannot cast their votes freely and fairly? That is no democracy. Therefore, we demand that the Central Government should seek from the Governor of Bihar a report on the law and order situation of the State. We also met the Hon. President in this connection yesterday. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting like this?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: What will be the position of the State Government after the term of the Legislative Assembly expires after 15 March? How many powers shall the caretaker Government have? Whether the caretaker Government will continue to enjoy the powers of appointment, transfer and promotion of the officers and of threatening them? How can work be conducted then? The Election Commission should be consulted on this point also. We have been asking the Election Commission to take a decision after convening an all-party meeting. I would like to dismiss the allegation.

Somnath Babu uses cheap gimmicks for levelling such allegations. I did not expect him to say that the Congress and the opposition demand it. Can there be a single issue of unanimity between the Congress and the opposition? Can the Congress and Somnath Babu agree upon a particular policy? No conclusions can be drawn from this and doing so would be erroneous. The trend of elections is an indication of who is going to challenge the party in power and replace it.

I have asked the Central Government to seek a report from the State Governor. It may also seek a report from its own sources on the law and order situation in Bihar. The Government could not have conducted free and fair polls even if it were not a caretaker Government. Now this Government has no stake, no popularity. It can not conduct fair elections. Therefore, we demand that free fair elections

should be immediately conducted in Bihar after the term of the Government and the Legislative Assembly expires.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given you notice of an adjournment which, I am told, you have disallowed. But it was, of course, dealing with the same subject which is under discussion at the moment. I am quite conscious of the fact, whether we like it or not, under the Constitution, as it stands at present, we have to tolerate—the only one word I can use is 'tolerate'—whatever arbitrary or wayward or any kind of decisions which the Chief Election Commissioner may take with regard to the actual conduct of the elections. That is a supreme power he has been given under the Constitution. We cannot correct it now here today on the floor of this House. We cannot do anything. Certainly, we can register our opinion, our criticism or our opposition to some of the steps which he may have taken from a purely practical point of view. The parties which are contending in the elections in Bihar, the candidates—anybody—can understand, you can understand, Sir, what tremendous trouble and inconvenience they are being put to by this continual cut-piece sort of changing of dates. The argument which is being given, I think, by the Chief Election Commissioner is one relating to law and order.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition is asking the Government to request the Governor of Bihar to send a report here. I am saying, if the situation is so bad, the Governor, *suo motu* can also send the report. Has he sent the report—I would like to know—that rivers of blood are flowing in Bihar, thousands of people are being massacred? Has he sent any report like that? you must know very well.

And everybody knows that there are certain groups operating in Bihar who have nothing to do with the elections, who are manifestly against the elections as such, who have declared publicly that they will not allow election to be held, who have said that those people who are contesting the elections will be targeted by us and, if necessary, we will kill some of them because we want to disrupt the whole elections. They have killed also several people. I do not want to name those groups. Their names are appearing constantly in the paper. They are not a part of the election process. What are you going to do? You are going to wait until all such terrorist groups, or whatever they may be, are completely wiped out. You cannot do it.

Such insurgent groups are operating in Manipur with sophisticated weapons who are continually confronting the security forces in Manipur and every day attacking them, ambushing them, attacking their convoys, attacking the police posts, attacking the military outposts in Manipur. Why was this question not raised at that time at election should not be held in Manipur because of this law and order situation? Did the Governor send any report from there? Was he asked to send any report? Yet 80-90 per cent people of Manipur came out to vote. I think, we should salute them as a tribute to their courage and to their loyalty and their faith in the electoral process. What is

Bihar. I would like to know, compared with what was happening in Manipur?

Now I have read that order which the Chief-Election Commissioner has been pleased to issue at some time last night—midnight, I think—in which he has referred to the fact that in some places, at some of the polling stations, the forces were not properly deployed or, he says, in some cases, they were not deployed at all or in some places where they were ordered to be deployed, sufficient vehicles were not provided to carry them there. It may be so. I do not know the facts and details of these things.

And for that reasons, of course, if this has to be rectified and corrected for which he is continuously holding a series of meetings with the high officials of the State, the police, the Chief Secretary and other top officials, these things have to be pointed out, nailed down and corrected. There is no doubt about it. But, Sir, this continuous shifting of dates in this manner is disrupting the whole election process. How can anybody prepare for elections or maintain their election machinery or carry on their election campaign if dates are shifted in this manner for every two or three days? He may have the power to do it. I am not questioning his constitutional power but I certainly think that this is not the way that a responsible Chief Election Commissioner should behave, in a completely wayward manner, doing whatever he likes and then revoking his orders again. That example was given here. Two or three days ago, he said that none of the television and radio commentaries and analysis of the election results would be permitted because that would influence the people somewhere else. And today, I find that he has withdrawn that order.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: But results are not postponed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We do not know. It is going on. Why should the people of Bihar be subjected to this thing that results announced in so many States are not to have any impact on the people of Bihar. Why should it not? If it has an impact on the people in other States where polling has been held, why should it not have impact here? There is no logic and consistency in this whole pattern in the way elections are being ordered to be conducted. After all, it is his job to conduct elections in a proper way, in a democratic and peaceful way without any kind of discrimination and all that. I am afraid that this is not the way the Chief Election Commissioner is behaving and therefore, we are registering our protest.

Alongwith that has come another factor. Now, the life of the Assembly will be over tomorrow. I do not know what the Government intends to do from tomorrow or day after tomorrow. They should tell us about this. The Government of India must have considered this matter, they must be seized of it. Surely, they are not going to wait till tomorrow to make up their mind as to what they want to do in Bihar after the life of the Assembly expires. They must have come to some conclusion and they should inform the House about it. Is there to be some sort of a vacuum in which there is no Government, no administration and

nothing? Something has to be there. The so-called experts are giving conflicting views on all constitutional points. Some are saying that once the life of the Assembly expires, there cannot be a caretaker Government which does not derive its authority from the Assembly. From where will they derive their authority? Then, somebody says that that is not necessary. The Governor or, if necessary, the Rashtrapati can request somebody or the other to carry on as a caretaker Government for some period. Whatever it is, the Government of India must have decided and must have considered the matter. They must have consulted their legal experts and then must have come to some conclusion. There is no time now as the life of the Assembly expires tomorrow. People of Bihar do not know about it and they are kept in the dark. We must be told categorically here as to what the Government it at least prepared to do.

It is a fact and it may be a coincidence. Mr. Vajpayee thinks that it is just a coincidence but the fact remains that it is a very odd thing that the leaders of both the ruling party at the Centre and the main Opposition Party at the Centre are clamouring for imposition of President's rule in Bihar. It is a strange thing but it is not a very minor matter. Therefore, Sir, we are objecting and protesting strongly against this preparing of the grounds for imposition of President's rule which will be a complete violation of the democratic process and depriving the people of Bihar of their democratic right to elect their own Government. I do not know the result or the outcome of such a discussion here in this House except that it will be recorded. It may or may not have an impact on the people who matter, one being the Government, second being the Chief Election Commissioner and the third being, of course, my friend, Mr. Vajpayee. So, we should like those matters to be cleared up and we should be told authoritatively. Sometime ago, we saw some cryptic kind of a statement attributed to the Prime Minister in which he is supposed to have said said that "we are not thinking of President's rule in Bihar".

But a few days after, there was some other statement. There is one President of the Congress Committee in Bihar. He is also issuing statements that there must be President's Rule. Then Mr. Advani and Mr. Vajpayee are continually saying that there must be President's Rule. Why should there be President's Rule? There is no need for President's Rule at all. No such report has come from the Governor. If such a serious crisis existed....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How can there be elections on the 15th?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: How can there be? 17th is Holi. Two days before that is 15th and two days after that is 19th. He goes on altering the dates. Therefore, we protest strongly against this wayward kind of arbitrary fashion in which all these things are being done. It has never happened like this before. I cannot recall a single instance where in any election this kind of thing had happened.

So, Sir, we want to register our protest. This loose talk about imposition of President's Rule in Bihar should be

stopped and the Governor and the Government of India should inform the House what they intend to do tomorrow. The whole country wants to know, the people of Bihar want to know and we want to know. What is the use of this Parliament if it is kept on the dark on a matter like this?

Therefore, Sir, I am sorry, you have rejected my Adjournment Motion, But anyway, I think it is discussed very well here.

MR. SPEAKER: You know very well that it would be rejected.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: However, I am giving you the benefit of the doubt, Sir, Thank you.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one thing is very clear after hearing the Leader of the Opposition that the BJP wants the President's Rule in Bihar and the postponement of elections and the elections should be held after the imposition of the President's Rule. At the same time, the Congress party is also demanding the same thing. I saw the order of the Election Commission which was passed yesterday midnight, where it has not been mentioned that it is because of the laws and order, the elections are being postponed. If the law and order of Bihar is really bad, the Election Commission need not postpone the elections for two days or three days or for seven days. He could have said, 'No, it is not possible. The law and order is so bad that the election can be postponed'.

So, I want to bring to your notice that there is a deliberate and calculated move. It is a calculated move that the President's Rule be imposed in Bihar and the elections be postponed beyond 15th.

MR SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, one minute.

Because you were all interested in discussing this matter, this matter is being discussed. Because this matter is discussed in the newspapers and everybody is discussing it outside and sometimes it is discussed in the courts also, this matter is being discussed. But there is a thin line which we should keep in mind and we should see that if that line is crossed, there would be difficulties for all of us.

I would request you—I can understand your feelings and yet—not to use the expression which crosses the thin line, conspiracy and things like that because if you say that the Government is doing something, Government is here to reply to what you say but the constitutional authority is not here and the Government cannot reply on behalf of the constitutional authority.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, I have the apprehensions because the things are moving in such directions. It is not only in respect of holding of elections in Bihar but also the election results of Maharashtra and Gujarat and even Manipur election results. About Manipur election results, suddenly it was announced that the counting would take place. We have the information of IB. Once the IB said, 'Yes, there is a chance of Congress Party being elected in Manipur', 'it was asked that the Manipur election votes be counted.' Then about the Gujarat and Maharashtra election

results, that was not counted and it was kept for months together and suddenly it was counted, almost more than 15 days, half-a month's time. So, what was the reason? The reason was that it may influence other States' elections.

Again, they were asked to count the votes, though it was known that elections in Bihar were scheduled to be held on such and such dates. That is why, I say that there is a deliberate conspiracy. It is not only to somehow postpone the elections and bring President's Rule in Bihar. It is more than that. The idea is to postpone the elections in such a fashion whereby the Janata Government will be ousted and it will not be there in Bihar and then hold the elections subsequently. Whatever may be the decision taken by the Election Commission last night, my information is that not only are the elections not going to be held as per the schedule, but they are going to be postponed for another two or even three months! So, elections will not be held for another three months. That is the conspiracy going on. And it appears that the Government of India is behind it. Just now, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has stated that the Government of India has got nothing to do with it and that it is a matter between the Government of Bihar and the Election Commission. He says that the Government of India has no role to play.

Now it is stated that because of the alarming law and order situation, it has been decided to postpone the elections by three or seven days. Will the law and order situation be all right in three days? If the situation is bad, on that plea, elections can be postponed for months together. That means, they are deliberately planning to cross the deadline and bring President's Rule in Bihar and then only hold the elections. As already stated by Shri Indrajit Babu and Somnathji, the Congress and the BJP seem to be working in tandem. There is a clear indication because the BJP demands President's Rule and the Congress too demands it... (Interruptions).

We are interested in knowing the facts. We are simply interested to know whether the Government of India has any role to play or not. Whatever date they may be fixing, we want to know whether the elections for Bihar Assembly will be held by the 25th of this month. On the other day, we were told that President's Rule would not be imposed in Bihar. We will like to know in categorical terms, the position of Government of India vis-a-vis what is happening in the Office of the Election Commissioner. We are concerned because the people of Bihar are being deprived of exercising their franchise. Why don't you categorically say, "Yes, there will be President's Rule in Bihar and elections in Bihar will be held only under the President's Rule." Why are you playing a game of hide and seek with the people of Bihar?

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Elections have been conducted in eight States of the country during the last few months and notwithstanding adverse conditions and problems people have voted fairly

in favour of the candidates of their choice. It is a great thing in itself that despite all the problems elections were held in our democracy. Now coming to the question of our today's discussion as to why is Bihar an exception to this practice. Some people opined for quite some time that the law and order situation in Bihar was not conducive to holding elections and demands of dismissing the Government there were also made from some areas but our party did not favour this. We have said in the very beginning that we are not in favour of President's rule in Bihar or the dismissal of the elected Government but we are otherwise capable of solving the problems there. It would have been in the fitness of things if elections in Bihar were conducted according to the elections schedule framed earlier.

But unfortunately elections could not be held according to that schedule and elections had to postpone time and again. I myself had been to Bihar for election campaign. I was glad to observe that neither there was any tumult or noise of loudspeakers nor banners in excessive numbers, meetings were going on peacefully. I am glad to say that even then elections are being held. This issue has two different aspects the first is that what will be the constitutional position of the State Government after the expiry of the tenure of legislative Assembly on 13th or 15th of this month. The Article 172 of the constitution says clearly that tenure of elected legislative assembly will be for five years and this period cannot be extended. In context of Legislative Assembly, I would like to say that its tenure will expire after five years. The second thing is that whether the present Government functioning in the State could work as a caretaker Government in absence of any alternative arrangement for holding elections and forming a new Government. It is clear that Constitution does not prohibit it. There is no hurdle in it and in accordance to the constitutional provisions the present Government can work as a caretaker Government till the formation of new Government.

I am not talking about the law and order situation. It is a separate question. The question arises today is that whether there is appropriate atmosphere for holding elections in Bihar. Whether under such arrangements, voters of the State will be able to exercise their franchise freely and fairly. Our Constitution has empowered Election Commission for holding elections, even the Supreme cannot intervene in this matter. The Constitutional provisions say that even judiciary cannot interfere into it once the election process starts. Under the constitution of India, it is the highest authority for holding elections. It is not correct to blame Election Commissioner for postponing the elections. Elections have been held in several states. Congress have been defeated in four states. This situation can arise in other states also. This matter should not be taken on party basis. It is the question which relates to constitution and democracy and a matter of ethics of democracy. Election Commissioner had been to Patna for several times. He discussed the issue and asked for companies of police force and tried

his best to hold free and fair elections. But whether we will not think over the outcome drawn by the Election Commission. Election Commissioner says that he made arrangements for holding elections and asked for Central Police forces but State Governments denied to deploy Central Police Forces at those places. Not only State Governments but there are several other elements who do not have any faith in elections. It should also be taken care of. No one can put ban on democracy and elections but how the elections can be held when State Governments will not help in providing transport to security forces and companies of police force will be confined to some specific centres and sit idle in their camps. The present Bihar Government cannot escape from its responsibility for its non-cooperation with the Election Commission for holding free and fair elections in the State. It has not made any arrangement which was its democratic and moral responsibility. Bihar Government's non-cooperation with Election Commission is a serious matter for which elections are being postponed and public, political parties and democratic system of the State is suffering. It has been said that this is happening for the first time but it is a serious matter. I agree with the opinion of Shri Vajpayeeji and support his demand that Central Government should seek Governor's report because not only State Government but Central Government is also responsible for it and Government should fulfil its constitutional responsibility. Election Commission should also admit that elections are not being held there and the State does not have proper law and order situation. Report of the Government should be sought as he is Central Government's democratic agent or representative in the State.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : In that case you should also tell the Governor the kind of report that you want.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : I am not saying that holding elections under President's Rule will change the scenario. I am saying that administration, Government and Chief Minister of Bihar is responsible for the present situation as they are not cooperating with the Election Commission and creating hurdles in democratic system. In my opinion free and fair elections should be held and proper arrangements should be made for it. The present Government will not hold itself for a longer period. I demand for holding elections after imposing President's Rule as tenure of the present Government is to expire shortly.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Sir, the allegation made by Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav, that the Bihar Government is not cooperating with the Election Commission, is not true. The Election Commissioner has never said that the Bihar Government is not cooperating with him. It is a totally false allegation....(Interruptions)



[English]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: A magistrate and his driver was killed there.

[English]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened with rapt attention the arguments that have been put forward by the Leader of the Communist Party. He was pleased to observe that there is a tandem between the Government and the Opposition, that is the BJP. Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I have the temerity to ask the Opposition a simple question? If there was a tandem between the two, what happened in Gujarat?

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking a question after the Question Hour is over.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: In that case one would have put the question to the Treasury Benches and not to the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is very simple. There is an allegation that there is a tandem between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition, that is, the BJP. If there was a tandem between the two, what happened in Gujarat and Maharashtra? Will they deny the fact that Congress Governments in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra lost bears testimony of the fact that Congress Government were successfully maintaining the law and order; bears testimony of the fact that people had freedom to vote? But now what happened in Bihar? So tremendous was the onslaught, so terrific was the blot, so bloody was the machine of coercion that the people did not have the courage to even go to the polling stations to exercise their right of franchise. The atrocities that have been perpetrated and the excesses that have been committed have led the Constitutional authority, that is, the Chief Election Commissioner, to visit Bihar to hold conference with the high officials. How can they rebuke the Government for this?

Now, it is the Chief, Election Commissioner who taken cognizance of the matter. If the Chief Election Commissioner comes to the conclusion that there may not be a free election in the given circumstances, he has unfettered powers to postpone it. It does not mean that when it comes to the *bona fide* of the Treasury Benches they should take it with a grain of salt. Sir, in the interest of justice and fair play, I personally feel that there should be the President's Rule in that State...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: This is exactly what I was about to say. Now, I think Atalji will accept the position. It is very clear that the Congress and the BJP opposed the President's Rule there. Everything is clear now...(Interruptions)

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the first time that the elections are being held in one of the States of the country. So many times, in so many States of the country, the elections have been held. But, for the first time, we experienced that dates have been shifted again and again. As hon. Shri Vajapayee has already referred that the dates were shifted from 5th, 7th and 9th to 11th and other dates. This is not for the first time that they have done it rather the elections were

scheduled to be at the beginning of February but it was shifted from February to March and now again it is going to be shifted from 11th, 15th, 19th to other dates up to 25th of March. So, this is very much paradoxical. This is just a mockery of the elections. Now, the people are demanding for promulgation of President's rule. What is the justification of that? Who is responsible for this state which had been created and who is creating this Constitutional crisis?

Some hon. Members have made a charge against the Bihar Government that the Bihar Government could not extend full cooperation to the Election Commission. This is also baseless. Two top officials viz., the Chief Secretary and the DGP, were also removed at the instance and at the instructions of the chief Election Commissioner... (Not recorded)...is issuing all sorts of rules and regulations, all sorts of directions to the State Government and the State Government is just observing them. But, now, the Central Government is also sitting silent. This state of Constitutional crisis had been created intentionally. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Name will not go on record.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: The intention is very much clear from the very beginning itself, viz., from the month of February. The deadline was 15th March. Before 15th March, whose responsibility was it to conduct the elections? How were the elections held in different States of the country? How were the elections held in Punjab? What was the outcome? What was the percentage of voting? But, now, the people are telling that there is just no law and order existing in that State.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not ask questions in Question Hour and now you are asking questions in speeches. You sit down.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Similarly in Andhra Pradesh also, rigging was just resorted to by the then Chief Minister and so many deaths also took place in Andhra Pradesh. In Manipur also, similar situation existed and now, there, the elections were allowed to be held. For the first time, the Chief Election Commissioner, had announced that the election results would not be announced. This was done in order to influence elections in Bihar. Similarly in Orissa also, dates were shifted from February to March and the election results were also influenced and in the process, the Congress Party was helped. Similarly, they are just trying to influence the election results in Bihar and that is why they are shifting or postponing the dates from one date to another. They are postponing the elections on one pretext or another, sometime on the pretext of Ramzan, sometime on the pretext of fasting, sometime on the pretext of Holi and sometime on the pretext of Muharram. Now, the people are asking for the Governor's Report. What sort of Report the Governor will be asked to give?

MR. SPEAKER: Do not repeat the points.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: The ex-Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had submitted a wrong affidavit before the

Supreme Court. At that time, the people were not surprised. Now, the Laloo government is observing all sorts of restrictions imposed by the Election Commission and now they are trying to have some sort of promulgation of this President's rule there. This is wrong. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you please sit down.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: If this sort of a thing takes place, in that case, there will be a rebellion and the people of Bihar cannot be stopped from that. There will be a complete and total confusion in that part of the country. Then, the Central Government and the Election Commission will be held responsible for the consequences.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, a serious situation had arisen and we are discussing that here. I am happy that we have allowed the Leaders of Parties to express their opinion on this matter.

First of all, I would like to repudiate strongly the insinuation and allegations made that there is a conspiracy of hide and seek.

13.00 hrs.

I want to make it absolutely clear that the Central Government and the Election Commission have been handling the entire matter in their own spheres on the basis of merits. There is no question of any conspiracy or any such understanding which goes contrary to the Constitution or contrary to the Rules. Sir, here I would like again to say that the elections have to be held in a fair and frank manner, in such a manner that electorates can cast their votes without fear or favour. Therefore, Sir, taking into account the opinions expressed in the House we would like to consider this matter and come to a decision. We have got the report from the Bihar Administration, from the Bihar Governor and we will consider it today. Today we will consider the matter and come to a conclusion as to what action should be taken. (*Interruptions*)

13.0½ hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Economic Survey, 1994-95 and Report of the Tenth Finance Commission, together with explanatory Memorandum showing action taken thereon.**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAR SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the 'Economic Survey, 1994-95' (Hindi and English versions).

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-7074/95)

- (2) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tenth Finance Commission together with an explanatory Memorandum showing the action taken thereon, under article 281 of the Constitution.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-7074/95)

**Annual Report and Review on the Working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems for 1991-92 alongwith a statement showing reasons for delay in laying the papers etc.**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): I bet to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems for the year 1991-92 alongwith audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems for the year 1991-92.

(Placed in Library See No. LT-7076/95)

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-7076/95)

- (3) A copy of each of the Following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a)(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7077/95]

- (b)(i) Review by the government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item (a) of (3) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7078/95]

**Notifications under Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): I bet to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Third Admendment Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 863(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th December, 1994 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the

Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 41(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 1995 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 863(E) dated the 14th December, 1994 issued under section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976. [Placed In Library See No. LT 7079/95]

Review on the Working of and Annual Report of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Ltd. Gandhinagar for 1993-94 alongwith a Statement showing reasons for delay in laying the papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): I beg to lay on the Table on behalf of Shri S. Krishna Kumar:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 1993-94.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed In Library. See No. LT 7080/95]

Annual report and Review on the working of the Bihar Education Project Council, Patna for 1993-94 alongwith a statement showing reasons for delay in laying the papers etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bihar Education Project Council, Patna, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bihar Education Project Council, Patna, for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Place in Library. See No. LT-7081/95]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit

Vidyapeetham, Tirupati, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Account (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetham, Tirupati, for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon.
  - (iii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetham, Tirupati, for the year 1993-94.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above [Placed in Library See No. LT-7082/95]

13.01 1/2 hrs.

#### ASSENT TO BILL

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1995 passed by the Houses of Parliament during current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 14th February, 1995.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at fourteen of the clock.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

#### Re:Postponement of Elections in Bihar.. (contd) (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just before the recess, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs made a statement, which I can say, is an exercise in ambiguity. It does not clarify what is the stand of the Government. He says, after he goes through the record and all that, then they will come to a decision.

This is a very serious matter. We want a categorical statement from the Government. You must have thought about it, must have made up your mind about it. Kindly take the House into confidence and let the country know about it.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): We have been pondering over the matter particularly after we have heard the hon. leaders from the Opposition on this particular subject. One constitutional point I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. House and the Leaders of the Opposition is that appropriation for money to be spent in the State of Bihar has been made upto 31st of March.

The election dates as announced yesterday by the

Election Commission show polling upto 25th of March and then they are giving three or four days for counting. It would require a Notification for the constitution of the House and the House to meet, take oath and then some Chief Minister or some government come up and create the money for expenditure. There is no other body except the State legislature which can do it.

In case this is not possible to be done, then we would have to do it in Parliament. Otherwise, apart from Parliament or the State legislature, there is no other way of doing it. Therefore, we will have to seriously consider this matter as to how to do it in such a manner that this constitutional crisis does not grip the State of Bihar. So I would request all the leaders present here in the House to consider this matter so that we can take a considered view in this matter and go ahead with our normal Business here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The simple solution that I suggest is, and I am sure everybody will agree that earlier date has been fixed for 19th or even 21st for that matter. There is one date mentioned. Let us request the Election Commissioner through this House. I know you cannot direct and I cannot dictate to him—that in view of the situation let the election be postponed from 25th to 21st of March. Let this request be sent to him. Let the Government join in this request and then I am sure the election can be held and all problems will be solved.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, the point is that the period of this Government is finishing today. What happens tomorrow whether it is upto 21st or upto 25th, that is a subsidiary question. The first question is, what happens tomorrow. Therefore, we want the President's Rule to be imposed there immediately...*(Interruptions)* You cannot manipulate as per your own sweet will. The Constitution lays down that it cannot be extended...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We have heard the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and the point that he made was that there might be a constitutional problem so far as the expenditure is concerned because the Budget has been passed upto 31st March. If the election is held on 25th and the counting takes place upto 29th or 30th, then this kind of problem may arise.

Therefore, as suggested by Shri Somnath Chatterjee the election can be postponed from 25th to 21st or even to 19th March, whatever earlier date was fixed, there is no problem. On 19th also the elections can be held. So the Election Commission can be requested that in view of this problem the elections can be held on 19th or at best by 21st.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The same is obvious. there is no other way out if you want to avoid the constitutional crisis.

Secondly, let the fact that we do not want President's rule be quite clear. The Government have also said that they do not want President's Rule. Then the only way to do it is this. Of course, the Election Commissioner may not

heed to our request. He may have some other consideration in mind but there is no harm in making a request to him that in view of this technical implication which has now come to light, it is better if the date is postponed, leaving a sufficient margin of time for the process of polling, counting, declaration of results and swearing in of the new Assembly and new Government that is being formed, leaving enough time for that, so that appropriation can be made. Otherwise, there may be a situation in which even the salaries of Government employees cannot be paid and all that. That will create a big crisis.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chiltorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to repeat everything that has been said earlier. I had submitted for your consideration certain notices seeking your permission to raise the matter during Zero Hour, etc.

The points have been adequately made. What is extremely worrisome for us is the arbitrariness of the Union Government, as also of the authorities that are managing the elections. It is to no one's satisfaction that elections be arbitrarily shifted from day to day.

*[Translation]*

No one is satisfied over the postponement of elections from one date to another. Sometimes they decide 15th and then 25th for it. I would not like to discuss the legal aspect of the problem as several Members have already discussed the issue. Hon. Indrajeetji has described the law and order situation in the State. It is not the subject of this debate. Election Commissioner blames deterioration in the law and order situation for not holding the election but it is under his powers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaswant Singhji, probably were not here. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has explained that there is a constitutional difficulty. If the money is not available for disbursement of salary and things to be done after a particular date, what do we do? He was trying to explain that that was a constitutional difficulty. How to overcome that constitutional difficulty is a question. Parliament is a constitutional authority. The Election Commission is also a constitutional authority. We shall have to solve the constitutional problems. Those should not be allowed to be complicated.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I understand it and I tried to brief myself. Unfortunately I got a wrong message from the hon. Minister's Office that I should reach his Office. So, instead of reaching here, I reached his Office and while I was in transit, he explained the matter to the House. These two, his calling me to his Office when the House is in Session and the Government not knowing what is to be done in Bihar, are both of the same kind.

MR. SPEAKER: Probably he was trying to explain to you the constitutional difficulty in his Chamber so that when the discussions take place, it would be easier for us to be very correct on that position.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I know that. I do not want to derive satisfaction from pointing out that had the Union

Government been alert, it would not be now, at this eleventh hour, attempting to find out what the constitutional difficulty is. They were in the knowledge that elections are likely to be postponed. Elections certainly had to be postponed until the 19th. From the 19th, on account of various factors, now elections have again been postponed. With the result, that the final counting will not be finished till the 29th and the Assembly cannot be constituted before the end of this month, when perhaps a week-end or something intervenes, therefore, what is the Government going to do? We have been submitting precisely this point since this morning that from the 15th of March, that is tomorrow, what becomes the status of the Bihar Government and secondly, what has the Governor of Bihar actually reported. The Governor of Bihar should have applied himself to this aspect that if you postpone elections, this is what is going to happen. To our mind, out of all these, there is only one solution and covering all aspects, whether of postponement of elections or of law and order or of free and fair elections now of the remaining rounds that are necessary, without bearing any animosity against any Government as such, there is no other option but to take recourse to an imposition of President's Rule tomorrow, and to have a caretaker Government to do these things as the time comes.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I must state here emphatically that we did not know, we were not aware of the fact that elections are going to be postponed again and new dates are going to be fixed. The Election Commission does not do those things, fixing of dates, etc., in consultation with the Union Government. They make the assessment on their own and then they announce the dates. But this particular aspect has now come up and I have explained it here.

As all the leaders have explained their views, I will certainly convey the wishes of the House and also the feelings of the House to the Election Commission so that this constitutional problem can be resolved.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Today itself.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Yes.

14.16 hrs.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**  
Eighty-seventh Report

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): I beg to present the Eighty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on action taken on Fifty-second Report of Public Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on Purchase of properties by the Central Government.

14.16 1/2 hrs.

**RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE**  
Ninth Report and Minutes

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY (MEDAK): I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the

Railway Convention Committee on 'Rate of Dividend for 1995-96 and other ancillary matters' along with Minutes relating thereto.

14.17 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS**

**Eleventh and Twelfth Reports and Minutes**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railway (1994-95):—

(1) Eleventh Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Third Report of the Committee on Gauge Conversion on Indian Railways.

(2) Twelfth Report on 'Production Units of Indian Railways' and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

14.17 1/2 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
Sixteenth Report

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (BERHAMPORE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Annual Report (1993-94) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Environmental Pollution and Related Issues).

14.18 hrs.

**ELECTION TO COMMITTEES**

**(I) Estimates Committee**

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (SHIMLA): I beg to move the following:—

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the

term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996."

*The motion was adopted.*

## (II) Public Accounts Committee

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): I beg to move the following:—

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): I beg to move the following:—

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

## (III) Committee on Public Undertakings

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (CHIMUR): I beg to move the following:—

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the

Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (CHIMUR): I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

## (IV) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[Translation]

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ (SARANGARH): I move the following:—

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ (SARANGARH): I move the following:—

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1995 and ending on the 30th April, 1996 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.22 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULL 377

##### (i) **Need to construct a fly-over on Railway crossing at Kothapupra and provide certain other Railway Facilities in Ferozepore and Faridkot in Punjab**

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (FARIDKOT): I wish to draw the attention of Minister of Railways towards the genuine demands of the people of Ferozepore and Faridkot districts in Punjab for providing certain railway facilities. Delhi-Ferozepore and Delhi-Fazilka lines require immediate and proper attention. The construction of a fly-over at the railway crossing at Kothapura is an old demand which has not been considered so far. Not to speak of introduction of new trains, the railway authorities have even withdrawn trains such as: 11FB-2FB, Ferozepore-Ganga Nagar, 347-348, Ferozepore Ambala; 1 RF-2RF, Fazilka-Rewari.

Train Nos. 369-370 Ferozepore-Delhi; 87-88, Ferozepore-Kalka Express etc. have not been revived in spite of repeated requests in this regard.

I therefore, urge upon the Honourable Minister of Railways to look into the matter.

##### (ii) **Need to appoint a high power committee to look into the problems of air passengers**

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA (CHITRADURGA): The Central Government have amended the Air Corporation Act and introduced the Open Sky Policy to

provide better facilities to the travelling public. This is to create healthy competition among the airline operators so that there will be effective utilisation of resources and manpower to attain optimum efficiency and to provide best services to the passengers. But, strangely two major problems have cropped up after the introduction of the open sky policy. These are excessive concentration on trunk routes by all airline operators including Indian Airlines and less concentration in the new areas for operating airlines.

On account of these problems it has become very difficult to get air bookings to places like Baroda, Delhi-Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Delhi-Udaipur and Aurangabad. In addition, the conditions of some of the airports should be revived and upgraded along with the required paraphernalia. There are many other important factors like safety measures, landing and take off facilities etc. which have to be considered very seriously.

Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to appoint a high power committee at the earliest to look into these problems of air passengers.

##### (iii) **Need for early clearance to the projects/Proposals of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.**

[Translation]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many projects and proposals sent by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi like regularisation of unauthorised colonies, filling of vacant posts in various departments of Government of national Capital Territory of Delhi have been lying pending for clearance with central Ministries. Due to it there has been delay in solving the problems of the people of Delhi and thus thousands of people are facing great difficulties.

I, therefore, urge the hon. Prime Minister to clear all the projects, sent by the Government of Union Territory of Delhi so that problems of the people could be solved effectively.

##### (iv) **Need to connect ajmer (Rajasthan) by air.**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ajmer is an internationally renowned city. This city has cultural, religious, historical and educational importance. The famous Tirtharaj Pushkar and Dargah Sharif of Sant Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti are situated here, which are visited by pilgrims and tourists from abroad. Millions of people take part in fairs held in this city. The famous Mayo College and several other old educational institutions and varasities are situated here. Students from various parts of the country come here to study. Ajmer and Pushkar are important from the view point of tourism. The climate of this area, historical and religious places continuously attract the attention of tourists from the country and abroad.

The very first leader of nationalism Maharshi

Dayanand Saraswati abode to heaven in this city itself and thus Aryasmaji people from all over the world keep visiting his samadhi. More than one lakh families belonging to business community, live in Ajmer and their business is spread over to Hongkong, Singapore, Philippines, Africa, Dubai and Abudhabi etc.

Ajmer is the main city of Rajasthan. The famous market of Byavar for woolen, textile, asbestos and cement is also situated here. It is an industrial city as well as famous cantonment of Nasirabad is also situated here. The famous industrial centres of marble and powerloom are also situated here.

Ajmer had taken part in freedom struggle also. Rajasthan had several princely States and Ajmer was the main centre of activities of freedom fighters and revolutionaries. But so far this important city has not been connected by air and all the pilgrims, tourists, businessmen face a lot of difficulties. Government and political leaders gave assurances time and again but nothing could be done and people are dissatisfied over the issue.

I, therefore, request the Government to set up an airport at Ajmer to connect it by air so that this city could be developed properly.

#### (V) Need to Sanction a Railway gate near Raninagar Junction, Jalapaiguri in West Bengal

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, there is an urgent need for sanctioning a railway gate near Raninagar Railway Junction, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, on the road leading to Rabindra Nath High School. Everyday hundreds of people and school students cross this railway track at the risk of their lives. There is no other alternative road. Due to this, accidents take place there regularly. The people of the area are very much agitated on this issue.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to sanction a Railway gate there in order to avoid accidents.

14.29 hrs.

#### THE PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): We have ten years time period to bring changes in the Patents Act to give protection to product patent. What is the hurry? Why the Government has brought forward this Bill bringing product patenting now itself, which is not in our interest?

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss it at the time when

it comes up again. I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not at the time of introduction that you object to it. You object to it at the time of consideration.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want a Division.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Bill should not be introduced....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: 'Aye'.

MR. SPEAKER: Those against will please say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'No'.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the 'Ayes' have it. The 'Ayes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The 'Noes' have it.

Sir, we want a division on this.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, let the Lobbies be cleared.

I think we are using this device for the first time. A little bit of explanation would be required. We have announced that the budget will be shown to the people outside on T.V. If you agree, we can ask the Minister to present the budget, and after the budget is presented, we can take up this item.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Will it be done afterwards?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it will be done later because a little bit of explaining and all those things will be required.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: That will be all right, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the doors be opened.

14.32 hrs.

#### RAILWAY BUDGET, 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Revised Estimates for 1994-95 and Budget Estimates for 1995-96 for the Indian Railways.

Before I start the customary review of the performance during the current year to set the background for the projections of the next year, I wish to place before this august House an overview of the performance of the Railways from the time this Government assumed charge in 1991. Such a review has to be in the context of the ongoing economic reforms since, demand for rail transport being a derived one, changes in the economic situation have considerable



impact on the performance of the Railways. Further, as a crucial infrastructure, Railways have to play a very important role in the economic development of the country.

Under the inspired leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, the economic reforms and the liberalisation process set in motion by the Government have given a tremendous fillip to economic growth. It is being universally acclaimed that our country is among the most successful in the world in implementing economic and structural reforms without falling into any pitfalls associated with such transformation from a regulated to a market-friendly economy. As a result of these reforms, the economy is now poised for a breakthrough. Foreign Exchange reserves are at an all-time high, agricultural production is expected to scale new heights and industrial growth is expected to be close to eight per cent in the current year. Naturally, the demand for rail transportation is bound to grow rapidly.

In keeping with the spirit of the economic reforms under implementation, the Railways have adopted several innovative measures to bring about changes. Some success has been achieved in getting the private sector to participate in the creating of Railway assets. I refer to the modified "Own Your Wagon" scheme which has attracted considerable interest amongst the larger customers of the Railways. It is expected that before the current financial year closes, we will be able to finalise orders for a substantial number of wagons under the scheme. The current year also witnessed the trail-blazing induction of private enterprise for operating five tourist circuits on four routes.

Attention continued to be focussed on capacity generation through better maintenance of the existing assets and creation of alternative routes by conversion from MG to BG. A point I wish to highlight in this context is the drastic reduction of arrears in track renewal, which stood at 9,600 km at the beginning of the Eighth Plan, likely to come down to-around 1,950 km by the end of the Plan. The implementation of Project 'Unigauge', which attracted some well-intentioned but misinformed criticism, was pursued vigorously for completing the conversion of over 4,700 km to Broad Gauge in the first three years of the Eighth Plan, to be followed by the completion of 1,500 km more in the next year, thus exceeding the Plan target of 6,000 km in four years. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the blessings, encouragement and support he has given us for the successful completion of this all-important modernisation schemes. Other achievements needing special mention are the complete elimination of steam traction from the Broad Gauge system, and attaining self-sufficiency in the production of locomotives, wheels and axles. Mobility of wagons has been increased by closing down 27 marshalling yards.

Highlights of the financial performance during the years since 1991 relate to default-free payment of dividend to general revenues, extinguishing of deferred dividend liability of Rs. 416 cr, discharging of loan liability of Rs. 534 cr incurred for Development Fund works in the earlier

years, building up of a sizeable balance of Rs. 985 cr in the Depreciation Reserve Fund and improving the operating ratio from 92% in 1990-91 to 83% in 1993-94. Effective inventory control resulted in the reduction of inventory turnover ratio to 24%, leading to a saving of about Rs. 233 cr. Centralisation of purchase of certain components required for the manufacture of concrete sleepers and changing the mode of purchase to open tenders instead of limited tenders traditionally followed in respect of some components, have opened up the possibility of creating healthy competition and securing lower prices. These need to be pursued. Intensifying the efforts relating to scrap disposal brought about rich dividends in that realisation increased from Rs. 410 cr. in 1990-91 to over Rs. 900 cr in 1994-95. Significant achievement in the financial performance is in respect of Plan financing. The internal resources component of Plan expenditure, together with market borrowing, has risen to such a level that Railways could cope with a budgetary support as low as 17% in 1993-94 and 18% in 1994-95, far lower than in the previous Plans.

This period witnessed special efforts being taken for providing some improved facilities, although still inadequate, for the benefit of the travelling public. Thus a record number of 464 new trains and 277 extensions to existing services were introduced during the last four years. Fast and convenient services for inter-city travel such as Shatabdi Expresses, Main Line EMUs and Diesel Multiple Units have also been introduced, ushering in a new era of transportation.

In the context of the implementation of some of the recommendations of the Railway Fare and Freight Committee (Dr. Nanjundappa Committee) and the Committee on "Organisation Structure and Management Ethos of Indian Railways" (Prakash Tandon Committee) a few committees had been set up to work out the modalities. The Gupta-Prakash Narain Committee have presented a report covering certain aspects relating to recruitment to various railway services with a view to improving organisation effectiveness. Another Committee-Poulose Committee-have suggested certain path-breaking measures to bring about better commercial orientation within the existing arrangements of Government ownership and operations through a modified instrument to regulate the relationship between general finance and railway finance. A third Committee—Hasan Iqbal Committee—have presented a conceptual recommending some far-reaching reforms in the systems of costing, cost control, revenue accounting and so on with a view to introducing Principles of Responsibility Accounting on Indian Railways. All these reports are under active consideration of the Ministry of Railways. It shall be my endeavour to see that the recommendations are implemented to the extent feasible without much loss of time.

Sir, having given a bird's eye view of the achievements of the Railways under the present Government which form the backdrop for the budget to be

unfolded shortly, I can assure the House, through you, that it shall be our endeavour to continue the good efforts to retain the unique position of Indian Railways among the railway systems of the world as the largest and the only one to earn profits year after year.

Sir, as you are aware, the traffic performance in 1992-93 was adversely affected by disturbances in many parts of the country. It was thought that this was a temporary phenomenon. But the adverse effects continued in the year 1993-94 also. In particular, there was less offer of traffic than expected from the core sectors of the economy. Railways could move 359 million tonnes of revenue earning freight, which was nine million tonnes more than the traffic carried in 1992-93, but fell short of the revised target of 362 million tonnes. Passenger traffic also did not register growth as per original expectations.

Consequent to the drop in traffic expected, the Revised Estimates of earnings were reduced from the Budget Estimates of Rs. 19,096 cr to Rs. 18,505 cr. The earnings that actually materialised were only Rs. 18,259 cr. The position was further aggravated by the mounting dues especially from the State Electricity Boards and other Power Houses, which went up by about Rs. 300 cr. at the end of 1993-94. In the result, actuals of Gross Traffic Receipts came to Rs. 17,946 cr, as against the Revised Estimate of Rs. 18,585 cr. Ordinary Working Expenses for the year were Rs. 11,760 cr, just a little higher than the Revised Estimate of Rs. 11,755 cr, but Rs. 195 cr. lower than the Budget Estimate of Rs. 11,955 cr. Appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund, which was reduced in Revised estimate to Rs. 2,100 cr. from the Budget estimate of Rs. 2,400 cr, in view of a reduction in the Plan size, was finally adjusted at Rs. 1,875 cr, in the actuals. Payment of Dividend to General Revenues was effected almost at the Revised Estimate level. Ultimately, the 'Excess' as per actuals was Rs. 1,806 cr, falling short of the Budget and Revised Estimate figure of Rs. 2,195 cr.

Sir, keeping in view the Eighth Plan target of revenue earning freight traffic fixed by the Planning Commission at 418 million tonnes, Railways fixed a target of 380 million tonnes for the year 1994-95. The freight performance during the current year did not come up to expectation during the first nine months. Against the proportionate loading target of 273 mt in the first nine months of the year, the actual loading was 265 mt after meeting all the demands of traffic offered to the Railways, transport capacity was available but not fully utilised. Lately, there are encouraging signs of increased offer of traffic; Railways are endeavouring to meet the challenge. Further, transport capacity being perishable, and capacity creation being highly capital-intensive, the Railways' infrastructure cannot absorb the peaking pattern discernible now, and some delays become inevitable; surplus capacity goes abegging during the first eight to nine months, while excess offer of traffic comes during the remaining months, leading to unsatisfied demands.

This is a challenge to be met, with cooperation from all rail users. The Railways should play their part as well. As

already indicated, the response of the industry to the revised 'Own Your Wagon' scheme has been very encouraging. Another initiative that has been taken is the leasing of infrastructure and rolling stock under the scheme known as 'Build, Own, Lease and Transfer' (BOLT). Sufficient interest is discernible, and the success of the response would be known only after some time when physical assets become available. These two initiatives would enable Railways to accept the challenge of peaking in the coming years, suitably supplementing by adjustments in investment priorities as necessary.

The drop in bulk movement has been made good, to some extent, by a remarkable spurt in the movement of traffic by containers. This is reflected in the increased turnover of the Container Corporation of India.

There is a happy sign that the growth in passenger traffic is far more than our expectations, hopefully in response to the steps taken by the Railways for improving the passenger services.

Sir, in view of the drop in freight traffic, and in its lead, the target of earnings from freight traffic is being reduced to Rs. 13,700 cr in the Revised Estimate from the Budget Estimate of Rs. 14,289 cr. As there is a healthy increase in passenger traffic, more than expected, the estimate of Passenger Earnings is being revised upwards from Rs. 5,138 cr to Rs. 5,410 cr. The revenue from Other Coaching and Sundry Other Earnings is also likely to be more than the Budget Estimates by a small margin of Rs. 18 cr. The total traffic earnings are, therefore, being revised to Rs. 19,970 cr as compared to the Budget Estimate of Rs. 20,269 cr—a reduction of Rs. 299 cr. Gross Traffic Receipts have to be reduced by a larger margin to Rs. 19,920 cr in the Revised Estimate as against the Budget Estimate of Rs. 20,394 cr, on account of the accumulation of receivables from power sector.

As in the previous years, Railways have launched an Action Plan to reduce the operating cost by taking various measures to achieve economies while retaining the efficiency of the system. Some reduction of expenditure is also to be expected on account of the lower volume of freight movement. Accordingly, a saving of about Rs. 257 cr in working expenses is anticipated. The Revised Estimate of Ordinary Working Expenses has, therefore, been reduced to Rs. 13,050 cr from the Budget Estimate of Rs. 13,307 cr.

The Plan outlay approved for 1994-95 at the level of Rs. 6,515 cr provided for the procurement of 18,000 wagons. A need-based review of the requirement, keeping in view the reduced transport output and improvement in the operating indices, revealed that not more than 12,000 wagons would be required to be procured. This has resulted in a saving of about Rs. 280 cr. Better realisation of credits due to tight monitoring of a accountal and disposal of released materials has also been of help. We expect to realise our enhanced target of Rs. 965 cr through the disposal of scrap. It is, therefore, proposed to place the total Plan Outlay for 1994-95 at Rs. 6,255 cr, which implies

a reduction of Rs. 260 cr from the budgeted level of Rs. 6,515 cr.

In view of the reduction in Plan outlay, the appropriation to the 'Depreciation Reserve Fund' is proposed to be made at a lower level of Rs. 2,140 cr in the Revised Estimate, as compared to Rs. 2,300 cr in the Budget estimate. For the Pension Fund, the appropriation is being enhanced by Rs. 50 cr to Rs. 1,750 cr in the Revised Estimate to meet a higher outgo now anticipated. With some marginal variations in the Net Miscellaneous Receipts and Dividend Payable to General Revenues, the 'Excess' arrived at is Rs. 1,870 cr. This amount, which is Rs. 100 cr less than anticipated in the Budget Estimate, will be utilised to meet the expenditure on works chargeable to the Capital Fund and the Development Fund as per the Revised Estimate of Plan outlay.

The basic objective of all reforms should be to provide adequate benefit and facilities to the people to improve the quality of their life. With this objective in view, I intend to introduce several facilities in the form of additional trains, new services, extension of services, and a few additional halts, by intensively utilising the passenger coaches and improving and rationalising the rake links. Nineteen new trains, introduction of fully unreserved trains on four sectors, extension of the run of nine trains, increased frequency of four express trains, additional halts for two pairs of Rajdhani Express and one of Shatabdi Express trains, introduction of Diesel Multiple Units in fifteen more sectors, providing Mainline Electrical Multiple Units in ten more sectors, rail bus services in eight additional sectors, etc., are some of the additional facilities proposed.

I am happy to inform the House that the following 19 new trains are proposed to be introduced during 1995-96:

- (1) A Shatabdi Express between Howrah and Bokaro
- (2) A Shatabdi Express between Howrah and Rourkela
- (3) A Shatabdi Express between Madras and Coimbatore
- (4) A Shatabdi Express between Hubli and Bangalore
- (5) An express train between Howrah and Jodhpur via Jaipur (in lieu of 3111/3112 Jaipur-Sealdah Express)
- (6) An express train between Delhi and Varanasi/Muzaffarpur
- (7) Bikaner-Jaipur Inter-city Express
- (8) Tirupati-Cuddappah Inter-city Express
- (9) An express train between Bangalore and Miraj
- (10) Emakulam-Trivandrum Inter-city Express via Alleppey
- (11) Jaipur-Delhi Inter-city Express

- (12) An express train between Raxaul and Muzaffarpur (on conversion of this section to B.G.)
- (13) Kanpur-Farukhabad Inter-city Express (M.G.)
- (14) Ahmadabad-Bhavnagar Inter-city Express (M.G.)
- (15) A bi-weekly express train between Bombay and Tirupati
- (16) A weekly express train between Nagercoil and Bombay VT via Madurai
- (17) A weekly express train between Howrah and Guwahati
- (18) A weekly express train between Howrah and Gorakhpur via Varanasi
- (19) A weekly express train between Bangalore and Quilon via Alleppey

There are certain sectors where passengers do not easily get confirmed reservation. Besides, many passengers have to plan their travel at last moment and are unable to obtain reserved berths readily. By way of a beginning a meeting their requirement, I have decided to introduce fully unreserved trains on four sectors. These are:

- (1) A bi-weekly express train between Amritsar and Barauni via Saharanpur
- (2) An express train between Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur
- (3) A weekly express train between Puri and Ahmadabad via Vizianagaram/Raipur
- (4) A bi-weekly express train between Saurat and Varanasi.

Sir, I am sure the House will be delighted to know that the Konkan Railway will be opened during the current year. In addition to certain express trains which will be diverted via Konkan Railway, an Inter-city/Shatabdi Express between Bombay and Madgaon and an overnight express train between Kurla and Madgaon are proposed to be introduced on this route.

The run of the following nine trains is proposed to be extended:

- (1) 5657/5658 Sealdah-Guwahati Kanchanjunga Express up to Lumding
- (2) 2479/2480 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Miraj-Goa Express up to Castle Rock
- (3) 8011/8012 Howrah-Rourkela Ispat Express up to Jharsuguda
- (4) 5185/5186 Sealdah-Chhapra tri-weekly Express up to Gorakhpur
- (5) 3021/3022 Howrah-Muzaffarpur Mithila Express up to Raxaul
- (6) 5327/5328 Lucknow-Dudhwa Sanctuary Express up to Tilkunia (M.G.)
- (7) 5325/5326 Mathura-Bareilly Gokul Express up to Gonda, starting from Agra Fort (M.G.)
- (8) 2015/2016 New Delhi-Jaipur Shatabdi Express up to Ajmer.

- (9) 7015/7016 Secunderabad-Srikakulam Road-Visakha Express upto Palasa

The frequency of the following four express trains will be increased during 1995-96:

- (1) 2423/2424 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express from weekly to tri-weekly
- (2) 7003/7004 Secunderabad-Howrah Falaknuma Express from weekly to tri-weekly
- (3) 3141/3142 Sealdah-Haldibari/New Alipurduar-Teesta Torsha Express from six days a week to daily
- (4) 2801/2802 New Delhi-Puri Purushottam Express from five days a week to daily.

After careful consideration of the numerous demands received from various sources for providing additional stoppages for existing trains, it has been decided to provide the following:

- (a) a halt at New Bongaigaon for Train Nos. 2423/2424 Rajdhani Express trains between New Delhi and Guwahati;
- (b) a halt at Palghat for Train Nos. 2431/2432 Rajdhani Express trains between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Thiruvananthapuram;
- (c) a halt at Ambala for Train Nos. 2011/2012 Shatabdi Express trains between New Delhi and Chandigarh.

Providing additional halts for the super-fast trains affects their running time and punctuality, eroding their superfast character. These aspects need to be kept in view while considering requests for additional stoppages.

During my last Budget Speech, I had outlined the Railways' strategy to segregate short distance passenger traffic from long distance traffic by introduction of Diesel Multiple Units/Diesel Push Pull services in areas not served by electrified lines and Main Line Electric Multiple Units on the electrified lines. Diesel Multiple Units were first introduced in Jalandhar area and Main Line Electric Multiple Units on Asansol-Bardhaman section of Eastern Railway and Delhi-Panipat section of Northern Railway. There was enthusiastic response, and Diesel Push-Pull services were introduced on the following sectors:

- (1) Dombivili/Diva-Vasai Road
- (2) Diva-Roha-Veer
- (3) Sambalpur-Jharsuguda-Rourkela
- (4) Ranaghat-Gede
- (5) Mansi-Barauni-Patna
- (6) Delhi-Shamli-Saharanpur
- (7) Secunderabad-Bolarum, Secunderabad-Umdanagar and Secunderabad-Bibinagar
- (8) Visakhapatnam-Palasa and Visakhapatnam-Tuni
- (9) Baidyanathdham-Jasidih-Jhajha-Kiul
- (10) Sahibganj-Jamalpur-Bhagalpur

- (11) Bangalore-Mysore, Bangalore-Arsikere and Bangalore area
- (12) Durg-Raipur-Baghabahara
- (13) Delhi-Moradabad
- (14) Delhi-Meerut-Saharanpur

During 1995-96, I propose to introduce Diesel Multiple Units/Diesel Push-Pull services on the following 14 additional sectors:

- (1) Bhagalpur-Barharwa-Katwa
- (2) Adra-Kharagpur
- (3) Fazilka-Bathinda
- (4) Faziika-Ferozpur
- (5) Pune-Daund-Baramati
- (6) Indore-Bhopal
- (7) Ahmedabad-Viramgam
- (8) Ernakulam-Quilon
- (9) Ernakulam-Guruvayur
- (10) Guntur-Repalle
- (11) Guntur-Macherha
- (12) Tenali-Vijayawada
- (13) Barauni-Samastipur-Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur
- (14) Guwahati-New Bongaigaon.

I also propose to introduce Main Line Electric Multiple Units (MEMU) on the following ten additional sectors:

- (1) Dhanbad-Gaya
- (2) Gaya-Mughalsarai
- (3) Tatanagar-Kharagpur
- (4) Adra-Asansol
- (5) Raipur Area
- (6) Mathura-Agra-Tundla/Bayana
- (7) Surat-Valsad
- (8) Surat-Vadodara
- (9) Vadodara-Ahmedabad
- (10) Madras-Salem

I earnestly hope that these services will reduce the pressure on the long distance trains, besides serving short distance passengers well.

In my last Budget Speech, I had mentioned about the introduction of rail buses on Branch Lines having low density of traffic. I am happy to inform the House that the first rail bus was introduced on Merta Road-Merta City section (in Rajasthan) of Northern Railway. During 1995-96, it is proposed to introduce rail bus service on the following eight additional sectors:

- (1) Gwalior-Panihar

- (2) Pandeshwar-Palasthala
- (3) Bikaner-Kolayat
- (4) Mankapur-Katra
- (5) Bangarapet-Marikuppam
- (6) Hospet-Kutturu and Hospet Swamihalli
- (7) Bobbili-Salur
- (8) Nadiad-Kapadvanj

I had announced in my last Budget Speech about the introduction of AC 3-tier coaches on important trains. Accordingly, AC 3-tier Coaches have replaced the AC Chair Cars on all Rajdhani Expresses (except August Kranti Express) and have also been introduced on New Delhi-Allahabad Prayag Raj Express and New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express. These coaches have proved to be extremely popular and more of them will be provided during the current year on other important Mail/Express trains.

Sir, I am acutely conscious of the fact that despite all the measures taken by us for improving passenger comfort, a lot more remains to be done in the areas of punctuality, cleanliness and security in trains. I would like to refer to certain measures that have been taken, or are being proposed.

(a) Formation of Instant Action Groups: Railways have constituted Instant Action Groups to provide comfortable, safe and secure travel to the passengers. Selected Mail/Express trains running on vulnerable sections are escorted by these groups, which comprise the senior conductor, armed RPF personnel, coach attendant and safaiwalas. They are being supplied with distinct uniforms for easy identification by passengers. The groups have been equipped with walkie-talkie to enable contact with the driver and the Guard and also the GRP escorts and to attend to complaints and grievances of the passengers on the train. Some of the important trains which have the Instant Action Groups on board are the Tamil Nadu Express, Kerala Express, A.P. Express, N.E. Express, Gomati Express etc., to name a few. The reaction of passengers to the introduction of this system is encouraging. Its working is being monitored at the Zonal Railways' and Railway Board's level. General Managers of the Zonal Railways may nominate any train to be manned by the Instant Action Group.

(b) Additionally, it is proposed to provide a Train Superintendent on about 50 important trains for effective attention to all aspects of the comfort of passengers and response to their complaints.

(c) Rakes for the different services have been standardised and some of them kept reserved at important coaching depots, so that in case of late running of trains, these can be utilised. I expect that this measure will go a long way in curtailing the cascading effect of late running.

(d) Bed rolls are being supplied in all the AC 3-tier coaches of the Rajdhani Express trains. On about 100 selected trains, the supply of bed rolls will be made

available to all passengers of AC sleeper classes. New types of bed rolls, which are light and of better quality, are being procured.

(e) Computerisation of reservations, which already covers about 80% of reservations and has proved to be a very popular measure, is now being extended to the smaller centres. At about 155 other locations, self-printing machines have been installed for quick issue of tickets; this is also being extended to cover more stations.

(f) The supply of drinking water is being improved by providing mineral water bottles and water coolers in some selected trains. In addition, private entrepreneurs are being associated to augment the supply of water at the Railway Stations by installing their own water coolers. I hope these measures will be well received by passengers.

(g) In pursuance of our commitment to improve the environment, Railways are experimenting with biologically degradable toilet system in a few coaches. The results are encouraging. Another system of vacuum evacuation of toilet discharge on moving coaches has also been designed and is planned to be tried out in a few coaches. The better system will be introduced on selected trains in the coming years.

(h) In order to bring about an improvement in running of trains, an Action Plan was launched during 1994-95. Targets were set for the Zonal Railways in areas of asset reliability and asset utilisation, amongst others. I am glad to report that substantial improvement has been brought about. With improvement in the reliability of track, signals, locomotives and overhead electrical equipment and through intensive monitoring, the punctuality of Mail and Express trains improved to 87.4% during 1994-95 as against the target of 85%. It is now proposed to revise the target to 90%. An in-depth examination is being arranged to see how best the Railways' obligation to provide punctual and satisfactory services can be enforced and what relief can be given to the affected passengers when gross failure takes place.

In my Budget Speech last year, I had mentioned that the setting up of a Railway Catering Corporation is being considered in order to professionalise catering services and upgrade them qualitatively. This is expected to be finalised shortly. An amount of Rs. 10 cr. is being provided in the Budget towards initial capital required for the Corporation.

Sir, there are inherent difficulties in providing good quality catering service on running trains, but efforts are continuously being made to improve it. Overaged pantry cars are being replaced gradually. New services have been started on some selected high priority trains. Drinking water is supplied in hygienic bottles and pouches.

As the House is aware, Railways have a public grievance redressal machinery functioning at the Zonal Railway and Divisional levels. Complaints by Railway users are given the utmost attention. Senior Railway officers personally attend to public grievances and complaints, reserving specific time for meeting the public. Frontline

staff who come in contact with the public are being suitably trained to provide courteous service to Railway users, giving no room for complaint. I am happy to say that there has been an improvement of about 3% in 1993-94 as compared to 1992-93 in the receipt of complaints against Railways.

Sir, I have mentioned on earlier occasions about the Railways' efforts towards development of tourism. Three new tourist train services are being introduced in collaboration with the Tourism Development Corporations of the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu this year. In the first phase of the programme of weekend holidays that has been introduced in collaboration with the Tourism Development Corporations of the States and Government of India, 38 Rail Week-ender tours have been planned and nine have already been implemented. The scheme offers to the tourists single window facility for travel, accommodation at destination, catering, sight-seeing and surface transportation.

Hon'ble members will also be happy to know that Railways propose to facilitate construction of 100 budget Hotels on Railway land at stations to tourist importance in order to provide accommodation at affordable cost to the tourists. The locations are being finalised in consultation with the Department of Tourism.

Sir, ticketless travel on Indian Railways is still quite rampant despite regular checks and special intensive drives. Our efforts to curb this social evil are continuing. Recently, an incentive scheme has also been introduced for the Travelling Ticket Examiners for improved results through their regular checks.

Sir, there is continuous reduction in the number of train accidents, declining to 520 in 1993-94, and the number of accidents per million train kilometres has also shown improvement, from 1.5 during 1984-85 to 0.82 in 1993-94. Collisions, the most serious of them all, and the casualties thereof, have shown a steep reduction this year when compared to last year. But so long as accidents occur at all, there can be no room for complacency. Safety shall continue to engage our prime attention. The 'human failure' factor, the most important one for accidents, has to be addressed effectively; this is a continuous process involving the aspects of training, counselling and monitoring of the staff connected with the working of trains, and these aspects are regularly attended to. Besides, technological improvements that tend to minimise the scope for human failure are given close attention. Special teams have been constituted at the Railway Board's level and on the Zonal Railways to conduct on-the-spot assessment of deficiencies and lapses of the field units. Immediate remedial steps are then taken to remove the deficiencies.

The House would recall that there was a tragic fire accident in Bombay-Howrah Mail, near Chakradharpur in October 1994. I had then sought the assistance of a Committee of five Members of Parliament of the Consultative Committee attached to the Railway Ministry to help with their appraisal of the accident. The Committee in

its report submitted last month, have made twelve recommendations covering various aspects relating to safety on Railways. Many of the recommendations have been accepted or implemented. The Committee have also welcomed the institution of the Instant Action Group which, as I mentioned earlier, is functioning on selected trains.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings continue to cause concern. These are due largely to the negligence of road users. Measures have been taken to enlist the help of local bodies and to have a media campaign for creating awareness of the dangers of such negligence. I had announced in the last budget a special provision of Rs. 25 cr. towards manning of 500 unmanned level crossings. Obviously, this is a costly solution. A low-cost solution is now being evolved with the help of Bharat Electronics Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking. In this method, an alarm will sound at the level crossing when a train is about two kilometres away, giving sufficient time for the road users to get clear. A pilot project is being implemented at ten locations and if successful, it will be extended in a phased manner to all unmanned level crossings.

Sir, the imperative need for making sufficient investment in the Railways at the present juncture cannot be over-emphasised. Railways have to plan for a rate of growth in transport much higher than that of the economy, so as to generate capacity ahead of the demand, for transport capacity cannot be built up overnight; thrust areas such as Railway Electrification, Gauge Conversion, Rolling Stock and terminal facilities must receive priority without, at the same time, affecting the steady progress of replacement and renewal of track and other assets where these are due. Accordingly, a Plan of Rs. 7,500 cr which is essentially need-based, has been drawn up. This is exclusive of the amounts of Rs. 120 cr to be mobilised by the Konkan Railway Corporation and Rs. 74 cr by the Container Corporation of India for their projects. Budgetary support to the Plan is, however, at the same level as the current year's figure of Rs. 1,150 cr due to resource constraint. I am hopeful that in the course of the year Government will find it possible to raise the level of budgetary support, so that the strain of borrowing capital at high cost is minimised for the Railways.

The dominant component of the Plan would be internal resources, accounting for Rs. 4,100 cr. Extra-budgetary resources through market borrowing will also have to be relied upon, as in the recent years. However, certain investment is expected to come under the 'Own Your Wagon' scheme which I have outlined earlier; some projects are proposed to be covered by the 'Build-Own-Lease-Transfer' scheme under which private entrepreneurs are being invited to invest in Railway works, and there is fairly encouraging response. If these materialise, then market borrowing will be reduced suitably.

Sir in the current year, 42 km of new line sections will be completed. These are:

1. Beas-Goindwal, completing that project, and

2. Kulpi-Nischintapur, of Lakshimikantapur-Namkhana project.

Three new lines, namely, Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Ahmednagar-Beed-Parlivajinath in Marathwada region of Maharashtra and Kottur Harihar in Karnataka and the Restoration of Kakinada-Kotapalli line are proposed to be taken up in 1995-96. Work on these projects will commence after the necessary approvals are received. As regards Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur, a Memorandum of Understanding for sharing the cost with the Ministry of Steel and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh is also to be formalised before the work is taken up for execution.

I think Shri Basudeb Acharia need not worry about Dismluk, Eklaki and Belurghat. These are all there.

There has been persistent demand for a direct link from Rajpura to Chandigarh. Survey for the line has been completed and the proposal is being sent to Planning Commission for approval.

Sir, in pursuance of the Government's resolve to develop a strong infrastructural base in the Kashmir Valley with the utmost speed for development of that region and improving the quality of life for its people, I had earmarked Rs. 50 cr. this year for the Jammu-Udhampur new line. The final location survey for extending this link to Srinagar and Baramulla was also taken up and the first phase from Udhampur to Katra has been completed. Work on this sector will be taken up as soon as the necessary approvals are obtained.

For the Jammu-Udhampur line, taking into account its national importance, allocation of Rs. 50 cr is being made in the budget. Adequate allocations are also required to be made for the various other new line projects commensurate with commitments to be discharged, within the overall limit of Rs. 200 cr for New Lines in 1995-96. It has, therefore, not been possible to make full allotments required for certain new lines for completing them during the year, much as I would have liked to. The position will, however, be reviewed in the course of the year, in case additional budgetary support becomes available, and the allocations suitably enhanced to accelerate their completion.

Sir, the project Unigauge has been widely appreciated and has got support and encouragement from different quarters. The anticipated benefits like better service, increased throughput and industrial development are already in evidence. Gauge conversion of the following 14 sections has been planned to be completed before the close of the year:

- (i) Hissar-Rewari
- (ii) Rewari-Jaipur, Phulera-Ajmer
- (iii) Mehsana-Khodiya of Delhi-Ahmedabad route
- (iv) Chikjajur-Harihar-Hubli-Londa-Miraj of Miraj-Bangalore route
- (v) Hubli-Gadag and Anavar-Ambedwadi of Hospet-Vasco route along with the connected branch lines.

- (vi) Jodhpur-Jaisalmer
- (vii) Birur-Shimoga
- (viii) Donakonda-Giddalur of Guntur-Guntakal route
- (ix) Chikjajur-Chitradurg of Bellary-Chikjajur route
- (x) Parbhani-Purna-Nanded of Parbhani-Adilabad route
- (xi) Arjuni-Wadsa of Gondia-Chanda Fort route
- (xii) Muzaffarpur-Raxaul
- (xiii) Lumding-Dimapur of Guwahati-Dibrugarh route
- (xiv) Chaparmukh-Haribargaon.

The following sections are proposed to be taken up for gauge conversion during 1995-96:

- (i) Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar
- (ii) Gorakhpur-Khadda
- (iii) Agra-Bandikui
- (iv) Wankaner-Maliya-Miyana
- (v) Rupsa-Bangripasi
- (vi) Mathura-Achnera
- (vii) Hassan-Mysore
- (viii) Salem-Yeshwantpur
- (ix) Tiruchirappalli-Nagore-Kariakal
- (x) Gandhidham-Bhuji

The last five of these projects will be executed after necessary approvals are received.

It is proposed to convert the following eight routes to broad gauge during 1995-96.

- (i) Delhi-Ahmedabad
- (ii) Kandla-Bathinda
- (iii) Wankaner-Maliya-Miyana
- (iv) Hospet-Swamihalli
- (v) Aunihar-Chhapra
- (vi) Agra-Bandikui
- (vii) Samastipur-Dharbhanga
- (viii) Parasia-Chhindwara

Work on the conversion of Solapur-Gadag and Miraj-Latur lines to Broad Gauge will also be started in 1995-96. These projects, which had been included in the Budget for 1993-94, had been held over for the approval of Planning Commission, which has been received recently.

Doubling of lines continue to be a priority area and in 1995-96, the allocation has been increased to Rs 269 cr from Rs 161 cr in the Revised Estimate of the current year.

With the doubling of Kuttipuram-Calicut section, the link from Guruvayoor to Kuttipuram is also proposed to be undertaken, subject to necessary approvals, as an alternative to doubling of the track from Shoranur to Kuttipuram. Doubling of Calicut-Mangalore Section is proposed to be taken up under BOLT.

Sir, a large number of surveys are in various stages of progress. With a view to further expansion of the system and increase of its capacity, Railways intend taking up another 40 surveys during 1995-96. The House will be glad to know that in our quest for opening up new areas for development, we have included a number of New Line

surveys. Some of these are for Biyavra—Rajgarh—Sironj—Bina, Dholpur—Gangapur City (with conversion of Dholpur—Sirmathra to BG), Giridih—Koderma, Patiala—Jakkhal/Narwana, Nagaur—Phalodi, Paniput—Meerut, Digaru—Burnihat, Samarimala—Dingigul, Thakazhi—Thakazhi—Thiruvalla—Pathanamthitta, Bhadrachallam Road—Kovvur, Ongole—Donakonda, a new line link to Kamakhyanager Sub-division and for connecting Gandhinagar on main line between Ahmedabad-Delhi. Some of the surveys that are proposed to be taken up for conversion to broad gauge are in respect of Mansi—Saharsa—Banmankhi—Katihar, Dharangadhra Khuda Salt Siding, Rewari—Ringus—Phulera, Ranchi—Lohardaga with extension to Tori and the suburban system between Madras Beach—Tambaram.

I am glad to inform the House that in 1994-95, we could electrify 450 route kilometres, adding to the 11,793 route kilometres of electric traction as on 1-4-1994. Electrification of Katni-Bilaspur will be completed by March 1995 and Bina-Katni has been completed. The following five sections are expected to be completed in 1995-96:

- (i) Sonenagar-Patratu
- (ii) Jamodoba-Mahuda
- (iii) Bandel-Katwa
- (iv) Delhi-Ambala
- (v) Branch line off Vijayawada-Balharshah.

18.2 It is gratifying to note that India has now been brought on the world map for the 2×25 KV AC system of traction. Regular train services on this system are already plying between Bina and Katni of Central Railway and are likely to be extended on the system between Katni-Anupur-Bishrampur of South Eastern Railway.

With the gauge conversion of many metre gauge and narrow gauge lines, it is aimed to liquidate all areas of track renewal on important and high speed broad gauge sections. In the current year, track renewal of 2,550 km will be completed. The target for track renewal in 1995-96 is 2,600 km.

The performance of the Production Units has been satisfactory during 1993-94.

Diesel Locomotive Works Varanasi manufactured 152 diesel locomotives as against the target of 150 diesel locomotives. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works exceeded its target of 135 by manufacturing 140 electric locomotives. It has also manufactured a 5000 HP passenger locomotive capable of hauling 26 coaches at 140 km per hour and a passenger locomotive capable of hauling trains at 160 km per hour.

The two coach manufacturing factories of Indian Railways produced 2,063 coaches as against a combined target of 2,000. The Electric Multiple Units and Diesel Multiple Units manufactured at I.C.F proved very successful in service.

The Diesel Component Works, Patiala produced different kinds of spares worth Rs 53.29 cr and rebuilt 68 locomotives converting them as fuel-efficient ones.

Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore exceeded its target by assembling 32,664 wheel sets in 1993-94. It manufactured 69,489 wheels against the target of 68,000 wheels and produced 47,698 axles as against the target of 47,000 axles. I am happy to inform the House that this modern unit has obtained the ISO 9002 Certificate, a hallmark of excellence in quality.

Sir Railways are placing increased emphasis on asset utilisation. With the consequent improvement in rolling stock utilisation, surplus manufacturing capacity has become available at all the railway production units. Export of rolling stock has been identified as one of the thrust areas. A high level Export Promotion Committee has been constituted to clear all export enquiries expeditiously. Earlier efforts through RITES and IRCON have proved fruitful. Twenty four diesel locomotives have been leased to Malaysian Railways. Export orders for 15 coaches from Vietnam, ten locomotives from Bangladesh and two locomotives and six coaches from Nepal have been finalised. Export of rolling stock to Bangladesh, Mynamar, Indonesia, Ghana and Sri Lanka are under active consideration.

Sir the Research Design and Standards Organisation of the Railways at Lucknow is doing a commendable job. Some of its achievements are :

- (i) Design and development of rail buses to ply in sections with low passenger traffic density.
- (ii) Design and development of 5000 HP passenger electric locomotives.
- (iii) Development of diesel multiple units for high density fast intra-urban traffic on non-electrified sections.
- (iv) Long confirmatory successful trial run of WAP 3 locomotive for 160 kmph high speed trains.

The time has come for us to redefine the role of RDSO, and make it completely autonomous. Ideally, this organisation should concentrate on activities like research and designs mission areas and increase its interaction with industries and centres of academic excellence like IIT's. Peripheral activities like inspection development of new sources etc. are best handled by the Production Units/Workshops. Action in pursuance of this thinking is proposed to be initiated.

Sir, I am conscious of the acute problem faced by the commuters on the Bombay suburban railway system. As the Hon'ble Members are perhaps aware, Ministry of Railways have given serious attention to the problem, in consultation with the State Government of Maharashtra, and a number of measures have been identified for improving the suburban services in Bombay area. I shall enumerate them.



- (1) Improving the reliability of the system by replacing the eight old/damaged rakes, each on the Western and the Central Railways, by 31-3-1995, stepping up the pace of track renewal and making the passenger information system more efficient.
- (2) Augmentation of the system capacity in the short term and for future needs.
- (3) Replacement of level crossings by road overbridges/underbridges and removal of encroachments with the help of the State Government and the Bombay Municipal Corporation.
- (4) Improvement of general service areas like station premises, toilets, etc.
- (5) Preparation of a master plan for improving the circulating areas and platforms as well as quick dispersal of passengers.
- (6) Quadrupling of track between Borivli-Virar and extension of 5th line from Santa Cruz to Borivli and other terminal capacity works.

Some of these measures have already been implemented, bringing stability in the Bombay suburban system. During 1995-96, 16 additional rakes will be inducted into system.

Several works have been identified for inclusion in Bombay Urban Transport Project-II which will be eventually finalised by World Bank. Five studies are being conducted in respect of the Railway component, whose cost is in the region of Rs 2,000 cr. In the meantime, quadrupling of track between Borivli and Vasai Road is being included in the Budget for 1995-96 at a cost of Rs 131.34 cr, and provision of a sixth line between Bombay Central and Santa Cruz is also being taken up.

In the New Bombay area, the following works have been included in the Budget subject to necessary approvals being received and will be taken up for execution thereafter.

- (i) Thane-Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi Section
- (ii) Belapur-Panvel double line.

Expenditure on these projects is proposed to be shared by the Railways and CIDCO in the ratio of 1:2 as in the case of the Mankhurd-Belapur project.

Sir, I am happy to inform the House that the Calcutta Metro Project is now reaching the final stage of its completion. All the sections except a stretch of 1.5 km between Girish Park and Central have been opened for commercial service during this year. The remaining stretch will also be completed by the end of 1995.

Mankhurd-Belapur project in Bombay has already been completed during the current year.

The MRTS Project, Madras is also nearing completion. Another section between Park Town and Chepauk will be opened to commercial service this year. The remaining sections of this project will be opened during 1996.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: (Bankura) What about Calcutta suburban railway? You have not said anything about it.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: It will be after the Metro is over.

The Indian Railway Finance Corporation has declared a dividend of Rs 27.84 cr at 12% of the paid up share capital for 1993-94 as compared to Rs 23.20 cr at 10% for 1992-93.

During the current year, IRFC is required to raise Rs. 1,050 cr comprising Rs 550 cr through taxable bonds and Rs 500 cr through tax-free bonds. It is expected that IRFC will be able to raise the full amount despite adverse market conditions.

Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. recorded a turnover of Rs. 391 cr. in the year 1993-94, earning Rs. 29 cr in foreign exchange. A dividend of Rs. 62 lakhs at 12.5% has been paid by the Company.

IRCON has successfully completed all projects undertaken in Bangladesh and Malaysia and obtained the ISO 9002 Certificate for their work in Malaysia. The Company has also secured four international contracts, one each in Turkey, Malaysia, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The Konkan Railway Corporation has elicited excellent response to its efforts during the current year for mobilisation of resources by issue of tax-free bonds for funding its prestigious projects, which is now entering the completion phase. A further borrowing of Rs. 120 cr during the next year is planned in order to meet the total requirement of funds for implementing it. The new line is likely to be opened to goods traffic during the third quarter of 1995 and to passenger traffic in December 1995. In keeping with the Build Operate-Transfer principle, the Corporation will be responsible for the operation of the line for some years after its commissioning.

Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. registered a turnover of Rs. 65.2 cr. in 1993-94. The net foreign exchange earned by the Company during the year was Rs. 4 cr. The Company has paid a dividend of Rs. 45 lakhs.

Container Corporation of India has diversified and extended its services on selected domestic sectors, setting up three new container terminals during the year at Indore, New Mulund and Agra. The traffic handled by the Corporation has increased by 52% its, turnover increasing to Rs. 114 cr. from Rs. 81 cr in last year.

Through the operations of CONCOR, Indian Railways have entered the mainstream of multimodal transportation. The Corporation handles the international traffic at the major ports of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta and is likely to start doing so in Kandla and Tuticorin Ports shortly.

The Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) is handling a variety of computerisation projects. The most important among them is that of development and implementation of the Freight Operations Information System. The software of its central system is presently

under trial in Delhi area of the Northern Railway. On satisfactory completion of the trial, the system will be extended to the other Divisions of the Northern Railway and other zones of the Indian Railways.

Sir, the Indian Railways' Welfare Organisation is constructing houses for the Railway employees on a 'no profit no loss' basis through self-financing scheme. It has undertaken eleven housing schemes in various parts of the country and acquired land for the purpose at nine other locations. Two housing projects, one each at NOIDA and Gorakhpur (Phase-I), have been completed without any time or cost overrun.

Sportspersons of Indian Railways won twelve National Championship titles during 1993-94. During the last Commonwealth Games, the Railway players won two Gold Medals and one Silver Medal. In the 12th Asian Games held at Hiroshima in Japan, Railway players won a Gold, a Silver and a Bronze Medal.

Indian Railways have been providing excellent medical services to its employees and their family members, as also retired employees, through its network of 122 hospitals and 670 dispensaries spread all over the country. Besides providing specialist services in the Divisional and Zonal hospitals, it also provides super-specialist services in the fields of Cardiac surgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Plastic surgery, Gastroenterology, Microvascular surgery and Cancer.

We have recently commissioned a 50-bedded advanced superspeciality Gastroenterology Centre at Jagjivan Ram Hospital, Bombay which has all the facilities of advanced therapeutic endoscopic surgery. Major Divisional hospitals have been provided with the facilities of Ultrasonography and diagnostic endoscopy. Indian Railways Cancer Institute at Varanasi has become a premier institute in North-East area and is being further modernised.

I also propose to provide laboratory and ECG facilities to 60 dispensaries of the Indian Railways in order that primary health care of the Railway employees improves.

Indian Railway Medical Service is not attractive for doctors, with only 20% of those selected joining it, and many of them leaving. I propose to make this Service more attractive by bringing the promotional avenues for Railway doctors at par with other health services under Central Government.

Sir, I am happy to record that the organised labour of railways have been extending constructive cooperation in modernising railway working. Our Prime Minister has been keen on ushering workers' participation in management and towards this end, as I had mentioned in my last Budget Speech, the Corporate Enterprise Groups were restructured and Groups for Participation of Railway Employees in Management (PREM) were constituted.

I would now take this a step further. I intend introducing a system of participation at the apex level between the Railway Board and the Labour Federations in important matters of railway working leading to greater

transparency. This will also make labour unions feel more of a partner in our march towards achieving Indian Railways' Corporate objective of higher productivity with cost reduction.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Now I think, you will agree that we are better champions of workers than you.

At the zonal railway level, there will be wider participation with affiliated unions on issues and concerns having a bearing on railway operations and customer services. At the grass-root level self-management teams will be constituted for direct involvement and self-directed endeavour. A pilot project has already been launched at Vadodara Station of Western Railway where self-management groups have been constituted consisting of staff at supervisory and grass-root levels, empowered to deal with activities like booking and reservation, parcel handling and cleanliness of station.

Sir, this Government is committed to improve the condition of the poor. In the last four years, several measures have been taken to create employment opportunities and improve the lot of the weaker sections. I am happy to announce the following measures to better the lot of some categories:

- (i) *Unemployed Youth*: Unemployed youth who are called for interviews by Public Sector Organisations and who are not given travel expenses will be entitled to get 50% concession on production of call letters.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Now you will thump the table for the Janata Dal and the Janata Dal will thump it for you.

...(Interruptions)...

- (ii) *licenced Porters*: The presence of licenced porters at the Railway platforms or at the entrance to the station premises does generate a sense of relief, security and assurance to the railway passengers. This self-employed category constitutes a very critical part of amenities to passengers, helping them by carrying their heavy luggage. Most of these people spend their lifetime doing this work, remaining on railway platforms for long hours, be it night or day. Railways do recognise the importance of their support. As a mark of appreciation of their services, I propose to extend the following facilities to this dedicated category:

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: You are talking that this Government is not pro-poor. What more do you want?

- (a) Outdoor medical facilities at present available to the licenced porters but not to their families, will be extended to cover their wives and dependant children.
- (b) I also propose to extend free educational facilities to their wards in schools run by the Railways or by organisations of railwaymen and Mahila Samitis.

Grant of these facilities to licenced porters is purely ex gratia, and would not confer upon them any right or indication of a right, for any regular status on the railway establishment.

- (iii) In cooperation with the Ministry of Communication, a pilot project to provide mobile telephone communication through terminals installed on high speed trains is expected to be started from June, 1995. Initially, this service will be provided on the Bombay-New Delhi Rajdhani and the broad gauge "Palace on Wheels" trains. On successful completion of the pilot project, this will be extended to other high speed trains also. This will usher in a new era of modernisation in Indian Railways. This is with the good technology and one support given by the Ministry of communications.

Hon'ble Members will recall that in my last Budget Speech, I had emphasised the need for re-organisation of the railway network after taking into account the changed patterns of traffic by the project unigauge and the Konkan Railway Project. The last re-organisation of the Zonal Railways was done almost three decades back in 1966, when the South Central Railways was formed. Since then the Railways have made significant strides in freight and passenger business and the workload has increased tremendously. A detailed study in this regard has since been completed and the recommendations have been accepted by the Ministry and are being processed further. A token provision, however, has been made in the Budget for the implementation of the recommendations.

I am confident that with this long over-due step, the organisation structure would become more compact and the system would be able to deal with changing patterns of market orientation and customer requirements more effectively and promptly.

In the recent years and ever since RPF has become an Armed Force of the Union, there has been increasing demand on this Force for its deployment for law and order duties in various States at the instance of the Ministry of Home Affairs. During the last few years, RPF is being regularly deployed for law and order duties, especially at the time of Assembly Elections, 80 Companies of RPF have been deployed along with other Central Para-military Forces for ensuring free and fair elections. Wherever they have performed duties, the officers and men of RPF have performed extremely well, earned high appreciation from the State Governments and brought honour to the Force and to the Railways.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): What about recognition to their association? The assurance was given on the floor of the House.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: We are helping them and we are serving them.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): What about recognition?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: All this is a compliment. If it is not recognition, what else is it?

In addition, RPF is also deployed for assisting

commercial staff in ticket checking drives and also drives against the menace of alarm chain pulling, unauthorised hawking etc. As the effective strength of RPF gets depleted due to large-scale deployment for other duties, I propose to suitably augment the strength of the Force. The roles of RPF and GRP are also proposed to be redefined, after a detailed discussion with the Chief Ministers of the State Governments, to make the functioning of these forces more effective. It is also intended to closely examine the emoluments of the RPF personnel from the standpoint of parity with the other similar Forces of the Government of India.

Let me now turn to the Budget Estimates for 1995-96. At the outset, I must assure this august House that we have carried out very meticulous exercises to work out the earnings and working expenses on realistic basis taking into account the increases in traffic as a result of the anticipated faster pace of growth in the economy and absorbing substantial portions of increased input costs by enforcing cost cutting measures.

As I have stated earlier, rail capacity has to be created ahead of the requirements to avoid the painful predicament of railways becoming a serious bottleneck. Keeping this in view, and on the basis of the forecast made by the Planning Commission, I have retained the seemingly ambitious target of 398 million tonnes of revenue earning freight traffic for the next year, notwithstanding the fact that targets had to be revised downward during the last few years. This, as I have explained earlier was not due to any fault of the railways. I am sure the House will bear in mind that demand for rail transport is dependent almost entirely on the growth of the economy. If the expectations regarding the faster growth of the economy in 1995-96, materialise there is no reason why the railways should not achieve the projected target for freight traffic. Passenger traffic has registered appreciable growth in the recent past; this encourages me to project a four percent growth in the passenger traffic for the next year. Similar growth is expected in Other Coaching and Sundry Other earnings also. Based on these projections, Gross Traffic Receipts at the current fares and freight rates are estimated at Rs. 21,205 cr. inclusive of some realisations out of the outstanding dues from the power sector. Thus, it is expected that the Gross Traffic Receipts would exceed the Revised Estimates for the current year by Rs. 1,285 cr.

Realistic assessment of working expenses, allowing for the capacity of Railways to absorb part of the increases in input costs, places the requirement of working expenses at Rs. 14,790 cr. up by Rs. 1,740 cr. from the Revised Estimates of 1994-95. The cost of inputs for carrying the incremental traffic, other increases in costs, and higher lease charges payable to the Indian Railway Finance Corporation will be met out of this provision.

With the procurement of Rolling Stock through the

leasing route, supplemented, hopefully, by a spurt in the materialisations under the "Own-Your-Wagon" scheme, a reduction in the provision for depreciation is called for. Accordingly, it is proposed that the appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund be kept at Rs. 2,000 cr, slightly lower than Rs. 2,140 cr. in the Revised Estimates of the current year.

The appropriation to Pension Fund is proposed at Rs. 1,970 cr in 1995-96 as against Rs. 1,750 cr in the current year, to meet the anticipated higher outgo from the Fund next year.

The principles for working out the dividend to General Revenues are settled on the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee. Dividend for the year 1995-96 has been provided at the same rates as applicable to the current year subject to suitable adjustments on receipt of the recommendations of that committee. The amount works out to Rs. 1,371 cr, after setting off Rs. 145 cr on account of arrears of operating losses of strategic lines on Northeast Frontier Railway. After meeting all these and taking into account Net Miscellaneous Receipts, the "Excess" comes to Rs. 1,305 cr.

Sir, the Railways are facing a severe resources crunch for implementing a reasonably sized Annual Plan for 1995-96. The internal resources available on the basis of the existing fares and freight rates are of the order of Rs. 3,350 cr. Together with the proposed borrowings at the level of Rs. 2,250 cr and Budgetary support of Rs. 1,150 cr, the total resources becoming available are only Rs. 6,750 cr, whereas the need-based requirements amount to Rs. 7,500 cr. Additional borrowings, at comparatively higher costs would not be in the financial interests of the railways, nor would that be a prudent measure to adopt. As the House is aware, Railways have in the last four years, initiated several measures to absorb the increases in costs by internal economies. These are being pursued vigorously, and the impact of such measures are also reflected in these Budget Estimates; however, the gap between the requirements of resources and the availability is too wide to be bridged through these measures alone. An easy way out would be to reduce the Plan, but that would jeopardise not only the Railways but also the economy as a whole. There was no question of the Railways settling for a reduced Plan since capacity constraints on Railways would endanger economic progress of the country. The Government, therefore, decided to retain the Plan size at Rs. 7,500 cr. This necessitates raising of additional resources of the order of Rs. 750 cr, through very modest and selective adjustments in fares and freight rates. I shall now refer to these proposals.

In the larger interests of the travelling public, I have decided not to impose any increase in the fares for any distance in respect of the following classes:

- (i) II Class ordinary.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE

(VIJAYAWADA): For how much distance the concession is available? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: You are biased about the Government. You do not want to appreciate even good measures.

SHRI RAM NAIK (BOMBAY NORTH): You have reduced the number of trains. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy for the arrangement that you have made for the people of the country to watch this. I would, through you, present this to them because it is for their service.

- (ii) II Class Mail and Express
- (iii) Sleeper Class (all trains); and
- (iv) First Class (Ordinary)

Fares for AC First Class, AC 2-Tier Sleeper class, AC Chair Car and First Class in Mail and Express Trains are proposed to be raised by 10% Fares for AC 3-Tier will continue to be charged at 25% higher than the fares for AC Chair Car as at present. Minimum fares will also be suitably revised in these cases. In the case of First Class (Ordinary), the minimum fare of Rs. 32 is proposed to be reduced to Rs. 20.

Railways have built AC 2-Tier coach of a new design, in which cabin type accommodation with sliding doors would be available. I proposed to levy a surcharge of 5 per cent subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per passenger for allotment of accommodation in the cabin.

It is proposed to supply bed rolls to all the passengers travelling in AC 2-Tier coaches without collecting bed roll charges on the trains from a date to be notified later, making suitable adjustments in the fares.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: All the hon. Members are included in AC 2-tier.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (VIJAYAWADA): You gave the concession to the employees and not to the M.Ps. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Looking at the election result only we have done this. We are not for result. We are for the country and the people.

It is proposed to introduce separate fare structures for Rajdhani, including August Kranti, and Shatabdi Express trains, keeping in view the quality of service provided to the passengers.

Several improvements in the suburban services, involving heavy investments, are planned. It is but fair that users of suburban services contribute in some measure towards the cost of such improvements. I, therefore, propose to make some adjustments in respect of such users.

Sir, the House is aware that suburban fare structure for season tickets is highly subsidised. At present, a suburban passenger pays in month an amount equivalent

to only 23 single journeys at 10km and 9 single journeys at 110km, which indicates the massive subsidy involved.

Railway Fare and Freight Committee have recommended that a season ticket holder should pay for at least 25 to 11 single journeys on a descending scale. This has been accepted but the implementation will be in stages. In the first stage, it is proposed to increase the second class monthly season ticket fares by Rs 5 at minimum distance to Rs 30 at a distance of 91km and beyond and suitable increases are proposed to be made for the intermediate distances. This amounts to an increase of just 17 paise a day at the minimum distance and Re 1 per day for 91km and above.

Railway Fare and Freight Committee have also recommended fixation of quarterly season ticket fares at 10 per cent less than three monthly season ticket fares. Quarterly season tickets will now be charged at 2.7 times the monthly season ticket fares instead of 2.5 times at present.

First Class season tickets will continue to be charged at four times the second class season ticket fares.

Computerisation of the Passenger Reservation System has been welcomed and there are demands for its extension. By the end of 1994-95, almost all centres with 300 or more reservations per day are expected to be brought on the computer. With a view to partially recovering the higher cost of reservation, it is proposed to increase the reservation charges suitably.

I also propose to revise the clerkage charges and the minimum cancellation charges in order to recover the increase in cost.

At present, the passenger fares in respect of Kalka-Shimla, Siliguri Darjeeling, Muttupalayam-Udhagamandalam and Pathankot-Joginder-nagar sections are charged on an inflated distance basis. Even though these sections continue to incur losses, I propose to give relief to local passengers travelling within the section, because most of them belong to the weaker sections of society. All these passengers, when they make journeys within the section, will pay normal fares. However, passengers booked from stations outside these sections to any of the stations on these sections and vice versa will continue to pay fares on the inflated distance basis.

Sir, my proposals in regard to freight are as follows:

1. It is proposed to reduce the classification of a number of commodities such as paper, footwear, coir products, tea, coffee, rubber, cotton raw full pressed and half pressed, medical stores, milk powder, turmeric, electric appliances, agricultural implements (power-operated) etc. in line with the recommendations of the Railway Fare and Freight Committee.
2. It is proposed to increase by 7 per cent the freight rates of all commodities except foodgrains for public distribution, sugar and chemical manures Division A, B and C.

Sir, the House will appreciate that the increase proposed is lower than the current inflation rate of about 10% showing that the balance of the impact is being absorbed by the Railways. It will thus be seen that as I indicated at the outset, I am imposing only the least and unavoidable burden on the rail users.

These proposals, which will be effective from 1-4-1995, are expected to yield about Rs. 750 cr. in a full year, just enough for covering the resource gap. I would like to assure the House that resources thus generated will be utilised effectively for the expansion of the system and for strengthening it.

Sir, this Government is committed to taking decisions which are in the long-term interests of the country.

.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: That is why we are not looking at the election results.

It would have been easy for me to take the soft option by reducing the Plan size and avoiding fare and freight rate hikes, or by committing the Railways to ever increasing levels of borrowing. Such an approach would undoubtedly place the progress and development of the Indian Railways at peril. I am sure, Sir, the House will certainly not allow that to happen to the lifeline of the nation.

Sir, let us once again place on record our gratitude to the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister and Shri Sukh Ram, the Communications Minister for their support and encouragement in all our development efforts. I also wish to place on record my deep appreciation of the dedication and devotion with which the railwaymen have carried out their assigned tasks.

With these words, Sir, I commend the Railway Budget for 1995-96 to the House.

15.58½hrs.

(Interruptions)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(RAILWAYS), 1994-95

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1994-95.  
(Interruptions)

**List of Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways)  
for 1994-95 Voted by the Lok Sabha**

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Supplementary Demand for Grants Voted by the House
1	2	3
		Rs.
1.	Railway Board . . . . .	1,15,00,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General). . . . .	1,54,00,000
8.	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment. . . . .	29,08,55,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits . . . . .	50,11,50,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-capitalization . . . . .	8,00,00,000
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement . . . . .	—
	Other Expenditure Capital . . . . .	119,02,81,000

**15.59 hrs**

At this stage, Dr. Girija Vyas and another hon. Member came and sat on the floor near the Table.

.....[Interruptions]

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): You have not done anything for Chittor.

MR. SPEAKER: Joshiji, Please sit down.

[Interruptions]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): What is happening there? [Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Joshi, now please sit down. Members, will you please sit down!

[Interruptions]

**16.00 hrs**

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed in the House, Please go back to your seats. Mr. Minister I would not appreciate your talking to the Members in the House in this fashion. Hon. Members, please take your seats.

[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: May I request you, Madam, to go back to your seat. I will ask the Minister to talk to you about your proposal.

[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way you should behave in the House.

.....[Interruptions]

**16.03 hrs**

(At this stage, Dr. Girija Vyas and another hon. Member went back to their seats)

.....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

.....[Interruptions]\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad):

[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: You Please sit down. I will try my best to help you.

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to help you.

.....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record

.....[Interruptions]\*

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to help you but you are getting up every time.

.....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, it seems that you have presented a Budget which has given satisfaction to many, but there are some who are not satisfied.

.....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Achariaji, you are all the time talking like this. You are not on a Railway engine. Don't be like a train. Mr. Minister, it seems that some Members have their genuine problems. I would very much appreciate if you could call them and have discussed with them, because when they also discuss, they would be in a better position.

.....[Interruptions]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: In this way nothing can be done.

Please sit down. We cannot draw any conclusion if you will go on speaking like this. Please sit down. It is not going on record.

.....[Interruptions]\*

MR. SPEAKER: You will get enough time to speak.

.....[Interruptions]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, in the last five years.....[Interruptions]. If you can listen to me, I will explain it to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you will address me. You will address the Chair please. If you talk to them, they would like to talk to you more.

.....[Interruptions]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, please sit down. You hear him first. I will allow you.

.....[Interruptions]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, I would like to bring to

\*Not recorded.

your notice only one fact that, last year, the Prime Minister intervened and said, 'the rationale has to be such that the new projects are taken up where the States are neglected'.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has his difficulties. The country is big and the demands are many.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: But continuously, the Railway Ministry is not looking at the Orissa State from where they are getting the maximum returns and they are not giving anything. The non-fulfilment of even the assurance of the Prime Minister is most unfortunate.....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I want a very simple assurance from you. The Minister knows that some Members have their problems. I would expect you to invite them, talk to them, have a cup of tea, and if necessary have lunch or dinner and satisfy them to the extent possible.

.....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak later on.

.....[Interruptions]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last five years.....

MR. SPEAKER: Your simple reply could be "I will do it".

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Please bear with me because there is an impression that we have done nothing.

MR. SPEAKER: You have done a lot many thing; but some people are agitated.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: The amount of investment made in Rajasthan during the last five years is incomparable. At no point of time in history we have made so much of investment in any State except in Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER: It is true that you cannot solve all the problems, but you may hear them.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: I express my deep sympathies to the feelings of all the Members. I will certainly take it up again with the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Finance Minister and I will see what best I can do at the time of discussion and voting.....[Interruptions]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: What about Bolangir-Kurda route? [Interruptions].....

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.  
[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: (Kota): I demand for introducing an express train between Kota and Beena but hon. Minister has said nothing on it.....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.  
[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever he gives in writing, you must pay attention to that what help he can provide he will provide and the help which he could not provide, you can tell that.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumbar): We will sit on

hunger strike if satisfactory reply is not given. Please do not try to satisfy us by offering tea, only assurances will not work.....[Interruptions]

#### THE PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd

16.10 hrs

MR. SPEAKER: How I will take up the motion for leave to introduce Patents (Amendment) Bill moved by Shri M. Arunachalam.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want a division.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the lobbies be cleared.

The Lobbies are already cleared.

Now I will just read out the procedure which we have to follow to cast the votes:—

First, to operate the system, the Member has to be in the seat which is allotted to him and wait for the sounding of the alarm and also for glowing of "vote now" sign installed at the seat of each Member, to press vote initiation switch and, at the same time, operate one of the push buttons i.e., Green (A) for Ayes, Red (N) for Noes and Yellow (O) for abstain according to his choice.

To ensure that both the Vote Initiation Switch and one of the push buttons of his choice are kept pressed simultaneously till the audio-alarm sounds for the second time after the expiry of 10 seconds; and,

Do not press amber button ('P') during the division.

If a Member wants to correct his vote, he can do so by pressing the desired push button simultaneously with the Vote Initiation Switch during the period of 10 seconds before the second audio-alarm is sounded.

.....[Interruptions]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Please explain where the Vote Initiation Switch is kept.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is kept just below the table heads. All these thing are known to you. There is very little difference in the system which we are following except for pressing the button which are put on your table heads. Everything else is the same.

The Lobbies have been cleared. I shall now put the Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

#### The Lok Sabha divided

.....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Members have not pressed the buttons properly. May I do it again?

Once again, I put it to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

**The Lok Sabha divided**

MR. SPEAKER: May I have your attention please? I will be waiting for announcing the results.

[Translation]

[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

.....[Interruptions]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. But you should not disturb me also.

Those whose votes are not recorded, they will be given the slips. You please record your votes. We will collect it and then announce the results. You take the slip and record your vote.

Division No.

16.22 hrs.

AYES

Ahamed, Shri E.  
Akber Pasha, Shri B.  
Arunachalam, Shri M.  
Ayub Khan, Shri  
Banerjee, Kumari Mamata  
Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar  
Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh  
Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan  
Bhardwaj, Shri Paras Ram  
Bhatia, Shri R.L.  
Bhuria, Shri Dileep Singh  
Brar, Shri Jagmeet Singh  
Chacko, Shri P.C.  
Chaliha, Shri Kirip  
Chandrasekhar, Shrimati Maragatham  
Chaudhary, Sqn. Ldr. Kamal  
Chavan, Shri Prithviraj D.  
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh  
Chidambaram, Shri P.  
Chowdary, Dr. K.V.R.  
Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh  
Dadahoor, Shri Gurcharan Singh  
Dalbir Singh, Shri  
Deka, Shri Probin  
Dennis, Shri N.  
Deshmukh, Shri Anantrao  
Deshmukh, Shri Ashok Anand Rao  
Dighe, Shri Sharad  
Diwan, Shri Pawan  
Faleiro, Shri Eduardo  
Farook, Shri M.O.H.  
Gajapathi, Shri Gopi Nath  
Galib, Shri Gurcharan Singh  
Gamit, Shri Chhitubhai (Mandvi)  
Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya  
Gehlot, Shri Ashok  
Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh  
Girivappa, Shri C.P. Mudala

16—389 LSS/95

Gogoi, Shri Tarun  
Gundewar, Shri Vilasrao Nagnathrao  
Handique, Shri Bijoy Krishna  
Harchand Singh, Shri  
Hooda, Shri Bhupinder Singh  
Islam, Shri Nurul  
Jaffer Sharief, Shri C.K.  
Jangbir Singh, Shri  
Jangde, Shri Khelan Ram  
Jatav, Shri Bare Lal  
Jawali, Dr. B.G.  
Jeevarathinam, Shri R. (Arakonam)  
Jhikram, Shri Mohanlal (Mandla)  
Kahandole, Shri Z.M.  
Kale, Shri Shankarrao D.  
Kaliaperumal, Shri P.P.  
Kamson, Prof. M.  
Karreddula, Shrimati Kamala Kumari  
Kaul, Shrimati Sheila  
Kewal Singh, Shri (Bhatinda)  
Khan, Shri Aslam Sher (Betul)  
Khanna, Shri Rajesh (New Delhi)  
Khursheed, Shri Salman  
Krishnaswamy, Shri M. (Vandavasi)  
Kshirsagar, Shrimati Kesharbai Sonaji  
Kuli, Shri Balin (Lakhimpur)  
Kumaramangalam, Shri Rangarajan  
Kuppuswamy, Shri C.K.  
Kurien, Prof. P.J.  
Lakshmanan, Prof. Savithri  
Mallikarjun, Shri  
Mallu, Dr. R.  
Manphool Singh, Shri  
Marbaniang, Shri Peter G  
Mathew, Shri Pala K.M.  
Mathur, Shri Shiv Charan  
Meena, Shri Bheru Lal  
Mirdha, Shri Nathu Ram  
Mirdha, Shri Ram Niwas  
Mujahid, Shri B.M.  
Muralee Dharan, Shri K.  
Murthy, Shri M.V. Chandrashekara  
Naik, Shri G. Devaraya  
Naikar, Shri D.K.  
Nayak, Shri Subash Chandra  
Netam, Shri Arvind  
Nikam, Shri Govindrao  
Padma, Dr. (Shrimati)  
Pal, Dr. Debi Prosad  
Palacholla, Shri V.R. Naidu  
Pandian, Shri D.  
Patel, Shri Harilal Nanji  
Patel, Shri Shravan Kumar  
Patel, Shri Uttambhai Harjibhai  
Patil, Shri Vijay Naval  
Patra, Dr. Kartikeswar  
Potdukhe, Shri Shantaram  
Rahi, Shri Ram Lal  
Rai, Shri Kalp Nath  
Rai, Shri Ram Nihor



Rajeshwaran, Dr. V.  
 Rajeshwari, Shrimati Basava  
 Ram Badan, Shri  
 Ramchandran, Shri Mullappally  
 Rao, Shri J. Chokka  
 Rao, Shri P.V. Narasimha  
 Rao Ram Singh, Col.  
 Rawat, Shri Prabhu Lal  
 Reddaiah Yadav, Shri K.P.  
 Reddy, Shri G. Ganga  
 Roshan Lal, Shri  
 Sajjan Kumar, Shri  
 Sangma, Shri Purno A.  
 Sanipalli, Shri Gangadhara (Hindupur)  
 Sayeed, Shri P.M.  
 Selja, Kumari  
 Sharma, Shri Chiranji Lal  
 Shingda, Shri D.B.  
 Shukla, Shri Vidyacharan (Raipur)  
 Silvera, Dr. C.  
 Singh, Shri Khelsai  
 Singh, Shri Motilal  
 Singh Deo, Shri K.P.  
 Singla, Shri Sant Ram  
 Sodi, Shri Manku Ram  
 Solanki, Shri Surajbhanu  
 Sridharan, Dr. Rajagopalan  
 Sultanpuri, Shri Krishan Dutt  
 Suresh, Shri Kodikkunnil  
 Swamy, Shri G. Venkat  
 Tara Singh, Shri  
 Thakur, Shri Mahendra Kumar Singh  
 Thangka Balu, Shri K.V.  
 Thungon, Shri P.K.  
 Tindivanam, Shri K. Ramamurthee  
 Tiriya, Kumari Sushila  
 Topno, Kumari Frida  
 Umbrey, Shri Laeta  
 Unnikrishnan, Shri K.P.  
 Upadhyay, Shri Swarup  
 Verma, Shri Bhawani Lal  
 Verma, Shri Shiv Sharan  
 Verma, Kumari Vimla  
 Vijayaraghavan, Shri V.S.  
 Vyas, Dr. Girija  
 Wasnik, Shri Mukul  
 Williams, Maj. Gen. R.G.  
 NOES  
 Abedya Nath, Mahant  
 Acharia, Shri Basudeb  
 Agnihotri, Shri Rajendra  
 Anjalose, Shri Thayil John  
 Bala, Dr. Asim  
 Balayogi, Shri G.M.C.  
 Balyan, Shri N.K.  
 Barman, Shri Palas  
 Barman, Shri Uddhab  
 Basu, Shri Chitta  
 Berwa, Shri Ram Narain  
 Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Chakraborty, Prof. Susanta  
 Chatterjee, Shri Nirmal Kanti  
 Chatterjee, Shri Somnath  
 Choudhury, Shri Lokanath  
 Choudhury, Shri Saifuddin  
 Das, Shri Dwaraka Nath  
 Das, Shri Jitendra Nath  
 Datta, Shri Amal  
 Dharmabhiksham, Shri  
 Dikshit, Shri Shreesh Chandra  
 Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra  
 Drona, Shri Jagat Vir Singh  
 Gangwar, Dr. P.R.  
 Gautam, Shrimati Sheela  
 Ghangare, Shri Ramchandra Marotrao  
 Giri, Shri Sudhir  
 Girija Devi, Shrimati  
 Gopalan, Shrimati Suseela  
 Gupta, Shri Indrajit  
 Hossain, Shri Syed Masudal  
 Jaswant Singh, Shri  
 Jatiya, Shri Satynarayan  
 Jena, Shri Srikanta  
 Joshi, Shri Anna  
 Joshi, Shri Dau Dayal  
 Kalka Das, Shri  
 Kashwan, Shri Ram Singh  
 Katiyar, Shri Vinay  
 Kesri Lal, Shri  
 Khan, Shri Sukhendu  
 Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Rctd.) Bhuwan Chandra  
 Koli, Shri Ganga Ram  
 Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna  
 Oraon, Shri Lalit  
 Pal, Shri Rupchand  
 Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan  
 Paswan, Shri Chhedi  
 Pathak, Shri Surendra Pal  
 Patidar, Shri Rameshwar  
 Pattanayak, Shri Sarat  
 Prakash, Shri Shashi  
 Prasad, Shri Hari Kewal  
 Purkayastha, Shri Kabindra  
 Rai, Shri Lal Babu  
 Rai, Shri M. Ramanna  
 Raj Narain, Shri  
 Ram, Shri Prem Chand  
 Rao, Shri D. Venkateswara  
 Rawal, Dr. Lal Bahadur  
 Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh  
 Ray, Dr. Sudhir  
 Raychaudhuri, Shri Sudarsan  
 Reddy, Shri B.N.  
 Roy, Shri Haradhan  
 Sharma, Shri Jeewan  
 Sharma, Shri Rajendra Kumar  
 Shastri, Acharya Vishwanath Das  
 Singh, Shri Devi Bux  
 Singh, Shri Pratap  
 Singh, Shri Ram Prasad  
 Singh, Shri Ramashray Prasad

Sur, Shri Monoranjan  
 Swami, Shri Sureshanand  
 Thakore, Shri Gabhaji Mangaji  
 Turkey, Shri Pius  
 Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand  
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran  
 Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore  
 Vadde, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao  
 Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra  
 Verma, Shri Phool Chand  
 Verma, Prof. Rita  
 Yadav, Shri Chandra Jeet  
 Zainal Abedin, Shri

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction\* The result of the division is:

Ayes: 145

Noes: 103

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE *Contd.*

Explanatory statement giving reasons for immediate originations by the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994

16.38 hrs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994.

(Placed in Library. Sec. No. Lt-7085/95)

16.39 1/2

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) ORDINANCE, 1995 AND

CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) BILL—*Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER: We take up next two items—Statutory Resolution on Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Ordinance and Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Bill—together for further consideration.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): Sir, while speaking on the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Bill, I just want to impress upon the Government about the new situation as a result of technological revolution in respect of information technology that has taken over this world, due to which we are being faced with the danger of cultural invasion. We are being subjected to alien cultural values which affect our society which and have nothing to do with our life. So, we welcome the move if there is any sincerity on the part of the Government to adequately meet the new situation that has developed in our country as in some others.

16.40 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The main purpose of this Bill, as has been explained by the hon. Minister at the beginning, has, on the one hand, been to protect the interest of innumerable cable operators in our country. There are about 60,000 to 70,000. By this time, it may have touched one lakh or it may be even more. An Ordinance was promulgated in a situation where it was noticed that some foreign multinational companies were trying to take over this cable operation business which might turn out to be another danger not only to our culture but also to our sovereignty. Though I oppose this practice of Ordinance—it violates the democratic spirit enunciated in our constitution—but still the purpose for which that has been done, is apparently a welcome move and I support it.

As regards the provision of compulsory registration by the cable operators, it is another welcome move. I think, to some extent, it may help the Government to control this mushrooming of cable operators many of whom are irresponsible and do not care for the interest of the youth, interest of the society and Indian values. Their primary motive and commercial motive is to make profit.

However, I am not sure whether the Government will be successful with the small measure of getting them registered. But still the Government may be providing handle to control to some extent the unscrupulous cable operators who are polluting not only the culture but also there is the danger of interfering with our social fabric. I know of one such incident in my part. After the demolition of Babri Masjid, one such unscrupulous cable operator had been propagating misinformation which might create grave tension among different communities. Ultimately it was the people who brought it to the notice of the Government about such a thing being done by a particular cable operator. After the intervention of the people it was stopped and the tension could be diffused among different communities.

Sir, I would like to make a serious charge against the Government in regard to abiding of the programme code and the advertisement code by these cable operators. The electronic media which is owned by the Government instead of working as a model has been compromising with the very thing they are trying to oppose. Take for example, the M.T.V., whatever it is providing has nothing to do with our culture. It is not at all in conformity with the Indian culture. But we find that Doordarshan is collaborating with the M.T.V. for a particular channel with the result that the Government loses the right to oppose or criticize such unscrupulous and unhealthy propagation of culture and other things which pollutes our society.

About the retransmission of at least two channels by Doordarshan, I think the cable operators should be made to do so. They should consider it as a national obligation. But what I find here is that the electronic media continued

\* Abstention Shri A. Asokaraj, Shri B. Rajaravi Varma, Dr. N. Murugesan, Shri P. Kumarasamy, Dr. (Shrimati) K.S. Goundaram and Shri R. Naidu Ramasamy.

to be as biased as ever in spite of the severe criticism, lopsided presentation of views and news, urban oriented news and the VIP oriented news. The rural life is neglected, the real happenings of the society are neglected. So, I had demanded in some other forums the urgency of formulating a National Media Policy. I am sorry to say that although the Government, a particular Ministry had decided to set up a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of hon. Member, Shri P. Chidambaram, for about a year now no meeting of this Sub-Committee which is meant for the purpose of preparing a positional paper on such an important National Media Policy outline, could be convened. The Government presented one draft at a particular forum, which was discussed. But without any National Media Policy what could be the role of the electronic media in the present circumstance? With the information technology, satellite channel and the globalisation, cultural invasion and all such things are taking place.

There is an intrusion of alien things into the drawing rooms and the bed rooms. How to face such a situation? What will be the role of the electronic media and the print media? Do you require any change, in the present circumstances, in our programme code? All such things could be discussed and the national could have an appropriate guideline according to the spirit of the Indian Constitution. The goal of the nation is self-reliance, that is, to protect our own economic and national sovereignty, all the things given in different provisions of or the Articles of the Constitution or in the Directive Principles. I am sorry to say that in spite of the sincerest assurances given by the hon. Minister, we could not proceed further. The nation continues to be deprived of such of National Media Policy. We need a National Cultural Policy also. There was an approach paper which was given to us; and every time, we do find that they are put on the Order Paper at the far end of the Session; sometimes, we were promised that there would be a discussion on it, but no such discussion took place. In the absence of any such policy, how can we give any guidance to the small cable operators?

Nowadays, telecommunication, computer, airways—all these things taken together have made one common package, a total package. The multimedia has come. People do have access to their own desired cultural goals, sitting at home. In such a situation, where we have a very significant revolution in the information technology, we should have an Information Policy. I am amazed to find this; I had drawn the attention of the Government and the Minister to this. In the Russian Unit of the All India Radio's External Services Division, there are people who do not project even the views of the Government on the question of Jammu & Kashmir on these important national issues. There is no one to take care of such things.

A few days back, I was coming back from Hyderabad. It is known to many of you. At the VIP Lounge of the Airport, Radio Pakistan was presenting the views of the Pakistani Government, of what Mrs. Bhutto had said at Copenhagen. But, no such views of the Government of

India was given. Leave alone the border areas, even in many other areas, we do find that the Government controlled media, propagating the views of alien Governments, were inimical on many major issues like conspiring or increase in the terrorist activities. In such a situation, if the cable operators operate in the border areas or in some other areas, it is the duty of the Government to work as a model so that they can have the rightful authority to control others. The Government is losing the authority, the moral authority to give some 'set sermons' to other people. I am not trying to illustrate anything, but it is well-known. On the floor of this House, we have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Government as to how the former Prime Minister's programmes were neglected; the Chief Minister of a particular State making very important announcements on developmental project or on social problems are blown out whereas the views of some newcomers of a particular party ruling the Central Government are projected and overblown; the views of certain ladies are blown out of proportion though their contribution to the society is not much.

Sir, I am very sorry that I have a very bitter experience.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): You kindly give an example. Please tell me in which programme your Chief Minister is not covered. I want to know it. Since you have indicated me, I am raising it. You are also a politician and I am also a politician. You are also covered. I know what you want to say.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have not indicated anyone.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: I request the Minister to kindly ask the chair from the Calcutta Doordarshan and find out how many minutes have been allocated for the Opposition Party and CPI(M). You will be surprised to know that the Opposition in West Bengal is nowhere to be seen in the Calcutta Doordarshan. There are only the ruling party members and the Chief Minister. They have not only been covered in Channel-II but in Channel-I also. It is the CPI(M) media now. And I challenge the authority or the department who gave you these details. Since you have mentioned this point, I am interested in raising it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, if she finds the cap filling herself. I am helpless because I have not mentioned any name. I have said that some ladies, some figures, some political people and some small new comers are overblown. Shri Bijoy Krishna Modak was the seniormost member in our party; he had been in politics for long 70 years and he had been a colleague of Mr. P.C. Sen and a member of this House for three terms and he had also been a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. He had died and it was one of the largest condolence meetings ever held in West Bengal and leaders like Shri Bijoy Krishna Choudhury, the seniormost Minister in our West Bengal Cabinet and the Chairman of the Left Front were present. But there was no proper coverage at though myself made a request to the Doordarshan authorities that

such is was the situation. In the beginning of his life, he was in Jugnatar Dal. Then he became a Congress leader and ultimately, he became a Communist leader and one of the founders of the Communist Movement in that part of India. An obituary reference was made about Mr. Bijoy Krishna Modak here, as he was a senior Member of this House also. But the Doordarshan had no time to cover it and on the same day, we found the camera covering insignificant happenings in Calcutta. So, I would urge upon the Government to evolve some standard or norms in working of the electronic media. Still, I support this Bill which has provisions which may help the Government to some extent.

Again, I am coming back to the point I had made in the beginning that the nation requires a policy. In China, we do find that they also face a similar situation. But the satellite channels beamed from Hong Kong are controlled. They control the projections which they do not like. In countries like Singapore and Malaysia they have their own mechanisms to control. In our country also, we must have some control like this. We should have a model law for this purpose. Our Constitution, to a large extent, is after the UK model. In UK, they have have one such autonomous authority which is based on their Broadcasting Act, Programme Act and Advertisement Act also.

17.00 hrs.

In our country we do have so many Acts in respect of Broadcasting, Telecommunicaitons, Posts, Telecom and all such things. Taking into consideration all the salient provisions of all those Acts, let us have a comprehensive law for such an authority. It may questioned how such an authority will work at the hands of such a Government, who are out to destroy the democratic fabric, democratic setup of this Government in so many ways, who have even given that promise on the floor of this House long back in 1990—it was 'The Prasar Bharati Bill' which was unanimously adopted—are dragging their feet on one plea or the other. The conscientious people have gone to the courts. The courts have intervened. They have given a judgement. The supreme Court has given a judgement that the Government should desist from continuing their authority, monopoly control on the electronic media, that the people of this country should have their right to information, access to information and right to propagate their informaiton. Even after the Supreme Court's judgment, we do find that this Government has no reaction. The judiciary should be respected. The Government should come out with a view regarding what they propose to do with regard to the implementation of the Prasar Bharati Act, or for that matter any improvement in the matter of autonomous sanctioning of the authority, maybe, with regard to the electronic media or this cable operation.

Sir, I do not want to just elaborate many points which have been made earlier made by me and others, but I should like to emphasize one point. Very recently, after the menacing growth of sex and violence in sections of the Indian Films, the Hon. Minister had taken the initiative to hold some discussions with all concerned and on the basis

of the recommendations made by all these people concerned, some changes have been proposed, amendments have been proposed in the Censorship Act and these are being incorporated in the law. It is more or less on an experimental basis. How far we shall be successful is yet to be seen. It can be further improved. But that is a move in the right direction and I hope, Sir, that this pre-censorship provision for a cable network will, to some extent, improve the situation which has become disastrous in some parts of the country polluting the whole culture of the youth. But again, Sir, for the controlling authority censorship is not the right answer. The right answer lies elsewhere. The professionalism and patronization of the right alternative in culture is required. We do not find such encouragement given to the right sort of people who want to create healthy cultural programmes. The principle of 'First-cum-first serve' was followed in the Mandi House and we know the whole story. I am not going into that. That is not the right way to give encouragement to the right people who are dedicating themselves to the creation of a right healthy culture for the nation. For such a thing encouragement should be given for production of good peices of work. I had made one proposal at one fourm that there are very bright youth men and women working and having their lessons at Pune Film Institute. But after the completion of their courses they are in difficulties. Why could not the electronic media make an intrim sort of arrangement as it is being done in medical services. By internship for one year or two years whatever may be the period — those excellent boys and girls having such skilled knowledge in propgation of right and healthy culture, can be utilised for electronic media.

But they are not given any opportunity. Rather, they are being misused at the sweet will of big money power. Take for example the case of folk artistes who are spread over the whole length and breadth of our country. There is no dearth of talent. But there is no mechanism whatsoever to tap such talent and give encouragement. On the other hand, there is some sort of exploitation. Folk songs from Rajasthan are made very popular through commercialisaiton. But the original folk singers are not encouraged in the electronic media. There are many such artistes. I am not giving all the details for want of time. Moreover, Government does have information on these aspects. And in case they require further information, it can be made available.

Sir, I am supporting this Cable Television Network Bill and I hope it will serve the purpose at least to some extent. It fulfils the requirements only partially because it is a half-hearted measure. Such half-hearted measures will result only in half-hearted success. My plea is that we should have a comprehensive national media policy which should be coordinated and synchronised with a related national cultural policy. The Government should implement the Prasar Bharati Act and they should abide by the directive of the Supreme Court and honour the rights of the Indian people with regard to access to and propagation of informaiton.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the intention of the hon. Minister behind bringing this Bill forward. But it is also necessary to ponder over its shortcomings.

Modern era is a television era. Through which not only news and other programmes can be watched but every thing can be watched. People may not read newspapers but they would definitely like to watch television. Television is such a media of publicity which is watched by all members of the family i.e. husband-wife, daughter, daughter's-in-law, father, son etc. But the way our culture is being influenced by the foreign media in recent past, is a matter of concern and needs to be checked as there is sex and violence in abundance in their programmes which is adversely affecting our culture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to cite an example of Rajasthan in this regard. Barmer and Jaisalmar districts are situated at Pakistan border. Where as we have low power transformers, Pakistan has high power transformers and people watch their programmes. It is going on because of our helplessness. Therefore it has become necessary for us that we must have powerful transformers not only in Rajasthan border but also in entire country to check foreign programmes. In Jaipur, the then Minister of Rajasthan had inaugurated the Telecasting of regional news on 12th February 1991 or 1992 but there was hardly any regional news in that programme and whatever news was there could not be seen or heard in border areas because of the low power of transformer. Thus it is not fair to call that news bulletin as regional news bulletin. We will have to decide it once for all that regional news should be given preference then Central news in regional news bulletins. People can watch Central level news in the Hindi news bulletin at 8.30 p.m.

Thus more regional news will be included in regional bulletin. Please do consider in this regard also. Here you have stated in cable Doordarshan network that 90 days time will be provided to it and if it would be unable to telecast it, the matter will be inquired and registered and what will be the quota of programme thereafter. Instal high power transformers in border areas. Thus, people will remember you, for bringing forward such an excellent Bill. Similarly the quota of advertisements should be fixed. If programme regarding family planning is telecasted after 10 p.m. in indecent manner and if your child asks what they are saying, what will be your answer? You will find that these obscene advertisements are harmful for your family. Many people say that these are children's examination days therefore they have stopped watching T.V. because children always watch films in different channels. You might not be knowing but even small child will recognise whether she is Nalini Jaiwant or somebody else. The lives of great patriots and patriotic songs should be telecast on the compulsory satellite channels of Doordarshan. If we do not remember the great leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Sardar Patel and Subhash Chander Bose who had contributed in the freedom

struggle and who fought for the independence, this country will be ruined. So, you should think to telecast of lives of our great patriots and patriotic songs on one channel of Doordarshan. Once again you have brought this legislation. Since this Bill is incomplete to become a law, therefore you please make this bill more effective so that we can check foreign invasion in our national culture. Our transmitters in the border areas should be strengthened. In this way we will be able to check the Pakistan as well as other foreign propaganda. This is all I have to urge. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir in rising to support the Motion of Consideration of the Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, I am happy that it finds support from all sections of the House insofar as its basic objectives are concerned. This is major step taken in the field of electronic media to regulate mushrooming of cable TV network operators and to prevent take over of small operators by big ones.

This also aims at preventing the massive cultural invasion by foreign media of Indian culture through electronic exposure. The electronic media have undergone a revolution. The infiltration of foreign forces poses a serious threat of encroachment over our cherished values and cultural inheritance and this measure represents an attempt at curbing such threat. The new generation is being deeply influenced by foreign electronic media, through many types of satellites which are propagating different cultures, adversely affecting our basic cultural values and heritage. The influence is so deep that our cinema and TV who basically represent our culture in Indian and abroad are going the Western way adopting obscenity and nudity and competing in sex and crime with foreign films. It has therefore become necessary to curb and control this foreign invasion, which is one of the main objectives of this measure.

While this objective is highly commendable, the Bill does not seem to offer any mechanism for monitoring the foreign TV exposure to our boys and girls; for effective enforcement of the Codes—the programme code and the advertisement code. Moreover, since this measure is enforcing these codes, in a way, it seeks to curb the freedom of speech and expression which is the corner stone of democracy. It is therefore not proper and fair to assign framing of these codes to the framers of rules under the contemplated Act. Sir, what I once said, 'I do not accept a word of what you say but I shall give my life to defend your right to say'. It is a very delicate matter to attempt any regulation and control of this freedom to speak. The code-rules circulated with the Bill are so general and unspecific as to leave a lot of power of those enforcing them. I would, therefore, suggest that these codes should be couched in more precise terms and should form part of the Act itself, as Schedules attached to the Act.

It is also noteworthy that contravention of these

codes would constitute an offence punishable under Chapter-IV of the contemplated law. It would, therefore, only be proper to bring the rules governing the parameters of programmes agenda advertisements to form part of the Act.

These codes, it may be seen, are couched in so general and unprecise terms that it may not be possible to prevent flouting thereof with any degree of effectiveness. To quote an example the film 'Bandit Queen' which is not cleared by the Censors and is banned by the High Court has already been shown on Cable networks. But who is to be prosecuted for this?

Another major objective of this measure is to protect small operators elbowed out by big operators and to prevent monopoly. While the object is commendable, there is hardly any effective provision in the Bill to carry out and achieve this object. Major groups are coming in a big way with foreign collaborations and even foreign investors and NRIs may undertake the entire cable TV operators' business. I would like to urge upon the Government and the hon. Minister to make explicit and specific provisions to curb such tendencies of big sharks swallowing and killing the small fish. This could be possible only if provisions are made to protect small operators against such monopolistic forces by supporting them as small industries, while, of course, ensuring that the quality of transmission is improved to promote the high cultural values of our society.

Under Section 9 a restriction is sought to be imposed on the use of equipment, included modern, sophisticated imported equipment, which fail to conform to the BI standards. In this context of liberalisation of economy, it seem to be an anachronistic provision curbing sophistication and modernisation in this industry.

A serious malady of TV invasion from across the borders, namely, Pakistan, is programmes which have become popular amongst the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, the Punjab and others. This presents a serious security problem by way of arousing militancy and insurgency in these areas. This has to be curbed.

An international agreement has evolved to prevent TV transmissions across a country's borders except at a specific high frequency, different from local frequencies, so as to enable each nation to monitor such foreign programmes before being transmitted to be viewers abroad.

I hope that the Government will go into this aspect and try to bring in a legislation, of course, with international understanding.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you very much for giving me time to express my views.

SHRI A ASOKARAJ (Perambalur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for calling me to speak now. When I went through the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I found that they were really very good. It was because we are afraid that the cultural invasion may spoil our country. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is stated that:

"Since there is no regulation of these cable television networks, lot of undesirable programmes and advertisements are becoming available to the viewers without any kind of censorship."

When you watch the advertisements of soft drinks, you will find many sexy scenes. There are also many foreign films which highlight crime and sex. They are shown mainly during midnights. Now-a-days, even the teenaged boys and girls watch such films, we have to watch those films with our families.

I would like to point out that some protection should be given to the small cable operators. Another thing which I would like to point out is that sometimes the cable operators try to politicise the telecast. They give publicity to those personality who belong to a particular political party towards which the cable operators have a bias. Even important functions are not covered if the personalities attending such functions are not liked by cable operators.

Regarding seizure and confiscation on certain equipment, it is said:

"If any officer not below the rank of a Group 'A' officer of the Central Government authorised in this behalf by the Government (hereinafter referred to as the authorised officer), has reason to believe that the provisions of section 3 have been or are being contravened by any cable operator, he may seize the equipment being used by such cable operator for operating the cable television network."

Sir, I want to know what safeguards are contemplated to ensure that Group 'A' officer is not partial. I am afraid that if an officer does not like a particular cable operator, he can use these provisions against him. I would like to ask you whether you are contemplating to set up Committee so that the officers can perform in a perfect manner.

Then in page four para two of section 14, it is said:

"Provided that where no such notice is given within a period of ninety days from the date of the seizure of the equipment, such equipment shall be returned after the expiry of the period to the cable operator from whose possession it was seized."

If there is no such notice the equipments will be returned. This will be done at the discretion of the officer. That is why I insist on the appointment of a Committee. Moreover, what are you going to do if the officer is found wrong? If he does not have a good motive, how is he held responsible?

But on the whole, I support this Bill. At the same time, I would like the Minister to take note of the discrepancies that I have pointed out.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I would like to support this Bill.

I rise to support this Bill. I want to congratulate the Minister for bringing forward this Bill. I am totally in

agreement with other hon. Members who have expressed their views today on the Bill. We should not discuss this Bill; we should not even include anything in it which can politicise the matter. But sometimes we have to speak in order to clarify certain issues raised by somebody.

It is a fact that our TV network is trying to improve its performance. Even our Minister is also trying his best to improve it with this team, because if anything has to be done to improve it, he has to depend upon this team; without team, nobody can work. Even in the case of sports, everybody has to depend upon his Captain.

It is not possible for the Government or the Minister to look after all these things personally; he has to depend upon his own team all over the country; and that team should work out plans and policies so that they can look into the problems seriously.

It is a fact that we are moving towards the 21st century. Due to development of science and technology and the satellite programmes, people see what is practical. We have to admit that. We should not suppress the real thing. It is a fact that people prefer to see Cable TV and other TV. Now we are changing our attitude. You will appreciate that there are different kinds of people. There are some poor people in the rural areas. There are some elite people in the urban areas. The rural people want to see their regional programmes in a proper manner. The elite class society people want to see the programmes which they like on Cable TV and other TV so, how can you control it? If you want to control the cable operators, then you have to frame your own policy. There are some international agreements which England is having, and which other European countries are having. Due to these agreements. If you want to show their programmes on your on TV network, then you have to take permission from those countries. If you do not do it, then you cannot control the cable network operators. That is why, my request to you is that the Government should bring forward a comprehensive Bill so that all these things can be controlled so that through the satellite they cannot show whatever they want to show on their TV; and that is going on in our country.

It is a fact that sometimes our TV cannot give the news which the BBC can give. People come to know so many things through BBC as to what is happening and what is not happening in the world. Sometimes, they destroy the image of the country because of internal disturbances, because of the communalism and so on. There are so many things which the people come to know through BBC in a proper time which our Indian TV network cannot give because of the satellite channel. We have to admit that point.

So, my request to the Minister is that our Government should frame their own policy. Secondly, they should enter into international agreements just as England and other countries are doing because without the permission of the governments of the other countries, they cannot operate whatever they want to show on their TV. Of course, our Government are trying their best to improve it. But it is a

competitive market and in a competitive market, you have to compete with other markets also. That is why we have to see how we can attract the people of other countries and how we can make our TV attractive to them.

It is a fact that violence, criminality in politics, muscle power, money power and mafia power are increasing day by day. They affect the minds of the people if they are shown on the TV. But I do not want to say that they should not be shown on the TV. It is a fact that if any film is shown on the TV which depicts how our politicians are corrupt, how our administration is corrupt, how our officials are corrupt—I am not saying that whatever is shown on the TV is wrong—then the standard of our life gets deteriorated. This deterioration is going on unchecked because of the deterioration in our life standard, because of the deterioration in our working standard, and that is why I cannot say that we will stop everything. People should know actually what is happening in the country. At the same time, there must be some control that the real facts should not be distorted.

My fifth point is regarding sex and violence. I know the Government have some policy. The Government have some mechanism also but in spite of all these things, there is no control. The children's vision is affected. It affects the minds of the school-going children. Sometimes so many incidents happen. The children have seen some films, some programmes on the TV and after that, they have committed suicide. Then they have also become violent.

Sir, you will be surprised to know—I just want to tell this House about the attitude of the children—that one day my small nephew, who is only four-years old, called me and he said, 'Didi, can you give me a revolver? I said, 'What? What are you saying?'. He said, 'Yes, everyday I am seeing on the TV a revolver, this thing and that thing'. Sir, this is the attitude. So we have to control it. But I do not know how we will control it. The Government have the law, the Government have passed the law but due to poor implementation mechanism, sometimes it is not possible to tackle the situation. This is my fifth point.

My sixth point is regarding women. Sir, the atrocities on women and violence and specially the advertisements that the TV people show are sometimes really very horrible and very dangerous for the country and they damage the status of the women also. Sir, I would plead on behalf of the women that the Minister should see that that type of advertisements should not come in our media at least, and the TV should work impartially, I must say because in a democratic country, the Opposition Parties have their own values and in our democratic country the Government views will be covered and at the same time, the Opposition Parties views will also be covered because this is a democratic system, But what the hon. Member has said—Mr. Pal is not here right now, otherwise I would have said something. He has said something—that we are the new comers in politics. But he should know that I joined my politics when I was twelve years old. Now or the last 25 years I am in active politics. He should know the things. I am an MP for about nine years. He should know that all

the way I came from the student's movements. He is saying that they are covering us. Sir, in our State I am an Opposition Party Member. In Some other States, Congress is the Ruling Party. In other States, the BJP is the Ruling Party. But you have to give importance. I want to know from the Minister as to what importance he is giving at the national level. You are giving importance to the Opposition party because this is to be done is a democratic set up. But in my State, I am telling you, Sir, everyday they are showing on the TV. Earlier they demanded that the Government should give them the second channel. They have got the second channel. They have now captured the second channel. They have also captured the first channel. Sir, do you think that the Opposition Party should not open their mouth regarding development programmes? Yes, our State Government is making propaganda everyday because of the industrialization policy but, Sir, only the impression of one political party, the Ruling Party, will go on record but not of any other political party. Can you deny?

I am saying about all the States. I do not differ with respect to West Bengal only but what I am saying about West Bengal is on record, Sir, regarding industrialization policy, our TV also shows only Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I have no grievance. I do not have my personal grievance. But I am saying this with authenticity.

They have shown only Shri Somnath Chatterjee or they have recorded only his views. But in a democratic country, can they ask for the opinion of the Opposition party members also? They should ask for the opinion of the Opposition party members also. They are only criticising the Central Government. I have no grievance about that because when you belong to another political party, it is your moral duty to criticise the Central Government. But some opportunity should be given to the opposition party members also to express their views. Every time we have seen that if any panel discussion is taking place or if some discussion on a development programme is taking place, only four or five members are there and they are from, different political parties. You cannot capture the TV just like the Government magazine or the government media. They have closed down the Government media. Why? With the closure of the Government media, thirty-four press reporters are now surplus. The Government media *Basumati* was set up before the independence movement and now they are not giving protection to it because they have set up their own party paper. The Congress Government had taken over this paper when Congress was in power in 1947 and now these people have closed down that Government media because they want to strengthen their own party paper. If you want to work impartially, give priority to the region and the regional news. Of course, people want to know the national news but, at the same time, you can extend the time for the regional news also because within the present time limit, all regional news cannot be completed. If you extend the time least for the regional news by at least five minutes in the evenings—because in the evening everybody stays at home—that will have the effect on the

minds of the people. If you want to show different cultures, different languages and different types of programmes on TV, I would urge that those people who are working for the national intergration, those organisations which are giving free legal aid to the people, those people who are doing free social service to the people, should get priority on the TV. Instead of giving priority to businessmen, priority should be given to this type of people so that our youth can be encouraged, our women can be encouraged. our social organisation can be encouraged and our sports persons can be encouraged.

Regarding sports also, I want to request the Minister that in every State there are some sports personalities. Important sports persons, especially the Arjuna Awardees and those who have taken part at the international level or at the Commonwealth level, should come out and highlight the sports programmes. They should guide our new generation so that the new generation can get some information about sports from these people. Because the sports persons requested me for this, that is why I am making this request to the hon. Minister.

At the same time, I would also request that whenever advisory bodies are set up at different levels, please include the sports persons, film stars, doctors, engineers, intellectuals, women, youths, students and other people also in those bodies so that you can cover all the events taking place in these communities.

I know that there are some border areas where people do not listen the Indian news. In Bengal, some people in those particular areas tell me that they do not listen the regional Bengali news, they do not listen the Indian news, they listen only the Pakistan news or the Bangladesh news or other news. The Government should look at the problem in those areas and if the Indian TV and the Indian news is not reaching there, then they should look at the problem seriously and see that people in those areas are able to see the Indian news in a proper manner.

With these words, I congratulate the Minister for having brought this Bill. At the same time, I must congratulate Shri Rupchand Pal also for having raised some issues which had given me the opportunity to clarify those issues.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak

First of all, I welcome the spirit with which this Bill has been brought here.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister that he has brought this Bill at an appropriate time. Our technology is being highly welcomed in the world. Doordarshan has reached in most of the villages of our country. The people of prosperous villages are enjoying the doordarshan's programmes. They get practical knowledge from it.

Doordarshan has adversely affected the young generation. The programmes which are shown on Doordarshan are far from national spirit. Even our small children have become so expert that they tell us everything



about the films. The things which are not known to us, they tell us about them. Who is the actor and who is the singer, they tell us everything.

We are passing through the development phase. You will have to see how to check cable network. An international agreement must be made to check it. This is not only our country's issue various programmes of other countries are also being telecasted on every channel. Such programmes should be telecasted on Doordarshan which strengthen the national spirit such as revolutionary movement of 1942. A number of youths of our country became martyrs. That is why you and we are here. So long as the spirit of nationality will be not roused among people the country can not progress. In the absence of national feeling, everyone will see his own interest. Doordarshan is such a forum which can strengthen the country. Population can be checked through it.

It is seen that it is damaging our culture. China has already seen a cultural revolution. The population of China is highest in the world. A cultural revolution took place there for the protection of their culture. The Pakistan's programmes are shown on channel-2. In these programmes they show how terrorism is encouraged and backed. You have brought this bill at an appropriate time.

The Indian channels should give coverage to the terrorist activities taking place in Pakistan. There is a need to inculcate a feeling of nationalism.

Our youth are the helmsmen of the nation. If they are gripped by nervousness, what will happen to the nation. Today elections are being boycotted and killings are taking place in several parts of the country. We should strive to bring the youth—whether they belong to Kashmir, Punjab, Jahanabad or elsewhere in the national mainstream and inculcate the feeling of nationalism among them and maintain democracy. The Government should remove the discrepancies. With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the ordinance issued by the Government regarding Cable Network has its merits and demerits. Therefore, I support its merits and oppose its demerits. Today the multinational companies are coming to India due to the liberalised economic policy of the Government. These are coming not only for carrying out trade or setting up industries in the name of economy and removing poverty in India but they are also invading our culture and destroying it. Now the cable network has become a medium of attack on our culture. Even Doordarshan is giving more coverage to foreign culture and civilization.

India is a country of villages. Majority of its people live in villages. The villages have their own culture, civilization, system of education and way of living. Not only today but earlier too, India was known as a nation worth emulating. It is only our nation, whose religious books are emulated by other countries of the world. For example there are Geeta, Ramcharit Manas and different Vedas. Had these things been discussed through this ordinance, the people would have come more closer to their culture and civilization and

we would have taken the country forward. Due to the entry of foreign companies into India and the way of publicity of their products have struck a severe blow to the feeling of nationality. Therefore, I would like to submit to the Government that special care will have to be taken to see that the policy is not changed on account of liberalisation. As the Government has bowed before the foreign companies, they will only publicise their product in our country and thus, bring their culture and civilisation here. The Government cannot stop them from publicising their products. It must be noted that once the culture, civilisation or language of a country gets destroyed, many a eyebrows are raised about the identity of the nationality of that country. Therefore, the Government would certainly have to look into these aspects.

There are several people who in the name of trade institutions of their country seek collaboration from other countries and thus destroy the industries of their nation through those foreign institutions. Further, they use Doordarshan for such publicity. For example, my constituency Mirzapur-Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh has largest carpet industries. Our country earns foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 1200 crore per year through these industries. There are some people of our own country who talk of child labourers being engaged in these industries and their exploitation by the industry owners. They unleash such propaganda with the intention of destroying Indian industries which is resulting in decimation of our whole industrial base. If the Government sincerely pays its attention towards this, this industry can be saved from destruction and about 25 lakhs workers engaged therein would not be rendered jobless. Our Hon'ble Minister of Commerce is present here this issue is also related to his Ministry. However, some agencies like 'Bandhuwa Mukti Morch' and 'Bal-Dasta Morcha' etc. are behind this propaganda.

I would like to request the Government that it should be looked into whether those child labourers will be allowed to lead a systematic life after their release? The second thing is that such issues should be resolved within the country itself. They take these issues to the fora of other countries and false propaganda is unleashed through electronic media. This is the biggest shortcoming in this ordinance and as a result of this a great loss is caused to the trade sector of the country. It would be better if the honourable Minister look into this aspect also.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting that if provision of punishment are made for those people who raise such issues in other countries and unleash a false propaganda through Doordarshan, it would be a step in a right direction to implement this ordinance. Secondly, the biggest crisis which is being faced by India at present in that is culture and civilization is in danger. As I have already mentioned, this threat is posed by Doordarshan itself which has spread its network all over the villages. Well, Doordarshan is a means of recreation but have the Government ever ceased to pay their attention towards the culture and

civilization of Indian villages. How this culture of 'Hai and hello' took over villages in its grip. Have the Government ever tried to find out as to how this culture, which is akin to the western one, has been influencing our rural folk. It is mainly due to Doordarshan which is colouring our rural folk in the hue of western culture and civilization and thereby taking them away from their own culture and civilization. If this ordinance covers this very aspect, I think then only the genuineness of the Government's approach can be established.

Sir, I would like to see this ordinance coming in effect but before it comes invogue the Government must keep this thing in their mind that if this ordinance provides for overseas relay of such programmes of Doordarshan as are inconsistent with our nation's culture, civilization and national values, our social, political and economic set up and which conform to our concept of 'swadeshi'. I think India and its national set up can find a highest place in the world in a dignified manner. If this ordinance is implemented in a right manner, the Government would be accredited for this great feat. With this submission I conclude.

17.53 hrs.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

When we think of the great progress which we have made in the field of electronic media, we are reminded of our great leader Shri Rajivji for taking this country forward ahead in this field and, that is why, we are now in a position to have several channels of television and also the opportunity of showing whatever telecast is there from every TV telecast of different types which are available in this world.

The cable operators have a very prominent role to play because they are the ones who are taking the programmes which can be available only through a high transmission area by using very very sophisticated instruments.

So, this is one field which has got more connection with ordinary people and, therefore, it is of great importance that the Government of India has taken very serious view on the operation by way of cable television.

I support the Bill in the sense that it is very good that some kind of registration has been ensured and some control has been brought with regard to the programmes which could be telecast and which could be shown through cable TV.

When I go through the provision, I feel some difficulties may arise. I think, when the practical aspects are coming up, there may be some difficulties with regard to the implementation aspect of it. The programme code, for example, is something which is yet to be defined. Section (5) says:

"No person shall transmit or re-transmit through a cable service any programme unless such programme is in conformity with the prescribed programme code..."

But the point is that the programme code is not yet

available. I think it is probably for the rules which are to be made which have to bring forth the programme code. I am not very sure about it because I think when it has not been defined in this Act, it is yet to come up. That has to come up in the rules which are to be made later.

Sir, Information and Broadcasting is one filed, one important Department about which we do not get any time to discuss in this august House. Moreover, even when the budget proposals are presented, this is not a Ministry which is normally taken up for discussion. Therefore, we do not get a chance to discuss this Ministry. So, I think only when such Bills are coming up, we get time off and on to discuss matters. Only then we can go through the other broader aspects also. It is very important to have a full-fledged discussion on the policy of not only the electronic media but also the entire media which is very important as far as the modern world is concerned. So, I feel we must have a full-fledged discussion in this House regarding the electronic media with special reference to Television and also regarding the entire media. I think this is one suggestion which can be made while discussing this Bill.

With regard to the main aspects, I may broadly say that we are very happy that we have progressed a lot in this field. We have been able to revise a lot in regard to broadcast which is being made through the Indian Television. Doordarshan has improved a lot. Of course, it has to go a long way. There are certain Advisory Committees and there are certain Advisory Bodies which select the programmes which are to be shown on Doordarshan. But I do not know how far these Advisory Bodies or the Committees concerned have the real relationship with the different fields, with the different aspects of human life. I do feel that we must have a discussion with regard to the different Committees or the Bodies which do select programmes for Doordarshan. I think the programme code is also something which should come up for a discussion in this House.

Sir, because of paucity of time, I am stopping with these words. I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill which is a novel Bill which I hope will be a stepping-stone for further developments in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Indeed, there was a need to bring this Bill much earlier and the delay has certainly affected our youth. I do admit that our hon. Minister is very much enthusiastic and he is definitely taking all the things into consideration and he will decide about the functioning of Doordarshan in future. But I am at a loss to know that on one hand we say that we are having control on it whereas on the other hand when we watch music and advertisements on Channel-2, it seems that our Government has accepted it. We can not watch these advertisements while sitting with the family. I would not like to speak much on it.

18.00 hrs.

Perhaps it appears that for such things which are

affecting our culture, this penalty of Rupees One thousand only and thereafter one year imprisonment is just a negligible punishment. Minister should take it seriously and the provision should be made for a harder punishment so that the people may think that our country is taking it seriously.

A few days back, I had been to Madras. I lodged a complaint with the hotel authorities there that at 11 P.M. when I switched on the television the obscene film was going on it. Let us see how can an anchor be put on that? If the people in the private sector do so, how can we stop them. Therefore, there is a need to take an appropriate step in this regard. We have spreaded our Doordarshan net-work. But I am sorry to say that studio of Doordarshan Centre in my Constituency has been constructed two years back but it has not started functioning till date. Therefore the talents are migrating from there since they do not get the opportunity there. All these things should be taken into consideration.

[English]

MR.. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now it is 6 O' Clock. Shall we extend the time by fifteen minutes so that one or two more Members can speak?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: since the House agrees to that, you continue Mr. Gangwar.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir I have to Submit this only.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajamer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to urge upon the government through you that though the Bill has been brought for a good purpose but the way it has been brought, it not at all a democratic or a proper way. This Bill has been brought through an ordinance and this tendency to bring an ordinance should be demed as undemocratic and unconstitutional. An ordinance is brought at the time when there is some emergency or a grave situation in the country or there is some unavoidable circumstances requiring promulgation of an ordinance. I censure the tendency of the Government to bring the ordinance. If the Government was so much sincere about the security of the cable net-work operators, it should have brought this Bill here after getting it passed by the Rajya Sabha where it has placed in 1993. Although it was brought in the last session yet no discussion has been held on it. Therefore the Government took refuge in this ordinance. They were aware of it that after some time the session was likely to start after some days, then the detailed discussion should have been held on it, so that all the things could have come to the light. Then the hon. Minister should have brought a consolidated Bill after carrying out the necessary amendments. But this back door entry does not behave them at all. The ordinance brought by the Government is incomplete and lacks power and Provision.

[English]

There is no power; there is no provision.

[Translation]

The hon. Minister will say that there is a provision of punishment in it but you know that the judicial procedure takes a long time and in such Circumstances the provision of punishment becomes meaningless. There is no provision of additional authority for the regulation and monitoring of the functioning of the cable net work operators. I am surprised to say that this work has been handed over to the post offices and six months time has been given. I would like to know about the number of the cable net-work companies, which have got themselves registered till date. The Government wanted to inculcate a sense of security among the small cable network operators, they also wanted to ensure the code of programme and advertisement and it also wanted to have a ban on the undesirable programmes but it has been said for our country "Sare Jahan Se Accha Hindostan Hamara, Ham Bulbulen Hain Iski Yah Gulistan Hamara" but "Unan, Mishra, Rome Mit Gay Jahan Se, magar Ab Bhi Baki Namo Nishan Hamara." It was all due to our culture. But I am sorry to say that due to the consumerism and blind liberalisation the western cable network is growing like a spider web through the Star T.V., Jain T.V., B.B.C., C.N.N. and M.T.V. and it has polluted our youth, there thinking and culture also, Doordarshan is not lagging behind in this race. Whereas our Doordarshan has 12-13 channels today, there is no doubt that the revolution through the electronic media and the invention with the name of 'fibre' will bring a revolution in the coming years and there will be 50-55 channels on Doordarshan. Therefore, to earn the profit and to attract more and more advertisements, foreign films are being telecast at late night hours in which there are sex, violence, murders, dance, obscene postures and nudity. When the youth sees all these things his mind gets polluted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as for good health, good food is required, likewise good environment is required for sound brain. To give boost to the thinking, there must be a postively motivating electronic and print-media. Otherwise the saying of Akbar allabhabadi will come true "Hum Un Kul Kitabon Ko Kabile jabti Samjhata Hain Jinko Padhkar Bete bap Ko Khabti Samajhta Hain." If such films and other things are telecast then the very purpose of the media will be defeated. Therefore I would like to say that the Cable Network Regulation ordinance, lacks in regulatory powers. How many cable network companies have been registered during the last 3-4 months by the post offices and the officers to whom this work has been assigned? What about your Control over them and the number of cases in respect of which action has been initiated Self endent truth require no further proof.

Recently the Chief election Commissioner had issued orders that there should be no election analysis is or discussion regarding the Assembly election results in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa. but the B.B.C. and the Jain TV had telecast such programmes. What action was taken by the Government against them? The Doordarshan

did comply with the orders but the former two did not. We have been given freedom of expression in our Constitution, but this sacrosanct right should be exercised with self-restraint taking the historical, cultural, moral, educational and social merits of our country into consideration. Then alone we would be having a control over our cable Network or the Doordarshan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has implemented the Agriculture Policy and has also announced its industrial policy, liberalisation has been introduced in trade. But does similarly have the Government any media policy? have it announced their policy in this regard? this is what I would like to know. I would like to submit that it was discussed much earlier that the Prasar Bharti would be introduced and the work relating to information and broadcasting would be regulated through it. But the Prasar Bharti has now become something imaginary.

Sir, I would like to point out one thing more. You just want to submit that we are talking about the protection of small cable TV operators only. But is it not a fact that a company of Hinduja Group named Asia Company Technical Private Limited had tried to suppress the Operators. The hon. Minister knows it very well that this private Limited Company was set up to buy the Cable TV Network. I would not like to say more in this regard. Similarly, the G.T.V. had transacted a deal through Goyanka and it wanted to set up its centre in Bihar. Whenever we want to give protection to the small Cable network- be it indigenous or foreign, the big industrialists and capitalists want to have monopoly on it by wielding their money power. We will have to make an endeavour to check their tendency of having such monopoly. the entire world holds that the sky is quite free and this is an attempt to control the programmes telecast through satellites or to regulate the cable Networks? what technology does the Government have to do so? Today Pakistan is making false propaganda against India on Kashmir issue. We do not have a confutative reply to it. Our T.V. claims that we have enforced the censorship Act. If we are really interested to promote our culture, why the recitation of the mantras of the Vedas are not telecast? they are the basis of the culture of our country. Have ever the hymns (richas) of the Vedas been telecast as has been the case of devotional songs? The Vedas are not meant for a particular religion alone. These give the message for the well-being of the humanity as a whole. But recital of these is not telecast on T.V. Through you I would like to request the Government that the recitation of the mantras of the Vedas should be telecasted as the recitation of the Guru Grantha Sahib, the Geeta and the Ramayana is Telecast from TV or Cable Network.

Sir, I am surprised at those who talk of culture. Today villagers greet each other with 'Ram-Ram' or 'Jai Ramji' In the name of secularism this Government had banned greeting people with 'Ram-Ram' in farmers programme on Radio and TV and them had to suffer its ill-consequences. the expression 'Ram-Ram' is not meant for the statue of

Ram installed in a temple, it implied the omni-present God. 'Ram' is the ideal of our culture. he is the 'Maryada Puroshottam' Ram, a paragon of virtue who set ultimate ideals for mankind. Sir, the logos 'Satyam, Shivam Sundram' have also been scrapped from the TV and the Government talks about banning the Star TV and and BBC. The manner they take decision proves that the persons sitting in the air-conditioned rooms of Mandi House are not acquainted with the culture of this country. The hon. Shri Singh Deo has deeply studied Indian culture and he has been educated at Ajmer which is the junction point of all the religions. I would like to request the Government to identify the persons responsible for the present Stance of the Doordarshan and the All India Radio because we often talk about culture and enforcement of our ethos in principle.

Sir, the manner in which the Cable Ordinance is being reduced to smithereens is illustrative from one instance. One of my friends narrated that when he went to post office to fetch a form to get the cable network registered, the form was not available there. The registration work was not done in any of the post offices at Delhi for several days. Only the hon. Minister himself can tell us as to from when the forms were made available and from when the registration work was started.

Sir, nothing has been said about the registration fee here. Of course you are paying attention to interest of cable operators, but no care is being taken of the viewers of the programmes. How much money is charged for these programmes? Does this Bill provide any measures to regularise such funds and free the people of their exploitation? Advertisement codes, programme codes and all other issues are mentioned in the bill. but are the programmes telecast for typical rural areas monitored? They even do not hesitate to telecast blue films on the screen and thus they try to degrade the moral of our youth and culture and character of the country. Like T.B. this T.V. has inflicted the society.

There is saying in our society, "man is known by the company he keeps", "The psyche and temper of a man are the product of the food he takes." The universe is the reflection of our outlook" "Our actions and conduct are guided by our outlook". "The more you know the more factual You are." I mean to say that our speech should be blended with purity to soul. But on the pretext of restraint on language many news-items are not telecast through T.V. Lakhs of people waiting for news on TV in the evening, feel disappointed. The tendency of TV and All India Radio has become like that of an ostrich. I think that there should be the freedom of expression and the people of our country should have right to know the facts of the developments. But when the actual information is not known through the TV or the all India Radio, the people are compelled to shift their attention to B.B.C, the Star TV or the Z or any other channel.

Sir, you and we all want that the Cable network should be regulated. But when will it be done so? When will we

become alert? Our purpose is solemn. But the manner it has been introduced is wrong. It lacks the effectiveness. If we go through it, we would find it ridden with so many lacunae. Therefore, neither the interest of the Cable operators would be protected, nor good programmes would be telecast. The Government may conduct its survey. I am not making a reference of Rangoli etc. but arranging few programmes, programmes telecast through foreign channels are like more than those of ours after the introduction of 11 or 12 Channels.

I would like to say one thing more. Ajmer is the heartland of Rajasthan. The Government of India had announced two years ago to set up a high power TV transmitter Centre at Ajmer, Which would cover the Bhilwara, Pali, Nagor and Jaisalmer areas. But nothing has come out of the announcement so far. I would like to request the Government to pay attention to it. Small operators must be protected. But the hon. Minister must point out as to how big operators will be controlled.

Since we have adopted the liberalisation policy and we are allowing everybody in our country in the name of globalisation, there is every likelihood that some of the people coming here may be good and some other may be bad. But through you I request the Government that adequate arrangements should be made to prevent the entry of bad ideas into our country. The entry of foreign media can be allowed to our country, they may be allowed to publish newspapers here but they should not be allowed to set up their offices here. They should not be allowed to interfere here we should have complete control over foreign media with these words I express my thanks for allowing me to speak here.

#### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18.21 Hrs.

#### Forty-seventh Report

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18.22 Hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) ORDINANCE, 1995—*Contd.*

CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) BILL—*Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the desire of the House that we should sit for another half-an-hour or forty-five minutes so that the Minister can reply?

I think the House concedes to that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): I am ready to reply. I will take one hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We can sit tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon. Ministry start his reply. Then, let us decide after five minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members for their wholehearted support for the Bill as against the Ordinance. The Bill seeks primarily to perform three main functions: the first is that it wants to give legality; the second is that it is bringing in legislation for the first time even before Independence and after Independence as far as cable TV is concerned; and third and most important thing is that it gives legitimacy.

At the moment, nothing is available. Shri Bhargava and other Members have quoted the Objects and Reasons for bringing this Bill. There is a total mushrooming and haphazard growth of cable television immediately after the Gulf War—the Iraq War—when through CNN for the first time at the turn of the switch, one could get many channels.

So, this has been engaging the attention of the Government of India right from 1988-89. It is not that we brought the Ordinance all of a sudden or we just woke up to certain things. The Government was acutely aware and conscious that there was a cultural invasion. And, therefore, right from 1989, the then Government of India has taken steps to see how this cable television thing should be regulated. So, we do not believe in banning or amming or denying our people access to information and neither this Bill seeks to say that it is a fool-proof Bill as the reasons for bringing the Ordinance have been brought out. There were certain incidents and happenings and occurrences which might have compromised the sovereignty, integrity and the security of the country. The Government consulted various departments before deliberating in the Cabinet and then it went to the President for exercising his mind before affixing his signature to the Ordinance.

Sir, this had been lying there since 1992. It was brought in the Rajya Sabha in August, 1993 and was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee held four meetings, they deliberated and asked for cable operators to come and it was then vetted in the Department of Legal Affairs and Ministry of Telecommunications as these are the two Ministries associated with this. So, it was thoroughly vetted and before it could see the light of the day, I would not like to say anything further because that might attract privilege on my part. I am very fortunate that in two years' time thanks to the Ordinance and the Rajya Sabha which could at least pass this Bill; otherwise, my entire tenure of five years, from 1991-96, would have gone without this Bill ever having seen the light of the day and the entire cable television would have been totally without any regulation, legality and legitimacy as it had been happening since 1989.

So, Sir, I would now dwell on the points, if you want me to complete it today itself, I will take at least 45 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is the desire of the House?

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 A.M. on the 15th March, 1995.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we can have the reply tomorrow.

18.26 Hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. We shall adjourn now.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, March 15, 1995/Phalguna 24, 1916 (Saka).*

---

---

© 1995 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

PUBLISHED UNDER RULES 379 AND 382 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN  
LOK SABHA (SEVENTH EDITION) AND PRINTED BY THE MANAGER, GOVT. OF INDIA PRESS, FARIDABAD.

---