

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXVIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Monday, March 20, 1995/Phalguna 29, 1916/ (Saka)

<u>Col. Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(ii) 9	Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav	SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV
(ii) last	Prof. Ashokrao Anandrao Deshmukh	Shri Ashokrao Anandrao Deshmukh
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22/11	KOLIKUNNIL SURESH	KODIKUNNIL SURESH
103/1	Petrol Retail Outs	Petrol Retail Outlets.
133/1	DD and Air Studio	DD and AIR Studio
150/10(from below) 168/12(from below) 169/19(from below) 179/27 180/6 183/13	SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA	SHRI AJIT PANJA
201/21(feom below)	SAWAN	Seewan
250/2	Golden Jugilee	Golden Jubilee
316/28	SHRI PROBHU MAYAL KATHERIA	SHRI PRABHU MAYAL KATHERIA
329/14	SHRI LAL BABU RAI	SHRI LALL BABU RAI
343/27	SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE	SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[English]

Monday, March 20, 1995/Phalgun 29, 1916 (Saka)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (e) A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

STATEMENT

Power Production with US Collaboration

+

*81. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an American agency has shown interest to conduct a study to ascertain the commercial potentialities of generating hydel power and power from garbage in the country;

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

(c) the number of power stations proposed to be set up in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, for generating power from the garbage of private mills;

(d) the estimated cost likely to be incurred on setting up of power stations; and

(e) the details regarding power projects to be set up in collaboration with US Government and other American Agencies?

(a) No American agency has expressed interest in studying the commercial potentialities of hydro power in India. As to power from garbage/biomass, two proposals have been submitted by an American firm to the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu and one proposal has been received from an Indian agency and its American collaborator for setting up a project near Delhi.

(b) Full details of these projects have not yet been furnished by the promoters.

(c) No proposal has been received by the Central Government for setting up power generating units from garbage by private mills in other States including U.P.

(d) According to the American firm, the cost of each 50 MW station near Bombay and Madras would be about Rs. 208 crores. The financial details of the project near Delhi have yet to be received.

(e) The necessary information is furnished in the Annexure to this *Statement*.

ANNEXURE

Details of expression of interests by U.S. Private Sector Companies in conventional power

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Type	Firm	Name of Company
Andhra Pradesh						
1.	Godavari	208	748.430	Gas/NAPT	Joint Venture	Spectrum Tech. USA/ Jaya Foods & NTPC
2.	Jegurupadu GBPP	235	827.000	Gas/NAPT	Joint Venture	GVK Industries Ltd. USA
3.	Krishnapatnam TPS	2×500	3400.000	Coal	Foreign	GVK Industries Ltd. & Besocorp Int. Power
Total		3	1443.00			4975.430
Assam						
4.	Anguri GBPP	280	1280.000	Gas	Foreign	Assam Power Partners, Northern Engg. Inc. USA/AGRA Ind.
Total		1	280.00			1280.000

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Type	Firm	Name of Company
Himachal Pradesh						
5.	Dhamwari HEP	70	272.000	Hydel	Foreign	Harza Engineering Company, USA.
6.	Hibra HEP	231	708.500	Hydel	Foreign	Harza Engineering Company, USA.
Total		2	301.00			980.500
Karnataka						
7.	Almatti Dam	600	1900.00	Hydel	Foreign	Asia Power Company Ltd. (TAPCO) USA.
8.	Hospet TPS	2×250	2240.00	Coal	Foreign	KPC Hoke Inter-continental Ltd., USA.
9.	Mangalore TPS	4×250	4387.480	Coal	Foreign	Cogentrix Inc. USA
10.	Raichur St. V&VI	2×250	1922.000	Coal	Foreign	Public Power Int. Inc. (North East Energy), USA.
Total		4	2600.00			10449.480
Maharashtra						
11.	Dabhol CCGT (LNG)	2015 (695-PH)	9051.270	LNG	Foreign	Enron Dev. Corpn. GE & Bechtel, USA.
Total		1	2015.00			9051.270
Madhya Pradesh						
12.	Maheshwar HEP	10×40	1073.000	Hydel	Joint Venture	M/s. S.Kumars/ Bechtel, USA.
13.	Pench TPS	500	1500.000	Coal	Foreign	Sores Fund Management USA.
Total		2	900.00			2573.000
Orissa						
14.	Bomlai TPS	2×250	1750.000	Coal	Foreign	Galaxy Power Co. USA & Indeck of Chicago.
15.	Duburi TPS	500	1750.000	Coal	Joint Venture	Kalinga Power Corporation (NE Power, USA).
16.	IB Valley TPS	420	1993.630	Coal	Foreign	AES Corporation, USA.
17.	Kamalanga TPS	2×250	2400.000	Coal	Foreign	L&T with CEA, USA.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Type	Firm	Name of Company
18.	Lapanga TPS	500	1750.000	Coal	Foreign	Pioneer & Panda Engineering, USA-SARLAI (P) LA-Danga Co.
Total		5	2420.00			9643.630
Tamil Nadu						
19.	Cuddalore TPS	2×660	5664.000	Coal	Foreign	International contracting & MKT./EG, USA.
20.	Pillai Peru Malnallur	300	1235.820	Gas-NAPH	Joint Venture	Dyna Vision of Reddy Group/J. Makowski, USA.
21.	Zero Unit (NLC)	250	1320.110	Lignite	Foreign	ST Power Systems Inc. USA.
Total		3	1870.00			8224.930
West Bengal						
22.	Bakreswar TPS	420	1860.000	Coal	Joint Ventrue	DCL Kuljian Corp. GMS, Generation, USA & WBPDC
23.	Dankuni	20	70.000	Gas	Joint Venture	Spectrum Technology, USA.
24.	Sagardighi TPS	2×500	4960.000	Coal	Joint Ventrue	DCL Kuljian Corp., CMS Generation, USA & WBPDC
Total		3	1440.00			6890.00
Grand Total		24	13269.00			54068.240

List of US Companies having Collaboration in Non Conventional Sources of Power

Indian	US Agencies	Objectives
MOUs SIGNED IN JULY 1994		
1. Thermax Ltd.	F.E.R.C.O. U.S.A.	For a joint venture on advanced biomass gasification.
2. Bharat Elect. Ltd., India.	M/s. Spire, U.S.A.	In the area of Solar Photovoltaics
3. M/s. Emgee Solar India.	M/s. Martin, Marietta, USA	In the area of Solar Photovoltaics
4. Solec Pentafour India.	Solec, U.S.A.	To establish a manufacturing line that will assemble photovoltaic modules of components manufactured in the US between Solec, USA and Solec Pentafour India.
5. Bangur Group Calcutta.	Cannon Power California, USA.	To construct a 25 MW Wind Farm. Cannon is the first US Wind Energy Company to open a permanent office in India.

	Indian	US Agencies	Objectives
6.	Delton Cables India.	Energy Conservation Devices/Ovonic Battery Co. USA	To form a joint venture for manufacturing and sale of Ovonic nickel metal hydride rechargeable batteries.
7.	Esvinn Advanced Tech. Ltd., India.	Manufacturing and Tech. Conversion International (MTCI)	For cooperation in the field of Steam Reformer Technology of pollution abatement, energy and chemical recovery in pulp and paper mills, sugar mills and distilleries.
8.	India	US-Canada Consortium	Consortium to develop the project on biomass cogeneration at a Sugar Mill in India.
9.	T.E.R.I. & Simbhaoli Sugar Mill Limited.	US-Canada Consortium	For the purpose of pre-feasibility analysis on biomass cogeneration in Sugar Mill.
10.	C.I.I.	US Export Council	For Cooperation in the field of renewable Energy activities.

MOUs BETWEEN JULY-DECEMBER 1994.

11.	M/s. Siemens Solar		Announced commencement of their Indian operations in the area of Solar Photovoltaics.
12.	Sun Source (I) Ltd.	Cannon Power USA	For alternate energy projects like Solar, Wind etc.
13.	M/s. Eco Solar Pune	University of Colorado, USA	For developing Cadmium Telluride based photovoltaic Modules with an annual capacity of 700 MW.
14.	T.E.R.I & Willard India Ltd.	Energy International Cooperation, USA	For the purpose of pre-feasibility analysis on biomass cogeneration in a Sugar Mill.
15.	Devices & Systems Ltd., India.	Sea-West, USA	For establishing DAS—West Wind Energy Services Ltd. to provide a full range services to Wind Energy Sector in India.
16.	Klain & Marshal Manufacturers & Exporters, Madras	Sea-West, USA	For projects on renewable Energy as well as Conventional power.
17.	M/s. Triveni Eng. India	Zond Systems, USA.	For the manufacturing Wind Turbines and for Private Sector Wind Power development.

MOUs SIGNED ON 21st DECEMBER 1994

18.	S.E.C.	N.R.E.L.	For closer cooperation in the field of Solar Thermal and photovoltaic products, exchange of non-Proprietary Scientific Information, Solar Radiation Data Collection, Analysis and dissemination, establishment of links between renewable energy networks in both countries.
19.	T.E.R.I.	Ovonics Battery.	Utilisation of significant progress made by Ovonic working in the Advanced battery Consortium to develop and market electric power two and three wheel scooters in India.
20.	B.H.E.L.	E.P.R.I.	On low speed variable speed wind turbines and advanced high efficiency PV Concentrators.
21.	I.R.E.D.A.	I.F.P.E.E.	For cooperation in energy efficiency issues.
22.	I.R.E.D.A.	Solstar Power and Light, USA	On PV training courses.
23.	I.R.E.D.A.	Global Trade Inc., USA	Aimed at strengthening the renewable energy industries financing infrastructure.
24.	I.R.E.D.A.	International Development Business Consultants	On cooperation aimed at extending IREDA's business network to international level.
25.	I.R.E.D.A.	Environmental Enterprises Assistance	Aimed at setting up of NRSE projects on a large-scale in India.
26.	T.E.R.I.	Solstar Power & light, USA	On wind energy resource mapping.

	Indian	US Agencies	Objectives
27.	NEPC-MICON	Spire Corporation	For establishing a photovoltaic module manufacturing facility in India to be owned and managed by NEPC-MICON using Spire technology.
28.	Esvin Tech. India, Ajinkyatara coop Sugar Factory (Maharashtra)	Thermochem, USA	On preparation of a detailed project report and subsequent implementation of a demonstration project for bagasse gasification based cogeneration.
29.	Kalinga Power Corpn. Ltd., India	Essex Hydro, USA	On two small hydro projects in Orissa State, India totaling 11.5 MW.
30.	Intr. Power Corp. Ltd. India	Essex Hydro, USA	On two small hydro projects in Karnataka State totaling 11 MW.
31.	Swasti Power Engg. Ltd.	Essex Hydro, USA	On small hydro run-of-the-river project in Uttar Pradesh, India to construct 3—5 plants with a target total capacity of 9-25 MW.
32.	dian Institute Petroleum	Bioenergy Development Corpn., USA	On biomass cooperation
33.	Gujarat Auto Services Ltd.	American Methanol Institute, USA	On Alternative fuels for transportation
34.	Diacon Impex India	High lifter International, USA and Alternative Energy Engg. Inc., USA	For manufacturing and marketing of renewable energy water pumps.
35.	State of Kerala	Optium Power, USA	For the first ever power purchase agreement for a 25 MW windfarm.
36.	KEI Energy	KENETECH, USA	For development of wind power India generation stations in India.
37.	KEI Energy India	J. Makowski Co., a division of pacific gas and Electric, USA.	On a biomass and agricultural waste power development.
38.		Intch Global Resources, USA	Announcement on beginning of a project development efforts in the areas of solar power, bagasse-based power and renewable energy resource assessment.

MOUs SIGNED ON 13TH FEBRUARY 1995

39.	Energy Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	Tenas, Inc. Texas	Cogeneration and renewable energy.
40.	Mukul International Pvt. Ltd.	EHF Corpn. Pennsylvania	10 MW solar electric power plant; 100 MW coal-fueled Ltd. power plant with 300 TPD coal washing plant near New Delhi (at the same site)
41.	Pentafour	Zond Corpn., California	20 MW wind energy project in Tamil Nadu.
42.	RES, Hyderabad	E.P.R.I. USA	Partnership for evaluation of low-cost photovoltaic cells.
43.	Swasti Power Engg. Ltd.	Acres Int. Corpn., Newyork	Small Hydro Projects in U.P.
44.	MPSEB	Dodson-Lindbloom Int'l., Illinois & OPIC	5 small hydro projects totalling 5.1 MW in M.P. through DLI's Indian subsidiary (Ascent Hydro Projects Ltd.) with financial assistance from OPIC.
45.	TERI	Lockheed Env. systems and Tech. (Texas)/ Econergy Intl. Corpn. (D.C) & OPIC.	Funding feasibility study for two 50 MW biomass-fuelled Co-generation plants in U.P.
46.	ABAN Lloyd Chiles Off-Shore Ltd.	Kenetech Corpn. California	Sales contract for delivery of 600 advanced wind turbines.

	Indian	US Agencies	Objectives
47.	Solaris Systems, Cochin	Intech Global Resources, Inc.	To build a 2 MW solar power plant in Palakkad, Kerala.
48.	IREDA-KEI energy Ltd.	Pechtcl Corpn.	To create a facility to accelerate commercial use of renewable technologies in India.
49.	NPEC-MICON Ltd.	Omnion Power Engg.	To install a 150 KW SPV power plant in Tamil Nadu.
50.	UDAY Ltd.	Intech Global Resources Inc.	To develop inverters and allied hardware for gridinteractive renewable energy systems.
51.	IREDA	EPRI, California	To design and evaluate methods for US industry interaction and technology co-operation with counterparts.
52.	MNES	EPRI California	To expand cooperation between MNES and US utilities with emphasis on PV, wind and biomass.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has stated in the reply to the part (a) of the question that two proposals have been received from an American firm for setting up power generating units based on garbage/biogas in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The hon'ble Minister has said in the conference that the power received from the private companies will be much more expensive. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether these proposals have been brought forward for providing expensive power supply? I would also like to know the name of that agency and the time by which this project is likely to start?

[English]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): Sir, a United States firm called Zelcron industry has made a proposal to the Ministry of Power to set up these power generating plants in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The proposal is of a preliminary nature. It costs about Rs. 200 crore. They do have the technology. They are yet to make a serious project proposal or a feasibility report. This particular subject is being dealt with by the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources. We have received about 17 proposals for generating energy from waste.

(b/1105/Kg/mkg)

The technologies are now becoming mature. We have general incentives and we also propose to make a scheme applicable to the whole country to make use of this potential for generating energy from urban wastes as a corollary to urban waste management and environmental control programmes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had just now asked in my question whether this power will be expensive or cheap but no reply has been given in this regard.

I am asking another supplementary question. In the same part of the answer it has been stated that a power project is likely to set up near Delhi. I would like to know that upto when this project is likely to set up and whether it will meet the requirements of Delhi? If not, to what extent it will meet the requirements of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): So far as the generating cost of the power is concerned, this proposal is on the preliminary stage, so the details about the prices are not available. This was the reply agiven by the hon'ble Minister.

The project which is to be started in Delhi is also in the preliminary stage. This proposal is for a project of 200 Megawatt. The requirements of power in Delhi are much more and this project will not be able to meet the requirements of Delhi but alongwith this they want to set up Energy Efficiency Centre also.

[English]

"This would be an educational resource and includes demonstration models, exhibition and classroom facilities."

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell to the hon'ble Minister that because of the acute shortage of power in the country farmers are facing lot of difficulties and in the modern times the scarcity of power is causing many hindarances. The lift irrigation scheme in Madhya Pradesh is lying pending just because of power shortage. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that if the private companies have not shown much interest in it then in view of this what steps the Government is likely to take for the generation of power so that adequate supply of power can be ensured to the farmers?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has a wide scope. You are right. The hon'ble Member has said rightly that there is too much scarcity of power in the country and this shortage is everywhere in the length and width of the country. This shortage is in Madhya Pradesh and in every state. As this industry is capital intensive industry and we don't have capital neither in Centre nor in states so we can not generate adequate quantity of power. We are making efforts so that maximum number of people shall join the power generation sector.

In Madhya Pradesh also the work of 20 projects have been allotted to various comapnies. We are trying our best to bring the private sector in this field as early as possible. Once the work of generation of power will start, we will be able to supply power to Agriculture, industries as well as the domestic sector.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Whether a working group of experts constituted for the private sector has warned the Government that if foreign companies particularly American companies enter in the field of power generation in private sector in India then electricity will cost more, regional imbalances will increase in regard to the power generation and supply and it will seriously affect the balance of payment position? If so, what is the reaction of the Government in this regard?

A reference has also been made about Uttar Pradesh in this question. There is a severe crisis of power in Uttar Pradesh and power supply is also irregular there. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the part 'B' of this question that whether Government is aware about the consequences of the short supply of the power and losses to the industry and crops? If so, the action taken to improve the situation?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Last portion of the question need not to be replied to because it is already replied.

[Translation]

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: It is a fact that this thing is being criticised that the power to be supplied by the Private sector will be expensive. This all criticism was started by people of Andhra Pradesh. They are paying high prices. We are generating power in the public sector at the same capital cost. The main thing is that anybody who want to set up a plant, he can set up that plant. If he wants to set up at low cost he can do so. That will be their reasonable cost. The Parliament has enacted a law about Central Electricity Authority. It examines it thoroughly. It is the authority in this matter. It gets approval only when their capital cost and generation cost is reasonable.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: The hon'ble Minister has given statement in his reply to a question that we want to increase the generation of power by giving assistance to the indigenous and foreign companies in regard to the various hydro power projects. The Maheshwar project in Madhya Pradesh is being given to the S. Kumar and the Pench Hydro Project is being given to a foreign company. Is it a fact that an indigenous company had requested for awarding the work of the Pench Hydro Electricity Project to them but this work has been given to a foreign company i.e. an American company. I would like to know the reason for it.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for this he will have to give me a separate notice....(Interruptions) you please see the scope of the question. Hon'ble Member is asking about the particular aspect. His question is not related to the biogas. So I can not give the information right now.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: In the statement you have made a reference to the Maheshwar Project and I am asking a question about it only. If you would have not mentioned it, I would not have asked you a question.

2-470 LSS/95.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have accepted your answer.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I am grateful.

[Translation]

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Just now the hon'ble Minister has stated that power generating companies of private sector have entered in India because we have a resource crunch. It is a fact. We would like to congratulate for it. Just now he has stated that their prices are very high. This is an incorrect concept. I don't agree with it. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of power plants in private sector in which the expenditure incurred is less than rupees 3 crore per MW and the number of private sector plants in which expenditure has been incurred more than Rs. 4 crore 25 lakhs. Why there is so much gap?

[English]

There should be one criteria, one parameter which decides as to what is the maximum price which the State Electricity Board will pay by means of power purchasing agreement. There is so much difference between different States.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: The hon. Member is capable of putting up a plant himself. If a cheaper power plant can be put, I would welcome him and invite him.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: At Rs. 4 crore per MW anybody can put up a power plant. You need not worry.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I would invite him to put up a power plant at a cost lesser than Rs. 4 crore per MW. We would welcome it very much.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is very offending reply.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is not offended.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I know he would not be offended. But as MPs we feel offended. (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: If any Member feels offended, I apologise for that. I thought I was paying tribute to the hon. Member by saying that he can put up a power plant. I am sure, he feels complemented.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: I feel complemented.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Be that as it may. I will come to the point.

Sir, the crucial question for consideration is when you are comparing the capital cost of a power project being put up, one has to see as to what would be the project cost after four or five or seven or nine years.

To compare that cost with the cost of the power plants which were put up five years ago is very unfair. Today the only way out is to compare the cost of the power projects in the public sector as against the private sector. If they were to be seen in that context, then the Central Electricity Authority is conscious of the fact. You let us know about any particular project that you want to complain about.

Everyone is saying that the cost is high. I have openly challenged that you let us know about any particular State where the Central Electricity Authority has accepted a particular cost. We will give the reasons; we will give you the rationale.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: What is the highest cost that you are allowing?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: It cannot be fixed; it differs from project to project. Where a project is purely for expansion, where the infrastructure is not required, it cannot be fixed. But where a large infrastructure is required, there it depends upon the infrastructure required. In Sikkim, if a hydel plant is to come up, where they have to construct roads, where they have to construct bridges for 120 miles, there it depends upon the infrastructure. So, the cost depends the location of a particular plant, the infrastructure required for that plant and on the total factors which go into the making of project.

I want to repeat here and submit in all humility through you that this notion is utterly erroneous that the Central Electricity Authority is allowing the capital cost which is higher than the cost otherwise at which the public sector is putting up its plant.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister the time by when the power generation work of domestic and foreign companies would be complete and when would we be cent percent self-reliant in the field of power generation? Secondly, the electrification of thousands of villages has been completed on paper but will the hon. Minister enquire into it as to whether it has truly been done or not? In fact, not to talk of an electricity cable, even a pole has not been installed. I don't know what reasons have led to this fake electrification. Will you hold an enquiry in the states to find out whether the electrification has been done in fact or not and if it has only been done on papers, then, who is responsible for it and when will the guilty people be punished?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The last part of the question relates to the state government authority. If you want, you can rely to the first part of the question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not against your ruling. I would like to say that the central government provides assistance and the central government should itself look into it whether the funds have been properly utilised by the state governments or whether the state governments have misappropriated the funds.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it possible for you to give the time frame within which India can be self-sufficient in energy?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I am scared to answer that question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: No matter whether you continue to be a Minister or not, but you can always reply.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: My remaining a Minister or not will not solve the problem of self-sufficiency in the generation of electricity. The central electricity authority has given its report that if we are able to generate one lakh

forty eight thousand megawatt power more by the year 2007 then we might become self-reliant in this field. One lakh forty eight thousand means 200 billion dollars or Rs. 600 crore. This is not an easy target. We are trying our level best. The governments do not have money-neither the central government nor the state governments. We are getting a good response from the private sector and we are trying not to give the contract through MOU in response and give it after bidding. Because then several questions which are being raised now such as, you are giving more price, you are allowing more capital cost etc; will not be raised. We are trying to achieve self-reliance with the help of the private sector and when can that be possible is something which is difficult to say at present.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, sir, please get an answer to my second question also. They can at least hold an enquiry. Crores of rupees are being wasted.

MR. SPEAKER: The state governments will get annoyed.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: From whatever he has stated in the written reply and in reply to oral questions put up by Shri Murlid Deora, it is crystal clear that there is no uniform policy at the Union level so far as participation of the private sector in power generation is concerned.

What appears is that instead of fixing the cost of power per unit, the Government has chosen a path that the foreign companies which are coming and participating in power generation in our country are given incentives without any restriction.

In the Dhabol project.....

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, my specific question is whether it is a fact that the foreign companies which are coming in our country in the field of power generation, especially the Enron Company of USA, which is setting up power generation station at Dhabol in Maharashtra, have not insisted on 16 per cent guarantee on the rate of return.

I would also like to know whether the Government of India has announced a policy of guaranteeing 16 per cent rate of return and because of this policy, the lenders who were lending money to Enron Co. in Dhabol insisted on a counter-guarantee.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: It is not correct... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): He has not replied to his question.

MR. SPEAKER: He said, "it is not a fact."

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is very excited when he says that they are going to get a big support from the private sector and that is why they see a possibility of achieving self-reliance by the year 2000 A.D. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the government give a guarantee to this effect that foreign companies, especially the multinationals which are being invited to come to our country would not be allowed to earn as much profit as we do. For example, if a state

government is finding it difficult to give profit then, in that case, will the central government give a guarantee and make suitable arrangement on behalf of the state government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that if this is the attitude of the government then how can they expect self-reliance by the year 2000 A.D.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not talk of achieving self-reliance in excitement. I said it with due regard. Secondly, we do not give any guarantee of profit. Our counter guarantee is not counter guarantee of profit.

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Sir, as far as this power investment and generation is concerned, the policy of the Government is very much confusing. For example, there is a Muddanuru plant which is being constructed by the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board and the total cost of 500 MW unit is about Rs. 700 to 800 crore. That means even below 1 MW the cost comes out to nearly Rs. 1.75 crore where as these private people who are coming in this field are giving Rs. 4 crore, 5 crore or 7 crore. It is under construction right now. They are putting the MW cost below Rs. 2 crore. This is one of the variations in the cost.

On the other hand, the other variation is that the total production in Andhra Pradesh, Thermal as well as Hydel projects, both put together, comes to 4,500 MW. Now according to the answer given here, the estimated proposals and other things are going to be about 30,500 MW. At the moment, if the Government purchases the total power, the total amount allocated in the Budget has to be given to the power purchase programme only. This kind of atmosphere right now has appeared on paper on the power sector.

At the same time, the Government is.....

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : This is the confusion, which we are able to see outside; so much of confusion is there.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question please?

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Recently I am told that the Government has issued an Order to the State Governments that 18th February is the last date for entering or taking up applications in regard to putting up the plants by the private people. Is that true? I want to know whether that is the deadline for the Governments to take up the power projects. Is there any concrete plan for cost reduction in the power sector? Also I want to know whether it is going to be on bidding or on MoU basis.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that it is going to be on bidding.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: As of now, from 18th February the CEA would be directed not to consider any proposal which is on MoU route. It will have to be through bidding process.

As to the other question that he is asking - he has said that in some project the cost is Rs. 1.7 crore per MW—I do not have the particulars with me. If the

hon. Member is kind enough to write to me, I will certainly let him know the variation between the cost of that project, which is Rs. 1.7 crore, and the other project.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Dighe.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have given half-an-hour to this question. Now we should go to the next question after Shri Sharad Dighe puts his Supplementary.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: While allowing these power projects to be set up in collaboration with US Government or other American agencies in the States, I would like to know whether the Central Government has given any guideline to the States that the tender should be invited for this purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dighe, that question has been replied.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: In the case of Dabhol project in Maharashtra, I want to know whether any tender was invited. I am asking this question because the present Government is announcing that the tender has not been called and, therefore, they will review this project.

MR. SPEAKER : No reply to hypothetical question please.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA: The Minister is prepared to reply. Let him reply.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied that the contract will be on bidding.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: I want to know whether guidelines have been given.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow a half-an-hour discussion on this topic.

MR. SPEAKER: Half-an-hour is already over.

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing Policy

*83 SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to review the deep sea fishing policy by appointing a committee to protect the interests of traditional fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the committee is expected to submit its report;

(c) whether it is a fact that the issuance of new licences to joint ventures in this sector has been frozen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided not to process any new applications for introduction of deep sea fishing vessels under Joint Venture till the whole

policy is reviewed. Accordingly, a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P. Murari, former Secretary to the Government of India, has been constituted on 7th February, 1995. The Committee is expected to submit its Report within 3 months.

SHRI K. G. SHIVAPPA (Shimoga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Karnataka there is more scope for deep sea fishing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, while reviewing the deep sea fishing policy, cooperative societies would be set up with the Central Government assistance so that the traditional fishermen can hire modern equipment.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: In fact, there is a Committee which will go into the whole case. We are going to provide some assistance and the details including incentives to the cooperative societies have to be sorted out. Even now some assistance is given to the Cooperative Societies by the Ministry of Agriculture and my Ministry also.

SHRI K. G. SHIVAPPA: Almost all traditional fishermen are poor people. I want to know whether, to avoid exploitation by middlemen and also to help the fishermen for getting deep sea fishing, the Central Government has provided marketing facilities to them.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: In fact, Sir, the subject is dealt by the Ministry of Agriculture and the issue of traditional fishermen is a State subject. Normally I deal with the deep sea fishing. In spite of that, all incentives are being given to the co-operatives formed by the traditional fishermen who are interested in deep sea fishing.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised this matter during the Zero Hour on 12th December and the whole House had supported it by rising above political differences. I am glad to know that the Government has now constituted a committee to review it. A meeting had been convened by National Fisheries Action Forum two days back on Friday in Calcutta and they have announced to go on indefinite hunger strike at the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi against the policy of the Government. In view of that I would like to know who are the members of this committee. Whether it consists of Members of the forum or the Members of Lok Sabha? Whether this committee would consult the state government or people working in the fishery department?

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: I can give the names of the Members of the Committee. Mr. P. Murari is the Chairman of the Committee. Then there are representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Surface Transport, Commerce, Defence, Department of Ocean Development and Director-General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Then there is Secretary in-charge of Fisheries, Gujarat, Secretary in-charge of Fisheries, Maharashtra, Secretaries of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and the concerned Secretary of different State Governments. Then there is Director-General in-charge of Fishery Survey of India.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: My question is specific that when the House had raised this voice then how is it that it does not consist of any Member of Lok Sabha? Will you involve the Members of Lok Sabha in this committee in order to ensure that feelings of the public are highlighted?

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: It is a Government Committee. This Committee will take into account the views of the Members of the Parliament also. Normally when an officer is a Chairman, I do not like to put any Member of the Parliament under him.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just as the Government has given further licences, I want to know, since the Government has broadened it now, how many total licences have been issued?

MR. SPEAKER: This is about the Committee.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: On the other hand also. Sir, whether the Government is aware, before appointing the Committee, that there are certain areas in which there is an infringement on the rights of the traditional fishermen? If the Government has made such a study, whether by that study the Government has come to a conclusion for setting up the Committee or the Government *suo motu* has gone to set up a Committee? What are the reasons that led the Government to set up a Committee? I also want to know what are the terms of reference given to the Committee? These are the things that are necessary. Moreover they are going for a hunger strike as he has pointed out. What steps the Government is going to take to prevent this?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: In view of the issues raised by the Members of Parliament and the fishermen's agitation, I have constituted this Committee. Then the terms of reference are (1) to review the potential and distribution of fishery resources in the Indian EEZ in consultation with experts, (2) to ascertain the present status of exploitation of marine fishery resources by various sectors, namely, traditional sector, mechanised boats sector and deep sea fishing vessels, (3) to ascertain whether the operation of vessels under the new deep sea fishing policy or under charter has affected the traditional fishermen and (4) to suggest the lines on which the future development of the deep sea fishing sector should be charted, including the number and types of vessels that should be allowed, along with their areas of operation.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: What has led the Government to appoint the Committee?

SHRI A. CHARLES: The question before the House is a larger question about the deep sea fishing policy of the Government of India. In the last session of parliament there was a lot of discussion and confusion; the confusion is going on all over the country. I am sorry to say that in the present answer of the Minister also he has now said that his Ministry is concerned only with the deep sea fishing and the problems of the traditional farmers are to be addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture. This is exactly our concern. To whom shall we put the question? We are

deeply concerned about the fate of the traditional fishermen because their lives have been totally affected by the fishing policy of the Government of India.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether at least after getting the report of this committee of experts, he would coordinate, if necessary with the Ministry of Agriculture and see that under no circumstances the deep sea fishing policy and the licensing policy will affect the traditional fishermen and the categorical assurance that was given in this House in the last session of Parliament that he would give all sorts of assistance to the traditional fishermen to come forward either on a cooperative basis or a joint venture, to go far deep sea fishing will be fulfilled and that their lives would be protected so that the traditional fishing is not affected?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: What I am concerned is whether deep sea fishing policy has affected the traditional fishing.

SHRI A. CHARLES: It has.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: It has been affected by the mechanised sector. That is why I constituted this committee. In fact, can I quote from the statement of the Chairman of the National Fisheries Action Committee? He has agreed with what I had said in Parliament. I can quote him: "The traditional sector is very much affected by the mechanised sector." This is what he has said.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, What is the remedy? I seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: You have got the protection already because he had appointed the committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not like that. It is to protect the small fishermen that this committee has been appointed. You have to understand it.

Kayamkulam Thermal Power Plant

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*84. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to release the 400 million U.S. Dollars sanctioned by it under the "time slice concept" for the Kayamkulam Thermal Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the quantity of naphtha to be imported annually for use in this plant and the foreign exchange involved per annum; and

(e) The quantity of naphtha to be supplied by the domestic refineries for this plant?

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

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

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) proposes to finance the Kayamkulam project from internal resources of the company, market borrowings and external commercial borrowings. Simultaneously, the

project has also been posed to the World Bank for part financing under the time-slice loan.

(d) and (e) The plant is proposed to be a dual fuel plant Gas/Naphtha. The total annual requirement of Naphtha is estimated at 0.45 million tonnes per annum, considering 6000 hours of operation. Whether the same is imported or indigenous would depend on commercial considerations. NTPC has already taken up the issue of linkage of naphtha from domestic refineries with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I would like to know whether the World Bank has offered any package for the Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project and if so what is the total amount of money sought by the NTPC from the World Bank. How much have they agreed to give?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): We have posed this project for World Bank assistance and the World Bank is presently examining the details furnished by the NTPC in support of the Kayamkulam Project becoming eligible for funding under this loan. The Bank's financeable portion for Kayamkulam works out to about Rs. 250 million.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: What are the conditions between the World Bank and the NTPC for the financial assistance for the Kayamkulam Power Project?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Only when we finalise the agreement, shall we know the terms and conditions.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the project is to be financed from the internal resources of the company, market borrowing and external commercial borrowings. Simultaneously, the project has also been posed to the World Bank for part financing. In view of the fact that the project was conceived about seven years ago and also of the fact that Rs. 15 crore have already been spent on the project and that the hon. Minister himself came and laid the foundation stone about a year ago, I would like to ask a specific question. What would happen to the Project if the World Bank does not come forward with assistance?

Also, I would like to know whether there is a time schedule as to when the work on the ground would be started and when the project would be commissioned. If so, please let me know.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: It is true that the project was started in 1988 in terms of the inter-government protocol between the erstwhile Soviet Union and India. Kayamkulam project was identified as a project for bilateral Soviet assistance. However, because of subsequent political development in the former Soviet Union, the project was delayed. But this project happens to be located in the Constituency of the hon. Member and he knows that we are very keen to implement it.

We have made two packages. Firstly, if we are to get the World Bank assistance, there is one package and if we are not to get the World Bank assistance, there is another package.

Our internal resource is Rs. 393.17 crores in a total project cost of Rs. 1,310 crore.

I want to assure the hon. Member that now the project would be implemented on dual fuel basis—gas and naphtha and no longer coal—and the project would be very expeditiously completed.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: This is one of the prestigious projects of India where originally it was planned as 2400 MW project. We had gone in to Russia for assistance which had failed, and then to Japan which had also failed. What we understand is that the main reason for failure was that we had gone back from 2400 MW and we have come down to 420 MW which was found not feasible in the light of the large expenditure that has to be made on the project.

So, I would like to know whether the Minister and the Government will see that this project is finalised in the originally planned way itself by way of 2400 MW project.

Secondly, I want to know whether there are conditions as to how the supply from this project is to be given, and whether it is to be given to other States or whether it is to be given to Kerala or there are such conditions in this respect.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: There is no proposal before the Government for augmenting the capacity from 400 MW to 2400 MW, and the power generated would be supplied to Kerala.

Hydel Power Generation

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*87. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether contribution percentage of hydel power sector to overall power generation in the country has been consistently declining from plan to plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the highly eco-friendly nature of hydel power generation, Government plan to exploit the hydel potential more intensively; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction by the country's end?

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

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

STATEMENT

(a) There has been a decline in the relative share of hydel power in the overall installed capacity in the country since 1963-64.

(b) The installed capacity for generation of hydro power at the end of the various plan period is indicated below:—

Sr. No.	End of Plan	Total Capacity (MW)	Hydro Power Capacity (MW)	Hydro Power as % of total
1.	I	2695	940	35
2.	II	4653	1917	41
3.	III	9027	4124	46
4.	IV	15663	6965	42
5.	V	25680	10833	41
6.	VI	42565	14480	34
7.	VII	52626	18358	29
8.	VIII	63292	22993	25.7

(c) and (d). For better tapping of the hydel potential available in the country, amongst the measures initiated are creation of specific public sector companies for setting up large hydro projects; higher allocation of plan resources including budgetary support for hydel schemes and offering special incentives for encouraging private sector participation in hydel development.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Sir, it is observed from the figures given in a reply to a question raised in Rajya Sabha on 20.12.1994 that over the period of two Five Year Plans, that is, Sixth and Seventh, generation capacity of only 7,474 MW was added while in the first three years of the Eighth Plan, an additional capacity of 2,111 MW was created. In the rest of the two years of the Eighth Plan, additional capacity of another 7,171 MW is targeted to be added, which is almost equal to what was created during the 15 years of the said three Five Year Plans.

Therefore, I would like to know what special steps are to be taken during the left over period of the Eighth Plan to accelerate the pace so as to achieve the target and whether the hon. Minister is hopeful to achieve the target and would assure the House that it would still be possible to achieve it.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): Sir, in our reply to the main question, we have already mentioned the steps we are contemplating to augment the hydel power generation. Among the measures initiated for better tapping of the hydel potential available in the country, are: (i) creation of specific public sector companies for setting up large hydel projects—as many as six Central public sector undertakings have been created only to tap the hydel projects; (ii) higher allocation of plan resources, including budgetary support for hydel schemes; and (iii) offering special incentives for encouraging private sector participation in hydel development.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Sir, may I know how the cost of hydel power generation and transmission compares with the cost of thermal and nuclear power, how

far it is more-eco-friendly, what is the total hydel power generation potential remaining untapped in the country, and whether any action plan has been drawn up for optimum utilisation of this potential?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, the total potential at sixty per cent Plant Load Factor has been determined by the Central Electricity Authority as 84,044 MW. Out of this, the potential which is already developed and harnessed is 12,408.97 MW and the potential under development is 5,829.30 MW. It is extremely important for us to have a proper balance between thermal and hydel power and I think I have already mentioned the three steps we have contemplated to make our entire power system more efficient, especially the transmission and distribution part.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government propose to make a new scheme for power generation. The capacity of all the three hydel projects i.e. Tillaiya, D.V.C. and Panchet, which are related to Damodar Valley Corporation, is decreasing with every passing day and the reservoir of Tillaiya should generate more power but it has been fixed at only 10 megawatt. I would like to know from the government whether the government would work towards strengthening these old hydropower projects to ensure a power generation to its full potential?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I have no knowledge about the projects of Damodar valley which the hon. Member has mentioned but I can say in principle that we will try our level best to improve all our present projects and central public undertakings.

[English]

Inland Waterways

*88. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the existing national inland waterways have been put to use;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on the effective use of these waterways; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Techno-economic feasibility studies had been conducted on the 3 National Waterways namely the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal prior to their declaration as National Waterways.

The studies had revealed that these 3 National Waterways namely Haldia-Allahabad stretch (1620 Kms.) of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system, Dhubri to Sadiya stretch (891 Kms.) of river Brahmaputra and Kottapuram to Kollam stretch (168 Kms.) of West Coast Canal alongwith Champakara Canal (14 Kms.) and

Udyogmandal Canal (23 Kms.) are economically viable for the effective use for IWT besides being a fuel efficient and eco-friendly mode of transport.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although the Inland Waterways Authority of India was formed in 1986, it has managed to put a few vessels afloat on the waterways. One of the recommendations in a study made by the Ministry of Surface Transport was to urge the State Governments to industrialise areas near major rivers in a planned manner at a faster pace so that not only the existing waterways can be sustained but also new waterways can be created. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the State Governments have responded to this recommendation and whether they are assured to provide modernised infrastructural facilities like channel dredging and maintenance, navigational aids, and traffic regulations?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, no doubt, the recommendation was there and we had requested the State Governments, especially of Bihar, U.P. and West Bengal, I am happy to say that they have initiated action on that.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the I.W.T. Authority of Assam claims that the Dhubri-Tezpur sector of the river Brahmaputra—which is mentioned in the statement - is always a third force in the transportation system after the railways and roadways. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the length of this stretch from Dhubri to Tezpur needs expansion and transport service needs improvement? A proposal to that effect has been submitted by the I.W.T.; if so, I want to know whether the Government has accepted the proposal. I also want to know whether the reopening of the sector between Dhubri and Calcutta on regular basis is being proposed by the Government.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, the terminal facilities are available at Dhubri and Pandu and also it has been decided to reconstruct the collapsed RRCC jetty of North Eastern Council by I.W.A.I. It has also been proposed to have during the Eight Plan, 24-hour navigation facilities for which action has already been taken and the tenders are also under finalisation.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to know through you when was this techno-economic feasibility study report available with the Government and what steps the Government has taken to implement those recommendations contained in the report except declaring those waterways as national waterways. I want to know whether the transport lobby is opposing to expand waterways and delaying this programme and if so, what steps the Government is taking to face that situation and introduce this system which is most fuel-efficient and by which we can utilise the easily available water resource in our country.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, first of all, no transport lobby can influence us. The question does not arise. We are rather encouraging every step in which waterways should be used.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: What are the steps? 'Every step' is rather a vague answer.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We have given concessions. We are doing the dredging. We are trying to provide 24-hour navigational facility which is being arranged. We are doing bandalling. Everything possible is being done to see that the river waterways are navigable. Not only this, we are also making jetties. We are encouraging giving concessions on the cargo movement. The Government is giving practical concessions on the cargo handling. We are also encouraging and even helping in buying the boats where the Government is giving a subsidy on this. We are doing everything possible. If any other suggestion comes from the hon. Members or from the industry, it is most welcome and we will consider that.

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal

*89. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal visited India recently;

(b) if so, the specific issues discussed between the two countries during the visit and the outcome of the discussions on each issue;

(c) whether the Government of Nepal have expressed any desire to review some of its existing agreements with India including "1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship";

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

(e) whether any initiatives are under way in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal

1. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence of Nepal, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal visited India at the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs, from 6—10 February, 1995. During the visit wide-ranging discussions on bilateral issues, the situation in the Indian subcontinent and other matters of common interest were held in an atmosphere marked by the candour, friendship and understanding which characterises the special quality of relations between India and Nepal.

2. Several new suggestions for strengthening relations were made during the discussions, which will be further discussed and considered by the two governments prior to the visit to India in the near future of the Prime Minister of Nepal.

3. The DPM of Nepal also suggested discussion of the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship by India and Nepal.

This suggestion will be considered at foreign office consultations on all aspects of India-Nepal relations which will take place in the near future to consider ways and means to sustain and strengthen the unique relationship between the two countries.

4. The Nepalese DPM's visit was a goodwill visit and was preparatory to the forthcoming visit to India of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari. The visit resulted in clarifying and enhancing mutual understanding and in resuming the process of high level dialogue and interaction between India and Nepal across the broad spectrum of our relationship.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal has raised the question of some change in the friendship agreement of 1950. I want to know whether he has suggested anything concretely. They have said : it will be considered. We want to know whether the Deputy Prime Minister has concretely suggested any indication to amend this treaty of 1950.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, the Deputy Prime Minister did mention about it. But he said, there are certain clauses of the 1950 agreement which have become obsolete. In this connection we have set up a committee of two Foreign Secretaries to look into it because we have special relations with Nepal. We will certainly look into whatever they suggest and for this the two Foreign Secretaries will meet and have a dialogue in this regard.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, I want to know whether there was any indication in the talks that the revision of the treaty will be in some adverse direction.

Apart from this, the Minister in his reply stated that other matters were also discussed. So, I would like to know the matters which were discussed.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, with regard to the first part of the question. I would like to say that this Treaty of 1950 has worked very well so far and the relations between the two Governments have been excellent. With regard to the second part of the question, I would say that there was a discussion about the Tanakpur Power Project and they also wanted to discuss another route for train. These are the matters which were discussed in the talks.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister is, no doubt, aware of the fact that there is an anti-India lobby working in Nepal which is trying to propagate that what they consider to be certain injustices or inequitable conditions which have been imposed in the past by India on Nepal will not be remedied and the visit of these delegations — the Deputy Prime Minister just visited and now we are expecting the Prime Minister to come — will, actually, not lead to any rectification of what they consider to be the injustices done to them particularly with regard to sharing of water and electricity which is all centered round the Tanakpur Project. The feeling being spread by certain quarters in Nepal is that they were not given an equitable share of water and of power. I do not say that we should agree to anything and everything. But the point is, we must certainly move in a way which will disarm the anti-India

lobby in Nepal to the extent possible, because after all it is in our interest. I want to know whether there was any discussion with regard to these two issues and whether our Government have given them any kind of assurances in this respect.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, with regard to the Tanakpur Power Project and sharing of water we were able to explain to them that at present the Agreement is between the two Prime Ministers. We also explained to them that we are ready to look at the Panjeswar Project on priority basis. It is a bigger project which will cover Tanakpur also and in that way the Tanakpur problem will also be solved. At present this project is in India. With the total capital given by us and also in view of the excellent relations with that country we have given them 20 million units of electricity and 150 cusecs of water for irrigation purposes. When the Panjeswar Project is completed, there will be more augmentation of water and more electricity will be produced. In that way, they will be able to have more electricity and water. So, this discussion was held in an amicable manner and they too have been satisfied.

With regard to the first part of the question about the anti-India lobby in Nepal, all I can say is, the discussions that we have had with the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal were held in a very good atmosphere and a friendly atmosphere. Both the sides are satisfied with the talks.

R & D in Drugs

*90 SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:

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

(a) whether the Committee set up by the Government to suggest measures for accelerating research and development in drugs has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the main observations and recommendations thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken thereon;

(d) the steps taken to promote research and development in Drugs Sector in Universities and in Government and private labs during the last three years;

(e) the total investment made during the last three years and the projected investment during the next five years; and

(f) the details of schemes formulated for attracting investment in R&D by multinationals and other incentives to Indian researchers abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Inter Ministerial Committee has submitted its report to the government. It has observed that in view of the unique nature and special features of the Pharmaceutical Industry, which has a high rate of obsolescence of products and technologies and in which multi-disciplinary research is risky, expensive and time-consuming activity, special package of fiscal incentives may be granted to encourage greater investment in research and development in this sector. The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Government.

(d) to (f) The total expenditure incurred by the In-house R&D units in the pharmaceutical sector is as follows:

	(Rs. crores)
1991-92	80.00
1992-93	95.00
1993-94	125.00

R&D expenditure by the industry during the current year 1994-95 is expected to be of the order of Rs. 150 crores and it is expected to go up even further in the next few years. The Pharmaceutical Industry at present spends about 1.5 per cent of its turnover on research and development. The government provides various incentives and support measures to encourage R&D in the industry and also for strengthening linkages between Industry, National Laboratories and Universities.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when did this Inter Ministerial Committee submit its report and what are the main features of its recommendations? The I.D.M.A. has suggested that if any company invests five per cent of its turn-over in research and development that company may be given exemption from the Drug Price Control Order as well as Income Tax rebate and Customs Duty rebate.

12.00 hrs.

I also want to know whether this recommendation is also being considered with the recommendations given by the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, new molecules now discovered indigenously will be exempted from price control for ten years. That is the major thing. The other thing that has been recommended and which has been agreed to by the Government and other things that have been recommended by the committee are in the nature of fiscal incentives and I am confident that the Finance Ministry is seized of the matter. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Members of the Council of Ministers are discussing their matters in Parliament.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: What are the main recommendations of the Committee?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: As I have mentioned earlier, they are in the nature of fiscal incentives. And may I mention here that firstly we have already agreed to give the benefit of our different research institutions in Government funded institutions, to cooperate with the

industry in research and development. That itself is a very substantial input. Secondly, as I have mentioned, earlier and I could say it now very clearly that research and development is basically the concern of the manufacturers themselves. I would like to humbly point out here that 1.5 per cent of its total turnover is all that the industry spends in research and development. There is scope and there must be much more substantial investment in this regard. I want, however, to make this point that over the last three or four years the expenditure of this industry on the research and development has increased. But much more can and should be done by the industry themselves.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Blow-Out at ONGC Well

*61. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:
SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:

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

(a) whether the Committee appointed to go into the causes of the blow-out at the ONGC well at Pasarlapudi (Andhra Pradesh) has submitted its report;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and the expected date by which the report is likely to be submitted;

(c) the estimated losses suffered by ONGC till date as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have sought foreign assistance to cap the well;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the time by which the fire is likely to be brought under control; and

(g) the corrective steps proposed to be taken to avoid such blow-outs in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Enquiry Committee has submitted its report to ONGC and is under examination. In the meantime, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has also instituted a one-man Enquiry Committee to look into the findings of the Enquiry Committee set up by ONGC and submit a report to the Government.

(c) The loss is being assessed by ONGC.

(d) to (f) ONGC sought the help from professional fire fighters (from the USA). Initially, the services of M/s. Neal Adams Fire Fighters Inc., USA were utilised and subsequently, M/s. Emergency Resources International Inc., Texas, USA assisted in extinguishing the fire on 10.03.1995, and capping the well on 14.03.1995.

(g) Already there are standing instructions issued by ONGC on the precautions and safety measures to be taken to avoid occurrence of accidents such as blow out etc. Further instructions have been issued by the Corporation after the present blow out for taking necessary precautionary measures.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

*62. SHRI N.J. RATHVA:
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects in the country lagging behind their original schedule;

(b) the extent of cost escalation as a result thereof;

(c) the broad reasons for delay in completion of these projects;

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

(e) whether the State Governments have sent any proposal to the Union Government for financial assistance for the completion of these projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There are 90 major, 166 medium irrigation projects running behind schedule in the country.

(b) It is not possible to quantify this in general terms as cost escalation varies from Project to Project depending on some specific and some general causes.

(c) The reasons for delay in completion of these projects broadly fall into three categories:—

(1) *Technical:—*

Limited investigations for preparing feasibility report, and consequent changes in scope and designs of project during implementation; inadequate provisions in the original estimates for infrastructure facilities, land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement and environmental safeguards, etc.

(2) *Financial:—*

Rise in prices during construction; non availability of adequate funds, escalation in the cost of acquisition of lands.

(3) *Other reasons:—*

Labour trouble, contractual problems, agitation by environmentalists and the land oustees; natural calamities.

(d) Various steps taken by the Government are giving priority to those projects which have made substantial progress, earmarking of outlays to important projects, intensive monitoring of selected projects, advising the states to establish cost control cells.

(e) State Governments have been sending proposals to the Planning Commission for financial assistance for completion of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects. However, irrigation being a state subject, the responsibility of funding irrigation projects primarily rests with the State Governments concerned. The Central Assistance to the States is in the form of block loans and block grants not

tioned to any project or programme. However, as a special case Central Assistance has been provided to Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Project (Inter-State), Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana (Rajasthan), Teesta Barrage Project (West Bengal), Sardar Sarovar Project (Inter-State), Pottery Irrigation Project (Orissa), Pigut Project (Gujarat) and Baldeva Project (Gujarat).

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Review of TADA

*63. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding misuse of the provisions of TADA by some of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also received representations from various public organisations for repealing of the Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have made any evaluation of TADA excesses and propose to review the Act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) (a) and (b) As and when complaints are received, these are referred to concerned State Govts. for immediate appropriate action. However, state-wise compilation of complaints are not being maintained.

(c) and (d) The Govt. have received representations from certain public organisations regarding repeal/ amendment of the Act. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) All aspects of the matter, including the issues arising out of the Supreme Court judgement on TADA, are under examination of the Govt.

National Coal Wage Agreement-V

*64 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Coal Wage Agreement-V has been negotiated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) The National Coal Wage Agreement-V is to be drawn up on the recommendations of the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal industry (JBCCI) which consists of the representatives of managements of Coal industry and Coal mine workers. JBCCI could not be constituted as the National Front of

Indian Trade Unions had obtained stay order from the High Court at Calcutta. This stay order was vacated on 10.11.1994 and JBCCI-V was constituted on 11.11.94.

Wage negotiations are now in progress.

[Translation]

Autonomy to Electronic Media

*65. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA):
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any direction to the Government for giving autonomy to the electronic media and also to set up an independent authority to control and regulate the use of airwaves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government have finalised the amendments to be made to certain sections of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the Act is likely to be brought into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Union of India versus Cricket Association of Bengal dated 9.2.95 is under the examination of the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No specific time frame can be indicated at present.

Lead Free Petrol Retail Outlets

*66. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to instal lead free petrol retail outlets throughout the country to check air pollution;

(b) if so, the number of lead-free petrol outlets installed so far and likely to be installed in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, separately; and

(c) the extent to which the air pollution is likely to be checked as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to supply lead free petrol presently only in four metro cities namely Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras w.e.f. 1.4.95 to meet the requirements of new petrol driven

vehicles fitted with catalytic converters. Details of retail outlets being opened from April, 1995 is furnished below:

Delhi	80
Bombay	34
Calcutta	30
Madras	10
	154

Commensurate with the demand, the number of retail outlets would be increased.

(c) There will be approximately a 50 per cent reduction in the emissions of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons and a near total elimination of lead emissions in those vehicles fitted with new catalytic converters and running on unleaded petrol as compared to the conventional vehicles running on leaded petrol. However, the impact of these new vehicles on the ambient air quality would be known only when their numbers become large.

[English]

HBJ Gas Pipeline

*67. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

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

(a) whether the HBJ gas pipeline has been under-utilised over the past three years;

(b) if so, its yearly capacity utilisation during the last three years as against its installed capacity;

(c) the reasons for under-utilisation; and

(d) the steps being taken to fully utilise its installed capacity?

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

(b) The details are as under:

Year	Capacity Utilisation
1991-92	58.4%
1992-93	74.94 %
1993-94	81.92%

(c) Till November, 1993 the demand was lower than availability. Thereafter, i.e. availability of gas has been the constraint.

(d) ONGC is implementing a number of schemes for the development of gas fields in the Western Offshore. The second pipeline from Bassein to Hazira is being laid and the capacity of the Hazira Gas Terminal is being expanded. As a result, the availability of gas for the HBJ pipeline will increase every year beginning 1995-96 till full capacity utilisation is reached.

[Translation]

Irrigation Facilities

*68. SHRI REJESH KUMAR:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate irrigation facilities are available in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed by the Union Government to provide adequate irrigation facilities?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Irrigation potential has increased from 22.60 million hectares up to 1951 to about 85.05 million hectares at the end of 1993-94 and is likely to increase to 96.89 million hectares at the end of Eight Five Year Plan. there is scope and need for further increase in the future Plans in view of the likely increase in the demand for such facilities.

(c) Major steps taken by the Union Government to increase irrigation facilities inter-alia include assigning high priority to the sector during the Eight Plan by laying special thrust on (a) early completion of ongoing Major & Medium Projects, (b) greater users' participation in major and medium projects, (c) making Command Area Development Programme more effective, (d) priority to speedy completion of a large number of ongoing surface water minor irrigation schemes, (e) conjunctive use of surface and ground water and (f) emphasis on Science & Technology Components through Research and Development efforts in the field of Water Management, through appropriate agencies.

[English]

Coaching Schemes for Minorities

*69. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the scheme for providing pre-examination coaching to the candidates belonging to minority communities appearing in the competitive examinations introduced;

(b) the number of Coaching Centres set up so far under the scheme, State-wise;

(c) the provision made for implementation of scheme during each of the last two years;

(d) whether the Government propose to open more Coaching Centres under the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) A scheme of pre-examination coaching to prepare candidates belonging to minority communities for various competitive examinations/entrance examinations was launched during 1990-91. The scheme was not continued

after 1990-91. However, a new scheme of pre-examination coaching for candidates from weaker sections with a focus on minorities and socially and educationally backward classes has been introduced during 1992-93.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 2 crores was provided for

1992-93 and Rs. 3 crores for 1993-94 under the scheme.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The proposals for organising new coaching courses centres will be sanctioned on receipt of applications from the reputed professional coaching institutions.

STATEMENT

Number of Organisations and Courses received Grants (Year & Statewise)

States	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
	Orgns.	Courses	Orgns.	Courses	Orgns.	Courses
1. Andhra Pradesh	—	—	5	5	8	9
2. Bihar	—	—	—	—	6	7
3. Gujarat	—	—	2	2	4	6
4. Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	4	4	1	2
5. Karnataka	—	—	—	—	1	2
6. Kerala	—	—	7	7	1	1
7. Madhya Pradesh	—	—	4	4	4	5
8. Maharashtra	—	—	1	1	4	7
9. Manipur	—	—	—	—	1	1
10. Rajasthan	—	—	3	3	3	3
11. Tamil Nadu	2	2	3	3	2	2
12. Uttar Pradesh	1	1	4	4	11	18
13. Delhi	2	2	2	2	11	13
Total	5	5	35	35	57	76

Allocation of Diesel

*70. SHRI LALL BABU RAI:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the criteria adopted for allocation of diesel to States;

(b) whether diesel is being supplied to States as per their demands;

(c) if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to meet their demands in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) Diesel is not an allocated product. It is supplied in full as per the requirements all over the country.

Major Macro-Economic Targets

*71. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the major macro-economic targets set for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the extent to which these have been realised during the first three years of the Plan; and

(c) the efforts being made to realise these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Eighth Five Year Plan targets at GDP growth of 5.6 per cent per annum and reduction in current account deficit to 1.6 per cent of GDP.

(b) Average GDP growth in the first three years has been 4.6 per cent and the current account deficit has been reduced to 1.1 per cent of GDP in the first two years.

(c) Annual Plans have provided for increase in Plan outlays.

Employment Generation

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

(a) whether the National Development Council (NDC) appointed a Committee to suggest ways and means of achieving the goal of providing employment by the end of the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the major recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether NDC has directed the Central Ministries and State Governments to implement the recommendations;

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government as well as State Governments thereto; and

(e) the manner in which the Planning Commission is monitoring the implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (e) A Committee of the NDC on employment was set up in February, 1992 to make an assessment of the unemployment and employment situation and suggest ways and means of expanding employment generation with a view to achieving near-full employment situation by the end of the next 10 years. The major recommendations of the Committee, which submitted its report in September, 1992, are as follows:—

- (i) Employment strategy should focus both on creation of additional productive employment opportunities and augmentation of existing employment in terms of productivity and incomes. Specific strategies emphasising one or the other element should be adopted by different States depending on their specific conditions and problems.
- (ii) Diversification of agriculture, irrigation, stimulation to rural non-agricultural employment, small scale industries and cottage industries, large scale programmes of construction, faster growth of the services and the informal sector, should constitute the thrust areas for employment generation.
- (iii) Vast regional variations in work requirements and employment structure, call for decentralised planning for employment keeping in view the special needs of women, marginal farmers and agricultural labourers, etc.
- (iv) For tackling the problem of educated unemployment a three-pronged strategy comprising development of employment-intensive sectors; promotion of self-employment; and raising responsiveness of education and training to labour-market, needs to be followed. In the case of educated women increased access to employment should be facilitated through training, creation of special cells/branches in banks to meet their credit needs and fixing for them a

minimum coverage in self-employment programmes.

- (v) A major restructuring of on-going special programmes is needed. A degree of selectivity in terms of requirements of different areas and a measure of employment guarantee should be introduced in rural employment programmes. Significant part of rural development outlay may be utilised for building rural infrastructure. Redesigned and expanded programme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns for building infrastructure and generating wage employment in smaller towns may be taken up.

2. The NDC in its meeting held on 18.9.1993 endorsed the recommendations of the Committee and directed the Planning Commission to initiate further action for discussion with Central Ministries and State Governments. The Planning Commission has initiated the following action:—

- (i) Addressing Central Ministries and all State Governments forwarding the recommendations of the NDC Committee and requesting them to implement them.
- (ii) A series of discussions with Central Ministries.
- (iii) Advising various State Governments to organise State-level seminars on employment situation.

3. Employment strategy laid down in the Eighth Five Year Plan, currently under implementation, is in line with the recommendations of the NDC Committee on Employment. Restructuring of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, introduction of the Employment Assurance Scheme and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and the restructuring of the scheme Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) have also been done on the lines of the recommendations of the Committee. Various State Governments have also been taking into account the Committee's recommendations in the formulation of their strategies which get reflected in their Annual Plans.

4. The Planning Commission is monitoring the implementation of the recommendations through:

- (a) Further review meetings with different Central Ministries at the level of Member.
- (b) Reviews with State Governments at the time of the Annual Plan discussions.

[Translation]

Coal Reserves

*73. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the total estimated coal reserves in the country;
- (b) the quantity of coal being produced at present;
- (c) whether Thermal Power Stations of the country are getting adequate quantity of coal;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken to increase the production of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) The Coal reserves in the country as estimated (down to 1200 metres depth) by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) are 200.03 billion tonnes as on 1.1.1995.

(b) The Coal production in the country during the year 1993-94 was 246.04 million tonnes and during the current financial year (April, '94 to February, '95) the total coal production was 222.48 million tonnes (provisional).

(c) and (d) Thermal Power Stations, by and large, are getting adequate supply of coal.

(e) Steps taken by Coal Companies to increase production inter alia include opening of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation, application of new technologies, and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

[English]

Petroleum Sector Appraisal

*74. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted a mid-term appraisal of the petroleum sector during the Eighth Five year Plan;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the targets have not been achieved; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Mid-Term Review of the Petroleum Sector, by Planning Commission, is still under progress and yet to be approved by the Planning Commission.

Irrigation Projects

*75. SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects pending with the Union Government for clearance till date, State/UT-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in clearing the projects;

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the irrigation projects approved by the Union Government during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 along with the funds allocated, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A Statement I giving the number of new major and medium irrigation projects pending clearance State-wise is attached.

(b) and (c) The clearance of a project depends upon how soon the state Government complies with the observations of various Central Appraising Agencies and obtains forests/environment/rehabilitation & resettlement plans clearance as applicable.

(d) A Statement II giving State-wise details of new major and medium irrigation projects given investment clearance by the Planning Commission during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is attached.

STATEMENT I

Details of new Major & Medium Irrigation Projects pending clearance

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	STATUS OF APPRAISAL							
		Projects with the planning Commission for Clearance		Projects found acceptable by the Investment Advisory Committee subject to compliance of certain observations such as obtaining environmental and forest clearance etc.		Projects for economically examined by the Central Commission and consideration deferred by Advisory Committee due to non-resolution of inter-state issues or non-clearance from environmental/forest angles etc.		Projects on which State Governments are required to sort out various techno-economic issues	
(1)	(2)	(nos.)		(nos.)		(nos.)		(nos.)	
		Major	Medium	Major	Medium	Major	Medium	Major	Medium
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	3	2	1	—	3	—
2.	Arunahcal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
4.	Bihar	—	—	5	1	2	—	7	1
5.	Gujarat	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	9
6.	Haryana	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	4
9.	Karnataka	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Kerala	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	10	1	1	—	3	5
12.	Maharashtra	3	2	8	11	1	—	3	9
13.	Manipur	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
14.	Orissa	—	—	2	4	—	—	2	1
15.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1
16.	Rajasthan	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	6
17.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
18.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	6	1	—	—	5	—
19.	West Bengal	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
20.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTAL:		4	3	41	24	7	1	41	39

STATEMENT II

Details of new Irrigation Projects given Investment Clearance by the Planning Commission during the Last Three Years
(Estimated Cost-Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PROJECTS GIVEN INVESTMENT CLEARANCE DURING					
		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
		Nos.	Estimated Cost	Nos.	Estimated Cost	Nos.	Estimated Cost
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	95.55	1	25.96	1	23.00
2.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	1	16.14	—	—	—	—
4.	Gujarat	1	12.48	3	88.07	—	—
5.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Karnataka	2	171.25	—	—	—	—
9.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1	441.00	—	—	—	—
11.	Maharashtra	1	24.63	—	—	—	—
12.	Manipur	1	18.86	—	—	—	—
13.	Orissa	1	52.22	2	146.86	—	—
14.	Punjab	—	—	2	151.96	—	—
15.	Rajasthan	1	12.40	—	—	—	—
16.	Tamil Nadu	1	11.46	—	—	—	—
17.	Uttar Pradesh	3	591.81	—	—	—	—
18.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL		16	1447.8	8	412.85	1	23.00

Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 contemporary and newspaper friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Special Review Committee, constituted to simplify the procedure of registration and streamline the functioning of the Registrar of Newspapers for India offices, has made certain recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Special Review Group was constituted by the Government on 12.8.1993 to review the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and to identify/recommend changes needed in the Act.

(c) and (d) The Special Review Group has since submitted its report recommending various changes in the Act to make it contemporary and newspaper friendly.

(e) The report is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

DD Programmes in Foreign Countries

*77. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to start telecasting of special programmes in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries in which these programmes are proposed to be telecast and the duration thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the service is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan has launched an International service from 14th March, 1995. This service is being telecast from Monday to Friday for three hours from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon through the Asiasat-1 Satellite which can be viewed in nearly 40 Asian countries, Gulf countries, West Asia, Central Asian Republic and South East Asia. The likely expenditure to be incurred on this service is US \$ 500 per day as hire charges for the transponder.

[English]

Exploration by ONGC

*78. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil wells explored by ONGC during the last three years;

(b) the total quantity of oil produced during this period;

(c) the average expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether oil exploration work by ONGC has slackened;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(f) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) During the last three years i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (April to December, 1994) ONGC drilled 555 exploratory wells.

(b) the quantity of crude oil (including condensate) produced by ONGC during the above period is given below:—

Year	Oil Production (MMT)
1992-93	24.427
1993-94	24.215
1994-95	21.685
(April-December, 1994)	

(c) During the last three years, based on the wells completed by ONGC for the respective years, the average cost is as under:—

	(Rupees in lakhs)		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Exploratory Wells	434.81	526.95	513.54
Development wells	195.63	205.53	276.85

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise. However, in order to further increase the exploration tempo in various sedimentary basins, an Accelerated Programme of Exploration (APEX) has been launched for the period 1994—97. It envisages enhancement of seismic and exploratory drilling inputs with reoriented strategies in prioritised areas.

National Policy on Coal Mining

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to formulate national policy on coal mining to attract substantial private investment in coal mining in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of investment proposed during the next two years in coal mining in public sector;

(d) whether the Government have worked out a plan for establishment of coal washeries and modernisation of coal mining to improve the quality of coal required for power generation, cement and other industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Govt. has already amended the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 on 9.6.1993 to allow private sector participation in coal mining for power generation, for setting up of coal washeries and for other end uses to be notified by the Govt. from time to time, in addition to the existing provision permitting captive mining for producing iron and steel.

(c) Plan outlay recommended by Planning Commission for 1995-96 and that proposed for 1996-97 by coal companies at the time of mid-term Appraisal of VIII Plan are given below:

Company	(Rs. in crores)	
	1995-96	1996-97
Coal India Limited	2260.00	2204.81
Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.	516.00	618.00
Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (mining)	387.00	248.31

(d) and (e) As a continuous process, steps are being taken for improvement of Coal technologies for exploration and scientific exploitation of coal deposits, beneficiation and utilisation of coal etc. Further, with a view to improving the quality of coal despatches particularly to the power houses, a plan has been drawn to set up coal washeries by inviting private sector investment in accordance with the recently amended Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Coal India Limited (CIL) had invited global tenders for setting up of washeries on "Build-Own-Operate" basis. The finally accepted offers in respect of 4 non-coking, coal washeries (total capacity 21.2 mtpa) are presently under negotiation. CIL has issued another global tender seeking bids for setting up of more washeries in the second phase of its plan.

(Translation)

Forged Visas

*80. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a large scale increase in the cases of preparation of forged visas;

(b) if so, the number of such cases unearthed by the Government during the last three years;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this regard during the said period indicating the action taken against them; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check this illegal practice?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Cases of forged visas detected by Immigration authorities are referred to the local police for investigation. As per available information in respect of four International Airports at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, the figures of detection of forged visas and arrests made from 1992 to 1994 are as under:-

	1992	1993	1994
Detection	307	335	273
Arrests	492	1108	330

The above data does not indicate any definite trend. Figures of detection of forged visas by State police authorities at other airports/land checkpoints and arrests are not centrally maintained.

(d) The following steps are being taken to prevent forgery of visas:

- (i) Strict vigil to curb the undesirable activities of unauthorised recruiting agents.
- (ii) Immigration staff at the air-check posts are being trained and have been equipped with modern/sophisticated devices.
- (iii) Airline staff are being trained to detect forged visas before issuing boarding passes to the passengers.
- (iv) It has been decided to replace the existing visa

stamp used by our Missions abroad with Visa stickers with inbuilt security features to prevent forgery of visas.

[English]

Closure of Karachi Consulate

82. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had to close down its consulate located in Karachi at the behest of the Government of Pakistan;

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

(c) whether the Government have expressed willingness to resume bilateral discussion with Pakistan on the issue of Indian consulate in Karachi and Pak consulate in Bombay;

(d) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto and the further steps being taken by the Government to resolve the issue;

(e) whether the people of both the countries have been adversely affected due to the closure of Indian consulate in Karachi; and

(f) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In response to the demand made by the Government of Pakistan on 26 December, 1994, the Consulate General of India in Karachi was closed down on 4 January, 1995. Government are of the view that Pakistan's decision in this regard is based on propagandistic considerations, it is without justification and is yet another manifestation of its consistently negative approach towards bilateral ties with India.

(c) and (d) Government have urged Pakistan to reconsider the unilateral closure of its Consulate in Bombay and its decision to close down the India Consulate General in Karachi. However, Pakistan has not yet responded favourably.

(e) and (f) These unilateral Pakistani decisions could adversely affect people-to-people contacts and consular, commercial and cultural relations between the two countries.

Drugs Price Control Order

*85. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of drugs taken out of the 1987 price control list which have been decontrolled under the 1995 Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) the number of new drugs which have been bought under control;

(c) whether the price control envisages 100 per cent profit over the ex-factory price;

(d) whether the prices of decontrolled drugs have risen since the Order has come into force; and

(e) whether the rise in prices will affect the Health Programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) 83 bulk drugs which under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 (DPCO) have been decontrolled under the DPCO, 1995.

(b) 21 bulk drugs which were not under price control under the DPCO, 1987 have been brought under price control under the DPCO, 1995.

(c) No, Sir. The Maximum Allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) of 100% is permissible over and above the ex-factory cost to meet all costs incurred by a manufacturer from the stage of ex-factory cost to retailing and includes the trade margin and the profit of the manufacturer.

(d) The Drugs (Prices Control), Order, 1995 has been notified only recently on 6.1.1995. There are no reports of

any abnormal increase in prices of decontrolled medicines since that date.

(e) No, Sir.

Coal-Based Power Projects

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to start several coal based power projects in the Southern region to meet power shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private sector has also offered to start power projects in the Southern region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) and (b) To meet the shortage of power in the Southern Region, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is exploring the possibilities of identifying project sites for erection of coal based plants. The Ramagundam coal based expansion project (1×500 MW) and the dual fuel (Gas and Naphtha) based Kayamkulam Project (400 MW) have been identified. Andhra Pradesh Government has allotted two projects to NTPC for implementation (i) at Simhadri (Vizag) of 1000 MW coal fired and (ii) Hyderabad Metro 650 MW Naphtha based, for implementation.

(c) and (d) Yes sir. The private sector has shown interest for setting up power projects in the Southern Region of a total capacity of about 27308.50 MW. This comprises of 33 projects for 13873 MW in Andhra Pradesh, 28 projects for 5495 MW in Karnataka, 12 projects for 520.20 MW in Kerala and 12 projects for 7420 MW in Tamil Nadu. The details are given in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Provisional Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Type	Name of Company
1	2	3	4	5	6
ANDHRA PRADESH					
1.	Bhoopalapally	120	420.000	COAL	Lawis Stanley Associates Inc.
2.	Guddapah	420	1470.000	COAL	-do-
3.	East Godavari	100	350.000	FURNACEO	Royalaseema Petro Chemicals Ltd.
4.	Godavari	208	748.430	GAS/NAPT	Spectrum Tech. USA/Jaya Foods & NTPC
5.	Gopalpally	250	875.000	COAL	Orient Paper & Industries
6.	Hyderabad	200	700.000	FURNACEO	Balaji Hotel & Enterprises Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Hyderabad	200	700.000LSHS		G.M.R. Vasavi Industries Ltd.
8.	-do-	700	2450.000C/N/D/GA		M/s. RPG Industries Ltd.
9.	-do-	200	700.000FURNACEO		Balaji Distrilleries Ltd.
10.	-do-	200	700.000-do-		Balaji Biotech Ltd.
11.	Jegurupacu GBPP	235	827.000GAS/NAPT		GVK Industries Ltd. USA
12.	Kakinada	660	2310.000Naptha		M/s. Kumar's Power
13.	-do-	250	875.000C/N/D/GA		M/s. Advanced Radio Masts
14.	Kakinadaport	1000	3500.000COAL		M/s. Hadosum Pty. Ltd.
15.	Kalingapatnam TPS	250	875.000COAL		Under Bidding
16.	Kalingapatnam	120	420.000COAL		M/s. Krishna Godavari Basin Power Utilities Ltd.
17.	Karimnagar	120	420.000COAL		Levis Stanley Associates Inc.
18.	Krishapatnam TPS	1000	3400.000COAL		GVK Industries Ltd. & Besocorp. Int. Power
19.	Machilipatnam	500	1750.000C/N/D/GA		Anagram Finances Ltd.
20.	Manuguru	1000	3500.000COAL		Sanghi Group of Industries
21.	-do-	500	1750.000LSHS		Sri Shiva Power Ltd.
22.	Nisamabad	200	700.000COAL		M/s. Richiman Silks Ltd.
23.	Ramagundam	500	1750.000C/N/D/GA		M/s. Advanced Radio Masts
24.	-do-	1000	1603.000COAL		BPL Group
25.	Ranigumda	200	700.000FURNANCEO		Balaji Industrial Corpn. Ltd.
26.	Simhadri	1000	3500.000COAL		Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd.
27.	Twin Cities	250	875.000COAL		M/s. Richimen Silks Ltd.
28.	Visakhapatnam	650	2275.000NAPTA/G		Essar Investment Ltd.
29.	-do-	500	1750.000COAL		Shri Shivapriya Power Ltd.
30.	-do-	500	1750.000C/N/D/GA		M/s. Amtrex Appliances
31.	-do- TPS	1000	5818.000COAL		Ashok Leyland & National Power UK
32.	Vizianagaram	220	770.000NAPYHA		Pan Power Corpn.
33.	Wadapally	120	420.000COAL		M/s. Krishna Godavari Basin Power Utilities Ltd.
	(33)	13873	50652.130		
	KARNATAKA				
34.	Almati Dam	600	1900.000Hydel		Asia Power Co. Ltd. (TAPCO), USA, KPC
35.	Bellari-Hospet	300	1050.000Diesel		Gindal Tractaple Powr Co. Ltd.
36.	Biddar	20	70.000-do-		HMG Power Ltd.
37.	Bijapur	150	525.000-do-		Kei Energy
38.	Chuchankatte	15	52.000Hydel		M/s. Graphite India Ltd.
39.	Devangontha	76	266.000Diesel		Independent Power Services Corpn.
40.	Hemavati LBC	15	52.500Hydell		The Sandur Magnese & Iran Orea Ltd.
41.	Hoody	40	140.000Diesel		Khodey India Ltd.
42.	Hospet TPS	500	2240.000COAL		Hoke Inter Continental Ltd. USA
43.	Indi	20	70.000Diesel		HMG Power Ltd.
44.	Gamkhandi	20	70.000Diesel		-do-
45.	JBTC Co.	240	838.900GAS/COAL		Jindal Group/Tractbel Belgium
46.	Kahini DPH	20	70.000Hydel		M/s. Subhash Project & Marketing Ltd.
47.	Keerthe Hole	21	73.500Hydel		-do-
48.	Kolar	20	70.000Diesel		HMG Power Ltd.
49.	Koppal	50	175.000Diesel		M/s. Kirloskar Oil Engine Ltd.
50.	Kumaradhara	48	168.000Hydel		M/s. Boruka Power Corpn. Ltd.
51.	Mangalore TPS	1000	5088.000Coal		Cogentrix Inc. USA.
52.	-do-	360	2060.000Coal		Jayaprakash Engg. & Steel Co. Ltd.
53.	Nagarjuna	1000	4000.000Coal		Jesco (Nagarjuna Group)
54.	Peenya	50	175.000Diesel		M/s. Subhash Projects & Marketing Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6
55.	Raichur St. V & VI	500	1750.000	Coal	Public Power Int. Inc., (Northeast Energy), USA
56.	Tubinakere	130	455.000	Diesel	India Power Partners
57.	Tumkar	50	175.000	Diesel	M/s. Subhash Projects & Marketing Ltd.
58.	Tumka Anecuj	20	70.000	Hydel	Ms. Dandeli Steel & Ferro Alloys Ltd.
59.	Varahi IDPS	15	52.500	Hydel	Ms. Boruka Power Corpn. Ltd.
60.	Varahi TAIL RICE	15	52.500	Hydel	Ms. Sandhur Magnese & Iron Orea Ltd.
61.	Whitefield	200	700.000	Diesel	Karnataka Breweries & Distilleries
	TOTAL	28	5495		21609.400

KERALA

62.	Anakkayam HEP	8	36.000	Hydel	Ideal Projects & Servies (P) Ltd.
63.	Barapol HEP	9	28.730	Hydel	-do-
64.	Boothankettu	16	56.000	Hydel	Silkal Metallurgic (P) Ltd.
65.	Chathankotnada 2	7	22.010	Hydel	Ideal Projects & Services (P) Ltd.
66.	Chembukadava 2	7	22.290	Hydel	-do-
67.	Karikayam HEP	12	42.000	Hydel	Travancore Electrical Ind. Ltd.
68.	Kuthungal HEP	20	70.000	Hydel	Indisil Electosaeets Ltd.
69.	Paichuram HEP	3.50	12.280	Hydel	Ideal Projects & Services (P) Ltd.
70.	Trikanipur TPP	420	1470.000	Coal	BPL Group
71.	Ullungal HEP	6	21.000	Hydel	Travancore Electric Chemical Industries Ltd.
72.	Vilangad HEP	7	24.960	Hydel	Ideal Projects & Industries Ltd.
73.	Western Kallar HEP	5	14.240	Hydel	Ideal Projects & Services (P) Ltd.
	TOTAL	12	520.50		1819.510

TAMIL NADU

74.	Basni Bridge Stage II	200	700.000	Diesel	Under Bidding
75.	Kuddalore TPS	1320	5664.000	Coal	International Contracting & Marketing/ Eg., USA
76.	Gumadipoodi	1000	3500.000	Gas	Under bidding
77.	-do-	500	1750.000	Coal	Videocon International
78.	Jayam Koedam Lignite PTP	1500	5250.000	Lignite	Mc. Nally Bhart Engg. Co. Ltd. & TIDCO JV
79.	North Madras 2	1000	3500.000	Coal	Ms. Vidiocon Intl. Ltd.
80.	-do- TPP 3	500	1750.000	Coal	Ms. Pro-Majestic SDN. BHD Malasia
81.	Pillaiperumalnallur	300	1235.820	Gas/Naph.	Dina Vision of Reddy Group/J. Markowski USA
82.	Samainallur DEPP	100	384.000	Diesel	Balaji Group
83.	Srimushnam Lignite	250	875.000	Lignite	Ticapco
84.	Tuticorin 4 TPS	500	1750.000	Coal	Ms. Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd. Madras.
85.	Zero Unit (NLC)	250	1325.110	Lignite	ST Power System Inc. USA
	TOTAL	(12)	7420		27683.930
	GRAND TOTAL (85)	27308.50	1,01,764.970		

Power Generation by NTPC

*91. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contribution of NTPC in capacity addition has been substantial and is declining during the Eighth Plan as compared to the sixth and seventh Plans;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the contribution of NTPC in power generation during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) & (b). The contribution of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) towards capacity addition in the country has been quite significant. The capacity addition of NTPC as compared to total generation capacity added in the 6th, 7th and the 8th Plan is as follows:—

	Generation Capacity added in the country (MW)	Capacity addition by NTPC (MW)
6th Plan	12,371	2,200
7th Plan	21,401	7,613 (35.7%)
8th Plan	11,362	3,827 (33.6%)

(upto Feb., 1995)

It may be observed from above that there has not been any significant decline in the share of power generation by NTPC.

(c) The present average PLF of NTPC is 74.6% as compared to the average PLF of 54.3% in the State Sector. However, measure are being taken to improve the availability of power by expending the commissioning of new generating capacity and improving the performance of existing power stations.

Sick Units

*92. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

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

(a) the total number of sick units under his Ministry;

(b) the total number of units on the verge of closure;

(c) whether a final decision has been taken by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) regarding these sick units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the likely time by which a final decision will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The following public sector undertakings including their subsidiaries and joint sector undertakings

under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have been declared sick by the BIFR:

1. Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFC)
2. Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI)
3. Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL)
4. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)
5. Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited (SSPL)
6. Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL)
7. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL)
8. Orissa Drugs and Chemicals Limited (ODCL)
9. Uttar Pradesh Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (UPDPL)
10. Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited (HFL)
11. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd. (SPEC)

(b) Out of the units declared sick, BIFR has issued a Show Cause Notice to UPDPL as to why the company should not be wound up. The objections/suggestions will be considered by BIFR in a meeting scheduled for 4th May, 1995.

(c) to (e) No final decision has yet been taken by the BIFR on the revival of the three public sector undertakings of the Department of Fertilizers i.e. HFC, FCI and PDIL. In respect of HFC and FCI, the operating agency i.e. Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) had submitted its report on revival proposals to the BIFR on 19.1.1995. In respect of these two companies, BIFR has directed the submission of firmed up revival packages by 31.3.95. After submission of the firmed up revival packages, BIFR which is a Quasi-Judicial Authority will take a final decision in due course of time.

The revival packages of IDPL, BIL and SSPL have been approved by the BIFR. These revival packages, inter alia, envisage capital restructuring, fresh financial assistance, higher production and sales, reduction in manpower through the process of Voluntary Retirement Scheme and restructuring of the business etc.

The revival package for ODCL approved by the BIFR, envisages higher production and sales, reliefs and concessions from the Banks and the support of the two promoters namely the State Government and the IDPL.

The revival package for BCPL has been finalised, but it has not yet been sanctioned by the BIFR and a hearing is scheduled for 28.3.95.

As far as SPEC is concerned, the company has submitted its revival proposal to the operating agency IDBI. The next meeting of the BIFR is scheduled for 23.3.95 to consider the revival plan proposals.

The revival package for HFL has not yet been finalised.

Telecom Regulatory Authority

*93. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed series of agreements between the Telecom Department and the Indian Private Sector companies with U.S. Telecom giants;

(b) whether the Government has assured the U.S. investors with the setting up of an autonomous Telecom regulatory authority;

(c) whether a pilot project has been approved by the Government in this field; and

(d) the objective of the pilot project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No agreement was signed. However, two technical cooperation documents were signed and one Letter of Intent was given. Some Indian Companies did sign agreements with U.S. Companies.

(b) Yes, Sir. Such an assurance has been given to all prospective investors, both Indian and foreign, in the Telecom sector. The decision to set up a Regulatory Authority was contained in the Guidelines issued in September, 1994 which govern the entry of private sector into basic services. Such an authority is considered necessary for ensuring fair competition amongst operators of telecom services and to protect consumers interests.

(c) A Letter of Intent has been given for a Pilot Project to an Indian Company — US West (India) Ltd.

(d) The Pilot Project is to try wideband technology, wireless and optical fibre technology in the subscriber loop.

Foreign Investment in Road Transport

*94. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign investors have offered to invest in the development of the road transport;

(b) whether there was a proposal to offer a certain rate of return on foreign investment;

(c) whether it has also been decided that no counter guarantee would be offered on any investment;

(d) if so, the names of the countries which have offered investment; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A number of firms/companies from countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Hongkong, U.K., USA, Canada and Turkey have shown their keenness to invest in India.

(e) It is too early to indicate the time by which the required legislation will be enacted and policy finalised.

[Translation]

Iron Mining

*95. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH RAO GUNDEWAR:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of iron mined in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether this quantity is adequate for domestic requirement; and

(c) if not, the action being taken by the Government for increasing the iron mining operations and augmenting its production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of iron ore mined in the country during the last two years is given below:—

Year	Quantity	Value
1992-93	57.15 Million tonnes	Rs. 906.67 Crores
1993-94	58.34 Million tonnes	Rs. 897.15 Crores

Around 28 million tonnes of iron ore is presently being utilised to meet the domestic demand and the surplus quantity is being offered for export. Thus the iron ore being mined in the country is adequate to meet the overall domestic requirement.

[English]

Contaminated Underground Water

*96. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA):
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi's underground water has been contaminated;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) the main reasons for contamination; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent contamination of water?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) In a recent survey conducted by Central Pollution Control Board in some parts of Delhi, namely in the localities situated along Najafgarh Drain, it was revealed that the water drawn from shallow handpumps and tubewells (upto a depth of 40 metres) was showing somewhat higher values in respect of certain pollution parameters in relation to the accepted standards for drinking water.

(c) From the findings of the monitoring done in the above areas, it was gathered that the ground water contamination in Najafgarh Drain Basin area was due to the defective disposal of the domestic solid and liquid wastes on open lands in unauthorised colonies, unlined open drains and discharge of industrial effluents.

(d) (i) Efforts are made to supply water from deep bore tubewells and only after ascertaining that the water is fit for human consumption;

(ii) Water is chlorinated before it is supplied to public.

(iii) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Municipal Corporation of Delhi have been advised to take steps to install proper disposal mechanisms for disposal of domestic solid and liquid wastes and the industrial effluents and also to take up the lining of Najafgarh Drain.

Road Network

*97. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review and reformulate the Road Policy about building expressways and extension of road network including four-laning of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has suggested modifications in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the new Road Policy covers the Himalayan regions;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to tap alternative financial resources, both domestic and foreign, for funding the road network; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Govt. is intending to involve private sector in road building activities. The entrepreneur will build the facility with his resources and will be permitted to collect fee in return for his investment and retain it.

(c) to (f) The World Bank has offered comments on this approach and inter-alia suggested that a beginning be made with smaller projects like bridges and urban bypasses and priority expressways. Privatisation will be open to all the regions of the country.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) It is too early to indicate details in this regard.

Relations with Asia-Pacific Region

*98. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to forge closer relations with the countries in Asia-Pacific region;

(b) if so, whether any specific steps have so far been taken in that direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) High level visits such as visit of President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, when he was

Vice President, to the democratic Peoples Republic of Korea in 1992, Vice President Shri K.R. Narayanan's visit to Australia in April, 1994 and Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to Japan and republic of Korea in June 1992 and September 1993 respectively, marked a new and important phase in the development of our relations with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the fastest economically growing regions in the world. This region is also culturally and historically closely linked to India. It is our intention to develop close and fruitful relations with each of these countries in the region to mutual advantage.

[Translation]

National Housing Policy

*99. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed any legal and regulatory framework to expedite the housing construction work under the National Housing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any draft to relate it with the overall financial system; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) The National Housing Policy which was approved by the Parliament in August 1994 has laid down a detailed legal and regulatory framework, which is reproduced as under:—

*4.12 LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

4.12.1 The measures for removing legal constraints would cover apart from those mentioned elsewhere in the Document;

(a) Provision in the Land Reforms and the other relevant Acts to confer homestead rights on the occupants, ensure proper rehabilitation of those dishoused by projects, protect tribal families from eviction, preserve user rights over forest and common lands etc.,

(b) Revision of Master Plan standards, land use plans, building by-laws, and infrastructure standards by the State Govts. and local authorities, based on the National Building Code as the guide. This will help reduce the cost of shelter, enable efficient use of land, and facilitate housing activity;

(c) Making suitable amendments in the laws and procedure governing land acquisition in urban areas to ensure speedy assembly of compact lands with due regard to the interest of landowners;

(d) Review and amendment of laws and regulations relating to town planning,

particularly the norms and standards for in-situ upgradation on low income settlements and housing;

- (e) Enactment of separate chapter in the present cooperative laws on group or cooperative housing activity in order to streamline their operation and to remove existing constraints;

(f) Enactment of Apartment Ownership Act in States not having such a law and suitable amendments to the existing laws wherever necessary in order to provide for the transfer of occupancy rights of individual owners, management of common areas, and to enable the creation of charge on the apartment by lending institutions;

(g) Steps for the removal of constraints to the flow of finance into housing and services especially large lending to the poor and households in the informal sector through:—

- flexible procedures and collateral requirements as well as repayment schedules;
- amendments to the National Housing Bank Act to provide for speedy foreclosure of mortgages of housing finance institutions refinanced by NHB, so as to augment the resources of housing finance institutions further and to help in creating a secondary market for housing mortgage;
- universalisation of the system of English Mortgage;
- simplification of procedure for registration of documents and execution of mortgages, and
- simplification of procedure for investigation of title and the introduction of the Torrens system of registration of title in a phased manner in urban and rural areas.

The implementation of this agenda will be ensured through the joint efforts of Central and State Governments as early as possible.”

(c) and (d) Steps initiated for the removal of constraints to the flow of finance into housing and services are as under:—

- (i) A number of housing finance institutions have been set up recently for extending housing loans with simplified procedure of release and repayment schedules. These housing finance institutions function under the overall supervision and guidance of the National Housing Bank.
- (ii) 1.5% of incremental deposits in scheduled commercial banks are earmarked for housing finance as per RBI guidelines.
- (iii) RBI has revised the definition of housing loans so that such loans are included under priority sector advances of commercial banks. As per existing directive, scheduled Indian Commercial banks are required to ensure that 40% of the credit is towards priority sector.
- (iv) National Housing Bank has revised the interest rates for housing loans with effect from 1.11.1994.
- (v) Amendments to the National Housing Bank Act to

provide for speedy foreclosure of mortgages by housing finance institutions have been formulated.

- (vi) Studies have been undertaken for rationalising and simplification of the procedure for registration and stamp duty.

[English]

Visit of President of South Africa

*100. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI BHRAMANAND MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of South Africa visited India recently;

(b) if so, the nature of talks held during the visit and outcome of the visit;

(c) whether any treaty/agreement was signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) whether India and South Africa vowed to work towards forming an economic grouping of Indian Ocean rim; and

(f) the preparatory steps being taken towards this commitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (f) A statement is given below:—

STATEMENT

1. President Nelson Mandela of South Africa visited India from 24-27 January 1995 as Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. The visit provided an opportunity to the two Governments to exchange views on several international and regional issues of mutual interest and on strengthening bilateral relations. The visit has helped to institutionalise bilateral relations between the two countries.

2. The following three agreements were signed during the visit:

- (i) Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa. The Treaty sets out the shared principles of the two countries of peace, democracy and secular governance, their resolve to fight against apartheid, racial discrimination and religious fundamentalism, to strive to achieve a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world, and their desire to develop a multifaceted relationship with a firm belief that their bilateral cooperation would further the cause of peace and international security globally, particularly in Asia and Africa. Both sides have also agreed in the Treaty to cooperate in the fight against international crime, terrorism in all its forms, crimes against civil aviation security, shipping and other forms of transport, illegal international trade in narcotics, and arms and cultural and historical objects.

(ii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa on the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission for Political, Trade, Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. In this Agreement the two sides have decided to set up a Joint Commission to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in Political, Economic, Trade, Science and technology, Industry, Transport, Energy, Culture and Public Health spheres.

(iii) Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of Republic of India and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa. In this Protocol both sides have agreed to have regular talks and consultations at least once a year at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other levels on international and regional problems of mutual interest as well as question relating to bilateral relations.

3. Both sides agreed to hold discussions on the question of the formation of an Indian ocean Rim. Government of India will be participating in the forthcoming meeting of Experts and Officials on the subject being held in Mauritius during 29-31 March 1995.

Increase in Police Strength

553. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar in regard to increase the strength of police force in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

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

Films pending with the Central Board of Film Certification

554. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the titles of films with the name of the producers and the language whose certification is presently pending before the Central Board of Film Certification or any of the regional Boards;

(b) the average period taken for such certification; and

(c) the brief particulars of the appeals which are pending before the Appellate Authority against the decision of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Pricing and Marketing of Petroleum Products

555. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a meeting of Restructuring Group (R Group) to take a view of the pricing and marketing of the petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) The 'R' Group has been meeting to deliberate the issues and has yet to submit its report.

LPG Agencies

556. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to set up LPG agencies during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) 89 LPG distributorship proposals have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 for Madhya Pradesh. This is in addition to 54 distributorship already included in the Marketing Plan for 1992-94 for which selection is underway through the OSP(MP).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of LPG

557. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the network of oil companies to supply LPG in all parts of the country;

(b) if so, the target set by these companies for 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the LPG network in the State of Orissa, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government has recently approved LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 containing proposals to set up 1023 LPG distributorships all over the country. The above Marketing Plan contains 24 LPG distributorship for Orissa, 7 for Bihar and 73 for Andhra Pradesh.

Allotment of LPG Agencies

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

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol retail outlets allotted from July, 1994 to January, 1995 to various categories like women, SCs/STs, minority communities, handicapped war-widows and educated unemployed, State-wise;

(b) the norms adopted for these categories;

(c) the number of other persons and cooperative societies allotted LPG agencies and petrol retail outlets during the above period; and

(d) the details of the plan to allot LPG agencies and Petrol retail outlets during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Category-wise details of LPG distributorships and R.O. dealerships allotted through the prescribed procedure of advertisement and selection through Oil Selection Board during June, 1994, to January, 1995, are indicated below:—

	SC	ST	PH	DEF	FE	OPEN
LPG	67	25	33	13	23	152
RO	46	35	25	16	4	149

There is no separate reservation for women, educated unemployed, War-widows and Cooperative Societies.

(d) Government has approved LPG Marketing Plan 1994—96 containing 1023 distributorships and RO Marketing Plan 1993—96 containing 1040 dealerships all over the country.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agencies

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

(a) the details of the locations under the scheme sanctioned for Bihar where allotment of LPG agency and petrol/diesel retail outlets is reserved for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) the locations for which advertisement has already been issued and the locations in regard to which advertisements are proposed to be issued in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) As per existing policy, 25% of the dealerships / distributorships to be allotted through OSBs are reserved for SCs/ STs.

(b) 379 RO, SKO/LDO and LPG distributorships were included in various approved Marketing Plans for Bihar. Out of the above, as on 1.1.1995, 351 locations have already been advertised and 28 locations remain to be advertised.

[English]

LPG Agencies

560. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new LPG agencies and petrol/diesel retail outlets are proposed to be allotted to Kerala; and

(b) if so, the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) 38 Retail Outlet dealerships and 14 LPG distributorships have been included in the current R.O. Marketing Plan 1988—93 and LPG Marketing Plan 1992—94 for Kerala, selection for which is underway through OSB (Kerala and Lakshdweep). In addition to this, 38 LPG distributorships and 43 retail outlets have been included in the next LPG marketing plan 1994—96 and RO Marketing Plan 1993—96.

Opencast Projects

561. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved some opencast projects in various coal fields;

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

(c) the total expected coal output from these coal fields and the capital outlay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) The Government have sanctioned two new opencast coal mining projects during the period 1/4/94 till date. The details are given below:—

Name of project	Company	State	Sanctioned cost (Rs. crores)	Capacity (Mty)
Urimari opencast project	Central Coalfields Limited	Bihar	95.33	1.30
Mugoli opencast project	Western Coalfields Limited	Maharashtra	83.63	0.80

Coal Production

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

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

(b) whether it is sufficient to met the demand of the country;

(c) the quantity of coal exported during these years;

(d) the market rate and exported rate of coal during these years; and

(e) the foreign exchange earned during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The total quantity of coal produced in the country during each of last two years was as below:—

1992-93	238.23 million tonnes
1993-94	246.04 million tonnes

(b) Except for low ash coking coal and high grade non-coking coal, the indigenous production of coal is adequate to meet the domestic requirement.

(c) Coal India Ltd. (CIL) exports coal to the neighbouring countries who are its traditional buyers. The quantity of coal exported by CIL during the years 1992-93 & 1993-94 is as under:—

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)
1992-93	132.00
1993-94	98.20

(d) Sale of coal within the country is governed by the statutory prices notified by the Government. On the other hand export of coal is based on the negotiated prices which vary from transaction to transaction.

(e) The foreign exchange earned by CIL during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 was as follows:—

Year	Foreign Exchange Earned
1992-93	US\$ 23.40 lakhs
1993-94	US\$ 11.91 lakhs

Allocation of Natural Gas

563. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have requested the Union Government for allocation of natural gas proposed to be imported from Oman/Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Requests have been received from various State Governments including Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for additional allocation of gas. The Statewise distribution of the gas proposed to be imported from Oman will be decided on grounds of techno-economic feasibility.

[Translation]

Use of Official Language

564. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of legal provisions, the usage of official language could not be ensured properly in Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Union Governments;

(b) whether the targets fixed by the Department of

Official Language for the effective use of Hindi have not been achieved by the Ministries/Departments of Union Government; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure achievement of targets laid down by the Department of Official Language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Official Language policy is being implemented in accordance with legal provisions relating to official language. For this purpose, a line of goodwill, inspiration and incentives is being adopted, as far as possible.

(b) Ministries/Departments of Central Government are making efforts to achieve the targets fixed in Annual Programme for progressive use of Hindi, issued by the Department of O.L. and are bringing improvement in implementation of Official Language policy.

(c) Deficiencies in attaining the fixed targets, are being brought to the notice of concerned Departments/Ministries for correctional measures.

[English]

Profit of CIL

565. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by the Coal India Limited (CIL) during 1994-95; and

(b) the total production of coal during the said year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The financial year 1994-95 is not yet completed. The profit earned or loss incurred by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) during 1994-95 can be indicated only after completion of the financial year and finalisation of accounts.

(b) The total production of coal in Coal India Limited during 1994-95 (April, 94 to February, 95) is 196.05 million tonnes (provisional).

20-Point Programme in Andhra Pradesh

566. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in implementation of 20 Point Programme in Andhra Pradesh in 1993-94;

(b) whether the State Government has requested any additional financial assistance from Union Government for the implementation of 20-Point Programme in 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The progress made in the implementation of the 20-Point Programme in Andhra Pradesh in 1993-94 is given in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c) The funding of these programmes is done through sectoral outlays which undergo change in size during Annual Plans. There is no separate allocation of funds for the Twenty Point Programme.

STATEMENT

STATE: ANDHRA PRADESH

YEAR: 1993-94

S. No.	Point No.	Name of Item	Units	Target 1993-94	Achievement 1993-94	% age Achievement
1.	01A	I.R.D.P. (FAMILIES)	NOS.	204024	298910	147
2.	01B	JAWAHAR ROZGAR YOJANA (MANDAYS)	NOS.	102562000	99699000	97
3.	01C	SSI UNITS (REGD.)	NOS.	8330	15874	191
4.	05A	DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS LAND	ACRES	122810	27139	22
5.	06	BONDED LABOUR REHABILITATION	NOS.	1000	855	86
6.	07A	DRINKING WATER PROBLEM, VILLAGES COVERED	NOS.	1269	1408	111
7.	08A	COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES (CHC)	NOS.	40	0	0
8.	08B	PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES (PHC)	NOS.	60	0	0
9.	08D	IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN (DPT, POLIO & BCG)	NOS.	1684820	1745000	104
10.	09A	FP STERILISATION	NOS.	600000	599000	100
11.	09B	EQ. OF STERILISATION IUD, CC & OP	NOS.	276778	195257	71
12.	09C	ICDS BLOCKS OPERATIONAL (CUM)	NOS.	192	192	100
13.	09D	ANGANWADIS (CUM.)	NOS.	24553	21666	88
14.	11A	SC FAMILIES ASSISTED	NOS.	381000	475080	125
15.	11B	ST FAMILIES ASSISTED	NOS.	95000	166750	176
16.	14A	HOUSE SITES ALLOTTED (FAMILIES)	NOS.	100000	218975	219
17.	14B	CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE (FAMILIES)	NOS.	52900	164625	311
18.	14C	INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA (HOUSES)	NOS.	49034	44894	92
19.	14D	EWS HOUSES PROVIDED	NOS.	25000	54361	217
20.	14E	LIG HOUSES	NOS.	1240	1262	102
21.	15	SLUM IMPROVEMENT (POPULATION)	NOS.	225000	314705	140
22.	16A	TREE PLANTATION ON PRIVATE LANDS	NOS.	195000000	97616000	50
23.	16B	AREA COVERED—PUBLIC AND FOREST LANDS	HECT.	70000	34530	49
24.	18	FAIR PRICE SHOPS	NOS.	502	513	102
25.	19B	PUMPSETS ENERGISED	NOS.	56000	112443	201
26.	19C	IMPROVED CHULLAHS	NOS.	170000	236923	139
27.	19D	BIOGAS PLANTS (STATES)	NOS.	12800	19631	153

Change in City Name

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the decision given on October 11, 1994 in respect of the Writ Petition in the Bombay High Court that 'Mumbai' should be used instead of 'Bambai' in Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the High Court judgement;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to use 'Mumbai' instead of 'Bombay' in English;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) In view of the decision of the Bombay High Court, the matter is under consideration for further followup action.

Welfare of Handicapped

568. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for training, placement and rehabilitation of handicapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to introduce a legislation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes Sir. A new Programme called Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) in Rural Areas is under consideration of the Union Government for providing training, placement and rehabilitation of the handicapped.

(b) Under the above mentioned programme, it is proposed to give assistance to voluntary organisations to run CBR programmes in rural areas in selected districts to provide a complete package of rehabilitation services

including early detection and intervention, education, vocational training, placement and psychosocial counselling and rehabilitation, etc. The programme is proposed to be funded fully by the Central Government. Grant-in-aid would be made available to voluntary organisation.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The draft bill is under consideration. It shall be the effort of Government to introduce it in the Parliament as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Development of Hilly Areas

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

(a) whether Central assistance is provided for the development of hilly areas of some States;

(b) if so, the criteria thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission had constituted a Working Group of review the programmes already implemented;

(d) whether the technical committee constituted under the said Group has given certain suggestions in regard to the definition of the hilly areas and whether the hilly areas have been identified as per the definition;

(e) the names of the areas of Madhya Pradesh which come under the recommended definition; and

(f) whether the Union Government propose to provide Central assistance to the hilly areas identified as per the recommendations of the said committee, as it is being done in the case of certain hilly areas of some States at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (f) Special Central Assistance is provided to designated hill areas under the

STATEMENT

DETAILS OF SCHEMES UNDER NATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (NWMP)

STATE- KERALA

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Date of Inclusion in National Water Management Project	Cultural Command Area (CCA) under National Water Management Project (Hectares)	Estimated Cost	Anticipated Expenditure upto March, 1995
1.	MALAMPUZHA	89-90	20553	882.19	890.19
2.	MANGALAM	91-92	3440	223.00	218.00
3.	PHOTHUNDY	91-92	4685	300.17	295.17
4.	VAZHANI	92-93	5013	156.00	63.31
5.	PEECHI	92-93	16000	543.40	500.00
TOTAL			49691	2104.76	1966.67

Hill Area Development Programme which include designated hill areas in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and designated talukas of the Western Ghats. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Hill Areas during the Seventh Plan, Planning Commission set up an Expert Group to go into the question of delineation of new hill areas in the country, in May, 1986. However, owing to paucity of funds, it has been decided not to extend the Hill Area Development Programme to any new hill area in any State, including Madhya Pradesh, during the Eighth Plan.

[English]

Schemes under National Water Development Project

570. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes under the National Water Development project have been launched in Kerala;

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith allocation made by Union Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some financial assistance for these projects has been provided by international financial institutions like World Bank; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with terms of such assistance, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (e) Five projects are taken up under World Bank assisted National Water Management Project. The funds for these schemes are provided under State Plan. As per credit agreement, 70 percent of the expenditure incurred upto August, 1990 and 90 percent thereafter, on project cost, is to be reimbursed by the World Bank.

The details of schemes are appended as statement.

Local Area Development Scheme

571. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have reviewed the programmes under MP's Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS);

(b) If so, the deficiency and difficulties identified under the scheme; and

(c) the step taken to rectify the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) The whole scheme had been gone through in great detail with the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha and leaders of the opposition parties. Representatives of the Government were also present. As a result of this review the guidelines were revised which have since been laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

National Oil Grid Scheme

572. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the works executed under the National Oil Grid Scheme till date; and

(b) the benefits derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (b) There is no National Oil Grid Scheme. However, there are seven existing product pipelines for transportation of petroleum products as under:—

BARAUNI-KANPUR
BOMBAY-PUNE
GAUHATI-SILIGURI
HALDIA-BARAUNI
HALDIA-RAJBANDH
KOYALI-AHMEDABAD
MATHURA-JALLANDHAR

The Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline is under execution.

Transportation by pipelines has several benefits. It is economical, faster and dependable. Other advantages are reduction in transit losses, conservation of energy, feasibility to expand at lower cost, better protection from natural calamities and minimum environmental impact.

[English]

Insurgency in North East

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

(a) whether some officers of the 16th Maratha Light Infantry were killed by the N.E. insurgents at the fagend of 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the killings of these officers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the government to contain the activities of insurgents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. Lt. Col. K.B. Poonacha, the acting Commanding Officer of the 16th Maratha Light Infantry and a jawan were killed on December 27, 1994 at Mokokchung by Naga insurgents.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Nagaland set up a Joint Fact Finding Committee to ascertain facts. Separately, a Technical Assessment Committee has also been set up to assess the damage to properties.

(d) A series of measures have been taken which, inter-alia, include the declaration of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland as an 'Unlawful Association' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, notification of a 5 Km. belt on the Nagaland-Myanmar border, a 20-Km. belt in Nagaland along the Assam-Nagaland border, and the district of Mon as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; financial assistance to the State Government for strengthening of the Police Force, deployment of additional units of Security Forces/Central Para Military Forces and better sharing of information and co-ordination of counter-insurgency operations.

[Translation]

Reservation for Backward Classes

575. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the backward classes have demanded reservation separately on the basis of Mandal Commission Report; and

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

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

(b) The Mandal Commission has recommended reservation of 27th for OBCs in all Government Services both in the Centre and the States. The Government have accepted this recommendation. DOPT have issued instructions for reservation of 27% of vacancies to the OBCs in civil posts and services under the Government of India to be filled through

direct recruitment vide their O.M. No. 36012/22/93-Estt. (SCT) dated 8.9.93.

[English]

Ayodhya Dispute

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

(a) whether the Government have since examined the implications of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on the Ayodhya dispute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India, vide its judgement dated 24 October, 1994, in the proceedings related to the validity of the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Ordinance/Act, 1993 and the maintainability of the Special Reference on the RJB-BM dispute, has, inter alia, upheld all the provisions of the Acquisition Act except Section 4(3) thereof; it has also held that all pending suits and other legal proceedings relating to the disputed area within which the structure (including the premises of the inner and outer courtyards of such structure), commonly known as Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid stood, stand revived for adjudication of the dispute therein; further, it has held that vesting of the disputed area in the Central Government is limited, as a statutory receiver, with a duty for its management and administration, maintaining status quo therein (according to the provisions of the Act) and handing it over in terms of the adjudication made in the suits for implementation of the final decision therein. The judgement has also observed that, consequently, the Special Reference is superfluous and unnecessary, and the same has been returned unanswered. Following the Supreme Court judgement, the hearings in the revived title suits have resumed in the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court and the matter is under the consideration of that Court.

[Translation]

Additional Gas to M.P.

577. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the quantity of gas being supplied through H.B.J. gas pipeline during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide additional gas to Madhya Pradesh for setting up of power plants and other projects;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The capacity of the HBJ pipeline is being expanded from 18.2 MMSCMD to 33.4 MMSCMD.

(b) to (d) The gas projected to be available along the

HBJ pipeline is fully allocated. Hence, it is not feasible to allocate additional gas to Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Development of Backward Regions

578. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has received any proposal/scheme for the development of backward regions of North Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has not received any proposal/scheme for development of backward regions of North Bengal. Rs. 10 crores, however, was earmarked in the Annual Plan 1994-95 of West Bengal for infrastructure development in North Bengal, subject to utilisation of fund.

Recruitment Policy in HPCL

579. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recruitment policy of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) The recruitment policy of HPCL is well defined and is reviewed by the Corporation as and when necessary.

(b) and (c) The norms with regard to age, educational qualifications, and experience for recruitment are clearly specified. Non-management recruitment is done through candidates sponsored by concerned regional Employment Exchanges. Open advertisement is resorted to only upon issuance of non-availability Certificate by concerned Employment Exchanges. The recruitment in management cadres is done on all India basis through open advertisement. Presidential Directives regarding reservations in recruitment for SC/ST/OBC/PH are complied with. The recruitment policy is revised as and when required for making need-based modifications.

FM Channel

580. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce a 24 hour FM channel of Akashvani;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The service of All India Radio's FM channel in Delhi was extended to 24 hours with effect from 14th February, 1995 comprising 15 hours of in-house programmes and 9 hours of programmes of private licensees.

Sharing of Yamuna Water

581. SHRI R. ANBARASU:
 DR. S.P. YADAV:
 SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any agreement has been signed amongst the five State regarding sharing of Yamuna water;
 (b) whether under this agreement the Government of Haryana has been supplying 100 MGD water for the second phase of Haiderpur Plant;
 (c) if so, the reasons for which the Government of Haryana has discontinued the supply of water to this plant; and
 (d) the steps taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi regarding allocation of surface flow of Yamuna was signed on 12th May, 1994.

- (b) and (c) There is no such provision in the MoU.

(d) The Upper Yamuna River Board has been constituted by Government of India on 11th March, 1995 for regulation of allocation of Yamuna water amongst the beneficiary States as per the MoU.

[Translation]

Kidnapping of Children

582. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of kidnapping of children and demanding ransom are increasing in Delhi day-by-day;
 (b) if so, the number of children kidnapped and killed during 1994 and 1995 so far, month-wise;
 (c) the number of cases solved;
 (d) the number of persons arrested so far indicating the number of those penalised; and
 (e) the action taken by the Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) There has been an increase in Delhi in the incidents of kidnapping of children and demand for ransom in 1994 as compared to 1993.

(b) to (d) The requisite information is given in the enclosed *statement*.

(e) To check the crime of kidnapping of children kidnapers and other criminals having previous history are kept under surveillance. Intelligence gathering machinery has also been geared up. Motor Cycle patrolling as well as PCR surveillance have been intensified. Advertisements have been given in the press for educating the public about safety measures. Special Cells have been created at the District level under the Crime Branch, and also in each of the nine police districts, assigning dedicated teams for investigation of kidnapping and abduction cases. Safety tips for parents of school going children have been prepared, widely published in the news-papers and circulated to all the schools.

STATEMENT

Months	Number of Children Kidnapped or Ransomter	Number of Children Killed After Being Kidnapped	Number of Cases Solved	Number of Persons Arrested	Number of Persons Penalised
1994					
January	2	—	2	4	—
February	1	—	1	2	—
March	3	—	2	6	—
April	1	—	1 (returned on his own)	—	—
May	1	—	1 (returned on his own)	—	—
June	1	—	—	—	—
July	8	1	1	11	—
August	5	—	6 (including two who returned on their own)	4	—

Months	Number of Children Kidnapped for Ransomter	Naumber of Children Killed After Being Kidnapped	Number of Cases solved	Number of Persons Arrested	Number of Persons Penalised
September	4	1	3 (including one who returned on his own)	8	—
Ocotber	—	—	—	—	—
November	3	1	—	4	—
December	2	—	2 (including one who returned on his own)	3	—
			2		
1995					
January	4	1	2	7	—
February	3	2	—	2	—

[English]

Petroleum Products

583. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of petroleum products, such as diesel, petrol and LPG in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of these essential products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Government have not received any reports of acute shortage of petroleum products in the country. The demand for petrol and diesel is being met in full. The demand of existing LPG consumers is also being met in full.

Irrigation Projects

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

(a) whether the Government have sought Japanese co-operation in the field of irrigation;

(b) if so, the number of irrigation projects funded by Japan;

(c) whether any such project is located in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At present, two Irrigation Projects, namely, Upper Indravati Irrigation Project and Upper Kolab Irrigation Project, in Orissa are being implemented with Japanese loan assistance of Yen, 3774 Million and Yen 3769 Million respectively.

Flaring of Gas

585. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas produced daily from the different oilfields of Gujarat;

(b) the quantity of gas being flared daily from different fields of the State;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to utilise flaring gas in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The daily production of natural gas is 6.58 MMSCMD.;

(b) 0.77 MMSCMD of gas is being flared daily.

(c) to (e) ONGC is putting up the required facilities for utilisation of additional quantities of gas. The gas available from isolated pools which is now being flared has recently been allocated to consumers.

[Translation]

Bombay High Gas Pipeline

586. SHRI CHHITUBHA! GAMIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether leakage in Bombay High Gas Pipeline took place in Olpad of Surat District in February, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the gas leakage;

(d) the extent of loss of life and property as a result thereof;

(e) the loss suffered by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and the persons found responsible for this incident and the action taken against them; and

(f) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Oustees

587. SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families affected by the Sardar Sarovar and Narmada (Indira) Sagar projects;

(b) the number of families shifted and rehabilitated so far;

(c) the time by which the remaining families are likely to be rehabilitated and;

(d) the details of facilities provided to the rehabilitated families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The details are as under:—

Name of Project	Total No. of Project Affected	Progress of Rehabilitation upto January 1995	
		House Plots allotted	Agricultural Land allotted
Sardar Sarovar Project	40,727	8855	8585
Narmada (Indira) Sagar Project	30,739	Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.	

(c) Rehabilitation Programme for the affected families is linked with the progress of construction of the dam. Steps have been taken to rehabilitate the families well before the actual submergence of the villages in which they reside.

(d) Apart from allotment of House Plots and Agricultural Land to the eligible families, the Project Affected Families are provided payment of subsistence allowance, rehabilitation grant, ex-gratia, productive assets and civic amenities like primary schools, wells, hand pumps, transit-sheds, insurance cover and electrification.

[Translation]

Companies and Cooperative Societies of Ex-Servicemen

588. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies and Cooperative Societies of Ex-servicemen in BCCL;

(b) the details of work being undertaken by them;

(c) the number thereof during each of the last three years and the amount paid to them;

(d) whether any complaint has been received that other persons have been holding the charge of these institutions in the name of ex-servicemen;

(e) if so, the names of such companies and cooperative societies; and

(f) the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) (a) Nine ex-servicemen companies sponsored by the Director General (Resettlement), Ministry of Defence, New Delhi and one Co-operative Society sponsored by the District Administration, Govt. of Bihar, are at present working in Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

(b) They undertake loading of coal into tippers and wagons by pay loader, picking of shale and stone, breaking and transportation of coal to the sidings, washeries and coal dumps from different collieries in BCCL.

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
(c) No. of Ex-servicemen companies.	5	10	10
No. of Ex-servicemen Co-operative Societies.	1	1	1

Amount paid (Rs. in 1003.62 957.75 1494.45 lakhs)

(d) District Administration alleged that there is involvement of other persons in holding the charge of some companies in the name of ex-servicemen companies.

(e) The names of such companies are:

- (1) M/s. Pragati Carriers (Pvt.) Ltd.
- (2) M/s. Sainik Goods Carriers (Pvt.) Ltd.
- (3) M/s. Karanpura Transport Company (Pvt.) Ltd.
- (4) M/s. Ex-servicemen Pattiputra Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.
- (5) M/s. Paradise Transporters (Pvt.) Ltd.
- (6) M/s. Kunjeon Coal Carriers (Pvt.) Ltd.
- (7) M/s. Jai Jawan Coal Carriers (Pvt.) Ltd.

(f) The BCCL is investigating into the allegations. Agreement with one company has been terminated so far, after informing the DG(R), the sponsoring authority.

[English]

Blow-out at ONGC Well

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has given any assistance to the victims of gas blow-out at Pasarlupudi in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the royalty paid by ONGC to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the lands utilised for exploitation of Oil and Gas during the last three years including the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY

OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) People from the affected villages were immediately evacuated and housed in relief camps and provided food, medical assistance etc. The entire expenditure for running the relief camps was reimbursed by ONGC to the District Administration.

(c) During the years 1992-93 to 1994-95 (upto 31.12.94) ONGC paid a total amount of Rs.2591 lakhs to the Government of Andhra Pradesh by way of royalty for the crude oil and natural gas.

Information Super Highway

590. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether an American Television Company has embarked on an ambitious plan to set up India's First Information Super highway in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details with the cost involved; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have no information in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sea Erosion

591. PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for changing the present norms of getting Central assistance to protect the sea shores from sea erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the funds provided to the Government of Kerala for anti-sea erosion work during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) to (c) A proposal was received from Government of Kerala for continuing the Central Loan Assistance for Anti-Sea Erosion works on the pattern which existed upto 1983-84.

Till 1983-84, the pattern of assistance was that the Government of India will provide ⅔ of expenditure incurred by the State annually as Central assistance in the form of Loan. But from 1984-85 onwards the pattern of assistance for reformation works was reduced to 50% of the amount spent by the State on such works. The State Government of Kerala has been informed that starting from 8th Five Year Plan, the National Development Council in its meeting

held in December, 1991 has revised the formula for division of fiscal resources between Centre and the State Sectors. Now the State Governments are entitled to additional allocation to meet challenge of special problems. Accordingly as a measure of decentralisation, the Central Loan Assistance for anti-sea erosion works has been discontinued from the 8th Plan. In the case of financial constraints the State Government can approach the Planning Commission to provide such Central assistance from the Special Problem Area Funds. Guidelines for formulating such proposal has also been communicated.

The proposal received from Government of Kerala for external assistance was examined in Central Water Commission and returned for clarification in August, 1992. The compliance of Government of Kerala is still awaited.

(d) No separate funds have been earmarked for Government of Kerala for anti-sea erosion works during the last three years.

Upper Krishna Project

592. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:

SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to increase the height of the Alamatti Dam (Upper Krishna Project) to 524.26 metres;

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

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka in September, 1994 had requested for raising the full reservoir level of Alamatti Dam to 524.256 Metres.

(b) The modified Project Report as an when received at the Centre will be examined expeditiously in accordance with the provisions of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal Award.

(c) The clearance of the project depends on the concurrence of the Co-basin States to the modified project proposal and upon how soon the State Government complies with the observations of the Central Appraising Agencies including obtaining the environment/forests/rehabilitation & resettlement plan clearances.

[Translation]

Unauthorised LPG Connections

594. MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unauthorised cooking gas connections detected in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to regularise such unauthorised gas connections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) There have been no reported cases of detection of unauthorised LPG connections in the State of Bihar during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Sharing of Ganga Water

595. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in regard to sharing of Ganga water in the last round of talks with Bangladesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to proceed the matter in consultation with the Government of West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Following the understanding reached at the Prime Ministers level in May 1992, Joint Committee of experts have met twice (last meeting was held at Dhaka in March 1993) and held in depth discussions to work for an equitable longterm and comprehensive arrangement for sharing the flows of Ganga and other common rivers. The issue was further discussed between our PM and the PM of Bangladesh in April 1993 at the Dhaka SAARC Summit. It was agreed that proposals for an equitable, long term and comprehensive arrangement would be developed by both sides and the discussions on this subject will continue.

(b) and (c) Government of West Bengal is consulted time to time and its interest is taken care by Government of India.

Channelisation of Swan River

596. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding channelisation of Swan river and seventy three tributaries;

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

(c) whether the Union Government propose to give special assistance for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Government of Himachal Pradesh had submitted a project report for channelisation of Swan river in March, 1992.

(b) The proposal of the State Government was not

found techno-economically viable and was returned to the State Government with certain suggestions.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Private Companies

597. DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private companies which have been granted permission to start functioning in the field of LPG till December, 1994; and

(b) the prices of LPG cylinder fixed by each of the companies with the quantity of gas contained in a cylinder and how far it varies from the prices fixed by the public sector Oil Companies functioning and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Under the Parallel Marketing System, private agencies have been allowed to import LPG by using/setting up their own facilities and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG at market determined prices. No permission is required to be obtained from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking parallel marketing. However, they will have to obtain necessary approvals under relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety, pollution control etc., as applicable.

(b) There being no price control by Government on LPG imported and sold under the parallel marketing system, it is being sold at market determined prices fixed by parallel marketeers on the basis of import price and demand and supply position, which keep on varying Government is not maintaining such information.

[English]

LPG Agencies

598. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the news item captioned, "small towns to get LPG outlets soon" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated December 22, 1994;

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

(c) whether any maximum and minimum number of consumers have been fixed for allotment of an LPG agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) At present LPG distributorships are opened in towns having a population of 20,000 and above subject to economic viability and product availability. Keeping in view the expected increase in availability of product and the demand from the smaller towns, it has been decided by the Govt. to extend LPG marketing to other towns by extending the area of operation to the adjoining villages.

Potential of the adjoining villages will also be taken into consideration for planning the LPG distributorships.

[Translation]

Uttaranchal State

599. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether a proposal for creation of a separate Uttaranchal State is under the consideration of the Union Government;

(b) whether the Union Government have also received a proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded two Resolutions adopted by the State Legislature in 1991 and 1994 for creation of a separate State called Uttaranchal/Uttarakhand comprising the eight hill districts of the State.

(c) while appropriate efforts are on, no definite time-frame can be laid down in a sensitive and delicate matter like this one.

[English]

Regulation of Cable TV Network

600. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to regulate cable T.V. network in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Ordinance, 1994 was promulgated on 29th September, 1994. Its salient features are:—

- universal registration of Indian cable operators;
- restriction of foreign equity in cable networks to 49%;
- emphasis on self regulation;
- simple procedural requirements;
- basic programme and advertisement code;
- upgradation of existing hardware within three years;
- reasonable deterrents against violation of the law;
- adequate safeguards against harassment of cable operator.

Sardar Sarovar Project

601. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken by the Government regarding construction of Sardar Sarover Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the height and shape of this project;

(c) the present estimated cost of the project and the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(d) the details of the resources alongwith the amount to be released by each of them;

(e) whether the payment schedule of the above amount has also been made;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission accorded investment clearance to Sardar Sarover Project in October, 1988 which comprises a gravity dam with height of 125 metre above River Bed and a 460 kilometre long lined main canal with a head discharge of 1133 cubic metres per second (40,000 cubic feet per second). The project will have an installed capacity of 1450 megawatt of power to be shared by Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat in the ratio of 57:27:16 and provide irrigation to an area of 17.92 lakh hectares in Gujarat. The main canal will also carry Rajasthan's share of Narmada Waters, viz. 616.74 Million Cubic Metres (0.5 Million Acre Feet) for irrigating 0.73 lakh hectares of area in drought prone districts of Barmer and Jalore in Rajasthan.

(c) The approved estimated cost of the project at 1986-87 price level is Rs. 6406.04 crores against which an expenditure of Rs. 3641.02 crores has been incurred upto December, 1994.

(d) The cost of power component of the project is to be shared in the ratio of 57:27:16 by the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat while the cost of the irrigation component of dam is to be shared by Gujarat and Rajasthan in the ratio of 19:1. The actual cost of the Main canal is to be shared by Gujarat and Rajasthan on cubic feet per second mile bases. The cost of the Branch canals and distribution system is to be entirely borne by Gujarat.

The details of share due from the Party States to Government of Gujarat as on 31.12.1994 are as under:—

Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 291.22 Crores
Maharashtra	Rs. 88.89 Crores
Rajasthan	Rs. 139.00 Crores
TOTAL	Rs. 514 Crores

(e) and (f) The Party States are required to release their shares quarterly in advance based on budgetary provision.

(g) According to the present schedule, likely date of completion of the product including canal system is 2,000 A.D.

Gas from Oman

602. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether an estimate has been made regarding the amount likely to be spent on the project under which a pipeline is to be laid in the sea for the transportation of gas from Oman to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The estimated investment on the Oman-India pipeline project is of the order of US dollars in billion.

[Translation]

Criminal Activities

603. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to instal computers in the country for keeping a strict watch on criminal activities;

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

(c) the estimated amount likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) Government of India have approved a project for setting up a computerised information system on Crime and Criminals. The project envisages setting up of a data network at the District, State and National levels for storage, processing and retrieval of information. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 29.12 crores.

[English]

Ban on Private Lotteries

604. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a bill regarding ban on private lotteries from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Uttar Pradesh Unauthorised Lottery (Prevention) Ordinance, 1994, was received on 28.7.1994 for previous instructions of the President under Article 213(1) of the Constitution of India.

(c) The State Legislations call for examination by the concerned Departments/ Ministries of the Government of India and consultation with State Governments wherever

found necessary. The concerned State Governments and the Central Ministries/ Departments are reminded constantly to expedite their views in the matter. Discussions are also held where necessary, to expedite the clearance of the Bills.

Spilling of crude oil at ONGC well

605. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI TARA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the gas well at Pasartapudi (Andhra Pradesh) has now started spilling out a shower of crude oil resulting worst situation within 5 sq. Km area;

(b) whether the Indian as well as the foreign experts have failed to cap the well;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) the amount spent by the Government so far in a bid to cap the well; and

(e) the likely time by which the fire is likely to be brought under control?

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

(b) (c) & (e) No, Sir. The fire was extinguished on 10.03.1995 and the well capped on 14.03.1995.

(d) As on 28.02.1995, ONGC has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 6,11,83,700/- towards the services of foreign experts, other materials and civil works.

Investment by ONGC and Oil

606. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a proposal of combined investment of \$ 2 million by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and the Oil India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign investment is likely to be involved in this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government have approved an Accelerated Exploration Programme to be implemented during 1994—97 at an estimated cost of Rs. 6500 crores. Its major components are:—

(i) Exploration in the deep water areas.

(ii) National seismic programme.

(iii) Exploration in frontier areas.

(iv) Acquisition of acreages abroad.

(c) and (d) A part of this exploration effort is contemplated to be carried out through joint ventures between ONGC/OIL and private oil companies. Apart from

this, efforts are being made to attract private investment in exploration activities in India. However, an estimate of the likely investment would be possible only after bids are received.

National Commission for Safai Karmacharies

607. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the financial powers being enjoyed by the National Commission for Safai Karmacharies;
- (b) whether the Government propose to grant more financial powers to the Commission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Financial Powers have been delegated to the Secretary, National Commission for Safai Karmacharies as Head of Department under Supplementary Rules 2(10) and Rule 3(F) of the Delegation of Financial Power Rules, 1978 as amended from time to time.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Sex Related Crimes

608. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sex-related crimes are increasing constantly;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents took place in Delhi during each of the last four months; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) (a) No, Sir. During 1994, 309 cases of rape and 1668 cases of eve-teasing have been reported, as against 315 cases of rape and 2108 cases of eve-teasing reported during 1993. However, the reported cases of molestation of women have increased from 259 cases during 1993 to 290 cases during 1994.

(b) The number of such cases which took place in Delhi during each of the last four months is as under:—

Head	November 1994	December 1994	January 1995	February 1995
Rape	21	21	18	22
Molestation of women	29	22	24	26
Eve-teasing	138	100	75	80

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check such incidents include the following:—

- * Setting up of a Special Unit for Crime against Women in Police Head Quarters and in each of the nine Police Districts.

Attending to distress calls from women at all hours.

- * Imparting training in un-armed combat to women

and girls in schools, colleges and residential colonies.

- * Detailing Policemen on duty outside girls, colleges and schools and also at important market places, bus stops and other places frequented by women to check cases of eve-teasing.
- * Deploying policemen in running buses to check eve-teasing.

[English]

Amnesty International Report on Kashmir

609. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the latest Amnesty International's Report on Kashmir has started off a new round of dispute between the human rights group and the Indian Government;
- (b) whether the Union Government are aware that a few months ago, Amnesty put the picture of a woman from Tamil Nadu on the cover of its magazine, Campaign Journal, and tried to pass it off as the image of a suffering Kashmiri woman 'under the siege of the Indian forces';
- (c) if so, the measures taken/proposed to prevent the Amnesty from distorting facts;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government have conveyed their objections to the International Amnesty over this report; and
- (f) if so, the response of International Amnesty thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (e) Amnesty International's latest report on Kashmir entitled 'Torture and Deaths in Custody in J&K' was released on 31 January '95. As in the past, the report contained exaggerated and sweeping allegations of human right abuses alongwith 706 specific cases of alleged custodial deaths. Detailed response to the general allegations alongwith factual reports in respect of 579 specific cases have been sent to Amnesty through High Commission of India, London. The fact that Amnesty has continued to turn a Nelson's eye to the root casue of human rights abuses in the state viz. terrorism, aided and abetted by external forces with territorial ambitions has once again been brought out forcefully in our response. Government's concern against the methodology adopted by Amnesty International and want of objectivity in its documentations has also been brought out in our response.

Amnesty International, in their campaign Journal (November/December '94 issue) for British Section has published the picture of a non-Kashmiri woman under the caption of "Kashmir: where India has turned Heaven into Hell: first pictures from besieged Srinagar." The Government conveyed objections to Amnesty International in the strongest possible term through diplomatic channels and asked them to explain the position. In a letter dated 15.12.94, the Amnesty International has informed that the investigation carried out by an independent media expert has confirmed that the photo feature carried out in its Journal of November/December '94 contained serious

errors. Subsequently, Amnesty International also published an apology in its British Section's Journal, January/February '95 issue alongwith the correction stating that the photograph was actually of a Tamil woman praying and not of 'Kashmiri woman in mourning'.

Sriram Sagar Project

610. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought loan from the World Bank to expedite the completion of the Sriram Sagar Project and Srisailem right bank canal;

(b) whether the World Bank has approved the said proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have also agreed to help the State in implementation of these schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The World Bank has already pre-appraised Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project-III in November, 1994, which comprises completion of Sriram Sagar Project and Srisailem Right Bank Canal. The project is scheduled for Appraisal in April, 1995 subject to compliance of certain key issues by the State Government. These include submission of draft Economic Rehabilitation Programme for Project Affected Persons (PAPs), revised Environmental Impact Assessment, report on Simulation Studies on Krishna and Godavari Rivers, draft agreement on future operating rules for water releases from Srisailem and Sriram Sagar Reservoirs, revised overall project estimates after expenditure prioritisation and project related budget.

(d) and (e) Both Sriram Sagar Project and Srisailem Right Bank Canal Project have been included in VIII Plan, with a plan outlay of Rs. 363 crore and Rs. 440 crore respectively.

Regional Feature Films on Primary Channel

611. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of feature films telecast in Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu on the Primary channel of Doordarshan during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for telecasting less number of Tamil feature films on this Channel vis-a-vis other languages; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take to remove such anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The details are as under:—

Kannada	—	10
Malayalam	—	08
Tamil	—	11
Telugu	—	09

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Cartoon Films

612. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Cartoon Films produced by Films Division during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Budgetary outlay for production of Cartoon Films has been utilised during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The yearwise number of cartoon films produced by the Films Division during the years 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 28.2.95) is 10, 6, 14 and 4 respectively.

(b) to (d) No separate budget is kept for production of cartoon films in Films Division. Expenditure on production of cartoon films is met from within the overall provision of funds for production of films under non-plan. During each year the funds were fully utilised.

[English]

Indo-Iranian Gas Pipeline

613. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have carried out any study for setting up of Indo-Iranian gas pipeline; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The feasibility study for the Iran-India natural gas pipeline has been commissioned. The report is likely to be available towards the end of this year.

Combating of Fire at ONGC Well

614. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three member team of experts from the US is assisting NOGC to combat the blow-out on its drilling rig at Pasarlupudi in East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether experts from any other countries were asked to assist in controlling the fire;

(c) whether any suggestions have been made by these experts to avoid such fire in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) M/s. Emergency Resources International Inc., Taxes, USA assisted ONGC in extinguishing the fire on 10.3.95 and capping the well on 14.3.95.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Local Area Development Scheme

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

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

(a) whether the funds released under MP's Local Area Development Scheme would henceforth be non-lapsable under the revised guidelines issued by the Government;

(b) Whether the release of funds would be on the basis of physical and financial progress of the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The release of funds by the Department of Programme Implementation will be done twice a year based on the physical and financial progress of the works under implementation and further requirement of funds for works.

New Oil Policy

616. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the new oil policy;

(b) if so, the reasons for changing the existing policy; and

(c) how far the new policy is likely to increase domestic crude production thereby narrowing the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) With a view to increase the pace of exploration and to augment indigenous production of crude oil and natural gas, Government have taken a number of policy initiatives. The results of these steps, which include offer of blocks for exploration by private companies, development of some discovered small and medium sized fields by private companies, proposed formation of joint venture companies between ONGC/OIL and other companies for exploration work etc., would be

known only after a period of time when the schemes fructify fully.

[Translation]

Restricted Areas

617. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "Sunday Mail" dated November 20, 1994 regarding permitting foreign tourists only to restricted areas in Uttar Pradesh on which ban has been lifted;

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

(c) the reasons for not permitting the Indian tourists to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Consequent to the shifting of inner line 40 k.m. away from the International border, certain areas in U.P. i.e. Milan Glacier, Dharamghat, Jolingkong area, Sobla, Dharchula etc. have been thrown open to foreign tourists vide notification dated 22.9.93 issued under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958. Similar relaxation in respect of Indians is to be permitted by an amendment to Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1961, in consultation with the State of Uttar Pradesh who have been requested to furnish a detailed proposal in this regard.

[English]

Role of ISI in Uttrakhand

618. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any investigations about the role of ISI in the Uttrakhand movement in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to identify their links and to curb the secessionist activities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Government have no information regarding ISI involvement in the Uttrakhand agitation.

[Translation]

Sale of Adulterated Petrol

619. DR. SAKSHI JI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints in regard to sale of adulterated and less weighted petrol in Delhi during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made against those petrol retail outlets in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the defaulting owners of the petrol retail outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) & (b) No complaints were received regarding sale of adulterated petrol in Delhi during the last six months. However, seven complaints of short delivery of petrol were received during the period.

(c) to (e) Enquiry was made into these cases. In proven cases, sales were suspended, and sales were resumed only after rectification, recalibration & sealing by the Weights & Measures Deptt.

[English]

Output Target of ONGC

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

(a) whether ONGC's output target has been cut by 7 MT due to natural decline in oil reserves in Bombay High and fields of North Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely additional foreign exchange burden as a result thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Petrol Retail Outlets in U.P.

621. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the members of the Uttar Pradesh Oil Selection Board;

(b) whether the Government have issued any directives to this Board to make recommendations regarding petrol retail outlets dealership;

(c) whether the recommendations of this Board are mandatory;

(d) the total number of recommendations made by this Board for the dealership of petrol retail outlets so far in Uttar Pradesh; and

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

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

Composition of the OSB for U.P. is as under:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Justice S.H. Abidi | — Chairman |
| 2. Vacant | — Member I |
| 3. Shri J. N. Tiwari | — Member II |

Till January, 1995, the OSB (U.P.) has recommended merit panels for 192 retail outlet dealerships.

Change in DD Symbol

622. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to begin the 'Krishi Darshan' programme with the salutation 'Kisan Bhaiyon Ko Namaskar' instead of 'Kisan Bhaiyon Ko Ram-Ram';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government also propose to change the Doordarshan symbol 'Satyum-Shivam-Sundaram'; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) there is no standard salutation. It varies from kendra to kendra as per their cultural environment. However, as Krishi Darshan programmes telecast by Delhi Doordarshan Kendra, the standard salutation is Kisan Bhaiyon Ko Namaskar or Kisan Bhaiyon Ko Namaste.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

LPT for Basot

623. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether low power transmitter sanctioned for Basot Dist. Almora, U.P. has been transferred to Dhura near Bhikiasain;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to instal the LPT at Basot as per the original plan; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be installed and commissioned at Basot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to shift the location of the Very Low Power TV Transmitter (VLPT), envisaged to be set up at Basot. Orders for the transmitter equipment have already been placed with the manufacturers. However, suitable site for setting up of the VLPT is to be provided by the State Government authorities. The VLPT at Basot is expected to be commissioned during 1996 subject to timely supply of equipment and availability of other infrastructural facilities for the purpose.

Freedom Fighters Pension

624. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pertaining to Freedom Fighters pension duly certified by the government of Maharashtra pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) the number of applications belonging to Maharashtra who have not been given pension despite the Union Government have sent information regarding approval of their pension;

(c) whether a number of applications of widows of Freedom Fighter Pensioners pending with the Union Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) All claims pertaining to Freedom Fighters Pension received through the State Government of Maharashtra have already been examined and decisions communicated to the applicants and the State Government.

(b) No such case is pending.

(c) to (e) The procedure of transfer of pension in the name of spouses (widows/widowers) of freedom fighter pensioners has been decentralised. The disbursing officers have been authorised to transfer family pension in their name at their level after completion of certain formalities. Spouses of freedom fighter pensioners who still apply to the Central Government for transfer of pension in their name, are advised to approach the concerned Disbursing Officer in the matter immediately.

Coverage by Foreign TV Companies

625. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign TV companies have applied for permission to cover live events;

(b) if so, the details with the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government have studied the impact in permitting foreigners to cover live events freely; and

(d) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No such proposal is under the consideration of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No specific study has been undertaken in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Fake SC/ST Certificates

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about fake caste certificates being procured by people to secure jobs reserved for SCs/STs in Government services;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during 1994; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c): Four complaints regarding fake caste certificates have been received during 1994. The concerned authorities have been requested to enquire into the matter for appropriate action.

Petrol Retail Outlets in Delhi

627. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any petrol retail outlets have been sealed in Delhi during 1994-95; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Allotment of Petrol Retail Outs

628. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

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

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Government for giving advertisements for allotment of LPG agencies and Petrol/Diesel retail outlets;
- (b) whether the Member of Parliament belonging to that place is also consulted;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) LPG distributorships and Retail Outlet dealerships are opened at different locations in the country based on Oil Industry's viability norms. A copy of the advertisement inviting applications for the setting up of LPG distributorships/Retail Outlet dealerships is also sent to the area M.P. Recommendations of the Members of Parliament are also kept in view while carrying out the market survey for opening of new dealerships/distributorships.

Oil/Gas Terminal in Gujarat

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up oil/gas terminal in Gujarat in collaboration with the NRIs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to implement the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Indian Oil Corporation, a PSU, is setting up an LPG import facility at Kandla having a capacity of 600 thousand metric tonnes per annum. The project is at an advanced stage of completion and is expected to be commissioned by December '96.

[Translation]

Allocation of LPG

630. DR. GUNVANT RAM BHAI SARODE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria being followed for allocation of LPG to the States;
- (b) whether LPG is being allocated to Maharashtra on its population basis; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) The demand of existing domestic customers of LPG enrolled with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies in the country is being met in full. LPG is not an allocated product.

[English]

Oil and Natural Gas in Kutch

631. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is plenty of resources of oil and natural gas in the Kutch;
- (b) whether any exploration exercises have been conducted in this area; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The established geological reserves of Oil and Natural Gas in Kutch basin are 3.16 MMT (O-OEG). These reserves are confined in the offshore part of the basin.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Apart from extensive geoscientific surveys, 5 wells have been drilled in the Kutch onland area which proved dry. In the Kutch offshore 22 wells have been drilled and oil was struck at 'KD' structure and gas in GK-29 and GK-22-C structures.

Additional Funds to Gujarat

632. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Gujarat to release additional funds under the Tribal family welfare assistance programme and extension of the modified areas development agencies scheme to the Scheduled Tribes living in non-scheduled areas in the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Farakka Barrage

633. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a big char land formed just up stream of Farakka Barrage is about to block the lock channel mouth;
- (b) whether the up stream pond level has badly been affected due to this char land;
- (c) whether any measure for removal of the char land has been contemplated;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the time by when the execution of the removal work is likely to be undertaken?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir, the Navigational passage through the lock channel is being maintained with the help of Dredgers. Dredging is a continuous activity being carried out by the Farakka Barrage Project authorities.

Selection of Sponsored Programmes

634. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any criteria has been adopted by the Madras Doordarshan Kendra for selection of sponsored programmes in 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kendra selected scripts of eminent authors, took into account the proven experience of the production team and judged scripts on similar themes on their comparative merits to avoid any repetition.

[Translation]

Allotment of New LPG Agencies

635. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new LPG agencies allotted in tribal dominated areas of Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94; and

(b) the target fixed for allotment of new LPG agencies in these areas during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Three LPG distributorships were allotted in Tribal-dominated areas of Madhya Pradesh during the year 1993-94. Four more LPG distributorships are due for allotment in tribal-dominated areas, as per prescribed procedure which involves advertisement of the locations and interviews by the OSBs, etc.

[English]

Irrigation Management Policy

636. PROF. SAVTHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Resources Council has adopted the draft irrigation management policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said policy is likely to be adopted?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The draft Irrigation Management Policy as approved by the National Water Board has been included in the agenda for the next meeting of National Water Resources Council for its adoption, the date for which is yet to be fixed.

Land Subsidence in Coal Mine Areas

637. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of land subsidence and fire remain as usual in the coal mine areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The problem of subsidence arising out of unscientific coal mining under shallow cover carried out in the past is mainly confined to Raniganj coalfield. The problem of fire largely exists in Jharia coalfield.

Some of the important steps taken for stabilisation of subsidence and control of fire are mentioned below:

(i) In the absence of any available proven technology Hydro-pneumatic sand stowing is being tried on experimental basis for stabilisation of underground inaccessible water logged workings near Arun Talkies in Raniganj area.

(ii) Fire affected areas are being dealt with through steps like digging, trenching, blanketing, hydraulic sand flushing etc.

(iii) A comprehensive diagnostic study has been taken up for dealing with the problem of Jharia coalfield fire. The study is in progress.

Indo-Bangla Border Survey

638. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Bangla boarder survey along the Tripura border has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have got success in settlement of various long disputed matters; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Survey of the Indo-Bangladesh land border along the Tripura sector has been completed except for demarcation in the Muhuri Char area. In the Tripura sector, construction of boundary pillars, except those falling in the rivers, has been completed. The Government of India have emphasised the need for early resolution of the Muhuri Cher issue as per provisions stipulated in the Indo Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 in the continuing dialogues with the Government of Bangladesh.

Visit of Amnesty International to J & K

639. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have agreed to permit the Amnesty International to Visit Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Gross National Product

640. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) The Gross National Product of each State at present; and

(b) The per capita increase in the income of each

state during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Estimates of Gross State Domestic Product of each state at current and constant (1980-81) prices for the years 1991-92 to 1993-94 are given in the Statement-I, attached.

(b) Percentage increase in the per capita Net State Domestic Product (state income) of each state at constant (1980-81) prices during the last three years is given in the Statement-II, attached.

STATEMENT-I

Estimates of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)

(Million Rupees)

Sl. No.	State	at current prices			at constant (1980-81) prices		
		1991-92	1992-93 (P)	1993-94 (Q)	1991-92	1992-93 (P)	1993-94 (Q)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	Andhra Pr.	417508	442223	504913	135751	132975	139523
2.	Arunachal Pr.	6291	7298	8282	2848	2908	3135
3.	Assam	115208	130178	—	48883	51178	—
4.	Bihar	288798	339377	—	110946	113101	—
5.	Goa	15513	16845	17768	6781	7160	7349
6.	Gujarat	301349	362608	—	117441	132817	—
7.	Haryana	162795	175502	202429	64236	64823	67583
8.	Himachal Pr.	30967	—	—	11981	—	—
9.	J & K*	31670	33681	—	13191	13730	—
10.	Karnataka	298715	329645	366448	115076	119327	124002
11.	Kerala	175297	197158	210990	62509	65988	69019
12.	Madhya Pr.	340061	380186	451017	126804	134201	144025
13.	Maharashtra	709345	840101	—	285653	310507	—
14.	Manipur	8434	—	—	3989	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	10385	11958	13287	3962	4256	4662
16.	Mizoram	4651	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	7682	—	—	2520	—	—
18.	Orissa	137442	146341	—	54536	53415	—
19.	Punjab	228231	258924	292528	88134	91739	95989
20.	Rajasthan	225030	263302	273734	88174	98277	93472
21.	Sikkim	2426	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	369452	399273	—	148866	152873	—
23.	Tripura	11617	—	—	5149	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	633376	690286	—	252403	255556	—
25.	West Bengal*	364430	416035	—	138935	144967	—
26.	A & N Islands	2112	2412	—	813	988	—
27.	Delhi	122816	—	—	52428	—	—

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
28. Pondicherry*		7101	7928	—	2876	2934	—

P: Provisional Q: Quick Estimates

—: Not made available by the concerned State Governments.

*: In case of Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal and Pondicherry, the figures relate to estimates of Net State Domestic Product.

Note : The State of Mizoram prepares these estimates at current prices only.

Source: Directorates of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.

STATEMENT-II

Percentage Increase over the Previous year in Per Capita State Income

Sl. No.	State	Percentage increase over the previous year in per capita state income		
		1991-92	1992-93 (P)	1993-94 (Q)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.5	-4.0	3.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.5	-0.7	5.2
3.	Assam	4.5	3.1	—
4.	Bihar	-7.9	0.0	—
5.	Goa	4.3	3.5	0.2
6.	Gujarat	-5.7	12.7	—
7.	Haryana	-0.3	-1.3	2.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-3.6	—	—
9.	J & K	1.1	1.8	—
10.	Karnataka	10.1	2.7	2.6
11.	Kerala	0.6	4.5	3.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-5.1	2.9	4.6
13.	Maharashtra	-1.7	9.3	5.5
14.	Manipur	8.2	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	8.0	4.7	7.1
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—
17.	Negaland	0.5	—	—
18.	Orissa	9.3	-4.6	—
19.	Punjab	3.1	2.1	2.6
20.	Rajasthan	-10.8	9.5	-8.9
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	4.6	1.2	—
23.	Tripura	1.3	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-0.6	-0.7	—
25.	West Bengal	3.5	2.0	—
26.	A & N Islands	-12.0	10.2	—
27.	Delhi	3.3	—	—
28.	Pondicherry	1.3	0.0	—

P: Provisional Q: Quick Estimates

—: Not made available by the concerned State Governments.

Source: Directorates of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments.

Oil Exploration Activities

641. SHRI YELLAIHA NANDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Andhra Pradesh where oil exploration activities are being carried out;

(b) whether the Government have made any survey in the State to identify new places where such exploration can be carried out; and

(c) the quantity of crude oil explored in the State during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Seismic data acquisition is being carried out in Nandigama, Gujulapadu-Angaluru, Bhimavaram and in the island area between Vashista and Vainateyam rivers. Presently drilling for oil exploration is going on at Mori, Nandigama, Sakhinetapalle, Lingala, Pasarlapudi, Ravipadu and Mulikipalle in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The established in place oil and oil equivalent gas as a result of exploration on new finds and new pools in Andhra Pradesh is 4.94 MMt. during 1.1.91 to 31.12.91, 2.90 MMt during 1.1.92 to 31.3.93 and 1.84 MMt during 1.4.93 to 31.3.94.

LPG Connections

642. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for LPG connections pending till the end of 1994 in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Berhampur and Balasore in Orissa; and

(b) the time by which all the applicants on writing list are likely to be provided LPG connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (Capt. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Number of wait listed persons for LPG connection till the end of 1994 in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Berhampur and Balasore in Orissa is as under:

Bhubaneswar	20367
Cuttack	13198
Rourkela	8253
Berhampur	14456
Balasore	5500
	<hr/>
	61774

(b) New connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the availability of LPG, new customer enrolment plan, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. Efforts are, however, constantly on to the release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible.

[Translation]

Dispute with British Petroleum

643. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute over a contract between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and British Petroleum Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There was a dispute between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and British Petroleum regarding the expenditure incurred on exploration. The matter has been referred to arbitration.

[English]

Irrigation Projects

644. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of irrigation projects in Orissa getting external assistance at present;

(b) the details of the external assistance obtained for those projects so far;

(c) whether some other irrigation projects in the State are expected to get external assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MAINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The details of the Irrigation Projects in Orissa being implemented with external assistance are as under:—

Name of the Project	Funding Agency	Amount of assistance committed (in Million)	Utilisation Upto (January, 95 (in Million)
Upper Kolab Irrigation Project	OECF, Japan	Yen 3,769.00	Yen 2,002.60
Upper Indravati Irrigation Project	OECF, Japan	Yen 3,744.00	Yen 1,294.56
Lit Irrigation Project, Orissa.	Kwf. Germany	DM 55.00	DM 5.90

In addition, Orissa is also one of the participating states in the World Bank aided Multi-state 'National Water Management Project' and 'Dam Safety Project'.

(c) and (d) The Minor Irrigation Project, Orissa with EEC Assistance, and Subemarekha Irrigation Project and Water Resources Consolidation Project with World Bank Assistance are in active pipeline and their outcome is dependent upon priority of the donor agencies.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies and Kerosene Dealerships

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of fake companies are indulged in cheating the consumers as well as the people interested in getting dealership of LPG and Kerosene by releasing advertisement to this effect; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to check this activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAP. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Some such reports have come to the notice of the Government. The State and Union Territory Governments have been advised to ban collection of deposits by parallel marketeers without their making adequate arrangements for supply of the product. Besides, they have also been advised to verify the genuineness, antecedents and capabilities of persons/agencies intending to take of activities under the parallel marketing system and to take appropriate action against persons who have been found indulging in fraudulent and unfair trade practices. Public have also been suitably advised and warned through press releases that they must find out the antecedents, genuineness and capabilities of concerned parallel marketeers before entering into any transaction with them. IRTP Commission also takes action against persons/firms/companies indulging in unfair trade practices.

[English]

Reconstitution of Oil Selection Board

646. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Selection Board of Kerala has been reconstituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Environment have received any complaints against the Members of the previous Board for irregular allotment of dealerships for LPG and petrol retail outlets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Oil Selection Board for Kerala has since been reconstituted as under:—

1. Justice M. Maruthamuthu — Chairman
2. Shri Shiv Darshan Singh — Member I
3. Smt. Shanta Panicker — Member II

(c) and (d) In addition to complaints, a few writ petitions were also filed in the High Court of Kerala alleging unfair selections made by the OSB (Kerala & Lakshadweep).

Closure of Cinema Halls

647. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study regarding closure of cinema halls in various parts of the country during the recent years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any recommendations have been made by the Secretaries of Information and Broadcasting of States/Union Territories to reduce entertainment tax; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The 21st Conference of State Ministers of Information and Cinematography held in New Delhi on 24.6.94 inter-alia recommended to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to reduce the rates of entertainment tax on cinema. Implementation of the recommendation is, however, the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Privatisation of Coal Mines

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to hand over the management of the coal mines to private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of multi-national companies expressed their willingness in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translations]

Seizure of Explosives

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

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has completed its enquiry regarding seizure of explosives in various parts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the number of persons found guilty in this regard and the details of action taken/being taken against them; and

(d) if not, the time by which this enquiry is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) A charge-sheet was filed in the Designated Court (Rural), Ahmedabad on the 16th July, 1993 against 33 persons for offences under Arms Act, TADA, Explosive

Substances Act, and for conspiracy.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Coal Washeries

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

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has formulated an Action Plan to set up new coal washeries in place of again coal washeries for supply of coal to Thermal Power Plant and Cement units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the presently operating coal washeries alongwith their installed capacity and actual amount of coal washed during the current year;

(d) whether the Coal India Limited in considering any proposal to use modern equipment for measuring ash content in coal to avoid dispute with State Electricity Boards over payment for the specific grade of coal supplied;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed by Coal India Limited for supply of coal with less ash contents to Thermal Power plants and Cement units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) There is no existing operating washery in Coal India Limited for beneficiation of non-coking coal for power plants and cement units, as such question of replacement of such washery does not arise. However, Coal India Ltd., has invited tenders for setting up of four washeries for a total input capacity of 21.20 mty. in Phase-I on 'Build-Own-Operate' basis for supply of coal to thermal power plants and cement plants. Two washeries, one at Bina (4.5 mty.) in Northern Coalfields Limited and another at Piparwar (6.50 mty.) in Central Coalfields Limited which are under construction for supply of washed coal to thermal power plants.

(c) There are 15 operating Coking Coal washeries under Coal India Limited. Details are given below:

Company	No. of plants	Installed Capacity (mty.)	Raw coal washed (Apr., 94—Feb., 95) (in million tonnes)
(i) BCCL	9	12.55	7.292
(ii) CCL	5	11.74	7.663
(iii) WCL	1	1.20	0.615
Total:	15	25.22	15.575

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. 2 automatic sampling and quality monitoring systems have been installed on experimental basis in South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. One of these has been commissioned and the other is to be commissioned shortly.

(f) Apart from increasing the capacity of coal handling

plants and feeder breakers, Coal India is proposing to set up washeries to supply coal with uniform quality and less ash content to thermal power plants and cement units if the consumers are willing to pay the washing charges.

Junior Hindi Translators

651. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Junior Hindi Translators of Central Secretariat Official Language Service Cadre are facing stagnation;

(b) whether the Junior Translators have not been promoted as Senior Hindi Translators even after regular service of 13-14 years;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to remove the stagnation in respect of promotion of Junior Translators; and

(d) whether the Government propose to appoint the Senior and Junior Translators in the ratio of 50:50 respectively with a view to remove this stagnation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The Government had amended, on 5th July, 1994, the Recruitment Rules for the post of Senior Hindi Translators providing Junior Translators with 100% promotions instead of 75% earlier available, in order to improve the avenues of promotions available to the Junior Translators.

The last Junior Translator since appointed on a regular basis as Senior Translator is an appointee of 1981. The last Junior Translator promoted as Senior Translator on ad hoc basis is an appointee of 1986.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Irrigation Projects

652. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh are affected due to Inter-State water disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to settle the disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Only one project of Andhra Pradesh namely Telugu Ganga Project is pending clearance due to non resolution of inter-state issues regarding water utilisation.

(b) and (c) The Telugu Ganga Project envisaging diversion of 15 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of Krishna Water for drinking water supply of Madras City and utilisation of 29 TMC of Krishna water and 20.2 TMC of Pannar water for enroute irrigation in Andhra Pradesh estimated to cost Rs. 636.53 crores was received in Central Water Commission in December, 1993. This

Project as finalised was put up to Advisory Committee in April, 1988. The Advisory Committee deferred consideration as the States of Maharashtra & Karnataka objected to the utilisation of 29 TMC of Krishna water over and above the allocation of water to Andhra Pradesh by Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal. The efforts made by the Union Government to convene Inter-State meeting of Krishna basin states did not materialise. The States have taken upon themselves to resolve the issue.

[*Translation*]

Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST Students

653. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to increase the income ceiling under the centrally sponsored scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (d) A proposal to increase the income ceiling under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students is under consideration in consultation with the Planning Commission.

[*English*]

Broad Engineering Authority

654. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any requests for constitution of a Broad Engineering Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Oil Exploration Plan

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

(a) whether the Government have recently approved a massive joint venture combined investment plan by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Oil India Limited for oil and gas exploration in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to float global tenders to identify the foreign partners in the joint venture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the conditionalities proposed to be laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) to (d) Government have approved an Accelerated Exploration Programme to be implemented during 1994-97 at an estimated cost of Rs. 6500 crores. A part of this exploration effort is contemplated to be carried out through joint ventures between National Oil Companies (Oil and Natural Gas Corp. and Oil India Limited) and private oil companies. ONGC/OIL would take a participating interest of between 25% and 40% in these joint ventures, under production sharing contracts to be signed by the joint ventures with Government.

Bonus to Coal Workers

656. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual bonus for the current financial year has been paid to the coal workers/employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rate at which it was given during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) CIL being a non-competing Public Sector Undertaking, its employees are not entitled to bonus under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. However, ex-gratia payments have been made to the employees of CIL in the form of production/productivity linked bonus/reward at the rates indicated below, during the last three years:—

1991-92 8.33% of annual wages, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2000/- to the employees whose wages do not exceed Rs. 3500/- per month and additional amount of Rs. 315/-.

1992-93 A maximum amount of Rs. 2327/- to the employees drawing wages upto Rs. 3500/- p.m. and a maximum amount of Rs. 12500/- to others; payable pro-rata, based on attendance.

1993-94 Rs. 2350/- to the employees drawing salary/wages upto Rs. 3500/- p.m. and Rs. 1540/- to others.

Payment for the current financial year has not become due.

[*Translation*]

Advertisement of consumer service

657. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (Deepa):

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

(a) whether A.I.R. has granted approval to all its advertisement centres for broadcasting short advertisements pertaining to consumer service;

(b) if so, the rates fixed for broadcasting these advertisements; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) All India Radio has recently introduced guide commercials (shoppers guide etc.) from its main Vividh Bharati centres. These commercials are charged @ Rs. 100 for messages not exceeding 15 words.

Coal Requirement

658. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- the monthly requirement of coal for domestic and industrial consumption in Bihar;
- the quantity of coal actually allotted to the State during each of the last twelve months;
- whether the Union Government propose to increase allotment of coal to Bihar;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The requirements of coal are assessed Industry/Sector-wise for the whole country. They are not assessed State-wise. Coal India Limited (CIL) supplies coal based on programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to Power and Cement Industries are made based on short-term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) for these sectors.

(b) The total quantity of coal supplied by CIL to Bihar during each of the 12 months during 1994 was as under:—

(In '000 tonnes)

Month	Quantity
January, 1994	1706.0
February, 1994	1788.9
March, 1994	1930.9
April, 1994	1777.9
May, 1994	1720.4
June, 1994	1612.1
July, 1994	1271.3
August, 1994	1246.7
September, 1994	1223.3
October, 1994	1375.3
November, 1994	1445.4
December, 1994	1604.2

(c) to (e) Instructions have been issued to coal companies to ensure adequate availability of coal to all consumers including those located in Bihar to meet their full requirements. However, any requests for additional allocations of coal/coke are considered/examined in each case on merits. CIL is presently in a position to meet almost the entire non-coking coal demand in Bihar except for soft coke/hard coke. In addition, coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) under which scheme coal is supplied

without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships. Under this Scheme, coal is also being supplied to Whole Sale Traders/Mini Traders who in turn meet the requirements of small consumers.

Communal Incidents

659. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- the number of communal incidents which took place during 1994 as compared to those in 1993;
- the names of the States in which communal violence broke out during 1994;
- the number of persons killed and the extent of loss of public and private property during 1994; and
- the role of the Union Government in checking the eruption of communal violence in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) As public order is a State subject under List-II State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the Central Government does not maintain information on communal riots/incidents. However, according to the information furnished by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, 2292 communal incidents/riots took place during the year 1993. As regards 1994, information has been made available by all the States and Union Territory Administrations except the States of Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram and West Bengal. 130 communal incidents/riots were reported during the year 1994 from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. 23 persons were killed. The estimated loss of property was Rs. 52 lakhs.

(d) The Central Government has issued guidelines to the State Governments for the promotion of communal harmony and prevention of communal violence. The Central Government provides all possible assistance to the State Governments including sharing of intelligence/information and deployment of para-military forces.

[English]

Prices of Raw Petroleum Coke

660. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

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

- whether the existing parity in the prices of Raw Petroleum Coke (RPC) at Barauni Oil Refinery and Guwahati Oil Refinery has been changed by introducing differential pricing for RPC;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- whether, as a result of dual pricing policy, a huge stock of RPC has accumulated at Barauni Oil Refinery;
- if so, its likely repercussion on the viability of SSI units manufacturing calcined Petroleum Coke; and
- the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remedy

the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (e) RPC is a Free Trade product and the oil companies producing/marketing it are allowed to sell the product at market determined price.

Allocation of Gas

661. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Rajasthan regarding allocation of natural gas to the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received for additional allocation for the power sector and for industrial units. The gas projected to be available is fully allocated and it is not feasible to consider additional allocations.

Freedom Fighters pension

662. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons from Punjab who had applied for freedom fighters pension with the documents about the loss of job duly supported by the service certificate based on the relevant records have not been granted freedom fighters pension so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending projects

663. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Projects of Kerala pending in the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) whether these projects are likely to be approved during the current plan; and

(c) if so, the names of such projects likely to be commissioned during the current plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) No project of Kerala is pending for action in the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

New Schemes

664. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission propose to incorporate new schemes to benefit the specific categories of people in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission also propose to revamp the Annual Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (d) All the last three Annual Plans (1992-93 to 1994-95) have been formulated and are being implemented in the context of the need for reorientation and revamping of the planning process as envisaged in the Eighth Plan Document (1992-97). Accordingly, while finalising these Annual Plans due care has been taken to emphasize Programmes/Schemes which will benefit the social sectors with special consideration to benefit various sections of people including SCs/STs/OBCs, Women, Rural and Urban poor and other vulnerable sections of the society.

New Schemes for Weaker Sections

665. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently formulated any new schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, minorities, handicapped, destitutes, widows and other weaker sections of the society in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide social justice and improve the social, educational and economic status of all weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) Details are given in the Statement attached.

(c) Apart from providing for reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs, in the services and posts under the Central Government, Ministry of Welfare is implementing a number of schemes/programmes for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the weaker section of society. The important schemes/programmes include implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 SCs and STs (prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Special Component Plan for SCs, Tribal Sub-Plan for STs, Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan, Hostels for SC and ST boys, Post-matric Scholarships to children of those engaged in unclean occupation, vocational training in tribal areas, Ashram Schools, educational complex in low literacy pockets for ST girls in tribal areas, Finance and Development Corporations for the economic development of SCs, STs OBCs, and Minorities, etc.

STATEMENT

Details of new schemes formulated for the welfare Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities, Handicapped and others.

1	2	3
S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Brief details
1.	Pre-examination coaching for weaker sections based on economic criteria (including minorities).	The scheme is intended for coaching/training of candidates belonging to weaker sections having an annual income not exceeding Rs. 24,000/- to enable them to compete on equal terms in various competitive and entrance examinations.
2.	National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	The Corporation has been set up to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of backward sections amongst the minorities, preference being given to occupational groups and women. The Corporation extends concessional financial assistance for setting up self-employment and other ventures and also assist in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills of minorities for proper and efficient management of production units.
3.	National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation.	The Corporation has been set up to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of backward classes and to assist them in developing technical entrepreneurial skills.
4.	Grants-in-aid to State Tribal Development Corporation.	The objective is to ensure remunerative prices and for providing marketing of tribal produce especially minor forest produce and afford protection to tribals against exploitation by private traders.
5.	Vocational training in tribal areas.	The scheme is intended to provide training of tribal youths in three different trades of their choice for a duration of four months in respect of each trade, and one year attachment of Master Craftsmen to learn skills by practical experience.

1	2	3
6.	Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for development of women literacy in tribal areas.	The scheme envisages residential educational complexes for tribal girls for their education upto V class with provision for training in craft/vocational education in 48 districts with tribal concentration where literacy of tribal females is less than 2%.
7.	Scheme of assistance to Voluntary Organisations for handicapped children.	The scheme envisages assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations upto the extent of 90% of the expenditure, for establishment and upgradation of Special Schools in the four areas of disability, viz. orthopaedical speech and hearing, visual and mental retardation.
8.	Welfare of Street children.	The scheme provides for integrated community based non-institutional basic services for the care, protection and development of the children who live on the streets or pavements with or without their family. The scheme is being implemented through Voluntary Organisations by providing grants-in-aid to them.
9.	Beggary prevention.	The scheme envisages setting up of Work Centres for providing technical education and Vocational training to beggars on modern lines to help them in rehabilitation.
10.	Welfare of the aged.	The scheme provides services through Day Care Centres, Old Age Homes, Mobile Medical Programmes etc. and is being implemented through Voluntary Agencies.

*[Translation]***Duplicate LPG Cylinders**

666. SHRI LALLBABU RAI:
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether duplicate LPG cylinders are in use in a large scale in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of duplicate LPG cylinders seized during 1994, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No case of duplicate LPG cylinder has been detected in the State of Bihar.

(b) State-wise details of the spurious cylinders detected at the bottling plants during the year 1994 (April-December 1994) are as under:

State	No. of Spurious cylinders
1. Andhra Pradesh	399
2. Gujarat	622
3. Haryana	629
4. Jammu & Kashmir	84
5. Karnataka	14
6. Kerala	3
7. Madhya Pradesh	117
8. Maharashtra	984
9. Orissa	6
10. Punjab	1457
11. Rajasthan	355
12. Tamilnadu	52
13. Uttar Pradesh	1283
14. West Bengal	19
Union Territories	
15. Delhi	177

(c) Inspections are carried out by field staff of LPG marketing companies to detect circulation of spurious cylinders with the distributors and transporters, etc. However, on inspection, the spurious cylinders are mostly detected at the bottling plants, where they are crushed and destroyed. When transporters and distributors are found in possession of and selling or circulating spurious cylinders, warning is issued to them and a penal recovery of Rs. 1500/- per spurious cylinder is made from them.

*[English]***Exploration of Coal**

667. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted some proposals for exploration of coal in the state;

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

(c) if so, whether any area for exploration of coal in the State has been considered during the Eight Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir, Government of Gujarat has not submitted any proposal for exploration of Coal in the State of Gujarat.

*[Translation]***Profit by B.C.C.L.**

668. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. during 1993-94;

(b) the date on which the Coal India Ltd. Board has cleared the accounts related to BCCL;

(c) whether the accounts pertaining to Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. for 1993-94 got cleared twice in the Coal India Ltd. Board; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) According to Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), information regarding the profit earned by them during 1993-94 is as follows:

Contribution from Coal Price Regulation Account (CPRA)	Rs. 363.63 crores
Less: Loss for 1993-94	(—) Rs. 334.64 crores
Profit for 1993-94 taking into account CPRA contribution but before prior period adjustment	Rs. 28.99 crores
Less: Prior period adjustment	Rs. 7.43 crores
Net Profit:	Rs. 21.56 crores

(b) The Board of Directors of Coal India Limited does not clear the accounts of its subsidiary companies, including the BCCL.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the answer given to part (b) of the question.

[English]

Expansion and Improvement in Coal Technologies

669. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken any steps for expansion and improvement in coal technologies; and
(b) if so, the details and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the coal sector various steps have been taken for improvement of coal technologies; rational and scientific exploration and exploitation of coal deposits; beneficiation and utilisation etc. These steps are being taken as a continuous process and are directed towards improvement in operational efficiency, production, safety, coal quality etc. As a result whereof the coal production in the country is expected to increase from the present level of 246.04 m.t. (1993-94) to about 300 m.t. by the terminal year of the 8th Plan.

Persons below Poverty Line

670. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANDGE:

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of persons living below the poverty line in urban and rural areas, separately, State/UT-wise;
(b) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living below the poverty line, State/UT-wise;
(c) the efforts made by the Government to bring these persons above the poverty line during the last three years;
(d) the number of persons brought above the poverty line as a result thereof, State/UT-wise; and

- (e) The details of the poverty alleviation schemes proposed to be implemented during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The estimate of State/UT-wise number and percentage of persons below poverty line in rural and urban areas for the year 1987-88 are given in the Statement-I attached.

(b) The estimate of State/UT-wise percentage of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living below the poverty line in 1983-84 are given in the Statement-II attached.

(c) A number of programmes are being implemented in order to improve the quality of life of the poor households. These include programmes for raising income and generating employment such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). Benefits to SCs/STs are specifically earmarked in these programmes. In addition, Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) are being implemented which aim at providing a package of benefits for SC and ST families so as to enable them to meet their specific needs, raise their income and levels of living.

(d) The State/Union Territory-wise estimates of number of persons below poverty line for the years 1983-84 and 1987-88 are indicated in Statement-III and Statement-I respectively. These are the latest years for which these estimates are available.

(e) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programmes are being continued.

STATEMENT-I

Number and Percentage of Population below Poverty Line by States 1987-88 (Planning Commission Estimates)

S. No.	State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. Lakhs	%age	No. Lakhs	%age	No. Lakhs	%age
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153.1	33.8	42.6	26.1	195.7	31.7
2.	Assam	50.4	24.5	2.5	9.4	52.9	22.8
3.	Bihar	300.3	42.7	36.1	30.0	336.4	40.8
4.	Gujarat	56.2	21.2	17.1	12.9	73.3	18.4
5.	Haryana	13.5	11.7	4.7	11.7	18.2	11.6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4.4	9.7	0.1	2.4	4.5	9.2
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.4	15.5	1.4	8.4	9.8	13.9
8.	Karnataka	102.8	35.9	33.7	24.2	136.5	32.1
9.	Kerala	37.4	16.4	11.6	19.3	49.0	17.0

Ke

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
10.	Madhya Pradesh	194.0	41.5	30.9	21.3	224.9	36.7
11.	Maharashtra	166.9	36.7	47.2	17.0	214.1	29.2
12.	Orissa	124.2	48.3	10.9	24.1	135.1	44.7
13.	Punjab	9.6	7.2	4.3	7.2	13.9	7.2
14.	Rajasthan	80.5	26.0	19.0	19.4	99.5	24.4
15.	Tamil Nadu	138.4	39.5	38.5	20.5	176.9	32.8
16.	Uttar Pradesh	373.1	37.2	75.2	27.2	448.3	35.1
17.	West Bengal	137.2	30.3	36.3	20.7	173.5	27.6
18.	Small States & UTs	9.3	11.8	4.9	4.7	14.2	7.7
All India		1959.7	33.4	417.0	20.1	2376.7	29.9

Notes (1) The above estimates are derived by using the poverty line of Rs. 49.09 per capita per month at 1973-74 prices corresponding to daily calorie requirement of 2400 per person in rural areas and the poverty line of Rs. 56.64 per capita per month corresponding to calorie requirement of 2100 in urban areas.

(2) For up-dating the poverty line for 1987-88 C.S.O. Private consumption deflator has been used.

(3) The difference between the aggregate all India private consumption expenditure estimated by the Central Statistical Organisation in their National Accounts Statistics and that derived from WSSO data has been adjusted prorata among the different State and Union Territories.

(4) The number of people below poverty line relates to the population as on 1st March, 1988.

(5) These calculations are based on the draft report of 43rd Round of National Sample Survey data on household consumer expenditure. (Report No. 372 "Report on the Fourth Quinquennial Survey on Consumer Expenditure", N.S.S.O., June, 1990).

STATEMENT-II

Percentage of persons below the Poverty Line—1983-84

States	Scheduled Castes		Scheduled Tribes	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Andhra Pradesh	51.0	43.3	48.4	43.3
Assam	21.9	42.8	25.5	20.2
Bihar	71.1	52.2	64.9	39.8
Gujarat	39.9	19.3	52.1	56.6
Haryana	27.9	40.1	0	39.3
Himachal Pradesh	23.5	11.7	7.5	11.5
Jammu & Kashmir	32.9	27.5	0	0
Karnataka	54.1	36.6	59.9	45.2
Kerala	43.9	42.2	36.1	51.7
Madhya Pradesh	59.3	45.8	67.1	34.0
Maharashtra	55.9	44.8	58.7	41.3
Orissa	54.9	40.3	68.9	52.8
Punjab	21.8	33.0	15.4	47.1
Rajasthan	44.9	33.7	63.7	48.1
Tamil Nadu	59.4	54.5	50.9	51.1
Uttar Pradesh	57.3	46.3	45.8	24.3
West Bengal	52.0	41.3	58.6	33.1
All India	53.1	40.4	58.4	39.9

STATEMENT-III

Number and Percentage of Population below Poverty Line by States 1983-84 (Official Released Estimates)

S. No.	State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. Lakhs	%age Lakhs	No.	%age	No. Lakhs	%age
1.	Andhra Pradesh	164.4	38.7	40.7	29.5	205.1	36.4
2.	Assam	44.9	23.8	4.9	21.6	49.8	23.5
3.	Bihar	329.4	51.4	36.1	37.0	365.5	49.5
4.	Gujarat	67.7	27.6	19.9	17.3	87.6	24.3
5.	Harayana	16.2	15.2	5.5	16.9	21.7	15.6
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5.8	14.0	0.3	8.0	6.1	13.5
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.1	16.4	2.2	15.8	10.3	16.3
8.	Karnataka	102.9	37.5	34.7	29.2	137.6	35.0
9.	Kerala	55.9	26.1	15.6	30.1	71.5	26.8
10.	Madhya Pradesh	218.0	50.3	36.9	31.1	254.9	46.2
11.	Maharashtra	176.1	41.5	55.9	23.3	232.0	34.9
12.	Manipur	1.3	11.7	0.6	13.8	1.9	12.3
13.	Meghalaya	3.9	33.7	0.1	4.0	4.0	28.0
14.	Orissa	107.7	44.8	10.4	29.3	118.1	42.8
15.	Punjab	13.7	10.9	10.7	21.0	24.4	13.8
16.	Rajasthan	105.0	36.6	21.2	26.1	126.2	34.3
17.	Tamil Nadu	147.6	44.1	52.6	30.9	200.2	39.6
18.	Tripura	4.6	23.5	0.5	19.6	5.1	23.0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	440.0	46.5	90.6	40.3	530.6	45.3
20.	West Bengal	183.9	43.8	41.2	26.5	225.1	39.2
21.	Nagaland and All Union Territories	17.9	47.4	14.4	17.7	32.3	27.1
All India		2215.0	40.4	495.0	28.1	2710.0	37.4

Notes: (1) The above estimates are derived by using the poverty line of Rs.101.8 per capita per month for rural areas and the poverty line of Rs. 117.5 per capita per month for urban areas at 1983-84 prices corresponding to the poverty lines of Rs. 49.1 and Rs. 56.6 respectively for 1973-74.

(2) The number of persons below poverty line relates to the population as on 1st March, 1984.

Deployment of CRPF

671. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CRPF battalions, deployed in disturbed areas have not been given proper attention in respect of the deployment in peace areas;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for proper deployment of the CRPF battalions in peace and disturbed areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) CRPF Bns. are deployed on the request of the State Governments, to assist them in law and order related duties. Within the consequential locational distribution, suitable rotation of these Bns. between disturbed and other areas is ensured.

[Translation]

Irrigation Facilities

672. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated by the Union Government to the Government of Gujarat for providing irrigation facilities during 1994-95;

(b) the details of the irrigation schemes assisted by the Union Government; and

(c) the details of the irrigation schemes to be started by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility for planning, funding and implementation of irrigation projects primarily rests with the State Governments. The Central assistance to the State is in the form of block loans and block grants not tied to any individual project or sector of development. The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 597.65 crores for irrigation and flood control in Gujarat Annual Plan 1994-95.

On disengagement of Sardar Sarover Project from World Bank assistance, an amount of Rs. 550 crores has been approved for reimbursement of expenditure for completion of the project.

DD and Air Studio, Surat

673. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal/representation to convert Surat Radio Station and Doordarshan Kendra into a full-fledged studio;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) A request from the Information, Broadcasting & Tourism Department, Government of Gujarat has been received for providing full-fledged TV/Radio Station at Surat.

(c) While the Radio Station at Surat is already a full-fledged radio station, the low power TV transmitter at Surat is envisaged to be upgraded to a High Power transmitter subject to availability of resources and infrastructure facilities. There is, however, no proposal to set up a T.V. Studio facility at Surat, at present.

[English]

Killings in Pilibhit

674. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
DR. S.P. YADAV:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
KUMAR SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action on the report submitted in August, 1991 by the National Commission for minorities on the incident of Pilibhit killings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The incident relating to Pilibhit killings was investigated by the CBI. Upon the report of CBI, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed Government of Uttar Pradesh to pay compensation to the dependents of the victims Rs. 50,000/- each. The amount of compensation has been paid by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Safety of LPG Cylinders

675. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil companies have not been able to improve the safety record of LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, the reasons and the obstacles in improving and modernising the present LPG cylinders; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to help the consumer in the services offered by gas distribution companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The existing design of LPG cylinders in use by the Government oil companies is of proven quality and is based on high safety standards. These cylinders are manufactured by the various approved manufacturing units. The cylinders are manufactured to BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) specifications. Every cylinder is checked by BIS and certificate is issued for soundness to fill LPG in the cylinder by the Chief Controller of Explosives.

(c) In order to ensure satisfactory services to the LPG consumers, Government oil companies have taken steps like.

1. All LPG distributors are under instructions to conduct pre-delivery checks on each and every cylinder delivered to the customers.
2. Emergency and customer service cells are being operated in major cities.
3. Prompt action is being taken on complaints for redressal of customers' grievances.

Implementation of Local Area Development Scheme

676. SHRI P. C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been apprised of the difficulties being experienced by the Members of Parliament in implementing the Local Area Development Scheme in their constituencies;

(b) whether the Government have decided to constitute a separate fund and also to make suitable amendments in the guidelines to ensure the streamlined implementation of the Scheme, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the year 1994-95, the funds under the MP's Local Area Development Scheme have been placed at the disposal of District Collectors and suitable changes in the guidelines on MP's Local Area Development Scheme have already been made. The revised Guidelines have already been sent to the Members of Parliament.

Strike by workers of BPCL and HPCL

677. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the managements of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation limited have received any strike notice from the unions of their workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reactions of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to avert the strike by the workers of BPCL and HPCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) to (d) All the Unions representing marketing workmen in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) served strike notice for early finalisation of Long-Term Wage Settlement and Promotion Policy. Similarly, some of the Unions of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL), except South Zone and Visakh Refinery, issued strike notices dated February 1, 1995, demanding delinking of productivity in Long-Term Settlement. In spite of Conciliation meetings by the Dy. Chief Labour Commissioner (C), New Delhi, the workmen resorted to go slow/work-to-rule agitation as also to one-day-strike on 21-2-1995. During the strike, uninterrupted supplies were maintained with the help of the officers.

As a result of conciliation and bi-partite discussions in both the Corporations, the workmen have since resumed normal duties.

Welfare Schemes

676. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, handicapped and weaker sections were undertaken in all States and Union Territories during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details alongwith allocations made scheme-wise, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether schemes have fully achieved their targets;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UT wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to undertake some welfare schemes for SCs/STs, OBCs, handicapped and weaker sections in Sikkim during 1995-96; and

(f) if so, the details alongwith allocations therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (f) Various Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector schemes/programmes for the welfare of SCs, STs, OBCs, handicapped and weaker sections are implemented by the Ministry of Welfare through State Govts./UT Administrations and also voluntary agencies. Annual Plan Allocations in respect of these schemes/programmes are made by the Planning Commission scheme-wise and not State/UT-wise. Funds are released on the basis of schemes/proposals received from the State Govts./UTs. All the schemes ment for the Welfare of SCs, STs and others are implemented in the State of Sikkim also.

A statement showing the Annual Plan Allocations scheme-wise during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 together with the targets and achievements and reasons for shortfall, if any, is attached.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Scheme	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		Reasons for shortfall					
		Financial Tar.	Physical Achiv.	Financial Tar.	Physical Achiv.	Financial Tar.	Physical Achiv.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	SCR to SCP	225.00	249.00	25.96 (lac.)	20.66 (lac.)	247.00	272.00	25.25 (lac.)	23.24 (lac.)	273.85	267.40	26.78 (lac.)	SCA is an additive to State's SCP. The Phy. Target is under 11-A TPP
2.	SCDC	20.00	22.07	5.35	5.35	22.00	29.34	6.1	6.1	22.00	21.80	5.50	
3.	Notional SCs & STs Fin. & Dev. Corpn.	10.00	10.00	24000	47420	21.00	21.00	5000	6164	40.00	39.00	25000	
4.	Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers	66.00	66.73	27618	15578	73.20	70.97	36989	23070	73.00	61.92	150000	New Scheme Gradually picking up.
5.	Post-Metric Scholarship	46.00	54.19	16.8 (lac.)	15.30 (lac.)	72.40	74.79	18.30 (lac.)	16.75 (lac.)	96.35	76.99	18.43 (lac.)	
6.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	11.00	6.39	100000	99254	14.00	5.61	280000	188939	10.00	5.05	205000	Inadequate proposals from the State Govts.
7.	Girls Hostels H=Hostels I=Inmates	5.33	5.33	104(H) 5242(I)	177(H) 9547(I)	6.00	6.00	200(H) 10500(I)	213(H) 19452(I)	6.20	6.20	80(H) 4200(I)	
8.	Boys Hostels	5.00	5.00	100(H) 4984(I)	200(H) 10271(I)	6.00	6.50	230(H) 12000(I)	101(H) 7020(I)	10.00	7.62	80(H) 4200(I)	Targets for 1992-93 were set as per to previous years targets when larger number of hostels were proposed/ sanctioned.
9.	Book Banks	5.00	0.67	90000	14002	5.60	3.33	40000	33420	3.50	2.76	20000	Inadequate proposals from the State Govt.
10.	Coaching Allied	1.75	1.71	6000	10198	2.00	1.74	8000	10000	2.00	1.40	8000	Inadequate proposals from the State Govt.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11.	PCR & Atrocities	5.50	5.50	—	—	6.50	6.50	—	—	6.00	5.64	—	—
12.	Aid to Vol. Organ	4.75	4.56	—	135	7.50	7.50	—	208	8.00	8.12	—	190
13.	Research & Training	0.80	0.05	7 (Studies 1 Trg. Prog. 1 Seminar)	672	0.80	0.17	25 (Studies 2 Trg. Prog. 11 Seminars)	334	0.38	0.28	25 (Studies 2 Trg. Prog. 12 Seminars)	—
14.	Upgradation of Merit of SCST students	0.55	0.32	1000	672	0.55	0.15	1000	334	100	0.61	1000	Scheme not being implemented in majority of States/ UTs hence the shortfall in the Target.
15.	SCA to TSP	250.00	250.00	8.96 (lac)	888 (lac)	294.64	294.64	9 (lac)	10.42 (lac)	275.00	245.13	10.12 (lac)	5.89 (lac)
16.	Art.	275(1)'	40.00	N.A.	—	—	75.00	NA	—	—	75.00	NA	—
17.	Beys Hostels for STs (H-Hostels)	2.67	2.67	Not fixed	79(H)	3.00	2.70	50(H)	53(H)	3.05	3.05	60(H)	66(H)
18.	Girls Hostels for STs (H=Hostel)	2.50	2.50	Not fixed	62(H)	3.00	2.64	50(H)	52(H)	3.05	3.05	60(H)	42(H)
19.	Ashram Schools for STs (S=School)	2.00	2.00	Not fixed	48(s)	2.50	2.53	50(3)	64(s)	2.50	2.50	60(s)	18(s)
20.	Educational Scheme in low literacy pockets for STs girls (C=comped)	1.00	1.00	7	7	1.25	1.25	10(c)	23(c)	1.85	1.48	10(c)	18(c)
21.	Vocational Trg. institute	1.00	1.00	7	7	1.90	1.90	13	15	2.40	2.38	12	19
22.	Minor Forest Produce Grant-in-aid to Vol. orgns.	2.00	2.00	N.A.	—	3.50	3.50	N.A.	—	3.50	N.A.	—	—
23.	Res. & Trg.	3.55	3.55	N.A.	—	4.03	4.03	N.A.	—	4.75	3.97	N.A.	—
24.	Assistance to Orgns. for Disabled Persons	1.05	1.05	14	14	11200	1.20	14	14	1.18	1.18	12	12
25.	Scheme for purchase/ fitting of aids/ appliances	7.70	9.64	N.A.	—	8.15	10.40	N.A.	—	15.67	11.03	N.A. x	—
26.	Assistance to orgns. for setting up upgrading spl. schools.	7.50	7.09	N.A.	10.00	10.00	N.A.	—	14.00	11.64	N.A.	—	—
27.	Assistance to orgns. for main power Dev. for Cerebral pasied and Mental Retardation	0.50	0.22	N.A.	—	0.40	0.40	N.A.	—	0.80	0.66	N.A.	—
28.	Assistance to orgns. for setting up upgrading spl. schools.	1.50	N.A.	1.50	0.10	N.A.	0.80	0.66	N.A.	—	—	—	—
29.	Assistance to orgns. for main power Dev. for Cerebral pasied and Mental Retardation	1.00	0.27	N.A.	0.50	0.31	N.A.	0.30	0.16	N.A.	—	—	—
30.	Pre-exam. coaching for Weaker Section based on economic criteria	0.0467	0.0467	200	200	0.50	1680	1680	1.29	—	3300	—	—
31.	NECFDC	—	—	—	—	100.00	105.00	—	—	100.00	85.33	—	—
32.	Welfare of Aged	1.06	1.06	OAH-62 (1550) DCC-157 (7850) MMU-2 (9600)	3.06	3.06	OHA-126 (3150) DCC-182 (9100) MMU-11 (52800)	—	4.80	4.6	OAH-189 (4725) DCC-217 (10850) MMU-27 (129600)	—	—
33.	Welfare of St. Children	1.40	—	—	3.00	1.11	—	39	3.00	2.11	—	66	—
34.	Prev. & Control of Juvenile social maladjustment.	5.00	5.39	29000	—	5.00	1.11	32000 (Inmates)	—	3.00	2.42	32000 (inmates)	—

Due to non-rece adequate No. of Proposal and no submission of utilisation certifi by the State Gov UTs.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
35.	Beggary Prevention	0.20	0.20		6 Work Centres	—	1,000.23		18 Work Centres	—	0.55		523 Work Centres

*OAH = Old Age Homes
 DCC = Day Care Centres
 MMU = Mobile Medicare Units
 (Figures in brackets indicate number of beneficiaries)

Complaints Against Police Functioning

679. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO:
 SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 792 on July 28, 1994 and state:

- whether the Government have taken any decision on setting up a Statutory Body to probe into the complaints against the functioning of the police;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) since it is a policy matter, no time limit for taking a decision can be fixed.

[Translation]

Allocation of funds

680. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- whether the Union Government propose to allocate more funds for small scale industries in Gujarat;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the amount allocated for this purpose during current Five Year Plan is less than the amount allocated in the previous Five Year Plan; and
- if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) There is no proposal from Govt. of Gujarat for increased plan allocation for Village & Small Industries (VSI) sector. Small Scale Industries is one of the sub-sectors under VSI.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The Eighth Plan outlay for VSI Sector in Gujarat is Rs. 435 crores, while the approved outlay for the Seventh Plan was only Rs. 130.23 crores.

(d) Does not arise.

Harassment of SCs In U.P.

681. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
 DR. K.D. JESWANI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

- the number of cases of harassment and atrocities on both male and female belonging to Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh during the last one year;
- whether this number is more in comparison to the corresponding period of last two years;
- if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents;
- whether such cases were taken up by the National Commission for SCs/STs; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) Information is under collection from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. During 1994, 135 cases of atrocity/harassment to members of SC/ST came to the notice of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Of these on-the-spot enquiries were conducted in 15 cases by the Commission HQ/Lucknow field office and necessary action is being taken. In the remaining 120 cases reports have been called for from the State/District authorities for taking necessary action.

[English]

Agreement with Foreign Oil Companies

682. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has entered into any agreement with any foreign Oil Companies for oil production in India;
- if so, the details of the companies with whom such agreements have been signed;
- the areas where oil production is proposed to be undertaken; and
- the broad features of the agreements?

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

Government of India have signed contracts for development of the following medium sized fields offered in 1992. The details are given below:

Field	State/Basin	Consortia
Ravva	Krishna Godavari offshore	Videocan Petroleum Ltd. India, Command Petroleum (India) Pty. Ltd., Ravva Oil (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. Singapore
Panna-Mukta	Bombay offshore	Reliance India, Enron Exploration Co. USA
Mid and South Tapti	-do-	Reliance India, Enron Exploration Co. USA

(d) These fields will be developed under production Sharing agreements. ONGC has participation interest of 40% in these ventures. The joint venture will develop the field under production sharing agreements, with royalty, cess and income tax payable to Government apart from a share of profit petroleum from the project coming to Government. The pricing of gas has been based on internationally accepted principles. Government has the first right of refusal in respect of the contractor's share of oil from the project. International price for oil would be paid to the constituents of the contractor, which include ONGC, for their share of oil sold to the Government.

Calcutta DD Programmes

683. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make necessary arrangement for relay of second channel programmes of Calcutta Doordarshan by TV Relay Centre at Asansol and Berhampore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is envisaged to set up a Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Murshidabad for relay of Metro Channel (DD-II) programmes. On commissioning, during 1995-96, subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities, this transmitter is expected to provide DD-II coverage to Berhampore. Extension of DD-II programmes to Asansol will however depend on future availability of resources.

Oil Refinery

684. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madras Refinery and the Indian Oil Corporation have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a oil refinery near Nagapatnam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Madras Refineries Limited (MRL) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish an EOU refinery near Nagapatnam in Tamil Nadu, and if found viable, a joint venture would be formed for the purpose.

[Translation]

Use of lead free petrol

685. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several scientists and health experts of United Kingdom and India have described the lead free petrol more harmful than the petrol having lead contents;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider its scheme in view of this fact;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is a general consensus among scientists that lead free petrol is desirable provided catalytic converters are installed alongwith this in petrol driven vehicles. Generally, unleaded a petrol contains more aromatics which are harmful and use of such petrol without catalytic converter in vehicles is, therefore, not desirable.

[English]

Investigation of 'Halla Bol' Agitation

686. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee has been set up to investigate the issue of 'Halla Bol' agitation in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has investigated and submitted the report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The Government has not set up any committee to investigate the issue of 'Halla Bol' agitation; (b) to (f) Do not arise.

Hike in Advertisement Rates and Telecast Fee

687. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to hike the advertisement rates and telecast fee for sponsored programmes on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the proposed hike;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage small scale industries by providing discount on advertisements of their products on Doordarshan; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) As part of its ongoing activity to rationalise its rate card, keeping in view the emerging market trends Doordarshan has revised its rate structure of commercial advertisement with effect from 1st April, 1995 enhancing thereby rates in certain categories.

(d) and (e) Small scale industries are given a 15% rebate on advertisements directly placed with Doordarshan.

Finance Corporation for Safai Karamcharies

688. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a separate Finance Corporation for Safai Karamcharies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures being taken by the Government to improve the living conditions of Safai Karamcharies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALUL): (a) and (b) The National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) provide Financial assistance for income generating schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Castes including Safai Karamcharies. 10% of special central assistance released to State Governments is also earmarked for the schemes which directly benefit scavengers, tanners, flayers and other categories engaged in unclean occupations.

(c) The Ministry of Welfare has formulated a number of Schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes in general and safai karamcharis in particular. These schemes are implemented as central sector schemes or as centrally sponsored schemes. All the schemes that

benefit Scheduled Castes also benefit the safai karamcharis. The Central Government has also launched an exclusive National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers in alternative and dignified occupations. The scheme provides for training and rehabilitation through a package of financial assistance for projects costing upto Rs. 50,000 per beneficiary. The VIII Plan allocation for the scheme is Rs. 464 crores out of which Rs. 131.70 crores was released upto 1993-94. In addition Rs. 50.50 crores was released during 1991-92. The Budget allocation for the current year is Rs. 73 crores out of which Rs. 62 crores has already been released. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of pre-matric scholarship to those whose parents are engaged in unclean occupation provides scholarship to children of scavengers, tanners, flayers and sweepers who have traditional links with scavenging to pursue pre-matric education. The Ministry also releases grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations for conducting programmes which upgrade the skills of SCs. Persons belonging to safai karamchari communities also benefit from these programmes.

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was set up on 12th August, 1994. The Commission would monitor the progress of the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers. It would also suggest measures for socio-economic development of safai karamcharis.

[Translation]

Freedom Fighters Pension

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

(a) the number of cases still under the consideration of the Union Government out of those sent by the Government of Bihar for grant of pension to the freedom fighters;

(b) the number of persons who have been granted freedom fighters pension during the last three years; and

(c) the number of cases rejected during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) All applications for grant of freedom fighters' pension from the applicants in the State of Bihar received so far have been examined and decisions communicated to the applicants at least once.

(b) The number of persons from Bihar who were

sanctioned freedom fighters' pension (including widows, dependent unmarried/unemployed daughters) during 1992 to 1994 was as under:

Year	No. of cases in which pension was sanctioned
1992	141
1993	62
1994	73

(c) No separate record is maintained in respect of rejected claims. However, aggrieved with the decision of the Government, the applicants keep on sending review petitions/representations from time to time. Receipt and disposal of such review petitions/representations is a continuous process.

[English]

Food Security

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

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission is considering "alternative strategies" of providing food security to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has held any discussion on food security with the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) Planning Commission is in the process of preparing a paper on "alternative strategies" of providing food security to the people. Various options are being considered. The details are yet to be worked out.

(c) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has not held any discussion on food security with State Governments.

(d) Does not arise;

(e) The Planning Commission would shortly finalise the paper on food security and discuss it with the concerned Ministries in the Centre and the Governments in the States before taking the final decision. No time frame for taking the final decision has been fixed.

Privatisation of public undertakings

691. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

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

(a) whether a Committee set up by his Ministry has recommended total privatisation of all oil public sector.

undertakings as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated January 1, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) A 'Strategic Planning Group' on restructuring of the National Oil Industry with members comprising of top management from public and private sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes, has been formed. The group has not yet submitted its Report.

Funds for Film Division

692. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been allocated for augmentation, expansion etc. of Film Division during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds utilised so far?

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

(b) and (c) Details of funds so far allocated to and utilised by the Films Division for various schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan, i.e. during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, are given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Details of funds allocated and utilised by Films Division during the 8th Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
1.	1992-93	637.00	643.25	251.96
2.	1993-94	432.00	194.94	150.45
3.	1994-95	300.00	395.00	*

*amount allocated in RE 94-95 are likely to utilised during the year.

Construction of Bridge and Roads in KG Basin

693. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

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

(a) whether ONGC has launched a scheme for providing advances/loans to the State Governments for constructing bridges and roads in the Krishna Godavari Basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of loans provided so far under this scheme?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allocation of Natural Gas

694. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has reiterated their demand for allocation of natural gas for the gas based power plants projected to be set up in and around Gwalior region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The gas projected to be available along the HBJ pipeline is fully allocated. As such, it is not feasible to consider additional allocation for Madhya Pradesh.

Oman-India Gas Pipeline Project

695. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the Oman-India gas pipeline project is facing new problems;

(b) whether the route survey undertaken for the pipeline project has demanded the selection of an entirely different route from the one initially envisaged;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the problems are proposed to be solved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) The Oman Oil Company has taken up the feasibility study for the project. The feasibility study includes the selection of the route after detailed survey and the solution of outstanding technological problems.

Irrigation Projects

696. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has approached the Union Government and other financial institutions for completing the on-going irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has

requested the Union Government in February, 1995 for sanction of special Central assistance of Rs. 500 crores by way of grant/soft loan for major irrigation projects. The Government of Karnataka has also requested the Union Government in February, 1995 for granting permission to avail private foreign funding for Upper Krishna Project.

Foreign Media Projects

697. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain foreign media owners have submitted projects to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the implications involved in relation to the domestic media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Consumption of Narcotics in Uttar Pradesh

698. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of consumption of narcotics identified in Uttar Pradesh during the period from April 1, 1993 to March, 1995;

(b) the position of this State in this regard as compared to other States;

(c) the number of de-addiction centres in the State at present; and

(d) the amount of financial assistance provided to the State during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) As per the information received from the Counselling and Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres funded by this Ministry in Uttar Pradesh 35,942 narcotics addicts were registered in these Centres from 1st April 1993 to September 1994.

The data in this regard from October 1994 to March 1995 is yet to be received by this Ministry from the Centres.

(b) A statement indicating state-wise number of narcotic addicts registered at the Centres during 1993-94 and 1994-95 (Upto September 1994) is attached.

(c) At present 13 Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres are functioning in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Financial assistance for Drug Abuse Prevention is provided by the Union Government to the non-governmental organisations and not to the State Governments. The amount of financial assistance provided

to the NGOs in the State of Uttar Pradesh for this purpose during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as follows:—

1993-94	Rs. 79,49,247
1994-95	Rs. 53,91,862 (upto February, 1995)

STATEMENT

Number of Narcotics Addicts as Reported by the Counselling and Deaddiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres funded by the Ministry of Welfare

S.No.	State	1993-94	1994-95 (upto Sept. 94)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1327	1079
2.	Assam	338	296
3.	Bihar	14446	8167
4.	Goa	1223	621
5.	Gujarat	10800	5600
6.	Haryana	12718	6464
7.	J & K	198	63
8.	Karnataka	1830	2019
9.	Kerala	12557	6381
10.	Madhya Pradesh	6240	4154
11.	Maharashtra	7387	2246
12.	Manipur	3407	1791
13.	Meghalaya	—	—
14.	Mizoram	2274	439
15.	Nagaland	1034	433
16.	Orissa	6507	2158
17.	Punjab	17576	7772
18.	Rajasthan	5395	2453
19.	Sikkim	344	91
20.	Tamil Nadu	5367	2147
21.	Tripura	352	183
22.	Uttar Pradesh	21855	14087
23.	West Bengal	13013	3535
UNION TERRITORIES			
1.	Chandigarh	1007	442
2.	Delhi	21927	12540
3.	Pondicherry	712	344

Crime in Delhi

699. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of abduction, theft and dacoities occurred in Delhi during 1994 and in 1995 so far;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured by the dacoits;

(c) the number of dacoits apprehended and those killed in encounter with the police; and

(d) the number of abducted persons rescued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) : The number of cases reported in Delhi during 1994 and 1995 (upto 28.2.95) is as under:

Year	Abduction	Theft	Dacoity
1994	260	13490	19
1995	42	2386	5
Upto 28-2-75			

(b) Four persons were killed and 10 injured by the dacoits during the period from 1.1.1994 to 28.2.1995.

(c) Ninety-three dacoits were apprehended and 4 killed in encounters during the above period.

(d) One hundred and two abducted persons were rescued in confirmed cases reported during the above period.

[English]

Recommendations of Mandal Commission

700. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of Mandal Commission have been implemented by the States;

(b) if so, the States which have implemented the recommendations; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented in the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Royalty on Coal

701. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and rates for fixation of royalty on coal;

(b) the number of times on which the prices of coal were increased by the Government after the fixation of the existing rates of royalty;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Governments to increase the royalty alongwith the coal prices; and

(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The main criteria followed by the Government in fixing the rates of royalty on coal are—(i) that they are conducive to the development and conservation of indigenous coal resources, (ii) that they take into account the interests of the coal consumers, including coal based industries, and (iii) that they afford a fair revenue to the coal producing States. The rates of royalty on coal were last revised on 11.10.1994 raising the average rate from Rs. 70/- per tonne to Rs. 86.40 per tonne.

(b) Prices of coal have not been revised after 11.10.1994.

(c) and (d) State Governments have been making representations for fixation of coal royalty on ad-valorem basis. However this view did not find favour with the Study Group appointed by the Govt. to make recommendations for revision of coal royalty rates.

Foreign Broadcasting Media

702. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign broadcasting companies have applied to the Government to operate in India;

(b) if so, the details of such applications received; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to protect the ethos and culture of India from the operation of foreign broadcasting companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The present law does not permit any foreign broadcaster to broadcast from India. However certain foreign companies have on their own evinced interest in entering into and collaboration with Doordarshan.

(c) Does not arise.

Begging

703. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to identify the causes of begging and to provided employment to them;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to formulate any scheme to identify the causes of begging. The Ministry of Welfare is, however, implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Beggary Prevention for the care, treatment and rehabilitation of beggars. The scheme was introduced during 1992-93. The scheme aims at creating facilities for technical education and vocational training of beggars and engaging them on productive work so as to facilitate their reintegration into the society.

The Scheme envisages establishment to Work Centres in the various types of institutions for beggars to be set up by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. 100% assistance is provided to the State Government/Union Territory Administration by the Ministry in this regard. Any voluntary organisation recognised/licensed/certified under any law for the beggary prevention in the State is also eligible for Financial assistance for setting up Work Centres for rehabilitation of beggars.

(c) As the Scheme has been launched only since 1992-93, there is no proposal to formulate any separate scheme to identify the causes of begging.

Funds for Oil Exploration

704. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is facing financial constraints to start fresh exploration in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to provide more funds for further explorations;

(c) whether there is any plan for inviting any private agencies for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under various exploration Bidding Rounds, the Government has been offering blocks for exploration in different basins, including Gujarat, to private companies.

Farakka Barrage

705. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gate of the Farakka Barrage has recently collapsed;

(b) if so, whether the causes of such collapse has properly been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said gate has been repaired;

(e) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(f) the preventive measures taken/proposed to be taken in regard to other gates of the Barrage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The gate collapsed due to structural failure which was of unusual nature.

(d) The damaged gate is beyond repair, One new gate is under fabrication for replacement.

(e) The work of removing the damaged gate and fixing a new gate in its place is estimated to cost Rs. 17.00 lakhs which does not include the cost of new gate.

(f) Other gates have been checked and no defects except normal wear and tear have been noticed.

River Water Potential

706. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to assess the river water potential of various rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of water used and the quantity of water wasted; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to harness the waste water?

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

(a) No, Sir. However, Central Water Commission have brought out a report on reassessment of water resources potential of India in March, 1993 which is based on a study carried out by a Committee constituted by Ministry of Water Resources in January, 1989. The total average water resources potential of the country has been reassessed as 1869 cubic kilometres.

(b) Owing to the topography, hydrological and other constraints utilisable surface water is assessed at 690 cubic kilometres in addition to the annual replenishable ground water resources which is about 450 cubic kilometres. In 1991, the utilisation of water (surface and ground) was about 552 cubic kilometres leaving 588 cubic kilometres of utilisable water as unutilised.

(c) For maximising the availability of utilisable water, the Government has prepared national perspectives for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas, which comprises of two components viz., Himalayan River Development component and Peninsular River Development Component. National Water Development Agency is engaged in carrying out detailed studies on inter-linking of major rivers in each component. A total of 19 water transfer links under the Himalayan River Development Component and 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular River Development component have been identified. Preliminary feasibility reports of 14 links under Peninsular River Development component have been completed so far. Studies for the Himalayan River Development have also been taken up.

Fire at ONGC Well

707. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has no necessary expertise equipments required to control the fire in the wells of ONGC;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has been unable to control the fire at Pasarlapudi oil well in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The fire was extinguished on 10.3.95 and the well capped on 14.03.1995.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Flood Control Schemes

708. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
SHRI LALL BABU RAI:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any schemes to control the floods in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has given its approval to these schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred on these schemes;

(e) the amount provided by the Government for flood control during 1993-94 and 1994-95, State-wise;

(f) whether the Union Government propose to provide additional amount to Bihar for effective implementation of flood control measures; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (d) Investigations, planning and execution of flood control schemes are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. The Centre renders assistance in works that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

(e) to (g) State-wise details of the funds allocated under State Plan during 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given in the statement attached. In addition an outlay of Rs. 1.3 crores has been provided under Central Plan during the current financial year i.e. 1994-95 of the Ministry of Water Resources for "flood proofing programme in North Bihar".

STATEMENT

Statewise details of the funds allocated under State Plan during 1993-94 and 1994-95

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	1993-94	1994-95
		Approved Outlay	Approved Outlay
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62.56	55.15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.48	2.50
3.	Assam	15.00	19.80
4.	Bihar	27.00	44.68
5.	Delhi	10.00	12.00
6.	Goa	0.30	0.40
7.	Gujarat	1.60	1.60
8.	Haryana	8.88	9.08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.32	1.32
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.76	10.07
11.	Karnataka	9.98	12.10
12.	Kerala	10.00	15.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.40	1.00
14.	Maharashtra	0.61	0.53
15.	Manipur	4.28	3.61
16.	Meghalaya	1.00	1.00

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	1993-94 Approved Outlay	1994-95 Approved Outlay
17.	Mizoram	0.09	0.00
18.	Nagaland	0.15	0.25
19.	Orissa	5.00	7.00
20.	Punjab	11.24	15.65
21.	Rajasthan	5.78	6.99
22.	Sikkim	0.12	0.12
23.	Tamil Nadu	0.60	1.27
24.	Tripura	2.20	2.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	9.00	8.00
26.	West Bengal	15.00	36.00
Total:		215.40	267.12

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	1993-94 Approved Outlay	1994-95 Approved Outlay
27.	A & N Islands	0.01	0.30
28.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00
29.	D & N Haveli	0.06	0.00
30.	Daman & Diu	0.30	0.35
31.	Lakshadweep	1.50	1.55
32.	Pondicherry	1.26	2.75
Total:		3.13	4.95

[English]

Vaidyanathan Committee

709. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1108 on December 14, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Group of Officials has submitted its report on the recommendations made by the Vaidyanathan Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The main recommendations cover the items like basis of fixation of water rates, water rate for non-irrigation use, periodic revision of irrigation water charges, encouraging irrigation management transfer to user farmers and advance payment of water charges, etc. The Group of Officials recommendations alongwith the report of the Water Pricing Committee have been circulated to all the States/Union Territories/concerned Ministries in Government of India.

As per the constitution, irrigation is a "State Subject"

and hence the implementation of the above recommendations is to be done by the States/Union Territories.

LTTE Militants

710. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) the details of the recent jail break at Madras in which some LTTE members are reported to have escaped;

(b) whether any investigation has been made into the incident;

(c) if so, the details of findings;

(d) whether the escapees have been apprehended; and

(e) if not, the number of LTTE members are at large and the steps been taken to prevent their escape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) 9 LTTE cadres who were involved in criminal cases escaped from the Madras Central Prison on 27th February, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Government of Tamil Nadu have appointed an Inquiry Commission headed by a retired Judge of the Madras High Court.

(d) and (e) Out of 9 LTTE cadres two have been re-arrested, two have committed suicide and 5 are still at large. Special Search Teams have been formed by the Government of Tamil Nadu to apprehend the escapees. Vigil all along the coastal areas and in the State has been stepped up. Naval and Coast Guard authorities have been directed to intensify sea patrolling.

[Translation]

Gujarati Programmes

711. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the time allocated for Gujarati Programmes on Akashvani and Doordarshan in Gujarat;

(b) the details of the time allocated for other programmes, particularly for the programmes meant for the tribal people;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the time allocated on Akashvani and Doordarshan for Gujarati programmes meant for the tribal people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) Even though no language-wise allocation is made, the duration of Gujarati and other languages programmes broadcast/telecast from All India Radio Stations/Doordarshan Kendras in Gujarat is given in statement attached.

(c) to (e) The duration of programmes broadcast/telecast in different languages is considered adequate.

STATEMENT*The duration of programmes broadcast/telecast in different languages from Gujarat*

Language	DDK		AIR		AIR		AIR		AIR		AIR		AIR	
	Ahmedabad (in mts. per week)	Rajkot	Ahmedabad	Rajkot	Bhuj	Surat	Godra	Ahwa	(in hours per month)					
Gujarati (including music)	1340 Mts. 15	150 Mts.	Hrs. 287	Mts. 20	Hrs. 227	Mts. 30	Hrs. 205	Mts. 30	Hrs. 90	Mts. —	Hrs. 70	Mts. 55	Hrs. 79	Mts. —
Sindhi	15	—	12	—	—	—	8	40	2	—	—	—	—	—
Hindi	—	—	51	35	6	—	3	40	2	—	—	—	1	30
Sanskrit	—	—	1	30	1	—	15	in a mts. quarter		—	—	—	—	—
English	15	—	2	55	2	—	30	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urdu	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tribal Programmes	30 mts. in a month	—	7	30	—	—	—	—	9	—	2	10	16	—
Kachi (dialect)	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Programmes in Gujarati for a duration of 10 to 11 hours daily are telecast through Satellite channel (DD-6). These are available throughout the country through Dish antenna. Programmes on tribal culture and welfare activities are also being telecast in different programmes of Doordarshan.

AIR Vadodara is a Commercial Broadcasting Centre and is broadcasting Gujarati light music for a duration of 45 minutes daily. The programmes for rural audience are also broadcast from different Stations of AIR also include items for the tribal people.

[English]

[Translation]

Joint Ventures

712. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY;
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:

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

(a) whether it has been decided to float a new company to enter the oil exploration field in collaboration with overseas partner/partners as a result of recent tie-up amongst the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any overseas partner/partners have been identified in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Limited have, in principle, decided to form a Joint Venture Company as a private company, with participation of private companies and public for exploration and production activities. The details have not yet been worked out.

Shortage of LPG

713. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY;
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government to ascertain the shortage of LPG;

(b) the names of the areas where shortage of LPG has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Oil Companies are monitoring on daily basis the supply and demand situation of each refinery/bottling plant. Besides, the State Level Coordinators and the State Civil Supplies Departments also review the availability of LPG periodically in the State.

The demand of existing LPG consumers in the country who are enrolled with the distributors of public sector oil companies is being fully met. Whenever LPG backlogs develop due to law and order problem, Industrial Relations problems, flood etc., Oil Companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays and movement of supplies from alternate sources and clear the backlog.

[English]

Petrol Retail Outlets

714. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to open petrol retail outlets in Kerala;
- (b) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Representations are received from time to time from all parts of the country including from Kerala for opening of more retail outlet dealerships. As per industry's viability norms, 38 retail outlet locations have been included in the RO Marketing Plan 1988-93 for Kerala, selection for which is underway through the OSB (Kerala and Lakshadweep). Another 43 dealership proposals have been included in the Marketing Plan for 1993-96.

Review of TADA

715. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI: SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether United Nations report has criticised misusing of TADA Act and has called on the Indian Government to review it;
- (b) if so, the details of misuse of TADA as pointed out in the report; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) From time to time reports of the various UN bodies dealing with Human Rights have made references to TADA. However, there is no information on any specific report by UN bodies focussing exclusively on issue of TADA.

- (b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Demand and Supply of Coal

716. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantity of coal required annually in Gujarat and the quantity of coal supplied;
- (b) whether the Government have taken any steps to meet the entire demand of coal of the State during 1994-95; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The requirements of coal are assessed industry/Sector-wise for the whole country. They are not assessed state-wise. Coal India Limited (CIL) supplies coal based on programmes submitted by the

consumers in accordance with the sponsorship issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to Power and Cement Industries are made based on short-term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) for these sectors. As per the information available with CIL, the total quantity of coal supplied by coal companies under CIL during the period April-December, 1994 to the consumers in Gujarat was 111.91 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) Instructions have been issued to coal companies to ensure adequate supply of coal to all consumers including those located in Gujarat as per the valid programming submitted by them. Moreover, any requests for additional allocations of coal/coke are considered/examined in each case on merits. CIL is presently in a position to meet almost the entire non-coking coal demand in Gujarat except for soft coles/hard coke. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) under which scheme, coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships. Under this scheme, coal is also being supplied to Whole Sale Traders and Mini Traders who in turn meet the requirements of small consumers.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Advertisements

717. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the expenditure incurred by the Bharat Coking Coal Limited on advertisements released in the daily, weekly, fortnightly magazines and in casual magazines during each of the last three years;
- (b) the number of such newspapers and magazines belonging to Bihar and outside Bihar, respectively to whom advertisements were released;
- (c) the amount paid to the newspaper/magazines belonging to Bihar for advertisements during the said period; and
- (d) the names of newspapers and magazines belonging to the States other than Bihar to whom the advertisements were released during the said period and the amount paid to such newspapers and magazines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd., the total expenditure incurred by the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) on such advertisements during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (up to Dec., 1994)
50.60	63.34	51.31

(b) The requisite data in respect of the BCCL is given below:

1992-93		1993-94		1994-95(Up to Dec.)	
News Papers	Periodicals etc.	News Papers	Periodicals etc.	News Papers	Periodicals etc.
BIHAR					
12	18	19	26	17	19
OUTSIDE BIHAR					
13	24	15	23	14	24

(c) The total amount paid to the newspapers and magazines/periodicals of Bihar by the BCCL is given below year-wise:

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (up to Dec..)
41.01	46.99	37.54

(d) During the period from 1992-93 to 1994-95 (upto December, 1994) advertisements were released by the BCCL to a total number of 61 newspapers and magazines/periodicals etc. outside Bihar, a list of which is enclosed in the statement attached.

The total amount paid to such newspapers and magazines/periodicals etc. by the BCCL is given below yearwise:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (up to Dec. 94)
9.59	16.35	13.77

STATEMENT

List of Newspapers/Periodicals other than Bihar

1. The Telegraph, Calcutta.
2. Ananda Bazar Patrika, Calcutta.
3. Business Standard, Calcutta.
4. The Statesman, Calcutta & Delhi.
5. The Hindu, Madras.
6. The Economic Times.
7. Ganashakti, Calcutta.
8. Parixit, Calcutta.
9. Ajkal, Calcutta.
10. Dainik Lipi, Asansol.
11. Indian Trade Journal, Delhi.
12. Dainik Jagran, New Delhi.
13. Rastriya Sahara, Delhi.
14. Navin Prabhat, Calcutta.
15. Paschim Banga Sambad, Asansol.
16. Institute for Mines & Metal Workers Education, Calcutta.
17. Defence Publication Service, New Delhi.
18. Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Sewa Niketan, New Delhi.
19. Dr. Mathews Mar Athaneies Memorial Docesan Centre, New Delhi.
20. Mine Metal Workers, Calcutta.
21. I. & B. Ministry Mackey Club, New Delhi.
22. Bharati Worker's, New Delhi.
23. Industrial Orgn., Asansol.
24. Economic Growth and Social Change, Delhi.
25. Coal India Recreation Club, Calcutta.
26. Rastriya Coal Mazdoor (BCCL), Calcutta.
27. All India Police Games, 1992, CRPF Directorate, New Delhi.
28. Documentation Centre for Corporate & Business Policy, New Delhi.
29. MIPM, UP Chapter, Kanpur.
30. Coal Employees Union, Calcutta.
31. Industrial Exhibition Committee, New Delhi.
32. Indian Mining & Engg. Journal, Bombay.
33. Indian National Bldg. & Constructions Workers Federation, Orissa.
34. Indian Worker, New Delhi.
35. URJA, New Delhi.
36. Sinthi Ramakrishna Sangh, Calcutta.
37. Ministry of I. & B. (Kuruksheetra), New Delhi.
38. Pioneer Ltd., New Delhi.
39. Ministry of I. & B. (Bharat), New Delhi.
40. Indian Express, New Delhi.
41. The Institute of Cost & Workers Accountants of India, Durgapur Chapter.
42. Mahila Sanskrithika Sanghathana, Bangala.
43. Saharia India Mass Communication, Lucknow.
44. Members Cultural Forum of SBI Comm. Branch Calcutta.
45. Lok Udyog, New Delhi.
46. Union of PTI Workers, Calcutta.
47. Coalfield Dental Conference, Asansol.
48. Mustaqbil, Delhi.
49. International Industries Annual, New Delhi.
50. Journalists Combine, New Delhi.
51. Gacandwana Geological Society, New Delhi.
52. NIPM, Kerla Chapter, Cochin.
53. INTUC, National Convention, Cuttack.
54. Jagran Prakashan, Delhi.
55. Yojana—Ministry of I. & B., New Delhi.
56. IMUCLA, New Delhi.
57. AIFSSC—Moinud-Dewlia Gold Cup Tournament, Secunderabad.
58. St. John. Ambulance Brigade, Calcutta.
59. Nandan, Calcutta.
60. Daily Janavad, Nagpur.
61. Deptt. of Coal Club No. 1, New Delhi.

[English]

Parallel LPG and Kerosene Marketeers

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

- (a) whether the Government have appointed

independent rating agencies for assessing the parallel LPG and Kerosene marketeers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken/proposed to augment the availability of Kerosene and LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration.

(c) In order to increase the availability of LPG and kerosene in the country in addition to what is available at controlled prices through Public Sector Oil Companies, Government have decided to allow their import and sale at market prices, by private agencies. The Government is encouraging the private parties to develop import facilities for LPG and kerosene. More kerosene and LPG will also be available from new refineries and fractionators.

Digging of Canals

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Central assistance for digging of canals in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES: (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh in March, 1993 requested for additional Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 60 crores by end of March, 1993, Rs. 265 crores during 1993-94, Rs. 100 crores during 1994-95 and Rs. 20 crores during 1995-96 for achieving additional benefits from ongoing major, medium and minor irrigation schemes.

(c) It has not been possible for the Ministry of Water Resources to release any additional funds to the State as the proposal for providing additional assistance to the State for nationally important projects has not been accepted by the Planning Commission for inclusion in the VIII Plan.

Natural Gas to Maharashtra

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

(a) the total quantity of natural gas being produced at Bombay High;

(b) the quantity of natural gas being allotted to Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposals for enhancing the share of natural gas of the state; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The production in the Western Offshore fields from April '94 to January '95 was 39.66 MMSCMD.

(b) 16.65 MMSCMD has been allocated to consumers in Maharashtra.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The gas projected to be available is fully allocated. It is not feasible to consider additional allocations.

TADA Detenues

721. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of TADA detenues in the country as on January 31, 1995, State-wise;

(b) the number of detenues released during 1994;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that innocent people had been detained under TADA; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A statement regarding number of TADA detenues in the country statewise attached.

(b) The Ministry does not maintain information regarding number of detenues released yearwise.

(c) and (d). Review Committees have been constituted to review all the pending cases and redress the situation.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Information regarding persons detained under TADA as on 31.12.94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	273
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3.	Assam	543
4.	Bihar	67
5.	Gujarat	267
6.	Haryana	125
7.	H.P.	2
8.	J & K	1304
9.	Karnataka	152
10.	Kerala	—
11.	Manipur	279
12.	M.P.	46
13.	Maharashtra	1020

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Information regarding persons detained under TADA as on 31.12.94
14.	Meghalaya	29
15.	Punjab	319
16.	Rajasthan	192
17.	Tamil Nadu	95
18.	U.P.	241
19.	West Bengal	6
20.	Chandigarh Admn.	5
21.	NCT Delhi	377
Total:		5345

[Translation]

Extraction of Soft Coal

722. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and the value of soft coal extracted from various nationalised coal mines of Bihar during 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and in 1994-95 till January, 1995;

(b) the quantity of coal supplied out of it to the other states and to Bihar respectively, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the royalty and outstanding amount payable to Bihar each year during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is seeking information about soft coke. According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd. (CIL), the quantity and value of soft coke produced within the State of Bihar during the years 1990-91 to 1994-95 were as follows:

Year	Production (In '000 tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1990-91	817	1430
1991-92	632	1118
1992-93	442	774
1993-94	396	693
(Upto January, 95 Provisional)	212	371

(b) The quantity of soft coke supplies out of the quantity produced in the State of Bihar was as follows:
(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Quantity of Soft coke supplied to other States	Quantity of soft coke supplied to Bihar
1990-91	257.4	446.3
1991-92	200.6	417.0
1992-93	134.1	300.2
1993-94	82.6	301.9

(c) The details of royalty and outstanding amounts payable to Bihar during the years 1990-91 to 1994-95 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)				
Royalty payable		Royalty outstanding		Remarks
Year	Amount	as on	Amount	
1990-91	37.01	31.3.91	7.56	
1991-92	315.98	31.3.92	(—) 3.83	Advance Payment
1992-93	492.25	31.3.93	4.92	
1993-94	547.82	31.3.94	(—) 7.53	Advance Payment
1994-95	442.05	31.3.95	4.17	

[English]

Police firing in Ashok Vihar

723. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bheed par Police firing aur tooty pari hain choodiyaa aur police ki lathiyaa" appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 31, 1995;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed in police firing in Ashok Vihar;

(c) whether the Union Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter,

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed by the Government against those found guilty?

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

(b) Three persons died due to police firing and one succumbed to injuries caused by firing from a non-conventional weapon most probably by a member of the mob as the police is not equipped with such a weapon.

(c) to (e) Two cases, one u/s 304-A IPC against a Constable and the other under relevant provisions of the IPC and the Damage to Public Property Act against the rioters, have been registered at P.S. Ashok Vihar, New Delhi.

A magisterial enquiry into the incident has also been ordered by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Investment in Oil exploration

724. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an inverse relationship between an increase in investment in exploration activities and exploration success and the corresponding exploration budget of ONGC;

(b) whether any management study has been done in regard to this inverse relationship;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the investment in oil exploration in the last three financial years?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The net expenditure on exploration i.e., Survey & Exploratory drilling in the last three years is as follows:
(Rs. in crores)

Year	Survey	Exploratory Drilling	Total
1991-92	162.68	1127.57	1290.25
1992-93	147.45	1140.90	1288.35
1993-94	156.85	754.07	910.92

Ban on Feature Films

725. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether exhibition of any Hindi films has been banned in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some measures ensuring that the feature films cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification are never challenged at any forum;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The Central Government has not banned any film certified by the Central Board of Film Certification during the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. The Central Board of Film Certification certifies films in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. Any applicant aggrieved by any order of the Board may prefer an appeal to the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal under section 5C of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

Criminal Activities on Railway Stations

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

(a) whether the cases of nick pocketing, chain snatching and luggage lifting are increasing at Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last eight months; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check such incidents?

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

(b) The number of such cases reported during the eight months from 1.7.94 to 28.2.95 and the corresponding period in 1993-94 is as under:

Head	From 1.7.94 to 28.2.95	From 1.7.93 to 28.2.94
Pick-Pocketing	140	115
Luggage lifting	296	246
Chain snatching	12	3

(c) The following steps have been taken to check such incidents at Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations:—

(i) Police patrolling, in uniform as well as in plain clothes, has been intensified.

(ii) A sharp vigil is kept over the activities of anti-social elements in the area.

(iii) Loud hailer system have been installed at the Railway Stations. Passengers are warned not to leave their baggage unattended.

(iv) Advertisements have been placed in the papers to educate the passengers about precautions to be taken while travelling in trains.

Coal Production

727. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal production by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries is much behind the target during 1994-95;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any targets for production, productivity, despatch and profitability for the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith achievements made; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b). Coal Production by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries during the period April 1994 to February 1995 for the year 1994-95 has been reported as 196.05 million tonnes as against the target of 197.31 million tonnes for this period. The marginal shortfall resulted mainly from loss of production due to excessive rains during the monsoon this year.

(c) and (d). The details of targets for production, productivity, despatch and profitability fixed by the govt. for CIL and its subsidiaries during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and achievement there against are as under:—

	1993-94			1994-95 (April-Feb., 95)		
	Target	Actual	%age achievement	Actual	(Provisional) Target	%age achievement
Production (millions tonnes)	216.00	216.10	100.05	197.31	196.05	99.36
Productivity (in tonnes per manshift)	1.52	1.52	100.00	1.55	1.54	99.35
Despatch (million tonnes)	218.44	213.37	97.68	207.49	197.36	95.12
Gross margin (Profit before depreciation interest and tax) (PBDIT) (Rs. crores)	1850.00	2020.00	109.19	1930.00	*	*

* The gross margin (PBDIT) for the year 1994-95 will be known after closure and auditing of accounts for the financial year 1994-95.

(e) Steps taken by CIL to achieve various targets include the following:

(i) Continued thrust on increasing production and productivity in underground mines.

(ii) Rationalisation of manpower through gainful deployment & implementation of voluntary retirement schemes;

(iii) Close and continuous liaison with agencies like railways, sponsoring authorities, concerned Ministries as well as consumers for increasing despatches.

(iv) Strict control of expenditure on all items through budget formulation & periodic monitoring of the actuals vis-a-vis budget.

New Coal Mines

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

(a) whether the Union Government have undergone any survey to find new coal mines in West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PNAJA): (a) Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL) have been carrying out detailed coal exploration in the State of West Bengal for locating coal reserves for planning new mines.

(b) In the year 1993-94, CMPDIL continued exploration in 17 blocks and exploration was completed in four blocks and geological reports for these four blocks were prepared. In this continuing exercise, during 1994-95, 22 blocks are under exploration of which exploration have been completed in two blocks and geological reports for these two have been prepared.

Oil Exploration in Tripura

729. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

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

(a) whether ONGC has recently decided to suspend exploration work in Tripura;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to strengthen its network to boost oil exploration, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) During the VIII Plan, ONGC plans to undertake 1680 Standard Line Kilometres (SLK) of 2D Seismic Surveys and drilling of 26 exploratory wells in Tripura area including Mizoram. Additional seismic surveys are also planned under the Accelerated Programme of Exploration during 1995—97.

Security to Ex-Prime Ministers

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

(a) the Ex-Prime Ministers who have demanded withdrawal of special security arrangements;

(b) the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the amount spent by the Union Government on the security of Ex-Prime Ministers annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Only Shri V.P. Singh, Prime former Minister has requested for withdrawal of SPG cover. As the level of threat perception faced by an individual forms the basis of providing security, no withdrawal of security is possible so long as the threat perception remains undiminished.

(c) It is not possible to give the exact figures of expenditure incurred by the Government on the security of former Prime Ministers as some items of expenditure like administrative infrastructure, training facilities, certain types of equipment, vehicles etc. are common for the security of Prime Minister as well as for the security of

former Prime Ministers. However, approximate expenditure incurred on the security of former Prime Ministers and members of their families is Rs. 34.1 crore per annum.

Annual Plan

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

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for more funds and also increase in Annual Plan for 1995-96 of the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) Based on the assessment of resources, the size of Andhra Pradesh's Annual Plan for 1995-96 has been agreed at Rs. 3159 crore, in a meeting between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh. This is 45.6% more than the size of agreed Annual Plan 1994-95 of the State. The details of Annual Plan 1995-96 will be decided on receipt of draft proposals from the State, which will be discussed in official level working groups.

Import of Petroleum Products

732. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to decanalise the import of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up a Committee to look into the matter;

(d) if so, the composition thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (e) Review of Export and Import Policy is a continuing process and changes are made as and when considered necessary. Under the EXIM Policy 1992—97, only five petroleum products are not decanalised. Further, out of these, the Government has also permitted the import of Aviation Turbine Fuel, Bitumen (Asphalt) Paving Grade and Furnace Oil (except LSHS & LSWR) against special Import Licences.

Custodial Crimes

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

(a) whether a number of cases of stripping and rape of women and girls in police custody have come to light in Delhi during the past six months;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such custodial crimes?

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

(a) No such case has been reported in Delhi during the six months from 1.9.1994 to 28.2.1995.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to prevent such custodial crimes include the following:—

- * Ensuring that prescribed procedures as laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code and the Punjab Police Rules, as applicable to Delhi, are strictly followed.
- * Releasing the arrested women on bail or personal bond if the offence is bailable.
- * Keeping the arrested women in the earmarked lock-up for women only, with a woman constable detailed for lock-up duty.
- * Prescribing that women under interrogation for their suspected involvement in crime are necessarily accompanied by a woman constable.
- * Posting women staff members in the duty room at Police Stations.
- * Inspection of Police Stations by Senior Police Officers to ensure compliance of instructions in this regard.
- * Conducting awareness and training programmes to educate policeman on the rights of women taken in police custody.

Stern and exemplary legal departmental action is taken against erring police personnel as and when any incident of stripping and rape of women while in custody is reported.

Development of Backward Areas

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

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted any scheme to the Union Government for the development of backward areas in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have approved the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the funds earmarked by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested Special Central Assistance of Rs. 100 crores for the development

of backward areas of Puravanchal and Bundelkhand in the State;

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

[Translation]

Underweight LPG Cylinders

735. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from various parts of the country regarding supply of underweight LPG cylinders by LPG dealers;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received from January, 1994 to February, 1995;

(c) the action taken on such complaints;

(d) the details of gas agencies closed in this regard; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Government Oil Companies have reported that they have received 28 established complaints of this nature from various parts of the country from January, 1994 to 22nd February, 1995;

(c) Action has been taken against the errant distributors on established complaints of supply of underweight cylinders, as per the marketing Discipline Guidelines. In all cases of underweight cylinders, the cylinder was replaced free of cost or proportionate compensation was paid to the customers;

(d) One distributorship has been terminated on this account;

(e) There are clearly laid down procedures to ensure correctness of weight of LPG cylinders at the bottling plants. All filled cylinders are provided with pilfer-proof seals. All LPG dealers are under instructions to ensure checking of each and every cylinder for correct weight prior to delivery to the customers premises.

Annual Outlay

736. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual plan outlay sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh for 1994-95 and the actual amount spent therefrom;

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

(c) the effects of utilisation of the said outlay in various fields, particularly in rural development schemes in respect of achieving targets?

THE MINISTER STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The Annual Plan Outlay sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh for 1994-95 was Rs. 4562.00 crores. The actual amount spent therefrom stood at Rs. 1621.41 crores upto Deember, 1994;

(b) The shortfall is mainly on account of the inability of the State Government to mobilise resources;

(c) The Achievement in respect of rural development programmes during 1994-95 as against the target are as under:—

Programme	1994-95 (Provisional)	
	Target	Achievement
1. IRDP (Number of families)	325353	173293 (Oct. 94)
2. JRY (Lakh mandays)		
1st Stream	1165.44	601.83 (Dec. 94)
2nd Stream	133.11	79.30 (Dec. 94)
3. EAS (Lakh mandays)	—	65.60 (Dec. 94)
4. DPAP ('00 Hectares)		
Land Development	182.00	39.53 (Sep. 94)
Water Resources Development	42.00	12.87 (Sep. 94)
Forestry & Pasture Development	49.00	5.09 (Sep. 94)
5. Rural Water Supply		
(i) No. of villages/habitations covered	10,450	9,541 (Jan. 95)
(ii) Population benefited (in lakhs)	32.50	27.07 (Jan. 95)
6. Rural Sanitation (No. of household latrines constructed)	1,01,438	36,679 (Jan. 95)

[English]

Schemes by National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation

737. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation has launched or propose to launch schemes for the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills of minorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) The main objects of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation as laid down in its Memorandum of Association, inter alia, provide for the following:

“to assist in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills of minorities for proper and efficient management of production units.”

(b) Uttar Pradesh Minorities Finance & Development Corporation has submitted certain proposals for vocational training and entrepreneurial development programme involving an expenditure of Rs. 2,41,76,250/-. A decision on these proposals will be taken having regard to the resources available with the Corporation and the priority to be accorded to the various objects laid down in the Memorandum of Association.

[Translation]

Ban on Pornographic Literature

738. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country is flooded with pornographic literature;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps to impose ban on it;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Several publications/magazines containing obscene/objectionable materials have come to notice. Book/Newspapers/documents containing objectionable material can be forfeited by notification under Section 95 of Cr. P.C. by the State Governments. Sale etc. of obscene literature/pornography is also illegal by virtue of the provisions of Sections 292 & 293 of I.P.C. The State Governments have been taking suitable action in this respect from time to time. Suitable advisories have been issued by the Home Ministry to the State Government and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The State Governments/UTs have also been asked to send quarterly reports on actions taken against objectionable material/writings.

[English]

Oil and Natural Gas in Gujarat

739. DR. K.D. JESWANI. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Oil India Limited have found any new reserves in oil/gas in Gujarat during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the locations of areas in the State where these reserves are available;
- (c) the estimated reserves available in these fields; and
- (d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) There has been no reserve accretion due to new discoveries in Gujarat during the current financial year 1994-95.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

Damaging of Movies

740. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

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

- (a) whether nearly 3,000 silent movies and 25,000 non-silent movies deposited with the National Film Archives, Pune have been damaged beyond repair;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps are being taken for salvaging the damaged collection and for better preserving the others; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir;

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Due to decomposition of nitrate base film (which was in use upto early 50's) almost all the (approximate) 1300 silent feature films made in India, had been lost by 1964 when the National Film Archive of India was set up.

The Archive has so far acquired only around 4000 prints of films with sound. They are being preserved in as ideal storage conditions as are currently known to science. In spite of this, some of the old films are likely to deteriorate over the years. Such films are continuously being identified and copied before they get completely decomposed.

Oil and Natural Gas

741. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the new areas both on-shore and off-shore surveyed for exploration of oil and natural gas in Orissa during the last three years;
- (b) the approximate quantum of oil deposits, gas and other petroleum products found in those areas; and
- (c) the steps taken for the proper exploration of these products in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No fresh surveys were carried out for exploration of oil and natural gas in Orissa during the last three years.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) In the earlier years, seismic surveys were carried out in Orissa on-shore and off-shore followed by drilling of 4 wells in on-shore and 11 wells in off-shore by OIL. All the wells proved dry.

As of now, OIL has plans to drill one exploratory well in N.E. Coast off-shore in Orissa in 1995-96.

Socio-Economic Development of SCs/STs in Bihar

742. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the amount provided by the Union Government to the Government of Bihar for the socio-economic Development of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes during each of the last three years and during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Details of Central Assistance released during the last three years and during the current year under various scheme of the Ministry of Welfare are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the scheme	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
A. SCHEDULED CASTE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION					
1.	Special Central assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes	2197.30	2096.54	2327.10	Nil
2.	Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Students	102.56	799.18	590.14	451.00
3.	Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations	20.16	5.98	65.81	22.00
4.	National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of scavengers	350.00	313.00	Nil	Nil
5.	Centre's contribution to the Share Capital of State Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation	76.89	86.25	113.52	Nil
6.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	16.95	15.00	26.50	Nil
7.	Coaching & Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes	7.50	2.00	8.57	1.70
8.	Book Banks for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	7.50	2.00	9.91	10.00
9.	Girls Hostels for SCs	72.98	25.27	40.44	Nil
10.	Boys Hostels for SCs	311.95	40.78	78.77	Nil
TOTAL:		3163.87	3386.00	3252.76	484.70
B. TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION					
1.	Special Central Assistance (SCA including Addl. SCA)	3211.19	3175.25	3497.39	1748.70
2.	Article 275(1)/275(I)	215.85	427.20	801.00	725.25
3.	Girls Hostels	68.82	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Education Complex in the low literacy pockets for ST girls	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.59
5.	Vocational Training in tribal areas	Nil	Nil	Nil	44.34
6.	Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Corporation for Minor Forest Produce	Nil	50.00	Nil	Nil
7.	Research & Training	9.25	9.82	12.71	0.63
8.	Development of oilseeds oils of trees of forest origin	Nil	17.39	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:		3505.11	3679.66	4311.10	2523.51
GRAND TOTAL (A+B):		6660.98	7065.66	7563.86	3008.21

[Translation]

connections as on January 31, 1995 together with date of their pendency, State-wise;

LPG Connections

743. SHRI N.J. RATHVA:
SHRI LALL BABU RAI:
SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

(b) whether the customers have to wait for years together to get LPG connections;

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

(c) if so, the present position in regard to allotment of LPG connections; and

(a) the number of pending applications for LPG

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) As on 1st January, 1995 there were 113.72 lakhs of applicants on the waiting list in the country. The waiting period of new LPG connections depends upon the number of persons on the waiting list with the distributor, slack with the distributor and also the annual programme for enrolment of new customers. The target for enrolment of new LPG customers during 1994-95 has been fixed at 20 lakhs.

(d) Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible. Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and augmenting the supply through higher imports.

[English]

Joint Ventures in Coal Mining

744. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has proposed joint ventures with foreign companies in coal mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these joint ventures are likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Coal India Limited (CIL) have received following Joint venture proposals from foreign parties—

Sl. No.	Party/Country	Area of proposal
1	2	3
1.	State Committee for Ukrain.	Designing, Construction of coal mines and washery plants and mining of coal.
2.	M/s. White Industries Australia Ltd., Australia	(a) Opencast coal mining development with trucks/shovel/inpit crusher technology. (b) Underground mining development with Wongawillis system and longwall mining development. (c) Modern washplant design and development for both coking and steaming coal.
3.	M/s Joy Manufacturing Company (UK).	Underground mechanised Bord & Pillar development with continuous mining.
4.	M/s Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. Ltd. (HHI).	Development of mining block.
5.	Indian Long wall association with International Longwall.	Carrying out longwall mining.
6.	M/s. BHP Minerals.	Development of mining blocks
7.	M/s Black Hill Minerals.	Development of mining blocks.

(c) Government has not approved any Joint Venture proposal for coal mining by the Coal India Limited.

Fire at ONGC Well

745. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:

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

(a) whether the fire at oil well at Amalapuram rose to 1407 metres from the regular 100 to 120 metres after 40 days of the fire;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the people nearby areas had complained about the deafening sounds and heat;

(d) whether his Ministry has been urged to declare this as a natural calamity and provide adequate aid to the affected people; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Noise level around village Gopayalanka was high. There was intense heat around 200 metres of the well mouth beyond which the temperature was not exceeding 35 deg. C.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Coal Production

746. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase in the production of coal during the current financial year;

(b) the amount of coal produced during April—December, 1994 as compared to that in previous year;

(c) whether there is any increase in the colour productivity both in open and underground mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal production in the country during the period April to December, 1994 has registered a growth of about 3.2% over the production achieved during the corresponding period last year (Data provisional)

(b) Actual coal production in the country during the

period April—December, 1994 was 171.01 million tonnes (Provisional) as against the actual production of 165.75 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

(c) and (d) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the coal productivity measured in terms of output per manshift in the under ground and opencast mines. The output per manshift in Coal India Limited during the period April—December, 1993 and April—December, 1994 was as follows:

	(In tonnes) (Data Provisional)	
	OUTPUT PER MANSHIFT	
	April—December, 1993	April—December, 1994
Underground	0.53	0.54
Opencast	3.63	4.11
OVERALL	1.38	1.49

Fire in C.G.O. Complex

747. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in CGO Complex in Lodhi Road recently;

(b) if so, the loss of lives and properties as a result thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. An incident of fire occurred around 7.00 PM on 30th December, 1994 on the 9th floor, B-Wing of Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

(b) There was no loss of life. However, the estimated damage to property was approximately Rs. 16.5 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. An enquiry into the incident was ordered by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources the principal occupants of the portion of Paryavaran Bhavan in which the fire occurred. The enquiry committee pointed out certain lapses which inter-alia included use of rod-type heaters, extensive wooden partitions, printed material and files not required being still kept in the room and the failure of the detection/ alarm system. The committee recommended; that the fire detection/ alarm system should be fully functional at all times; stand-by equipments provided in the system should also be in a "ready to operate" condition at all times; Wooden partitions should be made of fire resistant material; and drill should be conducted periodically to ensure proper functioning of the fire detection/ alarm system.

Modernisation of Irrigation Projects

748. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for modernisation of some of the irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Union Government have provided any special assistance for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) The proposal for modernisation of Kurmool-Cuddapah Canal irrigation project of Andhra Pradesh estimated to cost Rs. 317.10 crores envisaging annual irrigation of 110482 hectares has been received in September, 94 in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. The State Government is required to comply with the observations of Central Water Commission of various techno-economic issues.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Shortage of Gas Supply

749. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the natural gas blow out at Pasarlapudi in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh has resulted in shortage of natural gas supply for industry;

(b) if so, the extent of the shortage;

(c) whether any alternate means of enhancing gas production are being considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Oil Stabilisation Fund

750. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up an Oil Stabilisation Fund (OSF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind setting up of this Oil Stabilisation Fund;

(d) whether the Indian Oil Corporation is opposing the idea of setting up of this Fund;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

KUMAR SHARMA: (a) to (f) Presently no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Coal Mine Accidents

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

- (a) the number of coal mine accidents occurred during 1994;
- (b) the loss of lives and properties as a result thereof;
- (c) the nature of compensation given to the affected persons/families; and
- (d) the cause of these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) As per information received from Ministry of Labour the number of coal mine accidents during 1994 is 786, out of which 155 accidents are involving fatalities and 631 are involving serious injuries.

(b) As a result of accidents, there was loss of life for 240 persons and serious bodily injury to 684 persons. The following was loss of properties due to mining accidents:→

(a) part of the coal seam had to be sealed after the underground fire at New Kenda Colliery of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

(b) one Crane was damaged at Northern Coalfields Limited.

(c) One Load Haul Dumper and some support material were damaged in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

(c) The amount of compensation is worked out as per provisions contained in Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and is based on the age and monthly earnings of the workers. In addition to above, the following amount is paid to the dependents of a deceased worker:—

(a) Funeral Expenses	: Rs.	500/-
(b) Ex-Gratia Amount	: Rs.	10,000/-
(c) Amount under Life Cover Scheme	: Rs.	15,000/-

In addition, employment to one of the dependents of the deceased is also offered. Alternatively in lieu of employment the widow/Female dependent is paid a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- till she attains 60 years of age/dies/ remarries whichever is earlier.

(d) The cause-wise breakup of the accidents during 1994 is as follows:—

Cause of accident	No. of accidents (Provisional)	
	Fatal	Serious
Fall of roof	38	62
Fall of sides	16	42
Rope Haulages	22	166
Dumpers	17	13
Trucks	12	3
Other Machinery	21	58
Explosives	6	9
Fall of persons	9	144
Fall of Objects	5	101
Other Causes	9	36
Total	155	631

[Translation]

Voluntary Organisations In Bihar

752. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organisation working for disabled and drug addicts in Bihar, which have been sanctioned financial assistance during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of these organisations among them to whom payment of grants have been stopped during the said period;

(c) the reasons for stoppage of payment of grants to these voluntary organisations;

(d) whether there is any proposal to sanction grants to some new voluntary organisations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Information is given in the statement-I attached.

(b) and (c) Payment of grant was stopped during the said period to one voluntary organisation working for the disabled because the case was not recommended by the State Government of Bihar. Payment was also stopped to two organisations working in the field of drug abuse because the Centres were not found functioning.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Information is given in the statement-II attached.

(f) The question does not arise.

STATEMENT-I

Statement Showing Number of Voluntary Organisations Regarding Financial Assistance to voluntary organisations in Bihar

year	No. of Voluntary Organisations sanctioned grant for the Disabled	No. of Voluntary Organisations sanctioned grant for drug abuse
1991-92	14	12
1992-93	16	18
1993-94	20	21
1994-95	20	27

STATEMENT-II

Statement showing details of new proposals regarding financial Assistance to voluntary organisations in Bihar.

Details of New Proposals in Disabled Sector:

1. Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. — for M.R. Children School Jamshedpu..
 2. Koshi Khetria Viklang, Vidhya, Virdha Kalyan Samiti, Shahrspur, Bihar — for O.H.
 3. Bihar Rehabilitation & Welfare Institute, Patna
 4. Shaheed Bacchan Pustkalya, Bihar.
 5. Gulab Singh Mahila Evam Bal Kalyan Sangh, Siwan.
 6. A.M.R.I. Patna.
 7. J.M. Instt. of Speech & Hearing, Patna.
 8. Indian Instt. for Rural 1 Reconstruction, Jahanabad.
 9. Bihar Netraheen Parishad, Patna, — for V.H.
 10. Physical Medicine & Rehab. Instt., Patna — for O.H.
 11. Youth Mobilisation for National Advancement, Patna — Special School for M.R.
 12. Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Gaya.
 13. Ayurvedic Magnetic Therapy Research Instt., Patna.
- Details of New Proposals in Drug Abuse Sector:

Name of the District	No. of Proposals received from NGOs for Drug Addicts
Siwan	1
Mithapur	2
Patna	1
Arrah	1
Aurangabad	1
Gaya or Bodh Gaya	1
Prithas (Sasaram)	2
Dhanbad	1

[English]

Power Capacity

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

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has made a mid-term appraisal of the power sector;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has expressed grave concern over the shortfall of 10,000 M.W. programme during the Eighth Five year Plan;

(d) whether any steps have been suggested to overcome this shortfall; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) Mid-term appraisal exercise for the Eighth Five Year Plan is in progress in the Planning Commission. The Likely shortfall in power generation and Plan targets, if any, in the terminal year of the Eighth Five year Plan will be known after the exercise is completed. However, the shortfall during the Eighth Plan is presently estimated to be of the order of 10,000 M.W.

(d) and (e) The various measures taken to improve the availability of power in the country include (i) expediting commissioning of new generating capacity (ii) improving the performance of existing power stations (iii) reduction in Transmission & Distribution losses (iv) implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures (v) arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas, and (vi) promotion of private sector investment in power sector.

Upper Yamuna River Board

754. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the Upper Yamuna River Board;

(b) if so, the details with terms and reference thereof;

(c) the time by which the Board is likely to be set up; and

(d) The reasons for delay in setting up of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d): The Upper Yamuna River Board has been constituted by Government of India by a Resolution on 11th March, 1995. The Board shall consist of Member, Central Water Commission, as a part-time Chairman and one nominee each from the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and NCT of Delhi, not below the rank of Chief Engineer and a Chief Engineer of the Central Electricity Authority and representatives of Central Ground Water Board and Central Pollution Control Board as part-time Members. The Board shall have a full-time Member-Secretary to be appointed by the Central Government. The main function of the Board shall be regulation and supply of water from all storages and barrages upto and including Okhla barrage, having regard

to the agreement entered into or the arrangements made between the Governments of the basin States in pursuance of MoU dated 12.5.1994 signed by the basin States Regarding allocation of surface flow of Yamuna upto Okhla. There shall be a Review Committee known as "Upper Yamuna Review Committee" comprising the Chief Ministers (Governor in case of President's Rule) of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister/Minister of State for Water Resources which shall supervise the working of the Board.

Advertisements on Cable T.V.

755. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cable TV network operators taking advantage of absence of a specific clause, barring liquor and tobacco advertisements, with Cable Television network (Regulation) Ordinance, 1994 have been resorting to a large-scale advertisements for liquor and cigarttes to make money; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such advertisements, affecting the health and morality of the posterity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government is aware that many foreign satellite channels carried by cable operators in India carry such advertisements.

(b) While AIR and Doordarshan do not permit advertisements which relate to or promote cigarettes and tobacco products, liquor, wines and other intoxicants, there is at present no proposal to ban the carriage of such advertisements by cable television networks by amending the programme/advertisement code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped

756. SHRI LALJAN S.M. BASHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand and extend the work of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically handicapped;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such Institutes in every State;

(c) whether the Government have considered any proposal to set up such an Institute in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes Sir. The NIOH is introducing Degree Course in Prosthetic and Orthotic Engineering. NIOH is also extending its service facilities in collaboration with NGO in the North-Eastern States. Two Limb Fitting Centres-cum-Service Centres

have already been opened, one each in Nagaland (Kohima) and Mizoram (Aizwal).

(b) No Sir.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Government is not considering any proposal to set up such Institute in Andhra Pradesh because the National Institute for Mentally Handicapped and one Regional Centre of National Institute for Hearing Handicapped are already functioning at Hyderabad.

Special Employment Exchanges for Handicapped

757. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Employment Exchanges functioning for handicapped in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of handicapped who were given placements by these Exchanges during 1993 and 1994, State-wise; and

(c) the number of handicapped proposed to be given placements by these Exchanges during 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) and (b) State-wise number of Special Employment Exchanges for physically handicapped functioning in the country and number of handicapped persons given employment by these Exchanges during 1993 and January to September, 1994 are given in the Statement attached.

(c) The number of handicapped persons to be given placements by these Special Exchanges would depend on vacancies notified during the year and placements made against them. No exact number can, therefore, be indicated at this stage.

STATEMENT

The number of Special Employment Exchanges functioning in the country and number of placements effected by them each year 1993 and 1994 (Jan. Sept.).

State	Number of Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped.	Number placed in employment during		
		1993	1994 (Jan.-Sept)	
1. Andhra Pradesh	2	63		31
2. Assam	1	.		.
3. Bihar	1	6		6
4. Gujarat	4	426		248
5. Harayana	1	.		.
6. Himachal Pradesh	1	.		.
7. Karnataka	1	94		34
8. Kerala	1	99		148
9. Madhya Pradesh	1	64		30
10. Maharashtra	1	87		81
11. Manipur	1	—		—
12. Orissa	1	6		12
13. Punjab	1	.		.
14. Rajasthan	1	59		10
15. Tamil Nadu	1	256		209
16. Tripura	1	—		4
17. Uttar Pradesh	1	7		12
18. West Bengal	1	46		23
19. Delhi	1	50		14

State	Number of Special Employment	Number placed in employment during	
		Exchanges for Physically Handicapped.	1994(Jan.-Sept)
Total:	23	1263	842

Note: Special Employment Exchanges functioning in these States maintain duplicate Index Cards. Special Exchanges assist in the placement of Handicapped persons registered with normal exchange and the exact number of placements made through the efforts of special employment exchanges is not available.

Reconstitution of Advisory Panels

758. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when was the reconstitution of Advisory Panels for Films/Doordarshan and AIR done, station wise;

(b) whether the proposal for reconstitution of Regional Panel of the Central Board of Film Certification for Calcutta, Bombay and other regions as well as Doordarshan/AIR advisory Committee for Calcutta, Bombay, New Delhi, Madras and other stations are pending with the Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which these are to be reconstituted; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to provide adequate powers to these committees to make their functioning more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The Advisory panels of CBFC, Bombay, Madras Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad and Cuttack were reconstituted with effect from 1.1.1995.

The Programme Advisory Committees at various AIR Stations and Doordarshan kendras were reconstituted in the middle of 1992.

(b) to (d): The reconstitution of regional Panels of the Central Board of Films Certification for Delhi, Calcutta and Bangalore as well as Doordarshan/AIR Advisory Committees for Calcutta, Bombay, New Delhi, Madras and other stations is at hand. Reconstitution of the Advisory Panels of the board is a continuing process and no time frame for the completion can be indicated.

(e) The members of the Advisory Panels of CBFC perform their duties under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder.

The functions currently assigned to the programme Advisory Committees of AIR and Doordarshan are considered to be adequate.

Gas to Fertilizer Units

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to scale down gas allocation to fertilizer units; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) A 2.5% pro rata cut has been applied to all consumers at Hazira and along the HBJ pipeline, including the fertilizer units, in order to make gas available to the Mathura Refinery and industries in the Agra Trapezium to reduce pollution in the vicinity of the Taj Mahal.

[Translation]

Flood Control and soil erosion

760. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted any schemes to the Union Government for approval to check the floods and soil erosion in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). During last four years, 19 schemes have been received from Government of Bihar. After their examination, observation have been sent to State Government for carrying out necessary modifications.

Petrol retail outlets

761. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of members in the Oil Selection Board for Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government have issued any order to this Board to make recommendations regarding petrol pump dealership;

(c) whether the recommendations of this Board are mandatory;

(d) the number of recommendations made by this Board for the dealership of petrol pumps in Gujarat till January 1995; and

(e) the number of recommendations accepted and rejected out of them, separately, by the Government?

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

Composition of the OSB for Gujarat is as under:

1. Justice S.D. Bajaj — Chairman
2. Shri Kantilal V. Gohil — Member I
3. Shri Raj Karan Singh — Member II

Till January, 1995, the OSB (Gujarat) has recommended merit panels for 47 retail outlet dealerships.

[English]

Second Channel for Hyderabad DD

762. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for starting second channel for Hyderabad Doordarshan and allowing the State Government to monitor it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No Sir. However relay of the metro channel (DD II) programmes is already functioning at Hyderabad with effect from 1.2.1994.

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

Sardar Sarovar Project

763. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Five Member group report on Sardar Sarovar Project has been made public by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report of the Five Member Group covers aspects on (i) Hydrology, (ii) Irrigation benefits, (iii) Drinking Water, (iv) Hydro-electric Power, (v) Environmental issues, (vi) Resettlement & Rehabilitation and (vii) Height of dam. Salient features thereof are given in attached Statement-I

(c) The response of Government of India on the report is given in attached Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Salient features of the report of five member group

(i) Hydrology—Issues on hydrology (availability of water) should be examined and resolved once for all.

(ii) Irrigation benefits—While it is possible to achieve irrigation efficiency of 60% greater project management efforts are required.

(iii) Drinking water—Details of drinking water supply to the villages and urban centres should be finalised including

funding arrangements. Efforts should be intensified for watershed development, local storages and conservation, recharging of aquifers, etc.

(iv) Hydro electric power—use of alternative sources of power should also be explored.

(v) Environmental issues—Efforts on environmental safeguard measures should be stepped up and closely monitored. This should include the downstream effects also.

(vi) Resettlement & Rehabilitation—Master plan for resettlement & rehabilitation of project affected persons should be prepared immediately, if not available already. The Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures should be strictly adhered to. Grievances and redressal mechanism should be established in the form of Ombudsman and assistance of voluntary agencies should be utilised.

(vii) Height of dam—Issue regarding reduction in height of dam should be resolved between Government of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

STATEMENT-II

Response of Government of India to the Report of Five Member Group

(i) Hydrology—The aspects on Hydrology have been examined in detail by the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal, Central Water Commission, Consultants of international repute and World Bank.

(ii) Irrigation benefits—The issues on irrigation efficiency have been thoroughly examined and management has been planned accordingly. During implementation these will be further stressed.

(iii) Drinking water—Details of drinking water supply including funding have been prepared by the Government of Gujarat for implementation.

(iv) Hydro—electric power—Planning for hydro—electric power generation has been done in detail.

(v) Environmental issues—The safeguard measures are in progress and is being continuously monitored by Narmada Control Authority (NCA) and the Environment sub-group of Narmada Control Authority under the Chairmanship of Union Secretary for Environment & Forests. All studies have been completed/are in advanced stage.

(vi) Resettlement & Rehabilitation—The Implementation of Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures are being monitored closely by the Narmada Control Authority and Resettlement & Rehabilitation subgroup of Narmada Control Authority under the chairmanship of Union Secretary for Welfare. Field visits are also undertaken by the subgroup and quarterly reports are submitted to the Supreme Court of India as per their directives.

(vii) Height of Dam—Parameters of the Dam including height cannot be reviewed before 2024 A.D. i.e. 45 years after gazette notification of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award (1979).

Prices in hydrocarbon sector

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

(a) whether the Committee of Public Sector Oil Companies has made certain recommendations including dismantling of administrative prices in hydrocarbon sector;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations have been accepted by the Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) A 'Strategic Planning Group' on restructuring the National Oil Industry, with members comprising of top management from public and private sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes, has been formed. The group has not yet submitted its Report.

Violence and Obscenity Through Media

765. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing trend in display of violence and obscenity in feature films, T.V. programmes and advertisements;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey to study the adverse impact of this display on the masses;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this undesirable depiction of vulgarity and obscenity in films, T.V. programmes and advertisements, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) All films intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. According to these guidelines, while examining films for certification, the Board shall, inter-alia, ensure that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity and depravity and anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified.

Recent comparative statistics indicate that there has been reduction in the number of clear 'U' certificate and appropriate increase in the number of 'A' certificate with cuts initial refusal and length of excised material in respect of feature films. Further, 50% representation has been given to women in the Examining/Revising Committee of Central Board of Film Certification.

Doordarshan previews all its programmes before telecast in accordance with the provisions of Broadcast

Code formulated by the Government to ensure that programmes containing violence and obscenity do not go on air.

Telecast of advertisements over Doordarshan is governed by the Code of Commercial Advertising. The Code ensures that all advertisements are within the well established norms of good taste and decency.

Utilisation of Surplus Water

*766. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study to ascertain the quantity of surplus water going waste into the sea through the west flowing rivers of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to harness this water for better use in the adjoining areas of Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to undertake such study to harness the surplus water of west flowing rivers in Kerala?

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

(a) The National Water Development Agency has carried out water balance studies of various west flowing rivers of Kerala to assess the quantity of surplus/deficits waters with a view to plan inter basin transfers of water from surplus to deficit basins after meeting in-basin requirements in the ultimate stage of development.

(b) to (d) The Agency has also carried out feasibility studies for the transfer of part of the surplus water of Pamba and Achankovil in Kerala to the deficit basin of Vaippar in Tamil Nadu. Before implementation of the proposal, the concurrence of the Kerala State Government is required.

Maharashtra-Karnataka Boundary Dispute

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

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any fresh initiative for resolving Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary dispute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have also received resolution passed by the Maharashtra legislature for resolving the dispute;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the Union Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SYEED): (a) to (f) The boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka has been pending ever since the reorganisation of States in 1956. The Government of India had appointed the Mahajan Commission, to look into this issue, and it gave its

recommendations in 1967, which were accepted by Karnataka in toto, whereas the Govt. of Maharashtra rejected them. The differences are persisting.

The Maharashtra State Legislature had passed unanimous resolutions on 17/18-6-1986 and 16-3-1988 urging the Union Government to solve this boundary dispute.

The Government of India is of the view that the dispute has to be resolved primarily by the two State Governments concerned through discussions and mutual accommodation, and it would be glad to render necessary assistance to the State Governments concerned in this regard.

LPG through Pipeline

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

(a) whether the Government have directed oil companies to design, formulate and implement more efficient system of LPG distribution to domestic consumers;

(b) whether domestic gas is proposed to be piped to households in major cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (d) The proposal for supply of LPG to the domestic consumers through pipeline in new housing colonies is under study and examination by the Government oil companies.

American Broadcasting Corporation

769. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed American Broadcasting Corporation to enter the Indian market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No such proposal has been received in this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Andhra Pradesh Well Project

770. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Netherland has agreed to provide assistance for the Andhra Pradesh Well Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have also agreed to provide additional assistance for this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the district likely to be benefited under the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An agreement has been signed

between Government of India and the Government of Netherlands on 14th November, 1994 for an assistance amounting to Dutch Guilder 39 Million for the Project.

(c) and (d) The Central assistance is released to the State Government in lumpsum for all projects as a whole. Therefore, no separate assistance is earmarked for this project.

(e) The Project will benefit the districts of Kumool, Mehboobnagar, Anantapur, Prakasam, Nalgonda, Chittoor and Cuddapah.

Girls sent to European Countries

771. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been found that a number of girls are being sent to European countries every year on a large scale from Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of girls sent from Orissa so far;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check and control this illegal activity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Beer Processing

772. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a beer processing unit in Gujarat;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India does not directly engage in setting up of beer manufacturing units.

[English]

Tuna Fish

773. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to enter Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to ensure scientific management of Tuna-like fish by the Food and Agricultural Organisations (FAO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total availability of Tuna fish in India and the

share of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The objectives of the setting up of Tuna Commission are to ensure rational exploitation, conservation and management of Tuna & Tuna like fishes in the Indian Ocean. It is hoped that the setting up of the commission would facilitate cooperation between the coastal state of the Indian Ocean and other states whose nationals harvest tuna and tuna like species in the region.

(c) The estimated potential of Tuna resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone is about three lack tonnes. However, the production of tuna in India in 1992 was about 36000 tonnes.

[Translation]

Parikrama Railway In Howrah

774. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to introduce Parikrama Railway in Howrah; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to introduce this system?

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

(b) A feasibility study is being carried out by the State Government through Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd (RITES) for introducing a Circular Railway from Dum Dum to Paradeep Ghat. The study is in progress and is likely to be completed by March, 1996.

[English]

Industrial Licensing for Bulk Drugs

775. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODALYA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the Government have abolished industrial licensing for bulk drugs and their intermediates under the Drugs (Prices & Control) Order, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) names of the drugs which will require Government licensing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Industrial Licensing for bulk drugs, intermediates and formulations under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 has been abolished vide orders issued on October 25, 1994 except for the following in accordance with the modification in the Drug Policy 1986, which were announced in September, 1994:

(a) Vitamin B1 (Thiamin anacin) and its salts and derivatives, Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin) and its salts and derivatives, Folic acid, Tetracycline and its salts and Oxytetracycline and its salts;

(b) Bulk drugs involving use of re-combinant DNA technology and bulk drugs requiring in vivo use of nucleic acids as the active principles; and

(c) Formulations based on use of specific cells/tissue-targeted formulations.

World Bank Finance for National Highways

776. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank had agreed to provide finance for speedy execution of the four lane national highway between Vijayawada and Eluru and between Nandigama and Chilakaluripeta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide loan assistance for strengthening of parts of existing two lane pavement between Vijayawada and Eluru including four laning between km 3.4 to 13.0 and bypass of Eluru town of NH-5 and strengthening of existing two lane pavement between Nandigama & Vijayawada including four laning between km 252 to km 265 of NH-9. The estimated cost of these aforesaid schemes is about Rs. 203 crores. The loan agreement is likely to be signed shortly.

Reduction In Licence fee of Fax connection

777. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reduction in licence fee for private and commercial use of fax connection is under consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The Department of Telecom has already reduced the licence fee for use of FAX on PSTN to Rs. 300 and Rs. 5000 for private and commercial use respectively effective from 10.12.94, the date of issue of gazette notification. There is no fresh proposal to reconsider the FAX tariff.

Resources of VSNL

778. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited proposes to raise resources for its expansion plans through Euro issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the priority areas where such resources will be utilised?

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

(b) It has been proposed to issue 20 million fresh shares of the face value of Rs. 10/- each in the international market at the maximum realisable price.

(c) The following are the priority areas where the funds of the Euro-issue are likely to be utilised:—

- (i) JALMALA CABLE: A submarine fibre optic cable running along the Indian coast.
- (ii) METRO SWITCHES: Augmentation of local, capacity in major cities through installation of state-of-the-art telephone switches of high capacity.
- (iii) FLAG (FIBRE OPTIC LINK AROUND THE GLOBE): An international submarine cable connecting Europe and the Far East through Indian Ocean region.
- (iv) INMARSAT-P: A project to provide global satellite based mobile personnel communication sponsored by INMARSAT.

[Translation]

Allocation to Bihar out of CRF

779. SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Bihar out of the Central Road Fund during each of the last three years, separately;

(b) the amount sanctioned for various projects and the amount actually released during the aforesaid period;

(c) the names of pending projects for which Bihar Government has sought central assistance from the Central Road Fund; and

(d) the amount proposed to be released out of the Central Road Fund during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Funds allocated under CRF and sanctioned works to Bihar during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Name of Works	Amount Sanctioned	Amount allocated
1991-92	Replacement of a bridge over river Burhi Gandak at Megerdehigat on Samstipur-Darbhanga Road (S.H.)	219.17	20.00
1992-93	—	Nil	100.00
1993-94	—	Nil	40.00

(c) One proposal was received in 1994-95 and has been sanctioned for Rs. 168.533 lakhs against which Central Road Fund share is Rs. 154.29 lakhs and State Share is Rs. 14.243 lakhs for widening & strengthening of Chapra-Manjhi Road (13 Km) (widening road crust for

3.05 mt. to 5.5 mt. and suitable strengthening the pavement for increased traffic load).

(d) Funds for 1994-95 will be allocated after revised Budget Estimates are passed as per availability.

[English]

Private Courier Service for Telephone Bills

780. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL, Bombay has introduced a scheme of engaging Private Courier Service for delivery of Telephone bills to the customers in certain areas of MTNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for introducing this new scheme and the additional annual recurring expenditure on the same?

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

(b) Courier has been appointed to deliver bills in three areas as an experimental measure.

(c) Delivery of telephone bills by courier is being experimented with a view to ensure quick delivery of bills to the subscribers. The additional annual expenditure is approx. Rs. 30 lakhs.

[Translation]

D.A.P. Production

781. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Paradeep Phosphates Limited a Public Sector Undertaking has reduced the production of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) by 35 to 40 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Telephone Connections in Bihar

782. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Bihar; district-wise;

(b) whether any time schedule has been fixed for giving telephone connections to all the people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) District-wise detail is given in the statement attached.

(b) & (c) National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of telephone connections practically on demand by 1997 all over the country including Bihar state.

(d) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT

District-wise detail of Waiting List as on 31.01.1995 in Bihar is given as under

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Waiting List
1.	Bhabhua	194
2.	Bhojpur (Arrah)	1291
3.	Buxar	471
4.	Rohtas	675
5.	Banka	8
6.	Bhagalpur	1681
7.	Monghyr	528
8.	Nawadah	313
9.	Chapra	368
10.	Gopal Ganj	243
11.	Sawan	563
12.	Begusarai	795
13.	Darbhanga	1313
14.	Khagaria	146
15.	Madhubhani	419
16.	Samastipur	528
17.	Deoghar	326
18.	Dumka	75
19.	Godda	119
20.	Pakur	46
21.	Sahebganj	35
22.	Bokaro	1153
23.	Dhanbad	1090
24.	Garhwa	25
25.	Palamu	116
26.	Aurangabad	715
27.	Gaya	3082
28.	Jehanabad	253
29.	Chatra	47
30.	Giridih	412
31.	Hazari Bagh	1244

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Waiting List
32.	Jumri Tilaiya	235
33.	Singbhum (East)	6297
34.	Singbhum (West)	1007
35.	Katihar	123
36.	Kishan Ganj	4
37.	Purnia	519
38.	Jamui	103
39.	Lakhisarai	98
40.	Shoikapura	3
41.	Champaran (East)	912
42.	Champaran (West)	508
43.	Muzaffarpur	1157
44.	Sheohar	37
45.	Sitamarhi	479
46.	Vaishali	914
47.	Nalanda	671
48.	Patna	3622
49.	Gumla	88
50.	Loherdagga	136
51.	Ranchi	923
52.	Madhopura	208
53.	Saharsa	61
54.	Supaul	30
55.	Araria	38
TOTAL		36447

[English]

Dutch Company for Dredging work

783. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Dutch dredging Company has been invited to do the dredging work related to Calcutta Port Trust; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No Dutch Dredging Company has been invited to do Dredging to Calcutta Port Trust during 1993-94 or 1994-95.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Security Council

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

(a) the latest position in regard to the expansion of the Security Council;

(b) whether the group set up to outline the criteria has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The UN General Assembly's Working Group on the

Question of Equitable Representation on and increase in the Membership of the Security Council" is continuing its discussions.

Alang Ship Breaking Yard

785. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken stock of the infrastructural facilities available in the Alang Shipbreaking yard to attract foreign investors for expansion and growth of the yard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team of Japanese investors had recently visited this yard;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Japanese team thereto;

(e) whether the Government propose to improve infrastructural facilities in the aforesaid yard;

(f) if so, the time by which these facilities are expected to be improved; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The Gujarat Maritime Board, an autonomous body set up by the Government of Gujarat which is the administrative authority for the Alang shipbreaking yard, has reported that in order to take up planned development and growth of the Alang shipbreaking yard, the Gujarat Government/Gujarat Maritime Board have prepared a comprehensive development plan of the Alang area. The total project cost of Rs. 140 crores envisages development of roads, buildings, township, traffic and transportation, social infrastructure, public utilities, etc. in a phased manner.

(c) & (d). As reported by the Gujarat Maritime Board, no team of Japanese investors has recently visited the yard.

(e) to (g): The Gujarat Maritime Board has reported that they expect to implement the proposed development plan within a period of four years. The work of development of additional shipbreaking plots as well as construction of roads and bridges is presently in progress.

Voluntary Retirement In IISCO

786. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employees who have applied for voluntary retirement in Indian Iron & Steel Company's Delhi office;

(b) the reasons for delay in accepting the requests for voluntary retirement; and

(c) the time by which these employees are likely to be voluntarily retired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) six (4 Executives and 2 Non-executives) employees from Delhi Office of IISCO have applied for Voluntary Retirement so

far under the Voluntary Retirement scheme w.e.f. 1.11.94 with the Grants-in-aid from National Renewal Fund.

(b) & (c). Applications of Four (3 Executives and 1 Non-executive) employees have been accepted and they have been released. One applicant does not meet the age criteria and as such his application for Voluntary Retirement has not been considered. The application of the other applicant has not been accepted in the interest of organisational requirements. Hence the question of delay in acceptance of the requests for voluntary retirement does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices In Panchayats

787. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post office facility is not available in large number to village panchayats in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of such Gram Panchayats in the country; state-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open the Post office in each Gram Panchayat in the country; and

(d) if so, by when and the steps taken to achieve the targets fixed, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House;

(c) & (d) Post Offices are being gradually opened in Gram Panchayat villages under the Plan subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of resources. Preference is given to the Gram Panchayat Headquarters for opening the post Office. 1302 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been opened during the first two years of the Eighth Five Year Plan in the country. It is proposed to open 80 extra departmental branch post offices in the country during 1994-95. In addition to this, Government also propose to introduce a Scheme called Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana through which certain basic postal facilities shall be provided to the people in rural areas through Gram Panchayats.

National Highways In Bihar

788. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to widen the National Highways in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

to (c) Yes, Sir. 8th Five Year Plan provides for widening to the following National Highway sections to 2-lane/4-lane:—

NH	Section	Length
2	Widening to 4 lane km. 399 to 422 Barwa-Adda to Barakar section	43 km.
23	Widening to 2 lane km. 34.8 to 85.76 Chas-Pitbari-Gola-Ormarjhi section	51 km.
23	Widening to 2 lane km. 53 to 77.2 Bero-Gumia section	24.2 km.
32	Widening to 2 lane km. 143 to 147 Purulia-Chandil section	4 km.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

789. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open new Telephone exchanges in Kerala during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As given in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

Details of new Telephone Exchanges Planned to be Opened in Kerala during 1995-96

I. SMALL/MEDIUM CAPACITY EXCHANGES

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity (No. of lines)
	CALICUT SSA	
1.	Chempamode	88
2.	Thottumukkom	88
3.	Pariya	88
4.	Vazhayur	88
5.	Chulliyode	88
6.	Padichira	88
7.	Avala	184
8.	Kizhisseri	184
9.	Chappanangadi	184
10.	Kolathur	184
11.	Padinharathara	184
12.	Villiapally	368
	TRICHUR SSA	
13.	Sreenarayanapuram	184
14.	Vallakkunnu	552
15.	Venkitangu	552
	KOTTAYAM SSA	
16.	Valaveer	184
17.	Neendoor	184
	TRIVANDRUM SSA	
18.	Bharathannur	88
19.	Manneerikonam	88
	QUILON SSA	
20.	Chozhacode	88
21.	Kumnil	184
	ERNAKULAM SSA	
22.	Kathipara	88

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity (No. of lines)
23.	Surianelli	88
24.	Swara]	184
25.	Manjapra	368
26.	Sreemeelanagaram	368
27.	Moothakunnam	368
28.	Alangad	368
29.	Adavanakkad	368
30.	Vypin	368
	CANNANORE SSA	
31.	Vani Nagar	88
32.	Nalleperamee	184
33.	Vaniapera	184
34.	Varam	184
35.	Kariyala	184
36.	Kalichanadukdom	184
37.	Meiparemba	184

II. LARGE CAPACITY EXCHANGES

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity (No. of lines)
1.	Trivandram	10,000
2.	Trivandrum-Manacaud	2,000
3.	Ernakulam-Cochin	4,000
4.	Ernakulam-Vytilla	2,000
5.	Calicut	10,000
6.	Quilon-Vellayttambalam	3,000
7.	Trivandrum-Parethippara	5,000

Smuggling of Precious Stones

790. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of precious and semi-precious stones from Koraput and Phulbani districts of Orissa;

(b) whether there is a need to regulate the mining of these precious stones in the state; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

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

[Translation]

Automatic Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

791. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up automatic telephone exchanges in Bihar;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) As given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

1. Details of small and large capacity automatic telephone exchanges commissioned during 1994-95 are as under:—

S.No.	Name of place	Capacity
1.	Paika	88
2.	Bharmarpur	88
3.	Goima	88
4.	Manguar	88
5.	Sardha	88
6.	Alam Nagar	88
7.	Belatarha	88
8.	Barkan	88
9.	Argada	88
10.	Parwaha	88
11.	Ramgarh	88
12.	Gangli	56
13.	Patahi	88
14.	Rajaura	88
15.	Ranchi	10000
16.	Rampur	88
17.	Namkum	500
18.	Karjan	88
19.	Waini	184
20.	Chainpur	88
21.	Shaanwan	88
22.	Ghoseath	88
23.	Saradhela	3000
24.	Narwapanar	88
25.	Ashabao	2000
26.	Tanjar	88
27.	MIT-Muzallarpur	2000
28.	Sebeya	88
29.	Bharsharif	2000
30.	Dhanbad	5000
31.	Katrah	1000
32.	Adityapur	2000
33.	Teico-Jamshedpur	2000
34.	Balidih	1000

(i) The proposal for large exchanges for the year 1995-96 are as under:

1.	Bokaro	3500
2.	Daltonganj	2000
3.	Purnea	2000
4.	Arrah	2000
5.	Chapra	1500
6.	Darbhanga	3000

(ii) Small Exchange: As per the policy of the Department, small exchange is planned at a site when registered demand reaches 10 or more as such location details can not be given.

[English]

Inter-State Transport Schemes

792. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of important Inter-State transport schemes sanctioned during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(a) and (b): The information is being collected from the

State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

STD/PCO at National Highways

793. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install public call offices with STD facility on national highways;

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

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has a scheme to provide STD PCOs on National Highways.

(b) These are to be provided at distance of 10 Kms. on the Highways.

(c) This is being progressively provided.

[English]

Modernisation of Hindustan Steel Construction Limited

794. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Construction Limited under Bokaro Steel Limited has given the work of modernisation to some parties in the months of November/December, 1994;

(b) if so the details of the work and contents of the agreement made between the Parties in this regard;

(c) whether some advance has been paid to the party; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) secured work orders from Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL) for civil engineering and Structural Fabrication Work (Phase I) for Continuous Casting Division (CCD) in Steel Melting Shop II (SMS), Civil Work for Auxilliary Unit and balance work for Re-heating Furnace No. 4 in Hot Rolling Mill Zone of Bokaro Steel Plant on negotiated basis. HSCL awarded Civil Engineering Work and part of Structural Fabrication Work for CCD in SMS II of BSL to M/s. Bakhtawar Singh Balkrishan (Builders) Ltd. at a value of Rs. 24 crores and Rs. 9.27 crores on 28.11.94 and 4.2.95 respectively. Similarly, the civil work for Auxilliary Unit and balance work for Re-heating Furnace No. 4 in HRM zone was awarded to M/s. Turnkey International Limited on 24.12.94 at a value of Rs. 2.23 crores.

Advances have been paid to them as per terms and conditions of the Contract. The important

conditions are:

A. For Civil Engineering Works—CCD works (Phase I) in SMS II of Bokaro Steel Plant.

1. 10% of the contract price to be paid as interest free initial advance on acceptance of Letter of Intent (LOI) and on submission of Bank Guarantee of equivalent amount. The advance paid to be recovered from Running Account on *pro-rata* basis.

2. The value of Bank Guarantee to be reduced progressively to the extent of recoveries against advance made from Running Account bills.

3. Additional 5% of contract price to be paid towards mobilisation advance for plant and equipment to be paid on acceptance of LOI and on submission of Hypothecation bond of equivalent amount free from encumbrances. The advance paid to be recovered from Running Account bills on *pro-rata* basis..

B. For Structural Fabrication Work for CCD in SMS-II of Bokaro Steel Plant.

1. 15% of the total value of work to be paid as interest free initial advance (not recoverable) on submission of Bank Guarantee of equivalent amount. The value of Bank Guarantee to be progressively reduced on the basis of value of fabrication work done.

C. For Civil Work for Auxilliary Unit and balance work for reheating furnace No. 4 in Hot Rolling Mill (HRM) Zone of Bokaro Steel Plant.

1. 10% of the contract price to be paid as interest free initial advance on acceptance of LOI and on submission of Bank Guarantee. The advance paid to be recovered on *pro-rata* basis from Running Account bills.

[Translation]

Gas and Petrol based power stations

795. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received in regard to setting-up of petroleum and Gas based power stations in private sector and the locations where these power stations are proposed to be set up;

(b) the installed capacity of each power station and expected annual consumption of petrol or gas for each power station;

(c) whether the clearance of the Government has since been obtained in regard to meeting the requirement of Petrol and Gas;

(d) the present position in this regard; and

(e) the nature of arrangement made to take care of import of gas or petrol for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (e) So far the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has received fourteen power Projects proposals based on gas/

petroleum products. The details of the power station, installed capacity, annual consumption, linkages obtained etc. are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/ Location	Capacity (MW)	Statue of Fuel Linkage
1.	Godavari Gas TPS/ Andhra Pradesh	206	Against requirement of 1.00 MCMD linkage of 0.75 MCMD of gas has been agreed by Ministry of Petroleum & N.G. (MPNG).
2.	Paguthan GTCC/ Gujarat	655	Against requirement of 2.25 MCMD linkage of 1.50 MCMD of gas has been agreed by MPNG.
3.	Jegurupadu CAPP/ Andhra Pradesh	235	Against requirement of 1.00 MCMD linkage of 0.75 MCMD of gas has been agreed by MPNG.

Indo-Myanmar Cultural Organisation

796. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any comprehensive programme for the constitution of an India-Myanmar cultural organisation to play an important role in strengthening cultural and bilateral relations with Myanmar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Small & Medium Towns in Kerala

797. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Kerala Government for the development of small and medium towns in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) During the Eighth Five Year Plan (1985-90), 5 new project proposals in respect of towns in Kerala State which are in conformity with the guidelines of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), have been received. These have been approved and Central

Assistance amounting to Rs. 168.50 lakhs released as per details given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Town	Central Assistance 1st Instalment (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Allappuzha	25.00
2.	Aluva	30.50
3.	Cherthala	13.00
4.	Kollam	40.00
5.	Thiruvalla	60.00
		168.50

[Translation]

Foreign Post Office in Agra

798. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request regarding opening of foreign post office in Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) An Export Extension Counter is being opened at Sanjay Place Sub Post Office, Agra with effect from 1.4.95 with in-house Customs clearance facilities.

[English]

Widening of National Highway-47

799. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for widening of National Highway No. 47 have been received from Government of Kerala;

(b) whether these proposals include four laning of National Highway No. 47 from Sherthalley to Allwaye;

(c) whether these proposals also include extension of this project upto Trichur in first phase;

(d) whether these proposals have since been approved; and

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

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

(b) to (e) The proposal for four laning of NH-47 from Allwaye to Vytilla and Aroor to Sherthalley including strengthening of existing two lane of Vytilla-Aroor section have been approved. No proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for four laning of existing two lane road from Allwaye to Trichur of NH-47.

Deep Sea Fishing

800. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for setting up of deep sea fishing in Gujarat pending for clearance with the Union Government as on date; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the same and the time by which all proposals will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) There is no proposal for setting up of deep sea fishing project in Gujarat pending for clearance as on date.

(b) Does not arise.

Chemical Weapons Convention

801. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out a legislation to implement chemical weapons convention; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the convention?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

In connection with the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), to which India is an original signatory, Government proposes to introduce a draft bill.

The convention prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons and provides for their destruction under a stringent verification regime. It also prohibits the use of riot control agents as a method of warfare. The Convention will come into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the 65th ratification. The CWC is a multilaterally negotiated disarmament agreement which is universally applicable, comprehensive in scope and non-discriminatory in character. Thus the objectives of the CWC are in accordance with India's disarmament policy.

Deep Sea Fishing

802. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any machinery to regulate the activities of the trawlers equipped with latest technologies in fishing in the areas of the sea above fifty feet deep, in the interest of the traditional fisherman of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to cancel the licences given to the foreigners for deep sea fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Operation of fishing vessels within 12 nautical miles is regulated by the State Governments in terms of Marine Fishing Regulation Act. In the interests of coastal fishermen, even Indian owned deep sea fishing vessels are not allowed to operate within 12 nautical miles

on both the coasts. In case of deep sea fishing vessels under foreign flag operated by Indian entrepreneurs, deep sea fishing vessels are allowed to operate only beyond 12 nautical miles on the East Coast and 24 nautical miles on the West Coast. Activities of deep sea fishing vessels under foreign flag are regulated in terms of Maritime Zones of India Act, 1981 and rules thereunder.

(c) No licence has been issued to the foreigners for deep sea fishing in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, therefore, the question of cancellation of licences does not arise.

Chinese-Myanmar Military Cooperation

803. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the Indian Express dated December 25, 1994 captioned "China wants control of Indian Ocean";

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the Military activities in the Bay of Bengal due to military cooperation between China and Myanmar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are aware of military cooperation between China and Myanmar and China's military activities in the Bay of Bengal, very close to our maritime and territorial borders. Government have raised this issue with both China and Myanmar on several occasions. China has said that its military cooperation with Myanmar and in the region does not distort the military balance, is for the legitimate defence necessities of the recipients and has no conditions attached. Myanmar has said that the upgradation of their capability is not directed against any country and has reaffirmed its strong desire to develop cordial relations with India.

Working of NPPA and NDA

804. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether a final decision has been taken regarding the administrative & financial aspects of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and the National Drugs Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by when these two authorities will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Consequent upon the announcement of "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" in September, 1994, necessary action for setting up of a National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been initiated by this Ministry and that for the National Drugs Authority (NDA) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and both these matters are under process.

Productivity of Major Ports

805. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to increase the capacity of major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the performance and productivity of major ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 8th Five Year Plan 1992—1997, an outlay of Rs. 2984 crores has been provided for enhancing the cargo handling capacity of major ports from 169.23 million tonnes to 237.09 million tonnes.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to improve the performance of major ports like replacement and modernisation of the existing port infrastructure in a planned manner so as to keep pace with the growing demands of the trade and industry.

Towards improvement of productivity, Government have already introduced incentive schemes, productivity linked bonus. Moreover, a wage settlement has been entered into between the Port management with the Federation of Port and Dock Workers on 6th December, 1994 under which both the parties have agreed to make joint efforts to improve the productivity level by at least 7% per year with 1993-94 as base year.

Gas Based Power Projects in Gujarat

806. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up any gas based small power projects in Gujarat in near future with the assistance of private sector;

(b) if so, the details and terms and conditions thereof and the locations of the proposed projects; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF: POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of Drugs

807. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have banned the import of certain Malaria drugs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have decided to review the ban; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The Government has not banned the import of any anti-malarial drug. However, import of new drugs need prior examination of safety and efficacy of the drug and approval in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and the Rules framed there under. Some new anti-malarial drugs are under difference stages of investigation in the country and accordingly have not yet been approved by the Government.

[Translation]

Development of Energy in India by Finland

808. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Finland have shown interest in power sector in India;
- (b) whether any agreement has been signed by the two countries in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Voters list of Indian Enclaves

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

- (a) the action taken by the Government to prepare the Voters list of Indian citizens residing in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh; and
- (b) the arrangements made in this regard so as to enable these Indian citizens to exercise their franchise at the time of next General Elections?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government of India have no administrative control or access to these enclaves lying within Bangladesh. Government have also no reliable figures of population in these enclaves.

Nerve Gas Plant in Iran by Tatas

810. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item reported in the Washington Times that Tatas are building plants for manufacture of nerve gas in Iran;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the report to ascertain the veracity of the news-item; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government has seen the "Washington Times" report of 30 January 1995 which alleged that three Indian companies, including Tata Consulting Engineering, were involved in the setting up of a secret poison gas complex in Iran.

(b) and (c) This report is incorrect. The three Indian companies are involved in a project for the construction of a pesticide plant in Iran. The project was awarded to the Indian companies, including Tata Consulting Engineering as a result of an open, international tender in which companies from all over the world participated.

Telugu-Ganga Project

812. SHRI R. ANBARASU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu signed an agreement in regard to sharing of Water of Krishna under Telugu-Ganga project for the benefit of people of Madras city for drinking purposes;
- (b) if so, the cost of this project and the stage at which this project stand;
- (c) by when it is likely to be completed and drinking water is likely to be provided to Madras city under this project;
- (d) whether the Union Government had been asked for financial assistance for this project by Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) if so, the amount provided by the Union Government for the purpose to the State Government?

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

(b) and (c) The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 1438 crores. About 80% of the physical works are reported to have been completed. The remaining works are likely to be completed by the end of the financial year 1995-96, which will bring water upto the border of Tamil Nadu. The works for treatment, distribution of water in Madras will be taken up under a separate project, viz., the III Madras Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation Project which is yet to start.

- (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of this Ministry.
- (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of Flats

813. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules have been formulated by New Delhi Municipal Council in regard to the allotment of their flats and the date on which these rules were formulated;

(b) whether Government are aware of the irregularities committed in these rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes Sir. New Delhi Municipal Council have reported that they allot flats to their employees according to the NDMC Allotment Rules 1964 framed by the Committee/Council on 7.12.1963.

(b) New Delhi Municipal Council have reported that they are not aware of any irregularity committed in these rules.

(c) and (d) In view of the above, question does not arise.

[English]

Telecom Policy

814. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee for Promoting Self-Reliance in Telecom, (CPSRT) has submitted a memorandum demanding changes in New Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Committee for Promoting Self Reliance in Telecom (ITI) vide their memoranda/letters dt. 20-10-94, 29-12-94, 18-1-95 and 1-2-95 have mainly demanded that the Government should take necessary action to modify Government policies, National Telecom Policy and related guidelines by way of (i) removing shortage of orders for utilising the capacity of ITI, (ii) permitting ITI to enter basic telecom services and (iii) providing level playing field to ITI so as to enable the Company to compete with private Sector/MNCs.

Department of Telecom, with a view to utilise the infrastructures of its own PSEs viz. ITI Ltd. & HTL optimally as also to keep them commercially viable, is following a policy under which 30 to 35% of total of DOT orders are kept reserved for these two PSEs taken together, for those items which they manufacture.

It has been decided to preclude the public sector companies including ITI from the basic services as these undertakings have been established by the Government for specific purposes and have sufficient potential for growth in their respective areas. In the context of a buoyant

economy on the one hand and scarcity of resources on the other hand the public sector undertakings require to pay undivided attention to their respective areas of business at this stage.

As regards a level playing field as a part of an ongoing process the Government has been taking steps from time to time to ensure that the public sector enterprises including ITI are able to compete effectively with the private sector.

Residential Areas at JNU Premises

815. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of residential accommodation under possession of the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) at Jawahar Lal Nehru University premises in New Delhi;

(b) the total Quantum of residential accommodation occupied by ISTM at present in JNU premises;

(c) whether JNU is not transferring the possession of rest of the residential units to ISTM, as instructed by Directorate of Estate after expiry of the stipulated period and violating the terms and conditions laid down by the Government;

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against Jawahar Lal Nehru University; and

(e) the time by which all the possession is likely to be handed over to the Government and all the allotted accommodation will be under the possession of ISTM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). 5 Type III flats are occupied by ISTM in the old Jawahar Lal Nehru University campus. Total area covered is 350 sq. mtrs.

(c) to (e). It has been decided to allot 46 residential units to ISTM in the old Jawahar Lal Nehru University campus. The matter has been taken up with Jawahar Lal Nehru University authorities for getting these units under their occupation vacated for handing over to ISTM. No time frame has been fixed for handing over the vacant possession of the residential accommodation to ISTM. Therefore, no action against JNU is contemplated at present. It is not possible to indicate the time as the actual possession can be given after the units are vacated by JNU staff, who are in occupation of the quarters.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Unauthorised Colonies

816. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level committee was constituted on August 26, 1974 to study various aspects related to regularisation of unauthorised colonies and lay down a policy in this regard;

(b) if so, the conditionalities laid down by the Government for unauthorised colonies on the basis of the report of said committee;

(c) whether these conditionalities were adopted for regularisation of 612 unauthorised colonies which came in existence till 1977;

(d) whether these conditionalities are likely to be adopted for regularisation of unauthorised colonies set up upto March, 1993; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to regularise such colonies and to provide them civic amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). Government had appointed a Committee on 26th August, 1974 to make a case by case study in respect of unauthorised colonies which had come up in Delhi from time to time, with a view to take a decision in regard to the future of such colonies. The Committee submitted its report on 26.2.1975. After examining the report of the Committee, it was decided by the Govt. that various unauthorised colonies which had come up in Delhi including those around villages, within and outside "Lal Dora" and also unauthorised extensions of approved colonies would be regularised on the terms and conditions as mentioned in the attached statement.

(d) and (e). There is a Court case pending in the High Court of Delhi in Civil Writ Petition No. 4771/93—Common Cause Registered Society Vs. Union of India and Others. A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court passed an order on 13.10.1993 restraining the respondents from taking any further decision or action for regularising any unauthorised colony in Delhi till further orders. The matter is sub-judice.

As regards civic amenities, Govt. on National Capital Territory of Delhi have taken a decision to provide water and electricity connections to all the colonies that existed as on 31.3.1993 subject to issue of No Objection Certificate by the Town Planner. The High Court of Delhi have also permitted the Govt. of Delhi vide their order dated 19.8.1994 to extend water and electricity connections to the unauthorised colonies as per the policy of the Govt. and as admissible under the law.

STATEMENT

(a) Both residential and commercial structures will be regularised within the cut off date of 30.6.1977 and 26.2.1977 respectively.

(b) Structures will be regularised after fitting them in a layout plan and after keeping clear space for roads and other community facilities. To the extend land is already available for roads and other community facilities in the immediate vicinity or neighbourhood such land should be utilised for these purposes.

(c) Development charges as determined by DDA/MCD will be payable by the owners of the properties in such manners as may be laid down by these bodies.

(d) The families which are displaced in the process of providing space for roads and other community facilities will be rehabilitated in the following manner:

(i) Owners of the houses, who or any of whose family members do not own a plot/house in Delhi will be provided alternate land/flat.

(ii) The tenants will be allotted alternate accommodation provided they, or any of their dependent members of family do not own a house/plot in Delhi.

(e) In the process of regularisation, wherever necessary, change of land use will be considered with reference to the provisions of the Master Plan/Zonal Plans.

(f) Colonies which have been notified for acquisition will also be considered for regularisation and wherever necessary other consequential steps will be taken.

(g) DDA/MCD will take up the work of completing the case by case study of all the colonies, which could not be done earlier, on a top priority basis.

(h) A High Level Implementation Body will be set up to watch the progress of regularisation and development of unauthorised colonies in accordance with the policy laid down by Government. The DDA and MCD will be the implementing authorities.

(i) The civic services which will be provided in future in the colonies to be thus regularised, as also those which may already exist in these colonies, will be maintained by M.C.D.

(j) The M.C.D. will take immediate steps especially to provide water and electric connections in all the unauthorised colonies. Those who had already deposited the money would be given preference.

[English]

Strike by VSNL Employees

817. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited have given notice of strike recently to the Government;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The demand is for issue of VSNL Shares to the employees on preferential basis.

(c) The matter is under the active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Committee for E.D. Employees

818. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee has since been constituted to study and recommend pay scales and other benefits for E.D. Agents;

(b) if so, the date on which the said committee was constituted and the composition thereof;

(c) the time by which the committee has been asked to submit its report; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d). Action has been taken to constitute a committee to go into pay structure and conditions of service etc. of E.D. Agents. The tenure of the Committee will be for the year.

[English]

Processing of Power Projects

819. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC had to pay commitment charges to World Bank on 1000 MW Vindhyachal-II due to delay in implementation of project;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in processing; and

(c) the amount paid as commitment charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAJI C. PATEL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As per the agreement signed between the World Bank and the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for 'time slice' loan of US\$ 400 million for NTPC Power Generation Projects, NTPC is required to pay to the World Bank commitment charges on the principal amount of the loan not withdrawn from time-to-time. The Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project Stage-II (2x500 MW) was accorded Government approval in February, 1995. The investment approval got delayed mainly because of the environmental clearance, which was accorded in August, 1994. The loan utilisation has now started.

(c) The commitment charges paid to the World Bank by NTPC for the period from 7.2.1994 to 15.12.1994 amounts to US\$ 852054.79.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

820. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra, districtwise;

(b) whether any time-limit has been fixed for releasing telephone connection to all of the applicants in the waiting list;

15-470 LSS/95.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Information is furnished in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c). National Telecom Policy, 1994, envisages the provision of Telephone connections practically on demand by 1997 all over the country including Maharashtra.

(d) The question does not arise.

STATEMENT

Number of persons on waiting list for Telephone connections in Maharashtra (District-wise) as on 28-2-1995

Sl. No.	District	Number of Persons on waiting list
1.	Bombay (MTNL)	64,831
2.	Thane (Kalyan)	34,855
3.	Naski	21,246
4.	Nagpur	23,855
5.	Jalgaon	9,309
6.	Raigad	3,625
7.	Ahmadnagar	13,050
8.	Aurangabad	8,619
9.	Jaina	1,291
10.	Nanded	1,613
11.	Parbhani	1,247
12.	Latur + Osmanabad	6,107
13.	Beed	2,162
14.	Kolhapur	11,236
15.	Solapur	12,626
16.	Sangli	7,500
17.	Salara	3,650
18.	Ratnagiri	3,046
19.	Sindudurg	1,395
20.	Pune	43,620
21.	Dhule	4,051
22.	Akalis	4,712
23.	Amaravati	4,596
24.	Bhandara	1,056
25.	Buldane	2,025
26.	Wardha	1,432
27.	Yeotmal	1,726
28.	Chandrapur + Gadchiroli	2,749
TOTAL :		2,97,631

[English]

Government Accommodation

821. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government employees of special pools who have been allotted accommodation from general pool during the last three years;

(b) the grounds of such allotment;

(c) the number of applications pending presently;

(d) whether a number of requests for such allotment have been rejected in the corresponding period; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) During the last 3 years 41 quarters have been allotted to employees of other pools who are not eligible for allotment from the general pool.

(b) The allotments have been made by the competent authority on compassionate grounds.

(c) to (e) 8 applications are pending at present. No data regarding number of applications rejected is maintained.

Maritime Training Institute

822. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a new Maritime Training Institute in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to establish a Rating Training Academy in Kozhikode District of Kerala. The Government of Kerala have been requested to earmark a suitable site for this purpose. The land is, however, yet to be allotted by the State Government.

Maintenance of National Highways in Gujarat

823. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the length of the National Highways in Gujarat; and

(b) the Central financial assistance provided to the State for maintenance of National Highways during 1993-94 and 1994-95 so far and proposed to be provided during the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 1631 Km.

(b) The funds released to state of Gujarat during 1993-94 and 1994-95 so far for Maintenance and Repair of National Highways are Rs.1035.95 lakhs and Rs.888.84 lakhs respectively. It is not possible to indicate the allocations for Maintenance and Repairs of National Highways during the next financial year till the Demands for Grants for 1995-96 are voted by Parliament.

[Translation]

Telephones in Delhi

824. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long waiting list for new telephone connections in Delhi;

(b) if so, the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided to persons included in the waiting lists;

(c) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi has assured to clear all waiting lists during 1995;

(d) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed; and

(e) the plan of action prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There are 1,21,189 persons on the waiting list of Delhi as on 1-3-95.

(b) It is planned to provide telephone connections to all these waitlisted applicants during 1995-96.

(c) and (d). MTNL has set itself and objective of clearing all the waiting list by and of 1995 itself subject to timely availability of equipment, material and financial resources and all out efforts are being made in this direction.

(e) To achieve the above, MTNL plans to provide about 2.6 lakhs new telephone connections during 1995-96.

Fertiliser Import

825. DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of different varieties of fertilisers imported during the last three years upto February, 1995 and its value thereof;

(b) the total production of different varieties of indigenous fertilisers during this period, year-wise; and

(c) the rise in consumers prices and in the consumption of fertilisers during the last three year, upto February, 1995, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The details of fertilisers imported since 1992-93 are as under:

(figures in lakh tonnes)

Fertilisers imported	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Urea	18.57	28.40	26.84 (upto Feb. '95)
Dep*	15.57	15.69	8.25(upto Dec. '94)
MOP*	17.81	14.28	15.45 -do-
SCP	0.05	-	-
NPK	1.30	—	—

*Figure of imports effected after decontrol and decanalisation are only approximations.

The cost and freight value of the fertilisers imported on Government account during the period under consideration is as under:—

Year	C&F value of fertilisers imported on Government account (Rs. crores)
1992-93	2216.00
1993-94	1300.18
1994-95	1578.21
(Upto Feb. '95)	

(b) The quantities of fertilisers produced during the period in question are given below in nutrient terms: (quantities in lakh tonnes of nutrients)

Year	Nitrogen(N)	Phosphate(P)	Total (N+P)
1992-93	74.30	23.06	97.36
1993-94	72.31	18.15	90.46
1994-95	72.31	22.52	94.03
(Upto Feb. '95)			

There is no indigenous production of Potash as the country does not have any known and commercially viable source of this nutrient.

(c) The consumption of fertiliser nutrients in the country during the last three years is given below:

Year	(lakh tonnes) (Consumption of fertilisers)			
	Nitrogen(N)	Phosphate(P)	Potash(K)	N+P+K
1992-93	84.27	28.44	8.84	121.55
1993-94	87.89	26.69	9.08	123.66
1994-95	96.42	30.06	11.82	138.30
(Estimated for the entire year)				

The statutory issue price of urea was reduced on 25.8.92 from Rs. 3060/- per tonne to Rs. 2760/- per tonne and raised to Rs. 3320/- per tonne with effect from 10.6.94. Following the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers on 25.8.92, the consumer prices of these fertilisers are determined by market forces and vary from State to State and time to time. In order to reduce the consumer prices of these fertilisers, a special concession of Rs.1000/-per tonne on sale of MOP and indigenous DAP and a prorata concession on other indigenous fertilisers containing phosphatic and potassic nutrients have been provided.

English]

Misuse of Telephone Lines

826. DR. S. P. YADAV:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of misuse of telephone lines with the connivance of linesman have recently come to light in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

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

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

(b) Five cases of misuse of telephone lines have been detected as under:—

- i) One service telephone was found diverted to an unauthorised premises in Kali Bari Marg.
- ii) A telephone belonging to an ex-MP was found diverted in the premises of Delhi High Court.
- iii) One telephone belonging to BSF was found diverted in Andrews Ganj Area.
- iv) One racket of providing unauthorised STD/ISD calls was busted at Balia House, Okhla.
- v) One telephone was found diverted on the line of another customer in Greater Kailash area.

(c) While exact loss cannot be ascertained, the approximate loss to the Government is of the order of Rs. 107/- lakhs.

(d) Two officials of MTNL have been suspended and Departmental action is being taken. Two more officials of MTNL and 2 private persons have been arrested by CBI.

Missing Steel in IISCO

827. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel worth lakhs of rupees was found missing from IISCO in November, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allotment of Flats in Chanakyapuri

828. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 462 on July 27, 1994 and state:

(a) the authority responsible for framing the rules for the allotment of shops, office space, residential units of N.D.M.C.;

(b) the reasons for there being no rules when ex-Administrator of the N.D.M.C. took over;

(c) the action taken against the officials responsible for not framing the rules;

(d) the details of the rules that have now been framed; and

(e) the number of allotments made under those rules, giving the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (e). The information is being collected

and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

New Drug Price Control Order

829. DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

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

(a) whether the recently announced Drug Price Control Order has severely affected the import and the domestic production of bulk drugs as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated January 22, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the prices of bulk drugs will go beyond the reach of the common man; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). No, Sir. *Vide* the Central Excise notification No. 8/95 of 9.2.1995, 21 bulk drugs which were earlier exempt from the levy of excise duty by virtue of their listing under the First Schedule of DPCO, 1987 have been exempted from the levy of excise duty after the notification of the DPCO, 1995.

Indore Habitat Improvement Project

830. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred under the Indore habitat Improvement Project by various agencies during the last four years;

(b) the number of families rehabilitated so far under the project;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision regarding the time-limit for completing the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) As per the information available, an expenditure of Rs. 39.66 crores (upto January, 1995) has been incurred on this project since its inception.

(b) 86,985 families have been covered under this project;

(c) & (d) The project is due for completion on 31.3.95. A request from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for extending the project upto March, 1997 has been received on 13.3.1995.

Possession of Nuclear Bombs with Pak

831. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 1995 under the caption 'Pak may be having 15 N-bombs';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government have seen the news-item.

(b) Pakistan has been pursuing a clandestine and weapons-oriented nuclear programme for the past several years. This programme has been and is sustained through the acquisition of materials and technology from the foreign sources.

(c) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

[Translation]

Navigation Facility in Allahabad-Patna Division

832. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop navigation facility in Allahabad-Panta division;

(b) if so, the details of the work carried out in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has a scheme to maintain 2m. depth from Patna to Ballia, depending on adequate cargo assurance. Activities such as development of navigable channel with 2m. depth and infrastructural facilities including terminals on the Patna-Haldia division of National Waterway No. 1 will be taken by the IWAI under 9th Five Year Plan, depending on cargo offering.

[English]

Telecom Network by MTNL

833. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rapid technological advances in Telecommunication Sector are changing the philosophy of telecom network; and

(b) if so, steps being taken by MTNL to introduce the

latest technology in its operations?

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

(b) MTNL has upgraded the technologies of its telephone exchanges and 83% of all switching capacity is now electronic. The manual trunk service is proposed to be computerised with the use of a high technology switch. In junction network (connecting various exchanges) fibre optic technology which is the latest development in the Telecom, area has been introduced. Already 1100 Kms of fibre optic cables are carrying the telephone messages in MTNL Delhi and Bombay. Future plans have been drawn up to introduce the integrated services digital network. In addition, for improved performance and reliability in the subscriber loop, fibre optic technology and wireless in local loop technology is being experimented.

Visit of President of Italy

834. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation headed by the President of Italy visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details with objectives thereof;

(c) whether many issues of bilateral interests were discussed during the visit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any agreements were signed during the visit;

(f) if so, the salient features thereof, agreement-wise;

(g) whether Kashmir issue also figured in the talks; and

(h) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b) The President of Italy, Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, paid a State visit to India from 9—12 February 1995 at the invitation of our President. President Scalfaro was accompanied by Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, Minister of State for Foreign Trade Mario d'Urso, senior officials and a high-level business delegation. The visit coincided with Italy's participation as "Partner Country" in the India Engineering Trade Fair (IETF) 1995, which was jointly inaugurated by the Presidents of India and Italy.

(c) and (d) The principal focus of discussions during the visit was on expansion of bilateral trade and economic relations. The Italian President underlined Italy's desire to strengthen relations with India in the political, economic, scientific and cultural fields. He also stressed the importance of closer cooperation between India and Italy to confront the challenge posed by fundamentalism and terrorism. During talks between the Italian Foreign Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs, views were exchanged on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest, including UNSC expansion and reform. The Italian side reiterated their interest in receiving an early visit by the Prime Minister, as well as an Indian

cultural manifestation in Italy to coincide with a future high-level visit from India.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A Communique providing for regular Foreign Office consultations to review all aspects of bilateral relations and undertake exchanges of views on international issues, interaction in the international arena and on issues of mutual interest, was signed between the Italian Foreign Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs.

(g) and (h) The Italian Foreign Minister was briefed on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, Government's intention to hold elections in the state, problems posed by continuing Pakistani support to militancy and terrorism, and India's repeated offers to hold bilateral talks with Pakistan to resolve all issues in terms of the Simla Agreement. The Italian side expressed understanding for India's perspectives and concerns. In his Press Conference, the Italian President described the Kashmir issue as an "internal" problem for India, to be resolved through dialogue with the people of Jammu & Kashmir, the nature and context of which was up to the Government of India to determine.

[Translation]

Delivery of Letters

835. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any time-limit for transporting the letters from one place to another;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether letters are being delivered very late in both city and village;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue any guidelines for prompt delivery of letter;

(e) if so, the time by which these guidelines will be issued, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the number of letters delivered after the fixed time in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh during the last six months?

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

(b) (i) Pin-Coded letters posted in Metro cities namely, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore and bound for another Metro city are to be delivered within 48 hours.

(ii) Pin-Coded letters between Delhi and State Capitals other than the Metro cities mentioned at (i) above are to be delivered within 48 hours.

(iii) Letters between cities connected by air flights, other than those mentioned at (i) and (ii) above are to be delivered within 72 hours.

(iv) Letters within a State are to be delivered within 48-72 hours.

(v) Letters within the District are to be delivered within 48 hours.

These broad norms are subject to satisfaction of specified conditions and to not cover remote and difficult areas.

(c) Department makes every effort to deliver letters according to these norms. However, some delays due to seasonal rush of mail, and transport bottlenecks cannot be ruled out.

(d) and (e) Guidelines already exist.

(f) There is no record relating to unregistered letters showing the position in U.P. Circle, as revealed in the Mail Survey Reports of 1994 appears to be generally satisfactory.

Telephone Exchanges

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges functioning in the country as on December 31, 1994 and the capacity thereof, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of increase registered therein during 1993-94;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target to provide more telephones during 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Total telephone exchanges: 19288. The details of capacity is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No. of Telephone Exchanges: 9.6%
Equipped Capacity: 23.6%

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. A target of 20 lakh gross lines has been fixed for 1995-96.

STATEMENT

No. of Telephone Exchanges Functioning as on 31.2.94.

Name of State	No. of Exchanges	Capacity
Andaman Nicobar	18	4897
Andhra Pradesh	2033	688264
Assam	275	99436
Bihar	766	282509
Gujarat	1282	817235
Haryana	630	266654
Himachal Pradesh	416	91187
Jammu & Kashmir	194	52327
Karnataka	1886	726274
Kerala	719	560468
Madhya Pradesh	2396	649624
Maharashtra (including Bombay)	2238	2089575
North East	206	68594
Orissa	666	176645
Punjab	721	442042
Rajasthan	1283	422438
Tamil Nadu (including Madras)	1329	838425
Uttar Pradesh	1558	739441
West Bengal (including Calcutta)	560	529179
Delhi	112	970550
	19288	10515962

Modernisation of Steel Plants

837. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions have been held with Russia for the modernisation of steel plants with latest technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Periodic review discussions are held by SAIL with the Russians about the progress of work in the packages of Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation projects where M/s. Tiaz-promexport (TPE) of Russia is involved as a Consortium Leader/Principal Contractor/Member.

Further SAIL held discussions recently with the Russians in connection with the transfer of 'ROMELT' Technology which is a newly developed technology for production of hot metal/pig iron through direct reduction process. SAIL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with three Russian agencies, namely, Amet Limited, Moscow, Institute of Steel & Alloys, Moscow and M/s. Novolipetsk Steel Works, Russia, with the objective of study of the ROMELT Technology by SAIL.

Fleet Strength of DTC

838. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to augment the fleet strength of DTC;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Buildings for Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

839. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether new buildings for telephone exchanges are under construction in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details with locations thereof;
- (c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (d) the time by which these buildings are likely to be completed?

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

(b) to (d) As per enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	New Building for T.E.	Location	Expenditure likely to be incurred	Time by which these are likely to be completed
			(Rs. Lac-s)	
1.	TE Bapunagar 40 KE. 108	Ahmedabad	300	May, 95
2.	Guibai Tekra 40 KE. 108	-do-	400	September 97
3.	Sabarmati RLU	-do-	20	March 95
4.	Baroda (RLU in CTO Compound)	Baroda	20	September 95
5.	Surat (Pandésara) 20 KE. 108	Surat	300	March 97
6.	Kalol 10 KC. DOT	Kalol	150	September 95
7.	Sidhpur 5K CDOTA	Sidhpur	225	December 95
8.	Nadiad RLU	Nadiad	20	September 95
9.	Bhavnagar (Chitra RLU)	Bhavnagar	20	June 95
10.	Umargam 10K CDOT	Umargam	200	June 96
11.	Silvasa 10K CDOT	Silvasa	225	June 96
12.	Adipur RLU	Adipur	25	September 95
13.	Ankleshwar RLU	Ankleshwar	80	September 95
14.	Sardarnagar-BV RLU	Bhavnagar	25	-do-
15.	Anjar Vertical Extn.	Anjar	20	June 95
16.	Raiya Road, Rajkot	Rajkot	25	December 95
17.	Porbandar	Junagadh	168	December 96

[Translation]

Printing of Stamps

840. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Posts had given contract to a private firm (Printing Press) in Kanpur to print Philatelic Stamps instead of Government Printing Press of Nagpur, Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Post has entrusted printing of commemorative and special postage stamps to a Security Printer in the private sector at Kanpur, as also to another, in addition to India Security Press, Nashik.

(b) This has become necessary as the India Security Press Nashik is not able to cope with the entire requirements of the Department.

Construction of National Highways

841. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major portion of the National Highways lacks lined surface;

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

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Visit of Foreign Delegations

842. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delegations of the US, South Africa, Switzerland and Germany had visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues on which discussion was held with them by the Prime Minister and other Indian leaders and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements have been signed during the visit; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof, agreement-wise?

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

(a) to (d). USA

(a) Yes, Sir. The following delegations from USA visited India recently:

(i) Dr. William Perry, US Secretary for Defence, visited India from January 12 to 14, 1995.

(ii) Mr. Ronald Brown, US Secretary of Commerce, paid an official visit to Delhi from January 14 to 17, 1995, on a Presidential Business Development Mission accompanied by a 34-member business delegation.

(iii) US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary visited India from February 11 to 15, 1995.

(b) (i) The discussions between the Prime Minister and Secretary Perry included among other things, strengthening of Indo-US bilateral relations, greater Indo-US defence cooperation, UN peacekeeping missions, etc.

(ii) The discussions between the Prime Minister and Secretary Brown focussed on forging stronger Indo-US economic and commercial relations and India's economic reforms. The Prime Minister welcomed the participation of US companies in infrastructural projects in India as also conclusion of specific business deals. Contracts for business collaboration in the sectors of power and telecommunications worth around US\$ 7 billion were also signed.

(c) (i) During the visit of Secretary Perry, an 'Agreed Minute on Defence Relations between the United States and India' was signed.

(ii) During Secretary Brown's visit, a Memorandum of Understanding for the formation of an Indo-US Commercial Alliance was signed.

(iii) During Secretary Hazel O'Leary's visit, 23 energy related deals amounting to approximately US\$ 1.4 billion were signed.

(d) (i) The Agreed Minute signed during Secretary Perry's visit is the first document between the two Defence Ministries of India and USA in the post-cold war period. It represents a step forward and gives formal shape to what is already envisaged or has been in force.

(ii) The Commercial Alliance signed during Secretary Brown's visit will act as the focal point for US and Indian business to form cooperative ventures, including meetings,

roundtables and work programmes. The goal of the Commercial Alliance is to provide a mechanism for the private industries of the two countries to work together to increase business ties and trade.

SOUTH AFRICA

(a) Yes, Sir. The President of South Africa visited India from 24—27 January, 1995.

(b) Several issues of international and mutual bilateral interest were discussed. These included views and ways to furthering bilateral cooperation in trade, culture, economic and technical areas, and cooperation in the fields of low cost housing, small scale industries, public health and primary and secondary education.

(c) Yes, Sir. The following three agreements were also signed during the visit:

(i) Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa.

(ii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa on the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission for Political, Trade, Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

(iii) Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of Republic of India and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa.

(d) The Treaty on Principles of Inter-State Relations and Cooperation sets out the shared Principles of the two countries of peace, democracy and secular governance, their resolve to fight against apartheid, racial discrimination and religious fundamentalism, to strive to achieve a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world and their desire to develop a multifaceted bilateral relationship, with a firm belief that their bilateral cooperation would further the cause of peace and international security globally, particularly in Asia and Africa. Both sides have also agreed in the Treaty to cooperate in the fight against international crime, terrorism in all its forms, crimes against civil aviation security, shipping and other forms, of transport, illegal international trade in narcotics, and arms and cultural and historical objects.

In the Joint Commission agreement, the two sides have affirmed their intentions to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in Political, Economic, Trade, Science and Technology, Industry, Transport, Energy, Culture and Public Health spheres.

In the Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, both the sides have agreed to have regular talks and consultations at least once a year at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other levels on international and regional problems of mutual interests as well as questions relating to bilateral relations.

SWITZERLAND

(a) The Swiss Vice President and Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs Mr. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz paid an official visit to India from 4th to 8th February 1995 on the invitation of the Finance Minister. He was accompanied by 16 senior executives including a number of Chief Executive Officers from leading Swiss Companies representing a wide range of sectors and a high level official delegation with senior officials from both the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy.

(b) Mr. Delamuraz held talks with Finance Minister and Commerce Minister and called on the Vice President. During the meeting with the Finance Minister, various bilateral and international issues of common concern were discussed by the two sides.

(c) and (d) No agreements were signed during the visit.

GERMANY

(a) The following German Ministers visited India recently:

(i) Bavarian Minister for Economy, Transport and Technology, Dr. Otto Wiesheu, visited India from 22—29 January, 1995.

(ii) Minister-President of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Mr. Erwin Teufel, visited India from February 16—26, 1995.

(b) The Bavarian Minister met the following:

(i) Finance Minister

(ii) Commerce Minister

(iii) Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs

The Minister-President of Baden-Wuerttemberg met:

(i) Minister of Communications

(ii) Minister of Power

(iii) Finance Minister

(iv) Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs.

The discussion focused on India's economic reforms programme and the opportunities available for foreign investment particularly in the key-infrastructure areas, such as power and telecommunications.

(c) and (d) No official/government agreements were signed during the visits.

[Translation]

Power shortage in Madhya Pradesh

843. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up new power plants in Madhya Pradesh to increase generation of Power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of the places where these plants are proposed to be set up?

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

16—470 LSS/95.

(a) and (b) The following power projects are envisaged to yield benefits in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the Eighth Plan Period:

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity(M'V)	District
HYDRO			
1.	Tawa LBC	4×3	Hoshangabad
2.	Hasdeo Bango	3×40	Bilaspur
3.	Bansagar Tons	2×15+3×20	Rewa
4.	Rajghat (Joint Sector)	22.5	Lalitpur & Guna
5.	Bansagar Tons-IV	20	Rewa
THERMAL			
6.	Sanjay Gandhi Unit 1 & 2	2×210	Shahdol
7.	Sanjay Gandhi Unit 3 & 4	2×210	Birsinghpur
8.	Pench TPS	2×210	Chhindwara

[English]

Foreign Power Companies in India

844. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce competitive bidding in sanctioning permits for foreign-built and foreign managed power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government of India vide letter dated 18.1.1995 has informed all the State Governments that in future private power projects should come through the process of competitive bidding instead of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) route.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

845. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the under-construction Dam Project in Tehri Garhwal, district of Uttar Pradesh is lying at present.

(b) the time schedule to complete the above project and the total cost thereof;

(c) keeping in view the progress of work at present the time likely to be taken to complete the same; and

(d) the cost over-run likely to be incurred thereon till then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI): (a) Presently, Stage I of Tehri Hydro Power Complex, viz. Tehri Dam and HPP (1000 MW) is under construction. Considerable physical progress has been made on Stage I works.

All the four diversion tunnels have been completed and the river diverted through the two Right Bank Tunnels. The foundation of the main dam over the entire length of 1.1 km has been laid and the Coffer dam as well as main

dam have been raised upto 15 mtr. above the river bed level. Various infrastructural works have been completed at the project site. Excavation of four (two each for Hydro Power Project Stage I and Pumped Storage Project) Head Race Tunnels have been completed. Approach adits to underground power station cavern are also complete. Construction of coffer dam has been taken up during the current working season.

(b) to (d) The project has been sanctioned in March, 1994 for completion by March, 1999 at an estimated cost of Rs.2963.66 crores (at March, 1993 prices).

Telephones out of order in Delhi

846. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints of telephones out of order received in Delhi, particularly, in eastern region during each of the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Number of complaints booked on 198 during the last three years is as under:—

1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (upto Feb. 95)
2088790	2414575	2828596	317323

STATEMENT

Year	Area	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1992	Delhi				22.5	24.1	25.2	29.6	28.8	27.0	26.9	26.2	26
	East				24.3	23.7	24.1	29.6	28.1	28.1	29.3	29.2	27
1993	Delhi	25.3	24.3	25.7	22.5	27.3	29.9	38.3	32.3	33.7	27.4	23.5	24.1
	East	29.1	26.2	28.5	24.1	28.8	31.9	40.3	35.3	35.1	29.7	26.9	30.0
1994	Delhi	28.0	24.35	25.7	24.76	28.96	37.96	36.35	35.36	37.32	30.7	27.4	28
	East	38.8	33.8	35.1	30.4	31.2	32.43	42.2	32.15	40.38	38.14	36.64	34.2
1995	Delhi	29.2	24.25										
	East	32.6	23.27										

Entry by road to Myanmar

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

(a) whether most of the persons among lakhs of Indians repatriated from Myanmar have been separated from their relations in that country;

(b) whether it is unaffordable to most of these persons to meet their relations due to exorbitant air fares;

(c) whether these persons have been demanding permission to travel through Manipur-More trade route; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

In: addition complaint/100 Stns./month booked for Delhi and Area East are indicated in the enclosed statement.

MTNL is taking various steps to contain the number of complaints, These include—

(a) External Plant.

1. Revamping and rehabilitation of external plant.
2. Locking and dressing up of DPs, cabinets and pillars.
3. Pressurisation of junction, primary and secondary cables.
4. Laying of underground cables in ducts.
5. Replacement of old fault prone underground cables.

(b) Telephone exchange Equipment.

- (1) Phasing out of old and out moded exchanges in the network.
- (2) Introduction of large number of digital electronic exchanges.

(c) Inter-connecting medium.

Introduction of PCM system, optical fibre and digital microways as media.

(d) Computerisation.

Computerisation of all FRs and other important services is being done progressively.

PRANAB MUKHERJEE: (a) to (d) Government have received a petition from the Burma Displaced Persons Association requesting the facility of travel to Myanmar by road to meet relatives as travel by air is expensive. This suggestion is under the consideration of the concerned authorities.

[English]

Deposits in Bailadila Complex

848. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to handover the high grade iron ore mine of 11/B deposit in the Bailadila complex of Bastar district to a private party;

(b) if so, whether the National Mineral Development Corporation is being asked to disinvest its interests in the mine;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the terms on which this mine is to be handed over to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The iron ore available at Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit 11/B is reportedly best suited for production of sponge iron in gas-based plants. A proposal is under consideration to take up development of Deposit 11-B as a joint venture of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), and one of the private sector entrepreneurs who are operating or setting up a gas-based sponge iron plant in the country and who already have an assurance from NMDC to meet a substantial part of the plant's requirement of iron ore. However, final decision in this regard has not yet been taken.

Indian Fishermen In Foreign Jails

849. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen in jails of various countries, country-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) As of February, 1995 there are 380 Indian fishermen in the prisons of following countries:

1. Bangladesh 205
2. Pakistan 170¹
3. Qatar 1
4. Sri Lanka 4

(b) On receiving information about the arrest of Indian fishermen our Missions take immediate action for seeking consular access and Consular Officer visits the detainee to ascertain the grounds and circumstances leading to his arrest. The Indian Missions follow vigorously all such cases with the local authorities for review and their eventual expeditious release. Apart from regular meetings with jail authorities, matters are taken up as and when necessary with respective foreign offices. However, a number of Governments do not entertain requests for review of the terms of imprisonment decided by the court of law. The prisoners are released normally on completion of their terms of imprisonment. The Indian Missions make all efforts to ensure effective legal defence is available to the prisoners as and where necessary.

Conversion of Properties

850. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Land and Development Office have issued fresh guidelines to deal with applications for conversion of properties into group housing as well as commercial complexes; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the procedure followed in this regard?

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

(b) A copy of the guidelines issued recently by the Ministry in this regard is enclosed as statement.

STATEMENT

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
(LANDS DIVISION)
NIRMAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110011.

No. J-20011/2/90-LD Dated the 11th January, 1995

To

The Land and Development Officer,
Nirman Bhavan,
New Delhi.

Sub.: Group Housing/Commercial Complexes development in Delhi, New Delhi — Conversion charges and other terms rationalisation and simplification-revised orders.

Sir,

In supersession of all previous instructions on the subject, all cases pertaining to development of group housing/multi-storeyed construction (both residential and well as commercial) in Delhi/New Delhi will hereafter be dealt with as follows:—

1. CRUCIAL DATE

- (a) The date of receipt of application (complete in all respects) for conversion accompanied by the requisite documents and the earnest money, where applicable, will be the crucial date for determining the land rates applicable for calculation of conversion charges.

¹The local Government has confirmed the imprisonment of 151 fishermen; while in the case of 19 fishermen it is yet to be confirmed by the local Government.)

- (b) In cases where no application for conversion has been made or where such application is made after sanction of the building plan, date of sanction of such plan by the local body will be the crucial date.
- (c) In cases where application has neither been made nor construction executed in accordance with the originally sanctioned plan but is executed as per the revalidated plan, the date of revalidation of such plan will be the crucial date.

N.B. (i): Applications/requests can be signed either by lease himself or by an authorised person holding general power of attorney of the lessee for this purpose. When there are more than one lessees/GPA holders, the application can be signed by any of the lessees/GPA holders. However, in such cases before communication of the terms, a no objection certificate on non-judicial stamp paper of appropriate value for granting permission for development should be obtained by the lessee from the co-lessee/GPA holders who have not signed the original application.

N.B. (ii): Considering the fact that in some cases up-registered GPAs were furnished & registration of GPA is not compulsory, production of registered GPA will not be insisted upon in old cases.

2. DETERMINATION OF CHARGES:

- (i) The additional premium for conversion will be determined with reference to the land rates applicable on the crucial date as per the FAR assigned to the plot as per building bye-laws and zonal plan.
- (ii) In cases where land rates are linked to prescribed FAR, the same will be increased/reduced proportionately with reference to the actual FAR applicable on the plot as the crucial date.
- (iii) In cases where land rates have been prescribed as per existing FAR, while calculating conversion charges land rates need not be proportionately increased/reduced.
- (iv) For the purposes of calculation of additional premium in all pending cases, single rate as notified by the Ministry from time to time on the crucial date shall be taken into consideration, instead of doubling of the land rates as provided earlier in some cases.
- (v) The formula for calculation of additional premium will be as follows:—
50% of the difference between the commercial/residential land value as the case may be, as per the rate prevailing on

the crucial date & those prevailing at the time of last transaction.

3. REVISED GROUND RENT (RGR):

- (a) Revised ground rent will be charged @2-1/2% of the notional premium i.e. premium arrived upon by multi-plying the land area with land rates applicable at the time of crucial date.
- (b) Revised ground rent as above will be applicable immediately upon the completion of 3 years from the date of communication of terms for conversion, sanction of the plan or from the date of completion/occupation of the building, whichever is earliest.
- (c) Where the lessee is unable to proceed with the construction due to a court case or any stay order from Govt./local authority, the moratorium from RGR will be given for the period during which such a stay/ban remains operative. However, lessee will continue to pay ground rent as applicable before revision during this period.

4. MISUSE AND DAMAGES:

Chargés for misuse of the land/building constructed thereon for a purpose other than that for which the land/building was allotted shall be levied from the date on which such misuse is established and upto the date of communication of the terms or sanction of the building plan in accordance with which construction has been executed or date of starting construction whichever is earliest.

5. INTEREST:

- (i) Interest will be calculated from the expiry of the period allowed for making payment as contained in the terms letter i.e. 90 days after communicating the terms.
- (ii) Additional premium may be permitted to be paid in instalments spared over a maximum period of 3 years. Thus payment of additional premium in instalments would carry an interest on 2nd and 3rd instalments @14% (Fourteen percent) p.a. from the date mentioned under Para 5 (i) above.
- (iii) Any delay in making payment of the prescribed dues exceeding one year will carry penal rate of interest of 2% per year over and above the normal rate of a interest mentioned under Para 5(ii) above.

6. CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT PERMISSION OF LESSOR:

- (i) In cases where construction has been commenced/executed without prior permission of the lessor or before complying with the terms communicated by the lessor, a charge of 5% per annum of

the additional premium shall be payable from the crucial date to the date when RGR becomes payable.

- (ii) In cases where terms have already been communicated by the L&DO, but not acted upon fully by the parties, the demands will be modified keeping in view the above factors, if a request is made by the party.
- (iii) In such cases, after recasting the demand as above and adjustment of the amount already paid by the party, on the outstanding amount, interest will be charged at the rate of 14% (Fourteen percent) p.a. from the due date i.e. expiry of the date upto which the party was required to make payment. The terms letter issued earlier and will be treated upto the date of actual payment.

7. OVERHEAD CHARGES:

As the multi-storeyed construction envisages upgradation of the existing services and/or laying down new service lines, in areas where intensive redevelopment is taking place, overhead charges will be calculated by reckoning the plot area @301 Sq. Yds. per acre and multiplying the same by the land rates applicable on the crucial date in all cases where the terms have not been complied with or fresh terms are offered.

However, where the lessee is required to make available land for providing utilities, he will not be required to pay overhead charges at the time of conversion.

8. RE-ENTRY CASES:

In all cases where re-entry order has been made by the lessor for violation of the lease terms, re-entry order will be revoked after recovery of revocation charges calculated at Rs. 100/- per day or subject to maximum of Rs. 3,000/- per annum from the date of re-entry to the date of revocation thereof i.e. the date of communication of terms, provided other dues i.e. misuse charges/damages etc. have been paid.

9. These orders will come into force w.e.f. 1st January, 1995. All cases decided/settled otherwise in accordance with the instruction issued upto 31.12.94 will not be re-opened.

10. APPLICATION TO PENDING CASES:

All pending cases can also be dealt with, as a special case, in accordance with the provisions contained in these instructions, provided application to this effect is made by the lessees/their authorised signatories within a period of three months from 1.1.1995.

In cases, however, no such request is received, the terms offered earlier, in accordance with the instructions then in vogue, will be treated as final, and charges so calculated and remaining unpaid shall be recovered as arrears of land revenue under the Land Revenue Act. In other words, this will be treated as a special amnesty scheme for clearance/settlement of old cases and will be available for a period of three months only.

11. A time bound programme should be organised to

undertake this work and time frame indicated for disposal of such cases at each level and a copy thereof should be furnished to the Ministry.

12. Any laxity on the part of any official in dealing with such cases should be viewed seriously and responsibility pinpointed and cases submitted to the Ministry for further orders.

13. A fortnightly return showing the pending as well as fresh cases will be furnished by the Land and Development Officer for perusal of the Ministry.

14. This issues with the concurrence of Finance Division vide their I.D. No. 1706/F/JS&FA dated 7.12.1994.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(D.R. Dhiman)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tele: 3019951.

Copy to:—

1. Director of Audit, CW&M, AGCR Bldg., New Delhi.
2. Finance Division (Land Unit), Min. of U.D.
3. All Desk Officers in Lands Division.
4. PS to Secretary.
5. PS to AS(NPS).
6. PS to JS(UD).
7. Director(Lands).
8. Press Information Officer, Ministry of Urban Development for giving wide publicity to the contents of this letter.
9. Spare copies — 30.

Sd/-

(B.R. Dhiman)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.

851. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fire at the ONGC rig off the Andhra Pradesh coast during January, 1995 adversely affected the production of fertilisers at the Kakinada based Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.;

(b) if so, the total quantity and value of production loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that availability of fertilisers to farmers is not adversely affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) M/s. Nagarjuna Fertilizers and

Chemicals Ltd. (NFCL) have reported that their urea plant at Kakinada was affected from 7.1.1995 to 12.1.1995 due to fire in one of the ONGC rigs in Andhra Pradesh, resulting in an approximate loss of production of 10,000 tonnes of urea valued at Rs. 8 50 crores.

(c) The overall availability of urea to the farmers was not affected due to the above happening.

Modernisation of H. I. L.

852. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:— The steps being taken for the modernisation of Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Cochin unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): M/s. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., have taken up a number of diversification schemes. Plants for the manufacture of Dicolof and Mancozeb have been approved for implementation in the VIIIth Five Year Plan. The Dicolof Plant at Udyogmandal in Kerala will have a capacity of 150 MT at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.03 crores. A Mancozeb Plant is also proposed to be put up at Udyogmandal with a 1000 MT per annum capacity at a proposed outlay of Rs. 5 crores. The anticipated mechanical completion of Dicolof plant is expected around November, 1995 while the Mancozeb plant is expected to go on stream by the end of 1997. The technology for both these plants has been developed by M/s. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., is in-house R&D.

[Translation]

Government Accommodation to Employees posted Abroad

853. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government accommodation have been allotted to those employees in Delhi who are posted abroad;

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

(c) the criteria adopted for allotting Government quarters to such employees in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) A Government servant while posted abroad is not allotted Government accommodation at Delhi.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Illegal Occupation of DDA Flats

854. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several people have illegally occupied flats of D.D.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of D.D.A. flats illegally occupied and the names of the occupants;

(d) the concrete steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to get these illegally occupied flats vacated; and

(e) the names of the official responsible for this illegal occupation and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (e): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Telephone Connections on Medical Ground

855. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/rules laid down for the sanction of telephone connections on medical ground;

(b) whether the temporary telephone connections are sanctioned to the applicants after getting registered in ordinary special category; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to discontinue this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, temporary telephone connections are sanctioned on genuine medical grounds for a period of six months if the request of the applicant is supported by a medical certificate issued by a registered Medical Practitioner. However, at the time of seeking extension beyond six months the applicant is required to produce the registration details for a telephone connection in his name.

(b) Applicants registered under Non-OYT Special category can also be sanctioned a temporary telephone connection on non-medical grounds for genuine needs.

(c) The temporary telephones are sanctioned to the applicants for genuine needs and to the Government departments to tide over their emergency requirements and in public interest. There is no proposal to discontinue the present practice.

[English]

Mineral Exploration

856. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any plants in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for the survey and exploration of minerals;

(b) if so, the number of such plants and the locations thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to expand these plants or set up new units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) No plants have been set up in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for survey and exploration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Geological Survey of India (GSI) which has its offices in Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat), Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Bhopal, Jabalpur and Raipur (Madhya Pradesh) conducts survey and exploration for minerals according to approved programmes. So, there is no need to set up any new units.

[Translation]

Golden Jugilee of UN

857. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes chalked out in India on the occasion of the completion of fifty years of U.N.; and

(b) the extent to which these have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) An ambitious programme of activities has been drawn up by the Indian National Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Minister of External Affairs, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the United Nations. A list of these programmes is given in the statement attached.

(b) All the programmes foreseen to date have been fully implemented, with the exception of the release of commemorative coins that is being rescheduled shortly. Other programmes will be implemented as per the calendar of activities, with due modifications from time to time, depending upon logistical consideration and as approved by the Indian National Committee.

STATEMENT

Programmes Already Implemented

DATE	EVENT PROGRAMMED/PROPOSED	IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
1. October 30 Sunday	Inaugural function including photo exhibition	MEA
2. October 30	Prime Minister's address to the nation on national TV network	MEA/Doordarshan
3. November 14	Sale of flags in schools and colleges	IFUNA
4. November 16	Round Table Conference on "Nehru and the UN"	
5. December 3	Zubin Mehta concert in Bombay	ICCR
6. December 3	Seminar on "UN in 2045; 100 years after"	IIC
7. Winter session	Tabling of a Special Motion in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Adopted unanimously by both Houses on December 22	MEA
8. January 1	Special telecast on national network	Doordarshan
9. January 1	Release of UN theme calendars	DAVP

Programmes to be Implemented

DATE	EVENT PROGRAMMED/PROPOSED	IMPLEMENTING	PRESENT STATUS
1. January	Release of commemorative coins	DEA	Design finalized. Coin being struck and may be released in early February/ end January.
2. 16-17 January	Seminar on Indian contribution to the UN	Bombay University	FS has agreed to deliver the keynote address.
3. February 1995	Youth programmes such as mock general assemblies, and quiz in schools	IFUNA and Nehru Yuva Kendras	Being finalized.

DATE	EVENT PROGRAMMED/PROPOSED	IMPLEMENTING	PRESENT STATUS
4. March 1995	Mock general assembly at university level	Bombay University	
5. March 1995	Seminar on issues of topical interest for India in the UN	JNU	Being finalized.
6. mid March	Release of a book for children [age group 10 to 18 years] on "Story of the UN"	Rajiv Gandhi Foundation	
7. April, 1995	Publication of a compilation of speeches made by prominent Indian leaders in the UN fora	MEA (XP Division and UN Division)	
8. April, 1995	Telecast of a documentary on India's participation in Peace-Keeping Operations	Doordarshan	
9. May, 1995	Essay competition	UN agencies in India	
10. June, 1995	Release of stamps	Department of Posts	
11. June/July, 1995	Release of a book on various aspects of India's work in the UN in the last 50 years	India international University of Bombay	Centre/
12. July, 1995	Seminar on global themes like pluralism, secularism, multi-ethnic societies etc.	JNU	
13. August, 1995	Distribution of brochures on UN in schools and colleges	UNDP	
14. September, 1995	Newspaper supplements	UNDP	
15. October, 1995	Participation in cultural programme organised at UN Headquarters	ICCR	
16. October 22-24, 1995	PM's participation in Special Summit (closing ceremony of commemorations) at the UN Headquarters	UN Division	

[English]

Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited

858. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravati (Karnataka) is undergoing modernisation and expansion;

(b) if so, the capital outlay involved therein and the broad features of the programme;

(c) whether the assistance of experts from Norway was sought to complete the modernisation work on furnaces;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the modernisation of VISL is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The brief details of the important modernisation and expansion programmes of VISL and outlay involved are as follows:—

(i) Installation of a New Blast Furnace of 530 cubic meter at an estimated cost of Rs. 75 crores.

(ii) Modernisation of two Ferro Silicon Furnaces at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.07 crores.

(iii) Installation of air pollution control equipment for two Electric Arc Furnaces, two Ferro Silicon Furnaces and Lime Calcination Kilns at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores. There are also addition/modification/rehabilitation (AMR) schemes including pollution control schemes for which there is an outlay of Rs. 50 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In order to commission the

modernised Ferro Silicon Furnace and stabilise its production, the services of one Norwegian expert were utilised by VISL.

(e) One Ferro Silicon Furnace has been commissioned in July, 1994. Air pollution control equipment in Lime Calcination Plant and Ferro Silicon Plant has been installed/commissioned in January and October, 1994. The 530 Cubic Meter Blast Furnace has been commissioned recently. While the modernisation of the other Furnace is planned for the year 1995-96, the AMR schemes will be taken up and completed progressively.

Assistance for construction of houses in Gujarat Region

859. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal from the Government of Gujarat has been received for providing assistance for construction of houses for middle and lower income people of Kachh and Saurashtra region;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this context and the status of the proposal as on date;

(c) the number of schemes approved/rejected or still pending with his Ministry as on date; and

(d) the Central funds so far sanctioned/provided to State Government for the purpose of such schemes?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Pak Raising Kashmir Issue at UN

860. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the efforts of Pakistan to raise repeatedly the issue of Kashmir in the U.N. and its proposal of constituting a Special Parliamentary Committee; and

(b) if so, the counter steps being taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government are aware that in December, 1993, Pakistan's Parliament has set up a Special Committee on Kashmir. Government are also aware of Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue.

(b) Government have apprised the international community of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir in its true perspective. Government are committed to resolve all differences with Pakistan peacefully and through bilateral negotiations within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

INDO-US Relations

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

(a) whether India and the US decided to resolve differences over nuclear non-proliferation, ban on the production of nuclear fissile material and Intellectual Property Rights;

(b) if so, whether a series of meetings were held by the new US Ambassador to India with Indian leaders including Prime Minister during August 1994; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India and the US have a continuing dialogue on a wide range of issues to improve mutual understanding, including on issues relating to nuclear non-proliferation and intellectual property rights.

(b) and (c) The US Ambassador to India presented his credentials on August 2, 1994. As is customary for an Ambassador following presentation of credentials, the US Ambassador called on a number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, and senior officials during August 1994. His meetings covered a wide range of issues of bilateral interest as well as questions of regional and global concern.

[Translation]

Water Supply Projects of Madhya Pradesh

862. SHRI BHAWANI LAL VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals from Madhya Pradesh Government regarding water supply projects in cities with a population of less than 20,000 are pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Assassination case in Sri Lanka

863. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Sri Lanka have requested for Indian assistance in the investigation of assassination of Mr. Gamini Dissanayeke; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The Sri Lankan Government has requested the Government of India for assistance in its investigation into Shri Gamini Dissanayeke's assassination. The Government of India has decided to provide necessary possible assistance to Sri Lankan Government in their investigation.

Utilisation of Agricultural Production

864. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policies formulated by the Union Government to utilise the surplus agricultural produce in rural areas through modern processing units;

(b) whether the Government have implemented any scheme in Gujarat State in the food processing sector during 1993-94; and 1994-95 and

(c) if so, the achievement made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Government have taken various steps to promote Food Processing Industries which inter alia include declaration of most Food Processing Industries as high priority, delicensing of Food processing Industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for Small Scale Sector, promoting domestic/foreign/NRI investments, providing fiscal reliefs etc. Government is also operating various Plan schemes for promoting Food processing industries.

(b) and (c) As a result of various measures taken since liberalisation till February, 1995, 210 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda have been filed for setting up of Food processing Industries involving an investment of Rs. 3116 crores in the State of Gujarat. Out of these, 56 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda have been filed commencing commercial production. In addition, 24 approvals have also been granted for setting up 100% Export Oriented Units, Joint Venture, Foreign Collaboration etc. in Food Processing Sector involving an investment of Rs. 103 crores. Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any unit directly in any State. However, financial assistance extended in respect of proposals received from the State of Gujarat

under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 was Rs. 8.55 lakhs and Rs. 6 lakhs, respectively.

[Translation]

Processing of Fruits and Vegetables

865. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of fruits and vegetables produced was destroyed or rotten in Gujarat during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

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

(c) the percentage of total fruits and vegetables processed in Gujarat.

(d) whether the Government propose to take some steps to promote the processing of fruits and vegetables in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the export of processed fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). There has been no unusual wastage/spoilage of fruits and vegetables in Gujarat during 1992-93 and 1993-94. However, the produce being of perishable nature, some losses do occur. The estimated production of fruits and vegetables in Gujarat was about 40 lakhs metric tonnes during 1993-94. Since fruits and vegetables used by the processing industry are procured from all over the country, it is not possible to assess the percentage of locally grown fruits and vegetables which have been processed by the industry in that State. However, the quantity of processed fruits and vegetables during 1994 was about 51,780 metric tonnes, which corresponds to about 7.66% of the total processed fruits and vegetables products in the country.

(d) to (f). Besides declaring fruits and vegetable processing industry as high priority industry, Government has provided fiscal reliefs such as, exemption of excise duties, reduction in import duty on capital equipments, automatic approval for the projects etc. to encourage the fruits and Vegetables processing industry, Government is also implementing a number of plan schemes to promote processing of fruits and vegetables. Schemes for export promotion of processed fruits and vegetables include supply of products samples for test marketing, publicity and promotion, participating in international trade fairs abroad, packaging development, quality improvement etc., implemented by Agricultural Product and Export Development Authority.

[English]

Cordless and Fax Machines

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

(a) the number of (i) cordless telephones, (ii) Fax machines, (iii) Data Modems, (iv) Answering machines, (v) PBX/PABXs are attached to telephone lines in the whole of the country and in the major cities, city-wise; and

(b) the number of them are supplied by DOT/MTNL and the number of them are customer supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the field Units and will be placed on the Table of the House at the earliest.

[Translation]

Life Saving Drugs

867. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of life-saving drugs and compound medicines during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken a decision to import life saving drugs from foreign countries to meet the increasing demand, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Year-wise production of Bulk Drugs and Formulations in the last three years is as following:

(Rs. crores)

Year	Bulk Drug	Formulation
1992-93	1150.00	8000.00
1993-94	1320.00	8900.00
1994-95 (estimated)	1518.00	7935.00

The country is almost self sufficient in meeting the requirement of quality medicines for various therapeutic groups. The indigenous production is increasing to meet the rising demand. The Exports of bulk drugs and formulations is also increasing. Except for a few drugs and formulations which are on the restricted list for imports, import of medicines is on the OGL.

Telephone to Panchayats in Haryana

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

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Haryana, district-wise where telecommunication facilities have been provided till January 31, 1995 and the number of those where such facilities are proposed to be made available during the current year; and

(b) the number of villages in Haryana especially in Faridabad district where Post and Telegraph facilities are available and the number of those where such facilities are proposed to be made available during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) the number of gram Panchayats in Haryana having public telephone facility till January 31, 1995 is 4,029. During the current year, Public telephones to 420 Gram Panchayats have been proposed to be made available. The districtwise details are given in the attached statement.

(b) (i) The number of villages in Haryana where telegraph facility is available upto January, 31, 1995 is 4,367. In Faridabad district such facility is available to 196 villages. The number of villages where such facility are proposed to be made available during the next three years is 2,823.

(ii) In Haryana, 2,270 villages have post office facility. In the district of Faridabad, Haryana, 87 villages have been provided with post offices. Post Offices are progressively opened taking into consideration the various prescribed norms, subject to the availability of resources/targets. As such, no time frame can be given.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of Panchayats in Haryana with Existing and Proposed Telecom Facility

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Panchayats with Telecom facility upto 31-1-95	No. of Panchayats proposed to be made available with telecom facility during the current year
1.	Ambala	434	50
2.	Yamuna Nagar	310	30
3.	Karnal	185	15
4.	Kathal	144	40
5.	Panipat	117	15
6.	Kurukshetra	276	15
7.	Rohtak	298	30
8.	Bhiwani	287	30
9.	Sonapat	272	30
10.	Faridabad	196	35
11.	Gurgaon	252	30
12.	Rewari	215	15
13.	Mahendargarh	190	15
14.	Hissar	362	20
15.	Sirsa	232	20
16.	Jind	259	30
		4,029	420

*[English]***HUDCO Housing Scheme**

869. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SKUKLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO has introduced any housing scheme for individual housing;

(b) if so, the objectives for the said scheme; and

(c) the cities in which the said scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir. Retail financing for individual housing has not been introduced so far.

(b) & (c) Question does not arise in the light of (a) above.

*[Translation]***Development of National Highways**

870. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road development work between the Sagar-Jhansi section of the National Highway has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the road development work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and the works are carried out in stages under various Five Year Plans depending upon the availability of funds and overall priorities. Works costing Rs. 439.68 lakhs are currently in progress in this Section of National Highway No. 26 between Sagar and Jhansi. Construction of Lalitpur bypass between Km. 87.139 and Km. 94.000, construction of laybye at Km. 97 and strengthening of existing road in Km. 147 to Km. 156 are in various stages of progress and are targeted for completion by December, 1996.

Visit of Secretary of State and commonwealth Affairs of UK

871. SHRI BARELAL JATAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary of State and Commonwealth Affairs of UK visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the leaders with whom he held talks, subjects discussed and the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) & (b) The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the UK, Mr. Douglas Hurd, visited India from 5-7 January, 1995. He called on PM and held talks with the Minister of External Affairs, Finance Minister, Home Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs. The principal subjects covered

during these talks included Indo-UK political, trade and economic relations, bilateral cooperation to combat terrorism and drug-trafficking, recent developments and the situation in our region. Satisfaction was expressed at progress made in strengthening bilateral relations in both political and economic fields through regular high level exchanges.

[English]

Rates for Conversion of Leasehold into Freehold

872. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present rates of conversion from leasehold to freehold of different categories of flats allotted by DDA;

(b) whether these rates include an increase in percentage over the conversion rates prevailing till June 30, 1994;

(c) whether there have been demands to withdraw the above increased percentage;

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

(e) whether there has been a directive of the Delhi High Court to the Government to rationalise the restructure the conversion rates announced by the Government; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken keeping the above developments in view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (d) The rates of conversion from leasehold to freehold of different categories of DDA flats are furnished in the statement enclosed, these rates were applicable till 31-12-1994 and later on it was provided that with effect from 1.1.1995 till 31st March, 1995, these rates will increase by 25%. Based on representations for withdrawal of this increase, a proposal for allowing conversion at the originally fixed rates is under consideration of the Govt.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Modification of the scheme is under consideration of the Government.

STATEMENT

Conversion rates for flats/tenements allotted by Delhi Development Authority and its Slum Wing on leasehold basis.

Category of flats tenements	East Zone	North/West Zone	South Zone	Central Zone
Janta	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
UG	3,000	9,000	12,000	15,000
MIG/SFS(L)/Type-II	4,250	12,750	17,000	21,250
SES(II)/HIG/Type-II-A/ Type-II-B	6,250	18,750	25,000	31,250
SFS(III)	7,500	22,500	30,000	37,500

Non-Payment of Money Order in Delhi

873. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Sr. Supdt. of Post Offices, New Delhi, South West Division, Department of Posts, Delhi regarding non-payment of money orders from October, 1994 to February, 1995;

(b) the reasons for non-payment of money orders; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon together with the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials found responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Between October, 1994 to February 1995, the office of Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, South West Division, Department of Post, New Delhi received 1056 complaints about non-payment of money orders.

(b) The non-payment, of money orders is generally due to their loss in transit, wrong payment or misappropriation of the amount by the paying officials.

(c) Out of 1056 complaints received during the period, 725 complaints have been settled within the period itself. As soon as a complaint about non-payment of money order is received, immediate enquiries are taken up. In case of loss, a Duplicate money orders is got issued and paid. In case of wrong payment or misappropriation by paying officials, immediate action is taken to pay the amount to the real payee. Suitable departmental action is also taken against the delinquent officials.

[Translation]

Pakistan a State Sponsoring Terrorism

874. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in 'Navbharat Times' dated January 14, 1995 regarding declaration of Pakistan a State sponsoring terrorism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At a Press Conference in New Delhi on January 13, 1995. US Defence Secretary William Perry said, in response to a question, that "evidence available to the United States does not support an argument that Pakistan should be put on the terrorist list"

It was emphasized to the US Defence Secretary that Pakistan's active sponsorship of terrorism in India continued, with the supply of arms, equipment, training and infiltration.

[English]

Direct Current Line between Jaypore and Gajuwaka

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

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the 700 crore high voltage direct current line of 500 Mega Watt capacity between Jaypore in Orissa and Gajuwaka in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned and the quantum of power likely to be apportioned to Andhra Pradesh therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMENBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 500 MW HVDC Back-to-Back Transmission line between Jaypore in Orissa and Gajuwaka in Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 659.98 crores. The project is likely to be completed in a period of four years. The project is intended to provide inter-regional transmission link between Eastern Region and Southern Region through which power can flow from Eastern Region to Southern Region and vice-versa, as a part of formation of National Grid. The quantum of power to be available to Southern Region including Andhra Pradesh through the said HVDC link would depend upon the quantum of surplus energy in the Eastern Region and the demand and availability in the Southern Region at a particular time.

Fijians of Indian origin in Fiji

876. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fijians of Indian origin settled in Fiji and the percentage of such persons to the total population of that country?

(b) how the interests of Indian settled there are looked after since India was forced by the Fiji Government to close our mission there in 1990;

(c) the estimated number of Indians who had to leave Fiji after the military coup there in 1990; and

(d) the outcome of the efforts made by the Government of India in the international fora to raise the policy of racial discrimination followed by Fiji Government against Fijians of Indian Origin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) There are about 3,50,000 Fijians of Indian origin in Fiji, and they form approximately 41% of the total population;

(b) Indian Missions in Wellington and Sydney look after their interests;

(c) There is no precise figure available on the number of Indians who had to leave Fiji after the military coup. Some estimates have put it as 60,000 who are mostly professionals;

(d) Government of India is in touch with Commonwealth countries. The racially biased Constitution of 1990 is slated for a through review by a three member

Review Commission which is scheduled to commence its work from 1st June, 1995. Government of India is keeping the situation under review.

Pay Phones in Gujarat

877. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Pay Phone' connections have been allotted in North Gujarat;

(b) if so, the places where such connections have been allotted to handicapped, Ex-Servicemen and economically backward classes;

(c) whether any kind of irregularities have been noticed in respect of allotment of such telephone connections; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) STD PCOs are franchised to educated unemployed who fulfil the eligibility conditions prescribed. Preferential categories include physically handicapped and ex-servicemen. No separate records indicating the places of installation of PCOs franchised to physically handicapped and ex-servicemen are however maintained;

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Closure of Fertilizer Plant

878. DR. SAKSHUJ:

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

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

(a) whether fertilizer production by units in Uttar Pradesh is much below the installed capacity of the units;

(b) if so the reasons therefor and the efforts made to augment the production capacity;

(c) whether some fertilizer plants in Uttar Pradesh have been closed down recently;

(d) if so, the name and location thereof;

(e) the reasons for their closure; and

(f) the details of facilities/assistance provided by the Union Government to these plants to increase their production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a), (b) and (f) The major fertilizer units located in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been operating at Satisfactory levels of capacity utilization. However, the capacity utilisation of the plants producing single

superphosphate (SSP), which are in the medium and small scale sectors, has been low during the last two years due to reduction in off-take on account of increase in prices following decontrol w.e.f. 25.8.1992.

Government of India is giving a special concession at the rate of Rs. 340/- per tonne on the sale of SSP. There has been improvement in the performance of SSP units during the current year.

(c) to (e) No fertilizer plant has been closed down recently except the Gorakhpur plant of the Fertilizer Corporation of India, which has been lying closed since June, 1990 on account of an accident in the plant.

[English]

Murari Committee

879. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of Murari Committee have been implemented to the sick fishing industries in Andhra Pradesh during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The Technical Committee headed by Shri P. Murari on the deep sea fishing industry in India, has submitted its Report. Action on the recommendations of the Technical Committee has been initiated at inter-ministerial level.

Marketing Rights of Multinationals

880. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the period of exclusive marketing rights of the multinationals in the country's pharmaceutical sector has been reduced from ten years to seven years as stipulated in the GATT agreement; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 provides for grant of exclusive marketing rights for a period of five years or until the Patent is granted or rejected, whichever is earlier, for drugs patented on or after 1.1.1995.

[Translation]

NRV Allocation

881. SHRI RAJ NARAIN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been heavy decline in the allotments of funds for Nehru Rozgar Yojna 1994-95;

(b) if so, the comparative figures thereof during 1992-93 and 1993-94 State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the amount allocated for every one thousand unemployed youths of each State and Union Territory during the above period;

(d) whether there is any provision to reserve special quota under this scheme for unemployed youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any amount has been kept separately for the women under this scheme; and

(g) if so, the provision made in this regard for Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir. For the period 1992-95, the details of allocation of funds for Nehru Rozgar Yojana are as under:—

Year	Amount
	(Rupees in Lakhs)
1992-93	7079.75
1993-94	7477.00
1994-95	6980.00

(b) The particulars are given in the Statement allotted

(c) The funds under the Yojana were allocated among the States/Union Territory Administrations on the basis of their incidence of poverty as given in the National Sample Survey Organisation-38th Round. Certain Minimum Floor Levels (MFLs) were also adopted to avoid allocation of sub-critical amounts.

(d) to (g) The urban poor constitute the broad target group of the Nehru Rozgar Yojana. Within this target group, women and beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute special target groups. It is expected that funds proportionate to their share in the urban population would be earmarked for beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Further, it is expected that broadly 30% of the beneficiaries setting up self employment ventures would be women.

STATEMENT

Allocation of Central Funds to States/UT. administrations Nehru Rozgar Yojana

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1992-93	1993-94
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	527.40	679.53
2.	BIHAR	457.36	369.30
3.	GUJARAT	198.45	212.52

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1992-93	1993-94
4.	HARYANA	111.90	123.29
5.	KARNATAKA	510.20	440.17
6.	KERALA	225.90	234.82
7.	MADHYA PRADESH	550.40	684.48
8.	MAHARASHTRA	700.50	669.80
9.	ORISSA	191.60	219.80
10.	PUNJAB	192.90	216.47
11.	RAJASTHAN	309.40	379.80
12.	TAMIL NADU	567.00	765.58
13.	UTTAR PRADESH	1426.20	1711.54
14.	WEST BENGAL	481.20	259.00
15.	GOA	19.70	17.85
16.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	16.60	19.75
17.	ASSAM	156.20	89.49
18.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	64.30	56.19
19.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	86.50	87.48
20.	MANIPUR	40.90	43.33
21.	MEGHALAYA	37.45	24.10
22.	MIZORAM	24.30	21.74
23.	NAGALAND	19.20	15.70
24.	SIKKIM	34.20	29.88
25.	TRIPURA	25.20	25.80
26.	A & ISLANDS	9.20	13.53
27.	CHANDIGARH	12.20	13.86
28.	D & N HAVELI	8.40	11.06
29.	DAMAN & DIU	15.10	18.25
30.	PONDICHERY	17.90	11.70
31.	DELHI	22.00	22.00
	TOTAL	7079.75	7477.00

STATEMENT

Telephone Equipments

892. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufacturing of telephone equipments has started in the public sector and private sector;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the comparative figures of public sector and private sector in this regard for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(d) whether both the sectors have exported these equipments during the above period; and

(e) if so, the names of such exporting companies in the private sector?

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

(b) Public Sector has been manufacturing Telecom Equipment from the beginning. Telephone equipment was permitted in private sector progressively from 1984 onwards.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Names of major exporting companies in the private sector are given in the attached statement.

Names of Major Exporting Companies in Private Sector

1. Bharti Telecom, Ltd.
2. BPL Projects and Systems Ltd.
3. Priyraj Electronics Ltd.
4. VXL Engineering Ltd.
5. Motorola Pvt. Ltd.
6. Fujitsu India Ltd.
7. Crompton Greaves Ltd.
8. Tata Telecom Ltd.
9. ADe International Ltd.
10. Savita Chemicals.
11. Surana Udyog Ltd.
12. Impel Petro Ltd.
13. Shyam Telecom Ltd.
14. WS Telesystems Ltd.
15. Asean Brown Breweries Ltd.
16. United Telecom Ltd.
17. Surana Petro Ltd.
18. Alcatel Modi Network Systems Ltd.

[English]

Fertilisers Export**Telephone Exchanges In Andhra Pradesh**

883. SHRI YELLAIHA NANDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh have been continuing to be mechanical ones for long;

(b) if so, the numbers and locations of such exchanges as on March 1, 1995;

(c) the time by which these exchanges are to be converted into electronic ones;

(d) whether all Mandal Headquarters in the state have been provided with electronic exchanges;

(e) if so, the number-wise details thereof;

(f) whether they are operating properly; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) As given in the statement attached.

(c) As per 8th Plan Objectives, all small capacity exchanges and all medium capacity exchanges of line finder type will be converted into electronic by March, 97 subject to availability of funds. Other exchanges will be converted into electronic as and when they have lived their useful life.

(d) & (e) No, Sir. 866 Mandal HQs out of 1104 in A.P. have been provided with Telephone exchanges. Of these, 690 are electronic type and 176 are electro-mechanical.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	NAME OF DISTRICT	NO. OF LOCATIONS
1.	Adilabad	11
2.	Anantapur	69
3.	Chittoor	64
4.	Cuddepah	45
5.	East Godawari	17
6.	Guntur	13
7.	Hyderabad	9
8.	Karimnagar	64
9.	Khammam	3
10.	Krishna	41
11.	Kurnool	38
12.	Mahabubnagar	51
13.	Madak	56
14.	Nalgonda	34
15.	Nellore	42
16.	Nizamabad	47
17.	Prakasham	43
18.	Srikakulam	2
19.	Visakhapatnam	19
20.	Vizianagaram	12
21.	Warangal	43
22.	West Godawari	19
Total		742

884. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Government has banned the export of fertilisers to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Government of Bangladesh has imposed a ban on export of urea to all countries, including India. The ban is likely to be lifted by 15.4.95. This measure is resorted to every year during the period of peak consumption of fertilisers in that country from January to March.

Electronic Exchanges in Orissa

985. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Orissa where electronic telephone exchanges are functioning;

(b) the places where electronic exchanges were proposed to be installed during 1994-95;

(c) the places where electronic exchanges have been installed up to December, 1994 alongwith number of lines in each exchange; and

(d) the number of registered applicants for telephone connections in Orissa as on December 31, 1994 with exchange-wise breakup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 662 places. List attached at Statement I.

(b) Barbil, Kantabanjee, Aska, Berhampur, Burla, Hirakud, Jagatpur, Jatni Parlakhemundi and Rourkela.

(c) (i) new Exchanges Opened during 1994-95 upto Dec. 1994

Name of the Exchange	Lines
Mukulish	56
Motto	88
Kerupada	56
Vingarpur	88
Singiri	56
Sunki	88
Tikiri	56
Dhutra	56
Rehmal	56
Barkote	56
Chhatikana	88

(ii) Replacement of Old type exchanges.

Name of the Exchange	Lines
Aska	544
Burla	752
Hirakud	376
Jagatpur	1000
Jatni	1000
Parlakhemundi	400
Kantabanjee	1400
Barbil	1000

(d) List attached at Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

List of Places in Orissa having Electronic Exchanges (Total 662 places)

EXCHANGES

ANANTAPUR
ARNAPAL
B.T. PUR
BAHABALPUR
BAHANASA
BALASOPALPUR
BALASORE
BALIAPAL
BANT
BARAPADA
BASTA
BASUDEVPUR
BAULA
BAUNSDIHA
BHADRAM
BHADAARIPOKHAARI
CHANDANESWAR
CHANDIPUR
CHHANAPUR
DEHURDA
DHAMNAGAR
DHUSURI
DOLASAH
GANDIBEDA
GHANTESWAR
GOPALPUR
JALESWAR
KHAIRA
KHAAD
KUPARI
MANATRI
MANTART GOAN
NYUDA
NAGRAM
OUPADA
MADHPUR
PANPANA
PRIHATA
RAJ GHAT
RAJANILAGIRI
RANITAL
RASALPURI
REHUNA
RUPSA
SHERGARH
SIHULIA
SORO
TIHIDI

CHANDA BALI
TUDIGADIA
BADAMPAHAR
BAPSINGA
BANGRIPOSHI
BARASAH
BARIPADA
BETANATI
BISOI
CHITRADA
DEVLI
DUKURA
SORU MAHISANI
JAMASALA
JAMDA
JHARADIHI
JHARPOKDHARIA
JOSHIPUR
KAPTIPADA
KARANJIA
KHUNTA
KOSTHA
KUAMARO
LAXMTDOGI
PATHURI
PURUNA BARIPADA
RAIRANGPUR
RASAGOVINDPUR
SANKERKO
SUKRUIT
SULIAPADA
TRINGI
UDALA
ADAYA
ASKA
B.D. PUR
BADASADADA
BALIPADAR
BALISIRA
BATAKUMUDA
BEGUNIAPADA
BELIGUNTHA
BERHAMPUR
BHANJANAGAR
BHEJIPUT
BHISNAGIRI
BOMAKAI
BUDHAAMBA
BUGUDA
C.TIKARAPADA
CHANDIPUT
CHANDRAGIRI
CHATRAPUR
CHELIGADO
CHIKITI
DHIRIKPADASABAN
DAKHINAPUR
DHARAKOTE
DISAPAHANDI
GALLERY
GOLANTARA
GONDALA
GOPALPUR ON SEA
GOSANIGARBANDHA
GUMMA
GURLINTI
HADA BANGI
HITLIKOT
JAGANNATHPRASAD
JAMDIT
JAHADA
JARADAGADA
JAYANTIPUR

KADICUTYANAGAR
 KANKARDA
 KARACHULI
 KASINAGAR
 KHAJURIPADA
 KHALIKOTE
 KHETRI BERHAMPUR
 KODALA
 KUDUTAI
 KUKUDANKHANDI
 KULADA
 MAHANANDPUR
 MANITORA
 MOHANA
 MUJAGADA
 NARENDRAPUR
 NUAPADA
 NUAPENTHO
 PADAMPUR
 PANCHABHUTI
 PARLAKHEMUNDI
 PATAPUR
 PITATALI
 PITOLA
 POLASARA
 PUDAMARI
 PURUSOTAMPUR
 R.SUMANDI
 R.UDAYAGIRI
 RAIGADA
 RAMAGIRI
 RAHSNA
 SATAMILO JUNCTION
 SERGADA
 SIDHESHAR
 SIHALA
 SOLOGHAR
 SUHANDAL
 SURADA
 SURAMANI
 TURUBUDI
 BALIGUDA
 BAUSUNI
 BIRANARASINGHPUR
 BOUD
 BRAHAMANIGAON
 CHAKAPAD
 DARINBIBADI
 DHALPURI
 G.UDAYAGIRI
 GUTINEIA
 HARBHANGA
 JANAPANK
 KANTAMAL
 KHAJURIPADA
 KOTGARH
 LINGASDADA
 NUAGAON
 PABURIA
 PALASASUDA
 PHIRINGIA
 PHULBANI
 PURUNA CUTTAC
 RAIKIA
 SARANGAGARH
 SIMANBADI
 TIKABALI
 TIKUDIBANDI
 ASTARANGA
 BASHAMARI
 BAHADAJOOEA
 BAJPUR
 BALAKATI
 BALANGA
 BALIANTA
 BALUGAON
 BAMAHAL

BANAMALIPUR
 BASUDEVPUR
 BEGUNIA
 BHAPUR
 BHUBANESWAR
 BHUSANDPUR
 BOLAGARH
 BRAHMAGIRI
 BULIPATNA
 CHANDANPUR
 CHARICHANKA
 CHHATANA
 DASPALLA
 DELANGA
 GABAKUNDA
 GADASANPUT
 BAMBHARIMUNDA
 GANIA
 GOP
 GUDUM
 HALDIA
 INS CHILA
 JANKIA
 JANLA
 JARIPATNA
 JATANI
 JANTISANAN
 JHATPUR
 JHANSIPUR
 KAMAGURU
 KANAS
 KANTI
 KANTILO
 KAUSALYAGANGA
 KHANDAPARA
 KHELLAR
 KHURDA
 KONARK
 KURAL
 MAHIPUR
 MALUD
 MANIKAGUDA
 MENDHASAL
 MUKUNDADASPUR
 NACHUNI
 NAGPUR
 NAHARAKANTA
 NANDIGHAR
 NARANGARH
 NAYAGARH
 NAYAHAT
 NAYAPARA
 NAYAGARH
 NUAGAON
 ODAGDAON
 PANASPADA
 RIPTI
 PURI
 RAJARANPUR
 RAJSUNAKHALA
 RETANG
 SAKHIGOPAL
 SARADA
 SARANKULA
 SATSANKHA
 SIKD
 TANGI
 BADMAL
 BENGAMUNDA
 BELGAON
 BELPORA
 BINKA

BOLANGIR
 CHANABAHAL
 CHANDANBHATI
 CHHANAMAKHANA
 CHUDAPALI
 DEDGAON
 DUNGRIPALI
 HARISANKAR ROAD
 KANTABANJI
 KHAMESWARIPALI
 LOISINGA
 MURIBAHAL
 PATNAGARH
 S.RAMPUR
 SAINTALA
 SAINTALA ORDFAC
 SALEBHATA
 SINAPALI
 SINDHEIKELA
 SONEPUR
 TARBHA
 TIKARAPADA
 TITILAGARH
 TUKLA
 TURIKELA
 TUSRA
 BEHERA
 BELTUNGRI
 DHAKAMBANDHA
 JAIPATNA
 JUNAGARH
 KANNA
 KESINGA
 KHARIAR ROAD
 LADUSAON
 LANJIGARH
 M.RAMPUR
 NARLA ROAD
 NAHAPADA YANWAT
 RAJKHARIAR
 RUPRA ROAD
 UTKELA
 ADHAMGAGADA
 AKHUAPADA
 ANGALO
 AREEKANA
 ATAHGARH
 AUL
 BAHUGRAM
 BAIALISHIMOUZA
 BALIKUDA
 BALITHTHA
 BANKI
 BARAMBA
 BARAMGA
 BARI
 BARUA
 BARUKEDEI
 BAULANGA
 BINJHARPUR
 BIRIBATI
 BIRIDI
 BORIKINA
 BRAHMABARADA
 BRAHMANIPAL
 CHANDHEIDHARA
 CHHATA
 CHHATIA
 CHOUDAKULAT
 CHOUWAR
 CUTTACK
 DAITARI
 DANPUR

DASARATHAPUR
 DHANMONDAL
 DEBURI
 ERASAMA
 GAJENDRAPUR
 GOPALPUR
 GOVINDPUR
 GURUDIHATIA
 INDUPUR
 JAGATPUR
 JAGATSINGHPUR
 JAIPUR
 JAIPUR ROAD
 JAIPUR TOWN
 JAKHAPURA
 KARAKA
 KABATBANDHA
 KAUDUAPADA
 KALAN
 KALAPATHAR
 KALIPANI
 KANAKPUR
 KANDARPUR
 KARILOPATHA
 KATIAN
 KATIKATA
 KENDRAPADA
 KENDUPATHA
 KHUNTUNI
 KISHORNAGAR
 KIRUA
 KRISHANANDAPUR
 KUAKHIA
 KUANPAL
 KUJANGA
 KUMUDA JAIPUR
 KUNDAL
 KUSUPUR
 MAHAKAL PABA
 MARSHAGHAJ
 MOUDA
 NALIBAR
 NANDIPUR
 NARENDRAPUR
 NARSINGHPUR
 NEWAL
 NIALI
 NISCHINTADILI
 NAGAON HAT
 NATPUR
 NASTAR
 PANCHUPADAB
 PANIKOILI
 PARADEEP
 PARADEEPGARH
 PATAMUNDAI
 PATKURA
 PHULNAKHARA
 PURAN
 RASHUNATHPUR
 RAJKANIKA
 RAJNAGAR
 RAMBAG
 SAFA
 SALEPUR
 SANKHATRASH
 SINGHPUR
 SINGIRI
 SUJANPUR
 SUKIDA
 SUNGRA
 TALABASTA
 TIGIRIA
 TRAN

TIRTOL
 TULASIPUR
 ANANDAPUR
 ANUGUL
 ATHALLIK
 BADKERA
 BAGEDA
 BALANI
 BANASINGH
 BANARPAL
 BANSPAL
 BANTALA
 BARBIL
 BATTO
 BAULPUR
 BELDA
 BHAPUR
 BHUBAN
 BILEIPADA
 BOINDA
 CHAMPUA
 CHENDIPADA
 DEIGAON
 DHAKATA
 DHENKANAL
 DHIENKIKOT
 GANDANALI
 GANDIA
 GHATGAON
 GODIBANDHA
 GOVINDAPUR
 GUIIBIL
 HARICHANDANPUR
 HATDNIHI
 HINDOL
 HINDOOL ROAD
 JAJANG
 JARAPADA
 JAROI
 JODA
 JORANDA
 JYOTIPUR
 KAIMATI
 KALAMCHUIN
 KAMAKHYANAGAR
 KANIHA
 KANKADAHADA
 KEDNJHAR
 KESADURPAL
 KHAJURIAKATA
 KHAMARA
 KIRIBURU
 MATHAKARGOLA
 MERAMUNDALI
 NAKACHI
 NALCONAGAR
 PAIKASHI
 PALASPANGA
 PALLAHARA
 PANDUA
 PAARJANG
 PINGUA
 RAISUAN
 RAKKISHORENAGAR
 RAMACHANDRAPUR
 RASOL
 REMULI
 RENGALI
 SAMAL
 SANKARPUR
 SOUTH BALANDA
 SUAKATI
 SUAMPATNA

TALACHER
 TALMULA
 TYARATARA
 TELKOI
 TULSIPAL
 TURUMUNGA
 AMADOLA
 AMAGUDA
 BALIMELA
 BANDHUGAON
 BISAM CUTTACK
 BUIPARIBUVA
 BORIGUNA
 CHANDAHHANDI
 CHANDRAPUR
 CHITRAKONDADABUGAON
 DAMANJODI
 DANGERBEHJA
 DASAMANTAPUR
 GUDARI
 GUMPUR
 J.K. PUR
 JAGANNATHPUR
 JEYPORE
 JHARIGAON
 JIMIDIPETA
 K.SINGHPUR
 KALIMELA
 KASIPUR
 KENDUGUDA
 KHATIGUDA
 KODINGA
 KORAPUT
 KOTAPAD
 KUJENDRI
 KUNDRA
 LAMPTAPUT
 LAXMIPUR
 M.V. 79
 MALKANGIRI
 RAIGANGPUR
 ROURKELA
 RUPIDIHI
 SARGIPALLI
 SUBDEGA
 SUNDARGARH
 TENSA
 BIMALAGARH
 ATTABIRA
 BAGDEHI
 BANDHABAHAL
 BARGARH
 BARPALLI
 BELPAHAAR
 BHATLI
 BHEDEN
 BHUKTA
 BIJENPUR
 BIRMAHARAJPUR
 BOIPUR
 BRAJARAJPUR
 BURLA
 CHICHINDA
 DEDGARD
 DHAMA
 DUNGRI
 GAISILATE
 GHESS
 GODASHAGA
 GOSHALA

HATIBARI
HIRAKUD
IR THERMAL
JAMANKIRA
JHARBANDHA
JHARSUGUDA
JUJUMARA
KADABAHAL
KATAPALLI
KIRIMIRA
KUCHINDA
KUNTRA
LAIDA
LASTOLA
MANDOSIL
MATHILI
MUNDGUDDA
NANDAPUR
NARAYANPATHA
NOWRANGPUR
PADAMPUR
PAPADAHANDI
PODUA
POTTAGI
RAIGHAR
RAMANGUDA
RAYAGADA
SIKARPAI
SUNABEDA
TRENTULIKHUNTI
THERUBALI
UMARKUTE
BALISANKARA
BNRMA
BANAIGARH
BARGAON
BARSUAN
BIRMITRAPUR
BISHRA
DARLIPALLI
GARPOSH
GOMARDIHI
GOPALPUR
HEMGIRI
JARAIKELA
KALTA
KALUNGA
KANIKA
KANSBAHAL
KINJIRIKELA
KOIRA
KUARMUNDA
KUNDUKELA
KUTRA
LAHUNIPADA
LATHIKATA
LEFRIPADA
MANGESHUPUR
NUAGAON
PURUNAPANI
RAIBOSA
MANESWAR
MELCHHAMUNDA
PADAMPUR
PADIABAHAL
PAIKHAL
PARMANPUR
RAIRAKHOL
REMENDA
RENGALI
SAHASPUR
SAMBALPUR

SARALA
SASAN
SATAPALLI
SIALKHANDATEA
SINDURPANK
SOHELA
TALPATIA
MUNULIHI
MUTTO
KEKUPADA
VINGARPUR
SINGIRI
SUNKI
TINIRI
DHUTRA
ROHMAL
BARNOTI
CHHATIKRINA
KOSALA
SARASWATHIAT
BILEIMUNDA
LAKHANPUR

STATEMENT-II

As on 31.12.94 No. of total exchange = 666

EXCHG	LWL
ANANTAPUR	2
ARNPAL	12
B.T. PUR	0
BAHABALPUR	4
BAHANAGA	0
BALAGOPALPUR	14
BALASORE	88
BALIAPAL	1
BANT	24
BARAPALA	0
BASTA	2
BASUDEVPUR	5
BAULA	2
BAUNSDIHA	9
BHADRAK	87
BHANDAARIPOKHARI	5
CHANDABALI	8
CHANDANESWAR	1
CHANDIPUR	1
CHHANAPUR	0
DEHURDA	10
DHAMNAGAR	4
DHUSURI	13
DOLASAH	8
GANDIBEDA	0
GHANTESWAR	0
GOPALPUR	1
JALESWAR	5
KHAIRA	0
KHUAD	1
KUPARI	1
MANATRI	1
MANJARI ROAD	0
MOUDA	14
NAGRAM	2
OUPADA	1
PADAMPUR	0
PANPANA	0
PIRIHATA	0
RAJ GHAT	2
RAJANILAGIRI	0
RANITAL	4
RASALPURI	0
REMUNA	7
RUPSA	0

SHERGARH	0	JAGANNATHPRASAD	0
SIMULIA	1	JAMUNI	0
SORO	1	JARADA	1
TIHIDI	8	JARADAGADA	0
TUDIGADIA	9	JAYANTIPUR	0
BADAMPAHAR	2	KABISURYANAGAR	3
BAHALDA	3	KANKARDA	0
BAISINGA	3	KARACHULI	0
BANGRIPOSHI	2	KASINAGAR	0
BARASAHI	5	KHAJURIPADA	2
BARIPADA	50	KHALIKOTE	5
BETANATI	0	DHETRI	0
BISOI	0	BERHAMPUR	0
CHITRADA	0	KODALA	1
DEULI	0	KUDUTAI	0
DUKURA	9	KUKUDAKHANDI	2
GORUMAHISANI	0	KULADA	1
JAMASALA	0	MAHANANDAPUR	0
JAMDA	0	MANITORA	0
JHARADIHI	4	MOHANA	3
JHARPOKHARIA	4	MUJAGADA	0
JOSHIPUR	5	NARENDRAPUR	0
KAPTIPADA	0	NUAPADA	0
KARANJIA	21	NUPHENTHA	0
KHUNTA	6	PADAMPUR	2
KOSTHA	8	PANCHABHUTI	1
KUAMARA	1	PARLAKHEHUNDI	22
LAXMIPOSI	4	PATAPUR	2
PATHURI	0	PATRAPUR	1
PURANA BARIPADA	1	PITATALI	0
RAIRANGAPUR	53	PITOLA	0
RASAGOVINDPUR	5	POLASARA	3
SANKERKO	0	PUDAMARI	1
SUKRULI	7	PURUSOTAMPUR	2
SULJAPADA	0	R. SUMANDI	3
TIRINGI	0	R. UDAYAGIRI	3
UDALA	0	RAIGADA	3
ADAVA	0	RAMSGIRI	1
ASKA	6	RAMBHA	1
B.D. PUR	0	SATAMILO	2
BADASDADA	0	JUNCTION	0
BALIPADAR	2	SERGADA	1
BALISIRA	0	SIDHESWAR	0
BATAKUMUDA	0	SIHALA	6
BEGUNIAPADA	0	SOLDGHAR	2
BELGUNTHA	2	SUMANDAL	0
BERHAMPUR	523	SURADA	1
BHANJANAGAR	0	SURANONI	0
BHEJIPUT	0	TURUBUDI	1
BHISMAGIRI	3	BALIGUDA	0
BOMAKAI	0	BAUSUNI	1
BUDHAAMBA	0	BIRANARASINGHPUR	0
BUGUDA	2	BOUD	2
C. TIKARAPADA	0	BRAHMANIGAON	0
CHANDIPUT	0	CHAKAPAD	1
CHANDRAGIRI	0	DARINGIBADI	3
CHATRAPUR	14	DHALPUR	0
CHELIGADO	0	S. UDAYAGIRI	3
CHIKTI	2	GUTINGIA	0
CHIRKPADASASAN	0	HARBHANGA	1
DAKHINAPUR	0	JANPANK	1
DHARAKOTE	0	KANTAMAL	3
DIGAPAHANDI	2	KHAJURIPADA	3
GALLERY	0	KOTGARH	1
GANJAM	0	LINGAGDADA	0
GOLANTARA	2	NUAGAON	0
GONDALA	0	PABURIA	0
GOPALPUR ON SEA	3	PALASAGUDA	0
GUSANIGARBANDHA	0	PHIRINGIA	1
GUMBA	10	PHULBANI	1
GURUNTHI	0	PURNA CUTTACK	3
HADASHANGI	2	RAIKIA	2
HINJLIKUT	7	SARANGAGARH	0
SIMANBADI			

TIKABALI	2	PURI	82
TUMUDIBANDH	0	RAJRAPUR	3
AISINIA	70	RAJSUNAKHALA	4
ASTARANGA	3	RETANG	10
BASHAMARI	3	SAKHIGOPAL	2
BAHADAJHALA	1	SARADA	0
BAJPUR	0	SARANKULA	2
BALAKATI	3	SATSANKHA	0
BALANSA	1	SIKO	0
BALIANTA	4	TAMANDO	17
BALIPATNA	9	TANGI	8
BALUGAON	3	BADMAL	3
BAMANAL	0	BANGAMUNDA	1
BANAMALIPUR	1	BELGAON	0
BASUDEYFUR	1	BELPORA	0
BESUNIA	3	BINKA	2
BHAPUR	1	BOLANGIR	14
BHUBNESWAR	1270	CHANABAHAR	0
E 108		CHANDANBHATI	0
BHUBNESWAR	906	CHHATAMAKHANA	0
X-BAR		CHUDAPALI	1
BHUSANDPUR	0	DEDGAON	0
BALAGARH	0	DUNGRIPALI	9
BRAHMAGIRI	4	HARISANKAR ROAD	2
CHANDAKA	215	KANTABANJI	3
CHANDANPUR	1	KHAMESWARIPALI	1
CHARICHAKA	1	LOISINGA	1
CHHAITANA	1	MURIBAHAL	2
DASPALLA	3	PATNAGARH	1
DOLANGA	2	S. RAMPUR	3
GABAKUNDA	1	SAINTALA ORD FAC	4
GADASANPUT	0	SALEBHATA	1
SAMBHARIMUNDA	0	SINAPALI	0
GANIA	4	SINDHEIKELA	5
GOP	1	SONEPUR	0
GUDUM	0	TARBHA	6
HALDIA	1	TIKARAPADA	2
INS CHILKA	9	TITTLUGARH	0
JANKIA	2	TUKLA	15
JANLA	6	TUREIKELA	0
JARIPATNA	1	TURSA	0
JATANI	4	BEHERA	1
JHINTISASAN	0	BELTUNGAJ	0
KAKATPUR	8	BHAWANIPATNA	3
KALYANPUR	0	DHARAMBANDHA	1
KAMAGURI	0	DHARAMGADA	2
KANAS	3	JAIPATNA	4
KANTI	4	JUNAGARH	2
KANTILO	2	KAMNA	3
KAUSALYAGANGA	3	KESINGA	0
KHANDAPARA	0	KHARIAR ROAD	4
KHELLAR	0	LADUGAON	5
KHURDA	6	LANJIGARH	2
KONARK	3	M. RAMPUR	2
KURAM	0	NARLA ROAD	2
MAHIPUR	0	NANAPADATANWAT	3
MALUD	0	RAJKHARIAR	0
MANCHESWAR	234	RUPRA ROAD	3
MANIKAGUDA	0	UTKELA	0
MENDHASAL	2	ADHANGAGADA	0
MUKUNDASPUR	3	AKHUAPADA	0
MACHUNI	0	ANGALO	4
NAGPUR	0	AREEKANA	2
NAHARKANTA	5	ATHGARH	0
NANDIGHAR	01	AUL	4
NARANGARH	51	BHAHUGRAM	6
NAYAHAT	1	BATLAISHIMOOZA	6
NIMAPARA	10	BALIKUDA	1
NIRAKARPUR	1	BALITUTHA	0
NUAGAON	0	BANKI	0
ODAGAON	8	BARAMBA	5
PANASPADA	0	BARANGA	5
PIPIL	1	BARI	8

BARUA	0	PATEMUNDAI	1
BARUNDET	0	PATKURA	1
BAULANGA	3	PHULNAKHARA	3
BANJHARPUR	9	PURAN	0
BIRIBATI	11	RAGHUNATHPUR	0
BIRIDA	4	RAJKANIKA	2
BORIKINA	2	RAJNAGAR	2
BRAHMABARADA	6	RAMBAG	3
BRAHMANIPAL	0	SAFA	3
CHADHEIDHARA	3	SALAPUR	3
CHHATA	0	SANKHATRASH	2
CHHATIA	5	SINGHPUR	4
CHOUDAKULAT	0	SINGJIRI	2
CHOUDWAR	36	SUWANPUR	2
CUTTACK CRLU	0	SUKHINDA	2
CUTTACK MAHATAB ROAD	23	SUNGRA	0
CUTTACK UNIT I & II	339	TALABASTA	0
DAITARI	2	TANGI	9
DANPUR	3	TARIKUNDA	7
DASARATHAPUR	1	TIGIRIA	6
DHANMONDAL	9	TIRAN	1
DUBURI	0	ANANDAPUR	18
ERASAMA	3	TIRTEL	4
GAJENDRAPUR	1	TULASIPUR	1
GOPALPUR	3	ANUGUL	76
GOVINDPUR	5	ATHMALLIK	2
GUROJJIHATI	1	BADAKERA	1
INTPUR	2	BAGEDIA	1
SAGATPUR	6	BALANI	0
JAGATSINGHPUR	34	BANAISINGH	0
JAIPUR	1	BANARPAL	1
JAIPUR ROAD	23	BANSPAL	0
JAIPUR TOWN	9	BANTALA	1
JAKHAPURA	0	BARBIT	29
JARAKA	5	BATTO	0
KABATBANDHA	5	BELDA	0
KADUAPADA	0	BHAPUR	1
KALAN	6	BHUBAN	1
KALAPATHAR	4	BILEIPADA	0
KALIAPANI	26	BOINDA	1
KANAKPUR	2	CHAMPUR	2
KANDARPUR	2	CHANDIPADA	2
KARILOPATHNA	2	DEOGAON	2
KATTAN	0	DHAKATA	0
KATIKATA	3	DHENKANAL	72
KANDRAPARA	8	DHENKIKATE	0
KANDPATNA	1	GANDANALI	12
KHAUNTUNI	3	GANDIA	2
KISHORNAGAR	4	GHATGAON	1
KUAKHIA	12	GODIBANDHA	0
KORUA	1	GOVINDAPUR	1
KRISHNANANDAPUR	0	GUNSIBIL	0
KUANPAL	7	HARICHANDANPUR	0
KUJANGA	3	HATDIHI	0
KUMUDA-JAIPUR	0	HINDAL	2
KUNDAL	2	HINDOL ROAD	2
KUSUPUR	9	JAJANG	0
MAHAKALPADA	3	JARAPADA	1
MARSHAGHAI	2	JIRAL	0
MOUDA	5	JODA	17
NALIBAR	0	JORANDA	0
NANDIPUR	0	JYOTIPUR	0
NARENDRAPUR	2	KAIMATI	1
NEMAL	5	KALAMCHUIN	0
NARSINGHPUR	0	KAMAKHYA NAGAR	8
NIALI	5	KANTHA	10
NISCHINTA-KOILI	8	KESADURPAL	0
NUAGAON HAT	2	KANDADUHADA	0
OLTPUR	8	KADNJHAR	150
OSTAR	1	KHARJURIA-KATA	0
PANIKAILI	1	KHAMARA	0
PRADEEP	17	KIRIBURU	0
PRADEEPGARH	0	MATHAKARGOLA	0

MERAMUNDALI	2	BARGARH	0
NAKACHI	0	BARPALLI	178
NALCONAGAR	12	BELPAHAR	4
PAIKASAH	0	BHATLI	5
PALASPANGA	0	BHEDEN	0
PALLAHARA	2	BHUKTA	0
PANDUA	0	BIJEPUR	0
PINGUA	0	DIRMAHARAJPUR	2
PARIANG	0	BOIPUR	0
RAISUAN	0	BRAJARAJNAGAR	2
RAJKISHORE-NAGAR	1	BURLA	27
RAMACHANDRAPUR	0	CHICHINDA	0
RASOL	1	DEOGARH	2
REMULI	0	DHAMA	0
RENGALI	2	DUNGRI	0
SAMAL		GAISILATE	1
SANKARPURA	0	GHESS	1
SOUTH BALANDA	0	GUDABHAGA	3
SUAKATI	0	GOSHALA	1
SUAMPATNA	0	HATIBARI	0
TALCHER	23	HIRAKUD	11
TALMULA	0	IBATHERMAL	1
TORATARA	0	JAMAKIRA	0
TELKOI	0	JHARBANDHA	1
TULSIPAL	0	JHARSUGUDA	109
TURUMUNGA	0	JUJUMARA	0
AMBADOL	1	KADABAHAL	0
AMBAGUDA	0	KATAPALLI	1
BALIMELA	1	KIRIMIRA	0
BANDHUGAON	0	KUCHINDA	2
BISAM CUTTACK	0	KUNTRA	0
BOIPARIGUDA	0	LAIDA	0
BORIGUMA	1	LASTOLA	1
CHANDAHANDI	1	MANDOSIL	1
DHANDRAPUR	0	MATHILI	0
CHITRAKENDA	0	MUNIGUDA	8
DUBUGAON	1	NANDAPUR	0
DAMANJODI	6	NARAYANPATNA	0
DANGARBHEJA	1	NOWRANGPUR	62
GUNUPUR	0	PADAMPUR	0
DASAMANTAPUR	0	PAPADAHANDI	0
GUDARI	0	PODUA	0
J.K. PUR	7	POTTANGI	1
JAGANNATHPUR	0	RATGHAR	0
JEYPORE	52	RAMANGUDA	0
JHARIGAON	0	RAYAGADA	154
JIMDIPETA	0	SIKARPAI	0
K. SINGHPUR	1	RAYAGADA	79
KALIMELA	0	SIKARPAI	0
KASIPUR	0	SUNABEDA	0
KANDUGUDA	1	TENTULIKHUNTI	20
KODINGA	0	THERUBALI	0
KORAPUT	4	UMARKUTE	2
KUJENDRI	0	BALISANKARA	0
KOTPAD	8	BAMRA	0
KUJENDRI	0	BANAIGARH	22
KUNDRA	0	BARGAON	0
LAMPATAPUR	0	BARSUAN	0
LAXIPUR	1	BRAMITRAAPUR	0
M.V. 79	0	BISHRA	0
MALKANGIRI	11	DARLIPALLI	0
RAJGANGPUR	6	GARPOSH	2
ROUKELA PLANT	363	GOMARDIHI	0
ROUKELA TOWNSHIP	708	GOPALPUR	0
RUPIDIHI	0	HEMGIAI	9
SARGIPALLI	0	JARAIKELA	0
SUBDEGA	0	KALTA	4
SUNDARGARH	12	KALUNGA	0
TENSA	1	KANIKA	0
BIHALAGARH	0	KANSBHHAL	0
ATTABIRA		KINJIRIKELA	0
BAGDEHI	2	KOIRA	0
BANDHABAHAL	1	KUMARMUNDI	2

LAHUNIPADA	0
LATHIKATA	2
LEFRIPADA	0
MANGESHPUR	0
NUJAGAN	0
PURUNAPANI	0
RAIDOGA	0
MANESWAR	2
MELCHHAMUNDA	2
PADAMPUR	2
PADIAABAHAL	2
PAIKHAL	2
PARAMANPUR	1
RAIRAKHOL	3
REMENDA	2
RENGALI	3
SAHASPUR	2
SAMBALPUR	273
SAMBALPUR	1
SARALA	2
SASAN	0
SATAPALLI	2
SIALKHANDATEA	1
SINDURPANK	3
SOHELA	1
TALPATTA	8
MUKULISH	0
MUTTO	0
KERAPADA	5
VINJARPUR	1
SINHI	1
TIKIRI	1
DHUTN	0
REHMAL	0
BANKOTI	1
CHHATIKANA	0

Kudremukh Iron Ore and MEC Contract with Iran

86. SHRI VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited and Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two leading Iranian Companies; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the MOU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) has signed an agreement with M/s. Ahwaz Steel Complex, a unit of National Iranian Steel Company for providing technical services and consultation to M/s. Ahwaz Steel Complex. KIOCL and the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited (MECON) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for providing jointly the requisite technical assistance to the Iranian Steel Plant.

[Translation]

Seizure of Trawlers

87. SHRI VISWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has recently seized some Indian trawlers in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, the number thereof and when they were seized;

(c) whether the Government has requested the Government of Bangladesh to release the seized trawlers; and

(d) if so, the response to the request?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) According to information available with us, a total of 39 Indian trawlers were seized by the Bangladesh authorities between August 1989 and December 1994. Since January 1, 1995, 14 more trawlers have reportedly been seized alongwith 205 crew members.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Government of Bangladesh has responded that the trawlers have been confiscated for illegal entry into the Bangladesh territorial waters. All the crew members of the 39 trawlers seized between August 1989 and December 1994 have been released after detention of one month under the Bangladesh Control of Entry Act.

[English]

French Submarines to Pakistan

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of a recent arms deal under which France has decided to sell three Agosta-90 B submarines to Pakistan;

(b) whether the proposed sale of these submarines is likely to disturb the equilibrium in the region; and

(c) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) & (c) Government have conveyed to the Government of France their serious concerns over the negative impact of the transfer of this sophisticated weapons system on the security environment in the region.

Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

89. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the long pending UN Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace;

(b) whether the project has been abandoned;

(c) whether any alternative proposal of holding a Conference of the Littoral States for promoting political dialogue and economic cooperation is under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) This is still under active discussion in the UN's Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. However, three of the permanent members of the Security

Council, who are major maritime powers, have not been participating in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. Without their presence, the UN Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would not be able to take meaningful decisions.

(c) No alternative Conference under UN auspices or encompassing all the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

External Assistance for Repair of Roads

890. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the State Government had sent proposals through Union Government to World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japanese Government for sanction of financial aid for repair of roads;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have been able to secure the loans from the above sources;

(c) the quantum of loan secured from these world bodies so far; and

(d) the time by which these loans are likely to be provided to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) Proposals from some State Governments have been received to obtain loan assistance from World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japanese Government for improvement of State roads. However, no financial aid has so far been secured. It is too early to indicate the time which the loans are likely to be provided.

Expansion of National Highways in A.P.

891. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh are under the process of expansion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Four laning from Km. 358/0 to 395/875 of Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section and Km. 0 to 2.80 Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5 is in progress in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 83.33 crores. The project is targetted to be completed by 31st January, 1997.

[Translation]

Export of Steel by SAIL

892. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India is exporting high quality steel; and

(b) if so, the names of the importing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) During the current financial year 1994-95, SAIL has exported prime quality mild steel to the following countries:

China, Japan, Malaysia, USA, Indonesia, Korea, Nepal, Hongkong, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh, UAE, Canada, Spain, Germany, Australia and Italy.

(ii) SAIL has also exported stainless steel to the following countries during the year 1994-95:

Taiwan, Germany, USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Holland, Hong Kong, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and West Asian countries.

Funds provided to States for Power Projects

893. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided funds to Madhya Pradesh for power generation during 1994-95; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILLABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The power sector outlay for the state of Madhya Pradesh for the year 1994-95 is Rs. 817.16 crores out of which the outlay for power generation is Rs. 443.81 crores.

[English]

Speed Post Network

894. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be please to state:

(a) the steps proposed to be taken to upgrade and expand speed post facilities in various States in competition with the private parties and funds provided for the same;

(b) whether the Government have received a report from Experts Committee on expansion and modernisation of speed post network in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(d) the names of the places already covered and the places proposed to be covered under the speed post scheme in Goa during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Various steps are being taken to upgrade the Speed Post service to compete with private couriers as:

- (i) Network expansion based on traffic prospects.
- (ii) Provision of Letter lodgement facilities through well-equipped and computerised business offices.
- (iii) Use of Computers to facilitate speedy processing of operations.
- (iv) Prompt response to enquiries.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There was no Experts Committee on expansion and modernisation of Speed-post network.

(d) Panaji is the only station in Goa on the Speed Post network. Panaji is connected to all national network stations and all inter-national network of countries.

At Panaji, six locations provide the facility namely:
 (i) Panaji (ii) Margao (iii) Mapusa (iv) Vasco Da Gama (v) Bicholim (vi) Ponda

Post Offices in Kerala

895. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be please to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to open new Post Offices in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any representation for upgrading Branch Post Offices has been received;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Two branch post offices and 12 sub post offices are proposed to be opened during the year 1994-95.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Telephone under N.C.R.

896. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be please to state:

- (a) the names of the cities covered under the National Capital Region having the facility of direct telephone from Delhi;
- (b) whether this facility is not available for Meerut city;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any proposal to provide direct telephone facility for Meerut is under consideration of the Government; and
- (e) if so, by when a final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) (1) Faridabad (2) Ballabgarh (3) Kundli (4) Gurgaon (5) Bahadurgarh (6) Ghaziabad (7) Noida (8) Loni.

(b) Yes, Sir. this facility is not available.

(c) When two telephone systems of adjacent short Distance charging Areas have common Exchange boundaries, the calls from one system to the other are

treated as local calls, Merrut and Delhi are not adjacent Short Distance area and do not fall under this category.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of answer to part (d) above.

[English]

Four Laning of National Highway-5

897. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be please to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in the construction work of the four laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5 in Orissa;

(b) the expected date of the beginning of the work; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There has been some delay in starting the work due to the process of selecting contractors and supervision consultants for different packages of the project in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank under whose loan assistance the project is being executed.

(b) and (c) The works on these packages have commenced and are targeted to be completed by July, 1998.

[Translation]

Thermal Power Plants in Gujarat

898. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) the number of Thermal Power Plants functioning in Gujarat as on January 31, 1995;

(b) the quantity of power generated by these power plants;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up some more Thermal Power Plants in Gujarat with Central assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Fifteen thermal power plants were functioning in the State of Gujarat as on January 31, 1995.

(b) During April 1994—January 1995, 22158 MU of power was generated by these power plants.

(c) to (e) Central assistance is provided to the States in the form of block loans and block grants and is not related to any specific project/programme.

World Bank Aid to U.P.

899. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be please to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has prepared the Uttar Pradesh Urban Development Project for the development of the important towns of the State to get aid from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has prepared any other project with International Development Assistance (IDA) etc. for the development and for improving the facilities in the slums; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The proposal sent by the Uttar Pradesh Government which is in the form of an approach document, contains the following components : shelter, municipal services, water supply and sanitation, traffic and transportation, technical assistance and training etc. The estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 600 crores. The Project is proposed to be completed in 6 years. The Project was discussed by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment with the officials of the World Bank. However, since a rethinking is going on at the Bank at present regarding the funding of urban sector projects, it is not possible to comment as to when the project is going to be considered by the World Bank.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

900. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of STEEL be please to state:

(a) whether mounting losses incurred by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited is seriously affecting the very financial viability of the public sector giant;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for mounting losses in VSP; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring VSP out from the red?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Company is expected to turn around and attain 100 percent capacity utilisation by the year 1996-97 and earn net profit by the year 1997-98. The Company has not been able to achieve this target so far due to the following reasons:—

(i) Heavy capital related charges towards interest and depreciation.

(ii) Initial gestation period.

(iii) Increase in cost of inputs.

(iv) Recessionary market trends.

(v) Problems faced in the stabilisation of production in the Steel Melt Shop and continuous Casting Machines due to certain unanticipated logistics problems, skill gaps, inadequate automation and requirement of additional facilities subsequent to commencement of operation.

(c) For making the Company financially viable, Government of India approved in July, 1993 the proposal for restructuring the capital base of the Company. With this, the Company received a relief of over Rs. 350 crores per year on interest payment due to conversion of outstanding Government loans partially into equity and partially into 7% Non-Cumulative Preference Shares. Further, the Company has also taken up modifications as well as installation of additional facilities in the Steel Melt Shop and Continuous Casting Machines and obtaining necessary technological assistance from reputed foreign firm in order to achieve the target.

[Translation]

Coal Based Power Stations in M.P.

901. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals under consideration to set up coal based power houses through private sector in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the locations and the capacity thereof;

(c) the quantum of coal required each year for each power station; and

(d) whether assent of Coal India Limited has been received in regard to meet the requirement of coal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of proposals under consideration to set up coal based power houses through private sector in M.P. are as under:—

S.N.	Name of the Project	Location (Dist.)	Capacity (Proposed)
1.	Pench TPS	Chhindwara	500 MW
2.	Bhilai TPS	Durg	500 MW
3.	Korba West Extn. TPS	Bilaspur	420 MW
4.	Korba West TPS	Bilaspur	500 MW
5.	Bina TPS	Sagar	1000 MW
6.	Birsinghpur TPS	Shahdol	500 MW
7.	Korba East TPS	Bilaspur	500 MW
8.	Raigarh TPS	Raigarh	1000 MW

(c) Out of the above mentioned power projects, annual coal requirement of three projects are available which are as under:—

S. No.	Name of the Project	Estimated annual coal requirement (In Mt.)
1.	Korba West TPS	2.35
2.	Pench TPS	2.00
3.	Bhilai TPS	2.47

(d) No, Sir.

N.R.I. Licences for Beer production

902. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced any new policy for issue of licence to Non Resident Indians for production of beer etc.;

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

(c) the incentives to be given to Indian citizens in setting up such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No fiscal or financial incentives are given by the Government of India to Indian citizens or NRIs.

[English]

Employment for Rural Women in FPI

903. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of rural women are being employed in the Food Processing Industries;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme to assist women to start their own business;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Ministry does not operate any specific scheme targetted only for women. However, the Ministry is assisting in setting up of Food Processing Training Centres in the rural areas and assistance has been provided through the first 3 years of the 8th Plan for setting up 140 such centres. These Centres besides training, would, alongwith District Industries Centres and State Nodal Agencies, disseminate information on various aspects of Food Processing. Emphasis for training rural women in the Agro Food Industries is given in the Food Processing Training Centres so as to ensure that they get "hands-on experience" in setting up and managing small Food Processing Units. Finances are available for women entrepreneurs from Mahila Udyog Nidhi Scheme operated by SIDBI.

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway-2

904. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders have already been invited for implementation of the project for widening of Mathura and Agra road on the National Highway No. 2 and converting it into four lane road; and

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken thereon, and construction work started on this project?

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

(b) As the work is in tendering stage, it is too early to indicate the date of start of the work.

[English]

Four Laning of Road

905. PORF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Alwaye-Cochin-Quilon-Trivandrum route has been indentified for four laning;

(b) if so, whether Trichur-Ernakulam is also included in the plan for four laning;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The work of four laning of Alwaye to Vyttila and Aroor to Sharthalai sub-sections of Alwaye - Cochin - Quilon - Trivandrum route is under progress.

(b) & (c) Land acquisition for four laning work between Chalakudy to Alwaye sub-section of Trichur - Ernakulam section is included in the 8th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crore.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Coal by SAIL

906. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has decided to import Coal from Australia and China;

(b) if so, the reasons for importing coal instead of using indigenous coal;

(c) whether before taking the decision to increase import of coal, the SAIL has consulted the Coal India Limited (CIL);

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of CIL thereto;

(e) the quantity of coal likely to be imported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 as compared to earlier years and the foreign exchange involved therein;

(f) whether the imported coal is cost-efficient vis-a-vis the indigenous coal; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India has been importing "Low Ash Metallurgical Prime Coking Coal" mostly from Australia. However, one ship load has been imported from China in the current financial year. SAIL imports coking coal to bridge the quantitative and qualitative gap between SAIL's requirements and availability from indigenous sources.

(c) & (d) The requirements of coking coal for integrated steel plants including SAIL and the availability of coal are discussed in the joint meeting of the Ministry of Steel, Coal, Railways, Planning Commission, Steel Authority of India Limited, Coal India Ltd. etc. held in January/February every year. Imports are decided based on the gap between the requirements of steel plants and availability of coking coal from indigenous sources.

(e) SAIL plan to import 6 MT of coking coal during 1995-96. The quantity to be imported during 1996-97 will depend on the availability of indigenous coal during 1996-97. The details of imports during the last three years (based on actual receipts) are as under:

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (upto Dec., 94)
1. Total Quantity (Million tonnes)	4.248	4.750	3.865
2. Foreign exchange involved US \$ million (Coal invoice value plus freight paid in US \$ to the foreign vessels engaged against FOB (T) contracts.)	229.1	247.3	203.6
3. Approx. value including freight in crores Rupees (approx. Rs. equivalent of Sl. No. 2 plus the freight paid to the freight paid to Indian vessels in Indian Rupees)	779.6	889.1	719.2

(f) and (g) The imported coking coal is cost efficient due to low ash and superior coking propensities as compared to indigenous coking coal. Better quality of coking coal with low ash content improves coke quality and reduces the coke rate. This in turn improves blast furnace productivity and reduces the production cost.

Widening of National Highway-17

907. SHRI P. C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some requests for strengthening and widening of National Highway No. 17 have been received from Government of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these requests also include widening of

National Highway No. 17 between kodungallore and Paravur;

(d) whether any decision on these requests has since been taken; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYLER): (a) No proposal for strengthening and widening of NH 17 has been received from the Government of Kerala.

(b) to (e) The question does not arise.

Transportation of Urea

908. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of railway wagons for transporting Urea,

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Railways; and

(c) if so, the response of the Ministry of Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The overall availability of railway wagons for movement of urea during the current Rabi season has been satisfactory. It has contributed to the acceleration in despatches of urea, which have totalled 81.68 lakh tonnes during the period from october 1994 to February 1995 as compared to despatches of 69.88 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period of Rabi 1993-94. In a transport operation of this magnitude, localised imbalances in demand and wagon availability are bound to occur. During the busy season, the competing demands from other core sector industries occasionally result in a time lag between placement of demand and supply of wagons. Such bottlenecks are removed through inter-ministerial coordination.

Selling of Heroin for Covert Operations

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sharif alleges drugs-for-arms plan" appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated September 13, 1994; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware that Pakistan is aiding and abetting the cross-border terrorism directed against India out of finances from different sources including funds generated through trafficking in drugs and narcotics.

Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to counter terrorists, and will remain vigilant about material, financial or any other support extended from outside quarters in sustenance of activities directed against India.

[Translation]

Trade related Intellectual Property Rights

910. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of drugs patented after the implementation of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), are likely to increase;

(b) if so, the projected percentage increase in prices; and

(c) the names of medicines whose prices are likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the prices of drugs, patented after the coming into force of the TRIPS Agreement will depend on a number of factors, including the nature of the availability of the therapeutic equivalent substitute non-patented drugs in the market, licensing and marketing strategies adopted by the Patent holders, including the option of the local manufacturing and interplay of market forces.

[English]

Green Peace on India's Nuclear Policy

911. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the current report of an international environmental group, Green Peace, containing wrong data and inaccuracies in respect of India's nuclear policy and capabilities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is aware that Green peace has recently published a booklet entitled "Nuclear Proliferation Reports" which also includes a report on India.

(b) Government has been reiterating in all relevant multilateral fora that its nuclear programme is exclusively geared towards peaceful purposes.

Assistance to Japan

912. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided relief materials to Japan for earthquake victims in Kobe; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Relief materials consisting of Baby Milk Powder, Biscuits, Pencils, Erasers, Sanitary Napkins, Woolen Blankets and Tea valued at Rs. 2.97 crores including freight and handling charges have been supplied.

S.T.D. FACILITY in U.P.

913. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of districts in the hill areas of Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh so far connected with STD facility;

(b) the number of village Panchayats provided with this facility so far; and

(c) the proposed programme to provide this facility in the remaining Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As on 28.2.95, STD facility has been given to five districts of the hill areas of Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Such facility is yet to be provided to village Panchayat public telephones of this region.

(c) Govt. has adopted a policy to provide STD facility from the village public telephones wherever found technically feasible.

[Translation]

Gurgaon Road

914. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for widening of Gurgaon road proceeding towards Indira Gandhi International Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There is provision in the 8th Five Year Plan, 1992-97, for widening of Gurgaon road (NH No. 8) from 4 lane to 6 lane from Km. 19 to 30.

Privatisation of Telecom Services

915. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision regarding privatisation of telecommunication services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date from which the above mentioned decision is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether Social Audit Panel has criticised the privatisation policy of Telecom Services;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The private sector is being allowed to enter the field of providing basic services along with the Department of Telecom. as per the National Telecom Policy.

(b) and (c) The Government has invited tenders (with effect from 16-1-1995) from Indian registered Companies to supplement the efforts of the Department of Telecommunication for provision of basic telephone services and the last date for submission of tenders in this regard is 30th March, 1995.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

Cellular Telephones

916 SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been some cases of awarding contracts for cellular phones without following the norms/

rules and the observations of Delhi High Court/Supreme Court;

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

(c) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) No Sir. The Hon'ble High Court and Supreme Court upheld the selection criteria adopted by DOT. However, in case of certain bidders, a reconsideration of the bids was ordered by the Hon'ble Courts and same was done before awarding the contracts. The selection criteria relating to eligibility; technical, commercial and financial conditions was uniformly supplied to all the bidders.

[Translation]

Employment in PSUs

917. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in the various aluminium producing Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the export performance of each of these units during the last three years; and

(c) the projected production and exports to be made by each of these units during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) The number of persons employed in National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO) and Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) the two producers of aluminium metal in the Public Sector in the country is as follows:—

NALCO - 6,085

BALCO - 7,608

(b) The export performance of NALCO and BALCO during the last three years has been as follows:

(Quantity tonnes)/Value (Rs. crores)

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
NALCO	3,76,435	172.65	4,25,816	209.66	3,71,009	181.63
Alumina						
Aluminium	81,117	213.67	85,771	326.70	60,037	229.69
BALCO						
Alumina					149	0.10
Aluminium	273	1.78	170	0.95	28	0.15

(c) The projections of production of aluminium during 8th Plan of NALCO and BALCO are 10,21,000 MT and 4,75,000 MT, respectively. During the 8th Plan NALCO plans to export 3,40,000 tonnes of aluminium. BALCO has

not made any projection of export of aluminium during the 8th Plan.

For 9th Plan no projection for production and export have been made by these Companies so far.

Hindi Officers in Missions

918. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government review the work of Hindi Officers posted in the Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the number of such officers, who were not found doing their official work in Hindi and the action taken against them; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor and the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) At present Hindi Officers are posted the Indian Missions in Port Louis, Port of Spain, London, Georgetown and Paramaribo. They are performing their duties for propagation of Hindi and implementation of Official Language Policy in their respective Missions satisfactorily.

(c) Does not arise.

Electrification in Harijan Colonies

919. SHRI CHHEDI IASWAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to provide power connections in Harijan colonies and in tribal villages on priority basis;

(b) if so, the instructions given to the various State Governments, Rural Electrification Corporation and its allied agencies in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the above proposal has been implemented in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) With a view to providing electricity connections to Harijan Colonies and Tribal Villages on priority basis, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been extending concessional assistance to State Electricity Boards (SEBs) on preferential terms and conditions. REC has also been advising the SEBs to take up electrification of Harijan Colonies along with the main villages. Further, SEBs have been recently requested to instal distribution transformers at the Harijan Colonies, as part of the village electrification schemes.

(c) As per the available information, 2,62,960 Harijan Colonies and 78,091 tribal villages have been electrified upto December, 1994.

[English]

New Telecom System

920. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI P.C. CHACKO:
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a system which is the prototype of British Telecom. Network, specifically the system in use for external plant records data capture and purification, initially in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any high level delegation was sent to U.K. to study this system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A Pilot project to improve the reliability of cable data and records is contemplated in Bombay and Delhi with over two million telephones. Suitability of such a system which checks on correctness of external plant records and tests the cable pairs for faults is under examination. Such systems are also in use in U.K. Telecom System.

(c) and (d) Two JAG Officers, one from MTNL and one from TEC, were deputed to London for 6 days to study the system working in London.

(e) No final decision has been taken in the matter.

[Translation]

National Highways in Maharashtra

921. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of the National Highways in Maharashtra; and

(b) the financial assistance provided for the maintenance of National Highways in 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 2918 Km.

(b) An amount of Rs. 16.63 crores has been released to the State Government of Maharashtra in respect of maintenance/repair of National Highways during 1994-95 so far.

[English]

Road Transport

922. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue accrued to the Centre from road transport has increased many fold compared to the expenditure on roads made by the Centre during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The collection of revenue on road transport and the expenditure on maintenance and development of roads are basically State subjects. The mode of collection of revenue on road transport is of different types such as octroi, toll on

bridges, passenger tax, permit fee, fees on motor vehicles etc. Further, these differs from State to State. Therefore, no consolidated record in this regard is available. However, it is estimated that the expenditure on roads and road transport is 30% of the revenue collected on road transport.

Government Accommodation

923. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any plans to construct more residential accommodation for Central Government Employees in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed to be taken to clear the huge backlog in allotment of Government accommodation to the employees?

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

(b) I. The number of quarters under construction and recently sanctioned are as under:

UNDER CONSTRUCTION:

A (i) Nehru Nagar	T-III Qrs.	135 Nos.
(ii) M.B. Road	T-IV Qrs.	112 Nos.

RECENTLY SANCTIONED:

B (i) Sector X R.K. Puram	T-V Qrs.	200 Nos.
(ii) -do-	T-V Qrs.	94 Nos.
(iii) -do-	T-IV Qrs.	96 Nos.
(iv) -do-	Hostels	106 Suites
(v) DiZ Area	T-III	60 Nos.
(vi) Minto Road	T-IV	56 Nos.

II. Land for construction of residential accommodation at the following places has been identified and the proposals are at the planning stage:—

- (i) Land at Rouse Avenue (Mata Sunder Area)
- (ii) Land at Dev Nagar.
- (iii) Land near INA Mkt. (Aiganj Area).
- (iv) Land in Moti Bagh.
- (v) Land in Vasant Vihar.
- (vi) Land at Ghatomi.

(c) Depending upon the availability of funds, schemes will be formulated for construction of Government accommodation for clearing the backlog.

Fax Machines

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

(a) the places in West Bengal from where demands for installation of Fax Machines & PCOs with STD have been received by his Ministry during 1993 and 1994;

(b) the places where these facilities have been provided as on December 31, 1994; and

(c) the places where these facilities are likely to be provided during 1995-96?

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

required information is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The required information is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) Bureau fax facility is likely to be provided in Kharagpur, Suri and Tamluk DTOs and Dinhat and Khagra Telecom Centres during 1995-96.

Statement-I

Demand for Bureau-Fax Centre received from

Year—1993 (1) I.I.T. Kharagpur (Installed in 1993)

(2) New Jalpaiguri Railway Station (Installed in 1993)

1994 (1) Canning (Installed in 1994)

(2) Dinhat (Installation targetted for 1995-96)

STATEMENT-II

Places in West Bengal where Fax & PCOs with STD have been provided as on 31.12.1994.

1. C.T.O. Calcutta	2. Barrackpore D.T.O.
3. Calcutta Alipur D.T.O.	4. Calcutta Bidhannagar D.T.O.
5. Calcutta ITO D.T.O.	6. Calcutta MG Road D.T.O.
7. Calcutta Park Street D.T.O.	8. Calcutta R.V. Avenue D.T.O.
9. Calcutta Shyam Bazar D.T.O.	10. Howrah D.T.O.
11. Krishnagar D.T.O.	12. Baraga D.T.O.
13. Calcutta Jadipur	14. Bandel D.T.O.
15. Calcutta Beadon Street D.T.O.	16. Calcutta Behala D.T.O.
17. Calcutta Entally D.T.O.	18. Calcutta Nagar Bazar D.T.O.
19. Calcutta Netaji Nagar D.T.O.	20. Shri Rampur D.T.O.
21. Ranaghat D.T.O.	22. Calcutta Esplanade T.C.
23. Howrah Railway Station T.C.	24. Uita Danga T.C.
25. Chinsurah T.C.	26. Chandan Nagar T.C.
27. Kadam Talia	28. R.G. Kar hospital T.C.
29. SSKM Hospital T.C.	30. Canning Town T.C.
31. Baguihat T.C.	32. Uiberia T.C.
33. Asansol D.T.O.	34. Bardwan D.T.O.
35. Bankura D.T.O.	36. Durgapur D.T.O.
37. Berhampore (WB) D.T.O.	38. Bolpur D.T.O.
39. Raniganj D.T.O.	40. Purulia D.T.O.
41. Midnapore D.T.O.	42. Durgapur Steel Plant T.C.
43. IIT Kharagpur T.C.	44. Siliguri D.T.O.
45. Jalpaiguri D.T.O.	46. Darjiling D.T.O.
47. Malda D.T.O.	48. Cooch Behar D.T.O.
49. Bakur Ghat D.T.O.	50. Raiganj D.T.O.
51. New Jalpaiguri R.S. T.C.	52. Asansol Railway Station T.C.

HUDCO Ties with South African Agencies

925. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO is negotiating with South African agencies to co-operate in the field of housing and urban development;

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

(c) whether HUDCO has the extra potential to meet the desired targets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) HUDCO participated in the INDEXPO-94

Exhibition held at Johannesburg in August 1994 and the projection of its achievements in the exhibition evinced a lot of interest on the South African side. This was followed up by the visit of Director General, Department of Housing, South Africa who sought HUDCO's assistance to the South African Govt.'s programme of providing one million houses in the 5 year period, 1994—99. Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding was executed between Director General, Deptt. of Housing, South Africa and CMD, HUDCO on 13.12.94 in which the areas of collaboration were identified. As provided in the MOU, HUDCO mission is presently visiting South Africa for identifying the specific action areas of cooperation between HUDCO and Department of Housing, South, Africa.

(c) and (d) The details of the Cooperation arrangement will depend on the outcome of the negotiations being conducted by the HUDCO Mission.

Assistance provided to Gujarat

926. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide assistance to the fruit and vegetable based industries in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided during the last two years and proposed to be provided during the next financial year; and

(c) whether certain schemes regarding fruit and vegetable-based industries in Gujarat are pending with the Government for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various developmental plan schemes which seek to provide assistance for setting up of new/expansion/upgradation of fruit & vegetable processing units in various States including Gujarat. The following assistance has been provided to Gujarat during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

Year	Amount of assistance released	Purpose
1992-93	—	—
1993-94	Rs. 2.30 lakhs	For setting up of one Food Processing and Training Centre

Besides, an assistance of Rs. 6.00 lakhs has been provided to Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. Ahmedabad for setting up of 2 Food Processing and Training Centres in the State of Gujarat. As the proposal seeking assistance has to be mooted by the organisation in the States concerned, extent of assistance to be provided in the next financial year is not possible to be anticipated at present.

A proposal from Gujarat Agro Industries Corpn. Ltd., Ahmedabad seeking assistance for setting up of Agro

Parlours in the State of Gujarat and Rajasthan has been received during the current financial year 1994-95. Action has already been initiated on it.

[Translation]

Foreign and Indian Companies

927. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Tele-communications has finalised its policy regarding entry of foreign and Indian Companies into the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any security measures would be adopted when the private foreign companies will control the telephone system in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has invited tenders from registered Indian Companies for their participation in supplementing efforts of Department of Telecom. for provision of basic telephone services as envisaged in the objectives of National Telecom. Policy 94 announced in May, 94 guidelines for implementation thereof were issued in September 94. A bidder company participating in the tender process may be a joint venture with foreign companies subject to condition that foreign equity in the company does not exceed 49%.

(c) and (d) In the conditions of the tenders specific clauses have been included where all foreign personnel to be deployed by the licensee for installation operation and maintenance of the licensee's network shall be security cleared by the Govt. of India prior to their deployment. There is also a provision for taking over the service equipment and the networks of the licences in part or in whole of the service area in case of emergency or war or low intensity conflict or any other eventuality in public interest as declared by the Government of India.

[English]

Indian POWs in Pak Jails

928. SHRI S.P. YADAV:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian POWs in jails in Pakistan;

(b) the reasons for their non-release by Pakistan;

(c) whether there are about 700 other Indians including women still in Pak jails;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts made/being made by the Government for the early release of Indian POWs and civilians from Pak jails?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) According to available information, 54 missing Indian defence personnel are believed to be in custody in Pakistan.

(b) Pakistan, unfortunately, has been maintaining that there are no such Indian defence personnel in its custody. It is regrettable that Pakistan has not yet responded positively to the numerous constructive proposals made by the Indian side over the years for resolving this humanitarian issue. Pakistan is yet to fulfil the specific commitment made by it at the Sixth Round of Foreign Secretary level talks in Delhi in August 1992 for entering into technical level consultations with India for resolving this long-standing issue to mutual satisfaction.

(c) and (d) According to available information, at present there are 1067 Indian civilian prisoners, including women, under detention in Pakistani jails.

(e) The question of the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan has repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. These efforts continue.

Urban Land Ceiling Act

929. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received a demand for repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Act;

(b) if so, the reasons stated for the demand;

(c) whether the repeal of the Act is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, since when and the reasons for not taking the decision thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a demand for repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 by State Governments.

(b) They wanted to frame their own Act to take into account their own Act to take into account their requirements and needs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

Bally Vivekananda Bridge

930. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bally Vivekananda Bridge over Ganga in Calcutta is a security hazard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Bally Vivekananda Bridge over Ganga in Calcutta is a rail cum road bridge, being maintained by the Railways. Some of the steel trough plates supporting the road deck have been found distressed and are being repaired/replaced for which necessary sanction has been accorded.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Indore in Basic Services Resources

931. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation for the inclusion of Indore in the Basic Services Resources Programme meant for urban poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) (a) No representation for inclusion of Indore under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Urban Basic Services for the Poor has been received.

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

[English]

Increase in Drug Prices

932. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Concern at proposed price hike of drugs' appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated February 18, 1995; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The news item has been seen. There will be no impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the prices of the existing drugs in the market whether patented or non-patented. The impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the drugs, which will be patented after the coming in force of the TRIPS Agreement will depend on a number of factors, including the nature of the availability of the therapeutic equivalent substitute non-patented drugs in the market, licencing and marketing strategies adopted by the patent holders, including the option of the local

the general scenario that might be prevailing in the international market.

[Translation]

Accommodation for P & T Employees

933. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target was fixed for construction of quarters for Post and Telegraph employees during last three years;

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

(c) whether the said target was fully achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) **Department of Post**

No, Sir.

Deptt. of Telecom.

The target is not fixed on yearly basis, however a target has been fixed to achieve 14% overall satisfaction level by end of 8th Five Year Plan (1992—97).

(b) to (e). **Department of Post**

Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Deptt. of Telecom.

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Nehru Rozgar Yojna

934. SHRI BALARAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of drawbacks exist in Nehru Rozgar Yojna as per the study conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in this regard recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the study conducted and the details of recommendations made in this regard; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to make this scheme successful?

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

(b) and (c) A gist of salient features of the study and steps taken by Government is given in Statement-I and II. No recommendations as such were made by the Audit.

The Yojana was launched with the objective of generating self-employment and wage-employment opportunities for the urban poor. Its implementation is being monitored vigorously to ensure that the benefits reach the target groups. Steps taken to accelerate the pace of implementation of the Yojana are given in Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Gist of Salient Features of Study on Implementation of Nehru Rozgar Yojana

1. The target of one million beneficiaries per year not expected to make any significant impact/dent on the problem of urban poor.

2. Shortfall in the achievements.

3. Non release of Central Share of funds on the basis of urban population and incidence of urban poverty and some States getting less than their due, while other got funds in excess of what they were entitled to.

4. Non utilisation of funds by States/UTs during 1989-90.

5. Partial utilisation of funds by majority of the States in the subsequent years.

6. Delay in release of State Share.

7. Delay in processing of loan applications under the Scheme of Micro Enterprises.

8. Special target group not fully covered.

9. Misutilisation of subsidy in some cases.

10. Subsidy loan ratio not mentioned in some cases.

11. Employment of private contractors/agencies under the Scheme of Wage Employment.

12. Material Labour Ratio not maintained under the Scheme of Urban Wage Employment.

13. Records of assets created not being maintained by some States under the Scheme of Urban Wage Employment.

14. The Scheme of Urban Wage Employment implemented in Cities with population more than one lakh.

15. Implementation of the Housing & Shelter Upgradation in towns with less than one lakh population.

16. State level monitoring units not set-up.

STATEMENT-II

Steps taken for Effective Implementation of the Nehru Rozar Yojana

(i) With effective from 1.4.92, a Management Information System (MIS) has been evolved for monitoring the Yojana. Most of the States have started sending progress report in the MIS Proforma.

(ii) To enable the State Government officials to fill up the MIS forms properly, several workshops have been held at various places with a view to explain the various columns of the MIS Proforma.

(iii) A High Powered Committee on Institutional Credit Support has been constituted and the Committee met twice in July, 1991 and Sept., 1993 to consider the various bottlenecks in the implementation of the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises through Institutional Finance by the Banks. Third Meeting of the High Powered Committee was held in September, 1994.

(iv) During the meeting of the High Powered Committee, the representative of RBI and Deptt. of

Economic Affairs suggested the association of banks alongwith the Urban Local Bodies in the identification process of beneficiaries under SUME. Accordingly, instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up Task Force at the local level viz. for each town covered/to be covered under the NRY. The composition of Task Force shall be the Chief Executive Officer/Municipal Commissioner, a representative of Lead Bank, a representative of two-three other major banks, a nominee of District Employment Office and if such a town is covered under Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) Programme, Community Organiser or Project Officer of UBSP may also be co-opted under the Task Force. Leading Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), if any, working in the area may also be associated preferably.

- (v) Four Meetings at the Secretary level were convened during June, 1991, February, 1992, April, 1993 and July, 1994 for reviewing the performance of NRY.
- (vi) Several review meetings have also been held with the representatives of States/UTs at Delhi as also the officers from the Ministry visited several States/UTs with a view to review the performance of NRY.
- (vii) Towards the last quarter of the 1993, Planning Commission has given the work of evaluation of NRY in five States namely, Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to Operations Research Group (ORG), Baroda. It is understood the ORG has since submitted the report to Planning Commission and their reaction to the said report is awaited.
- (viii) State specific letters indicating the performance on implementation of the Yojana, had been issued in September, 1993 again in September, 1994 to all State Govts./UT Administrators with a request to increase the tempo of performance so as to achieve the utilisation of unspent funds available with them.
- (ix) Due to non receipt of utilisation certificates from States, letters from the level of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Urban Development had been sent to all State Secretaries towards the end of 1993 followed by several reminders for expediting the utilisation certificates to enable this Ministry to release funds.
- (x) On the implementation of Scheme of Housing & Shelter Upgradation (SHASU), A D.O. letter from Joint Secretary in the Ministry had been sent to all State Secretaries in February, 1994 requesting them to submit more and more projects to Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for utilising the funds available for the purpose.
- (xi) The Scheme of Housing & Shelter Upgradation which, till now, was applicable to only towns with a

population between 1 lakh and 20 lakhs, has now been made applicable to all towns with a population between 1 lakh and 20 lakhs.

- (xii) The empowered committee on SHASU has approved diversion of funds from States, with whom funds remain unutilised for a period of two years, to better performing States.
- (xiii) Diversion of funds from poor performing States to better performing States under Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) has also been resorted to for the year 1994-95.

[Translation]

Road Accidents

935. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of road accidents is increasing constantly in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the number of accidents in Delhi and other cities during the last six months;
- (c) whether the Government propose to take some specific steps to curb these accidents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In Delhi 4822 accidents have been reported from Sept. 94 to Feb. 95. There are about 600 cities in the country and as no city has been specified, it is not possible to give information in respect of other cities.

(c) and (d) Steps being taken to curb accidents are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Steps taken/being taken to reduce accidents in Delhi.

1. 1995 is being observed as 'Road Safety Year'. All the State Governments have been requested to take effective measures to reduce road accidents and carry out various publicity campaigns throughout the year.
2. The Transport Department, Delhi has set up a Motor Driving Training School to impart driver training on scientific lines.
3. Measures have been taken to ensure strict compliance of provisions of Motor Vehicles Act with regard to issue of driving licences as well as fitness of the vehicles.
4. Refresher Courses for the drivers were started in November, 1992 and are going on. The drivers are subjected to proficiency test. Besides, training programmes are also being run by Loss Prevention Association of India. National Association of Critical Care Medicine (India), New Delhi has also conducted 60 one day training programmes for drivers at Inspection Pt., Burari, New Delhi which were attended by about 6,500 drivers.

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

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

(ii) Organising special drives against rash and negligent driving, driving without licence, drunken driving and red light jumping etc.

(iii) Regular prosecution of violators by issue of notice.

(iv) Introduction of traffic signals/blinders in accident prone areas.

(v) Deployment of more traffic policemen in accident prone areas.

(vi) Special mobile checking on National Highways.

(vii) Prosecution with the help of modern equipments, i.e. Alcometer and Radar Gun.

(viii) Taking out mobile exhibition van to different places for refresher courses.

(ix) Distribution of literature on road safety.

(x) The Delhi Traffic Police is regularly organising 'Special Prosecution Drives' against erring drivers to reduce road accidents and improve their behaviour. From January, 1994 to February, 1995, the Delhi Police arrested 10,082 erring drivers, impounded 7,644 vehicles and prosecuted 15,83,997 vehicles for various traffic violations.

[English]

Telephone Connections

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the persons applied for telephone connections till December 31, 1994, State-wise;

(b) the year upto which the telephone connections have been released as on December 31, 1994, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons who got registered their names in 1988 and no telephone connection have been provided to them upto December 31, 1994, State-wise; and

(d) the percentage of out of turn telephone connections released by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KUKH RAM): (a) Total number of persons applied and waiting for telephone connections till Dec. 31st, 1994 are given in the enclosed Statement.

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

STATEMENT

S. No. Circle/Unit	Waiting List as on 31-12-94
1. Andhra Pradesh	145936
2. Assam	15425
3. Bihar	35685
4. Gujarat (Including Dadar, Diu Daman and Nagar Haveli)	235972
5. Haryana	71058
6. Himachal Pradesh	19752
7. Jammu & Kashmir	21995
8. Karnataka	133605
9. Kerala (Including Lakshadweep (UT))	342240
10. Madhya Pradesh	61480
11. Maharashtra (Including Bombay and Goa)	334900
12. North East (Including Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	8414
13. Orissa	8383
14. Punjab (Including Chandigarh (UT))	204892
15. Rajasthan	184286
16. Tamil Nadu (Including Pondichery (UT))	340558
17. Uttar Pradesh	134133
18. West Bengal (Including Sikkim and Andaman Nicobar Island)	90371
19. Delhi	198109
	25,83,194

Racket in ISD Calls

937. SHRI PROBHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that several gangs are active in the country who are providing International telephone facility to the people at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the annual loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested in regard during 1993-94 and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such unlawful activities?

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

[English]

Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

938. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur has been diverting their products for wagon industry to manufacture municipal dust-bins;

(b) whether orders have been placed with the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur by Bombay and Calcutta municipalities;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the reasons for diverting costly Alloy Steel for this

purpose and the steps the Government propose to take to step the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c). Owing to curtailment of wagon orders by the Indian Railways, the off take of SAILCOR, a new grade of steel which has superior corrosion resistance and strength, had come down resulting in under-utilisation of capacity for manufacture of this grade of steel at Alloy Steel Plant/SAIL.

As a result, ASP/SAIL have had to seek alternative markets for this grade of steel. After ascertaining that similar grades of steel are being extensively used in other countries for manufacture of garbage containers, in thermal industry and in coal industry, SAIL has supplied five containers to Calcutta Municipal Corporation as a trial lot. Further discussions are also going on with the Bombay Municipal Corporation for a similar order.

(d) The question of diversion of costly material does not arise. As the Railways are not lifting this material in sufficient quantity for manufacture of wagons, ASP/SAIL will have to continuously seek new, alternative markets for promoting this grade of steel in order to utilise full available capacity.

Private Power Companies in Power Sector

939. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power companies in private sectors whose projects for power generation have been approved by the Government in each state;

(b) the terms and conditions on which these power projects have been approved;

(c) the details of the Price Purchase Agreement (PPA) entered into with these Companies; and

(d) the capital outlay for each power project and the cost at which power generated by them is likely to be made available to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d). The details of private power projects which have been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority are given in the statement enclosed. The Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), inter alia, generally provide for term of the PPA, O & M procedure, metering, billing and payment arrangements, performance levels, penalty and bonus, milestones for progress of construction, force majeure, dispute resolution, termination and buyout, basis for working out energy price etc. The power generated from the projects, for which PPA has been signed, will be pooled to the respective SEB grids and will be supplied to the consumers by the SEB as per their tariff schedule.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Project Capacity, Distt. & Name of the Promoter	Estimated cost as per PB (Rs. in crs)	Status of PPA
1	2	3	4
	NORTHERN REGION		
	Himachal Pradesh		
1.	Baspa HEP —3 × 100 MW —Distt. Kinnaur —Ms Jaiprakash Industries Ltd.	949.23	PPA to be signed
	EASTERN REGION		
	Maharashtra		
2.	Dabhol GTCC TPS —2015 MW (net at site) —Distt. Ratnagiri —Ms Dabhol Power Co. (Enron Dev. Corp.)	9051.27 (Incl. IDC 1988 level US \$ 2828.52 million)	PPA signed
3.	Bhadravati TPS —2 × 536 MW —Distt. Chandrapur —Ms Central Power Co. Ltd.	5187.00 (Incl. IDC 1988 level)	PPA to be signed
	Gujarat		
4.	Gandhar (Paguthan) CCGT —655 MW —Distt. Bharuch —Ms GTEC Ltd.	2298.14 (Incl. IDC) (1996 level) As appraised by CEA	PPA signed

1	2	3	4
5.	Madhya Pradesh Maheshwar HEP —10×40 MW —Distt. Khargone —M/s S. Kumars & Co. SOUTHERN REGION	1073.00 (Incl. IDC) (1993 level) As appraised by CEA	PPA signed
6.	Andhra Pradesh Jagurupadu GTCC TPS —216 MW (site) —Distt. East Godavari —M/s GVK Industries	827.00 (Incl. IDC) (1996 level) As appraised by CEA	PPA signed
7.	Godavari GTCC TPS —208 MW (site) —Distt. East Godavari —M/s Spectrum Power Generation Ltd.	748.43 (Incl. IDC) (1996 level) As appraised by CEA	PPA signed
8.	Neyveli Zero Unit —1×250 MW —Distt. South Arcot —M/s ST-CMS Electric Company EASTERN REGION	1325.11 (Incl. IDC) (1997 level)	PPA signed
9.	Orissa IB Valley TPS (Units 3 & 4) —2×210 MW —Distt. Ganaharpalli —M/s Ib Valley Power Pvt. Ltd.	1993.63 (Incl. IDC) (1997 level)	PPA signed
10.	West Bengal Balagarh TPS —2×250 MW —Distt. Hooghly —M/s Balagarh Power Company Ltd.	2234.16 (Incl. IDC) (1997 level)	No PPA is required to be signed with WBSEB. As the promoter M/s CESC is the existing licensee for distribution.

Allocation of Special Grant to Gujarat

940. DR. K.D. JESWANI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested Central Government for allocation of special grant to compensate the heavy loss to the roads caused by heavy rain in the State during 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to release some grant; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). This Ministry is mainly concerned with development and maintenance of National Highways. State roads are in the purview of the concerned State Governments. As far as National highway are concerned almost all the States including the State of Gujarat has requested for grants for Flood damage repairs caused by heavy rains/ Floods during 1994.

(c) The funds for the above purpose were/are being released keeping in view the requirements and the availability of funds.

(d) Does not arise.

Irregularities in Unnao Post Office

941. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that during recent check by the Savings Bank Control Organisation many irregularities were noticed in the main Post Office, Unnao, U.P.;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof;

(c) the steps taken against the accused; and

(d) the precautionary measures proposed to avoid such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir, during recent check made by the Savings bank Control Organisation at the Unnao main Post Office some procedural irregularities were noticed there.

(b) The broad details of the procedural irregularities noticed have been listed in the enclosed statement.

(c) Disciplinary action against erring officials has been initiated.

(d) All concerned have been cautioned to be vigilant in future.

STATEMENT

Irregularities pointed out by the saving bank control organisation during recent checks at Unnao head post office

(i) Non settlement of pending objections relating to Saving Bank.

(ii) Non transfer of Savings Banks Index Cards and Specimen Signatures, alongwith vouchers relating to closed cases, to Savings Bank Control Organisation.

(iii) Non casting of Interest Bearing Balance on ledger cards.

(iv) Balancing mistakes, and non-postings in ledger cards.

(v) Pendency of 'will follow vouchers' and transfer of incomplete returns to Savings Bank Control Organisation by Savings Bank Branch.

(vi) Over payments to depositors in following accounts of Unnao Head Office.

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Account No.	Amount over-paid
1.	Unnao Head Office	SB-368026	Rs. 1488
2.	Unnao Head Office	MIS-114	Rs. 5000/-

(both overpayments recovered)

(vii) Superfluous entry of Rs. 2 lakhs deposit dated 28-2-88/ 5-4-91 against Unnao Savings Bank Account No. 351964, pointed out by Savings Bank Control Organisation on 18-1-95. On investigation it was found to be a procedural irregularity not leading to any fraud/ overpayment & loss subsequently rectified.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries Organisation

942. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the number of units of the Food Processing Industries in the organised Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the basis on which development schemes for such industries are formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). As per the latest information available from the Annual Survey of Industries conducted by Central Statistical Organisation in 1990-91, there were 28208 units engaged in production of food products and beverages in the factories sector.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Kachchativu Agreement

943. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN
OWAISI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has requested the Centre to take up with Sri Lanka the matter of review of the Kachchativu Agreement of 1974; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India regard the delineation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary through the Agreements of 1974 and 1976 as a settled matter. In terms of these Agreements, the island of Kachchativu lies on the Sri Lanka side of the International Boundary Line. There is no change in the Government's position in this regard?

[Translation]

HINDALCO

944. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2240 on August 8, 1994 and state:

(a) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government against Hindustan Aluminium Corporation (HINDALCO) for not setting up a Bauxite based industry there in Bihar within the stipulated period of five years; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in case HINDALCO fails to fulfil its commitment to set up proposed industries in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b). A mining lease is subject to the conditions listed out in Rule 27 of the Mineral Concession Rules (MCR), 1960. Action against a lessee violating the lease conditions can be taken under Rule 27(5) of MCR, 1960 only by the concerned State Government. Hence question of Central Government taking in such cases does not arise.

[English]

Power Demand

945. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of power is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the per annum percentage in the increase of the demand of power; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The per annum percentage in increase of demand of power for the last few year is given below:—

Year	% Growth Demand
1990-91	8.0
1991-92	7.9
1992-93	5.6
1993-94	5.9
1994-95	9.0

(upto Feb. 1995)

(c) In order to meet the demand of power in the country various measures being taken include—expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of Transmission & Distribution losses, implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and promotion of private sector investment in power sector.

[Translation]

Out of Trun Telephone Connections

946. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new telephone connections are being sanctioned by his Ministry to the unregistered coustomers without any quota whereas the Chief General Managers in the States have not been given right to sanction telephone connections without registration;

(b) if so, the reasons for such practice;

(c) whether the Chief General Managers (Telephones) in the States do not sanction telephone connections despite giving the registration number by the MP's and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Sir, A large number of sanction orders for telephone connections issued by CGMS on the recommendation of MPs were pending due to the non-availability of the registration particulars. In order to aviod this pendency resultant hardship to the beneficiaries, it was decided that such recommendations will be considered only if accompanied by registration particulars. For sanctions from Telecom. Head Quarters also, registration particulars are insisted. In some cases, this requirement is waived looking to the exigency of the cases, but even in those cases, CGMs issue the formal orders for installation of Telephone connections only on receipt of registration particulars.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Food Processing Units in Gujarat

947. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Processing Units functioning in Gujarat;

(b) the details on units which have been suffering losses for the last two years; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to close down or revive such sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c): Since Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information in regard to the number of all food processing industries, as also those which are suffering losses, is not maintained centrally. Units which are sick can approach Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for revival/closing down.

[Translation]

Employment by FPI

948. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of poor and unemployed people are living in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to launch the Food Processing programme on a large scale in these areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Government have taken various steps to promote food processing industries which inter alia include deciaration of most food processing industries as high priority, delicensing of all food processing industries excepting distillation and brewing of alcoholic beverages, sugar and those items reserved for small scale sector, automatic approval of foreign equity upto 51% in high priority areas and technology agreements, permitting foreign NRI investments, providing fiscal relief, etc. Government is also operating various Plan schemes for promoting food processing industries including those in the small and tiny sector. As a result of various measures taken since liberalisation till February, 1995, 3046 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda have been filled for setting up of food processing industries, involving an investment of Rs. 38,408 crores, envisaging an employment of 5.26 lakh people, Out of these, 2592 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda, involving an investment of Rs. 33,254 crores and envisaging an employment of 4.77 lakh persons are for setting up units in non-urban areas. In addition, approval for setting up 100% EOU, Joint Ventures, Foreign Approvals, etc involving an

investment of over Rs.7,600 crores and employment of about 1.3 lakh persons have been granted. Out of these, an investment of over Rs. 6,700 crores is for setting up of food processing industries in non-urban areas.

[English]

Postal Services in Maharashtra

949. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from the residents of Thane district in Maharashtra about the unsatisfactory services of the Postal Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to set right the Postal Services and redress the grievances of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 1994, 6128 complaints pertaining to the Postal services in Thane district, like non-receipt of acknowledgements for Registered articles/money orders, non-availability of postal stationery, delay in delivery of mail, inadequacy of postal facilities and shortage of staff, were received. Proper action on them was taken by the appropriate authorities.

(c) For improvement of Postal Services in Thane district, action as under has been taken:

(i) 4 Departmental Sub-Offices and 27 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been opened;

(ii) 299 letter boxes for collection of letters have been provided;

(iii) 35 outlets for sale of postal stationery have been provided by appointment of Licenced Stamp Vendors.

(iv) Point-to-point Speed Post service has been introduced between Thane and Bombay.

(v) 18 Postal Assistants and 21 Postmen were added to the establishment.

(vi) Personal Computer-based counter machines were provided at Kalyan R.S. and Kalyan City Post Offices.

(vii) Mail System was refined.

Telephone Communications and P.C.Os.

950. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to State:

(a) the target fixed by the Department of Telecommunications regarding release of telephone connections village public phones and trunk automatic exchange lines during the financial year 1994-95; and

(b) the target actually achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). Targets fixed for the year 1994-95 and targets actually achieved are as follows:

S. No.	Item	Target Fixed	Targets actually achieved upto 28.2.1995
1.	Telephone Connections	14.26 Lakhs	11.40 Lakh
2.	Village Public Phones	50,000	27689
3.	Trunk Automatic exchange Lines	1,25,000	85,000

Punjab National Fertilizers & Chemicals

951. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab National Fertilizers and Chemicals plant manufacturing soda ash and ammonium chloride fertilizer at Naya Nangal has been closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the plant gives direct employment to 500 persons and indirect employment to at least another thousand persons apart from the employment generated in the transport and other sectors;

(d) whether the Government propose to revive this plant; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e) The Punjab National Fertilizers and Chemicals plant at Naya Nangal has not been closed down. The company has reported that there are 500 workers in direct employment in their company.

Indian Fishermen in Sri Lanka

952. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of Indian fishermen being assaulted by Sri Lankan Navy in the waters between India and Sri Lanka;

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

(c) whether any Indian fishermen are in custody in Sri Lanka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for their early release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has taken up these incidents with the Government of Sri Lanka. Both sides have agreed on the need for effective implementation of measures to prevent such incidents. All relevant aspects of this matter continue under discussion between the two Governments.

(c) and (d) There are four Indian fishermen presently in custody in Sri Lanka. Details are as follows:

(i) Sithambaram Selvaraj, presently in Sri Lankan custody, was arrested along with three other fishermen while fishing in a country craft on 19.6.91 near Katchchativu by Sri Lankan Navy under "Emergency Regulations" in connection with smuggling of contraband. The other three were released and repatriated to India at Government of India's cost on 6.8.92.

(ii) (I) Anthony Michael (II) Anthony Pandi (III) S. Arulpragash, These three fishermen were arrested under "Emergency Regulations" along with two Sri Lankan nationals for attempting to smuggle contraband into Sri Lanka in June 1993 by Sri Lankan Navy. They are remanded at Colombo Remand Prison and awaiting trial. The Government has requested the Sri Lankan Government for early release of these fishermen. These cases are being actively pursued by the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

Sanitary Facilities for Urban Population

953. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of urban population in the country to which sanitary facilities are available; and

(b) the steps being taken to improve the situation in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) As per the information available from the State Govts. sanitary facilities are available to 46.63% of the urban population in the country.

(b) Sanitation in a State subject. Out of the total 8th Plan provision of Rs. 5757.28 crores for the urban water supply & sanitation sector, Rs. 5494.28 crores has, therefore, been provided in the State sector. Within the limited Rs. 263 crores in the Central sector, the Central Govt. has earmarked Rs. 150 crores for the low cost sanitation which provides subsidy for construction of low cost sanitary latrines and conversion of dry latrines into sanitary latrines. Projects for conversion of 8,73,229 dry latrines into sanitary latrines and construction of new 15,56,189 latrines have been taken up. The 8th Plan envisages coverage of 8 crore more urban population with sanitation facilities. A Central Legislation called "The Employment of Manual Scavengers and construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993" has also been passed to prohibit the construction of dry latrines. The State Govts. have also been advised to ensure that all the local bodies suitably amend their bye laws to prohibit the construction of dry latrines. The Govt. also proposes to launch a

programme for construction of community toilets in the slum areas to be maintained by the community. The State Govts. have also been advised from time to time to give adequate attention to the improvement of sanitation conditions in urban areas.

[Translation]

International Treaty on Fissile Material

954. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA):

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sign an international treaty banning further the production of fissile materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government have taken any initiatives with other countries in regard to impose ban on production of fissile materials; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A complete cut-off in the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes is a longstanding Indian proposal, first presented by India in 1982 at the Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) devoted to Disarmament.

In December 1993, India co-sponsored a consensus UNGA resolution calling for an international Convention prohibiting the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes, which would be multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory and internationally and effectively verifiable. Discussions are being held in the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, with the active participation of India, to draft a mandate for an Ad hoc Committee that will negotiate the proposed Convention.

Revenue term telephones in metro cities

955. SHRI R. ANBARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total revenue earnings from telephone in the metropolitan cities, i.e. Madras, Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether the earning from telephones from Tamil Nadu is the highest;

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing adequate telephone equipments to the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The details of

Revenue earnings from Telephones in the metropolitan cities are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

	Bombay Telephones	Delhi Telephones	Calcutta Telephones	Madras Telephones
1992-93	906.21	732.28	277.01	267.20
1993-94	1272.19	966.38	391.19	372.89
1994-95	1171.04*	895.51*	363.88**	352.82**

*Upto 12/94 **Upto 1/95

(b) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Out of turn Accommodation

956. SHRI LAL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for out of turn allotment of the Government quarters earmarked for P&T Department;

(b) the number of such quarters allotted on out of turn basis during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of the letters received from the Members of Parliament recommending for out of turn allotment of quarters during the last three years indicating the number of the persons to whom quarters have been allotted on the basis of such recommendations?

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

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Construction of ships

957. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present order position of ships and other vessels to the shipyards, shipyard-wise;

(b) the number of ships ordered by Shipping Corporation of India for the next five years; and

(c) the number of ships likely to be built during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The present order position of shipyards under the administrative control of Ministry of Surface Transport is as under:—

1. Hindustan Shipyard Limited — 9 vessels
2. Cochin Shipyard Limited — 3 vessels
3. Hooghly Dock & Port— 7 vessels
Engineers Limited
4. Rajabagan Dock Yard of— 13 vessels
CIWTC

(b) and (c) Presently the shipping Corporation of India does not have plan for the ships to be ordered in the next five years. However, the Shipping Corporation of India

have drawn up a programme for the acquisition of 79 ships during the eighth five year plan period (1992—97).

[Translation]

Reservation at Kawas Thermal Power Station

958. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in category I, II, III and IV at Kawas Thermal Power Station of N.T.P.C.;

(b) the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of them;

(c) the reservation quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the reasons for not fulfilling the reserved quota; and

(d) the time by which the reserved quota is likely to be fulfilled and the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b). The number of employees working in category I, II, III & IV at Kawas Gas Power Station of National Thermal Power Corpn. (NTPC) and out of them, employees belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), as on 1.1.1995, is given below:

Group/Category	Total No. of Employees	SCs.	STs.
A I	110	10	02
B II	26	01	—
C III	140	22	16
D IV	43	04	10

(c) The reservation quota in recruitment for category I and II for SCs and STs is 15% and 7½% respectively. However, reservation quota for category III and IV is on a regional basis and for Gujarat, where the project is located, it is 7% for SCs and 14% for STs. The recruitment in respect of SC/STs belonging to category III and IV is in excess of the prescribed quota. However, the quota for SCs/STs for category I and II has not been filled due to the following reasons:—

- (i) Poor response to advertisements and notifications.
- (ii) Scarcity of suitably qualified candidates, even after relaxing the standards.

(d) NTPC has been making efforts to induct more and more SC/ST employees in category I and II, where there is shortfall in recruitment. The steps taken by NTPC in this direction include special recruitment drives, exclusive advertisements covering the populous belts of SC/STs, wide publicity and award of annual scholarships to SC/ST students pursuing engineering courses. In addition to this, various relaxations and concessions are being provided to these candidates, viz., relaxation in age, exemption from examination fee, relaxation in qualification/interview, etc.

Relations with Neighbouring Countries

○ 959. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The present position of India's bilateral relations with the neighbouring countries; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen its relations with neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The information is given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Bangladesh

(a) & (b) India's relations with Bangladesh continue to be friendly. Both countries recognise the immense potential for bilateral trade, commerce and investment and special focus is being placed on developing the relationship in these areas.

Maldives

(a) & (b) Relations with Maldives are cordial. Government of India continue to assist the Government of Maldives in achieving their various infrastructural targets and growth objectives under various schemes. High level interactions also add to the substantive content of the relationship.

Myanmar

(a) & (b) Relations with Myanmar have developed further. An Agreement on Increasing Contracts between Civilian Border Authorities has been implemented, under which four Sectoral Level Meetings have already taken place on trans-border trafficking in drugs and narcotic substances, and anti-insurgent/smuggling operations. The Border Trade Agreement regulating the border trade between the two countries is to be operationalised soon.

Sri Lanka

(a) & (b) Relations with Sri Lanka continue to be based on mutual understanding and cordiality. Emphasis from both sides is on increasing trade and investment interaction so that the economies of both the countries could benefit.

Nepal

(a) & (b). India enjoys friendly relations with Nepal, which are characterised by close economic co-operation and high level contacts between the countries. Shri Madhav Kumar Nepal, Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, visited India in February, 1995, and a series of high-level meetings are being organised to review bilateral co-operation.

Bhutan

(a) & (b) Relations with Bhutan continue to be friendly. Economic co-operation in areas like hydro-power, infrastructure development, education and training is further strengthening the existing relations between the countries. The 45 MW Kurichu Hydro-electric Project is under implementation and 1020 MW Hydro-electric Project is under consideration.

China

(a) & (b) There has been a perceptible improvement in India-China relations in recent years. Government are continuing their efforts to work towards the goal of establishing a long-term, stable and good neighbourly relations with China. There has been a significant expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Exchanges have also increased substantially in areas like science and technology, culture, etc. The two sides have continued their efforts in the Joint Working Group to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement to the boundary question. In the meantime, they are committed to observe the line of actual control under the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement, signed in September 1993 during Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to China. The situation in India-China border areas is peaceful. Confidence building measures already instituted by India and China are working well, while the two countries are continuing their discussions on further such measures as well as on the implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement.

Pakistan

(a) Pakistan's negative approach, its continued support to terrorists and subversive activities directed against India and its efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue have vitiated the atmosphere of bilateral relations with India.

(b) Government are committed to resolving issues pertaining to bilateral relations with Pakistan peacefully and through process of bilateral negotiations as stipulated under the Simla Agreement. Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan in the recent period our readiness to hold unconditional talks to address outstanding issues.

[English]

Rohini Residential Scheme

960. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rohini Residential Scheme was launched in Delhi in the year 1981 with a promise that each registrant would be provided with a plot within a period of five years;

(b) if so, whether thousands of registrants are still waiting for allotment;

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay in the allotment of plots when all the land required for the project has since been acquired;

(d) whether a substantial number of plots have been sold through auction and the poor registrants are made to wait on that account;

(e) whether there is a proposal to stop auction of plots in Rohini till all the registrants in Rohini are allotted plots; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. The Rohini Residential Scheme was launched by DDA in the year 1981 for allotment of MIG, LIG and Janta category plots to the registrants in their respective categories within a period of five years. However, the registrants were allowed to take refund of their deposits (with interest) in case plot applied for could not be made available within the stipulated period.

(b) DDA has reported that about 39,000 registrants are on the waiting list for allotment of plots in their respective categories.

(c) It has been reported by DDA that sufficient land required for the project could not be acquired by Delhi Administration and as such could not be made available to DDA. Infrastructure, potable water, sewerage, electricity by MCD, DESU etc. could not be provided. The availability of land for allotment to registrants in Phase-I and II was also reduced with changing requirement, such as allotment of plots to Riot Victims, Group Housing Societies, alternative plots to those whose land have been acquired, and institutional land.

(d) to (f) DDA has reported that only 820 plots of more than 100 sq. mts. size have been auctioned so far in the Rohini Residential Scheme. The waiting registrants are allotted plots measuring below 100 Sq. mtrs. size through draw of lots. As per policy, the plots carved out of more than 100 sq. mtrs. only are put to auction on availability of plots without affecting the rights of registrants. There is no proposal to stop auction of plots of Rohini.

SC & ST Posting

961. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and employees belonging to SC and ST working in Indian Missions abroad; and

(b) the average proportion they constitute of the total strength?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The number of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe Officers and employees working in the Indian Missions abroad is 316 and 92 respectively.

(b) They constitute 14.13% and 4.12% respectively of the total strength of officers and employees working in Missions abroad.

Mineral Exploitation in Gujarat

962. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA

SHRI N.J. RATHVA

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new policy for efficient exploitation of minerals in Gujarat;

(b) whether this policy will generate additional employment in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

Telegraphs in Hindi in Gujarat

963. SHRI RATILAL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telegraph offices functioning in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of telegraph offices out of them where the facility of sending telegraphs in Hindi has been provided;

(c) whether the Government contemplates to set up some more such offices in near future; and

(d) if so, by when such offices would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) the total number of telegraph offices functioning in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh is 1781 and 6176 respectively.

(b) The facility of sending telegrams in Hindi is available in all these telegraph offices.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Depending upon the demand, need and feasibility, such telegraph offices will be opened in future.

[English]

Drug Industry

964. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug industry has decided to freeze the prices of drugs that fall in the decontrolled category under the Drug Prices Order, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Drug Manufacturer's Association and Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producer of India have reached an agreement with All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists, regarding stabilisation of drug prices;

(d) if so, whether the industry has given any assurance to the Centre regarding maintainance of price stability; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). The Associations of Pharmaceuticals Industry have been cautioned to advise all their members to exercise restraint and self disciplines in regard to medicines going out of price control and ensure that their prices are not revised unreasonably so that Government is not constrained to exercise its power to bring these medicines under price control.

Industry Association on behalf of their members have assured to cooperate and ensure that the price increases will not be unrealistic,

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia

965. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia visited India recently;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the issues of bilateral interests were discussed during this visit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b). Yes, Madam. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of Science accompanied by the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Serbia visited India from February 6-9, 1995, to attend the 10th General Conference of the World Association of Universities.

(c) and (d) In addition to participating in the above, Conference, the delegation called on the Deputy Minister of Culture and Education and met officials in the Ministries of External Affairs and Science and Technology. On behalf of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia the delegation conveyed its desire to re-establish contacts in permitted areas following the partial relaxation of UN sanctions. Since October 1994, the UN has relaxed sanctions in the areas of education; culture; sports and international flights *vis-à-vis* the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The bilateral discussions were in these context. It was made clear to them that any action in this regard would continue to be strictly in conformity with the UN sanctions, to which India is a party.

Jurisdiction of Passport Offices

966. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jurisdiction of Regional Passport Office, Delhi has been extended;

(b) if so, the names of more areas covered under this extended jurisdiction and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some steps to ensure that the extension of jurisdiction is not to affect the efficiency of Regional Passport Office, Delhi;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to extend the jurisdiction of other Regional Passport Offices in the country;

(f) whether the Government also propose to open a Regional Passport Office in Sikkim in near future to save the people of Sikkim from going to Calcutta for this requirement; and

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

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

Yes, Sir. The jurisdiction of the Regional Passport Office at Delhi has been extended, with effect from 13 February, 1995 to include the districts of Meerut and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh and districts of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Rohtak and Sonapat in Haryana.

(c) and (d) The staff deployment at the Regional Passport Office, Delhi is adequate to meet the increased workload which would result from the additions of these six districts from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

(e) to (g) Currently, there is no proposal for opening of new passport office in Sikkim. The opening of a new passport office is based on various parameters including workload and resources available and does not by itself improve the services until the necessary infrastructure and personnel are available.

[Translation]

Mobile Van for Telephone Bills

967. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a Mobile Van Service for depositing telephone bills;

(b) if so, the names of the States in which this service has been introduced;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide this service to the subscribers of Gujarat also;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) the names of the cities where this facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (e) The information has been called for and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Aluminium Production

968. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is fall in the production of Aluminium in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to raise the production of Aluminium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) The total production of Aluminium metal in the country and its down stream products during the period 1991-92 to

1994-95 (April, 1994 Feb., 1995) (Provisional) is indicated below:

Year	Production (tonnes)
1991-92	5,13,961
1992-93	4,84,913
1993-94	4,64,718
1994-95 (upto Feb. 95) (Provisional)	4,33,766

(c) The Government have exempted Aluminium industry from the provisions of compulsory licencing to encourage private sector to set up units for production of the metal. Besides this, with a view to make production of aluminium more attractive, Government have reduced excise duty on the metal and extended MODVAT benefits to the Aluminium Industry from time to time. Aluminium Industry has also been listed as one of the industries where automatic approval of foreign equity upto 51% is available to encourage foreign investment in this sector.

Allotment of Flats under Ambedkar Awas Yojana

969. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants allotted LIG/MIG/Janta Flats under Ambedkar Awas Yojana;

(b) the cost of flats being charged under the said scheme category-wise;

(c) the number of applicants to whom letters have been issued in regard to allotment of MIG/LIG/Janta flats and the number of those out of them who have accepted the offer made therein and the category-wise number of persons who have not accepted the flats and have asked for the refund of their registration money;

(d) whether the persons registered under the said scheme have refused to accept the flats as DDA is charging much more cost of these flats; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the costs of flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) DDA has reported that the category-wise allotment made to the Ambedkar Awas Yojana registrants upto 28th February, 1995 is as follows:—

MIG	301
LIG	1857
Janta	2988

(b) The cost of the flats under different categories varies from time to time. However, the present cost of each type of flat ranges as follows:—

Janta	—	Rs. 1.55 lacs (Approx.)
LIG	—	Rs. 3 lacs to 3.50 lacs
MIG	—	Rs. 5.50 lacs to 6 lacs

(c) Out of 301 allotments made to MIG, 1857 to LIG and 2988 to Janta registrants of Ambedkar Awas Yojana,

demand letters are yet to be allotted in 192 MIG and 378 Janta cases. In 109 cases of MIG and 1144 cases of Janta, demand letters have been issued recently and the due date for demand is yet to expire. In all other cases where the allotment was made earlier and the due dates for payment stand expired, the acceptance rate is around 10%. The remaining registrants have surrendered the allotments and their requests for refund are at various stages.

(d) It cannot be said that surrender of flats has been on account of DDA charging much more cost of the flat because the cost of the flats is worked out on the concept of 'No profit No Loss'.

(e) DDA has taken following steps to contain the cost of the flats:—

1. The interest on capital which was being charged for 20 months has been reduced to 15 months for flats upto double storeyed and to 18 months for flats beyond double storey.
2. One-time discount has been introduced for flats in far-flung/outlying areas (like Narela and Rohini Phase III) at the rate of Rs. 100/- per sqm. of the plinth area of the flats.
3. It has been decided to allocate flats at 50 percent stage of construction, on account of which the land rate will stand frozen and the allottee will be able to arrange payment over a period spread over roughly two years. The allottee will be required to pay interest for 12 months only.
4. Optimisation of specifications.
5. Optimisation of density/FAR use.
6. Better materials and strict inventory management.
7. Interest rate being charged @ 17% per annum has been reduced to 14.75% per annum on capital invested during construction of the flats w.e.f. 1.11.1994 at par with National Housing Bank lending rate.
8. In respect of flats, EWS charges which were being levied @ 5.5% have been dispensed with and to provide relief to upper storey flats, floor equalisation charges have been introduced i.e. 4.5% for Ground Floor flats is to be added by giving discount of 1%, 1.5% and 2% for 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor respectively.

[English]

F-16 Fighter Jets to Pakistan

970. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has succeeded in resolving F-16 deadlock with US;

(b) if so, whether the Government have lodged any protest with the US in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the US thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Sindri and Namrup Units

971. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study to find out the causes leading to the closure of Sindri Unit of Fertiliser Corporation of India (FCI) and Namrup III Unit of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation (HFC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Sindri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and Namrup III Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation have not been closed down. Therefore, the question of any study by the Government on causes leading to the closure of these units does not arise.

Gypsum Mine in J&K

972. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's first private sector gypsum mine is proposed to be set up in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the investment involved and the assistance provided by the Centre for this mine; and

(c) the places where the opencast mines are proposed to be located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) As per the

information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, a letter of intent has been issued to M/s. Kashmir Gypsum Limited (A Private Limited Company) for grant of gypsum mining lease by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir on 25.10.1994.

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

(c) The Gypsum deposit proposed for the mining lease covers a part of the area of Village Sumad (Parlanka), Tehsil Ramban, District Doda, Jammu and Kashmir State.

Telephone to Panchayats in Gujarat

973. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Panchayats in Gujarat with and without telephone facility, district-wise, separately.

(b) whether the Government have evolved any concrete proposal to provide this facility to all the Panchayats; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As on 28-02-1995, the numbers of Village Panchayats in Gujarat with and without telephone facility are 11,197 and 2,313 respectively. District-wise details are given in the statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government have adopted a policy of providing public telephone facility to all the villages including the Panchayat Villages progressively by the year 1997, subject to availability of resources. Efforts have been made to procure the reliable Radio Systems indigenously for installing such public telephones and necessary resources are being allocated.

STATEMENT

District-wise Details of Village Panchayats Public Telephones as on 23-02-1995

Annexure

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total Number of Village Panchayats (VPs)	No. of VPs with telephone facility as on 28.2.95	No. of VPs without telephone facility as on 28.2.95
1.	Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar	710	654	56
2.	Amreli	556	418	138
3.	Banaskantha (Palanpur)	825	662	163
4.	Bharuch	712	667	45
5.	Bhavnagar	853	630	223
6.	Jamnagar	657	549	108
7.	Junagadh	921	676	245
8.	Kheda (Nadiad)	899	899	Nil
9.	Kutch (Bhuj)	604	478	126
10.	Mehsana	1045	946	99
11.	Panchmahal (Godhra)	1052	759	293
12.	Rajkot	840	708	132
13.	Sabarkantha (Himatnagar)	673	666	7
14.	Surendranagar	620	601	19
15.	Surat	857	588	269
16.	Vadodra	906	685	221

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total Number of Village Panchayats (VPs)	No. of VPs with telephone facility as on 28.2.95	No. of VPs without telephone facility as on 28.2.95
17.	Valsad & Dang	758	594	164
18.	Union Territory	22	17	5
Total		13510	11197	2313

[Translation]

Construction of CPWD flats in Uttar Pradesh

974. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government quarters constructed by the Central Public Works Department in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the number of quarters out of them allotted to the Union Government employees till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) The number of Government quarters constructed in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years in the General Pool is as under:—

1992	— 390 Nos.
1993	— 147 Nos.
1994	— 114 Nos.

TOTAL 651 Nos.

(b) All the above quarters have been allotted except 6 quarters which are being used as Sub-Divisional and Enquiry Offices.

PCO Advisory Committees

975. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for constitution of Telecom Advisory Committees and P.C.O. Advisory Committees at various levels;

(b) whether the Members of Parliament are nominated to these Committees;

(c) whether the P.C.O. Advisory Committee of District Bareilly (U.P.) has since been formed; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be formed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Telephone Advisory Committees are constituted one for each Metro/Telecom. circles headed by CGM and one for each Secondary Switching Area headed by GM/Telecom. District Manager for a tenure of two years. Nominations to these committees are made by the Minister of State for Communications after considering the recommendations made by Heads of Circles, MPs and MLAs and representations received from various local bodies, publicemen and individuals.

As per the revised STD/ISD PCO policy effective from 24.7.93, STD PCO Allotment Committees, which are authorised to allot new STD/ISD PCOs and decide their locations, are constituted for each SSA. While the Head of the SSA and CAO/AO of the SSA are the two official members of the Committee, the three non-official

members are nominated by the Minister of State for Communications.

(b) Nominations for Members of Parliament for Telecom. Advisory Committees are obtained from the Department of Parliamentary Affairs. For the STD/ISD PCO Allotment Committees, no Members of Parliament have been nominated so far.

(c) and (d) The STD/ISD PCO Allotment Committee for Bareilly SSA has been formed with the official members. Non-official members will be nominated shortly.

[English]

Safety Aiding Gadgets in Vehicles

976. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry has held any discussion with vehicle manufacturers to improve safety aiding gadgets in vehicles at the manufacturing stage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It may however be mentioned that the Central Motor Vehicles Act/Rules provide for safety standards in respect of a number of components such as breaks, headlights, indicators, reflectors, seat belt for passenger cards, auto dippers, glass of the wind screen, automotive bulbs, accelerator control system, door locks and door retention components, fuel tanks wheel rims etc. The manufacturers are required to conform to the laid down standards in the manufacture of vehicles.

Dabhol Power Company

977. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a power project had been finalised with a U.S. Firm (Dabhol Power Company);

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof and other details about the project;

(c) the Central and State allocation for the project and the total investment involved therein;

(d) whether any public movement is hindering the implementation of the project vis-a-vis environment issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Dabhol Power Company is an Indian company which is promoted by three US companies viz. ENRON Development Corporation, Bechtel Enterprises Inc. and General Electric Company.

The Power Purchase Agreement was signed between Dabhol Power Company and Maharashtra State Electricity Board on 8.12.1993 for setting up the combined cycle power plant at Dabhol, district Ratnagiri (Maharashtra). Total installed capacity of the project is 2015 MW and the project is split in following two phases:—

1. Phase-I — 695 MW
2. Phase-II — 1320 MW

The financial closure of the project was achieved on 1.3.1995 and the first phase is expected to be commissioned by December, 1997.

(c) This being a private project, no central and state allocation is involved.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. At present, work is in progress.

Renewal of Contract to Lobbying Firm

978. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the renewal of the contract of the law firm hired by the Indian Embassy in Washington to lobby New Delhi's interests in Congress is being renewed;

(b) if so, on what terms and conditions; and

(c) whether any assessment of the achievement of this firm had been made before formalising the agreement for another term; if so, in what manner and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PARANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The contract with the law firm of M/s Raffaelli, Spees, Springer and Smith in association with the Public Relations firm of Daniel J. Edelman Inc. has been renewed for one year from 15 February, 1995 under similar terms and conditions at an all inclusive rate of US \$57,500 per month.

(c) Yes, Sir. A detailed assessment was made of the performance of the Law Firm and the associated Public Relations firm during the past one year. Government found the performance of the Firm to be satisfactory.

Telephone Directory by Private Companies

979. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone directories are more than one year old in some States;

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

(c) whether some private companies have offered for providing and distributing telephone directory to consumers free of cost in some important cities of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Out of 320 SSAs, telephone directories in respect of 74 SSAs

are more than one year old. The details are given in the statement attached.

(c) to (e) As per existing instructions, telephone directories of Telephone Districts under Telecom District Manager and above are printed with yellow pages by entering into a comprehensive contract with a firm for five years in respect of metro and major districts and three years in respect of minor districts. Under the terms of the contract, the contractors supply the requisite number of telephone directories free of cost every year and pay a pre-fixed royalty to the Department.

STATEMENT

Name of the Circle	No. of SSAs in which the telephone directory is more than one year old.
Andhra Pradesh	3
Bihar	6
Assam	5
Gujarat	12
Haryana	3
Kerala	9
Madhya Pradesh	6
N.E.	6
Orissa	1
Tamil Nadu	15
West Bengal	8
TOTAL	74

Visit of Prime Minister of Russia

980. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the issues of bilateral interests discussed during the visit and the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Russian Prime Minister, Mr. V.S. Chernomyrdin, accompanied by a high-powered delegation, visited India on December 23 and 24, 1994.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's visit was the first by a Russian Prime Minister to India. It provided an opportunity to review the progress which had been made in bilateral relations with Russia particularly since Prime Minister's visit to Moscow in June-July, 1994.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin reiterated Russia's support for India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. He stated that Russia was against the internationalisation of the Jammu & Kashmir issue and would like to see it resolved through bilateral dialogue on the basis of the Simla Agreement. At a press conference he stated that Russia was not supplying arms to Pakistan and would not do so in future. A decision was taken to establish a hot-line between Delhi and Moscow.

A Joint Statement was issued summarising the outcome of the visit. A copy of the Statement is attached.

In addition, 8 Documents were signed in the fields of

Promotion & Mutual Protection of Investments; Long-term Russian Purchases of certain commodities in India; Merchant Shipping; Long-term Programme of Military and Technical Cooperation upto the year 2000; Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes; Broadening the Scope of Indo-Russian Joint Commission; Multi-entry Visas for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders; and Cooperation in the field of Information.

STATEMENT

Joint Indo-Russian Statement

The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Viktor S. Chernomyrdin, paid an official visit to India on December 23 and 24, 1994 at the invitation of H.E. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

The talks between the Heads of Government of the Russian Federation and India and the meetings of H.E. Mr. V.S. Chernomyrdin with H.E. Dr. S.D. Sharma, President of India and H.E. Mr. K.R. Narayanan, Vice President of India were held in an atmosphere of warmth and trust characteristic of the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The results of the talks clearly reaffirmed that Indo-Russian relations had entered a qualitatively new stage of constructive and mutually beneficial interaction following the visit of H.E. Mr. B.N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation to India in January, 1993 and the visit of H.E. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, to the Russian Federation in June-July, 1994.

Emphasizing the special importance which they attach to the strengthening of ties between the Russian Federation and India and the continuation of a high-level dialogue between the two countries, the sides considered a wide range of issues concerning their relations in the political, economic, commercial, defence, scientific and technological, cultural, educational, information and other spheres and set out the directions and priorities for further intensifying their cooperation in these fields.

The sides expressed satisfaction at their mutual understanding and similarity of views on a broad spectrum of international and regional issues. They reiterated that their close cooperation in the international area contributes substantially to the strengthening of peace and security in Asia and the world, and to the establishment of a just and equitable world order. They intend to further intensify their multifaceted constructive cooperation and regular political consultations for these purposes. In particular, the sides reached agreement in principle on establishing a "hot-line" between Delhi and Moscow in order to realise these aims.

The sides emphasized that the Moscow Declaration on the Protection of the Interests of Pluralistic States, signed by H.E. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, and H.E. Mr. B.N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, is a unique document in current international relations. It has for the first time outlined the challenges posed to the unity and territorial integrity of multiethnic, multilingual and multireligious states, espousing pluralism

and democracy, by the destabilizing forces of aggressive nationalism, religious exclusiveness, political extremism, terrorism and separatism. This document goes far beyond the framework of their bilateral relations and is recognised as being of universal significance. The reiteration by the sides of their respect for each others' territorial integrity and sovereignty, as constituted by law and enshrined in their respective Constitutions, will contribute to regional and global peace and stability. The sides agreed to continue their efforts to promote the ideas of the Moscow Declaration in the international community.

During the talks, particular attention was focused on the priorities of strengthening trade, economic, scientific and technological ties between the two countries. The Heads of Government noted with satisfaction that important decisions had been adopted and considerable progress made in the implementation of the objectives and approaches enunciated in the Declaration on the Further Development and Intensification of Cooperation between India and the Russian Federation, signed during the Moscow Summit on June 30, 1994. In this context, the sides emphasised the important coordinating role of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, and appreciated its work during the first session held in Moscow in September, 1994. They agreed to share experience in economic and financial management through an appropriate mechanism.

Keeping in view the set target of doubling the trade turnover over the 1993 figure at the earliest, the sides noted that there will be a substantial increase in their bilateral trade this year. Towards this end they agreed to create favourable and mutually agreed conditions for enterprises and organisations participating in their bilateral trade. It was agreed that concerned organisation should resolve pending claims of Indian exporters pertaining to the period before 1993 within three months.

The Indian side reiterated the necessity of ensuring a predictable and effective mechanism for utilisation of funds available under debt repayment. The Russian side confirmed that these funds will be used to buy goods and trade related services in accordance with the agreements reached earlier. An agreement was signed on long term purchases of goods of mutual interest from India during 1995—1997, under which the Russian side had determined its annual requirements of tea, tobacco, soyameal and pharmaceuticals.

The Sides reaffirmed their interest in the continuation and further development of mutually beneficial cooperation particularly in the fields of power, oil and coal industry, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy. The decision on utilising a part of rupee repayments of credits by India for implementation of agreed projects in India would further promote this cooperation.

The Sides noted that the working groups on power and non-conventional energy sources, petroleum, coal industry, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy and informatics had met and identified several specific directions of cooperation in these fields. The Sides noted

that the Subgroup on Transport had worked out proposals regarding the participation of the Indian side in the modernization project for the port of Novorossisk. It was decided to elaborate a financial mechanism for this project, including utilisation of a part of the Indian repayment of state credits to Russia as well as direct investments and credits by Indian companies. The sides agreed to take the appropriate measures on this basis in the shortest possible time.

The Sides expressed satisfaction at the level and quality of their interaction in the sphere of military-technical cooperation, particularly over the signing during the visit of an Agreement on implementation of the long-term programme of cooperation upto the year 2000. They agreed to take all the required steps in order to implement it.

The Sides noted the particular importance of their cooperation in the field of science and technology with further focus on industrial applications and commercial benefits of the results of their joint activities. They agreed to intensify implementation of ongoing projects and to facilitate the establishment of joint ventures in different fields of high technologies. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Council of the Integrated Long-term Programme of Science and Technology Cooperation and the Working Group on Science and Technology will be held in May, 1995 in Moscow.

The Sides noted their successful twenty-year long cooperation in the field of exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes and attached great importance to the further expansion and intensification of their cooperation in this field. They noted that the Agreement signed during the present visit between the Russian Space Agency and Indian Space Research Organization is an important step in this direction.

The Sides expressed their satisfaction that the cooperation in the sphere of culture is gaining momentum. The Working Group on culture has finalised the time-table of cultural exchange activities for the period 1994-95, including the holding of Days of Culture in each country and joint publications of contemporary literature. The intellectual and spiritual bonds uniting Russia and India was symbolised by the unveiling of the statue of Leo Tolstoy in the course of the visit. They agreed to take necessary steps to install the statue of Jawaharlal Nehru in Moscow at the earliest.

The Sides attach great importance to the creation of a stable and regulatory mechanism for exchanges in the field of higher education. They consider that the Agreement between the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Higher Education and the Department of Education of the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India, concluded in November, 1994 provides the necessary basis for this.

The sides noted the considerable work which had been done to strengthen the legal basis of their bilateral relations in order to bring it in line with the changed situation in both countries. The various agreements and

documents signed during the last two years and others under consideration constitute a solid foundation for the dynamic and comprehensive development of their bilateral relations in different spheres.

In the course of the visit the following documents were signed:—

1. Agreement for the promotion and mutual protection of investments.
2. Agreement on long-term purchases of certain commodities in India.
3. Agreement on merchant shipping.
4. Agreement on implementation of the long-term programme of military and technical cooperation for the period upto the year 2000.
5. Agreement between ISRO and the Russian Space Agency on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Exchange of letters on broadening the scope of the Inter-Governmental Indo-Russian Joint Commission.
7. Memorandum on issue of multi-entry visas for diplomatic and official passport holders.
8. Protocol on cooperation in the field of information.

It was agreed that the talks would be continued with a view to the conclusion of Agreements on avoidance of double taxation, cooperation between border security forces, mutual legal assistance, extradition, cooperation in the power sector and on a Protocol to the Agreement on cooperation in the construction of a nuclear power station in India.

The results of the visit of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. V.S. Chernomyrdin to India reconfirmed the fruitful and mutually beneficial character of the interaction between the two countries at high level on a regular basis.

New Delhi
December 24, 1994.

FPI Units in A.P.

981. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Food Processing Units operating in Andhra Pradesh as on March 1, 1995 location-wise; and
- (b) the number of such Food Processing Industries units to be set up in the State during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b): Since Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information in regard to the number of food processing units set up state-wise is not maintained centrally. However, as per available information, the position in respect of Andhra Pradesh is as under:—

	No. of Units
1) Rice Mills	21744
2) Roller Flour Mills	58
3) F & VP	178

4) Fish Processing	40
5) Sweetened Aerated water	74
6) Alcoholic Beverages	3
7) Milk Products	8
8) Meat Processing	7
9) Cocoa Products	2

Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Units in any State directly.

However, since liberalisation from August, 91 till February, 95, 195 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda have been filed in respect of Andhra Pradesh involving an investment of about Rs. 1453 crores and an employment of about 40804 persons. Out of these, 40 units have filed second memoranda commencing commercial production. Besides approval for joint ventures, foreign collaboration, setting up of expert-oriented units have been maintained in respect of 113 proposals received from Andhra Pradesh.

Crisis in Northern Power Grid.

982. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- whether the Northern Power grid is facing a serious crisis;
- if so, the facts thereof;
- whether supply of natural gas to Power stations of NTPC has been reduced;
- if so, the reasons therefor; and
- the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILLA BEN (CHIMANBEN) PATEL) (a) and (b): The energy shortage in Northern Region during the period April 1994—February 1995 was 7.2% as against average. All India shortage of 7.1%. The main reasons for the shortage was demand outstripping the availability of power. During February—March 1995, the supply of power in Northern Region has been further affected because of short supply of gas.

(c) and (d): Supply of gas to gas based stations of NTPC has been reduced from 6.4 MCMD to 2.8 MCMD from 11th February 1995 to 25th March, 1995 due to shut-down of HBJ pipeline for its upgradation by ONGC.

(e) Various measures taken in this regard are use of liquid fuel (HSD and Naptha) as a substitute, postponement of Planned Maintenance of thermal units and additional hydel generation during the period of shut-down of HBJ pipeline.

Supply of Missiles by China

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

- whether China produces cruise missiles;
- whether the Government are aware that these missiles are supplied to Pakistan; and
- if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Available information is the China does produce cruise missiles.

(b) and (c) Government have seen reports regarding the supply of M-11 Missiles by China to Pakistan. The acquisition of sophisticated weapon systems by Pakistan including missiles has a direct bearing on India's security environment. Government keep under constant review all such developments and taken appropriate measures to safeguard the national interest.

Joint Ventures for Deep Sea Fishing

984. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:

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

- the number of licences issued to foreign and Indian companies separately for joint ventures for deep sea fishing as on January 1, 1994 and January 1, 1995;
- the average number of fishing vessels in operation in the exclusive economic zone;
- whether any mechanical trawlers provided to fishermen are engaged in deep sea fishing;
- whether some of these vessels have been poaching in coastal waters also;
- if so, the steps being taken to stop such poaching;
- whether foreign fishing vessels in operation in our exclusive economic zone are required to report the catch at Indian ports;
- if so, whether any incident has come to the notice of the Government, of foreign vessels not reporting the catch at Indian ports but off-loading in foreign ports; and
- if so, the steps taken for enforcing the law in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) While no licence was issued to foreign companies for deep sea fishing in Indian waters, the number of licences issued to Indian companies for Joint venture in deep sea fishing since 1991 are:

As on 1st January, 1994 : 22

As on 1st January, 1995 : 23 (Cumulative)

(b): The total number fishing vessel operated in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone is about 206835 which includes non-motorised traditional craft, motorised traditional craft, mechanised fishing vessels and deep sea fishing vessels (20 M & above overall length).

(c): Yes Sir.

(d) and (e): Although, there is a general allegation of deep sea fishing vessels poaching in coastal water, no conclusive evidence could be produced for taking any action in the matter.

(f): Yes Sir.

(g) and (h): In a few cases, it was reported that foreign fishing vessels under Charter/Lease absconded from mid-sea without mandatory reporting to Indian Customs. In such cases, foreign companies are black-listed and no

further dealing in deep sea fishing with that company is allowed.

World Bank Assistance To A.P. For Drinking Water Supply

985. SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has prepared a scheme for providing regular drinking water supply to the twin cities by drawing waters from the Krishna river;

(b) if so, whether the assistance of the World Bank have been sought to ensure completion of the scheme;

(c) if so, whether any time-bound scheme have been prepared for completing the project;

(d) whether the Union Government have also agreed to provide assistance to the State Government to revive drinking water supply scheme to the twin city of Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total assistance World Bank has agreed to provide for this purpose?

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

(b) the project has been posed to the World Bank for loan assistance.

(c) Subject to the final clearance of the project by the World Bank the following tentative timeframe has been agreed to for completing the project.

Effectiveness of the project-July, 1997

Completion and Loan Closing-June, 2005

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The World Bank has not made any commitment at present as the project preparation exercise has not yet been completed.

[Translation]

STD/PCOs In Bihar

987. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for the allotment of STD/ISTD, PCOs in Bihar, district-wise and particularly in Hazaribagh; and

(b) the time by which the above are likely to be allotted?

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

[English]

Benefits to E.D. Employees

988. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of extra departmental employees working in the Postal Department as on December 31, 1994;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the benefits available to E.D. employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As on 31.03.1994, the total number of ED Agents was 3,07,466. This information is compiled on financial year basis.

(b) and (c) The service conditions of ED employees are kept under constant review. As a matter of policy, a Committee to go into pay structure and conditions of service etc. of ED Agents is set up after a Pay Commission is constituted by the Government for its regular employees. Since Fifth Central Pay Commission has started functioning, action has already been initiated to form a Committee for ED Agents.

[Translation]

Rise in Drug Prices

989. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug prices are increasing despite the reduction in customs duty;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the percentage hike in drug prices after the announcement of the Drugs (Prices control) Order, 1986;

(d) whether imported raw materials are used for the manufacture of any of these domestic drugs; and

(e) if so, the names of these drugs and the customs duty levied on the imported raw materials during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). The Index for the prices of medicines after the notification of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 in August, 1987 in accordance with the Drug Policy announced in October, 1986 has increased by 76.1% upto the end of January, 1995. During the same period, the Index of prices of All Commodities increased by 95.5%.

Imported raw materials supplement the indigenous supply of raw materials for the manufacture of drugs and formulations not only for the domestic market but also for exports. Customs duty on the imported raw materials is only one of the cost component of drug prices. Therefore, reduction in customs duty on the imported raw material

may not necessarily lead to the reduction in the price of the end product in every case.

[English]

Supply of Arms To Ultras

990. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated February 28, 1995 regarding supply of arms to ultras in Kashmir from Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan is continuing to provide sanctuaries and training and is extending material, financial and logistical support to the militants in J&K. This is well-documented and widely recognised by the international community, and is the core issue in J&K as well the root cause of tensions in the bilateral relations with Pakistan.

Privatisation of Ports

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

(a) whether the Government have received any report on privatisation and commercialisation of Ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) A report reforms in Indian Ports & Shipping sector under the technical assistance from ADB has been received. The thrust of the report is on effective decentralisation of decision making process and transfer of regulatory control to the Port Trust through greater delegation of powers and privatisation of port operations. The report has recommended amendment of Acts/rules and streamlining of Procedural matters etc.

(c) This report has been referred to the major ports for taking necessary action at their level.

Telephone Revenue

992. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rupees 1284 crore remain to be collected as telephone revenue;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) At the end of March, 94, the Telephone Revenue amount that remained to be collected was Rs. 1157.95 Crores.

(b) State-wise amount of telephone bills outstanding as on 31-3-94 is furnished in the Statement.

(c) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process and there are well laid procedures for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. Efforts are being made to settle the billing disputes/court cases quickly. For other cases recovery is being pursued by correspondence/personal visits and legal action.

STATEMENT

Total Telephone Revenue Arrears as on 31-3-1994-
State-wise.

States	Amount in Crore of Rs.
1. Andhra Pradesh	36.46
2. Assam	38.93
3. Bihar	85.07
4. Gujarat (Including Dadra & Nagar Haveli)	31.33
5. Haryana	23.3
6. Himachal Pradesh	1.83
7. Jammu & Kashmir	22.85
8. Karnataka	32.71
9. Kerala (Including Lakshadweep)	29.45
10. Madhya Pradesh	30.42
11. Maharashtra (Including Bombay)	239.54
12. Goa	1.35
13. Meghalaya	2.05
14. Manipur	1.71
15. Mizoram	0.98
16. Nagaland	4.27
17. Arunachal Pradesh	1.53
18. Tripura	0.87
19. Orissa	25.63
20. Punjab	31.47
21. Rajasthan	8.68
22. Tamilnadu (Including Madras)	42.31
23. West Bengal (Including Calcutta)	118.85
24. Sikkim	1.35
25. Uttar Pradesh	135.65
26. Delhi	206.77
Union Territory	
1. A&N Island	1.92
2. Chandigarh	0.31
3. Pondicherry.	0.78
TOTAL—	1157.95

Road Network in Backward Areas

993. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the Government policy regarding development of road network in backward areas; and

(b) the road network per thousand square kms. at the end of the Fifth Plan and Seventh Five Year Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) This Ministry is primarily concerned with development of

(b) A statement of National Highways in this regard is enclosed. National Highways. The development of other roads falls within the purview of the respective State Governments.

STATEMENT

S.No.	State	Area in 1000 Sq km	Length of NH at the end of V Plan	length per 1000 Sqr. km	length of NH at the end of VII Plan	length per 1000 sqr. km.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	276.8	2299	8.31	2519	9.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	83.6	—	—	330	3.94
3.	Assam	78.5	1468	18.70	2296	29.94
4.	Bihar	173.9	2117	12.17	2117	12.17
5.	Chandigarh	0.1	24	240.00	24	240.00
6.	Delhi	1.5	72	48.00	72	48.00
7.	Goa	3.8	229	60.26	229	60.26
8.	Gujarat	196.0	1352	8.32	1631	8.32
9.	Haryana	44.2	698	15.41	698	15.41
10.	Himachal Pradesh	55.7	644	11.56	854	15.33
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	222.2	648	2.91	648	2.91
12.	Karnataka	191.8	1996	10.48	1996	10.48
13.	Kerala	38.9	784	20.15	940	24.18
14.	Madhya Pradesh	442.5	2670	6.03	2946	6.66
15.	Maharashtra	307.8	2861	9.29	2918	9.49
16.	Manipur	22.4	211	9.41	431	19.24
17.	Meghalaya	22.5	345	15.33	472	22.98
18.	Nagaland	16.5	113	6.85	113	6.85
19.	Orissa	155.8	1649	10.58	1649	10.58
20.	Pondicherry	0.5	—	—	23	46.00
21.	Punjab	50.4	882	17.50	892	17.70
22.	Rajasthan	342.2	2157	6.30	2931	8.57
23.	Tamil Nadu	130.1	1744	13.40	1896	14.58
24.	Uttar Pradesh	294.4	2328	7.91	2613	8.86
25.	West Bengal	87.8	1419	16.16	1561	17.78
26.	Mizoram	21.1	—	—	551	26.11
27.	Sikkim	7.3	62	—	62	8.49
28.	Tripura	10.5	200	19.05	200	19.05

[Translation]

Joint Ventures in Telecom Sector

994. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any delegations have visited India during December, 1994 for setting up joint ventures in basic services, value-added services, radio paging services and satellite communication services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreements have been signed between India and foreign countries in telecom sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delegations from Kuwait, Japan, Australia and Malaysia visited India during December, 1994.

(c) No Agreement has been signed between India and foreign countries in December, 1994.

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

Outstanding dues against SEB's

995. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :
SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dues of Central Power Agencies are increasing because of non-payment by SEBs;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues against SEBs as on DECEMBER 31, 1994; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to encourage SEBs to make prompt payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMAN BHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the outstanding dues payable by SEBs and other Power Utilities to Central sector Power Corporations as on 31st December, 1994 is enclosed statement.

(c) The steps being taken to encourage the SEBs to make prompt payment include advice from the Ministry at various levels to the defaulting SEBs/State Governments to clear their outstanding dues; meetings with representatives of concerned State Governments and SEBs; vigorous revenue collection drives; issuance of notice for shut off/restrict/reallocate power in case of default by SEBs wherever physically & technically feasible and persuading SEBs to open Letters of Credit of appropriate amount.

STATEMENT

Outstanding dues of CPSUs against various state Electricity Boards and other power Utilities as on 31st December, 1994.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs/ STATES	REC 12/94	NTPC 12/94	NEEPCO 12/94	DVC 12/94	NHPC 12/94	PFC 12/94	PGC 12/94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.13	86.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.34
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.08	0.00	2.25	0.00	0.34	0.00	- 0.01
3.	Assam	54.73	0.00	70.95	2.15	34.87	0.00	0.04
4.	Bihar	163.12	320.77	0.00	647.19	5.97	67.67	- 6.54
5.	Gujarat	0.45	65.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 7.60
6.	Goa	0.00	1.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 1.37
7.	Haryana	0.00	325.19	0.00	0.00	201.55	0.00	6.10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01	10.70	0.00	0.00	16.99	0.00	- 0.10
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.22	246.01	0.00	0.00	60.79	0.08	- 2.50
10.	Karnataka	0.00	37.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.09
11.	Kerala	0.22	30.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.92
12.	Madhya Pradesh	105.48	202.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 14.00
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	91.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 7.45
14.	Manipur	2.44	0.00	8.10	0.00	14.71	0.79	0.96
15.	Meghalaya	11.04	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 0.08
16.	Mizoram	2.58	0.00	2.64	0.00	0.85	0.20	- 0.13
17.	Nagaland	0.47	0.00	6.33	0.00	2.68	1.66	0.39
18.	Orissa	63.82	60.45	0.00	2.32	1.59	15.34	- 1.08
19.	Punjab	0.00	35.24	0.00	0.00	42.27	0.33	- 5.60
20.	Rajasthan	-	161.03	0.00	0.00	25.88	9.90	7.80
21.	Sikkim	0.15	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38
22.	Tamilnadu	0.23	86.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.03
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	1.71	0.00	3.55	0.00	- 0.23
24.	Uttar Pradesh	211.12	782.89	0.00	0.00	148.00	117.81	66.60
25.	West Bengal	103.50	53.06	0.00	179.15	5.15	32.54	1.24
26.	Desu	0.00	347.46	0.00	0.00	107.30	0.00	6.20
27.	DVC	0.00	115.08	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	7.98
28.	DNH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 0.34
29.	UTC	0.00	1.30	0.00	0.00	- 0.53	0.00	- 0.20
30.	Neepco	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.65	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 0.22
32.	Pondichery	0.00	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22
33.	Cooperatives	4.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	State Governments	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Power Grid	0.00	3.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		775.63	3064.74	92.78	674.08	246.34	117.24	

Cumulative as on 31st December, 1994: Rs. 5, 801.62 Crores.

REC : Rural Electrification corporation

NTPC: National Thermal Power Corporation

NEEPCO: North Eastern Electric Power Corporation

DVC: Damodar Valley Corporation

NHPC: National Hydro Power Corporation

PFC: Power Finance Corporation

PGC: Powergrid Corporation

Cellular Mobile Telephones

996. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has announced guidelines which ban entry of Government companies for participation in bid for cellular mobile telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the private sector companies who participated in bids; and

(d) the details of guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Any registered Indian company including Government companies can submit bids for the Cellular Mobile Service Tender.

(c) The tender for franchise of Cellular Mobile Service in 20 Territorial Circles is still open. The Last date for submission of bids is 31.3.1995. The details of participation of private sector companies will be known thereafter. The details of companies which have been franchised for operation of Cellular Mobile Service in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras is given in the statement attached.

(d) The tender will be evaluated in two stages. In the first stage, the bidders meeting the eligibility commercial, technical and financial and operating criteria, will be shortlisted. In the second stage, financial bids of shortlisted bidders will be evaluated based on the amount of cellular levy quoted and payment schedule of the levy proposed in the bids.

STATEMENT

List of Licencees for the Operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in 4 Metro. Cities.

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	City
1.	M/s. Hutchison Max Telecom.	Bombay
2.	M/s. BPL Systems & Projects Limited.	Bombay
3.	M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Delhi
4.	M/s. Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Delhi
5.	M/s. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd.	Calcutta
6.	M/s. Indian Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Calcutta
7.	M/s. Skycell Communication Pvt. Ltd.	Madras
8.	M/s. Mobile Telecom Service Pvt. Ltd.	Madras

Peace-Keeping Operations

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

(a) whether India made a strong plea at the recent UN General Assembly session in regard to withdrawal of Peace Keeping operations that have out-lived their mandate; and

(b) if so, the precise terms of the plea and the consensus reached at the UNGA on the plea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b): In a statement to the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee of the 49th UN General Assembly, the Indian delegate said that there should be no hesitation in ending those operations which have been overtaken by events or become inconsistent with their mandates. Discussions are continuing at the UN on all aspects of peace-keeping operations.

Post office in Gujarat

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

(a) the year-wise and place-wise number of branch post offices, sub-post offices and extra-departmental post offices sanctioned for Gujarat, particularly Bharuch, Baroda and Panchmahal districts, during the last three years and upto January, 1995;

(b) whether these post offices have been opened;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these post offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The information for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 is given in the Statement attached. No post office has been sanctioned during 1994-95. However, there is a target of opening of 4 extra departmental branch post offices and 12 departmental sub-post offices in Gujarat.

(b) to (d) These post offices have been opened except the following which could not be opened for want of availability of suitable accommodation.

Name of post office	District
CTM Char Rasta	Ahmedabad
Raiya Road	
Ghoghmba and Malvan	

As soon as suitable accommodation is available post offices shall be opened.

STATEMENT *Place-wise number of extra departmental branch post offices and departmental sub post offices sanctioned and opened in Gujarat during 1991-92.*

S.No.	Name of district	EBOs [*] sanctioned & opened 1991-92	DSOs ^{**} sanctioned & opened 1991-92
1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	AHMEDABAD	1. VASNA SOGTHI 2. SAMETRI 3. SINOJ	—
2.	AMRELI	1. NIGALA 2. BORALA	1. AMBUJANAGAR
3.	BANASKANTHA	1. BHANDOTRA 2. JASHWANTGADHA 3. KOTADA 4. KUVARLA 5. SUVNA 6. NOKHA 7. DHARWADI 8. SAMARWADA 9. VAKHA 10. RANPUR 11. SANOVIA 12. SOVIYANA 13. ONAVALI 14. AGANWADA	
4.	BHARUCH	1. AKTESHWER 2. KICHHIPURA	1. PANOLI I.E.
5.	BHAVNAGAR	1. KUNANELI 2. KHARIZ	
6.	DANG	1. NAKATIAHANUAT	
7.	GANDHINAGAR	1. FATQWADI 2. GIYOD	1. GANDHINAGAR ELECTRONIC EST.
8.	JAMNAGAR	1. AMBALA-NANA 2. JAMPUR 3. GADU	1. SIKKA THURMAL POWER STATION.
9.	JUNAGADH	1. GALIYAWAD 2. MULIYA 3. JEPUR 4. MAKTUPUR	
10.	MAHESANA	1. GANAVADA 2. DELOLI 3. VADSER-AIRPORT 4. BARSAA 5. BUDASAN 6. MANDROPUR 7. FULETRA 8. GAJDINPUR 9. KHANPUR RAZKUVA 10. SURPURA 11. SARDA 12. NERDA 13. MEVAD 14. KHADOL 15. NANI-KADI 16. SUJATPURA 17. JUNI-SEDHAVI 18. KARSHANPURA 19. KHATODA 20. KHOREDA 21. DHANODHARDA 22. KHITHI	

*Extra departmental branch post office

**Departmental sub post office.

1.	2.	3.	4.
11.	PANCHMAHALS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. JETPUR2. TANDA3. Jhala4. ZAMBA5. DHEVOLA6. LAKHANPUR	
12.	RAJKOT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. KERALA2. BHADIAD3. KOTHI4. RANEPUR5. ADBALKA6. KHANDVI7. AJMER	
13.	SABARKANTHA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BADPLI2. VALRAM3. AMBA-MAHUDA4. DANTOD5. UNDHVA6. NARSOLI7. RAYAVADA8. BILVANIA9. ADHERA	
14.	SURENDRANAGAR	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SONEGADH2. PIPALIYA	
15.	SURAT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. UMARKUTCH2. DHANTURI3. KHIMDUREA4. GOMTALAO5. BARDIPODA6. ITWAI7. PANCH-PIPLA8. VADPODA9. ASORMA10. SHERDI11. HIRAWADI	
16.	VALSAD	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. DAHIKHED2. ASTOD3. BORDAI4. NARANPUR5. SAMARPADA6. RETHWANIA7. ANKLESH-VALIVATI8. TORAHVERA9. ARNAI10. UMORKUI11. DEBARTODA12. MOTA-AMBA13. NARANNAGAR	

1.	2.	3.	4.
17.	VADODARA	1. DHOLIAMEL 2. SANDERPURA 3. DHONOVA 4. KARODIA 5. BHARVODA 6. PANCH-DEVDA	1. T.B. 58 NITROIUM S.
		109	5

Place-wise number of extra departmental branch post offices and sub post offices sanctioned and opened in Gujarat during 1992-93

S.No.	Name of district	EBOs* sanctioned and opened 1992-93	DSOs** sanctioned 1992-93	DSOs opened 1992-93
1.	Ahmedabad	Navanagar	'D' Cabin Sabarmati Bopal	'D' Cabin Sabarmati Bopal
2.	Amreli	Shialhet	—	—
3.	Banaskantha	Radosan Aihabad Madhpura	—	—
4.	Bharuch	—	—	—
5.	Gandhinagar	Chiloda	Gandhinagar Sector-6	Gandhinagar Sector-6
6.	Jamnagar	Juvanpura	—	—
7.	Junagadh	—	Siddhigram Complex	Siddhigram Complex
8.	Mehsana	Daudtura Shamsherapura	—	—
9.	Rajkot	Bakhalwad Venasar	—	—
10.	Panchmahal	Kulamul Timbla Zimzva	—	—
11.	Sabarkantha	Chandvasa Kadvadi	—	—
12.	Surat	—	—	—
13.	Vadodara	Bordha Virpur Damali Kalidodi Ambadunagar Padharwat	—	—
14.	Valsad	Sahuda Gadarit Malva Pali Bhavthan-Amnbosi Babar-Khadak Veiparva	—	—

Place-wise number of extra departmental branch post offices and sub post offices sanctioned and opened in Gujarat during 1993-94.

S.No.	Name of district	EBOs* sanctioned and opened 1993-94	DSOs** sanctioned 1993-94	DSOs opened 1993-94
1.	Ahmedabad	Chamia	CTM Char Rasta	—
2.	Amreli	—	—	—
3.	Banaskantha	Dhanpura	—	—
4.	Bharuch	—	—	—
5.	Gandhinagar	—	—	—

* Extra departmental branch post office

** Departmental sub post office.

1.	2.	3.	4.	
6.	Jamnagar	Devadlaya, Chirodesand	—	—
7.	Junagadh	—	—	—
8.	Meheana	Khidedlari	—	—
9.	Rajkot	—	—	—
10.	Panchmahal	Thala Belpura Mataraviyyas	Malvan Choghamba	—
11.	Sabarkantha	Vandhol	—	—
12.	Surat	—	KIM Char Rasta	KIM Char Rasta
13.	Vadodara	Sindhi Kuva Vankala	—	—
14.	Valsad	Lakadbari Chotan	—	—

[Translation]

Hindu Pilgrims to Pak

999. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the harassment of Indian Hindu Pilgrims visiting Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the reports regarding alleged atrocities being committed on minorities including Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh and temples being demolished there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government are aware of impediments and difficulties faced by Indian Hindu pilgrims visiting Pakistan. Government have taken up this matter with Pakistan and have repeatedly urged Pakistan to fulfil its commitments under the provisions of the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines signed between India and Pakistan in 1974.

(c) and (d) Government have seen reports on various types of difficulties discrimination and hardships faced by minorities including Hindus, in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Protection of Pakistani and Bangladesh citizens, including those belonging to the minority communities, is the responsibility of the respective Governments. It is their duty to protect the rights of their citizens.

[English]

India's Membership in UN Security Council

1000. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI RAM NAIK:
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'the Navbharat Times' dated February 11, 1995 captioned "Suraksha Parishad Seat Ko Kashmir Se Joda"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen the statement of the US official under reference. India's views on the restructuring of the UN Security Council are well known to the international community.

Visit of Iranian President

1001. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether relations between India and Iran have improved in recent years;

(b) whether any misunderstanding cropped up between the two countries as Iran's president cancelled his proposed Indian trip; and

(c) if so, whether India is trying to repair the damage?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The bilateral cooperation between India and Iran has significantly expanded in the recent period. The cooperation which has acquired a multi-faceted character, is of mutual benefit and advantage to the two countries and constitutes a factor of peace and stability in the region.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

*(Interruption)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker Sir, the issue which I am going to raise is very important. Nearly for one and half year, due to the political rivalry, there is a move to crush political people, specially workers of the Bhartiya Janta Party in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, of which my family has fallen a victim 15-20 days back.

I would not like to comment on the judicial process as I have full faith in judiciary, but the issue relating to me has been given political colour, which I would like to inform the House through you and I want your protection and justice from you in this regard.

On 6th of this month a person named Nanuna Lodhi was severely beaten in a clash and was badly injured. My political opponents kept him in the village for 5 hours and due to over bleeding and lack of medical facilities, he died. His post mortem report also reveals that he died due to not providing medical aid in time.

In the F.I.R. the names of my brother and his two children, one is of 18 years and the other is of 14 years have been mentioned. At that time of the incident my nephew was at the examination centre 80 kilometres away from the place of incident appearing for Board, Matriculation examination and the police arrested him from there only. My brother and his younger son have been arrested just because they tried to avert the clashes to save the deceased person. The wife of the person, who has died has herself filed an affidavit in the Court that Uma Bharti, her brother and her nephews have nothing to do with the murder.

About my cousin, who was taking examination 80 kilometres away from there, the superintendent of examination has given in writing that at that time he was present at the examination centre and was giving paper of Mathematics of 10th conducted by the Board. My brother is in jail under section 302 of IPC and my 18 years old cousin is also in jail. My 14 years old nephew was kept in jail for three days. While he is of 14 years old only, he was kept in the jail meant for adults and my youngest nephew who is of 8 years was kept in Police custody for 24 hours. He was kept in jeep. He was beaten many times. His hands and legs have swollen, people have gone to see him. I have shown him to the press reporters. I have shown him to the delegation of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly. I am raising this issue here since I want that you should give us protection. To spoil our image...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How the House can tell that what should the court do about it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): We are thankful to you for giving an opportunity to raise this issue to Uma Bharti Ji. It is clear from what you and the House have heard that the matter is very serious. I would like to submit that the hon. Home Minister should be asked to collect all the information from Madhya Pradesh and take

the House into confidence since it is an issue on which the whole House should pay attention. Uma Bharti ji is a member of Parliament and affiliated to Bhartiya Janta Party and due to the political rivalry, whether it is proper that if an incident occurs anywhere, she should be involved in a murder case and her family members should be arrested? What is the remedy of it?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It's solution is that if a false case is filed against someone then he can go to the other court for appeal.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: There is a procedure for it; otherwise, I would have certainly helped the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You are talking about the general law. But if the family of an hon. Member of Parliament is harassed, what is the solution of it?

MR. SPEAKER: How can we decide whether it is right or wrong without hearing the other side....

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I would have liked to help the hon. Member, but it is not possible.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: My 18 years old nephew was handcuffed, taken out naked in the public and it was told everywhere that this is the nephew of Uma Bharti...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have high lighted it; it is more than enough.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Parliament will not do court's job and Court also should not do the job of Parliament because later on it creates problem.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: We want your protection, you will have to save us.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): It is an important issue.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed to raise the issue; it is enough.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: My submission is that please direct the Home Ministry to hear us...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not let me speak much otherwise the issue will become more complicated.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Please get it enquired whether my nephew was handcuffed and taken out or not and it was told everywhere that this is the nephew of Uma Bharti...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL PANWAR (Kairana): Mr. Speaker Sir, lathis were charged on the farmers staging a dharna peacefully on 1st March at Lal Quila ground. It is a serious incident. 40 people including Chowdhry Mahendra Singh Tikait were sent to jail and the seriously injured farmers were admitted to the hospital. More than 400 tear gas shells were lobbed. Their eyes were swollen. I myself have seen them in jail. It is very sad that later on a farmer Shri Janki Prasad Tiwari, who was from Bulendshahar district, died. They were staging a dharna peacefully in support of their demand. No talks were held with them but they were lathi charged. Lathis are not charged anywhere on the people staging a dharna peacefully. My submission to you is that it is very sad that the Central Government has not pondered over the demands of the people of Bhartiya Kisan Union, who have put forth their demands in Uttar Pradesh and other states of the country. A judicial enquiry should immediately be conducted by the Government in this incident. Their demands, the waiving off the loans upto 10 thousand rupees, the Uttar Pradesh Government was to pay rupees 100 crore and a promise was made by the Central Government to waive off their taxes, electricity should be supplied 24 hours throughout the country and the supporting price of crops should be fixed on the basis of the year 1967 etc. should be accepted. I would like to have assurance from the Government through you that the judicial enquiry in this incident would be conducted and their demand will be accepted. The Government should give a statement on it....(Interruptions) The Government is not giving any reply in it, therefore I walk out of this House.

12.09 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Harpal Singh Panwar left the House)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY (Katwa): What is the fact of the matter? Will anybody from the Government make a response to it or not? We want to know the truth about it. The hon. Members has raised a very important matter, but nobody is responding to that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last few days the senior resident doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have gone on strike. This strike is causing inconvenience to the people. Thousands of patients come to this prestigious medical institute for medical aid and consultation from far and wide but on account of the strike of the senior resident doctors they have to return disappointed or the patients, who are about to die are dying outside. Many patients, who have come from outside are lying outside the institute. In these circumstances the doctors have demanded from the Government that their problems should be solved

immediately but even after urging upon the Government time and again, no solution has been found out.

As a result thousands of patients coming from different part of the country and the local ones are in a critical condition; many are on the verge of death.

Through you I would like to urge upon the hon. Health Minister to look into the matter immediately and save the institute. Simultaneously, thousands of patients who are struggling for life should be saved from the jaws of death so as to find a solution to the problem forthwith. Efforts should be made in this direction, lest the people should face more difficulties if the crisis gets deepened. This is a good medical institute and I would like to seek an assurance from the hon. Minister to the effect that the people are not devoid of the facilities available there....(Interruptions)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue. Strike is going on for many days there. The doctors have genuine demands but the hon. Minister has not taken any notice of these so far. Kindly direct the hon. Minister to make a statement on it positively.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It is a very important matter. The Government should make a statement on this.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record....*

MR. SPEAKER: I expect the Government to make a statement on this.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to a very important issue and would like the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to respond to it.

Twenty lakh pairs of contraceptive tubal rings were imported from America for checking population growth. In this connection, I have to say that the Government of India had asked the Indian companies to manufacture contraceptives. The indigenous contraceptives cost Rs.20 per pair whereas the American contraceptive tubal rings cost Rs.38.

The most important thing is that the Bureau of Indian Standards had examined the American contraceptive tubal rings and found these to be of sub-standard quality. The Government of India and the Parliament have a law about things found to be sub-standard. After the apex laboratory of India, the Central Drug Laboratory Found it to be faulty after the tests, the Government was apprised of the fact but instead of returning the consignment, the Government sent it back to America where it was tested again and found suitable. The Government conceded to the American examination report.

My question is that it involves an expenditure of Rs.6 crores from the exchequer. When the Indian laboratory reported the imported contraceptive to be sub-

*Not recorded.

standard, then the Government should clarify its position in the House. According to my information, these contraceptive have not been distributed to the states so far and are not being used. On the one hand, the imported tubal rings are not being used and on the other the Indian Laboratory has declared it to be sub-standard.

Through you, I would like to say that the newspaper reports revealed it as a scandal. Contraceptive being an important part of family planning programme involves a Rs.6 crore scam. Through you, I would like to know the factual position about it. The Government should make a statement on it.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, I am very surprised to find that the Government of India has not yet taken the House into confidence or the country for the that matter regarding what is going to be the definitive attitude towards the demand of the people of the Uttarakhand region of Uttar Pradesh for a separate State within the Indian Union. As you know, Sir, there is a big agitation going on. We know of the incidents which took place earlier including the barbarous repression on the deputationists who were coming peacefully to Delhi. Today, again, several thousands of people have come from Dehra Dun and other adjoining areas of Uttarakhand to voice their demand. They are perfectly peaceful. But there is no response from the side of the Government at all. We would like to know whether they are going to accept the demand or they have decided to reject it or they are going to hold some talks with the representatives of this agitation for this demand in view of the fact that the State Assembly — the *Vidhan Sabha* — has, on two occasions, passed unanimous Resolutions supporting the idea for a separate Uttarakhand State. The Centre should, at least, take some initiative in the matter and take a favourable view of it and tell us what is going to happen. Otherwise, this agitation is not going to be quietened or suppressed. It will grow further in intensity and extent. We hope that the matter can be settled without further discord and tension. We would like the Government to make some statement about what is their view regarding this demand for a separate State which, I think, most of us fully support.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if a list of such areas is prepared where situation has worsened in the country due to the indecision of the Government, there will be no end to it. While supporting what Indrajit ji said about Uttarakhand, I would like to draw your attention towards Jammu and Kashmir, I am not making a mention of the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir or the two-day bandh in Leh or the situation in Kargil. We will get an opportunity of discussing the election policy of the Government, the leaders who will or will not be called from Jammu and Kashmir for holding talks but an aspect of concern for many months now is the dargah of Chrar-e-sharif.

Sir, I will not dwell upon the difference between a mosque and a dargah. 4-5 points of the rumours afloat in

Chrar-e-sharif are a matter of concern. It seems that the dargah is under illegal occupation for a month or two. The Government has not said that it is not occupied.

The second point of concern is that the foreign mercenaries are occupying the dargah. I do not want to exalt them by calling them soldiers. They are armed, yet they are not soldiers, they are mercenaries and foreign mercenaries. They have been occupying the dargah for the last 4.6 weeks now. Then, there are different rumours in the air. One rumour is that the dargah will be blown off. On the other hand, the Government claims in some news papers that the dargah will not be blown off.

The other matter of concern is that our defence forces or the army is in inertia because the Government has directed it to remain inactive. Thirdly, the radio and newspaper reports reveal that the Government's representatives have offered to the foreign mercenaries occupying the dargah a safe passage to Pakistan. What does this arrangement indicate? The foreigners occupying the Indian places are a challenge to India and the Government of India offers them a safe passage to Pakistan on the condition that they do not pose any challenge. It is very important to look into this. The Government is sitting fingers crossed and no statement is coming forth from it. The situation is allowed to be worsened quietly.

I would like to draw your attention and that of the House to three-four aspect related to it. Firstly, the Government's inaction which we do not approve of. Secondly, the hands of the forces tied behind which is again not acceptable to us. The Government should tell what orders they have issued to the army. The third aspect and a matter of grave concern is how is the Government going to deal with the foreign mercenaries present in India, be it Doda or Chrar-e-sharif. Any hazy situation in dealing with them is not acceptable to us. The fourth-aspect is that it seems that the Government has learnt no lessons from the Hazratbal episode. By the grace of God, things were set right in Hazratbal. But it seems now as if a licence has been issued to anybody for occupying any dargah and posing a challenge to the Government of India. At this juncture the only thing you can do is to offer a safe passage to Pakistan. You had offered it when Hazratbal was occupied. We do not approve of this trend that such challenge is posed every month to the administration of the country and the Government does not come out with a statement in the House. I have only one demand and would request you to concede to it. The Government should come out with a statement on what is happening in Chrar-e-sharif and how long will it continue and also what is the Government going to do about it. The statement on it should me today itself.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have many Ordinances to be passed. I think, they have to be passed before 24th of this month and then the Ordinances have to go from here to the other House and get passed. We have the Motion of Thanks to the President on his Address to the Members of both the Houses for discussion. And the General

Discussion on Budget has to be completed before 31st of this month so that the Demands can be sent to the Standing Committees. In view of this, my request is that we may have a little less time for unlisted business. Let us decide among ourselves that one Member speaks from each of the parties on one of these topics and not more than one Member generally should be allowed to speak on these topics so that we finish the business in time. This way, we will be able to do the business which we should do.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will do as you please but attention may also be paid to my request.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): The matter raised by Shri Jaswant Singh is a very serious one. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Paper to be Laid on the Table.

12.22½ hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act, 1957

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): On behalf of Shri Balram Singh Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table: A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 104(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 1995 directing that the powers exercisable by the Central Government under sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act, 1957 in respect of minerals within the State of Goa, shall also be exercisable by the State Government of Goa with immediate effect and until further orders under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7102/95]

Annual Accounts and Review on the Audited Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust, Tuticorin Port Trust for 1993-94 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—
 - (a)(i) Annual Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited

Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7103/95]

- (b)(i) Annual Accounts of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7104/95]

- (c)(i) Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1993-94.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7105/95]

- (3)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (Navik Bhavishya Nidhi) for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (Navik Bhavishya Nidhi) for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (Navik Bhavishya Nidhi) 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 7106/95]

Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 1994, Indian Office (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1994 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 868(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 1994, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7107/95]

- (2) A copy of the Indian Post Office (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 860(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 1994, under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7108/95]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam 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 (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT/7109/95]

(5) A copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (on accrual basis) of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1992- (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7110/95]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Energy Management Centre, New Delhi for 1993-94 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Energy Management Centre, New Delhi, 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 Energy Management Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7111/95]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of the section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Calcutta, 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 7112/95]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 1993-94.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7113/95]

12.24 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Eighty-Third Report

[English]

SHRI LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHARY (Hoshiarpur): I beg to present the Eighty-Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on Customs Receipts-Loss of revenue due to non-availability of a provision in the Act.

12.24½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): I beg to lay the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on Development of Tourism and Transport in North East.

12.25 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1994-95

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7101/95]

12.26 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I introduced the Bill.

12.27 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) **Need to ensure early Conversion of Hospet-Hassan-Mangalore narrow gauge Railway line into Broadgauge**

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA (SHIMOGA): A company in private sector has now proposed to set up in integrated Steel Plant at Mangalore with a capacity of one million tonne, which is estimated to Rs. 2000 crores. The State Government has decided to provide all necessary support and assistance to this ambitious project.

This Steel Plant will depend on imported coal making use of the port facilities at Mangalore, however, the entire iron ore requirement will have to come from Bellary-Hospet area. This would mean movement of around 1.2 million tonnes of iron ore from Bellary-Hospet.

Presently Mangalore is connected to Bellary-Hospet area by meter gauge line via Chitradurga and Hassan large quantities of iron ore transported from Bellary-Hospet to Mangalore have to be transhipped from broad gauge to meter gauge at Hassan. This would explain the amount of difficulty posed to the Railways as well as to the operation of the Steel Plant. It is felt that with such constraints as Integrated Steel Plant may not really become viable.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Minister of Railways to take immediate steps to convert the Hospet-Hassan-Mangalore line to broad gauge on top priority basis¹ which would be a boon to the many large industries proposed at Mangalore.

[English]

(ii) **Need to protect crops from Rojes (Neelgai)**

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been growing menace of Rojes (Neelgai) who enter the agriculture fields in large number and eat away the standing crops of the farmers in Rajasthan, particularly in its Pali district. The Department of Forest under the Government of India has not

succeeded in solving this problem despite its continuous efforts for the last 5 or 6 years.

Sir, the farmers of Rajasthan, and especially the farmers of Pali district are too worried to sleep and they have to keep vigil on their fields for whole night yet their standing crops are destroyed and they are left weeping on their helplessness but the Government does nothing to solve this problem.

Sir, I request the Central Government to construct fenced enclosures for confining these Rojes and the farmers should be accorded suitable rights to combat this menace and protect their crops.

[English]

(iii) **Need to take early steps for modernisation, electrification of Sealdah-Lalgola Railway Section of Eastern Railway**

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore): The prevailing condition of Sealdaha-Lalgola Railway Section in West Bengal under Eastern Railways fails to cater to the growing needs of the passengers. No step has yet been taken to modernise this section. Since independence, no attempt has been taken to fulfil the increasing demand of the people for electrification of the railway-line from Krishnanagar to Berhampore or for the extension of electrification of the same line up to Lalgola. Even, people's demand for D.M.E.U. from Ranaghat Jn. to Lalgola Station in expectation of more benefit to be given to daily passengers, has not been accepted for a long period. It is a fact that this Sealdaha-Lalgola Section is having some special importance.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to ensure modernisation, electrification and total development of this section.

(iv) **Need to promptly investigate the Mumbai Bomb Blasts case and to book and try the culprits expeditiously**

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): It is now two years that severe bomb blasts in Mumbai (Bombay) on 12 March, 1993 killed more than 300 persons, injured thousands and property worth crores of rupees was destroyed. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister affirmed that Pakistan have masterminded these bomb blasts and that the Government would promptly investigate and book the culprits. 196 persons were chargesheeted for different offences including the offence of waging war against the State.

Though two years have elapsed, all the accused have not been arrested so far. The trial is moving at a snail's pace. Just a few months before the Mumbai blasts, there was a similar blast in U.S.A. The offenders have not only been arrested, but have also been tried and punished. The inordinate delay in the case of Mumbai blasts is causing concern and anguish in the minds of the countrymen, particularly of Mumbai.

The Judge trying the case has also recently received threats from the Dubai based suicide squad.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 20.3.95

I, therefore, request the Central Government that all the accused be arrested promptly and tried expeditiously.

(v) Need to release adequate funds for early construction of road across river Jolokiu Suti, Assam

SHRI BALIN KULI (Lakhimpur): There is a small river Jolokia Suti flowing from Arunachal through Assam crossing the National Highway 52 in Jonal sub-division under Dhemaji district of Assam. During monsoon season this river is flooded causing many problems including disruption of traffic. The National Highway 52 was under Border Roads Organisation earlier, but it is now under the Ministry of Surface Transport. Due to lack of funds, the construction of road across the river and concrete bridge on this river has come to a standstill.

As this road serves two States, namely, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, it deserves immediate attention of the Government. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister of Surface Transport to provide funds to ensure early completion of the construction of the road.

12.34 hrs.

[English]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE; AND CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item Nos. 11 and 12 of today's Order Paper together. The time allotted to this subject is one hour. Shri Jitendra Nath Das to move the Statutory Resolution.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 (No. 14 of 1994) promulgated by the President on December 31, 1994."

In this regard I would like to state something. This Ordinance has come as a result of the Uruguay Round Conference and negotiations. You know the people of our country are very much agitated about this. They have been agitating from the very beginning on this issue. Therefore, we would like to disapprove of the issuance of this Ordinance.

Though this Bill carries some restrictions, it is nothing but a sugar coated bitter tablet.

Sir, the restrictions on imports have been removed and custom duties have been reduced with a view to making the Indian industry efficient and to ensure its smooth interaction with the world economy. But what is the present position of India? India is lagging behind in the field of industry. Our imports are coming down at present. Perhaps, India's imports form 0.5 per cent of the world imports at present, whereas in the 50s it was about 2.5 per cent. This figure is undoubtedly alarming.

In the field of industry, we are still backward. The Indian industry needs protection to become self-sufficient. I

am sorry to state here that our Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh had stated in the Thirty-fourth Meeting of the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council that protection to the Indian industry would have to be reduced. This reduction in protection emerges perhaps in the context of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. At the same time, the Finance Minister is assuring us that the small scale industries would not be hurt. According to Dr. Manmohan Singh, the people of our country will have to prepare themselves to fight against the multinationals which are coming to our country because we have opened the doors of India for them to come in. This fight is between inequals. I have no doubt that this fight will lead to the liquidation of our country.

The consumer goods manufacturers in our country cannot survive without any protection. They would not survive if they have to operate on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to the multinationals. The present Budget is giving a death signal to the small scale industries and to the consumer goods manufacturers in our country.

India cannot accept the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations as perfect. All international agreements reflect the interests of multinationals and the interests of the developed countries of the world. The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations are motivated by the needs of the multinationals in order to find new markets in the world. They have selected India as the best market. A new international institution, the World Trade Organisation has been established recently as a result of the decision taken in the Uruguay round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The World Trade Organisation has become a symbol of fear in the minds of our people. These fears are expressed more clearly in the emerging domination of multinationals.

Ultimately, I think, our country will be ruled by the multinationals. The time has come for that. Now, the fate of our people is wholly dependent on the whims and fancies of the multinationals.

Under the circumstances, I demand not only to disapprove this Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, but also to withdraw the acceptance to join the World Trade Organisation and also to withdraw the agreement in the Uruguay Round of negotiations at an early date.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill is a very simple Bill. Shri Jitendra Nath Das referred to our country coming under pressure as a result of the Uruguay Round of negotiations. This Bill seeks to protect our industry against unfair competition from any other members of the World Trade Organisation. I would say that this is not a controversial Bill; it seeks to protect the Indian industries against unfair competition, against other countries trying to dump their goods in our country.

Therefore I, for one, feel that the Bill that I have moved is in the interest of our country and it should, in my view, commend the unanimous vote of the House.

The Bill seeks to replace the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 promulgated on 31st December, 1994 with a view to align the provisions of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 relating to imposition of countervailing duties and anti-dumping duties on subsidised articles and dumped articles, respectively with the provisions of the Final Act of Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. These amendments were considered necessary since India has acceded to join the World Trade Organisation established under the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations with effect from the 1st January, 1995 and the member-countries were required to ensure the conformity of their laws, regulations and administrative procedures with those provided in the aforesaid Final Act.

As the hon. Members are aware, to protect our domestic industry from the injury being caused by subsidised or dumped imports, the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 provided for levy of countervailing duties and anti-dumping duties. These provisions were based on the agreements negotiated during the Tokyo Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the GATT.

The Uruguay Round Final Act, inter-alia, contains new agreements on 'anti-dumping' and 'subsidies and countervailing measures.' The new agreements on these two subjects have addressed many areas in which the previous agreements lacked precision and details. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 was promulgated to align our laws relating to countervailing and anti-dumping duties with those of the Final Act of Uruguay Round Negotiations.

The purpose of this Bill is to replace the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 to achieve the above objects.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 (No. 14 of 1994) promulgated by the President on December 31, 1994."

"That the Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, be taken into consideration."

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): I hope my name is there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Guman Mal Lodha will speak, Shri Jitendra Nath Das has already moved it; so, now other hon. Members should speak. That is the system.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Sir, let him speak first; there is no problem. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If Shri Jitendra Nath Das

was not there, I would have called the next name on the Agenda Paper, that is, Shri Asim Bala. If he was also not there, then I would have called Shri Lokanath Choudhury's name. This is the system. Now, Shri Guman Mal Lodha will speak.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA Sir, he is a senior Member. If he wants to speak, let him speak first. I will speak later on. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, Shri Lokanath Choudhury may speak. Shri Guman Mal Lodha is gracious enough to give him a chance.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I am supporting the Resolution because the Ordinance that was brought should not have been brought. You know that the Uruguay Round discussion is going on in the House. The Government is quite aware that some amendments in our existing Act will be necessary to accommodate the Uruguay Round after signing that pact. In that case, it should not have come in the form of an Ordinance because the House was there. It is bringing the things from a back door. The Government is gradually resorting to such Ordinances which are not necessary. The Ordinance has to protect our national sovereignty. So, I oppose the Ordinance because it is not proper. The Government should not resort to Ordinances so often especially on issues which are very important and which also relate to our national sovereignty.

This has become rather a compulsion on the part of the House after signing that Treaty to accommodate it. There is no doubt that an attempt has been made in the Bill. As the Finance Minister has said, some protection to our industry will be there. If some products getting subsidy in the country are there, that subsidy will be taken into account by countervailing it. By that, to some extent, it will be possible to protect the industry as it is desired.

The other most important part about which I want to speak is the third clause. It dilutes the intention of the first clause and the second clause. The third clause is that the Government can take some decisions, if so required. So, it has a dangerous potential.

Our Finance Minister will agree with me that he has promised to this House many things in the past. Unfortunately, he has failed on many issues. I do not think that he follows a line which we do not approve. But still, I think that he will be successful in the counter-revolution. But he is unable to implement what he has assured the House on several occasions. So, he should take this into consideration. Therefore, I am thinking that the amendment to the third clause should be taken seriously because the Government has no control on the bureaucracy. I am saying this because this will be ascertained by the bureaucracy. The bureaucracy is the final factor.

Secondly, only countervailing the subsidy will not make our industry compete with the foreign goods. There is also the question of technology. You know that the technological revolution has brought a new concept in the

world where things can be produced at less cost. We have not got that technology in many areas. Naturally, these subsidies and other things may be taken into consideration. But if the technology factor is not taken into consideration, our industry will collapse. Our Finance Minister should bear that in mind. In the world today, the scientific and technological revolution has brought a new change.

The emergence of multinationals is another factor which should be looked into from different angles. I look at it from a different angle. These multinationals have gradually gone ahead of the State because multinationals are formed with the business houses of different States and they do dictate terms.

Moreover, in some countries specially, technology is the monopoly. It is now being said that there are five monopolies in the world and the first monopoly is the technology. The first monopoly is possessed by the multinationals and it dominates the world. Of course, among the five monopolies, there are the media and capacity for investment. They are for other areas. But so far as technology is concerned, it is the single biggest factor today that gives a hand to the multinationals to devour any country. Keeping these factors in view, we have to find ways to make our industry capable to compete with these technological developments where the cost of development is very low compared to the cost of production in our country. This is the single biggest factor that has not been taken into consideration by the Government. I think, by bringing this Ordinance, the Government will not be able to save the industry from the clutches of the emerging multinationals of the world. This will particularly affect our system and sovereignty. From this point of view, I oppose the Bill and I think the Finance Minister will be kind enough to take this factor of technology into consideration and take corrective steps so that our industry can survive. I oppose this Bill because I think that this move will endanger our sovereignty and finish of our indigenous industry.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the ruling party and hon. Ministers have been condemned several times in this august House by the Chair also for introducing Ordinance frequently during the period when sessions of the House are convened after short intervals. The tendency to issue Ordinances is not fair unless there is any extra-ordinary situation. The general procedure of making law should not be circumvented at any cost in Parliament. I am distressed to submit that this is another instance when it has been introduced in the august House as an Ordinance and now it is being tried to enact a law by giving it a shape of *fait accompli*.

Sir, the law made in the constitution regarding Ordinance clearly reads that "when there is no likelihood of the sitting of Parliament and any extra-ordinary situation crops up which compels to make a law, the general procedure of the House and the constitution should not be applied and this privilege should be exercised." I am constrained to point out that this privilege is being used in

a most routine way. First they bring an Ordinance and later on they request hon. Members to respect their sentiments and get it passed as a Bill. I, therefore, by and large oppose the entire Ordinance because the conventions of the Constitution have been violated grossly and the conventions have been subverted. It is a matter of great sorrow. It is very regrettable that inspite of clear illustration in the Constitution and frequent condemnations of the Chair this malady continues.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Sir, our indigenous industries, we and the entire country have times and again opposed the treaty signed with the WTO, i.e. GATT. It was opposed not only in the House but also in recent Assembly elections of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra and the ruling Janata Dal in the States has clearly stated that attempt is being made to enslave the country by signing the GATT and thereby inviting the Multi-National Companies which may be termed as re-entry of the East India Company into our country. But the people of India are opposed to it. But I am constrained to say that the Government did not learn any lesson from the Mandate given by the people of India in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra where the ruling party enjoyed their two thirds majority but even then their Government collapsed; In Maharashtra the Government headed by so-called invincible Sharad Pawar and his colleagues was unseated by the people's mandate. That mandate is being frivelled with.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Sir, the democracy demands that the Government should always keep track with the sentiments of the people. It should always feel the pulse of the people. The people have voted out the Governments and disapproved their policies in all five states. They have given their mandate against economic policies of the Government and the Multi-National Companies. Yet such exclusive laws are attacking indigenous industries. I oppose it in toto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Sir, seems to be an ordinary Bill but if you go through it deeply, you will find that it will have very serious consequences. As it was said earlier in the words of a poet.

"Satsaiya ke dohre, jyon navikk ke teer,
Dekhan mein seedhe lege dhao kare gambhir."

This severe blow is being struck by our hon. Minister of Finance on our indigenous industries, our sovereignty and the constitution of the country. The Government has mortgaged the country in the name of liberalisation. A conspiracy is being hatched to turn the country insolvent by lending loans. I oppose it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this law will adversely affect the efforts to provide subsidy and protection to our industries. It is not a direct but an indirect attempt to jeopardise our indigenous industries. In the final Act inter alia it contains Round of Multi lateral Trade Negotiations new 'anti-dumping' agreements and subsidies and countervailing measures'. The new agreements on these two subjects have addressed many areas regarding which the previous agreements lacked precision and details

under the new agreements there is a provisions for more clarification in this regard whether any product has been included or not in procedure of concept or whether any action is to be taken or not regarding collaboration. It was expected from member countries that they would ensure uniformity in their methods, exchange and administrative procedure accordingly which have been brought under the provision of the aforesaid final Act. As India has accepted to be a Member of World Trade Association since 1st January 1995 therefore it was expected from the Government of India that it would bring changes in its procedure regarding countervailing duty and discriminating duty in accordance with the provisions of aforesaid final etc.

Sir, it has been accepted clearly. Thus we have surrendered ourselves Knuckled down before them and in this agreement and after surrendering the economic sovereignty of India we have become their slaves for ever. Therefore, it is expected in that agreement that laws should be framed in our country in accordance with other countries.

13.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Sir, the developed and more advanced nations of the world are exploiting poor nations by the strength of their money and prosperity. How our newly started and developing industries can compete in comparison to those countries. How our small industries can stand before them? How the industries of India producing small articles can stand in competition with the industries of Germany and other developed countries. I, therefore, would like to say that we should accept this ground reality. If we will not protect our industries its consequences will be certainly adverse for our industries. As you would have seen in the current budget that minimum import duty has been levied because our Finance Minister had no other option. He has mortgaged the economic sovereignty of our country before the world. He was given instructions to reduce it upto 20% then without any intension or desire of his own, Finance Minister has to bring it down upto 20 percent. The only reason behind it is that we have sold the economic sovereignty and dignity of our nation and have also Knuckled down before developed countries. Thus a conspiracy is being hatched at present to eliminate our industries. This act has been brought in this House as a first step to this effect. The second step will be the Patents' Act and the third steps will bring an another act. All these weapons will attack on our industries like missiles, guns and bombs. This ordinance is a part of the conspiracy going on for inviting multi-national companies to destabilise our economy, ruin our small and indigenous industries and economic exploitation of our country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Sir, I strongly oppose the Custom Tariff (Amendment) Bill because the intention of the Government is malafied behind it. We will loose our sovereignty because of it. Why Lord Clive is being brought here again from his grave. Previously when Lord Clive came here as a trader without any army. He came here under camouflage with malafied intentions, and ruled the country for hundreds of years and exploited it. Later on

leaders like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi struggled against foreign rule and we escaped from the clutches of foreign rule. But why Lord Clive is being called here again? Why are we inviting Britishers in the form of multinational companies. Which will certainly ruin the prospects of our industries and I, therefore, strongly oppose this ordinance and demand the House to reject this ordinance.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance introduced in this House is a part of new economic policy adopted by the Government. The budget for the current year is in accordance with the new economic policy but common man does not feel any relief and get any benefit of the achievements being quoted here. The achievements discussed by Finance Minister in the Parliament and published in newspapers does not affect and trusted by the common man because new economic policy has made the daily life much more difficult. In spite of all the given rebates, inflation is rising and all essential goods have become costlier and people are facing hardships in their daily lifes.

Before bringing this Bill in the House. You had brought an ordinance and it has been brought under new economic policy. It is not correct that, under these economic policies without analysing the economic conditions, and evaluating economic activities properly, our industries have been asked to compete with international capitalists. This Bill also says that indogenous industries will be given protection and infact we are not able to compete the technically and economically advanced industries of foreign countries I find it difficult that indogenous industries will be saved and be able to compete with the multinational industries.

In accordance with the international norms. We are bound to permit international market to enter in India, whether it would be in the form of multinational or World Bank or any other agency because we have to take loan from those organisations. According to Congress Government in the country and thus Congress Government is doing all this under compulsion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as it has been mentioned earlier also that election results have revealed that public does not like these policies but Congress Government is not understanding it. The Government says that economic policy has no link with the election results but I would like to say that ultimately this policy will be decided by the public.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that it will adversely affect the indogenous industries and employment opportunity in the country. You are saying that indogenous industries will be given protection but it will be on papers only and we are nowhere in competition with the advanced and developed countries. I, therefore, oppose this Bill and request the House to reject it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet at 14.10 hrs.

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch Twenty Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT BILL)

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has introduced Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill and I would like to make a submission in this regard that an Ordinance was also issued in this regard. The present Government is not going to give up their policy of issuing ordinances. It has been criticised on this account time and again and suggested that the tendency of issuing ordinances should be dispensed with and the legislative business should be straightaway introduced in the House but the Government are continuing with this tendency disregarding the discussions held and decisions taken in the House in this regard.

I am astounded by the nature of the Bill introduced in the House which clearly shows that the Government have signed an agreement with the World Trade Organisation under international trade under pressure from multinational companies. The result of that agreement is that they want to impose hastily their decisions on the public. The budget presented by our Finance Minister also reflected the same thing at the time of its presentation. This way the Government want to assault the Indian entrepreneurs by providing relaxation in the imports. It would adversely affect the domestic enterprises. This Bill also contains something like that. It has been stated in the Bill. Since India has agreed to become a member of The World Trade Organisation with effect from 1st January, 1995, it was expected of the Government of India that it should enact its laws regarding countervailing duties and anti-dumping tax according to the provisions made in the said final act. This Bill has been brought on the same lines. I do not understand that if a product is manufactured in India at a reasonable cost and an imported item is found to be costlier then in order to bring about a parity in the rates, a tax is imposed on our exports. It is going to be an assault on the concept of indigenisation and feelings attached to it and domestic enterprises. You may call it anti-dumping tax or any other tax, it does not matter. Various parties including the Bharatiya Janata Party have registered their objections in regard to the agreement signed by the Government. It has been said that such an agreement is not proper and it is being imposed in haste. It will not only adversely affect our domestic enterprises, our agriculture but also the health policy. On the whole it is going to affect our public life.

The way the multinationals are gradually being invited

into the country, our country is heading towards losing its economic independence. The Finance Minister may not agree with that and might say that this is a salutary step and it has improved our position. If we make an economic review of the period between 1991 to 1995 we will find that our position has improved and our goodwill has increased. But I would like to say that we are gradually losing our goodwill in the international market and the Indian public life will be affected by that. As I said at the outset that since you have signed the agreement, it is essential to implement it but it is not proper for us to neglect our countrymen, domestic investment, domestic enterprises etc. If I am given a chance to speak by you during budget discussion then I will put forth my views regarding certain things said in this regard.

I would like to cite a small example. Our paper industry is in the doldrums. The paper industries located at Napanagar and elsewhere are of the view that the import of the paper is affecting this industry. The encouragement being given by the Government to import paper is creating a lot of adverse conditions for the domestic enterprises. It is resulting in unemployment of thousands of people. There are several companies in India which manufacture consumer goods and it is not proper at all the dump the foreign imported goods here and then impose anti-dumping tax and countervailing tax on Indian exports in order to bring parity in the rates so that the foreign companies do not suffer and it is all for the sole reason that we have signed an agreement. It is definitely going to affect our internal companies, enterprises which manufacture consumer goods.

Since Lodhaji has expressed his views in detail on this Bill, I would say only this much that such situation and such Governmental activities should be discussed. It is for you to see how and what should be done to ensure that our industries do not get affected. I would seek an assurance from the hon. Minister that imposition of such anti-dumping tax will not affect our industries, especially, medium and small scale industries; and the consumer goods manufacturing companies; thousands and lakhs of workers engaged in them; and it would not increase unemployment. We would like to have a definite assurance from you that foreign companies will not take Indian capital abroad that we will not be subjected economically dependence or will not lose our economic independence.

Sir, with these words I repeat that I support the protest that has been made against the tendency of issuing ordinances and say that the Government should dispense with this tendency and take correct steps in this regard. I conclude by saying that though the Government have taken a decision and signed an agreement, now they will take a great care to protect our industries in the wake of these decisions.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have risen to oppose the Bill introduced by the Government because the way this bill has been introduced shows the Government's indomitable tendency. To issue an ordinance first and then present a Bill before the House which tantamounts to contempt of the

House. It has been said earlier also on several occasions that the tendency to issue ordinances is unparliamentary, undemocratic and thus it should be discarded, when our constitution-framers had made a provision for ordinance they had clearly defined and properly assured the whole nation and the Constituent Assembly that issuing of ordinance would be resorted to only in an emergency or in unavoidable circumstances. But this Government has been regularly issuing ordinances. The last session had ended in December and the next session was going to start in February and the inter session period was not long. But it seems that there was international pressure on us and we were made to play like a puppet. The International Monetary Fund, World Bank etc. might have been pressurising us and the U.S.A. wanted to use Indian markets. They needed a market to dump their accumulated products, that's why, there were Dunkel proposals and GATT and the Uruguay round and finally the setting up of the World Trade Organisation. The Government overlooked the public opinion and without taking the nation into confidence, they held a hasty debate in the session and did not care to know the views of the Members of Parliament.

Sir, I think in this House that the members of all the parties, barring the ruling party, had strongly objected to Dunkel proposals and GATT and the Government's intention of seeking its membership. Several big rallies were held in the capital comprising the people even from the remote corners of the country and they had said that our country is an agricultural country. Subsidy is provided in our country. We were having a discussion in the morning about electricity—no matter it is the field of electricity, agriculture, ration, or small scale industries, subsidy is provided to all these fields in order to encourage them and to increase their exports. The U.S.A. and the European countries are rich countries.

There was such a large scale production of goods that they were tempted to make the developing or the underdeveloped nations of the whole world economically subservient to them. With this intention, they exerted pressure on us for storming the Indian market with their consumer items and our obedient Government acquiesced in before their dictats and registered its signatures on the agreement on the 1st of the month. The whole country kept decrying and opposing it and, subsequently, in order to enforce it forthwith the Government brought in this ordinance in a hurry, chanting 'American sharanam gacchame' or 'I.M.F. sharanam gacchame' as people chanted 'Budham sharanam gacchame' some time ago.

Thus, efforts are being made to undermine the interests of the country, Sir, apparently, this amendment seems to be a trifling one, only the customs tariff has got to be amended. It reads:

[English]

"The anti-dumping and countervailing duties would cease to operate five years after the date of imposition unless reviewed before their expiry".

[Translation]

At the outset it reads.

[English]

"Since India has acceded to join the World Trade Organisation with effect from the 1st January, 1995, the Government of India were required to align its laws relating to countervailing duty and anti-dumping duty with the provisions contained in the said Final Act".

[Translation]

Sir, there are many provisions which are related to the States where different parties are running their Governments. Has the political party in power at the Centre taken the State Governments or the elected Legislative Assemblies of these States into confidence about its signing the "GATT" agreement while conceding to all the conditions of the World Trade Organisation and availing of loans etc. and mobilised their consensus. Today, we are going to further add to the already heavy loan-burden of our country. I think, we are that way ignoring the mandate of the people and dishonouring the feelings of crores of our farmers. It will be followed by the Patent Bill. Both these are the offshoots of the GATT agreement, the poisonous fruits of that poison tree and I think that these will be detrimental to the country's economic interests.

Sir, I would like to add one thing more and I am also collecting proofs to corroborate my assertion that some foreign powers are trying to wipe out the small scale and cottage industries in our country. We manufactured druggets and carpets here which were exported and were becoming popular abroad. When America and other countries felt that this would mar the marketing of their products, they raised a hue and cry on child labour and advocated the banning of import of Indian carpets. I do not personally support the child labour and necessary steps should be taken to check it but why should foreign countries make a propaganda of the inhuman and hazardous circumstances under which the child labourers have to work and they are exploited which results in imposing a ban on marketing of Indian carpets and druggets?

I would like to urge upon the Government that national interests should be attached paramount importance while amending the Customs Tariff Act. A Government banking upon the name of 'Bapu' should be a were that Mahatma Gandhi laid greatest emphasis on 'Swadeshi', on strengthening the rural economy but what will be the fate of our rural, cottage and small scale industries under this new economic order? The East Indian Company also came to India for business purposes and later the English enslaved the whole of India. The muslim of Dhaka was famous the world over for a full-fledged sheet of muslim could be passed through a ring but in order to sell their own products, they chopped off the hands of those weavers and history stands a testimony to that fact. Therefore....

[English]

A burnt child dreads the fire"

[Translation]

History repeats itself. Therefore, care should be taken to see that the same situation is not repeated here and all the conditions of the foreign powers should not be acceded to blindly in the pursuit of the open economic policy. The economy of country should not be thrown to the winds in the name of globalisation and liberalisation.

Today, the Government claims to have registered a definite upward trend in our foreign exchange reserves and the growth rate but I want to know why, then, is there this inflation, why is the rate of inflation not declining, why is not the public feeling its soothing effects, and why are not the prices of consumer items decreasing? Today, edible oil is becoming costly, tomorrow sugar distributed under public distribution system may not be distributed. So, shall we acquiesce in before their every dictate one after the other? Though, America has threatened China also yet the latter is protecting its national interests and is not dancing to the tune of USA. Japan is also making such efforts. Then why a powerfull nation like India, with a population of 92 crores should have knelt before America, the World Bank, I.M.F. or any other financial institution in the name of taking loans and aid. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge that this Government should take the people of the country into its confidence.

I would like to cite one more example. USA had revoked P.L.-480 and denied the supply of wheat to us during the Indo-Pak conflict. Then our the then Prime Minister gave the slogan of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kissan" inculcating a sense of self-reliance in the country which led the country towards the green revolution. It is said that the garment traders will be benefited by this agreement but what would happen to then if the multinational companies ingress in their field despite our advanced textile technology. There has already been much of golden handshake and many people have been relieved from their services in the name of voluntary retirement, retrenchment is taking place, there is a ban on fresh recruitment and the Regional Rural Banks meant for augmenting the rural economy are being closed down under foreign pressure, instead of strengthening them.

The Dunkel and the GATT are like scorpion stings. Apparantly, they may not look harmful but their sting is poisonous. Lest these hurt our country's economy, national esteem, our sense of swadeshi and self reliance in future, our Government needs to be aware, cautious and vigilant in future. Another important aspect is that our goods should be sold at handsome prices abroad, we should not incur losses and our interests should be protected. The hon. Finance Minister has many times repeated that no power can pressurise India but in practice, it looks otherwise. I would like to cite the examples of Pepsi and Potato chips. Sir, an item produced at a cost of Rs. 2 is sold at Rs. 10-12 at the railway stations. If this is what we are going to do in the name of customs and multinationals, then we can easily visualise the doom of our future. Therefore, in view of the changing political scenario the Government should amend such laws with holding public interest and national interest supreme in its mind. Our laws

should not be echo of their directives. If we acquiesce in the three conditionalities of amendments which they have dictated to us, our hands will be tied. Therefore, national interest should be given top priority and indigenous production encouraged. Goods which are extremely necessary should only be imported. Agreements can be reached with them with some conditions in case of their offer for high technology. But we are not encouraging our own goods which are in open competition with foreign goods. We have developed a tendency to buy goods labelled 'made in Japan', 'made in Germany' rather than indigenous ones. Therefore, priority should be given to indigenous goods and a sense of swadeshi.

With these words, I conclude with the hope that the Government of India will do away with the practice of bringing such ordinances and generate a sense of Indianness among the people.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I rise to oppose the Bill and I oppose the Bill on fundamenetal political grounds. The hon. Finance Minister whatever might be his views, is expected to honour the views of the other side of the House.

We are completely against the perception of the World Trade Organisation., We are opposed to India's acceding to this organisation. We are also opposed to the high jump act of the Uruguay Round of Multi-national Trade Negotiations. There will be enough opportunity to substantiate the issues. I have formulated during the Budget Session on various occasions. Naturally, It is also expected of me that I should restrict myself to the limits of the Bill.

So far as the contents of the Bill are concerned they may appear to be innocent; not much of political or economic or trade importance. But it opens India's economy wide to certain hostile forces which will pose a grave danger to our country, not only in terms of politics but also in terms of our political sovereignty and even the unity and integrity of the country. That will also lead to the deprivation of our position or status amongst the Third World countries.

On grounds of principle, there is another important aspect, that is, the misuse of the right of promulgating Ordinances as permitted by the Constitution of the country by the Government. This is another reason for my opposing the Bill. You can very well understand that this is a Bill which is a concomitant result of that Uruguay Round of Multi-national Trade Negotiations.

If you allow me to say, I will say that you were not involved in the discussion. The House was not given due opportunity to discuss these agreements or these treaties in full length. There were discussions, I do not say that there were no discussions about it. But these discussions were held in a piecemeal manner. I remember that I also participated in the debate on a Private Member's Resolution. On some other occasion also, this matter was discussed. But whatever was required is the approval of the nation, the approval of the highest representative body,

that is, the Lok Sabha, which is entitled to give its approval, that is, either to approve of the Treaty or disapprove of it. Unfortunately, I concede that our Constitution does not provide a specific provision that all international treaties are to be approved by the House. That is not there. There might be other reasons. I am not going into that. That obligatory provision is not there in our Constitution whereas perhaps all over the world we, who accept the democratic form of government or parliamentary system of government, accept that as an obligation.

Even in the case of Japan, even in the case of United States of America, as far as I remember, there is a definite obligation for the Government to seek the approval of the House. In this case, we have been deprived of that. Of course, I cannot say that there has been violation of the Constitution. I am very much conscious of it. I say that on moral grounds, the Cabinet does not represent the nation. The approval by the Government becomes the condition precedent for tying up the country with such an international treaty, which according to this side of the House is injurious to the national interests, prejudicial to the national interests, harmful for the economic sovereignty of the country and thereby is also harmful to the political sovereignty of the country. It leads us astray from the nationally accepted foreign policy of our country. It leads us astray from articulating the hopes and aspirations of the Third World countries. The hon. Finance Minister knows it. He himself recommended that India should take certain firm stand in defending the interests of the Third World countries.

As far as the Bill is concerned, it is immaterial whether a countervailing tariff will be there or not or what would be the manner in which the anti-dumping is calculated. It is not of so much significance to me and to the House. My charge against the Government is: Is it nationally approved? Have you sought the approval of the nation? Have you sought the approval of this House which represent the sovereignty of the country? On the other hand, you have reserved the right of the people, you have prevented the people from exercising their fundamental and sovereign rights. How can you, 50 or 60 Members of the Cabinet belonging to a particular party which unexpectedly returned to power and who are retaining power by immoral method by encouraging defection by the exercise of money and muscle power, reserve the right of the people? We represent Members of the House. I represent the sovereign will of my electorate. I felt very much about it. You have deprived me of the opportunity of giving my view. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to record my protest and by not providing the opportunity to these Members of the House, you are depriving the entire electorate of our country of their sovereign rights. The Cabinet has decided and you have been authorised to sign on behalf of India. I do not know which India you represent today. Is it America's India or India's India?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: It is Somnath Chatterjee's India also!

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is not the question of Somnath Chatterjee or the Left Front or Jyoti Basu. It is the basic

question of sovereignty. You have got a very good stick to beat and I shall retaliate in the House. I shall accept your beating and I shall also retaliate. This is my main point of objection.

So far as the power of promulgation of Ordinance is concerned, if these important issues are finally taken care of by way of Ordinance, then the very fundamental structure of the Constitution, the fundamental principle of democratic Governments is destroyed.

I am not a lawyer but I would say that this affects the very basic structure of the Constitution—of course, I may not defend it in the court.

Federalism is a basic ingredient of our Constitution. Some issues are there which involve the State Governments, particularly on patents side. You have taken decision without consulting the State Governments and without their consent when their interests are being destroyed, when their interests are being subverted and when their rights are also abridged.

I do not like to take much of your time. I think you have understood the spirit in which I have expressed my view. On this side, we are unfortunate that we could not, or I could not, mobilise the presence of a larger number of Members to defeat this Ordinance. I would have been glad if I could have defeated you on this occasion.

I again say that I am wholeheartedly opposed to the basic principles involved in this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the ordinance promulgated here.

It is said in the objectives of this Bill that some steps has been taken to make Anti-Dumping policy practicable. We have heard the views of hon. Finance Minister in this House earlier also. During the 'Question Hour' it was told that 14-15 fertilizer manufacturing factories under the public sector are lying closed and around 1½ lakh labourers have been rendered unemployed. Fertilizers worth crores of rupees is lying utilised in godowns but still we are importing fertilizers. I have complained hon. Minister Faliero about it that we have spent a huge amount in domestic fertilizer projects which are manufacturing fertilizers in large quantity but as it costs more and the policy of foreign companies is that fertilizer should be sold at a cheaper rates so that our production would be dumped. Later on consequently when our factories will be closed down and farmers will have to depend on their supply and they will get the price of their choice. Hon. Minister for chemicals and Fertilizers had assured us that the Government would take appropriate action in this regard. When we asked hon. Finance Minister to tell about the measures to be taken in this respect he rudely said that if farmers were getting fertilizers at cheaper rates why should he be worried about that from where they were getting fertilizers.

15.00 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

Whether it is coming from America or produced by our

own people in India in Private Sector. Just now Pandeyji was saying that the paper produced by our mills in Neapanagar near Khandwa and at Amala was lying unutilised while the Government was importing paper. When hon. Minister was asked, he said that the paper was being imported for educating poor children.

[English]

I hope that Finance Minister remembers his own words.

[Translation]

I would like to ask the hon. Minister when domestic production will not come out and it will be not sold how will the people engaged therein will get their wages? Thereafter they will be unable to pay the fees of their wards. What will be the use of good quantity of paper thereafter.

Our hon. Finance Minister has said at a place during his speech.

[English]

Addressing the 34th meeting of the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council, he said:

"Our intention is to move towards such a tax system which is simpler, transparent, resilient and more buoyant so that the transition of the change of system is smooth and trouble-free".

[Translation]

You may reduce the customs duty but at the same time you also have to give protection to our domestic industries. Therefore custom duty on imported goods should be more so that it would not get any facility in the market. How can it be trouble free.

Our Committee had gone to Bangalore. There are two factories i.e. Hindustan Aeronautics and Hindustan Electronics, which are doing well. They are getting orders from foreign countries but your policy is not correct. They were manufacturing railway coaches. Labourers of those factories told the committee and the concerned Minister that they were getting job from Railways.

[English]

This is the first year when they have completely cut down the orders of rail coaches.

[Translation]

We are importing rail coaches. We are getting them at cheaper rates and our rail coaches are going outside the country.

You were getting the rail coaches from our factories for the last 20—25 years, if you were going to stop the purchasing from them you should have given notice to them for 5—10 years. Just now you were talking about molases. Its production have fallen by 10% from 65%. We have hundreds of such industries in our country. This step can give a little support to those industries but now several companies have come to India and no doubt they will produce fine quality whisky or wine, then who will purchase the wine, whisky and other goods produced by our indogenous industries. You have invited foreigners in each and every field then what will be the fate of our own people, workers and how you will protect our indogenous

industries. At least our indogenous industries should run and arrangements should be made for the welfare and employment of people working in them. If multinational, companies keep on flourishing in the country and our workers become unemployed due to this new economic policy, then who will purchase the goods produced by competitive companies of the world because our workers would have no money at that time. I would like to know whether all this is being done for the creamy layer of the society. Today we must keep in our minds the poorest who are dwelling in slums or Juggi Jhopari clusters.

When we talk about Gandhiji who had said that whenever we have any doubt in deciding anything, we should ask ourselves that what will be the impact of our decision on the poorest person of the country whether our decision is going to protect the interests of poor people or not. The reply given by our heart should be a deciding factor and decision should be in accordance to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister: that what will be the impact of his decision of permitting set up of new industries like food processing, fertilizers, sugar or paper industry, on the same industries already functioning in the country. How unemployment could be removed? How the people rendered unemployed out of it will earn their livelihood. How their products would be sold? We can think about supporting this Bill if he can guide us on these issues otherwise I will keep on opposing this Bill.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (INNER MANIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill. At the outset, as the other hon. Members have said I also oppose the promulgation of Ordinances just on the eve of the Session of Parliament. Instead of promulgating the Ordinances the Government could have brought the Bill before the House while it was in session and it could have obtained the approval of the House. The Amendment of the Act could have been discussed and the promulgation of the Ordinance could have been avoided. So, I register my party's opposition to the Bill.

I oppose the signing of the W.T.O. Agreement by India and I have been raising many points on that during the earlier sittings also. I agree with my hon. colleague, Shri Chitta Basu when he says that the agreement requires the approval of the House. I also would like to fall in the same spirit. It would have been more democratic if it was brought before this House for discussion and after obtaining the approval of the House, the agreement could have been made. But it was not done. In short, I would like to mention the general spirit of the Bill that it is a proposal for compromising our economic sovereignty with the foreign countries. I hold the view that it is better to die starving rather than surrendering our sovereignty or prestige to the outsiders, the foreigners. I consider that by signing the agreement and also by entering into that agreement we are surrendering a great deal of our economic sovereignty to the foreign countries, particularly, U.S.A. I am quite against that.

Sir, I hold the view that we are surrendering the

interest of our domestic industries to accommodate the interest of the foreign countries. That is why I want to oppose it. By signing the Agreement we are also surrendering the interest of lakhs of our labourers and I consider that our industries will be discouraged to a great extent.

Lastly, I would like to point out that this will affect very badly the interest of the small States where there are only small-scale industries and the States which have agricultural industries.

Therefore, Sir, I simply rise to register my Party's opposition to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that on 1st January 1995 we are expecting a new year gift from you but it has proved a nightmare, as because of this liberalisation, our domestic products will become useless and economic sovereignty of the country has been mortgaged and it has been done to ratify those laws in accordance with the World Trade Organisation.

At the time of bringing this Bill, you have said that it has been brought to protect the interests of Indian industry and capital investors but I would like to say that in reality it is against the interests of Indian consumers. If such a big and important agreement was to be signed and this law was to be changed in accordance with the World Trade Organisation then what was the need to issue the ordinance. If you could frame a law by passing a Bill in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. You would have taken state Legislative Assemblies into confidence for enacting the law, but it was not done. You have signed the agreement on 1st January 1995 and now you are compelled to change the law. I would like to say that indigenous goods cannot stand in the market by giving relaxations in import. Even today the Textiles Mills are closed in Kanpur and other places; you should consider it. Unemployment will definitely increase by bringing this Bill. As the all leaders of my party, I strongly oppose this Bill. This is an act of mortgaging the nation.

Earlier East India Company came to India and that single company made us its slave for so many years and today you are inviting so many companies. You should find out the items being produced indigenously and in which this country is self reliant. If you collect and study the data of goods produced within the country you will not invite the multinational companies. You are a good and intelligent Finance Minister and know the economy thoroughly. You have offered resignation on moral grounds several times. I would like to say that before passing this Bill you should think over it seriously. You should hold discussion on this subject to maintain your image. I oppose this Bill and ordinance both as it is not in the interest of the country.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I had listened with great interest and respect to all the hon. Members who have taken part in the debate. I think, as Shri Chitta Basu

himself has recognized, there is nothing unconstitutional about this Bill. It is certainly a follow-up to our joining the World Trade Organisation. The Uruguay Round issue has been discussed in the House time and again and I would like to once again reiterate that there is nothing in the World Trade Organisation Charter which is against the interests of India. India today has to flourish in a world which is increasingly interdependent. If you are going to say that you are going to close your border to goods coming from outside, think of those handloom weavers who depend upon export of handloom cloth from India, think of their future. If you are wanting India's borders to be closed, think of all those millions of our people who are engaged in the textile industry. Textile industry of India is booming today. The engineering industry of India, the gems and jewellery and all these activities are booming, contrary to what the hon. Members of the Opposition have been preaching for the last four years. India's exports have flourished, India's industry has flourished as a result of this liberalisation. So, nothing could be farther from the truth that these policies have led to unemployment, these policies have led to de-industrialisation or that these policies have hurt employment. Employment today is growing at twice the rate, which was not the case when this Government came into office. So, I can assure this hon. House that there is nothing in the World Trade Organisation which is against the interests of India. It is the only way in which, in this increasingly interdependent world that we live in India can realise its full development potential. Now, the issues of the World Trade Organisation have been discussed and, therefore, I do not wish to go into all those things.

This is a very simple Bill. It is such a Bill that if some countries want to dump their goods into our country, if they want to indulge in unfair competition, then we must have protective legislation to take action against those imports.

I thought, therefore, that all Members of this House, regardless of their political affiliations, would support this Bill. This is not a Bill to encourage imports. It is a Bill to discourage unfair competition. If anybody from abroad wants to dump his goods in our country by subsidising his goods at unfair prices, then this Bill empowers our country to take action by way of levying anti-dumping duties.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: What action are you going to take?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Well, whatever action is necessary, I am just explaining. We will put countervailing duties to neutralise all the subsidies that they may give unfairly to dump their goods. (Interruptions) Please don't disturb me. I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't disturb please.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Therefore, this is a very simple Bill. If you want India's industry to be protected against unfair competition, if you want the interests of the workers of India to be safeguarded against unfair competition from abroad, then I would urge hon. Members to support the Bill.

This is a Bill with a limited objective. Now, issues with regard to the World Trade Organisation, issues of sovereignty and all those issues have been debated.

Let me say that this Government is as sincere in its desire to protect India's economic sovereignty as any other Party. In fact, whatever we have done in the last four years has raised India's prestige abroad. India today makes news in every corner of the world. India is respected and as far as the membership of the World Trade Organisation is concerned, why is it that no country in the world wants to remain outside the World Trade Organisation? Why are the Chinese, for example, wanting the Americans to help them to get into World Trade Organisation?

I would, therefore, respectfully submit that in this increasingly inter-dependent world that we live in, India cannot prosper unless India exports more and India cannot export more unless Indian industry is competitive. What we have done in the last four years has greatly strengthened India's competitiveness. Our exports last year increased in dollar terms at 20 per cent. This year, they are increasing at the rate of 17 per cent. We have reduced India's external debt. We have strengthened India's balance of payment. Employment, production and everything is growing and, therefore, I would respectfully submit to this House that we can debate all those remaining issues when it comes to the issues of the Budget. Let us unanimously pass this simple Bill which has a limited objective to protect India's industry and to protect India's workers against unfair competition from abroad.

With these words, I request the hon. Members to withdraw their Resolution and support the Bill.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jaipauri): This Bill, I think will not be able to protect the interests of the basic technology of our country. That is number one.

Number two is according to the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, this Bill has got limited objectives.

But, I think, it has got a big and bigger background. The Bill fails to protect the interests of the small-scale industries and the manufacturers of consumer goods. This Bill is the child of GATT. Sir, you know about it. So, under these circumstances, I am not withdrawing my Statutory Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I shall put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Jitendra Nath Das to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 (No. 14 of 1994) promulgated by the President on December 31, 1994."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title Stand Part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.27 hrs.

[English]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE PATENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, AND PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 (No. 13 of 1994) promulgated by the President of December 31, 1994."

Sir in the course of moving the Statutory Resolution, first of all, I want to mention that the Government has issued a statement in this regard. I read out a part of that statement.

"India has signed the agreement for the establishment of World Trade Organisation including the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights etc. etc. With a view to meeting India's obligations under the TRIPS Agreement, it has become necessary to amend the Patents Act, 1970 in conformity with the obligations under the Agreement."

Further, it has also been stated that one of the obligations under the TRIPS Agreement is for Member-countries to provide, with effect from 1st January 1995, means of filling of applications for patents in the areas of pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals and, on fulfilling certain conditions by such applicants, granting exclusive marketing rights till the expiry of a period of five years or until the patent is granted or rejected, whichever is earlier. This is one point which necessitated the promulgation of this Ordinance and subsequently to bring forward this Bill.

Another point is that since the Patents Act, 1970 does not provide for product patents for these items and a transition period is available to mark provisions in this regard, arrangement were to be made to provide for grant of exclusive marketing rights in these areas in order to assume obligation with effect from 1st January, 1995.

There are other reasons also, but I stop here.

The second point that I want to reiterate is this. What the Government says is, since the Patents Act, 1970 does not provide for product patents for these items, a transi-

period is available to make the provision in this regard. A transition period of ten years is there. Even in the GATT Agreement, it is supposed to be the pipeline production in the Agreement. Even without taking advantage of the pipeline production, the Government in a hurry considered it imperative to promulgate this Ordinance to this effect in order to make provisions in this regard. Arrangements were to be made to provide for exclusive marketing right. Before the patenting procedure is finalised, an interim arrangement has to be made by making certain changes in the Act of 1972 in order to give exclusive marketing rights in the areas of these products. This is the background on which this Bill has been introduced.

Section 5 of this Act says that in case of invention, a claiming substance intended for use or capable of being used as food or medicine or drug or relating to substances prepared or produced by chemical processes including alloy, optical glasses, semi-conductors etc., no patent shall be granted in respect of claims for substances themselves but claims for the methods or processes of manufacture shall be patented.

The Bill seeks to include another Clause which actually is not an inclusion or a clause. Actually, it is to nullify this Clause. Here, it is clearly said that the claim or methods or processes of manufacture shall be patented not the goods or the product. Keeping it as Clause 1, Clause 2 is sought to be included in it. It says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), a claim for patent of an invention for a substance itself intended for use, or capable of being used, as medicine or drug may be made and shall be dealt, without prejudice to the other provisions of this Act, in the manner provided in Chapter IV A."

Chapter IVA deals with exclusive marketing rights where so many provisions have been included, which actually means product-patent. In order to grant product-patent, sufficient changes in the Patents Act have not yet been made. This is very apparent from the statement submitted by the Government which I have read. They will be made in course of time.

An amendment to the Act for the time being has been brought before finalisation of a total change of the Patents Act itself in conformity with the requirements of the multinationals, imperialist countries, developed countries and the requirement of G-7 etc. Till such period, this interim arrangement will go as an amendment to the Patents Act, 1970 in Chapter IVA which actually means that before the product-patent is taken up and enacted in that manner, exclusive marketing right for those goods will be given to those countries, companies or individuals.

Now, Sir, I would like to place a new point. Scientific inventions are not patentable. These has been the international norm and the international contract only a few days ago. Last year, on 15th April, an Agreement was signed and the idea and the concept of unpatentability of scientific invention has been thrown to the winds. Technology is patentable, not science. If a molecule is discovered, that is science. But how the molecule is

discovered, how that molecule is being utilized in different spheres of life, different spheres of society, different sphere of production, different spheres of technology and all that, that is a technological matter. That is always patentable.

Now take the basic concept of logic, the basic concept on which the human society has developed, the basic concept on which the society has developed up to this stage. The people who are asking for this patentability and other things, have also developed a knowledge.

They have also developed their knowledge to this level on the basics of the accumulated knowledge of the mankind, the accumulated knowledge of all the scientists, the accumulated knowledge of all the technologists, the accumulated knowledge of all the people who have worked for the society, for the cause of science, for the cause of technology and other things.

Every generation is the natural heir of the total accumulated knowledge of the previous generation. This cannot be prohibited. This is the natural law. By enactment in any part of the world this process cannot be stopped. Therefore I understand that what is being done is totally against the law of nature itself. Still I understand that the parts of technology devices and methods are all patentable things. These are related to commerce, but knowledge is never a commercial product. Knowledge cannot be patented. On the basis of knowledge on a certain piece of science, technology is patented. That is way in our 1970 enactment it was very correctly enshrined that product is not patentable, the process is patentable. Despite certain weaknesses even in the 1970 Act regarding this point which I have mentioned just now, by and large this Act has helped India to be self-reliant in some of the aspects. I can give a few examples to this effect.

Before going into that, I would like to mention another point as to how this 1970 Act has helped us. I will give a few illustrations only. Before going into that, I would like to point out the political part in this regard. (Interruptions)

15.44 hrs.

At this stage, some slogans from the Visitors' Gallery were heard

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please proceed.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Now, the Standing committees are functioning. The Standing Committees have started functioning in order to give effective shape to the opinion of Parliamentarians.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have got only three hours for both these things. Please go ahead faster.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: The Standing Committee on commerce, after elaborate discussion and after examining witnesses from different sections of the people; business houses and people working in this field came to certain conclusions, some of which are relevant here.

The Committee opined that the 'Indian Patent Law has been rightly emphasising patenting of processes and not the products. This should be maintained. This is the clear opinion of the Committee. I want the Minister to respond to

this point in the course of his reply on how he has denied the proposition of the Standing Committee which has been submitted before the Lok Sabha. The proposed extension of 20 years actually discourages research and development and should not be conceded. India should insist on grant of automatic licensing in certain circumstances. Micro-organisms and biological processes should be kept out of patent regime. These are the suggestions which are relevant here.

The Government, in this case I understand, undemocratically, without showing any respect to the Parliamentary process and procedure without coming to the Parliament beforehand, during Winter Session or Monsoon Session—it was in the offing, they knew all these things—without coming to the Parliament with the proposition how they are going to tackle the situation and what are the views they have taken on the suggestions of the Standing Committee on this subject, without any discussion, without coming to the Parliament, without reference to the Parliament, they waited upto 31st December only to promulgate the Ordinance. Now, the Government wants this Bill to be passed in place of that Ordinance.

Twenty-fourth is the last date for that, which we all know. So, in a hurry this has to be passed by the Parliament. This is the method which the Government has adopted in such a serious matter which concerns not only the industrial foundations of our country in regard to chemicals, pharmaceuticals, drugs, etc., but also concerns, to a great extent, the self-reliance and sovereignty of our country.

The study of the research Group on Price Escalation aspect has found out that 42 per cent of the anti-biotics, 98 per cent of the anti-bacterials, 70 per cent of the anti-leproses, 66 per cent of the anti-tuberculoses, 51 per cent of the cardiovasculars and 89 per cent of the contraceptive hormones sold in Indian market will attract American patent, if product patent is accepted or if the compulsory or exclusive marketing right is granted. That is, if product patent is accepted or if exclusive marketing right is granted, then, 42 per cent of the antibiotics, 98 per cent of the antibacterials, etc., etc., will attract either American patent or the exclusive marketing rights by the American holdings.

Section 5(1) is there; Section 5(2) which is being inserted will operate according to the inclusion that is being sought in Chapter IV-A in the form of Article 24(a), 24(b), 24(c) and 24(d) which actually boils down to one single point, that is, science is going to be patented which is contrary to the laws of development of nature, society and knowledge of society.

I want to say that in the case of Intellectual Property Rights, it is a prelude on the part of the Government. In the TRIPs Agreement, many things will follow. I only want to refer it because the other points are not included in this Patents (Amendment) Bill. I am not going to elaborate it. But from this Bill, it is apparent that one after another, the things will come either as an interim arrangement or in totality. The total pattern will be changed according to the

TRIPs Agreement wherein only certain biological processes are unpatentable and all other things in the world will be patentable. Therefore, it is very dangerous not only for marketing but also for price rise which will definitely follow. Pakistan is an example. We do not know whether we are moving towards Pakistan or Mexico. The Government will answer whether we are nearing Pakistan on the economic side or we are going nearer to Mexico.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken half-an-hour.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: It is not only against the economy of our country but it is also totally against the natural laws of social development. Therefore, I oppose this Bill and request the House to reject it altogether.

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:

“That the Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970, be taken into consideration.”

This Bill, already introduced to replace the Patents Ordinance, 1994, was promulgated on 31st December, 1994 giving effect to our obligations under the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement of the World Trade Organisation with our interest simultaneously being duly safeguarded. India is a Member of the World Trade Organisation.

The World Trade Organisation Agreement has come into effect from 1st January, 1995. One of the obligations under the Agreement is to provide with effect from 1.1.1995 means for filing of applications for patents in the areas of pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals and on fulfillment of certain conditions, grant of exclusive marketing rights for a period of five years or until the patent is granted or rejected, whichever is earlier.

The Patents Act, 1970 does not provide for grant of product patent in the above-mentioned areas, that is, pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals. As per the TRIPs Agreement, we have to amend the Act for grant of such patents by 2005 AD. The arrangement referred to above has to be made in the intervening period.

The Patents Ordinance, 1994, promulgated on 31st December, 1994, gives effect to this arrangement in the field of pharmaceuticals and agro-chemicals. This Bill has been introduced to replace the Ordinance. The Amendment also provides for grant of exclusive marketing right after certain conditions have been fulfilled as specified in the Bill.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, by way of amending the Patents Act, 1970, the measures have been incorporated to ensure the Government's ability to intervene in the public interest.

(a) Before grant of exclusive marketing rights (which provides for exclusive rights for 'sale' and 'distribution' of the product) the application will be examined to see if there is any 'prima facie' violation of existing provisions of the Patents Act.

(b) For inventions made in India, the applicant is not

required to obtain a patent in some other country. The applicant need only to obtain a process patent in India which could be the basis of the Exclusive Marketing Right.

(c) In the public interest, the Government could, either on its own, or through any authorised person, assume the marketing rights. Also in the public interest, the Government would have powers to fix the price for the items for which Exclusive Marketing Rights are granted.

(d) The provisions of compulsory licensing have been extended to Exclusive Marketing Rights. The right holder would maintain adequate supplies of the substance for which the rights have been granted and in the event of his failure to do so, the Government could grant a compulsory licence for the same.

(e) Further, as a measure to provide facility for inventions made in India, Section 39 of the Patents Act, which placed restrictions on applications has been deleted.

Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Members to extend their support to pass the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994 (No. 13 of 1994) promulgated by the President on December 31, 1994."

"That the Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970, be taken into consideration."

The House will discuss Items No. 13 and 14 together. Time allotted is three hours. Shri Ram Kapse.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the chair]

1602 hrs.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Honourable Chairman Sir, I stand to oppose this Ordinance and the Bill. I initially request the Government to withdraw the Bill. It is better to do so in the interest of the Government also. If it is not feasible, then the total Opposition and some Members of the Congress party themselves will defeat this Bill because you have lost the mandate of the people.

1603 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the chair]

What do you intend to do! In substance, the multinationals will have or would be able to have patents of agricultural chemicals even outside India and pharmaceutical products would now acquire exclusive marketing rights to the detriment of the Indian counterpart. What protection have you given to us? Here, the first casualty will be the farming section. The indigenous products, the appropriate machinery, will not act and firstly, the opposition is coming from the farming section and that opposition will ultimately see that the Congress is defeated in the next Parliamentary elections or even on this issue, the Parliament is in a mood to defeat you. We have been, for years, telling you to take the Parliament into confidence as far as GATT is concerned. Did you ever do it? Have you got the sanction of this Parliament? Is the real consensus on this matter arrived at? The national consensus on this matter was definitely required. You never got it. And this is the New Year gift to the nation! On

31st December last year, you introduced the Ordinance and you said that Parliament was not in session. We were here for the Winter Session. You never took us into confidence.

You never wanted to face the Parliament because of the defeat in Karnataka and Andhra. Now, after Maharashtra and Gujarat, still you come here with this Bill and ask us to vote for you without the consensus, with the interest of the industry here and without knowing the effects of this Act itself. See any financial newspaper today, and you will find that there are units after units for sale because of the competition with the multinationals and you are now concerned about it. You will go ahead. The multinationals will be benefited and the multinationals will be benefited at the cost of the industries here.

There are so many instances which are telling in themselves. A professor from the Institute of Management who is aiding the codification of Indian Systems of Medicines approaching the US Patent Office for patenting local medicines, is a shame to this Government itself. He said in so many words that 'because of the corruption in your patenting office and your patenting machinery the way it is behaving', he had to opt for USA. This happened here and even then you say that 'we are going to protect our industry, our research and our farmers'. At least, do not tell us that you are doing all these things in the name of farmers or researchers. As it is, today only 15 per cent of the people are using medicines. You have declared ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE : You have decided that the Year 2000 will be the Year : 'Health for all'.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : It is Hell for all!

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : It is Death for all.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : This is only in West Bengal.

SHRI RAM KAPSE : They have declared 'Health for all'. I will go ahead. In a hurry Maharashtra Government which was the Congress Government then, declared that 1990 will be the Year 'Health for all' and between 1990 and 1994 they saw to it that hundreds of Adivasis, the persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes succumbed to death in Amrawati District, in Thane District and in Dhulia District. You were not ashamed of it. And the people voted against you thinking that you are murderers and even now you are going ahead with this Bill and your officers, your Secretary has assured the Medical Industry, the Pharmaceutical Industry that more realistic and flexible price control mechanism to cover the rising cost of manufacturing ensuring comfortable returns of their investments would be taken into consideration in the new Drug Policy. You intend to do this. But with the new Act, with the new amendment what will be the position? In the USA the position is like this that brand name drugs cost 250 times more than their generic cousins and with this increase in the drug prices, our drug prices will be at least 900 per cent more and even in some cases it will be 3000 per cent more.

So, viewed in the context of today's prices, the Government's Drug Policy, the prices of branded material in USA, the prices which are likely to be quoted after the entry of the multinationals, the Declaration 'Health for All' will ultimately lead to, as an hon. Member said, 'death for all'. But the people will see to it that the designs and the wishes of the Government are not fulfilled. As far as GATT is concerned, they acted in a hurry. There was no national consensus on the matter. Our opposition to it was not taken into account. Initially the Government was thinking of having patents as far as the processing was concerned, but all other countries opposed it. But in regards to 'products' you accepted the other nation's insistence and signed the agreement. Ultimately, whether it is process or product patent—you have agreed and acted under pressure from the countries of the world. But the Opposition will oppose it, your own Members will oppose it and there are people at large who will oppose it and see to it that your purpose is defeated. In a way you are a caretaker Government after losing the mandate. So, I sincerely suggest you not to be in a hurry; and pass such a Bill which will affected the interest of the whole country for years to come. So, I again request you to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Mr. Chairman, I stand to support the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1995.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: You come to Maharashtra and say this.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: I have been saying that in Maharashtra and I will say it here.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: So you have suffered!

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, the Bill is a very straightforward one. It has two aspects. First is the political aspect which has been highlighted by my colleagues who spoke earlier: my friend who has moved the Resolution opposing the Bill and Shri Ram Kapse.

Sir, the political arguments for and against the entire Uruguay Round of GATT has been going on in the country for the last three years, both within the Parliament and outside. The GATT accord was discussed threadbare on a number of occasions in this House. A Parliamentary Standing Committee went into the details of it, took evidence of eminent scholars, experts, Trade Organisations, retired bureaucrats and after considering all the opinions, submitted a report which essentially said that the country had to remain within the GATT framework of its successor organisation—the World Trade Organisation. The politico-economic situation in the world today makes it very clear that this country cannot remain an isolated economic island. The country of India's size, a continental economy, has to join the world mainstream. It has to globalise its economy. After careful consideration and having discussed the issue in the Parliament, the Government decided to accept the Uruguay round of GATT talks.

At Marrakesh we signed the agreement on 15th April, 1994. But after that within the Government, within the

Executive there was a detailed scrutiny of what the agreement entails us to do or what more the obligations under the GATT or WTO Treaty and its various sub-parts like TRIPS agreement, etc. The Government did not ratify the treaty till the very last moment. The Cabinet ratified GATT Agreement only on 30th December, 1994. As you know, the GATT Accord or the new WTO Agreement had to come into being from 1st January, 1995. The Government waited till the last minute and on the 30th December, the GATT Accord was ratified by the Cabinet. What did the GATT Accord oblige us to do?

The TRIPS Agreement imposes certain conditions on all the contracting parties of the GATT or the Member countries of the WTO Agreement. On the area of intellectual property rights, there was certain things expected of all the Members of WTO. The Member countries were expected to do certain things and some of those things were to become effective on the day the GATT ended and WTO came into being, that is on the 1st January, 1995. Therefore, it was obligatory on the part of India, as one of the signatories to the WTO Accord, to make certain changes in the Patents Act of 1970 because those provisions had to come into being from the 1st January, 1995. Therefore, Sir, on 31st December an Ordinance was promulgated. There was nothing secretive or nothing done behind the back of anybody. It was very clear the day we signed the GATT Accord at Marrakesh that we are going to do these very things on the 1st January, 1995. So, we did it on 31st December. Parliament was then not in Session. An Ordinance was promulgated and now we have come to the House to pass the Bill.

The WTO and the TRIPS part of it has got three important deadlines. The first deadline, as I said, is the 1st January, 1995, that is the day when WTO came into existence. The second major deadline will be five years hence, that is the 1st January, 2000 and certain things will have to be done by that time as we are committed to do them. The third deadline, is a special case for certain developing countries which do not have product patent for some product categories. Thus we will have to do certain more things by the 1st January, 2004. These are the three main deadlines which are clearly spelt out in the Dunkel Draft or the final Act or the WTO Agreement.

The first phase has been enacted. We have promulgated the Ordinance which is now before the House. What does it do? It does two main things. It allows anyone to file an application for a product patent in India beginning 1st January, 1995 for certain categories which were earlier prohibited for product patent category. The second thing that it does is, it allows exclusive marketing rights for those drugs for which product patents have now been applied for. These are the only two things which are required to be done under the WTO Accord on 1st January, 1995 and which were done. There is nothing further. Certain other steps will be required to be taken after five years. For example, extending the term of patent from the present seven or fourteen years to twenty years so that there is a uniform term of patent. We will have to take a decision on microorganism patenting. We will have

to take a decision about the working of a patent; whether importation constitutes working of patent or not. All this is required to be done in the next five years.

Now, we are required to do two main things, that is extending the product patenting in certain categories which were earlier excluded and giving exclusive marketing right for a period of five years. What do these two things really imply and what do they really mean for the pharmaceutical industry, agriculture, chemical industry or for the health care? We will have to come to these aspects.

Sir, let us first consider the fact that before the Ordinance we had the Patents Act of 1970 which has been praised by everyone as one of the most revolutionary pieces of legislation in the third world. It definitely afforded a protection to a developing country like India which did not have a very well-established system of scientific laboratories and network of scientists. It allowed us not to re-invent the wheel and at times copy certain patented medicines and offer them at a very low cost in India. That was good for a developing country like India. But, this is specifically what the western world has objected to. They termed it as theft of intellectual property. This is what the TRIPS agreement was all about. The technologically advanced developing countries like India were said to be stealing, robbing the West of their intellectual property. Scientists in India did not really object in totality to the product patenting or moving over to a product patenting system, as has been alleged by some friends that the entire scientific community is against it. All that Scientists wanted was a certain time period, a certain transition period so that the scientific community in India working in the area of pharmaceuticals and drugs got enough time to set up in-house R&D facilities. This is all they asked. After long and protracted negotiations in Geneva, at Marrakech and elsewhere, a transition period of five years was given. Though we wanted 15 years, a five year period was agreed. A ten year period was allowed for moving over to the system of product patenting.

Sir, if you look at the entire industrial production of the country, take aircraft industry, take automobile industry, take machine tools industry, take electronics, take information technology, take software, the entire industrial sector in the country is covered both by product patent and process patent. The 1970 Act allows us to take product patent or process patent for almost the entire industrial production in the country but for certain exceptions which were introduced in the Act. These were chemical substances, food products and agricultural chemicals. If you take the total industrial output, the output which is restricted out of the scope of product patent was only the drugs, pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals. Now, this Act is trying to bring these substances which were earlier excluded from the product patent regime into the fold of product patent and some time has been provided for it. It is not as if the whole world is falling apart. We have accepted the entire intellectual properties rights system. Sir, if you look at the

total gamut of the intellectual property rights, it consists of copy rights, it consists of trade marks, it consists of proprietary industrial information, it consists of industrial designs, it consists of electronic integrated circuits. It also consists of geographical indications and it consists of patents. There are seven different categories which constitute the area of intellectual property rights. In everything excepting patents, India is at par with the world. We are members of the WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organisation. In every single aspect, be it copy rights or trade marks, we are at par with the world. There is no argument about it. Only in the case of patents for certain chemicals substances like pharmaceuticals, drugs and agricultural chemicals India differs from some of the western countries. That is what we are trying to do now. We are accepting these things now. There is time for it. "So, What will really happen?" Sir, we are not saying that we will grant product patents for chemicals today. We have said that we will accept product patent applications from 1.1.95 for certain categories of chemicals, pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals. We do not have to grant a patent. We only have to accept applications. This is being done because in case we allow product patents in future, which we are going to allow after some time, the priority or the date of filing a patent, which is very crucial, is given to the person who files the patent first. That is what is being done.

The second is, as you know, patents afford certain rights to a patentee. These are exclusive rights of using, making, selling or distributing a product or a substance. What is being sought to be done now is that we are distinguishing between making and using versus selling and distribution. We will bifurcate the rights. We are giving selling and distributing rights. We are not talking about using or making, because that would be like granting the patent itself. We are distinguishing between manufacturing and making of a new item as against selling and distributing of a new item. This particular Bill gives exclusive right of marketing, selling and distributing of a product which is under patent. This is what is being done. Now, what will happen? The friend who moved the Resolution to oppose the Bill had sought to give some figures that certain chemicals will become more expensive. Prof. Kapse has said that certain chemicals will become nine-times more expensive and certain drugs will become thirty-times more expensive. It is not like that at all. They have not understood the provisions of this Bill at all. Sir, whatever is going on today in the country, whether we are copying or stealing or pirating, whether we are selling the products cheap because it is an intellectual theft, whatever may be the term, nothing is going to change at all. No price of a drug need to be changed by even a paisa because of this Bill. When this Bill becomes an Act, it will only be applicable to products or substances which are filed for the patent after 1.1.95. What was covered by patents earlier in other countries is not affected by this Bill at all. So, what does that mean? When a new chemical molecule is discovered and an

inventor goes to our Patent Office to file a product patent his application will be accepted. But what is the process of discovering a drug? When you file for a new molecule to be used as a drug, it takes a very long time for it to become a product, before it is sold in the market and profit is earned.

Figures have been quoted that in the United States, that it takes something like Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 300 crore worth of research and clinical trials, both animal and human, before a drug can be approved for marketing. Sir, the concept of marketing approval is very important in case of drugs and pharmaceuticals. Filing a patent does not give you any right at all. Filing a patent only gives a priority date that in case a patent is granted, it will be treated retrospectively from that date. But, you, still have to prove to the FDA, the drug controlling authorities of each country, that this drug is safe; that it indeed does what it says it will do; that it will cure this disease with the particular dose and so on. This process takes anything from 7 to 15 years. Unless this whole process is gone through, not a single rupee profit can be earned, not a single rupee worth of drug can be sold in the market. So, what we are saying is that if you apply for a patent today, that product will not come into the market for the next five to ten years. There is no question of any MNC trying to dump anything here because whatever was happening before, will continue to happen. There will be no change at all in pricing. What we are trying to do is that we are trying to come to the level of International Intellectual Property Protection System and in future, say, within a period of ten years—as is agreed by the scientific community—if some time is given they will compete with the world. Our scientists are no less than anybody else, only that we are not investing in R&D. Because it is so easy to copy the drugs which are invented abroad and make huge profits here, our pharmaceutical industries did not invest in R&D. Now, this new amendment will force our Indian pharmaceutical industrial to invest in R&D in times to come. As the R&D cost is very low in India, we will be able to compete with the world; We can be the Leaders in this technology. We will not be a copier or a thief of a technology but we will be the provider of technology. This will give indigenous industries the strength to move ahead because the owners, the businessmen and the entrepreneurs who up till now were not interested in R&D, who were not investing any money in Research and Development, will have to start investing. Because, they will not have access to free technology from outside which was earlier copied and sold at a huge profit. Now, they will have to pay the royalty on the intellectual property which is either designed by Indian laboratories, viz., the CSIR system or the private laboratories in India or they are free to buy the technology from abroad.

But they have to pay for it. Once they know the value of technology they will invest in India because it will be far cheaper to do research and development here in India. A lot has been said about this Bill. This is a fairly innocuous Bill. The issues have been debated for the last three years. We know what was going to be done. There is nothing secret about it. There is nothing surprising in it. Nothing

has been done at the last minute. On the other hand, the Government of India has tried to protect the interests of the country to the maximum extent possible. For getting the exclusive marketing rights, one has to file an application in India which will be accepted after this amendment; one has also got to file an application abroad. That application has to be converted into a patent. That means one has to get the product patent in any one of the convention countries. Convention countries are those which have ratified the WTO accord. There are 78 convention countries today as notified under the Patent Act. In one of these countries one has to apply for the patent and get the patent. That itself takes about eighteen to twenty four months. If one gets the patent, then he will be considered for exclusive marketing rights here. The third condition is that he has to get marketing approval for the drug or for that pharmaceutical product in that convention country. The first thing is filing an application; the second thing is to get the patent and the third thing is to get marketing approval from the controlling authority which controls the health care system in that particular country. They have to approve the product as being safe and of stated therapeutic value and that no false claim was being made. That is a very very lengthy process. It takes ten to twelve years. In this country also one has to seek marketing approvals from our health authorities in India. It is a very long process. It will not happen tomorrow; it will not happen next year; it will not happen for another ten years. There are enough safeguards. Within that time it is expected that we will start filing patent applications in India for drugs and pharmaceuticals in a large number. We will start competing globally.

Sir, fear genuine, fears are expressed that when this system comes into being after ten or twelve years, somebody will exploit this situation of exclusive marketing rights and charge exorbitant prices for drugs which are life-saving. Can that happen; That cannot happen because there are provisions in our Act as it is being enacted today which enables the Government of India to intervene if somebody tries to take undue advantage of this protection given to them. The Government of India by means of Drug Price Control Order or similar such rules can enforce that certain drugs should be sold at particular price and no exorbitant price should be charged. There is also a provision of compulsory licensing. If somebody does not sell a product in enough quantity after getting the exclusive marketing rights, the Government of India can intervene and grant a compulsory licence. There are enough safeguards.

So, my humble plea to this House would be that let us not oppose this Bill on some politically pre-conceived notions for getting some votes outside. Sir, the country has endorsed the new economic policy. We are going to globalise, we are going to empower our engineers, our scientists, our agriculturists, our workers to join the world economy because they are second to none. We have to give them the enabling infrastructure. We have to force the industrialist, the businessmen, who uptill now made huge

profits by copying technology, by stealing technology from outside, to make proper investment so that our scientists, our research laboratories can produce results better than the rest of the world. I think through this Bill, the barriers to the international trade, so international technology will be eliminated gradually and there will be adequate and effective protection for Intellectual Property Rights in India.

And when there will be an adequate and effective protection for Intellectual Property Rights in India there will be substantial investment in research and development flows into India not only from within India but also from foreign countries, and our scientists and engineers will get the infrastructure to compete in the world. It would be clear that there are no immediate effects or ill-effects of this amendment; only the fact that Indian companies and foreign companies, who are based in India, will now be allowed to apply for product patents. And this will ultimately lead to a very healthy and vibrant R&D effort in the area of pharmaceuticals and drugs in India.

Section 5 of the Bill does an important thing that it repeals Section 39 of the Indian Patent Act of 1970. This Section earlier had actually put a certain restriction on Indian citizens when they applied for a patent in foreign countries. What was that restriction? The restriction was that you could not apply for patent abroad—an Indian citizen, an Indian corporation or an Indian R&D institution could not apply for a patent outside without seeking the permission of the Controller of Patents in India. We had to first apply for permission. If the permission was not given within a period of six weeks, then you could not apply; that meant, there is a delay of six weeks.

Now in patenting, every hour counts, every day counts. Here was a major hindrance, a major impediment for the Indian citizens and Indian corporate bodies when they went abroad to apply for patents. Now the entire Section 39 has been deleted so that now the Indian citizens, the Indian corporate bodies can go and apply for patents interationally without coming to the Government of India. This provision helps the Indian industry to compete globally. But I have one reservation. I request the Government to study it carefully. Today, if there is an innovation, not in the area of drugs and pharmaceuticals about which this Bill is concerned, but say in the defence, about space, about nuclear energy. As per the provision before the Ordinance, a citizen of India had to come to the Controller of Patents and tell him that he wants to file an application abroad. The Government could say "No." We knew that this particular patent was to be applied abroad and the Controller of the Patents had the option of applying a secrecy clause and tell the inventor that he cannot disclose it because patenting means making the information public, disclosing the information. Today, we have no such protection. A person in any R&D Laboratory, in the private or public laboratory can straightway go and apply for a patent in London or New York. The Government of India would not know about it. We have to seriously consider the implications of the deletion. The Industry Ministry has done it with an intention to help us to compete globally. But there are

certain side-effects which need to be studied very carefully.

Chapter 4(a) deals with exclusive marketing rights. Section 24(b) of the new chapter refers to convention countries. Convention countries are those countries which have ratified the WTO Accord, those who have signed the Marakesh Agreement but have also ratified that Accord.

Now the ratification of an accord and amending the patent laws are two different things. You could sign an agreement to accept the WTO, but you still may take time to amend the Patent Law as we did on the 31st December. But some countries could take more time. There is a category of countries which have ratified the WTO Accord but have not changed the Patent Law. There may be a few countries. I request the Minister and the Government to see if there is a distinction. It is an important distinction whether an Indian inventor who will apply for his patent could be hurt by this provision.

This Bill has been controversial because the whole Uruguay-Round-of GATT Accord has been very controversial. The Dunkel Draft was controversial. But you cannot accuse the Government that the Government did not discuss it; it was discussed threadbare in the House; on three-four occasions, it was discussed in the Standing Committee; it was discussed outside; there were public meetings both for and against the Bill. But much criticism was unfounded because the whole thing was very complex. Let us not undermine its complexity. The criticism was misdirected, but when the people were informed about the correct position, by and large, appeal supported the GATT accord and India's decision to join the World Trade Organisation.

This particular Bill comes out of that. This had to be done by 1st January 1995. We have done it. There is nothing secret and nothing hidden.

My hope is that this Bill and the Bills which will follow in the next five years to change the Indian Patent Act will empower the scientific community to really compete globally on equal footing and equal level. Therefore, I request the Mover of the Resolution to withdraw the Resolution and urge the House to support this Bill wholeheartedly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, this morning when Mr. Speaker was in the Chair, we agreed that only one Member from each party will speak because these ordinances will have to be passed. This Bill has to be passed in this House and sent to the other House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He took the sense of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: There was no agreement.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Sir, this suggestion was made from the Chair and we agreed to it but it is not so that we will do that only...*(Interruptions)* It will be better if it could be done.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You see, we have less time.

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): You should give more time to this Bill, Sir, (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: We are taking a very little time.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now while supporting this Bill. A member of Parliament from Maharashtra has told that main Global trade treaties or other international agreements which finalised recently, which are known as GATT and Dunkel proposals in India and have got unanimous support throughout the country. I would like to say that people of Maharashtra have rejected it. Elections were held in Maharashtra recently and Congress was badly defeated in those elections which reveals that the agreement was rejected in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. I am surprised to know that even then hon. Member says that public has supported it.

[English]

People's mandate is against it.

[Translation]

I was of the opinion that at least Finance Minister would accept the people's mandate against GATT, Dunkel proposals and other international agreements on trade which has been revealed in defeat of Congress in these four states. But it is very sad that he outrightly rejected it. He has brought the Bill for enacting law which is an insult to the injury done to the Indian trade and industry.

[English]

It is an insult and injury to the Indian trade and industry.

[Translation]

I, therefore oppose it.

Mr. chairman, Sir, it is very sad that just now it was being said that the medicines or agricultural products of our country will get the right of patents which was not there earlier. I would like to say that now we are bringing subordinate legislation. Legislation on international level through World Trade Organisation, Dunkel and GATT. Now we are enacting subordinate legislation. Our Finance Minister has totally surrendered to World Bank, Trade World organisation, Dunkel and GATT and now he is enacting subordinate and delegated legislation with their permission. We are going to lose our supremacy, existence and sovereignty of our Constitution and we have already murdered these values. Now we have no right to enact such legislation because it is our fait accompli that we have signed the agreement and by signing the agreement on World Trade Organisation we have killed our self-respect and dignity. Today we are helpless and this ordinance was brought because you already knew that the House will strongly oppose it. The whole country strongly opposes it and public has refused to accept it. Our farmers do not want patents for their products because under this agreement farmer will not be able to sell the seed of rice

produced by him with hard labour if some foreign company gets its patent. In this way our farmer will become dependent on foreign companies and the farmers will have to pay whatever they asked by the company to pay. I would like the Minister of Finance to read out the portion of World Trade Agreement which says that the farmers will not have to pay anything. The statement of objects clearly says it and there is no scope for any doubt:—

[English]

"One of the obligations, under the TRIPs Agreement, of the member countries is to provide, with effect from the first January, 1995, means for filling of applications for patents in the areas of pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals."

[Translation]

Thus it is a compulsion therefore it has been stated there:—

[English]

Thus it is a compulsion therefore it has been stated there:—

[English]

"India has signed the agreement for establishment of World Trade Organisation."

[Translation]

So the legislation being enacted here is a subordinate Legislation. It is written there that:—

[English]

".....including the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)."

[Translation]

The Agreement writes about the Intellectual property Rights mentioned here that:—

[English]

"The W.T.O Agreement has come into force on first January 1995, with a view to meeting India's applications under TRIPs Agreement, it became necessary to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

[Translation]

Sir, this legislation is not being enacted for the benefit of our farmer because if it had been the case then they could have enacted this legislation earlier as this Government has been in powers since several years barring only 2½ years. No body has stopped them to enact such a law to benefit farmers or introduce the Patents Act? Since it was suicidal and fatal that is why it had not been introduced earlier. Today we are forced to make this law that is why we are leading the public up the garden path. The Minister of Finance is talking about new economic policy, liberalisation, new financial policy and the new economic philosophy but the people of our country rejected these things. The party has never seen such failure before that. Today 2/3 of Gujarat public have gone against you and in Maharashtra, the Chief Minister has been defeated badly in elections. It used to be said about him that nobody can defeat him by any means.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Indian public is being

suppressed under this new economic policy. Our farmers, trade, industries, domestic industries, cottage industries are also being suppressed, that is why the public of Maharashtra, which is also the birth place of Chhatrapathi Shivaji, have given verdict that they would not let their Country's self-respect be sold out that is why they defeated Sharad Pawar and his people. Sir, the mandate is against them, that is why I would like to say that mandate should be respected. If they do not do so then what has recently happened in Bombay, Gandhi Nagar, Karnataka, the Prime Minister's Constituency, Andhra Pradesh, would be repeated at other places also. The public of the constituency of the Prime Minister voted against him and shown him whether they are in favour or against these policies. That is why I would like to submit that mandate should be respected and the 'Substitute Legislation' should not be introduced. We should see to it that we do not become bonded labour, We are not enslaved, and Lord Clive is not given a new life and do not repeat the history of East India Company Clive is dead but Dunkel has taken his place in India. This is the mandate of the people of India given on the economic policy. Therefore, it should be rejected. It is not so clear and simple as it appears to be.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. It is Bill. Please conclude because we have your friends also to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: My submission is that the prices of drug will increase three or four hundred fold. It is not only my opinion. If allowed, I am ready to read it out to all hon. Members. I have an article, certain dates prepared by scientists which I want to read out to you all. They themselves tell that it will lead to competition but what kind of the competitiveness there will be? Since a company at Newyork will have patents of neem, seeds it will charge arbitrary amount from our traders and the latter would have to pay it quite politely. It would be a gross injustice against our farmers. It is thus our suicidal law. It is a plot to endanger our freedom. The arrow shot by Shri Manmohan Singh is not an ordinary one. I, therefor, have termed it —

"Satsaiyya Ke Dohre Jyon Navik Ke Teer,
Dekhan Main Seedhe Lage, Ghao Kare Gambhir".

Therefore, Shri Manmohan Singhji, be careful, you should learn a lesson from the outcome of Assembly elections in four States. Otherwise, the spell of the charm of the economic reform will vanish soon. This action will not allow to put its self-respect at Stake. This nation of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdeo will not allow it. Your party has been voted out by the people in elections. Therefore, you should take a cue from it and reject it.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Chairman, it was on a August midnight in 1947 that this nation had won its independence from foreign domination. And it was again on another December midnight that our independence was havily compromised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the subject of the Bill.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Our independence was compromised ironically by the same party whose leader at that time had spoken about the nation's tryst with destiny.

Dark deeds are better done in the dark and it was a dark deed that was committed by this Government which has already lost the mandate of the people. An ordinance was promulgated by the President. It was a new Years gift!

In this Parliament we had made a demand that this Parliament should have the right to discuss the GATT Treaty. In other countries the Parliaments are discussing; and we who describe ourselves as the largest democracy, do not have any right to discuss the implications of the GATT Treaty. But important change is being brought about by this Government. It would have serious consequences on the lives of the people. Particulary the poorer sections of the people will be very severely affected.

A large number of Member of Parliament from both the Houses had made a representation to the hon. President, that he should not sign any such ordinance, which — they were afraid — was coming. Eminent scientists, economists, statesmen and political parties had made similar representations to the hon. President not to promulgate any such ordinance because it erodes the authority of this Parliament. In other countries the parliaments had given their veto. The other day we had seen that on a particular aspect regarding TRIPS the European Parliament has vetoed the issue on life form. Then again, the American Senate continued to have their own pernicious laws like the Special 301 and the Super 301. They had not brought about any changes. Many others are yet to take any measures to conform to the demands of the WTO which they have by this time joined.

What was the reason for such haste? Passing of ordinances as such has been severely criticised by so many presiding officers since the days of the Great Mavalankar. It is a denial of the rights of Parliament. But today we see that it has become an Ordinance-Raj. Between two sessions of parliament Ordinances are coming which effect radical changes, which affect even the basic tenets of our Constitution, the basic goals of the nation.

17.00 hrs.

Here is one such piece, Major change is being brought about in our Indian Patents Act, was this Act a sudden discovery by the nation? 'No'. It was the offshoot of our goal of self-reliance. In 1948, the Tek Chand Committee was constituted and subsequently in conformity with our Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948...

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (Amreli): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung.

Now there is quorum. The hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal may continue.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was in conformity with our Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 and also subsequently in 1956-57, another Committee was set up and that Committee strongly recommended in favour of a new policy formulation and the result was this Indian Patents

Act, 1970. It was very much in conformity with our goal of self-reliance. It had been aptly praised by so many countries of the world as a model for developing countries and today we want to bring about such changes in the Act which will virtually be a barrier to our self-reliance in respect of research and development, in respect of our pharmaceutical industries, its potential for growth and also the access for the people of this country to the essential medicine which they need. Even today only 15 per cent or even less than that of Indian population have an access to the life saving drugs which they need and the situation will be worsened further as a result of the changes being brought about.

What was the hurry behind it? As I have stated, the Government of India could have waited. But we have been noticing that when this Government has been asked to kneel down, they have been stretching themselves at the feet of those who put pressures.

The pressures are coming particularly from countries like U.S.A. and some of their cohorts who want to dominate this world after the changes that have taken place the world over.

Now, what is there in the Bill? It is being said that it is the first phase of the changes and that they are not considering certain other changes that they are required to incorporate to conform to the needs of our joining WTO and that again we shall get another five years to bring about certain other changes. It is being made out as if it is to protect the Indian interests that such changes have been brought about. No. What is being done had started long back. At the initial stage of the Uruguay Round, India had taken a positive stand not to allow these to be incorporated. But after the changes that have taken place in some other countries, particularly the debacle — although a temporary set back — in the socialist world, the Government has taken a 'U' turn. They started, even before being asked, conforming to certain changes which affect our self-reliance in a big way.

I am now coming to the changes being proposed. One is about the exclusive marketing rights. Is it any different from the monopoly rights? There are so many grey areas in the Agreement. It may be because of the translation or it may be as a result of the need to bring about a compromise. Different interpretations are being made by different countries of the "grey areas" I shall give you two or three examples. One is the stand taken by some countries — I am not going into the details about that — about this exclusive right. For how many days will it be there? Will it be limited to five years only or will it go beyond that, or will it be that with a second patent demand, it will roll over? It is being said that it will not take place at all. It is being said that they have just made the provision that the party seeking patent will have to make the application in some Convention country. Earlier, there was a feeling that only major countries like the U.K. were the Convention countries but here I find that immediately

after this 31st December Ordinance, on 3rd of January, in a Government notification, the Convention countries included almost all the major countries like U.S.A., U.K. and Sweden. Today, U.S.A. is the major manufacturer or producer. In respect of research also they are quite ahead of many other. In our country, more than seventy per cent of the medicines that are being marketed under one brand or the other, are from U.S. multinational companies. It has been said in the Bill:

"where an invention has been manufactured, whether in India or in a country other than India, and before filing such a claim, filed an application for the same invention claiming identical article or substance in a Convention country".

These are the Convention countries. As per the notification of 3rd January, I find that the total number is 72. It will be disastrous for us.

Then there is the point about the concept of novelty. For an invention to be recognised as an invention, it will first have to be novel. We have seen in so many cases where the American patent offices are making *mala fide* applications and *mala fide* moves. Is there any arrangement in our country to face the situation because in the world today the patent regime is very very strong? They have the infrastructure, computerisation, information network etc. Where are we in comparison to that? I am telling that only in Germany there are 2,000 patents examined. How many are examined in India? The number is only 37. What is the infrastructure today? We can go to our patent office in Delhi, which is in Karol Bagh or nearby area. You do not find anything. There is no infrastructure at all. In other countries they are highly computerised and they are having information from their Missions making their claims.

Then again, there is aspect of litigation that will come in. Have we that money? Who will provide the money? For years together different patent offices at different patent centres have been clashing as regards interpretation and as regards novelty. Have we provided any protection for that? Even in the case of pharmaceuticals, drugs, medicines etc. Which are in Public domains, in some developed countries, they will claim a patent here. How to just protect our interest in such a situation?

This is about the infrastructure. I shall come to that later on. Firstly, let me speak about the provisions about compulsory licensing for non-commercial use in public interest. Has the Government of India any such money? What is the Budget being provided for non-commercial use? Then, what about the private parties, who want patent in public interest or for that matter, who have been applying for a patent and the patentee is not allowing them to have that right? In such a situation, we have a model here. We are being repeatedly told here by the Government that if China can do it why cannot we in India do it. Why cannot we follow the example of China? What has China done? In

China, even before joining the GATT — and now the W.T.O. which they want to join and obstacles are being created in their joining W.T.O. in various ways — they had an excellent piece of model legislation to protect their own country as regards compulsory licensing. But we are not doing it here. We are keeping it open. We cannot protect our industry; we cannot protect our people.

Then again, something is being said about the inventions. In Chapter-II of the original Act, they have stated about the inventions in public domain and all these things. I shall read them out: I shall come to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Leave something for your friends also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, it is about inventions what are inventions and what are not inventions. We know about *mala fide* applications made by certain countries, particularly the U.S. and others.

17.14 hrs.

[SHRI TARA SINGH *in the Chair*]

This was found long back, 20 years ago. In the mean time many changes have taken place as regards technology, as regards formulations, as regards use and many other things. We have not amended it and now in the light of the changes that have taken place changes must be made in section (3) of the Indian Patents Act.

In our own interest such modification of this section can be made. What is invention and what is not invention? Twenty years ago, the concept was different and now changes have taken place in such a big way that we need to overhaul this Section (3). The Government could have protected the nation by only amending the rules, keeping it intact without making any change in the Sections. But the Government has not done it. We are opposed to this Government bringing out any change in our Patent Law. It is being said: It is *fait accompli*: They are saying that they have already signed. But even those who have signed are not changing their laws. They are taking their own interpretation about the grey areas.

Sir, we could have waited because other nations have not brought out any changes. This Parliament should have been allowed to discuss these matters. It is not that they could have acted only negatively. They could have made very valid contribution. What is the Government's predicament after joining the WTO and other pillars of world domination? Is the Government so helpless? Can we not send signal to the outside world: This Parliament cannot be taken for granted. The Parliament will help the Government, it will strengthen the Government's hands. They are saying what can we do? It is a changed world and we cannot be isolated. The Government is making such a plea that it is not possible to go in for bilateral negotiation and only multilateral negotiations will help. There is no multilateralism in the world. Everybody is doing their own job through blocs even in the first phase, if you can send this signal to those who want to pressurize us that this Parliament cannot be taken for granted it will be better for us. This is happening in many other countries.

Even before joining it China had done it in an excellent way. I am reading two or three articles on how they had exploited the patent. It says:

"Where a national emergency or any extra-ordinary state of affairs occurs or where the public interest so requires, the patent office may grant a compulsory licence to exploit the patent for invention or utility model.

Where the invention or utility model was granted is technically more advanced than another invention or utility model for such a patent right has been granted earlier and the exploitation of the later invention or utility model depends on the exploitation of the earlier invention or utility model, the patent office may, upon the request of the later patentee, grant a compulsory licence to exploit the earlier invention or utility model."

What are we demanding for our scientists and for our researchers? Then again, in the matter of disputes, article 57 says:

"The entity or individual that is granted a compulsory licence for exploitation shall pay to the patentee a reasonable exploitation fees, the amount of which shall be fixed by both parties in consultations. Where the parties fail to reach an agreement, the patent office shall adjudicate."

They are holding the rights. We are not holding them. It is in fact known that the Indian patents can have it—earlier there was a difficulty for having them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): All these provisions are there in our Law.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : When you reply, you can convince us of that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Not in the Amending Bill but it is there in the parent Act.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The parent Act will be interpreted differently because of Section 3. As I have said, so many changes have taken place and our concept of novelty has changed. So, my suggestion had been—why not bring about the amendment in the rules only keeping it intact and wait and see what changes are being brought about by the other countries, so that we can have ample ways of manoeuvring to suit our own interests in a changed world set up? That is my point.

Sir, I have some suggestions to make in this regard. Even in a bad situation or worse situation, it is our duty as members of Parliament, as representatives of the people to protect the nation even while they are out to compromise. What is that, Sir? Our scientists, our private entrepreneurs and others should be given the necessary impetus and financial help to continue their research, particularly, in the second phase and third phase many dangerous things would be coming. It is about the patenting of the gene. Because, as you know, in our country some scientists have made a considerable progress in the matter of gene therapy, with regard to epilepsy and many such gene disorders and the experts have voiced their concern about

the gene patenting. Indian scientists and others have been making demands against gene patenting, which will be the future medicine. What did the European patent office say? They say that DNA is not live and can be patented. What will happen? This has got three dangers inherent in it. One is that a country like ours will be deprived of a real medicine of the future, that is, gene therapy. The second is that it will be used. As you know, 5000 odd genetic orders and practices are being just set aside for gene therapy. Gene is being mapped and this mapping is called Human Genome Project. Here we find with the multinational companies in the developed countries, with the patent authority....(Interruptions) will control the world. They will not only control the market, exploit the market but it also has got the inherent other dangers of manipulating human beings. We are opposed to patenting live forms that is very much there and European Parliament and others have done it and we are also doing. But this interpretation of the European Union Patent Office about DNA—will not the Parliament have the right to discuss all such important things?

We have not only been subjugated physically and economically, but we are going to be subjugated mentally also. Such a far-reaching change is being brought about and it is being said that it is the first phase only. But even in the first phase the signal should go and the world, the West, the imperialists and the cohorts, should know that the Indian Parliament cannot be taken for granted. We oppose it tooth and nail and the nation will continue its fight for its Independence and self-reliance.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Shri Vasant Pawar	—	Not Present
Shri Sribaliav Panigrahi	—	Not Present
Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya	—	Not Present
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan	—	Not Present
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya	—	Not Present

All right, the Minister may reply now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRATAP SINGH (Banka): Sir, nobody has spoken on behalf of my Party. And my name is also there in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Mr. Pratap Singh.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I do not wish to take too much time of the House. All the things have been very adequately presented by Shri Rupchand Pal, my esteemed colleague and expert on the subject; my colleague, Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan, has pointed out the viewpoint of Congress on this particular subject.

Of course, I rise to oppose any such Patents Bill which is sought to be brought about. My basic objection is that this interferes with the sovereignty of our nation. We have been asked by the hon. Finance Minister to find a consensus with regard to passing this Bill. It is quite funny to see how frequently they seek consensus from time to time and how they went behind the back of Parliament to Uruguay and other places and have concluded matters without the say-so or the knowledge of Parliament. This

certainly is not in the highest traditions of Parliament democracy. How did you get the right to make these decisions while Parliament was still in existence? It could easily be summoned and matters could have been discussed and put to the vote. It was not done. This is our first charge against the Government sitting on the Treasury Benches there. My colleague, Shri Chavan, suggested that there are various safeguards with regard to these patent laws. There is a big time gap with regard to an item which is patented and before it could come into commercial use; sometimes it is up to 15 years sometimes it is less. There is a process of approval within our country, but the final say-so and the okay is going to come from outside our borders. I would like to remind the Treasury Benches that in international dealings there are certain norms of reciprocity which must be accepted at all times. If they are going to vet our patents there and then give us permission to bring it out commercially, are we going to be doing the same thing when they send their goods here? Shall we put them to similar test in our country? If you have done that, we would certainly have said that you have done something at least to safeguard our sovereignty.

For this and for many other reasons, there is no need for me to say anything more. And the matter has been very well put by my colleague here and also by some of our colleagues from other parties on this side.

With these words, I would request the Government to think it over again and not to play with the sovereignty of this nation. Be very careful about it. Recently, you have paid the price for dabbling in such affairs and very soon when the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections are going to show up, you will find a worse situation confronting you.

With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party I oppose this Bill. A lot has been discussed here. But it is distressing that the Government of India has reached an agreement with foreign countries and it is ready to accept all the obligations mentioned in the agreement. But the Government is least concerned about the obligations enshrined in the constitution. It did not bother to take Parliament into confidence before taking such a major step. That is why such an important issue is raised through an Ordinance and helplessness is shown in Parliament and then its passage is solicited here. That is why we all Opposition leaders oppose the manner of introducing Bills.

There is an idiom that at the advent of any adversary first a man loses his wits. It is happening with the Congress Government itself now. This is why that the Government is taking steps after steps which are anti people, against the expectations and aspiration of people. But the Government is under the impression that it will benefit the country.

The same was the case with the Soviet Union. When Mikhail Gorbachev presented the outline of reforms there, the leaders of the ruling Communist party of the country welcomed it in general. They continued their support till the

Soviet Union was disintegrated completely. All the members of the ruling party are supporting the present Government in the country. Even if some of them have any note of dissent in their mind, they cannot oppose it out of fear of breach of discipline.

The proposed amendment in the Patent Act is likely to have very adverse effects. This amendment will cause the indigenous drug industries or agriculture industries to forsake the line of self-reliance and entrust these two industries to foreign hands. The manner the foreigners are being given rights, all the developed countries, especially the multinational companies, America and all those countries above members of the World Bank will create problems for us. We remember it that with the introduction of the Patent Act in 1970 the drugs for the diseases like TB had gone beyond the access of common people. That time one capsule of the drug was purchased for Rs. 150 or 200. But when this industry was set up through Patent Act in our country the price of this drug was reduced to Rs. 1.25. Today it is discussed that the prices will be increased 100 times, or 1000 times. Our hon. Ministers and Congress Members say that they will exercise their control over them. This is not possible at all. The progress of our country and the life of our people depend on these two national industries. If we hand them over to foreigners, India will suffer a great loss. The prices of drugs are the lowest in our country as compared to those prevalent in any other part of the world. Only ten or fifteen per cent people are able to purchase drugs with their income limit. It is very difficult to predict as to how poor people will be able to manage to purchase drugs if their prices are raised by 200 or 300 times. Similarly, the farmers will be at receiving end and the foreign countries will have monopoly on seeds. The traditional system of agriculture is likely to suffer a severe setback. I, therefore, submit that the Government should ponder over it taking all these things into consideration. On behalf of my party, I oppose it and request the hon. Minister to withdraw it.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in a sequence to what I have already stated about the earlier Bill, through you I would again like to caution this Government that it should desist from framing such important laws by promulgating Ordinances time and again which have bearing on future and economy of this country because such attempts are in fact undemocratic and unconstitutional, though there is a provision in the constitution for issuing Ordinances. The former Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Maolankar had enumerated the circumstances which required promulgation of an Ordinance. He had explicitly told and Mr. Nehru also had assured that Ordinances will be resorted to only in exceptional circumstances. It seems that the Government has signed it under the pressure of Dunkel, the GATT and the World Trade Organisation. I do not know what has blunted the wits of the Government that it has issued an Ordinance regarding Patent ignoring the interest of the people. It reads:

"India is a signatory to the agreement on setting of the World Trade Organisation which aims at

reducing the discrepancies in international trade and promoting the effective and adequate patronage of intellectual property rights, which includes contracts pertaining to the aspects related to trade of intellectual property rights"

Its objectives have been stated as follows:

"It has been signed with a view to promote public interest in socio-economic and industrial development of sectors of essential and of wider importance for the maintenance of public health and nutrition".

The phraseology of the draft is very high-sounding, but an objective analysis will make everything clear. Even since the proposal to amend patent act rent in air, and the Government signed it on the 1st January, 1995, the prices of life saving drugs and other essential drugs are rising. In the name of patentization we would have to bow before to the world. Earlier, the formula of manufacturing process and producing process used to be prepared in America and our doctors used to formulate drugs on basis thereof. Those drugs were cheaper. Now we will be entrapped by America. We will fall in the American trap by using their pharmaceutical formula. First they used to manufacture drugs on the line of their formulae. Now they cannot do so because of the patentisation and by the foreign companies who would now demand millions and crores of rupees, therefor. If the drugs become costlier by levelling taxes; the country will be in a pitiable condition. Through you, therefore I would like to state that had the Government been really concerned about seeds, ayurvedic drugs or other indigenous drugs, it would have taken the Parliament into confidence before signing the GATT agreement and it would not have overlooked the public interest and not held the discussion inconclusively. The sentiments of those millions of people who had demonstrated were hurt by sending our representation and signing the GATT. Thereafter this drama is being enacted through the Ordinance.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also hail from rural background. You know it very well that earlier the rural peasants could develop any seeds in their fields as per their conveniences. If the seedling of the seeds was better, other also took it and commended the seedling. The farmers of our country are illiterate. They cannot understand the necessity of patenting their seeds. If America patents the seeds and brings them on Indian soil, the seeds will be very costly and it will be very unpleasant for farmers. It will create confusion here. The farmers will be faced with several problems here. Through you, I, therefore, would like to ask the Government whether it is prepared to patent the Ayurvedic drugs, Indian drugs based on the medical ethics of Charak and our Saints. Research can be held in Germany or America on our indigenous medicines—the medicines of cancer and others etc.

So far as the seeds of our country are concerned, they suit our country's climate. I, therefore, would like to submit to the Government not to sacrifice the interests of the country. The confusion created among farmers is not a

confusion, it is rather a reality. Eminent thinkers are of the opinion that the law made regarding patent gives the testimony that the Government has surrendered. Our interest should have been protected first. The patentisation should have started in our country first. I would like to illustrate here. I read about neem in newspapers. The people in our country term neem as "Neem Narayan" is the neem is equivalent to God. As God is the Supreme protector of we all, so is the neem. It has certain inherent qualities which provide protection, the paste and other drugs are made with neem, and it is used as medicines also. If neem is also patented by America will it not mean that the farmers of our country will not be able to use even the datur of neem? Moreover, they will not be able to use even the leaves of the neem. This is the problem that is being created here. I, therefore would like to submit that by signing the agreement the Government has shown utter disregard for the public opinion and it has not taken the opposition into confidence nor did it bother to consult all State Governments before signing it. The agriculture and forest are also their subjects. Now the Government is introducing patent law on the pretext of safeguarding national interest. In this regard I would like to ask only this much as to why this was not done earlier. The interest of India should have been given top priority.

I want to state that if there is any provision detrimental to self-respect of our country, it should be outright rejected. We are ready to suffer difficulties but we won't accept such humiliating provisions.

"Mushkilen kab rok saki hain, age badhne walon ke. Badhayen Kab bandh Saki hain, mar kar jeene walon ko".

I, therefore, submit that the entity of India should be recognised. In order to keep our economic dignity intact and to protect our sovereignty, the Government should hold talks with other countries.

With these words I oppose the patent law.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion disapproving this Ordinance and will express my views on it in brief. I have certain apprehensions about this Bill. It has been stated to abolish the Article 39 of the original Patent Act in this Bill. I would like to seek categorical assurance from the hon. Minister whether its abolition would not adversely affect India's interest. It is a fact that India became a Member country of the World Trade Organisation and signed an agreement with it. It is continuously increasing foreign pressure on the country and the Government is restored to introduce new Bills one after the another to enact laws.

Sir, the Government has just adopted a law regarding tariff and thereafter it is going to adopt another one. I do not want to say much on economic policies. The citizens of India be they from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra or Gujarat or any other state, have rejected the new economic policy in this perspective. It needs to be reviewed in this very perspective. Some senior leaders

from treasury benches themselves have criticised that economic policy very severely and have asked for its review. From this point of view, the entire aspect should be given a second thought. So far as Patent Law is concerned. It is a fact that with the enforcement of this law the other sectors like agriculture and drugs and pharmaceuticals which were not covered under it so far, has been covered now and it is likely to affect agriculture sector in particular.

Sir, the concern of farmers is but natural that they will be deprived of what they themselves grow. It will not affect agriculture and other things. Moreover, the experts of drugs and pharmaceutical sector are also expressing similar concern. The foreign countries are certainly better much ahead in the field of the Research and development as compared to India. Moreover, they will talk something of this kind and seek exclusive licence for marketing in India after getting their drug processing formulae or drug products patented and introduce them into our country. This will increase the prices of indigenous drugs not only by 2 or 4 per cent. but also even by 300 per cent. Its likelihood has been expressed by many persons. Many articles have been written on it and many experts also have expressed their opinion corroborating such apprehension. In such a situation I ask the hon. Minister to clarify it. It looks like a parallel system in which in our bid to take part in foreign trade, we are losing everything that we possess. It is certain that all big countries are continuously losing their markets. Their goods are not sold there and they are dumping their goods in our country. It is apprehended that our industries, entrepreneurs, industrialists and researchers will be disheartened and foreigners will bring their goods to our country they will make India their market and take our capital with them. It, therefore necessitates a clarification.

Sir, I do not want to speak much. I have expressed my two or three apprehensions. I want the hon. Minister of Finance dispel my apprehensions and give a clear reply.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1995 has been introduced here to decide how the GATT agreement should be implemented in the country. No discussion has been held in this regard as to what kind of impact it is going to have on the poor people and farmers of this country. The time limit of 5 years made in the Patents Act, 1970 has been increased in this law. Now, the big countries, who have laboratories, technicians, etc. will be able to get their new discoveries patented through Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. As Shri Rasa Singh Rawat was just saying that our Rishis-Munis have also made several discoveries and prepared several formulae and the whole world is reaping its fruits. These should also have been patented and our country should have received its royalty but our people or the Government never thought of that and as a result thereof they are developing hegemonistic attitude by plagiarizing our formulae and getting them patented. The condition today is such that the poor people who were already finding it difficult to buy life-saving drugs, will now find it impossible

to get them. This law is going to benefit only those foreign companies which are equipped with sophisticated laboratories and technicians and have the latest know-how. The poor farmer of our country is not adept at it and it would lead to the misutilization of these laws and exploitation of the poor people. Our poor people will face great hardships and farmers will find scarcity of seeds as we would not be in a position to use the seeds produced by the farmers. That is why, it is my submission that the Government should withdraw this Bill in the interest of the people of the country and to defend the existence of the country.

SHRI ASHOKRAO ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani): Sir, I feel the introduction of this Patents Bill is ill-timed because it had been promised by you that first the sui generis system would be adopted only then the Produce Patent Act would be introduced. This would be proper. I would like to say one thing regarding the intellectual property rights, preparation of medicines and their patenting. All the developed countries have already got their discoveries patented some 10 years back. There is need to protect the genes of wild species. Whether it is Vindhya mountain, or plains, or hilly area, all these Wild Species are needed to be protected. The Government had promised and we kept supporting it and suggesting that it would be better to have sui-generis system. That is why the whole House had supported it. I would prefer if Sui-generis system is brought before this Bill. I feel that this Bill does not protect the wild species. First, these should be protected. Secondly, they should receive the royalty of all the research work conducted in the university, all the prepared species, their research, all the plants made, and the subsequent research undertaken in that regard. The Government should bring a Bill in the House on it first.

Secondly, we have basmati rice and they can mix bitagene in it and claim it to be their own. An Act should also be made on it. It should cover all the hybrids and you are aware that product is made by patent chemicals. That is why I feel that we should make a separate gene bank for all the mountains and all the medicinal herbs on them only then it becomes necessary to pass this Bill.

Sir, I would like to submit to the Government, through you, that the Government should withdraw this Bill and we will support it only when a new revised Bill is introduced in the House for discussion.

17.57 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications under customs Tariff Act, 1975

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara Murthy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Section 9 A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

(1) Notification No. 74/95-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Theophylline and

caffeine exported from the People's Republic of China at the rate of Rupees one hundred and eight and Rupees one hundred and one per kilogram respectively.

(2) Notification No. 75/95-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on 3, 4, 5 Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde exported from the People's Republic of China at the rate of Rupees two hundred and thirty-seven per kilogram

[Placed in Library, See No LT 7114/95]

17.58 hrs.

[English]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE PATENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL—CONTD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Sir, I am very much grateful to the hon. Members for taking part in the discussion and for their valuable suggestions, observations and comments on the Bill.

The Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1995 was introduced to meet our obligations under an agreement for establishing the World Trade Organisation, which includes the agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. While meeting our obligations under the agreement, the Bill also seeks to provide safeguards to protect the interests of the Indian consumers and inventors.

A lot of apprehensions have been raised and a lot of Members have asked why the Government had brought an Ordinance instead of coming to the House straight. I would like to explain it briefly. On the conclusion of the agreement, the Government initiated steps to fulfill our obligations. An expert group was set up to consider the issues and to suggest necessary Amendments to the Patents Act; various views were considered, it was also examined whether it was necessary to make some Amendments to the Act or to restrict ourselves to amend the rules and issue administrative instructions. The matter was considered in depth, in consultation with the Law Ministry. This exercise took time. After due deliberations, it was decided that the Patents Act, 1970 would have to be amended to meet our obligations. As we were required to make the Amendments before the constitution of the World Trade Organisation, that is 1st January, 1995, and as Parliament was not in Session at that time, an Ordinance had to be promulgated on 31st December, 1994 amending the Patents Act, 1970.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, coming to the Trade Related Intellectual Property Agreements, it prescribes the minimum standards to be adopted by the parties concerned. In respect of patents, a

transition period of five years is available to all the developing countries to give effect to the provisions of the TRIPS Agreements. Moreover, the countries that do not provide product patents in certain areas can avail of the further transition period of five years. Notwithstanding the transition period as mentioned, one of the obligations under the TRIPS Agreement was to provide for filing applications with effect from the 1st of January 1995.....(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, the time is over.....(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I seek the consent of the House as to whether the time of the house should be extended or not.....(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: it can be taken up tomorrow.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. The House stands adjourned.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 21, 1995/Phalguna 30, 1916 (Saka)

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