

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XXXVIII contains Nos. 1—10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates

(English Version)

....

Monday, March 27, 1995/Chaitra 6, 1917 (Saka).

....

<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
9/8	Shri Mohammad Ali Asraf Fatmi	Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi.
20/15	(Shri Balram Singh Yadav)	(Shri Balram Singh Yadava)
58/3	Shri Lal Babu Rai	Shri Lall Babu Rai
128/21	(Shri P.K.Thungan)	(Shri P.K.Thungan)
128/29	Prof.Savithri Lakshanan	Prof.Savithri Lakshmanan
130/5 (from below)	Shri Vadde Sobhanadree- swara Rao	Shri Sobhanadree- swara Rao Vadde.
140/13 (From bellw)	Shri Boola Bulli Ramaiah	Shri Bolla Bulli Ramaiah.
150/6	Shri Rajendra Agnihotry	Shri Rajendra Agnihotri
153/22	Dr.Laxminarayan Pandey	Dr.Laxminarayan Pandeya
159/last	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINIST SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER)	THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINIST RY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a)
185/12	Shri Ram Kirpal Yadav	Shri Ram Kripal Yadav
193	(interruptions) ³	(interruptions)*
194/E (Placed below)	our cities	our cities.
211/18	Probing is that	probing in that
213/14	better us Hindi	better in Hindi
235/30	easily understable	easily understandable
248/17	Shri P.V.Narayanan	Shri P.G.Narayanan

CONTENTS

[Tenth Series, Vol. XXXVIII, Thirteenth Session, 1995/1917 (Saka)]

No. 10, Monday, March 27, 1995/Chaitra 6, 1917 (Saka)

	COLUMNS
Oral Answers to Questions:	
*Starred Question Nos. 181—185	2—17
Written Answers to Questions:	
Starred Question Nos. 186—200	17—36
Unstarred Question Nos. 1812—1839, 1841—2028 and 2030—2041	36—192
Papers Laid on the Table	196-197
Petition Re: Considering/reviewing of the Deep Sea Fishing Policy of the Government of India to protect and promote the interests of traditional small fishermen	197
Business Advisory Committee	197
Forty-eighth Report— <i>Adopted</i>	
Matters Under Rule 377	198-199
(i) Need to issue instructions to Government of Madhya Pradesh for proper utilisation of Special Grant given by Centre under tribal sub plan Shri Manku Ram Sodi	198
(ii) Need to provide more landing and take off facilities at Rourkela Airport in Orissa Kumari Frida Topno	198
(iii) Need for construction of an overbridge on Agra-Jaipur highway at Sewar (Rajasthan) Shrimati Krishnendra Kaur (Deepa)	198
(iv) Need to take steps for overall development of Chatra district in Bihar Shri Upendra Nath Verma	199
General Budget-1995-96— <i>General Discussion:</i>	
Demands for Grants on Account (General), 1995-96 and Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 1994-95	199—274
Shri Jaswant Singh	204
Dr. Debi Prosad Pal	219
Shrimati Suseela Gopalan	227
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan	227
Shri D. Venkateswara Rao	239
Shri S.B. Sidnal	243
Shri P.G. Narayanan	248
Shri Pramotes Mukherjee	252
Shri K.M. Mathew	255
Shri Ratilal Varma	257
Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam	264
Shri C.K. Kuppuswamy	267
Shri Karia Munda	272

*The sign + marked above, the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March, 27, 1995/Chaitra 6, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manoranjan Bhakta. Question No. 181.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before Question hour starts, I would like to raise a very important matter relating to Bihar.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roserā): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given you a notice for Adjournment Motion....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Such matters are raised after question hour, why are you raising now?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, we want to express our feelings through you...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When you are acting against the rules in the House, what to speak of your action outside the House?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GOVIND CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): I rise on a point of order. I am a tribal leader... (Interruptions) I am on a point of order, sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Munda, Point of order cannot be raised during the Question Hour. Now you take your seat, raise it after the Question Hour.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think these are opportunities given to the members to discuss matters sometimes not very correctly and as per the rules because of the feelings the Members have.

You have an opportunity to discuss it if you want to. This matter has already been discussed not once but more than once. Every day, every Member is coming here and raising it. And not allowing other Members to ask questions is also not correct.

Let us understand that in this House if we are asking

anyone else to act according to the rules, we also have a duty to act according to rules and the law. When you have the opportunity and if you are not making use of that opportunity, it does not look nice and it is not in keeping with the dignity of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What will happen in Bihar after 31st of March.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it after Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indo-Iran Joint Commission

+

*181. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the eighth meeting of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission was held recently;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed and the conclusions arrived at;

(c) whether any agreement was signed between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Eighth session of India-Iran Joint Commission met in New Delhi on January 3, 1995 under the co-chairmanship of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R.L. Bhatia, and the Foreign Minister of Iran, H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Joint Commission meeting reviewed the range of issues in bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture, transport and communications, energy, science and technology, cultural and consular matters. The progress of implementation of decisions taken at the 7th India-Iran Joint Commission meeting was reviewed and modalities for speedier implementation of decisions were worked out. The Joint Commission meeting identified certain specific areas for the setting up of joint ventures, such as agricultural machinery, pharmaceuticals, textiles, machine tools, auto parts, passenger cars, leather, etc.

The meeting discussed ways and means of expanding cooperation in the field of research, training and engineering activities, apart from reviewing the on-going negotiations relating to projects in Iran, exchanging views on the issues of bilateral trade, including proposals for trade promotions in the coming period, as well as

* Not recorded.

identifying technical cooperation programmes between the two countries in different fields. The Joint Commission decided that negotiations may commence on the finalisation of an agreement relating to transit trade between India, Iran, and Central Asian republics at the earliest possible.

A bilateral agreement on Maritime Commercial Navigation was signed between India and Iran during the 8th session of the India Iran Joint Commission on January 3, 1995. The agreement envisages cooperation and mutual assistance between India and Iran for the development of maritime commercial navigation and providing special facilities in respect of transit traffic of the two countries in the form of berthing of vessels, allocation of warehousing facilities, etc., apart from facilitating majors to avoid unnecessary delays in their ports.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is heartening that H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati has had a visit to India in connection with the Eighth Session of Indo-Iranian Joint Commission. It has created the enthusiasm and environment for a better bilateral cooperation between our two countries.

Sir, as large number of areas have been discussed during this Joint Commission, I would specifically like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India have discussed the issue of Pakistan's involvement in the terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir, thereby making their attempt to destabilise the political set up in this country. If that is so, what was the response from the Iranian side?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The Inter-Governmental Commission discusses subjects of mutual interest and naturally it extends to various areas including trade, investment, joint sectors and economic cooperation, etc.

So far as our position in regard to Kashmir is concerned, it is known to all the countries, including Iran, that the issues are to be resolved within the framework of the Simla Agreement at bilateral level and not through the process of internationalisation. Iran's stated position is that this should be sorted out bilaterally keeping in view the interest of the people of Kashmir.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the agreements have been signed by both the countries, we find that there is hardly any progress in the implementation of the agreements.

Secondly, in view of the changed global economic conditions in the world and the liberal economic policy of our country, I would like to know whether the Government have discussed the issues of setting up India-Iran Gas Pipeline and the Joint Railway Project for Central Asian Countries. If these were discussed, what was the response of the Iranian side?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: These issues were discussed and there has been some progress so far as the gas pipeline is concerned. It has been decided to set up a pre-feasibility study group. They are expected to

submit their report by the middle of this year and after that further action will be taken.

In regard to our participation in the railway projects, particularly, in one area that is specifically to the Ahwaz-Bandar-Imam Signalling Project this is a project of about US \$ 25 million—everything has been finalised. But they expect us to fund it fully. This is under our active consideration.

Another important project which will provide us direct access to the market of Central Asian Republics, particularly Turkmanistan, is Bafq-Meshaad and Kerman Zahedan Railway Projects, which will cost about US \$ 7 million. Now they expect us that we should fund it fully.

There also we shall have to explore the possibility of raising this amount of money and it will have to be raised in future in the traditional market. That is why, there has been some flaw in regard to this project. But we are interested in it and we are working out the possibilities of raising the resources to fund these projects.

The progress of our bilateral relationship and economic relationship is an indication of expanding the volume of trade. Last year, 1993-94, it was more by nearly Rs. 1600 crores. Therefore, it is ever expanding and I do hope that in the new global atmosphere, it will expand further. Of course, Iran is not a member of GATT. But they have also undertaken their various economic measures, which will facilitate the interaction between these two countries.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two parts of my question the first part is that Iran has supported India at different international foras. Whether it is the issue of terrorism or any other issue. Iran took a clear stand. Whether it is a fact that in the recent past, Iran complained that India did not support her at the international fora on Issues relating to Iran. The cordial relations which should be there between the two countries, did not develop between Iran and India. Another question is whether India had given any assurances to Iran on the issue of Babri Masjid structure during the discussions on Kashmir with Iran.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the question of demolition of Babri structure is concerned, we explained our position to them not only immediately after the incident took place but also on various subsequent occasions. Therefore, they know the situation there.

In regard to the cooperation between these two countries in various international fora, I am afraid that the hon. Member's perception is not correct. We have not received any such impression, not to speak of complaint, from the Iranian side that they are not happy with the cooperation about which they will raise it in various international fora. On many issues we have shared common perceptions and this is known to us.

In regard to the terrorist activities in Kashmir supported from the other side of the border, we have suggested even to Iran that they should exercise their

good influence over Pakistan to prevent them from this type of activities.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the discussion in their Eighth Session of Indo-Iran Joint Commission Meet, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the projects in Iran for which on-going negotiations are to be reviewed. Also I would like to know what are the specific areas identified in the Joint Commission Meeting for setting up of joint ventures in such area as agriculture, machinery, pharmaceuticals, textiles, machines, tools, auto parts, passenger cars and leather goods.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: These are the areas which have been identified and naturally, the Government is not going to establish these industries. Our private sector organisations will go, talk to each other and identify these areas.

As regards some of the projects in which public sector organisations are participating, I have referred to a couple of railway projects including the one, Tehran Metro rail project, which has been given to our HMT for implementation. We are waiting for the Iranian side to open a Letter of Credit.

As regards providing facilities for berthing and quick transportation in the sea, an agreement was signed during the presence of His Excellency, the Foreign Minister of Iran, with the Minister of Surface Transport; and I think, it was done by our Minister of State, who is incharge of Surface Transport.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Sir, what about his answer regarding the projects in Iran for which on-going negotiations are to be reviewed?

MR. SPEAKER: This kind of question is not allowed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have identified a number of projects which are on-going and I have indicated the amount involved in them.

MR. SPEAKER: This can be replied in writing not orally.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Thank you for giving me this chance. I want to learn from the Government through your goodself whether the agreement made between these two countries will be utilised in respect of development of trade and how far the agreement will be valid for the development of mutual understanding to combat terrorism in our country.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the trade is concerned, I have already indicated the figures. If you look at it, it is expanding. For example, in 1989-90, our total export to Iran was Rs. 132 crore and our import from Iran was Rs. 389 crore and after 5-6 years in 1993-94, i.e. after four years, it has gone up to Rs. 500 crore of export and import is about Rs. 1189 crore. These two figures are indicative of the expansion of trade between these two countries from joint venture. And as regards economic cooperation, for that also I have indicated the various projects which are there.

On one point I would like to give additional information in response to the question which was referred to by

another Member earlier. In the Conference of United Nations Human Rights Commission, we have voted in favour of Iran out of those countries which are participating in it.

[Translation]

M.A.R.R. Scheme

*182. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the work done so far under the Multi Access Rural Radio (M.A.R.R.) Scheme of the Union Government for telecom facilities in rural areas; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to streamline the telephone system in rural areas under the said scheme?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As per National Telecom Policy, Public Telephone facility is to be provided to all the villages in the country progressively by the year 1997. As on 31.12.1994 out of 159302 (now the latest figure is 1,72,000) village public telephones provided, 47579 are based upon MARR System.

(b) To streamline the telephone system in rural areas, the following steps have been taken.

(i) Indigenously developed MARR equipment of latest technology is being inducted in the network.

(ii) In order to reduce dependence on erratic power supply in rural areas, solar energy is being used.

(iii) Telegraph facilities are being made available on such public telephones and wherever technically feasible, STD service is also being provided.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got the correct answer to my question. Yet, I would like to know from the Minister through you, that how much amount has been spent by the Government on the rural areas so far under M.A.R.R. Scheme. How many villages have been connected under this scheme so far, particularly in Uttar Pradesh? A target of 1,59,302 P.C.O.s was fixed by the Government, whereas the achievement was only 47,579 P.C.O.s. I would like to apprise the Government that the facility which has been provided in rural areas is not functioning properly and batteries of the wireless set which have been provided in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh have got spoiled during the last one year, that the telephone facility is in a miserable condition throughout the country.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have replied more than what the honourable Member had asked so that he may know clearly. So far as the Telephone system in villages is concerned, we are using two technologies for that. One is by overhead copper wiring and the other is Radio technology in which we are using M.A.R.R. system. For the first time, in 1988, E.R.C. Society developed M.A.R.R. Technology and we got about 650 units from

them. Regarding the amount spent on it accordingly to the tender, I will let you know. The information received from field is that technically there are many defects in it. Finally, we cancelled the order for 500 units but we provided Telephone connections in about 6250 villages by using this technology. However, this technology has failed, though I have been told that it is working in 6200 villages. So, we have decided to replace them. ITI had also given us about 755 such system, but they were also defective and are being repaired in their repair centre. But some of them have been got from Private companies and their quality equipment is working properly. In this way, we have connected 47,579 villages with the help of Radio technology. In some of these villages, there is problem due to the defects in this technology and in the rest of the villages, which have been connected by overhead wires, a lot of incidents of theft are occurring as the copper wire is quite costly. Sometimes, wires got broken due to seasonal variations and maintenance is not carried out due to thunder storms. So, I admit that there are lot of defects in the connections provided in villages. Therefore, we have decided that there should not be any defects in the M.A.R.R. quality equipments which we are to get. Wherever there would be any defects, we would remove them. Therefore, I admit that there are some problems in the villages.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, sir, I want to thank the Government that the Government have admitted that there is corruption at a large scale in this department because Government have admitted that theft was going on at a large scale.

My second question was that MARR System was introduced only in rural areas, we agree to it. The rural areas are in a miserable condition today. Formerly this system was not being introduced, as today also the rural areas are devoid of education, drinking water, electricity and health. Now that this system has been introduced, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards Agra-Ferozabad commissioner, as this is all happening there due to the corruption of the subordinate officers of T.D.M. If a demand note is served in the name of a person and the other person bribes the officer, the officer in return gives him the connection. You are well aware of the corruption prevailing in Agra-division. So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister whether he would keep a watch on it from time to time and would take action against such corrupt officers.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not admit in reply to his question that there is large scale corruption.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have admitted it. Theft is going on, it is true. Personally, I respect the hon'ble Minister, but it is true that corruption is prevailing there.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM: At least I have a right to reply you. I did not admit that this system is not functioning due to corruption. It is easy to level allegations. Merely levelling the charges will not do. You will have to prove those corruption charges.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: I am ready.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I do not say that system is working smoothly everywhere. There may be some mistakes. After all, one crore families have been provided telephone connections in the country. There can be some mistakes at some places. I want to assure you that if you bring me a case involving any corruption, I would get it enquired and inform you about the results within a limited time. But at least you should come out with some facts.

SMT. GIRIJA DEVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has says that they would provide telephones to all the villages by the year 1997. However, there are many constituencies, unfortunately including my own constituency, for which I have been asking the various Ministers for the last four years where the connections have not been released to the persons who have deposited the money. No exchange has been installed in any large area.

Secondly, where M.A.R.R. system has failed, I have informed about that I had already cautioned the hon. Minister one year back about the resentment prevailing in the Hazaribagh area and, had told that the area has not been connected with the relay area and telecommunication system has also been paralysed. You did not pay any attention to it. Therefore, the policy to provide telephones to all the villages by 1997 is misleading. Have you prepared any draft for this? If so, then give details thereof.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Whenever something is brought to my knowledge by any hon. Member, I definitely look into that. I want to tell you that we did prepare a draft and on the basis of that draft only we decided to provide telephone connection to all the village by 1997 and the same was included in the Telephone Policy.

However if we provide telephone facility to all the villages, then a total amount of approximately Rs. 4000 crore would be required. We are bringing a competitive environment of privatisation in the country. Such a system took 4 years in Britain but I hope in our country the process will be completed within a period of 7-8 months i.e. by September-October. We have made a provision stipulation that they will have to provide at least 10 percent telephone connections in villages. We would accept their tenders on this condition only. We have also told them that we will give weightage to the number of connections provided in the villages. We have provided telephone connections to 1.75 lakh villages approximately. But there are many shortcomings. I am not saying that everything is going on smoothly. I rely on the information given by the hon. Members in respect of their constituencies... (Interruptions)...

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: We do not receive the replies of the complaints made by us... (Interruption). Hon'ble Minister is giving explanation here... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary please. Behave like an M.P.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASRAF FATMI: It is not a running commentary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not correct. If you want, you can ask a question. You are behaving like a child here.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: But it is a fact that we write letters, but the hon. Minister does not reply ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record. Please sit down now.... (Interruptions).*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not hold the house to ransom... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM: If you are not satisfied with my reply then you may raise the question, I will reply to every question. But this much I will say that by the year 1997, we would provide telephone connections to all the villages. A big amount would be required. Some work will be done by the private sector and the remaining will be done by our department. We will make improvement by removing the shortcoming through modern technology.

[English]

National Road Policy

*183. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to frame/finalise the National road Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) To enable private sector participation in road building, Government is intending to amend the National Highways Act, 1956. The entrepreneur will build the facility with his resources and will be permitted to collect fee in return for his investment.

(c) The National Highway Policy will be formulated based on the discussions in the Parliament.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the existing seventy-seven

national Highways, covering a length of about 34,000 kilometres, are not only inadequate in the present circumstances but there is also unevenness in the growth of National Highways network. There are more than 130 proposals from different State Governments pending with the Central Government covering a length of about 38,000 kilometres. Now that the Government is proposing changes in the National Highways Act to involve the private sector, as the Government needs more money, may I know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to ensure the correction of the existing distortion in the national highways network, which is causing so much discontent and irritation and which is being exploited by the secessionist forces in different regions, may be in the North-East or in many other places, which is known to the House.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, the National Highways constitute only two per cent of the total road network in the country. In 1951, we had 22,255 kilometres, which till today, has gone up to 34,058 kilometres. We have identified plans, till the year 2001, for 66,000 kilometres. If we take the additional 31,942 kilometres, which is or converting the highways from two-lane to four-lane, we require something like Rs. 20,000 crore. But we have already identified, through a study done by the Asian Development Bank, over 10,000 kilometres of roads which requires, at today's rate, another about Rs. 80,000 crore. If we were to just fulfil the requirements of the Chief Ministers, the Members of Parliament and others, we need something to the tune of Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 70,000 crore.

The demands have come for just one year. But the total resources I am getting are of the order of Rs. 2,460 crores. We are practically losing Rs. 15,000 crore per year because of bad roads. Keeping that in view and as we are opening up our economy, we said that we would open up nine sectors which practically cover many areas in the country. Some of them are:

- (i) Amritsar to Chandigarh to Delhi to Patna to Calcutta to Bhubneshwar and right upto Madras and Kanyakumari;
- (ii) In the central area, right from Delhi to Bangalore to Kanyakumari via Trivandrum, going from Kerala State;
- (iii) A road going from Delhi via Gujarat and straight Bombay and then to Bangalore and then going down to Kanyakumari;
- (iv) A road from Bombay to Calcutta.

In this way we have practically linked the whole country. This is the study done. To take up these proposals, I need something like over a lakh of crore of rupees. The Government does not have the resources. So we thought of a plan that we will offer this on expressways to the private sector to come and build and operate. For that I am bringing a legislation in the Parliament. I hope I will get it during this month or next month. In that I will be able to identify practically the needs of the Members of Parliament and all the Chief Ministers and have a feasibility study done.

*Not recorded.

I want to tell the hon. Members that till today, after the new policies which have been announced, I have got on my table in our Ministry, offers to the tune of Rs. 88,000 crore where the foreign investors — rather they are not foreigners; they are mostly Indian companies with the foreign companies and not a single one is hundred per cent foreign company and they are all Indian companies have shown interest to invest this kind of money. The policy is being formulated on that basis. That is why the Government can charge toll today. But the Government cannot give it to a private person. For that a one-line change in the Act is necessary which is being brought before Parliament.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question about regional imbalance. I am coming to my second question.

Sir, as you know, small industries contribute a lot to our national economy. It has happened and it is happening in certain areas where new expressways are coming in and because of lack of maintenance, the earlier National Highways in certain portions have been abandoned which were used by such small industries and tiny sector. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is proposing to continue to consider the National Highways as parallel National Highways which serve the interest of small sectors and other people? The toll structure with guarantee or counter guarantee or whatever it may be for their profit, may cause hindrance to the small industries to continue to be viable. So, my question is: whether the Government is considering any proposal to continue the existing National Highways with guarantee of their maintenance as parallel National Highway.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, it is a very good question, I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, that firstly no part of the National Highway has been abandoned. With whatever resources we have, we are trying to maintain them. I would like to inform the hon. Member that this network which I have just announced, would, in no way, stop the Government from continuing to look after the national highways. There will always be parallel roads which will be available to the people. This is a new alignment which I am talking about. The development of the present National Highways and also increasing the National Highways on the demands of the Members of Parliament and all the Chief Ministers will continue and will be taken care of. This way their demands will be met. We are taking care of practically the whole country and not a single State is left out and we have taken North-Eastern states also into consideration is this network.

SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that a lot of foreign investors are showing keen interest and also have come forward to invest money in Karnataka in various sectors including tourism. This will certainly speed up the industrialisation of the State. However, the resultant increase in the volume of traffic will certainly put a lot of pressure on surface transport infrastructure. The present road conditions and also the transport system are not at all in a position to cope up with the situation.

Sir, there was a news item in the papers that some foreign companies have shown interest in investing money in Karnataka to take up road projects. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to open up the road sector for private sector participation including the foreign companies. If so, I would like to know the details from him.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, we have identified the roads all over the country now. As soon as the legislation is passed by the Parliament, I would also take the suggestion given by the hon. Member for private sector participation.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, if you go through the replies given to Question Nos. 183 and 193, you will find that the replies are same. I have asked Question No. 193 and so, I may be permitted to ask Supplementaries on Question No. 193 also because the answers given to Question Nos. 183 and 193 are absolutely same.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you cannot do that.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: It is all right, Sir. After going through the replies given to (a) (b) and (c) parts of the question, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it will not be proper on the part of the Government to formulate the National Highway Policy first and then make the necessary amendments or the enactments so that it will be an approach in totality. Otherwise, we will be considering all these problems in place-meal.

Secondly, as the Government is intending to amend the National Highway Act, 1956 to enable the participation of the private sector and also the foreign investors in roads, buildings, bridges etc., I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have received any concrete proposals from the foreign investors. If so, I would like to know whether these proposals are for the State of Maharashtra.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, first of all I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Road Policy is practically ready. We have consulted various agencies and we have taken the recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries. A Draft Policy Paper is ready with me. I thought I can change it a little after taking the opinion of the hon. Members when the discussion takes place in Parliament, because always very good suggestions come from the Members of Parliament. If there is a need to add something in the Policy which the Members of Parliament want, I would do that and then I would officially declare the Policy. But the Policy is ready we are all ready for it. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that after the liberalisation policy is introduced, there are proposals from the foreign companies and they have given a lot of proposals for Maharashtra also.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: MR. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just stated about the old National Highways. I have suggested to the Government of India to have a Road Policy for the tribal areas. There are mines in my parliamentary constituency of Keonjhar and many trucks are plying in that area. So, I have demanded that

the Government of India should construct a National Highway in Keonjhar District from Panikuli to Rajamunda. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether he will announce about it in the House now.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Munda, you have asked a very good question. The question is: 'Do you have a Policy for roads in the tribal areas and the areas where mines are there?'

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, usually this is a State subject. The roads pertaining to State Governments, the National Highways and the Expressways which come under the Central Government. Whatever the hon. Member has suggested, I will take it up with the Chief Minister and if I could see that it fits into our policy also, if there is any diversion required for this road which is going from Calcutta via Bhubaneshwar to Madras, I would be very happy to see.

[Translations]

Drug Prices

*184. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pharmaceutical companies have made a steep hike in the prices of non-notified formulations;

(b) the names of the drugs whose prices have been increased more than 75 percent during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have proposed further decontrol of drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

[English]

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) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Notwithstanding isolated cases, there has generally been no abnormal increase in the prices of medicines.

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

(c) to (e) The control and de-control of Drugs is done as per the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) 1995, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 14.2.95.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question the hon. Minister has said that there has been no abnormal increase in the prices of drugs. I would like to know from the Minister what does he mean

by abnormal increase? Seventy three medicines have been decontrolled since the announcement of Drug Policy by the Government. It has resulted into the substantial increase in the prices of drugs and drugs have become costlier than the lives of people. According to the report of the Health Department, Tuberculosis and Malaria are again spreading rapidly in the Country and mostly, poor people are affected by these diseases. Poor people are the sufferers of evils of the society as well as diseases. I wanted to know from the Minister the names of medicines, whose prices have increased the Minister has replied that price list of these medicines could not be collected. I would like to tell the names of those medicines which have become costlier. Now price of chloroquine tablet for malaria is 90 paise where as 6 months earlier, it was 20 paise. The price has increased four times. Do not you consider it an abnormal increase? It is the poor who are mostly affected by T.B., and its tablet rifampicin 450 mg. which was being sold for Rs. two and half six months earlier is now being sold for five and half to six rupees in the six months period only. The Minister is not aware of the increase in prices. The children are more affected by T.B. (Interruptions)....

Mr. Speaker: You come to your point you will be given opportunity to raise the second question also.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: I come to the point. The price of this medicine has gone upto Rs. 70 from Rs. 35. Whether the price of the medicines would be controlled to check the abnormal increase in the prices? the (b) part of my question is that an announcement was made six months ago that the Government is likely to constitute a national authority consisting of experts within 2 months for drugs prices control, which will be an independent body. Eight months have passed since then but not authority has been constituted. When this authority would be constituted?

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I would respectfully submit that I have given here a rather cautious reply and I have said that notwithstanding isolated cases—isolated cases I have already accepted—there has generally been no abnormal increase in the prices of medicines. The general rule, the point which I am making here is that the percentage increase, as far as the drugs and medicines are concerned, has been less. I have here the period on which the hon. Member is interested in which the prices of drugs have consistently been less than the prices of all other commodities. I have details here. From April, 1994 to February, 1995, last month, as per the Ministry of Industry, the price of drugs and medicines have risen by 4.2 per cent whilst the prices of all commodities have risen by 7.6 per cent. I do not want to take the time of the House to show how in every single month practically the prices of drugs and medicines have been lowered over a period of one year in comparison to the general price index.

However, I say this, Sir, with deep concern and not to whitewash this whole situation that the prices cannot be allowed to rise abnormally. I have mentioned here that

there are isolated cases. I have not mentioned which are these isolated cases because there are thousands of formulations. I am going to give these details to the House; I am going to lay these details on the Table of the House.

I have issued instructions to my Department to identify these cases and to take appropriate action when there is an abnormal rise in the prices. The point I am making here is that there is no reason for an alarm. But surely we must at all times, and the Government and our Department must at all times, be concerned when there is any substantial rise in isolated cases and take appropriate action. We know this, and we are working in that direction; I have already issued instructions in that direction.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: What about the Prices Control Commission?

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: As regards the Commission, Sir if I may say so, this was not one of the recommendations of the Expert Group which has been working on this for the last few years. I myself have suggested this and it has been incorporated in the Drug Policy. It is in the process of being constituted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices of life saving drugs for the disease like malaria and T.B. have been increased but it is surprising that you are not accepting it.

The Government announced a new policy and decontrolled some medicines but before decontrolling Government reduced the price of certain medicines like Amoxy line, Renitidene and Diphlanec as per the recommendation of BICP. The prices of these medicines come down in the market but after this, Government decontrolled these medicines, which resulted increase in the prices of these medicines in the market. I fear whether it was a conspiracy? Whether our Government has fallen into the clutches of big companies? After decontrolling....

[English]

MR SPEAKER: The next question is equally important. You should understand that you are taking the time of the House. Please come to the question directly.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: I would like to know from the Minister whether he will bring the medicines under Price Control order in respect of which prices have gone up after decontrolling those.

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, if I may exactly submit, for the first time, we have brought in a system of decontrol which is transparent. The price is there and if the quantity is worth more than four crore rupees and above and not less than four crore rupees, they get it under control. But even if it is less than four crore rupees, they get it under control if there is a monopoly situation.

Now, the hon. Member has mentioned a case which is interesting. For instance, take the case of Renetidin. The

control price was actually higher than the market price. So, this sometimes shows the dangers and the perils of controls. Sometimes, if you leave it to the market prices, then the prices are lower. But again, I am saying that sometimes, only a few times, there is a need for price control, there is a need for balance and equilibrium in the context of price controls in the market economy.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that the Drug Price Control Order which he has mentioned in the answer is not being abided by and is being violated by a large number of drug companies. For instance, is he aware that a number of drugs when they are being sold under their generic names are costing double than when they are sold under brand names? These are drugs like Cholromycitin, Dexamethozone and Vitamin-A. I would like to know whether the Minister would inform the House the kind of undue profits which the drug companies are making in this way, and whether the Minister is going to take measures to control this. Already, they have made undue profits to the extent of Rs. 124 crore by bypassing this Drug Control Order. So, I would like to know what the Ministry is doing.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I have already said that we have issued instructions on this matter. I do not want to take the time of the House. I want to say this with utmost sincerity that if you give us any particular instance where such undue profit was made, I can assure you that we will take action.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I have mentioned three names.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Please give us those three names and we will check it up. That is all we can do.

Review of NPT

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the review and extension of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to be held this year;

(b) whether India has taken up any campaigning among the NPT signatory countries against legitimisation of nuclear proliferation by the "nuclear haves" by way of indefinite extension of NPT;

(c) whether India has offered any alternative package to replace the existing NPT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir. However, Government has consistently maintained its well known position that the NPT is a discriminatory treaty which creates a permanent division between the nuclear 'haves' and 'have-nots'.

(c) & (d) India's "Action Plan for Ushering in a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-violent World Order" presented at the UN General Assembly's Third Special Session devoted to Disarmament in 1988 called for the initiation of multilateral negotiations, to be concluded by

1995, for a new treaty, eliminating all nuclear weapons by the year 2010. This treaty, which would replace the NPT, would be based on the principles of universality, non-discrimination and be effectively verifiable.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Power Shortage

*186. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:
DR. P.R. GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- whether there is shortage of power in the country;
- if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- the main reasons therefor;
- the steps taken for more power generation and streamlining the transmission system;
- whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up new power projects; and
- if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statewise power supply position and shortage between April, 1994 and February, 1995 is given in the Statement attached.

(c) The main reasons for the power shortage in the country is the growing gap between the demand and supply of power coupled with constraint of funds for undertaking the required capacity addition programme, renovation of power plants and system improvement schemes. High transmission and distribution losses and sub-optimal utilisation of existing assets have also contributed to low availability of power.

(d) Amongst the measures undertaken for increasing power generation are higher utilisation of installed capacity, monitoring the supply of proper quality and quantity of coal for thermal stations and modernisation and uprating of existing power stations. Besides, initiating schemes for reducing transmission and distribution losses, steps have also been undertaken for speedier implementation of on-going projects in the public sector both at the Central and State levels. Participation of private sector is also being encouraged.

(e) and (f). The Central Public Sector Undertakings propose to add 6636 MW thermal, 1405 MW hydro and 880 MW unclear capacity during the Eighth Plan. Action is also being initiated to take up a higher capacity addition programme in the 9th Plan.

STATEMENT

Actual Power Supply Position for April 94 — February 95

Region/State/System	Energy				Peak			
	Requirement	Availability (MU Net)	Shortage	%	Peak Demand	Peak Met (MW)	Sortage	
NORTHERN REGION								
CHANDIGARH	674	670	4	0.6	140	140	0	0.0
DELHI	11245	11121	124	1.1	1850	1846	4	0.2
HARYANA	10700	10156	544	5.1	2000	1925	75	3.8
HIMACHAL PRADESH	1674	1674	0	0.0	440	440	0	0.0
JAMMU & KASHMIR	3635	2976	659	18.1	825	600	225	27.3
PUNJAB	18585	17833	752	4.0	4000	3463	537	13.4
RAJASTHAN	15350	14570	780	5.1	2660	2412	248	9.3
UTTAR PRADESH	33805	29735	4070	12.0	6550	5042	1508	23.0
TOTAL (N.R.)	95668	88735	6933	7.2	16950	14290	2660	15.7
WESTERN REGION								
GUJARAT	28860	27718	1142	4.0	5410	4734	676	12.5
MADHYA PRADESH	25240	23386	1854	7.3	5080	3970	1110	21.9
MAHARASHTRA	44790	44002	788	1.8	8270	7497	773	9.3
GOA	874	874	0	0.0	166	166	0	0.0
TOTAL (W.R.)	99764	95980	3784	3.8	18235	15601	2634	14.4
SOUTHERN REGION								
ANDHRA PRADESH	28285	26063	2222	7.9	5000	4203	797	15.9
KARNATAKA	21030	17387	3643	17.3	4200	3235	965	23.0
KERALA	8062	8006	56	0.7	1760	1594	166	9.4
TAMIL NADU	26770	26051	719	2.7	4800	4166	634	13.2
TOTAL (S.R.)	84147	77507	6640	7.9	14980	12575	2405	16.1
EASTERN REGION								
BIHAR	8610	5683	2927	34.0	1675	1028	647	38.6
D.V.C.	7285	6725	560	7.7	1520	1030	490	32.2
ORISSA	8520	7832	688	8.1	1850	1401	449	24.3
WEST BENGAL	12380	11576	804	6.5	2650	2168	482	18.2
TOTAL (E.R.)	36795	31824	4971	13.5	7240	5210	2030	28.0

Region/State/System	Energy				Peak			
	Requirement	Availability (MU Net)	Shortage	%	Peak Demand	Peak Met (MW)	Sortage	%
N. EASTERN REGION								
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	143.9	109.4	34.5	24.0	55	36	19	34.5
ASSAM	2241.1	2040.8	200.3	8.9	500	345	155	31.0
MANIPUR	307.2	271.2	36.0	11.7	75	59	16	21.3
MEGHALAYA	308.3	308.3	0.0	0.0	79	79	0	0.0
MIZORAM	127.6	116.1	11.5	9.0	43	31	12	27.9
NAGALAND	124.7	108.9	15.8	12.7	33	26	7	21.2
TRIPURA	284.2	252.3	31.9	11.2	82	45	37	45.1
TOTAL (N.E.R.)	3537.0	3207.0	330.0	9.3	840	620	220	26.2
ALL INDIA	3199:1	297253	22658	7.1	57530	48066	9464	16.5

Excise Duty Concessions

*187. SMT. SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the excise duty concessions extended to drugs and drug intermediates during 1994-95;

(b) the drugs and drug intermediates benefited by these concessions;

(c) whether the Government have made any study to assess the impact of these excise duty concessions on the drug industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken on the findings of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). No additional excise duty concessions as such were extended to the drugs and drug intermediates in the year 1994-95.

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

[English]

Agreement with BRGM of France

*188. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines, Kerala Mineral Exploration and Development Project have signed an agreement with BRGM of France for undertaking development projects in the mineral sector;

(b) if so, the salient features of this agreement;

(c) the total cost involved;

(d) the time by when the agreement is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Government have received proposal from other foreign companies for joint collaboration in the mining sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). Under the aegis of the ongoing Indo French Working Group on Mineral Exploration & Development, six technical agreements were signed on 9th September, 1994 between Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Miniers (BRGM), France and Indian organisations for taking up mineral development projects. These are:

(i) Technical assistance for detailed exploration of concealed copper deposits along the Khetri Belt, Rajasthan (Phase II): Project duration 7 months.

(ii) Technical assistance for detail exploration of Lead Zinc deposits in Rajasthan (Phase II): Project duration 6 months.

(iii) Data base for multimetal exploration in some Greestone Belts in South India: Project duration 12 months.

(iv) Supply of analytical and geophysical equipment to Geological Survey of India: Project duration 12 months.

(v) Technical assistance for setting up of a mineral resource and intelligence system data base at the Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur: Project duration 31 months.

(vi) Exploration and pilot scale mining for placer gold deposits in Nilambur Valley, Kerala: Project duration 8 months.

While the first four agreements were signed by Geological Survey of India and the fifth by Indian Bureau of Mines, the agreement listed at (vi) above was signed by the authorised representative of Kerala Government (Kerala Mineral Exploration and Development Project). The total cost of the aforementioned six projects is estimated at FF 17.10 million.

(e) No proposal has been received at the level of Government of India from foreign companies for joint collaboration with the Government in the mineral sector.

(f) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Indian Post Office Act, 1898**

*189. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted any Committee to suggest amendments to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898;

(b) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, A Committee was set up in April, 1992 to review the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 comprehensively and recommend changes in keeping with the present-day requirements and taking into account of changes in the Postal system that have taken place in other countries.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Committee submitted its report in February, 1993.

(c) The major recommendations of the Committee are listed in the Statement attached.

(d) Government have not taken final decision on the recommendations of the Committee.

STATEMENT

Major Recommendations of the Post Office Act Review Committee

(a) To partially relinquish the exclusive privilege of the Central Government of carrying letters by authorising couriers to carry letters above a particular weight under certain terms and conditions.

(b) To bring the couriers under the purview of the Indian Post Office Act.

(c) To reclassify mail and services in keeping with the present-day requirements and world-wide practices.

(d) To enable the Department to introduce new categories of postal articles and new services.

(e) To create an accountable body for determining the rates.

(f) To enable public participation in policy making.

(g) To require the Department to assume greater liability for operational failures.

(h) To lay down a new system for dealing with undelivered postal articles.

*[English]***Persons of Indian Origin**

*190. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have during the last three years received any complaints from our Missions abroad, from Members of Parliament or through other sources about racial attacks on or discrimination against Indian citizens or persons of Indian origin residing in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No complaints have been registered with any of our Embassies regarding attacks or discrimination against Indian citizens or persons of Indian origin residing in foreign countries motivated by racial consideration. However, instances are reported, from time to time, involving acts of violence against Indian citizens and persons of Indian origin. It should be seen more in the nature of law and order problem.

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

Calcutta Bombay National Highway

*191. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta-Bombay National Highway via Keonjhar and Sambalpur is not being maintained properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken to maintain the road in a traffic worthy condition; and

(d) the provisions made in the Eighth Five Year Plan period in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). National Highways including Calcutta-Bombay route are maintained in a traffic worthy condition within available non-Plan funds.

[Translation]

Permanent Membership of UN Security Council

*192. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has staked its claim for permanent membership of the UN Security Council;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the countries which are supporting and opposing India's claim;
- (d) the other countries staking claim for becoming a permanent member; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government for India's inclusion as a permanent member of the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). In his address in the general debate of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly on October 3, 1994, the leader of the Indian delegation stated that given any criteria-population, size of economy, contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security or to peace-keeping-India qualified to be a permanent member of the Security Council.

(c) The 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 on general principles; the candidatures of individual countries, or the reactions of other countries thereto, are not being discussed.

(d) Japan, Germany, Barazil and Nigeria have also announced their interest in becoming permanent members.

(e) India is working with other countries in the Working Group to develop an objective set of criteria for the choice of new permanent members, being confident that it will qualify under any such criteria; our views and our interest are reiterated in the course of diplomatic and political interaction with other governments.

[English]

Foreign Investment for Bridges

*193. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign investors to build, operate and maintain bridges in the county;
- (b) if so, whether modalities for foreign investment in this regard have been drawn; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) To enable private sector participation including foreign investors in roads/bridge building, Government is

intending to amend the National Highways Act, 1956. The entrepreneur will build, operate and maintain the facility with his resources and will be permitted to collect fee in return for his investment. The modalities for foreign investment are being formulated.

[Translation]

Central Food Research Institute

*194. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged upon the Central Food Technological Research Institute to develop such technology for the processing of products available in the country which can be utilised by making small investment of capital in villages and small towns in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have received any response from the above Institute;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the above technology is likely to be applied in practice;

(e) whether the Governemnt have provided any special facilities to FTRI for the fulfilment of the above responsibility; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (f). While the Central Food Technological Research Institute (C.F.T.R.I.) have developed a number of technologies machineries and equipments for production of food products in the villages and small towns in the country, Government have advised them to continue their efforts in this direction. These technologies developed include food products based on cereals, pulses, fruit & vegetables, oil seeds, spices, milk, meat, poultry and fish. C.F.T.R.I. has also designed and developed low cost food machineries & equipments for de-hulling, leaf cup making, pulse de-husking, pappad presses, wheat milling, mini grain milling, etc. A good number of these technologies have already been transferred. For wider dissemination of these technologies throughout the country, Ministry has provided financial assistance to C.F.T.R.I. and has got prepared books containing some 150 project profiles, which have been since distributed to all District Industries centres, through State nodal Agencies, Small Industries Service Institute (SISI), etc. for further dissemination to the intending entrepreneurs.

The Ministry has been working in close association with C.F.T.R.I. During this Plan period financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 252.25 lakhs has been extended to C.F.T.R.I. for various rsearch and development related projects. For setting up the Food Engineering Centre at C.F.T.R.I. at a cost of Rs. 490 lakhs, an amount of Rs. 150 lakhs has already been released.

Action has also been initiated for funding a Research & development Project in collaboration with the Department of Bio-Technology entited "Bio-Technology

Research for National Facility for Food Safety" at C.F.T.R.I., besides recently approved project for "Aluminium packing for food products".

[English]

Economic Security Council

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal in the UN for the creation of an Economic Security Council (ESC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stand of the Government on the creation of ESC;

(c) whether India has submitted any alternative suggestion in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have held any talks with other member countries in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. There is no formal proposal before the United Nations for the creation of an Economic Security Council.

(b) The idea of an Economic Security Council had originated in two reports commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "Human Development Report, 1992" and "Human Development Report, 1994". This idea is also contained in the report of the non-governmental commission on Global Governance, entitled "Our Global Neighbourhood" released in January 1995. The recommendations of independent experts / prominent personalities do not presently constitute an actionable proposal before the United Nations. The member States of UN have not so far engaged in many substantive discussions of this proposal for evolving a consensus.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

India-China relations

*196. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which India-China relations have strengthened further during 1994-95;

(b) whether there are positive signals from China in regard to India-China co-operation in trade, investment, science & technology and human resource development;

(c) if so, whether any agreements were reached between the two countries in these fields during the last two years;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) whether all the outstanding issues between the two countries are narrowing down; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) India-China relations developed steadily in 1994-95. The momentum of high level dialogue has been maintained and areas of cooperation between the two countries have grown. The two countries are working to develop a long term, stable and good neighbourly relationship.

2. The volume of bilateral trade in 1994 was US \$ 895 million which represents an increase of 32% over 1993. There are over 25 India-China joint ventures in India and several in China. This is a promising area for development. New areas of cooperation include petroleum, health and medicines, civil aeronautics, coal, iron and steel, all of which have significant technology content.

3. Agreements have been signed with China in the last two years for cooperation in areas such as steel, civil aeronautics, petroleum, health and medicines. In 1994 the two countries signed agreements on avoidance of double taxation and establishment of direct banking relations. These agreements will facilitate the further development of India-China trade, investment and commercial links.

4. Discussions are continuing between the two countries to resolve outstanding issues, seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement to the boundary question and on implementation of the provisions of the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September 1993. Both sides are adopting a pragmatic and forward looking approach in these discussions.

Major ports

*197. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the major ports has been reviewed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the details of investment proposed for 1995-96 for modernisation of major ports and the targets set therefor; and

(d) the details of foreign investment proposals cleared/ under consideration and the guidelines set in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of major ports has been reviewed. The major ports handled a traffic of 166.58 million tonnes during 1992-93 and 179.26

million tonnes of traffic during 1993-94, exceeding the targets set for those years. During the year 1994-95, major ports have already handled 176.33 million tonnes upto February 1995 against the target of 181.00 million tonnes for the year.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 721.43 crores has been provided in Annual Plan 1995-96 for development and modernisation of major ports. During 1995-96, five major projects are likely to be commissioned, two at Bombay and remaining three at Paradip, Cochin and Mormugao.

(d) Five major proposals involving foreign investment at Kandla, Mormugao and Madras have been approved. In addition, five more proposals involving foreign investment at Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Cochin, Jawaharlal Nehru and Kandla Ports have also been received.

As per the guidelines issued for private investors (including foreigners), the entrepreneurs are required to respond to the open competitive bids called by the concerned Port Trust. The investor will have to guarantee a minimum level of performance. The schedule of charges will have prior sanction of the Government.

Power Projects in Private Sector

*198. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects in the private sector for which MOU has been signed;

(b) the power projects on which work has since been started and the time by which these power projects are likely to be completed;

(c) the reasons for delay in the implementation of the remaining power projects; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE):
(a) As per information received so far from State Electricity Boards/POWERGRID Corporation/Energy Management Centre, 121 number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been entered into with private power proponents involving a total capacity of 54579 MW. The details are given in the Statement attached.

(b) to (d) The Projects can start functioning after they receive all necessary clearances, achieve financial closure and complete construction of these projects. Dabhol Phase-I (695 MW) has achieved financial closure and would be completed by November, 1997. Ib valley TPS (420MW) and Paguthan CCGT (655MW) have received all clearances and should achieve financial closure soon. The Government extends all possible assistance to the project proponents in regard to their obtaining all clearances and achieving financial closure.

STATEMENT

Details of power project MOUs with state Government/SEBs/Power Grid/Energy Management Centre

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Type	MOU Date	Name of Company
Andhra Pradesh					
1.	Bhoopalapally	120 MW	COAL	18-2-95	Lewis Stanley Associates Inc.
2.	Cuddapah	420 MW	Coal	18-2-95	Lewis Stanley Associates Inc.
3.	East Godavari	100 MW	Furnaced	18-2-95	Rayalaseema Petro Chemicals Ltd.
4.	Godavari	208 MW	Gas/NAPT	7-9-92	Spectrum Tech. USA/Jaya Foods & NTPC
5.	Sopalpally	250 MW	Coal	18-2-95	Orient Paper & Industries
6.	Hyderabad	200 MW	Furnaced	18-2-95	Balaji Hotel & Enterprises Ltd.
7.	Hyderabad	200 MW	LSHS	18-2-95	G.M.R. Vasavi Industries Ltd.
8.	Hyderabad	700 MW	C/N/D/GA	18-2-95	M/s RPG Industries Ltd.,
9.	Hyderabad	200 MW	Furnaced	18-2-95	Balaji Distrillers Ltd.
10.	Hyderabad	200 MW	Furnaced	18-2-95	Balaji Biotech Ltd.
11.	Jegurupadu GBPP	235 MW	GAS/NAPT	16-3-92	GVK Industries Ltd., USA
12.	Kakinada	660 MW	NAPTHA	18-2-95	M/s Kumar's Power
13.	Kakinada	250 MW	C/N/D/GA	18-2-95	M/s Advanced Radio Masts
14.	Kakinadaport	1000 MW	Coal	18-2-95	M/s Hadosum Ptv. Ltd.,
15.	Kalingapatnam	120 MW	Coal	18-2-95	M/s Krishna Godavari Basin Power Utilites Ltd.,
16.	Karimnagar	120 MW	Coal	18-2-95	Lewis Stanley Associates Inc.
17.	Machilipatnam	500 MW	C/N/D/GA	18-2-95	Anagram Finances Ltd.
18.	Manuburu	1000 MW	Coal	18-2-95	Sanghi Group of industries
19.	Manuguru	500 MW	LSHS	18-2-95	Sri Siva Power Ltd.
20.	Nizamabad	200 MW	Coal	18-2-95	M/sRichiman Silks Ltd.
21.	Ramagundam	500 MW	C/N/D/GA	18-2-95	M/s Advanced Radio Masts
22.	Ranigunta	200 MW	Furnaced	18-2-95	Balaji Industrial Corporation Ltd.
23.	Simhadri	1000 MW	Coal	18-2-95	Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.
24.	Twin Cities	250 MW	Coal	18-2-95	M/s Richimen Silks Ltd.
25.	Visakhapatnam	650 MW	NAPTHA/S	18-2-95	Essar Investments Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Type	MOU Date	Name of Company
26.	Visakhapatnam	500 MW	Coal	18-2-95	Shri Siva Pirya Power Ltd.
27.	Vishakhapatnam	500 MW	C/N/D/GA	18-2-95	M/s Amtrex Appliances
28.	Vishakhapatnam TPS	2×500 MW	Coal	17-7-92	Ashok Leyland & National Power U.K.
29.	Vizianagaram	220 MW	NAPTHA	18-2-95	Pan Power Corporation
30.	Wadepally	120 MW	Coal	18-2-95	M/s Krishna Godavari Basin Power Utilities Ltd.,
	Total	30			
					12123 MW
Arunachal					
31.	Kamens HEP	600 MW	HYDEL	6-3-93	Inter Corp. Industries Ltd./Snomy Mountain Engg. Ltd.
32.	Kharsane GBPP	46 MW	GAS	6.3.93	Inter Corp./Snomy Mountain Engg. Australia
	Total	2			
					648.00
Assam					
33.	Adantilla Open Cycle	15 MW	Gas	3-9-93	DLF Power Company Ltd.
34.	Amguri GBPP	280 MW	Gas	10-6-93	Assam Power Partners, Northern Engg. Inc. USA/Agra Indus
35.	Bashkandi Open Cycle	22.50 MW	Gas	3-9-93	DLF Power Company Ltd.
36.	Karbi Langpi HEP	2×50 MW	HYDEL	6-3-93	M/s Bharat HYDRO Power Corporation Limited.
37.	Namrup TPS Ext.	90 MW		15-2-95	M/s Williamson Magur
	Total	5			
					507.50 MW
Gujarat					
38.	Mangrol TPS	250 MW	LIGNITE	15-9-94	Gujarat Industries Power Company Ltd., Baroda.
39.	Faguthan GBPP	655 MW	GAS	12-5-94	Gujarat Torent Energy Corpn. Ltd./Siemens. German
	Total	2			
					905.00 MW
Haryana					
40.	Yamuna Nagar TPS	2×350 MW	Coal	5-4-94	Eisebberg Group of Co. Israel.
	Total	1			
					700.00
H. Pradesh					
41.	Alain-Duhangan	192 MW	HYDEL	28-8-93	Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.
42.	Baspa	300 MW	HYDEL	23-11-92	Jai Prakash Industries Ltd.
43.	Dhamwari HEP	70 MW	HYDEL	28-8-93	Harza Engineering Company. U.S.A.
44.	Hibra HEP	231 MW	HYDEL	28-8-93	Harza Engineering Company. U.S.A.
45.	Karcham Wangtoo	900 MW	HYDEL	25-3-93	Jai Prakash Industries Ltd.
46.	Malana HEP	86 MW	HYDEL	28-8-93	Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.
47.	Neogal HEP	12 MW	HYDEL	28-8-93	Om Power Corporation, New Delhi
48.	UHL-III HEP	2×50 MW	HYDEL	10-2-92	Ballapur Industries Ltd. Delhi
	Total	8			
					1891.00 MW
Karnataka					
49.	Almatti Dam	600 MW	HYDEL	26-7-92	Asia Power Company Ltd. (Tapco) USA, KPC.
50.	Chunchanakatte	15 MW	HYDEL	19-4-93	M/s Graphite India Limited.
51.	Hospet TPS	2×50 MW	Coal	30-7-92	Hoke Inter Continental Limited., USA.
52.	JBTC CO.	2×120 MW	GAS/Coal	9-12-94	Jindal Group/Tractbel. Begium
53.	Kumaradhara	48 MW	HYDEL	6-9-94	M/s Bhoruka power Corporation Limited.
54.	Mangalore TPS	4×250 MW	Coal	30-7-92	Cogentrix Inc. USA.
55.	Nagarjuna	2×500 MW	Coal	27-1-94	Jesco (Nagarjuna Group)
56.	Raichur ST. V & VI	2×250 MW	Coal	28-7-92	Public Power Int. Inc., (North East Energy). USA
57.	Tunga Aneout	20 MW	HYDEL	30-4-93	M/s Dandeli Steel & Ferro Alloys Limited.
58.	Varahi IDPH	15 MW	HYDEL	20-10-94	M/s Bhoruka Power Corporation Limited.
	Total	10			
					3938.00 MW
Kerala					
59.	Anakkavay HEP	8 MW	HYDEL	29-09-92	Ideal project & services (P) Ltd.
60.	Boothankettu	16 MW	HYDEL	07-08-92	Sincal Metalurgic (P) Ltd.
61.	Chathankottunada-II	7MW	HYDEL	29-09-92	Ideal project & Services (P) Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Type	MOU Date	Name of Company
62.	Chekkukkadavu-II	7MW	HYDEL	29-09-92	Travancore Electro Chemical Indus. Ltd.
63.	Karikavam Hep	12 MW	HYDEL	21-11-92	Travancore Electro Chemical Indus. Ltd.
64.	Kuthunai Hep	20 MW	HYDEL	24-8-92	Indsil Electrosystems Ltd.
65.	Paichuram Hep	3.50 MW	HYDEL	29-9-92	Ideal Projects & Services (P) Ltd.
66.	Thrikkaripu Tpp	2x210 MW	COAL	10-1-94	BPL Group
67.	Ulkunkal Hep	6 MW	HYDEL	21-11-92	Travancore electric Chemical Ind. Ltd.
68.	Vilanbad Hep	7 MW	HYDEL	29-9-92	Ideal project & Industries (P) Ltd.
69.	Western Kallar Hep	5 MW	HYDEL	29-9-92	Ideal Project & Services (P) Ltd.
	Total	11			
					511.50
Maharashtra					
70.	Bhadrawati Tps	2x536 MW	COAL	18-6-93	Ispat Alloys Ltd / Ecgd, UK / Edf France
71.	Daphol Ocgf (Lng)	2015 MW 695-PH	LNG	26-6-92	Enron Dev. Corpn., be & Bechtel, USA
72.	Khaperkheda Tps U-596	2x210 MW	COAL	28-1-93	Arenco Line Shipping Co. Malta / Singapore
	Total	3			
					3507.00
M. Pradesh					
73.	Bina Tps	1000 MW	COAL	29-10-94	Grasim Ind. Ltd.
74.	Birsinghpur Tps	500 MW	COAL	26-10-94	Houston Ind. Energy India inc., Gujarat Ambuja Cement Lt.
75.	Dual Fuel Naptha Based	330 MW	Gas	12-10-94	Essar Inv. Ltd. Bombay
76.	Gwalior (Diesel) PP	120.00 MW	Diesel	11-11-94	Wartsila Diesel Finland
77.	Korba East TPS	2x250 MW	Coal	7-10-94	Daewoo Corporation South Korea
78.	Korba West Extn.	2x210 MW	Coal	28-7-93	M/s Mukand Ltd.
79.	Maneshwar HEP	10x40 MW	HYDEL	28-7-93	M/s S. Kumars / Bechtel U.S.A.
80.	Pench TPS	500 MW	Coal	16-6-93	Soros Fund Management USA
81.	Raigarh TPS	1000 MW	Coal	21-10-94	M/s Jindal Strips (P) Ltd.
82.	Ratlam	120 MW	Diesel	24-12-94	M/s G.V.K. Power Limited
83.	Tawa HEP (Captive)	12 MW	HYDEL	1-11-92	HEG Ltd.
	Total	11			
					4902.00 MW
Orissa					
84.	Bomlai TPS	2x250 MW	Coal	2-4-94	Galaxy Power Co., USA & Indeck of Chicago
85.	Chipulima B	200 MW	HYDEL	16-9-94	M/s J.K. Corpn. Ltd. New Delhi
86.	Dubur TPS	500 MW	Coal	25-1-92	Kalinga Power Corporation (NE Power USA)
87.	Dursapur	2x250 MW	Coal	1-11-94	J.K. Corporation Ltd.
88.	Hirakud-B	268 MW	HYDEL	16-9-94	M/s J.K. Corpn. Ltd. New Delhi
89.	IB Veiley TPS	420 MW	Coal	9-12-92	AES Corporation, USA
90.	Jalapat Toe	3x6 MW	HYDEL	7-11-94	Orissa Power Corporation Ltd.
91.	Lapanga TPS	300 MW	Coal	25-10-94	Pioneer & Panda Engineering, USA-Samial (P) Lapanga Comp
92.	Naraj TPS	2x250 MW	Coal	8-10-94	Orissa Power Gen. Corpn. & M/s India Power Partners
	Total	9			
					3346.00 MW
Rajasthan					
93.	Dholpur	2x330 MW	Coal	17-2-94	M/s. R.P.G. Enterprises
	Total	1			
					700.00 MW
Tamil Nadu					
94.	Cuddalore TPS	2x660 MW	Coal	5-17-92	International Contracting & Mkt.,/Eg. USA
95.	Gummidipoondi	500 MW	Coal	25-10-94	Videocon International
96.	Jayamkondam Lignite PP	3x500 MW	Lignite	27-8-93	Monally Bhart Engg. Co. Ltd., & Tidco, J.C.
97.	North Madras II	2x500 MW	Coal	25-10-94	M/s Videocon International Ltd. Bombay
98.	North Madras T.P.P. III	500 MW	Coal	25-10-94	M/s Pro-Majestic SDN., BHD, Malaysia
99.	Pillai Peru Mainalur	300 MW	Gas-NAPH	9-12-92	Dyna Vision of Reddy Group/J. Makowski, USA
100.	Sawayanallur D.E.P.P.	100 MW	Diesel	16-9-94	Balaji Group.
101.	Zero Unit (NLD)	250 MW	Lignite	31-8-92	ST Power systems inc. USA
	Total	8			
					5470.00 MW

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)	Type	MOU Date	Name of Company
Uttar Pradesh					
102.	Aligarh Power Project	100 MW	Diesel	4-2-95	M/s Unison Power Ltd.
103.	Chandauli Power Proj.	100 MW	Diesel	4-2-95	M/s India Power Partners Pvt. Ltd.
104.	Gajraula Power Proj.	100 MW	Diesel	4-2-95	M/s RPG Industries
105.	Greater Noida P. Proj.	100 MW	Diesel	4-2-95	Under Bidding
106.	Jawaharpur TPS	800 MW	Coal	17-11-93	Pacific Electric Power Dev. Corpn. Canada
107.	Kosi Kala Power Proj.	60 MW	Diesel	30-01-95	M/s DSM Ltd.
108.	Muzaffarnagar P. Proj.	100 MW	Diesel	4-2-95	M/s Suslehash Marketing & Projects Ltd.
109.	Pinni Power Project	100 MW	Diesel	30-1-95	M/s Dalmia Bros. Pvt. Ltd.
110.	Rosa TPS	2×250+1×250 MW	Coal	17-11-93	Indo-Gulf Fertilizers & Chemicals India & Power Gen. PLC
111.	Sahibabad Power Proj.	100 MW	Diesel	4-2-95	M/s Modi Mirless Black Stone Ltd.
112.	Sikendrabad P. Project	100 MW	Diesel	30-1-95	M/s Dalmia Bros. Pvt. Ltd.
113.	Srinagar HEP	330 MW	Hydel	27-8-94	M/s Duncan Agro Ind. Ltd.,
114.	Vishnu Prayag HEP	4×100 MW	Hydel	14-10-92	Jaiprakash Industries Ltd.
	Total	13	3140.00 MW		
West Bengal					
115.	Bakreswar TPS	420 MW	Coal	21-9-93	DCL Kuljian Corp. CMS. Generation. USA & WBPOCL
116.	Balagarh TPS	2×250 MW	Coal	1-1-93	Balagarh Power Co. Ltd. (CESC/ADB/TFC)
117.	Dankuni	20 MW	Gas	1-1-93	Spectrum Technology. USA
118.	Gouripore TPS	2×75 MW	Coal	20-5-94	BTS. TES. USA. BHEL. WBSEB
119.	Sagarighi TPS	2×500 MW	Coal	21-9-92	DCL Kuljian Corpn. CMS Generation. USA & WBPDCL
	Total	5	2090.00 MW		
120.	Group of Power Project	1000 MW	Coal	22-9-94	Consolidated Electric Power Asia Ltd. Hong Kong
	Total	1	10000.00 MW		
121.	Energy Efficiency Cen.	200 MW	B-I/Mas/N.A.	13-2-95	M/s JMC Development, USA/Apollo Hospitals
	Total	1	200.00 MW		
	G. Total	121	54579.00 MW		

[Translation]

World Summit for Social Development

*199. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of issues/views presented by India in the recent World Summit for Social Development held at Copenhagen;

(b) the number of proposals accepted by the Summit; and

(c) the achievements likely to be made thereby?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The World Summit for Social Development was held in Copenhagen on March 11-12, 1995, preceded by a meeting of the Personal Representatives of the Heads of State/Government from March 6-10, 1995. The Summit provided a unique opportunity to enhance the reinvigorated international cooperation for eradication of

poverty, provision of full and productive employment and for social integration.

2. During the Summit and in the Preparatory Process leading to it, India emphasised the following issues:

(i) The centrality of the people and their empowerment, through inter-alia, guaranteeing of certain rights such as the rights to food, work, shelter, education, health and information; and democratic participative local self-governance as a mechanism to achieve this end.

(ii) The need to eradicate poverty, which now figures not only as a separate goal but as an underlying theme, governing action in all areas.

(iii) A focus on poverty in low income countries of Asia and Pacific and on Rural Poverty.

(iv) Cross-sectoral emphasis on gender issues which are central to social development.

(v) Incorporation of separate commitment on education and health, which are indispensable elements in the process of eradication of poverty.

(vi) A clear acknowledgement of terrorism as a

fundamental threat to society and to global social order.

(vii) The provision of financial resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action through trade and international assistance.

(viii) Placing the role of markets in its proper perspective, through a recognition of its shortcomings and the need for Government intervention to both correct the market mechanism as well as to supplement it.

(ix) Acknowledging the negative effects of the Structural Adjustment Programmes and recognising the need to ensure that they include social development goals, when structural adjustment programmes are agreed to.

3. All the above issues put forward by India were accepted by the international community at the World Summit for Social Development and have been reflected in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted on March 12, 1995. The Declaration contains ten commitments undertaken for the common pursuit of social development, aimed at social justice, solidary, harmony and equality within and among countries. The commitments pertain to inter-alia, creation of enabling economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment; eradication of poverty; goal of full employment; promotion of social integration; education, health and culture; increasing resources allocated for social development; and improvement of international cooperation to attain these objectives. In the Programme of Action detailed plans have been spelled out, both at the national and international levels, with a view to implementing the above commitments.

4. Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action marks the commencement of the changed international agenda for the construction of a new society. The Summit addressed issues of crucial concern to humanity, in particular the underprivileged. India hopes that the Summit will reinvigorate international cooperation in implementing the far-reaching decisions of the Summit.

[English]

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

*200. SHRI YELLIAH NANDI:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to bring India under the combined regime of NPT and Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and to cap its nuclear programme even for peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

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

(c) whether there is any change in India's stand in regard to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In bilateral and other fora, there has been no pressure on India to sign the NPT. However the depository states of the NPT (US, UK and Russia) have urged all countries not yet party to the NPT to sign the treaty. Government's principled opposition to the NPT has been reiterated in all relevant bilateral and international fora. Meanwhile, India remains committed to pursuing its extensive nuclear programme which is geared exclusively towards peaceful purposes.

With regard to the MTCR, India maintains its reservations on ad hoc export control regimes like the MTCR and has conveyed its views to the MTCR member countries in official discussions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) does not arise.

Steel, Ship-Breaking and Casting Unit

1812. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Metal Scrap Trading Corporation (MSTC) is considering to set up steel, ship-breaking and casting units in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether land have been acquired for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) MSTC Limited has reported that it is considering setting up steel, ship-breaking and casting units in West Bengal. Since these proposals are at a preliminary stage, no land has been acquired.

New Passport Office in North Eastern States

1813. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport offices at present functioning in different parts of the country;

(b) the locations of those offices, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more such offices particularly in Eastern and North Eastern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Passport Offices-23

(b) As per Statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The opening of new Passport Offices is based on various parameters including workload and resources available. The opening of new Passport Offices does not itself improve the service until the necessary infrastructure and personnel are available. The government is,

therefore, concentrating on clearing the backlog of pending applications trying to cut down on delays in issuing passports and streamlining and simplifying procedures.

STATEMENT

State	Location
1. Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2. Assam	Guwahati
3. Bihar	Patna
4. Goa	Panaji
5. Gujarat	Ahmedabad
6. Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
7. Karnataka	Bangalore
8. Kerala	1. Cochin 2. Kozhikode 3. Trivandrum
9. Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
10. Maharashtra	1. Bombay 2. Nagpur
11. Orissa	Bhubaneswar
12. Punjab	Jalandhar
13. Rajasthan	Jaipur
14. Tamil Nadu	1. Madras 2. Tiruchirapalli
15. Union territory of Chandigarh + Punjab + Haryana + Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh
16. Union Territory of Delhi + Meerut and Ghaziabad in UP + Districts of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Rohtak and Sonapat in Haryana	Delhi
17. Uttar Pradesh	1. Bareilly 2. Lucknow
18. West Bengal	Calcutta
Total: 23 Passport Offices plus 1 Passport Collection at Srinagar and 1 Passport Liaison Office at Shimla.	

Loan by HUDCO to Housing Agencies

1814. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of loan provided by HUDCO to various housing agencies in Madhya Pradesh has been declining every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total funds sanctioned and released by HUDCO to various housing agencies in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, separately;

(c) whether the HUDCO proposes to increase the amount of loan to various housing agencies in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K.

THUNGON): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Mining Accident in Faridabad

1815. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of a mining accident at the Sand Mines in Faridabad in July 1993 and February, 1995.

(b) if so, the number of persons killed/injured and other details thereof.

(c) whether the Government propose to close down this mine; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

Agricultural Assistance to Burkina Faso

1816. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered to provide assistance to Burkina Faso for agriculture development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Burkina Faso thereto?

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

(b) The Government of India have allocated Rs. 15.8 crores for an Agricultural Development Project in Burkina Faso in response to a specific request made by the country's President during his 2-day visit to India in July, 1994. This grant is to be utilised for purchase of agricultural machinery and equipment from India and deputation of six Indian agricultural experts. A Project Report has already been finalised in consultation with the recipient Government and the Project is now in initial stages of actual implementation.

(c) Burkina Faso Government has received this offer with enthusiasm and gratitude. During the India-Burkina Faso Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on 17th and 18th February, 1995, the Burkinaba side endorsed the Project Report prepared by the Indian side, for implementation.

World Bank Assistance for Repair of Roads

1817. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought financial assistance from the World Bank for the repair of damaged highways and roads of various districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the time by which the financial assistance is likely to be provided?

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

(b) to (d) : Do not arise.

CRF Funds for Gujarat

1818. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Gujarat from Central Road Fund during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether a huge amount is yet to be released to Gujarat out of the Central Road Fund sanctioned by the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details in this regard for each of the last three years and for the current year; and

(d) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The amounts allocated to Gujarat from Central Road Fund during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Allotment (Rs. in lakhs)
1991-92	60.00
1992-93	70.00
1993-94	80.00

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Repair of Bridges in Bihar

1819. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges constructed on the National Highways in Bihar during 1993-94;

(b) the number of bridges on National Highways in Bihar, repaired/being repaired during each of the last three years; and

(c) the amount spent thereon during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Construction of no bridge work in Bihar was completed during 1993-94.

(b) and (c) Maintenance and Repair of National Highways including bridges thereon is a continuous process. However, the nos. of bridges on NHs in Bihar for

which special repair & flood damage repair estimates were sanctioned and the amounts released during the last three years are as follows :—

Year	No. of Bridges	Amount released (Rs. in lacs)
1991-92	6	99.66
1992-93	1	10.19
1993-94	1	0.50

[English]

Modernisation of IISCO

1820. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has since been made in the renovation and rehabilitation of the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO), Burnpur (West Bengal);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Russian Steel Conglomerate Tyazh Promexport (TPE) had recently expressed their willingness to take over the same; and

(d) if so, the terms and conditions and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) In terms of the Sick Industrial Company's (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (as amended in January, 1994), Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO) became a sick industrial company. Accordingly, a reference was made by the Board of Directors of IISCO to BIFR in June, 1994, as required under Section 15 of the Act for determination of measures to be adopted with respect to the company.

The case is registered with BIFR in terms of Section 15 of the Act. Sick industrial companies registered in the BIFR can take up revival/modernisation schemes only with the sanction/approval of BIFR.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, However, M/s. Tyazhpromexport of Russia had only evinced interest in the modernisation and reconstruction of IISCO. No detailed proposal has been received.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in U.P.

1821. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in U.P. district-wise; and

(b) the time by which telephone connections are likely to be provided?

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

[English]

Agreement on Terrorism with Thailand

1822. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Thailand have agreed to expand cooperation in order to deal with terrorism, traffic in narcotics, arms smuggling, violent crimes and flight of criminals and to draw up a frame work agreement to establish order of the high seas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India had earlier made similar types of agreements with other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) During bilateral talks, India and Thailand have exchanged views on terrorism and have agreed to maintain and strengthen their cooperation in combating drug-trafficking and its nexus with terrorism. The two sides have discussed the possibility of concluding a bilateral Extradition Treaty and an agreement on prisoners's transfer. Till date however, no agreement has been signed between India and Thailand on terrorism, traffic in narcotics, arms smuggling, violent crimes and flight of criminals. The two sides have also not drawn up a framework agreement to establish order of the high seas.

(c) and (d) Country-wise details in this regard are as per enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Russian Federation

An agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of India and the Ministry of Security of the Russian Federation for combating terrorism, narcotics trafficking and international crime was signed in October 1993, during visit to India by the Russian Interior Minister, Yerin.

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan

India have signed declarations of Principles on relations with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, which provide for cooperation in combating terrorism and traffic in narcotics.

United Arab Emirates

India and United Arab Emirates have signed an agreement in combating illicit traffic in narcotics and psychotropic substances on January 6, 1994 in New Delhi.

United Kingdom

India and United Kingdom have concluded an Extradition Treaty as also an Agreement concerning the investigation and prosecution of crime and the tracing, restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime (including crimes involving currency transfers) and terrorist funds.

Australia

India have extradition arrangements with Australia, Soloman Islands and Vanuatu under the Commonwealth scheme for the Rendition of Fugitive Offenders, the London Extradition Scheme. The London Scheme is a "less than treaty status" arrangement.

Myanmar

India and Myanmar have signed an Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Reducing Demand and Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters.

SAARC Countries

The Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism was signed during the Third SAARC Summit and has been ratified by all member countries. However enabling legislation is to be enacted by member countries for practical implementation of the various provisions in the convention. Excepting Pakistan and Bangladesh, all other member countries have enacted the necessary legislation.

United States of America

India and United States of America have signed a Bilateral Agreement for Enlargement of Cooperation in the areas of Drug Abuse Prevention. In pursuance of this Agreement, the two Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 'Cooperative Measures to Increase Awareness of and Support for Efforts to Combat Production, Distribution and Use of Illegal Drugs'. In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the two countries will carry out joint, cooperative, long-term programmes to raise awareness of and build support for anti-narcotics activities.

Canada

The two Governments have signed an Extradition Treaty. The Treaty is designed to enhance the cooperation between the two countries in the suppression of crime by making provision for the reciprocal extradition of offenders in order to effectively combat terrorism.

(ii) The two Governments have also signed a "Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters". This Treaty is designed to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of crime, including crime related to terrorism and the tracing, restraint forfeiture or confiscation of the proceeds of crime, through cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters.

Production of Tin Plate

1823. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of 'tin plate' in the country in private and public sector separately during 1993-94 upto December, 1994; and

(b) the estimated requirement of tin plate in the country during 1995-96 and how this requirement is proposed to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The total

production of tin plate in the country during 1993-94 and April-December, 1994 in public and private sector was as under:—

	1993-94	1994-95 (upto Dec. '94) (Prov.)
Public Sector	50	30.0
Private Sector	42	22.3
Total:	92	52.3

(b) The domestic requirement of tin plate during 1995-96 is estimated to be 2.6 lakh tonnes. To augment the domestic supply, import of tin plate is freely allowed. The customs duty on import of tin plate has been reduced from 50% to 40% in the Budget of 1995-96.

[Translation]

Production capacity of Fertilizer Plants

1824. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:

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

(a) the existing annual production capacity of each of the fertilizer plants in the country and the extent to which their actual production has declined over the last three years;

- (b) the reasons for reduction in production capacity;
(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to increase the production capacity of fertilizer plants producing less than their installed capacity; and
(d) 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 (d). Existing annual production capacity of each of the major fertilizer plants in the country, their production and capacity utilisation during the last three years, is given in the statement attached.

The production in the case of Nitrogen has been satisfactory on overall basis, except the units of the two sick companies, namely, M/s Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and M/s Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) on account of design deficiencies, lack of adequate maintenance/repairs on account of cash crunch etc. The decline in the case of Phosphate was mainly on account of fall in demand arising out of increase in open market prices after decontrol.

The two sick companies, namely, Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) stand referred to the BIFR and any further action on modernisation of their plants would depend on the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

STATEMENT

Unit-wise installed capacity production and % age Capacity Utilization of fertilizers (in nutrients) during the last three years

NITROGEN

Name of the plant	Installed Capacity as on 1.4.1994 ('000 MT)	Production ('000' MT)			%age Capacity Utilization		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
(I) Public Sector:-							
F.C.I.:-							
Sindri	219.0	105.6	135.8	112.2	48.2	62.0	51.2
Gorakhpur	131.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ramagundam	228.0	88.1	58.0	88.8	38.6	25.4	38.9
Talcher	228.0	53.4	41.4	57.3	23.4	18.2	25.1
Total F.C.I.	806.0	247.1	235.2	258.3	30.7	29.2	32.0
H.F.C.:-							
Namrup-I	21.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.5	1.0	0.0
Namrup-II	152.0	35.9	23.2	3.3	23.6	15.3	2.2
Namrup-III	177.0	90.1	113.4	84.0	50.9	64.1	47.5
Durgapur	152.0	49.9	34.2	18.8	32.8	22.5	12.4
Barauni	152.0	33.9	48.4	10.1	22.3	31.8	6.6
Total H.F.C.	654.0	209.9	219.4	116.2	32.1	33.5	17.8
N.F.L.:-							
Nangal-I	80.0	48.3	58.1	66.5	60.4	72.6	83.1
Nangal-II	152.0	145.9	163.1	161.5	96.0	107.3	108.3
Bhatinda	235.0	249.1	225.4	235.3	106.0	95.9	100.1
Panipat	235.0	213.7	200.0	237.5	90.9	85.1	101.1
Vijaypur	334.0	410.6	387.4	404.0	122.9	116.0	121.0
Total N.F.L.	1036.0	1067.6	1034.0	1104.8	103.1	99.8	106.6

Name of the plant	installed Capacity as as on 1.4.1994 (^{'000} MT)	Production (^{'000} MT)			%age Capacity Utilization		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
FACT:—							
Udyogmandal	98.0	54.6	62.9	61.4	55.7	64.2	62.7
Cochin-I	152.0	92.4	67.5	111.5	60.8	44.4	73.4
Cochin-II	96.0	109.0	107.4	89.3	113.5	111.9	93.0
Total FACT	346.0	256.0	237.8	262.2	74.0	68.7	75.8
R.C.F.:—							
Trombay	90.0	77.9	81.6	83.8	86.6	90.7	93.1
Trombay-IV	75.0	57.3	60.1	55.3	76.4	80.1	73.7
Trombay-V	152.0	112.1	128.9	143.7	73.8	84.8	94.5
Thal	683.0	593.3	652.5	617.3	86.9	95.5	90.4
Total R.C.F.	1000.0	840.6	923.1	900.1	84.1	92.3	90.0
MFL: Madras	176.0	149.1	145.8	99.0	84.7	82.8	56.3
SAIL: Rourkela	120.0	48.2	54.8	59.9	40.2	45.7	49.9
NLC: Neyveli	70.0	62.2	50.0	51.1	88.9	71.4	73.0
PPL: Paradeep	130.0	115.4	94.1	69.3	88.8	72.4	53.3
By-product	38.0	24.3	27.6	26.4	63.9	72.6	69.5
Total Pub. Sector	4376.0	3020.4	3021.8	2947.3	69.0	69.1	67.4
(II) Coop. Sector:							
IFFCO: Kalol	182.0	188.3	155.9	164.5	103.5	85.7	90.4
Kandla	120.0	134.6	118.6	132.2	112.2	98.8	110.2
Phulpur	228.0	232.8	279.2	248.6	102.1	122.5	109.0
Aonia	334.0	390.8	375.8	416.9	117.0	112.5	124.8
Total IFFCO	864.0	946.5	929.5	962.2	109.5	107.6	111.4
KRIBHCO: Hazira	668.0	782.1	775.8	697.1	117.1	116.1	104.4
Total Coop. Sector	1532.0	1728.6	1705.3	1659.3	112.8	111.3	108.3
(III) Private Sector:							
GSFC: Baroda	236.0	294.0	311.5	264.1	124.6	132.0	111.9
CFL: Vizag	84.0	103.9	99.9	82.4	123.7	118.9	98.1
SFC: Kota	152.0	167.5	164.9	186.7	110.2	108.5	122.8
ICI: Kanpur	310.0	192.7	185.7	276.6	94.4	92.2	89.2
ZAC: Goa	198.0	254.6	235.8	215.2	128.6	119.1	108.7
SPIC: Tuticorin	312.0	382.6	369.8	306.3	122.6	118.5	98.2
MCF: Mangalore	181.0	147.1	112.2	100.0	81.3	62.0	55.2
EID Parry Ennore	15.0	16.5	16.8	14.0	110.0	112.0	93.3
GNFC: Bharuch	340.0	324.1	357.6	367.4	110.0	105.2	108.1
DFCL: Talaja	53.0	3.8	23.5	2.3	—	59.1	4.3
TAC: Tuticorin Alk	16.0	17.4	17.0	17.2	108.7	106.3	107.5
PNF: Nangal	16.0	11.1	13.6	15.5	69.4	85.0	96.9
HLL: Haldia	29.0	27.5	31.0	13.0	94.8	106.9	44.8
GFCC: Jagdishpur	334.0	329.5	382.4	315.2	98.7	114.5	94.4
GSFC: Sikka	59.0	64.9	72.5	75.5	110.0	123.0	128.0
NFL: Kakinada	228.0	—	142.3	272.0	—	93.6	119.3
GFC: Kakinada	54.0	61.4	62.2	40.1	113.7	115.2	74.3
Chambal Ferts.	342.0	—	—	57.2*	—	—	66.9
By-product	6.0	3.7	4.4	3.9	61.7	73.3	65.0
Total Pvt. Sector	2965.0	2552.3	2703.2	2624.6	108.8	106.7	96.9
Total (I+II+III)	8873.0	7301.3	7430.3	7231.2	88.5	88.0	83.9
I. Public Sector:							
FACT:—							
Udyogmandal	30.0	29.1	30.2	23.5	97.0	100.7	78.3
Cochin-II	114.0	121.0	113.4	89.3	106.1	94.5	78.3
Total FACT	144.0	150.1	143.6	112.8	104.2	99.7	78.3
R.C.F.:—							
Trombay	45.0	50.5	52.7	45.5	112.2	117.1	101.1
Trombay	75.0	57.3	60.1	55.3	76.4	80.1	73.7
Total R.C.F.	120.0	107.8	112.8	100.8	89.8	94.0	84.0

*Commercial production from 1.1.94

Name of the plant	Installed Capacity as on 1.4.1994 ('000 MT)	Production ('000' MT)			%age Capacity Utilization		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
MFL: Madras	112.0	133.6	117.4	82.2	119.3	104.8	73.4
PPL: Paradeep	331.0	295.0	240.4	177.1	89.1	72.6	53.5
HCL: Khetri	30.0	11.5	8.6	2.3	38.3	28.7	7.7
PPCL: Amjhore	42.0	27.2	28.4	20.6	64.8	67.6	49.0
SSP: Units	13.0	6.5	5.2	4.6	50.0	40.0	35.1
Total Public Sector	792.0	731.7	656.4	500.3	92.4	82.9	63.2
II. Coop. Sector:							
IFFCO: Kandla	309.0	349.9	308.1	341.4	113.2	99.7	110.5
III. Private Sector							
GSFC: Baroda	50.0	82.6	74.5	62.9	165.2	149.0	125.8
CFL: Vizag	104.0	107.8	106.1	84.6	103.7	102.0	81.3
ZAC: Goa	111.0	120.5	94.4	50.1	108.6	85.0	45.1
SPIC: Tuticorin	191.0	219.2	208.5	93.7	114.8	109.2	49.1
MCF: Mangalore	63.0	67.5	41.9	31.1	107.1	66.5	49.4
EID Parry Ennore	19.0	20.6	20.9	17.6	108.4	110.0	92.6
GNFC Bharuch	33.0	28.6	30.2	26.6	86.7	91.5	80.6
DFCL: Talaja	53.0	3.8	23.5	2.3	—	59.1	4.3
HLL: Haldia	71.0	70.6	79.3	33.1	99.4	111.7	46.6
GSFC: Silka	150.0	165.6	185.6	193.0	110.4	123.7	128.7
GFC: Kakinada	138.0	157.7	158.8	102.5	114.3	115.1	74.3
SSP: Units	738.0	436.0	318.0	276.6	59.1	43.1	37.5
Total Pvt. Sector	1721.0	1476.7	1341.7	974.1	89.5	78.6	56.6
Total (I+II+III)	2822.0	2558.3	2306.2	1815.8	93.0	82.1	64.3

[English]

Urea Requirement and Import

1825. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:

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

(a) total urea requirement in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the projected requirement of urea for 1995-96, State-wise;

(c) the quantity of urea imported by the country during the last three years;

(d) the landing price of imported urea; and

(e) the total import bill of urea for the current year and projected import bill for the next year?

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 total requirement of urea during the

years 1993-94 and 1994-95, as reflected in Statewise allocation made under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is furnished in the enclosed statement.

(b) Statewise requirement of urea for 1995-96 has not yet been finalised.

(c) Imports of urea during the last three years have been as under:

Year	Quantity in lakh tonnes
1992-93	18.57
1993-94	28.40
1994-95 (upto February 1995)	26.75

(d) and (e) The weighted average C&F price of imported urea during the period from April 1994 to February 1995 is about Rs 5480 per tonne. Gross expenditure on import of urea during the period from April 1994 to February 1995 has been Rs. 1516 crores. A provision of Rs. 2607 crores has been proposed in the Budget 1995-96 for import fertilisers or Government account.

STATEMENT

(Figures in 000 MTR)

Sl. No.	STATES	KHARIF-1983	RABI-1983-84	KHARIF-1984	RABI 1984-85
		E.C.A. Allocation	E.C.A. Allocation	E.C.A. Allocation	E.C.A. Allocation
SOUTH ZONE					
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	836.55	1071.14	907.04	1102.97
2.	KARNATAKA	372.56	262.47	421.55	351.33
3.	KERALA	68.65	53.84	73.08	51.92
4.	PONDICHERY	9.48	11.45	8.43	13.78
5.	TAMILNADU	236.93	468.57	214.50	510.40
6.	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	0.24	0.44	0.55	0.44
	TOTAL	1524.04	1887.91	1825.15	2030.86
WEST ZONE					
7.	GUJARAT	334.6	451.98	367.82	537.30
8.	MADHYA PRADESH	522.50	478.50	800.82	550.60
9.	MAHARASHTRA	927.40	507.98	1008.70	666.60
10.	RAJASTHAN	313.50	522.50	363.00	539.50
11.	GOA	3.04	2.09	3.08	2.20
12.	DAMAN & DIU	0.25	0.98	1.27	0.4
13.	DADAR & NAGAR HAV.	1.03	0.33	1.29	0.26
	TOTAL	2122.36	1203.46	2344.93	2296.50
NORTH ZONE					
14.	HARYANA	446.60	598.40	462.00	643.50
15.	PUNJAB	887.85	1117.08	378.42	1122.00
16.	UTTAR PRADESH	1805.80	2800.01	1785.50	2803.70
17.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	18.41	11.91	20.93	22.00
18.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	54.33	30.66	58.15	24.16
19.	DELHI	8.29	18.62	8.67	19.79
20.	CHANDIGARH	0.31	0.66	0.32	0.44
	TOTAL	3021.54	437.34	3183.99	4435.59
EAST ZONE					
21.	BIHAR	540.50	583.99	569.86	601.08
22.	ORISSA	200.74	95.43	214.89	108.60
23.	WEST BENGAL	288.48	544.98	337.77	552.83
	TOTAL	1029.72	1234.40	1122.54	1262.51
NORTH-EAST ZONE					
24.	ASSAM	23.91	23.82	25.34	27.50
25.	TRIPURA	8.80	7.82	6.35	8.79
26.	MANIPUR	16.48	1.89	19.80	4.40
27.	MEGHALYA	2.30	2.20	2.42	2.75
28.	NAGALAND	0.55	0.39	0.33	0.22
29.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0.22	0.25	0.25	0.30
30.	SIKKIM	1.10	0.66	1.10	0.72
31.	MIZORAM	0.33	0.28	0.44	0.50
32.	TEA BOARD (NE)	37.50	44.00	36.50	36.50
	TOTAL	91.17	81.31	94.53	83.68
	ALL INDIA	7788.83	9544.41	8381.14	10109.14

[Translation]

Telephone Service In Rural Areas

1826. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme for providing less expensive and convenient telephone service in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telephone service development in the advanced countries is being introduced in the country with the co-operation of private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated schemes to provide telephone service in rural areas by using:

(i) low cost electronic exchanges which provide most of the service features like STD facility dynamic STD lock, FAX etc. These are digital exchanges and are highly reliable.

(ii) Radio based access systems like MARR systems. These are reliable and are being

operated with Solar Power Systems for the convenience of rural subscribers.

(iii) Radio based small capacity transmission systems for connecting the rural exchanges to the national network.

(c) and (d) For rural communication most of the equipment presently being used is based upon indigenous technology and effort. However, Indian companies in the private sector have been invited to provide basic telephone service in rural as well as urban areas for supplementing the efforts of DOT. It is expected that these companies will bring in new technologies and advance management techniques to provide the telephone service efficiently.

(e) For entry of private sector to provide basic telephone service, tenders have already been floated. Licences will be awarded to short listed bidders after evaluation of proposals. The licensees will be given 12 months time for commencement of service.

[English]

Visit of FM of Iran

1827. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Iran visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the main results and achievements of the visit;

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The foreign Minister of Iran, H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati visited New Delhi from 2-4 January, 1995.

During the visit, the Eighth Session of the India-Iran Joint Commission was held. The Joint Commission meeting undertook a comprehensive review of, and imparted momentum to bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. Dr. Velayati called on the President, Prime Minister and held discussions with the External Affairs Minister. These meetings enabled a wide ranging exchange of views on the issues of bilateral cooperation especially economic cooperation, and on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The Iranian side proposed that the President of Iran would pay an official visit to India in April 1995. The Indian side welcomed the Proposal. During Dr. Velayati's visit a Maritime Commercial Navigation Agreement was also signed.

Issue of Passport

1828. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport issued by the passport offices at Calicut, Cochin and Trivandrum during 1994;

(b) the number of applications still pending in these offices;

(c) whether these Passport offices have reported shortage of staff and consequent delay in disposing of applications of Passport; and

(d) if so, the measures being adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) the number of passports issued by Passport Offices at Kozhikode, Cochin and Trivandrum during 1994 and the pendency with these offices as on 17.3.1995 is:

	Passports issued in 1994	Total Pendency (as on 17.3.1995)	Pendency over one month
COCHIN	99410	7412	1994
KOZHIKODE	179074	22074	13238
TRIVANDRUM	97022	9313	1440

(c) and (d) Passports are being issued by the Passport Offices at Cochin and Trivandrum within a reasonable time of 30 to 35 days. The Passport office, Kozhikode is taking slightly longer time to issue passports. However, efforts are being made to ensure that the delay in issuing passports by Passport Office, Kozhikode is reduced by augmenting its staff strength through transfer/deputation of personnel from other offices.

Development of Small and medium Towns in Assam

1829. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has sent any proposal to develop small and medium towns in the State during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details of projects and accepted by the Union Government and the amount sanctioned for each of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. Project proposals for 3 towns, viz. Nalbari, Mangaldoi and Kokrajhar have been received from the Government of Assam during the last 2 years for consideration under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Town (IDSMT).

(b) All the 3 Projects covering proposals for infrastructure development have been approved and Central Assistance released to the selected towns as under:

S. No.	Name of the Town	Project cost approved	Central Assistance (1st instalment) (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	NALBARI	87.70	10.00
2.	MANGALDOI	93.18	11.00
3.	KOKRAJHAR	134.28	24.00
			45.00

Counter-Guarantees to Power Projects

1830. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some alternatives to counter-guarantees for power projects have been finalised; and
- (b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAJ PATEL) (a) and (b): The alternatives to counter guarantee by Government of India for power projects, which are being explored, include direct supply of power by Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to HT consumers, opening of an escrow account for which identified payment by consumers are credited and the payment liability to the IPP is first charge on this account, linking power generation with distribution, PPA with Power grid Corporation, World Bank guarantee etc.

[Translation]

Pak Bases in Nepal

1831. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have raised with Nepal the issue of operation of illegal bases of Pakistani Intelligence Agencies in Nepal and infiltration from Nepal border into India for destructive activities;
- (b) if so, the response of Nepal thereto; and
- (c) the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government of India are aware of the use of Nepalese territory for transit by terrorists, who are suspected of having links with Pakistan intelligence agencies. This matter has also been raised with the appropriate authorities in Nepal. The Government of Nepal have assured Government of India that they will not permit the use of Nepal's territory for terrorist activities against India. The Government of India welcome this assurance and look forward to cooperation from the Nepalese authorities in the future.

[English]

Agreement with Turkey

1832. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with Turkey;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the agreement will be helpful in a political solution of Kashmir; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. Two Agreements were signed during the visit of

President Demirel of Turkey, 30 January—2 February, 1995. During this visit the Agreements signed were: first, an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and second, an Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism.

(b) The Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation provides for Indian and Turkish Companies based in each other's countries to be exempted from being taxed on their overseas operations twice, once under the foreign country tax and once under the domestic country tax code. The Agreements on Cooperation in Tourism provides for smoother formalities for tourist groups from each other's countries and for contacts between tour operators of India and Turkey.

(c) and (d) In terms of contributing to closer understanding between India and Turkey, these Agreements will help promote overall understanding between India and Turkey. Overall improvement in Indo-Turkish relations will, we expect, also promote a greater understanding of the Kashmir issue on the Turkish side.

Peace Keeping Force to Angola

1833. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has been decided to send a peace-keeping force to Angola;
- (b) if so, whether it was on a request from the U.N.;
- (c) the number of troops, with equipment, and civilian officials to comprise the force; and
- (d) the nature and duration of the mission to be performed in Angola?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 800 infantry and a 214-member engineering company will form the Indian contingent, when it is despatched. In addition, 19 military observers and 18 civilian police observers are already deployed with the UN Angola Verification Mission.

(d) The contingent is being sent for peace-keeping duties. It will be deployed for an initial period of six months, subject to extension. The military observers have been sent for an initial period of one year and the police observers for nine months.

Pak's Propaganda

1834. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has intensified its bid to ensure the participation of the All Party Hurriyat Conference Chief in the proceedings of the 51st UN Human Rights Commission being held in Geneva;

(b) whether it is true that Pakistan High Commission in London is also active in encouraging the Parliamentary Group on Kashmir to convene a conference to raise the Kashmir issue; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to counter attack and to defend her stand that Kashmir is the integral part of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The All Party Hurriyat Conference did not attend the recently concluded 51st Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights despite efforts made by Pakistan. The Pakistan High Commission in London has reportedly sought to encourage a meeting of the British Parliamentary Group on Kashmir to discuss the Kashmir issue.

Government have consistently maintained that the accession of J&K is irrevocable and that it is an inalienable part of India. Government have kept foreign Governments regularly briefed about the actual situation in J&K resulting from the sponsorship of terrorism from across the border.

ICCR

1835. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount earmarked for Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for 1995-96, item-wise;
- (b) whether Advisory Committees for different regions around the world have been formed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Advisory Committees for Africa and Latin America have been dissolved; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total amount earmarked for ICCR for 1995-96 is Rs. 2,030 lakhs. Itemwise breakup is as under:

(in lakhs)

(i) Activities	Rs. 952.00
(ii) Projects abroad	Rs. 785.00
(iii) Fixed charges	Rs. 266.00
(iv) Miscellaneous capital expenditure	Rs. 27.00

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There existed Advisory Panels for Africa, South and South East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Overseas Indians and were last reconstituted in October 1991.

(d) N.A.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Following the decision of the Governing Body taken at its meeting held on 22nd February, 1994 a Committee was set up and entrusted with the task of preparing the annual action plan for ICCR. The task of the earlier Advisory Committees which was to focus on

activities for the respective regions was also assigned to the new Committee

Human Rights Record

1836. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commission is putting pressure on India to improve its human rights record specially in Jammu and Kashmir; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement with Germany

1837. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed by the Union Government with a German Pharmaceutical company for launching new generation drugs, based on German know-how; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the terms of agreement settled between the two countries?

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) Does not arise.

Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.

1838. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Hindustan Insecticide Ltd. (HIL) in parts or as a whole;

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

(c) the action taken so far 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) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Medicines at Reasonable Prices

1839. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Chaandi Kaat Rahi Hai Bahurashtriy Dava Companiya", which appeared in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated February 5, 1995;

(b) whether Multinational Drug companies are importing drugs at high prices from the international market and selling them at higher prices in the domestic market to meet the shortage of drugs in the country;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating the formulate an action plan to deal with this problem; and

(e) if so, 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). 'Rashtriya Sahara' Newspaper's edition of February 5, 1995 has been seen. India is almost self sufficient with respect to its requirement of formulations and the domestic production meets 75% of the requirement of the bulk drugs. One of the main objectives of the Drug Policy is to ensure abundant availability of essential and life saving and prophylactic medicines of good quality at reasonable prices.

Multinationals In Drugs

1841. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of multinational pharmaceutical companies are closing down and leaving the country;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of action 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 such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Transfer of Telephones

1842. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI LAL BABU RAI:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules or criteria have been fixed by the Government regarding transfer, disconnection and reconnection of telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the charges to be paid by the customers, if any;

(c) whether the said rules are being observed everywhere;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have received any requests to simplify the above rules;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The details are as under:

1. Transfer—Transfer of telephones is permitted by the competent authority under the following events as per transfer rules.

(a) To the legal heir on the death of the hirer.

(b) To the near relatives during the life time of the hirer.

(c) On the change of the name of the hirer.

(d) On the change of the name and/or constitution of firm or company or organisation or institution.

(e) From employer to the employee.

(f) Between Government Department, Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings and autonomous organisation.

1.1 The transferee will undertake to pay all the dues against the telephone including any pending dues.

1.2 In all bonafide cases of transfer an amount of Rs. 100/- per connection will be charged.

2. Third Party Transfer—A subscriber will be permitted to transfer his telephone to any person, firm or company after one year of installation of telephone. In the case of telephones sanctioned under N. OYT Special category, third party transfer is permitted only if its date of registration has been cleared under N-OYT General category. In case of telephone sanctioned under TATKAL Scheme, it is permitted after three years of the date of installation of such telephone.

2.1 Category of telephone remains unchanged in case of a third party transfer.

2.2 The transferee will undertake to pay all the dues against the telephone including any pending dues.

2.3 A non-refundable transfer fee of Rs. 500 will be charged.

3. Disconnection

3.1 Due to non payment of telephone bills.

3.2 Due to illegal or improper or unauthorised use of telephone.

4. Reconnection—After the payment of dues, reconnection charges of Rs. 100/- are levied for restoration of a telephone connection disconnected due to non payment of dues.

(c) Yes Sir.

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

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Social Audit Panel has given its recommendations to allow incoming call facility for about a fortnight to the subscribers connected to electronic exchanges, who have defaulted the payment of telephone bills rather than abruptly disconnecting their telephones as at present.

(g) The Department has issued instructions to the effect that the subscribers connected to electronic exchanges and who have defaulted the payment of telephone bills are allowed incoming call facility for 15 days to clear their pending dues before disconnection.

In addition, under the liberalised policy, the Department of Telecom recently simplified the process of thiral party transfer of telephone by way of charging a nonrefundable fee of Rs. 500/- and allow the transfer of telephone in the same category under transfer rules.

[English]

National Highway No. 8

1843. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to widen the Vadodra-Maharashtra section of National Highway No. 8 into a four lane Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the financial allocation made therefor;

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

(d) the time schedule fixed for completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). Four-laning of selected stretches of Vadodara-Maharashtra border section of NH No. 8 in Gujarat aggregating to 51 km. has been provided in the 8th Five Year Plan. Out of this, four laning proposals aggregating to 26 km. have already been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 67.14 crore. These works are in various stages of progress and are targetted to be completed between 1996-2000.

Modernisation of IISCO

1844. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation programme of IISCO is being delayed because the case is pending with B.I.F.R.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) In terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisional Act 1985 (as amended in February, 1994), (Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited IISCO) became a sick industrial company. Accordingly, a reference was made by the Board of Directors of IISCO to BIFR in June, 1994, as required under Section 15 of the Act, for determination of measures to be adopted with respect to the company.

The case has been registered with BIFR in terms of Section 15 of the Act. Sick companies registered with BIFR can take up revival/modernisation schemes only with the sanction/approval of BIFR.

Allocation of water of Hyderabad City

1845. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has revised the allocation of water to Hyderabad city to 15 TMC as against 5 TMC awarded by the Bachawat Commission?

(b) whether the State Government has again submitted the revised scheme for the approval of World Bank:

(c) if so, when; and

(d) whether the additional allocation is from assured allocation or from the surplus water allowed upto 2000 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) The Central Government has not received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh revising the allocation of water to Hyderabad city to 15 TMC.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Venduruthy Bridge in Cochin

1846. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) when the new Venduruthy bridge under Cochin Port Trust is likely to be opened to public transport;

(b) whether this bridge is proposed to be named after Smt. Indira Gandhi; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SEA TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The new Venduruthy bridge (on NH-47A-Phase I) in the Cochin Port Trust area, is already being used by the traffic utilizing the access through the existing State roads, although the work on Phase II of NH-47 A is not yet complete.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry.

Agreement between VSP and tribals of Khammam

1847. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was made between the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant authorities and the tribals of Khammam district by which those who lost their land consequent upon the opening of a dolomite quarry in the area are to be provided with jobs;

(b) if so, the details of that agreement?

(c) whether the agreement has been implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has not entered into an agreement with the tribals of Khammam District to provide employment to those who have lost their lands consequent upon the opening of the Dolomite Quarry at Madharam in District Khammam. However, in the course of land acquisition for VSP's Dolomite Mines at Madharam, dwelling houses/huts of 34 displaced families were acquired, who came under the definition of displaced persons. Besides compensation for dwelling units, VSP had also made monetary contributions to the State Government to meet the cost of rehabilitation of the displaced persons. Moreover, these displaced families were considered for providing employment in Madharam Dolomite Mines.

As regards those who lost their lands only in course of land acquisition, adequate compensation has been paid to them by VSP. Although these land losers do not come under the category of displaced persons for the purpose of providing jobs, VSP agreed to give employment on preferential basis subject to their fulfilling the required qualification, age etc., and manpower requirement of VSP through the District Employment Exchange. Under this arrangement, jobs were provided to some land losers whose names were sponsored by the Employment Exchange.

The total manpower requirement of VSP has been frozen and VSP has not manpower requirement in any unskilled categories in the Madharam Dolomite Mines.

Potato and Tomato based Units

1848. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that potato and tomato are produced in Jalpaiguri in large quantity;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up potato and tomato based units in Jalpaiguri;

(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) and (c) Although, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up fruit & vegetable processing units directly, it is implementing various developmental plan schemes which seek to provide assistance for setting up of new/expansion/upgradation of fruit & vegetable processing units including potato and tomato based units in various States including West Bengal. This Ministry has not so far received any proposal seeking assistance for setting up of potato and tomato based unit in Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.

(d) Does not arise.

Telecom Services

1849. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been framed regarding privatisation of telecom services; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, Government has decided to invite participation of Indian companies in private sector to supplement the efforts of Department of Telecom to provide basic telephone service. Following are the salient features of the guidelines issued in this regard;

1. Only companies registered in India will be permitted to participate in providing basic voice telephone services, selection of which will be done through tender process.
2. In the event of a joint venture between an Indian and foreign company not more than 49% of foreign equity would be permitted.
3. The licensing of private sector will be only on a circle basis, only one licence in addition to DoT will be granted in a Telecom Circle.
4. The private sector will not be licenced for the long distance telecome network (inter circle) in the first instance.

Tenders referred above have since been floated on 16.01.1995.

Unauthorised Constructions in DDA Flats

1850. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether allotment of some flats has been cancelled by DDA recently because the allottees concerned resorted to unauthorised/illegal constructions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether restoration of the cancelled flats is permissible under the rules;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(e) whether the concerned allottees have made requests for restoration of the cancelled allotments;

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

(g) whether the concerned allottees have fulfilled all the prescribed conditions for restoration;

(i) whether the representations for restoration of flats are still pending; and

(j) if so, the action being taken to clear the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority has reported that in about 65 cases at present, allotment of flats stand cancelled on account of unauthorised/illegal construction.

(c) and (d) Restoration of flats is allowed after removal of the unauthorised/illegal construction and on payment of prescribed restoration charges.

(e) to (j). Requests for restoration of cancelled allotment are received from time to time and these requests are processed in accordance with the prescribed procedure, which lays down that on receipt of such requests, the site is got inspected to ascertain as to whether the unauthorised/illegal constructions have been removed and the property has been restored to its original position. After the breaches are removed, the allotment is restored subject to payment of the restoration charges.

Scheme for Chandigarh

1851. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for Chandigarh has been approved under the Central Road Fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allotment made therefor so far?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of Land/Flats

1852. SHRI LALL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms being followed to allot land/flats to the social institutions in Delhi;

(b) whether the purpose for which land/flats were allotted to these institutions has since been received;

(c) if so, the institutions against whom action has been taken during the last two years for violating the norms together with details of the action taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) allotment of land to social institutions in Delhi is made by the Delhi Development Authority as well as by the Ministry of Urban Development subject to the following:

(i) The institution directly subserves the interest of the population;

(ii) It is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or is owned and run by the Govt. or any local authority or is constituted or established under any law for the time being in force;

(iii) It is of non-profit making character and has sufficient funds to meet the cost of land and the construction of the building for its use; and

(iv) Allotment to such institutions is made on the recommendations of the Ministry concerned with the activities of the institution.

As a matter of policy, allotment of flats is not made to private organisations including social institutions. In exceptional circumstances such allotments are made in relaxation of the policy for specific periods with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

(b) to (d): Yes, Sir. After allotment, a review is a continuous process and verifications are being carried out from time to time with reference to use of the built-up/allotted premisses by the institutions. In case of breach of lease terms, action is taken under the terms of lease.

[English]

Shops in DDA Lands in Jawalapuri

1853. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of shops are located on DDA land in Jawalapuri, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the Government have fixed any responsibility for not checking these encroachments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Electronic Exchanges in UP

1854. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic exchanges set up in Uttar Pradesh till date;

(b) whether all the exchanges have been connected with STD facility;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the capacity-wise, names of districts where such exchanges have not been set up so far; and

(e) the time by which such exchanges are likely to be set up in the remaining districts of the State with STD facility?

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

[English]

Demand and Supply of Power

1855. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:
DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL:
SHRI N. J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide gap between demand and availability of power in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bridge the gap;

(c) the details of total installed capacity and actual generation of power from G.S.E.B. and Central power projects;

(d) the details of the new power projects being set up/proposed to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the details of sources of finance together with financial assistance being provided by the Union Government for these power projects?

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

(a) During the period April 1994—Feb., 1995, the energy requirement in Gujarat was 28860 Million Units against the availability of 27718 Million Units, which represents a energy shortfall of 4.0% as against the national average shortfall of 7.1%.

(b) In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability of power in Gujarat, various measures taken are

maximising the generation from the existing generating stations, implementation of R&M programme, Reduction in T&D losses, effective load management and conservation of energy etc. Assistance is also made available to Gujarat from the neighbouring system whenever system conditions are conducive to such transfer. In addition the state also gets its due shares from the Central Sector Stations of the Western Region.

(c) The details of Installed Generating Capacity and actual generation of power in GEB and Central Power Stations during April 1994—February 1995 is as per details given below:—

(April 94—Feb '95)

Organisation/Station	Generating Capacity (MW)	Energy Generation (MU)
GUJARAT ELECTRICITY BOARD		
<i>Thermal Station</i>		
Dhuvaran	534	2464
Uka	850	3460
Gandhinagar	660	3631
Wanakkori	1260	6490
Sikka	240	1189
Kutch lignite	140	421
Utran	39	124
Utran GT	144	820
Dhuvaran GT	54	72
Total (Thermal)	3921	18671
<i>Hydro Station</i>		
Uka Hydro	305	845
Kadana	120	416
Total (Hydro)	425	1261
Total (GEB)	4346	19932
<i>Central Power Station NTPC</i>		
<i>Thermal Station</i>		
Kawas GT	644	1977
Gandhar GT	393	278
Total (NTPC)	1037	2255
<i>N P C</i>		
<i>Nuclear Station</i>		
Kakrapar APS	220	248

(d) and (e) Project-wise details of capacity addition in Gujarat during 8th Plan is as per details given below:—

PROJECT-WISE DETAILS OF CAPACITY ADDITION IN GUJARAT (20729.7 MW DURING 8TH PLAN)

Name of the Project	Type	Status	Total I.C. (MW)	Benefits 1992—97 (MW)
1	2	3	4	5
STATE-SECTOR PROJECTS				
KADANA-II U-3&4	(H)	S	120.0	120.0
SAR. SARO. (16%)	(H)	S	40.0	40.0
SAR. SARO. (16%)	(H)	S	192.0	0.0
KUTCH LIGNITE U-3	(T)	S	70.0	70.0
SIKKA EXT. U-2	(T)	S	120.0	120.0+
UTRAN CCGT	(G)	S	99.0	33.0+
UTRAN CCGT-ST	(G)	S	45.0	45.0+

	1	2	3	4	5
PYGUTHAN CCGT*		(G)	C	413.7	0.0
PYGUTHAN CCGT*		(G)	C	241.0	0.0
GANDHI NAGAR		(T)	C	210.0	0.0
GRAND-TOTAL				1550.7	428.0

NOTE:—

(i)	S	—	Sanctioned
(ii)	C	—	CEA Cleared
(iii)	.	—	Private
(iv)	+	—	Capacity already commissioned

The 8th Plan document indicate an outlay of Rs. 2635 crores for the power sector in the state of Gujarat. There is no Central assistance to the GEB for setting up of power projects. However, the plan document envisaged a total capacity addition of 1626 MW by Central Public Sector Undertaking during the Plan.

Telephone Exchanges In Wardha

1856. SHRI RAMACHANDRA GHANGARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges started during 1994 in Wardha Telecom Division;

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges proposed to be started during 1995 with locations thereof;

(c) the telephone subscribers on the waiting list and the time by which the said list is expected to be exhausted; and

(d) the measures taken to expedite the growing telephone users complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 10 Nos. of electronic telephone exchanges were started during 1994. Of these 9 Nos. were utilised for replacement/expansion of the existing exchanges.

(b) 2 Nos. of new Telephone exchanges are proposed to be started at Karoda & Yelakeli during 1995.

(c) The waiting list as on 28.02.95 is 1432. It is likely to be exhausted by March 1996.

(d) As given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The following measures are being taken to reduce the telephone user's complaints:

(i) As per 8th Plan objectives, all existing MAX-III and MAX-II (L/F Type), worn-out/life-expired MAX-II (US type) and MAX-I Electromechanical exchanges are planned to be replaced with electronic exchanges by March, 1997. Remaining MAX-II (US Type) and MAX-I electro-mechanical exchanges are planned to be replaced on the expiry of their useful life.

(ii) All Taluka Headquarters are being connected through reliable media.

(iii) Maintenance activities have been geared up.

[Translation]

Loan By HUDCO To U.P.

1857. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh had sought loan from HUDCO for purifying the polluted water in various towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of loan to be provided by HUDCO during 1994-95?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Modern Bread

1858. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat was provided to the Modern Bread at cheaper rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the way in which the loss caused to Modern Bread franchise due to selling the Bread at low prices would be compensated; and

(e) the reasons for not providing wheat at cheaper to franchise of Modern Bread?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the bread manufacturing units of modern Food Industries Ltd. have been allocated wheat at Rs. 1000/- per tonne less than the central issue price, w.e.f. different dates in October, 1994 on the condition that MFIL would reduce the price of bread by at least 50 paise for a 800 gms loaf and 25 paise for a 400 gms loaf.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The allocation of wheat at cheaper rates to the franchised units of Modern Food Industries Ltd. was under the consideration of the Government and the Government has now allocated wheat at concessional rates to the franchised units of Modern Food Industries Ltd. from February, 1995.

[English]

Setting up of Power Projects

1859. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "NTPC Projects" reported in the 'Economic Times' dated January 30, 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations of power projects proposed to be set up in southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 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 at (i) Simhadri (Vizag) of 1000 MW (coal fired) and (ii) Hyderabad Metro 650 MW (Naphtha based).

[Translation]

Quota for allotment of DDA flats

1860. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The percentage of quota reserved for persons belonging to scheduled Castes/Tribes for allotment of flats by Delhi Development Authority; and

(b) the group-wise details of allotment of flats made to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) DDA has reported that 25% of the flats under its housing schemes are reserved for allotment to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(b) Group-wise details of allotment of flats made to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes registrants during the last three years are as under:

Year	Janta	LIG	MIG	SFS
1991-92	69	109	31	63
1992-93	545	444	—	74
1993-94	921	1413	301	58

[English]

Delay in construction of bridges

1861. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the abnormal delay in sanctioning administrative approval and financial assistance even for the approved works in Surface Transport Ministry;

(b) if so, the number of such works pending execution and since when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in execution of the work of construction of a new bridge across river Nethravathi on National Highway—48 at Panemangalore and a new bridge across river Sharavathi on N.H. 17 at Honnavar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Administrative approval and financial sanction for the works included in the Annual Plans is a continuous activity and is subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority of works. Execution of works by States is followed by a tendering procedure for selection of contractors.

(c) The work of construction of a new bridge across river Nethravathi on NH-48 has been sanctioned and the State PWD have already been advised to award the work to the selected contractor. The proposal to construct a new bridge across river Sharavathi on NH-17 at Honnavar has been deferred for the time being. Instead repairs to the existing bridge at a cost of Rs. 6.75 crores have been sanctioned and the State PWD have been advised to get the repair works started immediately.

Telephone Connection Between Sonapat & Delhi

1862. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for connecting Sonapat in Haryana to Delhi through local telephone calls;

(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) Sonapat was desired to be connected to Delhi on local call basis.

(c) As per policy of the Government, Sonapat does not qualify for the facility.

Energy Saving Programmes

1863. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invest huge sum in "Energy Saving Programmes" during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the programmes to be undertaken with details of proposed financial investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Under National Energy Efficiency Programme (NEEP) during 8th Five Year Plan, a saving of 5000 MW of additional installed capacity in the electricity sector and 6 million tonnes of petroleum products has been envisaged. This includes savings to be achieved by all concerned Ministries including Ministry of Power. Out of the budgetary allocation of Ministry of Power, in the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-97), an amount of Rs. 40 crores have been earmarked for energy conservation activities.

The major thrust areas for affecting energy efficiency improvement in the power sector are:—

- (i) Mass awareness campaign,
- (ii) Training Programme,
- (iii) Institutional Building,
- (iv) Creation of capabilities of taking up energy activity.

Since industrial sector consumes about 50% of Commercial energy, the maximum thrust is on this sector followed by transport, residential and commercial sector.

[Translation]

National Highway in Gujarat

1864. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Highway of Gujarat has been considerably damaged by recent rains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the financial assistance sought by Gujarat Government in this regard and the amount sanctioned and provided to Gujarat Government by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Various types of damages such as rain cuts, pot-holes, settlement and upheaval of pavement, washing away of shoulders and pavement together with loss of wearing surface etc. had occurred on the National Highways in Gujarat during the last rainy season. Repair estimates amounting to Rs. 3.04 crore have been sanctioned so far during 1994-95 against the demand of Rs. 9.24 crore projected by the State Govt. and a sum of Rs. 0.50 crore has been released so far.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra

1865. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the work items completed in respect of the Exchanges Type E-10-B and C-DOT sanctioned in the commissioning programme for New Exchanges 1994-95 and STD plan for Taluka Head Quarters in Maharashtra Telecom Circle;
- (b) the time required for completion of the remaining items of the programme for 1994-95; and
- (c) the reasons for failure to complete the entire programme for 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) In Maharashtra Telecom Circle 16 New exchanges of E10B type and 338 of C-DOT type exchanges were sanctioned for the commissioning programme of new exchanges

during 1994-95. All works pertaining to these exchanges have been completed.

STD for 35 Taluka Head-quarters was planned during 94-95. STD for 20 Taluka Headquarters has been provided.

(b) Provision of STD to the remaining Taluka Headquarters is in progress and the same is planned to be completed by 31-3-95.

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

Sanitation Scheme in Vijayawada

1866. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to implement low cost sanitation scheme in Vijayawada;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the participation of Union and State Governments and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation in this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A scheme for construction of 18,725 low cost sanitary latrines with a project cost of Rs. 688.61 lakhs has been sanctioned for Vijayawada. The Central Government subsidy is Rs. 190.58 lakhs. The HUDCO loan commitment is Rs. 402.1 lakhs. The balance cost is to be met by the individual beneficiaries. The State Government provides guarantee for the HUDCO loan. The Municipal Corporation is the implementing agency for execution of this project.

[Translation]

Enquiry Services

1867. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has introduced Telephone Enquiry Services "195" and "197" for the facility of telephone subscribers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the places where the above services have been introduced at the first instance;
- (d) whether the above services are likely to be introduced for other places too; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 197 Directory Enquiry Service is already working throughout the Country. No Directory Enquiry Service with Code "195" has been opened by MTNL.

(b) Subscriber can obtain local telephone number through "197" Service by giving names and address of the Party. They can also obtain names and address by giving the telephone number.

(c) to (e). "197" Services in large exchange areas is working all over the country since a long time.

[English]

Telephone/Telex/Fax in Gujarat

1868. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone, telex and fax connections provided in Gujarat during 1993-94 and till date;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase such connections during 1995-96; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Information is furnished in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number of connections proposed to be provided during 1995-96 are as under:—

(i) Telephone	— 1,45,000
(ii) Telex	— Demand is falling in view of the Subscribers Switching to FAX & other facilities.
(iii) Fax	— Only licences are issued by DOT for installation/use of FAX Machines. The FAX Machines are installed by the subscribers themselves.

STATEMENT

	Connections Provided During	
	1993-94	1994-95 (Upto 19th March, 95)
(i) Telephone	81,486	80,445
(ii) NIL	NIL	NIL
(iii) Fax	Only licences are issued by DOT for installation/use of FAX Machines. The FAX Machines are installed by the subscribers themselves.	

Pak Intrusion

1869. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistani steamer intruded into the Indian territorial waters of Okha Port in Kutch district of Gujarat on November 28, 1994 and Pakistani Maritime Agency (PMA) abducted about 70 Indian fishermen alongwith ten fishing boats;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when the PMA were taking the Indian fishermen towards Pakistan the latter cut the ropes, ran to the shore and swam back to the country;

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

(d) whether the Government have lodged any protest with the Government of Pakistan in this regard;

(e) if so, Pakistan's reaction thereto; and

(f) the number of Indian fishermen who have been abducted and at present kept in Pakistani Jails and the steps Government have taken for their release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) According to available information there are 187 Indian fishermen in Pakistani custody. Government have taken up the matter of early release and repatriation of all Indian fishermen in Pak custody with the Government of Pakistan. The modalities of release and repatriation of these Indian fishermen are under discussion through diplomatic channels.

Losing SAIL Units

1870. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL units has been losing to the private pig-iron producers in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of decline in the sale of pig-iron from the SAIL units during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the estimated annual loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(e) the measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. SAIL is primarily in the business of marketing of steel and only the surplus quantity of pig iron which is left over after meeting the requirements of Steel Plants for steel making etc. is diverted for sale. Hence, the question of SAIL units losing to private pig iron producers does not arise.

(c) They year-wise sales of pig iron from SAIL units (excluding IISCO) during the last 3 years is given below:

Year	Quantity ('000MT)
1991-92	309.2
1992-93	130.6
1993-94	264.8
1994-95	469.6
(April-February '95)	(provisional)

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant

1871. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for renovation of Bokaro Steel Plant has been awarded to an Australian Company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) modernisation (Stage I) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is being

implemented through 4 global and 29 indigenous packages. the details of the contracts awarded in respect of the global packages are as follows:

Packages (Global)	Name of party	Rs. in crores Value of contract
Introduction of Continuous Casting in SMS-II (GO 1)	M/s Voest Alpine, Austria along with M/s Larsen & Tubro (L&T) and M/s Asian Brown Boveri (ABB) as Indian Associates.	Rs. 653.72
Conversion of Existing 260 T/hr pusher type slab reheating furnaces No. 2 and 3 to 300 T/hr Walking Beam type furnaces (GO 2)	M/s Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd. (MECON) along with M/s. Italmipianti as foreign associate.	Rs. 108.37
Modernisation of Hot Strip Mill-Finishing Mill Area. Modernisation of existing down coilers 1,2 and 3 and installation of new down coiler No. 4 (GO 3 & GO 4)	M/s. SMS Germany along with M/s. SMS (India), M/s. Asian Brown Boveri (ABB), M/s. Simplex and M/s. Tata Growth Shop as Indian Associates.	Rs. 457.51

Gold Deposits in Srinivasapura (Kolar)

1872. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold deposits have been found, in Srinivasapura in Kolar district, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of gold to be available;

(c) whether surveys had been undertaken in this regard;

(d) whether extraction of gold in Srinivasapura has been taken up; and

(e) the total land area where the gold deposits are available?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Bills in Gujarat

1873. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disputes relating to cases of telephone Bills pending with the consumer protection forum in Gujarat;

(b) the estimated loss suffered by the Government on this account; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to settle these cases at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 270 cases were pending with the Consumer Protection Forum in Gujarat as on 30.11.1994.

(b) An amount of Rs. 54.52 lakhs is involved in the above cases.

(c) The Department's point of view is well presented before the Consumer Protection Forum in each case.

Instructions have also been issued to all units for speedy disposal of Consumer Protection Forum cases.

[English]

Clearance of Power Projects

1874. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI A. CHARLES:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a good number of power projects await clearance from the Union Government;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received from each State till date which are still under consideration;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any time schedule for their clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) 52 Power Projects have been referred by State Governments to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance.

(c) and (d) In respect of several power projects pending for techno-economic clearance with CEA, additional information/clarifications are being sought from the project authorities. For many other proposals the project authorities are required, as per the prescribed procedure, to obtain besides the techno-economic clearance from CEA, the requisite statutory and other clearances from the sanctioning agencies at the Centre and the States. With a view to expediting the clearance of various projects, pending proposals are followed up by the Ministry of Power/CEA with other Ministries/agencies.

National Highway No. 5

1875. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to widen National Highway No. 5 between Vijayawada and Ongole in Andhra Pradesh;

(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) and (b) There is a proposal to widen National Highway No. 5 from two lanes to four lanes from Chilakaluripet (KM 355.0) to Vijayawada (KM 434.15) at an estimated cost of Rs. 293.20 crores with the assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan.

(c) It is too early to indicate the date of completion of the project.

Telephone Connections In A.P.

1876. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise; and

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during 1992, 1993 and 1994 respectively and the number of persons likely to be allotted new telephone connections during the current financial year, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Details as per enclosed Statement I.

(b) Details are as per enclosed Statement II.

STATEMENT-I

Waiting List (SSA Wise) as on 1.3.1995 in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	S.S.A.	Name of District	
1.	Medak	Medak	1946
2.	Mahabubnagar	Mahabubnagar	1585
3.	Kurnool	Kurnool	3120
4.	Anantapur	Anantapur	3459
5.	Guddapah	Guddapah	2808
6.	Tirupathi	Chittur	5183
7.	Nellore	Nellore	4662
8.	Ongole	Ongole	3195
9.	Guntur	Guntur	12130
10.	Vijayawada	Krishna	8690
11.	Rajahmundry	E. Godavari	11847
12.	Warangal	Warangal	2237
13.	Karimnagar	Karimnagar	5001
14.	Nalgonda	Nalgonda	2722
15.	Khammam	Khammam	3510
16.	Adilabad	Adilabad	2424
17.	Nizamabad	Nizamabad	3461
18.	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	10023
19.	Srikakulam	Srikakulam	1119
20.	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram	837
21.	Eluru	W. Godavari	5409
22.	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	43473
			138821

STATEMENT-II

No. of Connections provided

Sl. No.	SSA	Name of Distt.	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (upto 22.3.95)
1.	Medak	Medak	664	1125	1528	1544
2.	Mahabubnagar	Mahabubnagar	404	916	2504	1954
3.	Kurnool	Kurnool	849	1601	2716	6051
4.	Anantapur	Anantapur	1448	2180	2388	1683
5.	Cuddapah	Cuddapah	348	1843	1946	1430
6.	Tirupathi	Chittur	1602	3004	3296	2901
7.	Nellore	Nellore	1409	1839	2122	2238
8.	Ongole	Ongole	256	1552	1030	2028
9.	Guntur	Guntur	2016	7181	3833	5188
10.	Vijayawada	Krishna	2853	5221	8670	11863
11.	Rajahmundry	E. Godavari	5002	3655	3774	2856
12.	Warangal	Warangal	1314	1251	3366	3609
13.	Karimnagar	Karimnagar	782	1182	1040	2754
14.	Nalgonda	Nalgonda	309	1131	1775	2629
15.	Khammam	Khammam	823	1968	1875	2356
16.	Adilabad	Adilabad	601	706	698	1554
17.	Nizamabad	Nizamabad	382	1384	762	1459
18.	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	1800	4089	4624	12108
19.	Srikakulam	Srikakulam	211	454	535	1670
20.	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram	442	388	463	1583
21.	Eluru	W. Godavari	1873	3662	5477	3953
22.	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	17018	28507	38185	48587
TOTAL			42806	74839	92617	122649
NET			39651	63278	77857	108540*

(*During 94-95 about 1,10,000 New Telephone Connections are likely to be provided in the whole circle.)

Loan from Japan for MRTS

1877. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up metro railway in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Japan has offered a soft loan to meet 50 per cent cost for the Phase I of the Mass Rapid Transit Scheme in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when the work on the project is likely to commence;

(f) whether any hurdle exists in commissioning the project; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to remove them?

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

(b) The MRTS System for Delhi which is based on a feasibility study carried out by M/s Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) in 1991-92 includes one Underground East-West Metro-rail Corridor of 12 kms and a North-South Metro-rail Corridor of 15 kms, Surface Rail of 140 kms and a Dedicated Busway of 17.5 kms. The total system was proposed to be introduced in two phases and was estimated to cost about Rs. 7,469 crores at 1992-93 prices. Phase-I was to cost about Rs. 3,401 crores at 1992-93 prices. However, based on the Detailed Project Report under finalisation, route alignments, phasing and costs are being firmed up.

(c) to (d). A Delegation from Overseas Economic Corporation Fund of Japan which visited the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment on 16.2.95 had considered the project as a high priority area and agreed to process the Governments request for funding of at least 50% of the cost of the first phase. However, no formal intimation in this behalf has been received by the Ministry so far.

(e) to (g) Tying up of the needed resources for Phase-I of the project is in progress. While the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has agreed to participate in the funding of the project, investment decision of the Central Government has to await the completion of the detailed Project Report for Phase-I. The Detailed Project Report is likely to become available by mid-1995. In the absence of financial tie-up, it is not possible to comment when the work on the project is likely to commence.

[Translation]

Telephone in Delhi

1878. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi for providing telephones during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A target for providing 2,60,000 new telephone connections during 1994-95 has been fixed for Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi.

(c) 105512 New connections have been provided upto 28.2.1995.

[English]

New Post Offices

1879. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any requests from the States for opening new post offices during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of proposals received from each State, State-wise to open new post offices, pending with the Government;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to accede to the requests from the States to open new post offices;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether the Government have taken formal decision to introduce special postcards for Quiz competitions;

(f) if so, the time by which these are likely to be introduced; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. The matter is under consideration as part of the proposal for changes in the Indian Post Office Act.

Calcutta Telephones

1880. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received, from the telephone subscribers of Calcutta Telephones relating to irregular disconnections, lapses in accounting system and fake bills, during the last six months;

(b) whether Calcutta Telephones have not taken any remedial measures to do justice to subscribers despite repeated representations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) there were no complaints from telephone subscribers of Calcutta Telephone relating to lapses in accounting system and fake bills. Only a few complaints were receive for lines disconnected due to non-receipt of payment particulars from the Post Offices.

(b) No, Sir. Remedial measures have been taken to avoid recurrence of disconnections for want of payment particulars.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the Postal Authorities for expediting the payment particulars. In addition, the payment particulars are being collected from the concerned Post Offices by specially deputing messengers whenever there is a delay.

Counter Guarantee to Foreigners

1881. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Power Projects in the country on which the Government have given counter guarantee to the foreign promoters;

(b) the number of years upto which the guarantee is provided;

(c) whether the Government will have any investment in these projects; and

(d) if so, to what extent and how the Government propose to realize this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mining in Tribal Gujarat

1882. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining is being carried-out in the tribal areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of mining leases granted in the tribal areas during the last three years;

(c) if not, whether the Government have evolved any scheme to exploit mineral reserves in forest land;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether under this schemes tribals would be given the right to exploit these mineral reserves;

(f) if so, the conditions laid down thereof; and

(g) the time by when this programme is likely to be implemented?

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

Telephone In Orissa

1883. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections issued in Orissa during each of the last three years, district-wise particularly in Bhubaneswar;

(b) the number of telephone working as on April 1, 1992 and February 1995, respectively;

(c) the total number of applicants on the waiting list at present;

(d) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared;

(e) whether other telecom services have also been introduced in the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yearwise and Districtwise detail is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) (i) No. of telephones working as on 01.04.92 is 83722

(ii) No. of telephones working as on 28.02.95 is 134084.

(c) 8893 as on 28.02.95

(d) National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisages provision of telephone connections practically on demand by 1997 all over the country including Orissa State.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Apart from providing telephone connections other modern telecom services like data circuits, FAX EPABX, Electronic Mail, Computerised Directory enquiry service etc. have also been inducted in the state.

STATEMENT

Year-wise and District-wise detail of telephone connections provided during the last three years in Orissa is as under:—

Sl. No.	District**	92-93	93-94	94-95 upto Feb '95
1.	Balasore (includes Bhadrak)	832	585	1420
2.	Bolangir (includes Subarnpur)	193	539	632
3.	Cuttack (includes Jagatsinghpur, Kentrapara and Jaipur)	2678	4240	3305
4.	Dhenkanal (includes Angul)	1018	1405	907
5.	Ganjam (includes Galpatti)	1915	1710	701
6.	Keonjhar	520	543	570
7.	Kalahandi (includes Nuapara)	91	385	415
8.	Koraput (includes Raigada, Nowrangpur, Malankangiri)	949	1293	914
9.	Mayurbhanj	424	475	1046
10.	Phulbani (includes Boudh)	343	427	322
11.	Puri (includes Khurda & Nayagarh)	3583	5169	4955
12.	Sambalpur (includes Deogarh, Bargarh and Jharsuguda)	1958	1945	1365
13.	Sundargarh	836	2305	789
Total		15340	21021	17321

Telephone connections provided at Bhubaneswar during the last three years are as under:—

During 1992-93 1240

" 1993-94 2323

Upto 1994-95 2902

** There were only 13 district in Orissa prior to 1994 during 1994 some more districts were created and finally 13 districts, as listed above, have now become 30 districts.

Construction of Bund in Bangladesh

1884. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the construction of a bund on river Dharla by Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of Bangladesh thereto?.

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

(b) The construction of a bund on river Dharla by Bangladesh started in the last week of March 1994. This bund is located at village Burimari, distt. Lalmonirhat, Bangladesh which is 200 yards inside Bangladesh territory from the Indo-Bangladesh border.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Immediately on learning about the construction, the Border Security Force of India protested to Bangladesh Rifles at the Commandant level for stopping the work pending our examination of the possible adverse consequences for India from the short circuiting of the loop through the construction of the bund. The matter was subsequently taken up formally with the Government of Bangladesh.

The Government of Bangladesh has responded that the short circuiting of the loop in the river Dharla would in no way adversely affect the Indian territory as the loop is located entirely within the Bangladesh territory.

US Human Rights Report 1995

1885. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the U.S. State Department's latest annual human rights report, 1995;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Government have on a continuing basis been impressing upon the US Government that India's commitment to human rights is second to none. Government remain committed to safeguarding the human rights of its innocent and law abiding citizens.

[Translation]

National Highway between Bharuch and Vapi

1886. SHRI CHHITUBHAJ GAMIT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the National Highway from Bharuch to Vapi into a four lane highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Union Government for this purpose and the expenditure incurred out of it so far; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. 8th Five Year Plan has a provision for 4 laning of 51 kms. length in stretches of NH-8 between Bharuch-Vapi out of which proposals for about 26 kms. in stretches costing Rs. 67.14 crores (inclusive of bridge works) have been sanctioned. These works are in various stages of progress and are targetted for completion between 1996-2000.

Allocation of funds for the development/maintenance of National Highways are made State-wise and not National Highway wise. An amount of Rs. 31.5 crores has been allocated for development of National Highways to the State Govt. of Gujarat during current financial year (1994-95) and expenditure incurred is Rs. 25.83 crores upto December 1994.

[English]

National Highways in Gujarat

1887. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided for development and widening of National Highways in Gujarat during the last two years and proposed to be provided during the next financial year;

(b) the number of National Highways in the State taken up so far, for development maintenance and repairs and the progress made in this regard; and

(c) by when the remaining work is likely to be completed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The details are as under:

S.No	Year	Amount allocated for development of NHs. (Rs. in crores)
1.	1993-94	63.50
2.	1994-95	56.50
3.	1995-96	46.00 (Proposed)

(b) and (c) Development, maintenance and repairs of National Highways is a continuous activity and works are taken up in various States including Gujarat in a phased manner keeping in view certain factors such as intensity of traffic, *Inter-se* priority of works and availability of funds.

Quarters for P&T Employees

1888. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of employees of the post and Telegraph Department, category-wise who have been allotted residential accommodation till December 1994; State-wise;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for construction of houses during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof, category-wise; and

(d) the target achieved so far?

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

Cargo Handling at Calcutta and Haldia Ports

1889. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether cargo Handling and Ship Movement at the Calcutta and Haldia Ports have been constantly declining;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline in the cargo handling and ship movement in 1994 as compared to 1993;

(c) the factors responsible therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the deficiencies at these ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The details of cargo handled and ship calls made at Calcutta Dock System (CDS) and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) during the financial years 1992-93 and 1993-94 are as below:

Year	Port	Quantum of cargo handled (in million tonnes)	Number of ship calls made
1992-93	CDS	5.16	764
	HDC	13.18	707
1993-94	CDS	5.17	736
	HDC	13.33	717

(c) and (d) The decline in the number of ship calls made at Calcutta Dock System was due to improvement in the parcel sizes. Constant efforts are made to increase the productivity and efficiencies of CDS and HDC by improving the existing infrastructure etc.

Import of Coal by SAIL

1890. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited has decided to increase import of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons for import, the details of the total requirement of coal and supply from CIL during the last three years; and

(c) the quantity of coal imported during the last three years and proposed for the current year and at what rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) SAIL is importing low ash coking coal to bridge the quantitative and qualitative gap between SAIL's requirement and availability from indigenous sources. The requirement of coking coal by SAIL: Plants and actual

despatches from CIL during the last three years is indicated in the table below:

Unit: Million Tonnes

Year	SAIL's requirement	Actual Despatches From CIL
1991-92	14.20	8.88
1992-93	14.60	9.51
1993-94	15.00	9.44

(c) The quantity of coking coal imported by SAIL during the last three years was as follows:

Year	Quantity (Million Tonnes)
1991-92	4.255
1992-93	4.248
1993-94	4.750

During the current financial year (1994-95), upto December, 1994, a quantity of 3.865 million tonnes has been imported at an approx. average cost including ocean freight, of Rs. 1860 per tonne. A total quantity of 5.5 million tonnes is planned for imports during 1994-95.

New Passport Office In Uttar Pradesh

1891. SHRI AMARPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open any regional passport office in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) There are already two Passport Offices in Lucknow and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Government does not propose to open any new office in the state.

(b) and (c) The opening of new Passport Offices is based on various parameters including workload and resources available. The opening of new Passport Offices does not itself improve the service until the necessary infrastructure and personnel are available. Government is, therefore, concentrating on clearing the backlog of pending applications trying to cut down on delays in issuing passports and streamlining and simplifying procedures.

Monitoring of Urban Development Plans

1892. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by the Central Government, in monitoring the Urban Development, Urban Poverty Alleviation and Urban Water Supply in the country during the last three years;

(b) the total grants made by the Government on these specific heads during the same period to the States;

(c) whether reports from the States have since been received by the Government as regards the implementation of the schemes approved on these objectives; and

(d) whether the said report have been verified and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) The Central Government has played the following role in monitoring Urban Development/Urban Poverty Alleviation and Urban Water Supply in the Country during the last three years.

(i) The State Government have been assisted through release of Central funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(ii) Project proposals received from State Governments for multilateral/bilateral assistance have been posed to external funding agencies like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Overseas Development Association, European Union/Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan, etc.

(iii) Guidelines have been provided in policy matters and matters involving interstate and international aspects.

(b) The total grants made by the Government of India under various schemes during the years 91-92, 92-93 and 93-94 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Progress report including certificates of utilisation of funds are being obtained from States/Union Territories periodically. The reports received are verified and analysed. The deficiencies/irregularities found in the past were brought to the notice of the concerned State Governments/Union Territories for corrective action. Site inspections are also made wherever necessary. Before release of additional funds, it is ensured that the funds released earlier are utilised for the purpose for which these were provided.

Statement

Name of Scheme	Grant released during			Total
	91-92	92-93	93-94	
	(Rupees in crores)			
Nehru Rozgar Yojana	103.00	70.99	74.97	248.96
Urban Basic Services for the Poor	23.00	12.75	18.00	53.75
Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme	—	—	11.71	11.71
Low Cost Sanitation	29.85	21.82	25.80	77.27
Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns	—	—	1.99	1.99
			GRAND TOTAL	: 393.68

Licensing for Drugs

[Translation]

1893. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent announcement of Government Drug Policy envisages abolition of licensing for most drugs;

(b) if so, the names of drugs that have been delicensed;

(c) the total production of these drugs during the last financial year; and

(d) whether the Government propose to dispose off the accumulated drugs before their expiry date?

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

(i) 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;

(ii) Bulk drugs involving use of re-combinant DNA technology and bulk drugs requiring in vivo use of nucleic acids as the active principles; and

(iii) Formulations based on use of specific cell/tissue-targetted formulations.

(c) the total production of bulk drugs during 1993-94 was of the order of Rs. 1320 crores.

(d) The various aspects relating to the sale of drugs are governed by the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Small and Medium, Cities in Gujarat

1894. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes launched by the Union Government and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation for the development of small and medium cities of Gujarat; and

(b) the total funds earmarked for this purpose during 1994-95 indicating the actual expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Under the scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), 43 towns of Gujarat State have been covered since the inception of the Scheme in 1979 till date and a sum of Rs. 13.10 crores released. The schemes covered include Markets and Shopping Complexes, Roads, Drainage works, Sites and Services, Bus Stands and other infrastructural facilities.

(b) Under the Scheme of IDSMT, since only soft loans, are given to State Governments there is no earmarking for any particular State. Depending upon receipt of project reports 'conforming to IDSMT guidelines' funds are released. Accordingly, no specific allocation has been earmarked for Gujarat during 1994-95. The expenditure incurred under IDSMT by the State Government upto December, 1993, for which information is available, is Rs. 17.38 crores.

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges in UP

1895. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh converted into electronic exchanges so far and the number of remaining old telephone exchanges, districtwise;

(b) whether the Government propose to convert the remaining old telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges at the earliest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per 8th Plan objectives, all existing MAX-III and MAX-II (L/F Type), worn-out/life-expired MAX-II (US Types) and MAX-I Electromechanical exchanges are planned to be replaced with electronic exchanges by March, 1997. Remaining Max-II (US Type) and Max-I electro-mechanical exchanges are planned to be replaced on the expiry of their useful life.

Statement		ANNEXURE
Name of District	No. of Old telephone exchanges converted into electronic and new electronic exchanges in installed so far (as on 1-3-95)	No. of remaining old telephone exchanges (as on 1-3-95)

1	2	3
Agra	38	1
Aligarh	28	22
Allahabad	34	1
Almora	27	2
Azamgarh	28	—
Bahraich	25	—
Ballia	24	—
Banda	36	—
Barabanki	27	—
Bareilly	19	3
Basti	21	—
Bijnore	34	2
Budaut	19	7
Bulandshahar	31	—
Chamoli	30	—
Dehradun	23	1
Deoria	29	—
Etah	22	5
Etawah	15	1
Faizabad	40	—
Farrukhabad	20	—
Fatehpur	14	—
Ferozabad	4	—
Ghaziabad	26	2
Ghazipur	22	—
Gonda	28	—
Gorakhpur	24	—
Hamirpur	19	—
Hardoi	15	5
Hardwar	12	—
Jalaun	11	—
Jaunpur	26	—
Jhansi	17	—
Kanpur	8	2
Kanpur	21	—
Lakhimpur. Kheri	32	5
Lalitpur	7	—
Lucknow	23	3
Maharajganj	14	—
Mainpuri	14	—
Mathura	29	2
Mau Nath Bhanjan	16	—

1	2	3
Meerut	38	2
Mirzapur	17	—
Moradabad	29	2
Muzaffarnagar	29	1
Nainital	50	8
Pauri	26	—
Pilibhit	13	—
Pithoragarh	15	5
Pratapgarh	21	—
Raebareli	20	—
Rampur	8	8
Saharanpur	22	2
Shahjahanpur	18	4
Siddharth Nagar	11	—
Sitapur	22	—
Sonebhadra	17	—
Sultanpur	27	—
Tehri	24	—
Unnao	17	—
Uttarkashi	9	—
Varanasi	49	2
	1,434	98

Japanese Assistance for tramways in Delhi

1896. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Japan Ka Delhi Ki Tram Seva Ke Liye Rin Prastav' appearing in the Hindustan dated February 23, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof including its terms and conditions; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) The description of the Delhi MRT Railway as 'Tram Sewa' in the news item published in "Hindustan" dated 23-2-95, is perhaps, not correct.

(b) The Japanese team had offered assistance for the Mass Rapid Transit System Project. They had indicated during discussions that they could consider our request for funding upto 50% of the cost of the revised Phase-I of this project by way of soft loans i.e. a loan of Rs. 1933 crores. However, no formal communication has been received in this regard.

(c) Since there is no formal offer from the OECF, the Government is not in a position to react.

Closure of IISCO Pipe and Foundry Company Limited

1897. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether IISCO Pipe and Foundry Company Limited, Ujjain, a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited has been lying closed for a long time;

(b) if so, the number of employees rendered jobless on account of the closure of the company; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to provide employment to the jobless workers;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The IISCO Pipe and Foundry Company Limited, Ujjain has not been declared closed. However, as the spun pipe Plant in the Ujjain started incurring cash losses during 1992-93, a decision was taken by the Board of Directors of the IISCO-Ujjain Pipe and Foundry Company Limited, in their 144th meeting held on 28-1-1993 to suspend operations of their Spun Pipe Plant at Ujjain with immediate effect. An application was filed on 25-3-94 (in terms of the provision of Sick Industrial Companies Act) with BIFR for declaring the company as a sick company.

(b) As no closure has been declared, there has been no retrenchment and all employees are getting their normal emoluments.

(c) Does not arise.

Production Cost & Prices of Fertilisers

1898. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production cost of Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate and Super Phosphate Fertilizers during 1994-95;

(b) whether the prices of imported fertilizers was less than that of indigenous fertilizers during 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) the Cost of production of fertilizers varies from plant to plant depending upon the feedstock used, health and vintage of the plant, capacity utilisation, energy consumption etc. In the case of urea, which is currently the only controlled fertilizer, the weighted average retention price per tonne of urea, which is the weighted average of the cost of production of individual units together with reasonable return on network as assessed by the Government, is Rs. 5088/-. On a weighted average basis, the cost of production of indigenously manufactured urea is currently cheaper than the weighted average landed cost of imported urea.

In the Case of Phosphatic fertilizers (which include Di-Ammonium Phosphate and Single Superphosphate) which stand decontrolled and whose imports decanalized, no record is maintained of their cost of production and imports.

[English]

Allocation from CRF

1899. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the funds allocated to State Governments out of CRF during the Eighth Plan Period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): The information relating to funds allocated to State Governments out of Central Road Fund so far during 1992-93, 1993-94 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs in Lakhs)

S	No	Name of States/UTs	1992-93	1993-94
1	2		3	4
1		Andhra Pradesh	33.00	50.00
2		Assam	60.00	40.00
3		Bihar	100.00	40.00
4		Delhi	12.00	100.00
5		Goa	1.00	5.00
6		Gujarat	70.00	80.00
7		Haryana	39.00	35.00
8		Himachal Pradesh	—	15.00
9		Jammu & Kashmir	50.00	15.00
10		Karnataka	80.00	50.00
11		Kerala	20.00	55.00
12		Madhya Pradesh	50.00	45.00
13		Maharashtra	100.00	110.00
14		Manipur	—	10.00
15		Meghalaya	25.00	10.00
16		Mizoram	35.00	—
17		Nagaland	—	10.00
18		Orissa	7.00	40.00
19		Rajasthan	25.00	5.00
20		Tamil Nadu	50.00	80.00
21		Tripura	11.00	5.00
22		Uttar Pradesh	79.50	100.00
23		West Bengal	40.00	20.00
24		Sikkim	—	20.00
25		Punjab	—	60.00

Sale of Postal Articles

1900. SHARIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the sale of Postal Articles in the rural areas of the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to involve unemployed youth in rural areas of North Eastern States to participate in sales of postal articles?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A scheme to provide basic postal facilities including sale of postage stamps in rural areas of the country/

including North Eastern States, utilising the services of educated unemployed for such work is at the stage of finalisation.

Tapping of Telephone

1901. SHRI RAM NAIK;
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY;
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Industrial house phones being tapped" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated February 18, 1995:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The report appearing THE HINDUSTAN TIMES ON 18-2-1995 regarding tapping of telephones of Industrial House in Bombay were totally baseless. The Government has issued official denial to this news paper report immediately.

Import Tax of Caprolactam (Fact)

1902. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce import tax on caprolactam products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the serious repercussions this decision would have on fertilisers and Chemicals Trancors Ltd. (FACT);

(d) whether the Government propose to re-consider this decision; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) In line with the general policy of rationalisation of duty structure the customs duty on imports of caprolactam has been reduced from 60% to 45% in the Budget presented in the Parliament in March, 1995.

(c) With the stabilisation of imports in due course of time, adverse effect, if any, on off-take of caprolactam produced by FACT, due to the reduction in customs duty, is expected to be marginal.

(d) and (e) The Budget proposals for 1995-96 are yet to be debated in the Parliament.

Pilferage of share certificates

1903. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees of the Post and Telegraph Department have been arrested by the crime branch of Delhi Police in connection with pilferage of share certificates from the post in connivance with others;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) whether the cases of pilferage from the posts are on the increase in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two postmen of Noide Complex post-office were arrested by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police on 28-2-95. A case under Sections 420/468/469/471/380/411/120-B has been registered against them under of F.I.R. No. 124/95. They have been put off duty/placed under suspension from the date of their arrest. Their alleged involvement in the pilferage of share certificates is under investigation with the Crime Branch of Delhi Police.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. But occasionally complaints about pilferage are received. These are immediately enquired into and appropriate measures taken to locate the culprit and to avoid a recurrence.

Telephone Directory in Bombay

1904. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications propose to introduce Telephone Directory in floppy in some cities like Bombay etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the objective;

(c) whether the subscribers will be benefited from this facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof with procedure to avail of this facility and charges to be paid for the same;

(e) whether the Government propose to extend this facility in other cities of the country in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (f) with a view to save on the cost of paper by reducing the number of directories to be printed and to supplement the Directory enquiry service, it is proposed to sell the directory information in floppy form, on an experimental measure, in Calcutta Telephones. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

Exchanges in Kerala

1905. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of computerised trunk exchanges proposed to be started in Kerala with locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government also propose to start remote line exchanges in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details with locations thereof; and

(d) the details of the telephone exchanges proposed to be expanded during this year in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Two systems at Palghat and Ernakulam.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Number of line of Remote Line Exchanges to be started are as under:

Palghat RLU—5000 Lines

Cannanore RLU—7000 Lines

Kainanan RSU—2000 Lines

Balaramapuram RSU—2000 Lines.

(d) Details of Major telephone exchanges proposed to be expanded during this year are as under:

Trichur—3000 Lines

Chengacherry—2000 Lines

Cannanore—5000 Lines

Trivandrum—2000 Lines

Skyscraping of real Estates

1906. SHRI D. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Urban Land Ceiling (Regulation) Act, the Rent Control Act and the relaxation of rules regarding purchase of property by NRIs and foreign companies have all been responsible for raising the prices of real estates in the metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken to keep a tab on the prices of the real estates in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) The National Commission on Urbanisation has stated that the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act has had a freezing effect on the supply of urban land. The Rent Control Legislation in many States has resulted in a freeze on rents, low return in investment and difficulty in resuming possession and, therefore, has adversely affected investment in rental housing. The rise in prices of real estate is on account of a number of factors one of which is the reduction in supply of land and rental housing. On the other hand increased demand such as that created by NRIs and OCBs can also lead to a rise in prices of real estate.

(b) The National Housing Policy as approved by the Parliament stipulates that appropriate amendments in existing laws and regulations be carried out to create an

enabling environment for increasing supply of land and rental housing which is the best way to stabilize the price of land and

[Translation]

Housing projects in Maharashtra

1907. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some house construction projects have been started with foreign assistance in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Prices

1908. SHRI S. ARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reports regarding abnormal rise in prices of any of the medicines de-controlled under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps taken to monitor the prices of de-controlled drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

New Drug Policy

1909. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the new drug policy will reduce the manpower in the Pharmaceutical industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rise in prices of drugs is the effect of the new policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The modifications in the Drug

Policy 1986 which were announced in September, 1994 bring the Pharmaceutical sector in consonance with the liberalisation in other sectors of the industry announced in July, 1991 with respect to industrial licensing, foreign investment and adoption of a simplified and transparent criteria for selection of drugs to be kept under price control.

[Translation]

Illegal Telephone Booths

1910. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of telephone booths running illegally in Delhi and other parts of the country has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Fake Postal Stamps in U.P.

1911. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the fake postal stamps are sold out, in collaboration with the officials of the treasuries, in Kanpur, U.P.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop sale of fake stamps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There is neither a complaint nor a case under enquiry involving postal employees in sale of fake postage stamps at Kanpur, U.P.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

STD/PCOs to SC/ST

1912. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether priority is given to the applicants belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for allotment of STD/ISD booths under Self-employment Scheme meant for the unemployed youth;

(b) if so, the number of applications received from the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes till September, 1994 and the number of applications lying pending Statewise;

(c) the time generally taken for setting up of

telephone booths after completion of the required formalities; and

(d) the action taken against the officers found responsible for inordinate delay in this regard?

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

(b) No separate records are maintained indicating the number of applications received from candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(c) STD/ISD, PCOs connection are generally provided within 30 days after observance of departmental formalities, subject to technical feasibility.

(d) Instructions exist for taking action as per rules against officers/officials found responsible for causing inordinate delay.

Telephones out of orders in Delhi

1913. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Telephone Kharob Hai Sunwai Nahin" appearing in the daily "Navbharat times" dated February 16, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The news item relates to telephone complaints of some of the subscribers in different localities of Delhi.

(c) All the telephone numbers mentioned in the news item have been got attended and are now working to the satisfaction of the subscribers.

[English]

Telephone connections in Tamil Nadu

1914. SHRI R. ANBARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people on the waiting list for telephone connections in Tamil Nadu, district-wise and also in Madras city, separately; and

(b) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Details are as per enclosed statement.

(b) National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages the availability of Telephone connections on demand by 1997 throughout the country including Tamil Nadu.

STATEMENT

People on the Waiting List for Telephones Connections in Tamil Nadu, District-wise and Madras city

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom District	No. of Waiting List
I. 1.	Chingleput	7716
2.	Coimbalore	47650
3.	Coonoor	3543
4.	Cuddalore	8742
5.	Dharmapur	5744
6.	Erode	19965
7.	Karaikudi	6881
8.	Madurai	20271
9.	Nagercoil	6679
10.	Pondichery	4982
11.	Salem	25757
12.	Thanjavur	16954
13.	Tirunelveli	6690
14.	Trichy	27138
15.	Tuticorin	7159
16.	Vellore	14492
17.	Vridhachalam	4518
	Total:	234881
II. 18.	Madras	82574
	Grand Total :	317455

Autonomy to Ports

1915. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant financial and administrative autonomy to ports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Major Port Trusts are autonomous bodies under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. The existing framework of the Act is flexible enough to enable the port trusts to generate their own revenues and resources needed for development and modernisation.

Delinking Vadinar Port

1916. SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has approached the Union Government to delink the Vadinar Port excluding the OIL terminal from Kandla Port Limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) reaction of the government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Gujarat had approached the union government for delinking Vadinar Port excluding the oil terminal, from the Major Port at Kandla.

(c) Due to the buoyant trend in oil traffic, the oil terminal at Valinar is proposed to be expanded. The unutilised land area is required by the Kandla Port Trust for creating secondary facilities like godowns, oil storage towers etc., to cater to the increased traffic consequent to the expansion. Therefore, it is not possible to delink Vadinar from Kandla Port.

Vehicular Pollution in Delhi

1917. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to check vehicular pollution in Delhi; and

(b) the extent to which the steps have been successful in checking vehicular pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The norms for vehicular emission are prescribed under Rule 115 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. Provisions have also been made to take punitive measures against polluting vehicles. The enforcement teams of the Government of NCT of Delhi have been checking the vehicles regularly for violation of these statutory norms. Provisions have also been made for installation of pollution checking facility for petrol and diesel driven vehicles in the districts of Delhi.

Further, to reduce vehicular pollution, Government have decided to supply lead free petrol in Delhi through selected outlets w.e.f. 1.4.95. It has further been stipulated that w.e.f. April 1, 1995 all manufacturers of 4 wheeler petrol driven vehicles shall fit in such vehicles as are registered in first sale in the cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras from the aforesaid date noble-metal based catalytic converters of at least an oxidative type and with an OEM certification. Necessary action has been initiated to create public awareness about the ill-effects of polluting motor vehicles.

(b) No such survey has been conducted to know the impact of these anti-pollution measures.

[Translation]

Excavation in Tribal Gujarat

1918. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all gold and copper mines in Gujarat, particularly in the tribal areas of the State, where Government have discontinued excavation work since 1957;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing excavation work at these mines;

(c) whether the Government propose to restart excavation in these mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Housing Scheme in U.P.

1919. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:
DR. SAKSHIJI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh State Housing Board has sent any proposal seeking approval for the construction of houses under different categories during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to give financial assistance to the State Government for the construction of houses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No proposal from U.P. Housing Board seeking financial assistance has been received by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Foreign Students in India

1920. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign students nominated for studies in India, country-wise;

(b) whether scholarship have been awarded to them; and

(c) if so, the number of such students from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries who have been awarded scholarships during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) The total number of foreign students nominated for studies in India by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations on self-financing as well as on scholarship during the last three years is given in the Statement I and Statement II.

STATEMENT-I

Details of number of foreign students from different countries nominated by the Ministry of External Affairs during the last three years

Self-financing		on scholarships	
1		2	
1. Afghanistan	— 5	1. Bhutan	117
2. Bahrain	— 3	2. Nepal	58

1	2
3. Bangladesh	149
4. Bhutan	58
5. Egypt	1
6. Ethiopia	13
7. Fiji	2
8. Ghana	1
9. Indonesia	1
10. Iran	7
11. Iraq	3
12. Jordan	10
13. Kenya	10
14. Lebanon	1
15. Maldives	12
16. Malaysia	60
17. Mauritius	57
17A. Myanmar	2
18. Nepal	213
19. Nigeria	2
20. Oman	1
21. Pakistan	5
22. Palestine	36
23. Seychelles	1
24. Somalia	3
25. South Africa	2
26. Sri Lanka	33
27. Sudan	12
28. Syria	2
29. Tanzania	2
30. Thailand	3
31. Uganda	1
32. UAE	1
33. Yemen	20
34. Zimbabwe	1

STATEMENT-II

Details of number of foreign students from different countries nominated by Indian Council for Cultural Relations on scholarship during the last three years

S. No.	Name of the country	Number of Candidates nominated
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	35
2.	Algeria	3
3.	Antigua	1
4.	Australia	3
5.	Bangladesh	284
6.	Bhutan	10
7.	Bahrain	2
8.	Belgium	7
9.	Bulgaria	1
10.	Cambodia	1
11.	Canada	1
12.	China	54
13.	Cyprus	1
14.	Columbia	1
15.	Czech & Slovak Republics	2
16.	Egypt	16
17.	Ethiopia	32
18.	Fiji	40
19.	France	40
20.	Gambia	19
21.	Ghana	7
22.	Greece	2
23.	Germany	11
24.	Hungary	4
25.	Indonesia	48
26.	Iran	24
27.	Italy	9

1	2	3
28.	Jordan	15
29.	Japan	18
30.	Kazakistan	3
31.	Kenya	43
32.	Malaysia	8
33.	Maldives	1
34.	Mauritius	122
35.	Myanmar	16
36.	Malawi	2
37.	Malta	1
38.	Mongolia	20
39.	Mexico	5
40.	Namibia	2
41.	Nepal	251
42.	New Zealand	2
43.	Nigeria	4
44.	North Korea	2
45.	Netherlands	5
46.	Norway	1
47.	Oman	1
48.	Palestine	11
49.	Philippines	2
50.	Russia	1
51.	South Africa	4
52.	Senegal	2
53.	Sri Lanka	140
54.	Sudan	9
55.	South Korea	2
56.	Spain	8
57.	Sweden	1
58.	Somalia	18
59.	Tanzania	14
60.	Thailand	41
61.	Turkey	3
62.	Trinidad & Tobago	6
63.	Uganda	28
64.	Uzbekistan	6
65.	United Kingdom	4
66.	Vietnam	26
67.	Yemen	64
68.	Zaire	8
69.	Zimbabwe	4
70.	Zambia	7
71.	Syria	13
72.	Angola	1

High Tech Super Cop

1921. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high tech super cop has started to monitor and manage the massive telecom traffic in the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the indigenously developed Centralised Traffic Control and Management Information System installed by the MTNL aims at the optimum utilisation of the telecom routes during peak hour congestions and to avoid the resultant break down of telephone service;

(d) if so, to what extent it has been used;

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to implement the high tech super cop technology to other States also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. On experimental basis.

(b) The system provide for traffic flow data collection on the routes of the exchanges connected to the system.

'On Line' display of the above data for routes with heavy traffic congestion/high outage on computer screen in the control room of network management cell.

Facility for remedial measures by way of diverting/blocking traffic on exceptional routes in the even of a major link failure of sudden spurt in traffic.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The system has been recently introduced in MTNL New Delhi. So far, only digital E-10B Electronic exchanges have been extended to the system.

(e) The system is yet to be evaluated.

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

Visit of Russian Delegation

1922. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Russian Parliamentary delegation visited India earlier this month at the invitation of the Indian Council for Culture Relations (ICCR); and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks, if any, delegation held with the Indian Government and its impact on Indo-Russian relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russian (LDPR), Mr. Vladimir Zhirinovsky had led a delegation of his party on a visit to India from March 5 to 8, 1995. The visit took place at his initiative and was hosted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR):

" (b) The LDPR delegation called on the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha and had a meeting with the Standing Committee on External Affairs. They also met the Ministers of State in the Ministry of External Affairs. There was no official agenda for the visit. As the elected leader of one of the largest parties in the State Duma (Lower House) of the Russian Parliament, Mr. Zhirinovsky exchanged views on Indo-Russian relations and other matters. During the discussions, both sides underlined that the tradition of warm friendship and close cooperation between India and Russian is in the national interests of both countries and contributes to peace and stability in the region and the world as also their desire to consolidate and strengthen these relations in a multi-faceted manner.

Both countries consider that interaction between their Parliament adds a valuable extra dimension to their bilateral relations and is an indication of the multi-party and national consensus which exists in both countries with regard to the importance of good Indo-Russian relations.

Post Offices in U.P.

1923. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the villages in Uttar Pradesh where branches post offices have been opened during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94;

(b) whether there is any scheme to provide telephone facility in all the post offices located in rural areas in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) the year-wise, details of the villages in Uttar Pradesh where branch post offices have been opened are as under:—

Year	No of post offices
1991-92	489
1992-93	100
1993-94	95

(b) and (c) Government have adopted a policy to

provide public telephone facility to all the villages progressively by the year 1997, subject to availability of resources. Post office is one of the suggested locations of such public telephones. There is no separate scheme for providing public telephone facility in post offices.

World Bank Aided Road Projects

1924. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the World Bank aided road projects presently under progress in various States, State-wise and Project-wise; and

(b) the names of the new projects proposed to be implemented with World Bank assistance and the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) the information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The new proposals are in preliminary stage of identifications. It is too early to give the details.

STATEMENT*List of World Bank Aided National Highway Projects (in Progress)*

Sl. No.	State	NH. No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	HARYANA	1	4-laning between Murthal & Samalkha (Km. 50—74.80)	15.25
2.	HARYANA	1	4-laning between Karnal & Ambala (Km. 132.68—212.16)	287.22
3.	PUNJAB	1	4-laning between Sirhind & Punjab/Haryana Border (Km. 212.2—252.25)	199.50
4.	PUNJAB	1	4-laning (Km. 344.5 to 372.7)	14.32
5.	WEST BENGAL	2	4-laning between Raniganj & West Bengal/Bihar Border (Km. 438.6—474.0)	88.27
6.	MADHYA PRADESH	3	a) Construction of Indore-bypass	73.44
		3	b) 4-laning of Indore-Dewas section (Km. 574.4—591.8)	29.53
7.	MAHARASHTRA	8	4-laning between Bassein Creek and Manor (Km. 439-497)	177.73
8.	RAJASTHAN	14	Improvement of Abu-Sirohi Road (Km. 229.4—280.50)	11.49
9.	ORISSA	5	4-laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Section (Km. 0.0—27.8)	218.41
10.	TAMIL NADU	45	4-laning of (Km. 27.80—67.00)	28.19

*List of World Bank Aided State Road Projects
(In Progress)*

Sl. No.	Projects	Estimated Cost (Rs. crores)
1	2	3
<i>State Bihar</i>		
1.	Bhagalpur Bridge across the Ganges	55.00
2.	Construction of bridge approaches	7.60
3.	Improvement of Sonapur-Chhapra	21.50
4.	Improvement of Hazipur-Muzaffarpur Road	16.90
<i>State Maharashtra</i>		
1.	Improvement of Ambadi-Palghar Road	14.54
2.	Improvement of Pune-Ahmednagar Road	14.51
3.	Improvement of Ankola-Kanhergaon Road	14.13
4.	Improvement of Nagpur-Kanpa Road	29.15
5.	Improvement of Ahmednagar-Kanhergaon Road	14.87
<i>State Rajasthan</i>		
1.	Improvement of Alwar-Bhiwadi Road	74.26
2.	Improvement of Udaipur-Chittorgarh Road	26.10
3.	Improvement of Ajmer-Chittorgarh Road	44.21
4.	Improvement of Sirohi-Mount Abu Road	21.93
<i>State Uttar Pradesh</i>		
1.	Improvement of Sonauli-Farenda Road	36.95
2.	Improvement of Part of Gorakhpur-Ballia Road (Km. 99-144)	15.92
3.	Improvement of Gorakhpur-Ballia (Km. 145—253.20)	53.00
4.	Improvement of Part of Faizabad-Allahabad Road (Km. 80—140)	33.52
5.	Improvement of Faizabad-Allahabad Road (Km. 140—226.40)	25.52

Shortage of Drinking Water in Maharashtra

1925. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the towns facing acute shortage of drinking water in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra have submitted any proposal in this regard and have sought financial assistance for the supply of drinking water in the towns; and

(c) if so the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGE): (a) to (c) There is no report from the State Government about towns in Maharashtra facing acute shortage of drinking water. However, the State Government submitted detailed project reports for 5 towns for assistance under the Accelerated urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP). All the 5 projects have been approved at a total estimated cost of Rs. 370.01 lakhs. These towns are Patur and Telhans (Akola Distt.), Deolgaon Raja and Lonar (Buldhana Distt.) and Mairdargi (Sholapur Distt.) an amount of Rs. 85.36 lakhs during 1993-94 and Rs. 92.5 lakhs during 1994-95 have been released to the State Government as Central share under the AUWSP.

British Media on Human Rights Situation

1926. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some segments of British Media in U.K. are reporting biased views on human rights situation in India;

(b) if so, the Government have taken/proposed to take any steps in this regard; and

(c) the details thereof and the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Government are aware that some segments of the British media, have from time to time, published distorted and inaccurate reports about the Human Rights situation in India.

(b) and (c) The Government, through the Indian Mission in the U.K., maintains regular contacts with the British media to project the correct factual situation about human rights in India. These efforts have both exposed deliberate attempts by some quarters to malign India and created greater awareness about India's democratic and institutional structures which are designed to safeguard the human rights of all Indian citizens.

Printing of Postal Stationery

1927. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision for privatisation of activities under the Postal Department such as printing of postal stationery etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to improve the efficiency of postal service; and

(d) the details of restructuring of postal organisation under consideration and present status regarding the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. There is the decision to print postal stationery in Security Presses in the private sector, besides the Govt. security presses.

(b) Government Security Presses have not been able to meet the entire requirements and, therefore, this has become necessary. Contractual processes for the purpose are in progress.

(c) Steps taken to improve the efficiency of postal services include modernising of Post Office operations with technology inputs, changes in the mail processing system, prioritization of mail according to transmission lines, stepped-up monitoring of quality of services and introduction of premium services.

(d) A proposal for changes in the management structure by way of updating it for the present and future requirements is before the Department.

STD/PCOs

1928. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions for the eligibility for grant of STD/PCOs in New Delhi;

(b) whether the women and OBCs are entitled to any kind of priorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The required information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Handicapped including blind persons, SC/ST applicants, Ex-servicemen, War widows, retired employees of Department of Telecom or their dependents, Freedom Fighters or their dependents and Charitable Institutions/Hospitals have only been included in the preferential category of applicants for allotment of STD/ISD PCOs after taking into account all the factors.

Statement**I. GENERAL****1. Eligibility**

Only educated unemployed persons are eligible to apply for allotment of STD PCOs. They should produce an unemployment certificate from their local MPs/MLAs/Revenue authorities of the rank of Tehsildar and above/employment officer/Chairman or Member of Zilla Parishad/Panchayat or Village Pradhan or Secretaries of recognised Social Organisations like Rotary Club/Lions Club etc. who have jurisdiction over the locality where the applicant resides. The educational qualifications for the applicants are:—

i) for rural areas: 8th or middle school pass and above

ii) for urban areas: atleast matriculate or High School and above.

Application is to be submitted in the prescribed performa enclosing the unemployment certificate and agreeing to the terms and conditions prescribed by the Department of Telecom., for the operation of STD PCOs.

2. Selection of bonafide persons

A committee with a composition as given below will select the applicants for allotment of STD PCOs after proper scrutiny and verification of bonafides. As a check against possible frauds, photocopy of the unemployment certificate may be sent by registered letter to the issuing authority with a covering letter requesting for getting it verified. The Committee will allot the available number of PCOs giving preference to following categories of persons;

(a) Handicapped including blind persons.

(b) SC/ST applicants.

(c) Ex-servicemen/War Widows.

(d) Retired DOT employees or their dependents.

(e) Freedom Fighters or their dependants.

(f) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals. The committee will be fully authorised to allot STD PCOs and also decided the location of the new PCOs.

Composition of committee

(a) The committee for allotment of the new STD payphones would consist as under:

i) Head of S.S.A Chairman

ii) An officer from the Finance & Accounts Wing of the Department working under SSA Head such as AO/CAO etc. Members.

iii) Three Non-official members would be nominated by the Ministry for a tenure period of two years.

3. Procedure of allotment:—

The committee will meet atleast once every month depending on the amount of work relating to allotment of STD PCO to scrutinise and select the applications from the eligible persons for STD PCO allotment.

4. Loan facility to STD PCO allottees.

SSA Head will issue a certificate of allotment of STD PCO to the allottee to enable him to seek loan etc. from scheduled banks. SSA Head will also provide all assistance in this regard.

5. Extent of provision

Upto 5% capacity of the exchange lines is to be reserved for allotment of PCOs (STD and Local).

6. Type of Exchange to which STD PCOs should be parented.

STD PCOs should normally be parented to an Electronic Exchange only. In a place which is served by electro mechanical exchanges, a new 128PC-DOT electronic exchange or an electronic exchange of a higher capacity with 16KHz home metering capacity can be opened and all STD payphones may be parented to this electronic exchange. The call loggers working with these STD PCOs should be operated on 16 KHz cycle pulse from the parented electronic change.

General Conditions

i) One applicant should be provided with only one STD Payphone. However, the existing bulk franchisees will continue to operate as per terms and conditions of their existing agreement.

ii) All STD Payphones should be so installed that they face public road/lane to allow free access to public.

iii) The opening hours of such public telephone would be atleast from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

iv) Terminal equipment used by the allottee should be interface approved and they should not be programmable locally. Simple call loggers/Charge indicators manufactured by Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd. or other manufacturers which are interface approved by the department should be used. Use of stop watch will not be permitted.

v) The allottee of STD PCO will be entitled to 20 paise per call unit upto 10,000 call units, 15 paise per call unit in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 call units and 10 paise per call unit beyond 20,000 call units as commission for the total number of call units made over a period of one month.

vi) The security deposit can also be deposited in cash in one instalment or be in the form of a Bank Guarantee.

vii) Rates of pulses should be displayed prominently by the allottee of STD PCOs for all important stations in the country and all stations within 200 kms.

viii) The applicants have to apply in the prescribed form for the allotment of STD PCOs.

ix) The applicant should sign an agreement in the prescribed form with the Telecom. Authority when an STD PCO is allotted to him.

x) Incoming call facility will be allowed on all STD PCOs.

xi) Shifting of STD PCOs within the local areas is permitted normal shifting charges applicable to DEL will be levied.

xii) Periodical surprise checks should be done to see that the allottee charges customers as per the guidelines given by Department of Telecom.

xiii) Guidelines for applying for PTs and rural governing them should be published in the commercial information pages of the telephone directory.

xiv) Periodical advertisements may be inserted in local newspapers, when sufficient number of applicants are not forthcoming.

II. RURAL

Apart from the general conditions the following guidelines have to be followed in respect of rural STD PCO operation. The rural STD PCO is defined for this purpose as one working in an exchange system which has a total capacity of 512 lines and less;

1. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month in the case of rural STD PCOs is fixed as Rs. 100/-.

2. A security deposit of Rs. 600/- based on six months guaranteed revenue or monthly average revenue whichever is higher has to be deposited by the allottee of the STD rural PCO. This average revenue is calculated on the basis of the revenue of the previous six months.

3. Weekly billing cycle would be followed for recovery of STD PCO charges.

III. NON-RURAL (URBAN)

Apart from the general conditions mentioned above, the guidelines detailed below have to be followed in respect of the STD PCO scheme in Non-rural (Urban) areas:

1. Atleast one STD PCO may be made available for about every 100 dwelling/Business premises.

2. While selecting the location for allotment of PCO, the SSA Head will consult the local bodies like Municipality, Public Institutions etc. to allocate convenient places for the PCO Booths. The important places given below should invariably be covered while selecting the location of PCO booths:

- Commercial Housing Societies.
- Resettlement Colonies.
- Government Colonies.
- Family Quarters of Defence Personnel.
- Students Hostel.
- Bus Stands.
- Tourist Centres.
- Airports.
- Pilgrim Centres.
- Railway Stations.
- Charitable Institutions
- Hospitals.
- Educational Institutions, Public Libraries.

4. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month to the Department in the case of Non-rural (Urban) STD PCOs is fixed as Rs. 1600/-

5. The amount of security deposit will be Rs. 5,000/- or an amount equal to the average monthly revenue whichever is higher. The average monthly revenue will be calculated on the basis of previous six months revenue.

6. Fortnightly billing cycle will be followed for recovery

of STD PCO charges. If the charges are heavy, weekly billing may be resorted to by local telecom authority.

[Translation]

US Stand on Kashmir

1929. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "US 'inconsistent' on Kashmir issue" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 4, 1995.

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

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

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

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

(b) The news item is based on various statements, Congressional testimonies and remarks to the media by US administration officials, and on official press guidance issued by the State Department over the past year.

(c) and (d) Government have an on-going dialogue with the US Government on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. India's positions on the issues referred to in the news item have been reiterated to the US. The US, on its part, has also provided clarifications on its positions. These exchanges have resulted in improved understanding of each other's positions on these matters.

N.R.Y.

1930. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nehru Rozgar Yojana has not so far been implemented in several States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of such States where the scheme is yet to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government have drawn any time schedule for implementation of the scheme, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Only the State Government of Nagaland has not taken up the implementation of the Nehru Rozgar Yojana in their State so far on the plea that being a poor and backward State it cannot afford to

provide its own matching State share, and has been seeking hundred percent funding by the Union Government. However, the Ministry has been advising the State Government from time to time to take up the implementation of the Yojana.

(d) and (e) NRY is a continuing scheme and the Central funds to the State Governments/UT Administrations are released on a year-to-year basis after taking into account the performance of a particular State in the implementation of the Yojana. The State Governments/UT, Administrations are also apprised in advance of the physical targets to be covered during particular year.

Urban Development Schemes

1931. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Urban Development Schemes/Projects pertaining to Gujarat still pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the number of schemes/projects cleared by the Union Government during the last two years and the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the time by which the pending schemes/projects are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the details of projects to be included in the current Plan period alongwith their names, locations, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Urban Development Schemes/Projects are supported under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) based on project reports received from State Governments. No Scheme/project proposals from Gujarat, conforming to IDSMT Scheme guidelines, are pending with the Government of India at present.

(b) During the last two years, i.e., 1993-94 and 1994-95 (as on 23.3.1995) project proposals from Gujarat for 10 towns have been approved and Central Assistance of Rs. 234.24 lakhs released. Expenditure particular for the approved projects will be available during the next or subsequent years.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(d) The names of the project towns are Wadhwan, Bharuch, Nadiad, Palitana, Porsad, Dhoraji, Petlad, Padra, Savar Kundla and Dabhoi. The projects approved for these towns include Markets and Shopping Complexes, Roads, Drainage Works, Sites & Services, Bus Stands and other infrastructural amenities.

[English]

Water Supply to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1932. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to initiate and complete a preliminary project on the river Godavari to pump water to

supply Visakhapatnam and in particular, the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

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

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

(d) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) No, Sir, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is not contemplating any project for pumping water from River Godavari to supply to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has assured supply of 73 MGD (MILLION GALLONS PER DAY) water to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant from Yeleru Reservoir through Yeleru Canal and to meet the water requirement of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, the State Government has ear-marked 5(Five) TMC (THOUSAND MILLION CUBIC FEET) water in Yeleru Reservoir.

Kashmir Issue

1933. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Foreign Secretary suggested a three-pronged strategy to resolve the Kashmir issue at a recent press conference at Islamabad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have been seen reports regarding the statements made by the British Foreign Secretary in Islamabad on 9 January, 1995.

There is growing appreciation in the international community, including UK, of India's principled position on the J&K issue; acknowledgment of the dangers inherent in trans-border terrorism and support for bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan, within the framework of the Simla Agreement to resolve all differences.

[Translation]

E.D. Agents

1934. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Extra Department Agents are being given the Status of Government employees;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of facilities being provided to them at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. However, protections and safeguards under Article 311(2) of the Constitution have been extended to the Extra Departmental Agents also.

(b) The Extra Departmental Agents provide postal facilities in the rural and semi-urban areas where a departmental Post Office is not justified. The workload in ED Post Office varies between two and five hours a day. Since the ED Agents work only for a part of the day, they

are paid consolidated monthly allowance on the basis of workload.

(c) Details of facilities provided to ED Agents are listed in the attached statement.

Statement

Details of facilities being provided to ED Agents at present are as under:—

A: FINANCIAL

1) In addition to consolidated monthly allowance, ED Agents are paid dearness allowance and ex-gratia bonus on the same scales and periodicity as Departmental employees;

2) Delivery and conveyance allowance of Rs. 75/- per month is paid to ED Branch Postmaster;

3) Office Maintenance Allowance to ED Branch Postmaster/ED Sub-Postmaster at the rate of Rs. 25/- per month.

4) Fixed stationery allowances to ED BPM/EDSPM at the rate of Rs. 5/- per month.

5) Cycle Allowance to Extra-Departmental Delivery Agent/ED Mail Carrier at the rate of Rs. 20/- per month.

6) Interim relief at a uniform rate of Rs. 50/- per month with effect from 16-9-1993.

7) Ex-Gratia Gratuity upto a maximum of Rs. 6,000/ on graded basis subject to completion of the minimum qualifying service of 10 years.

8) Group Insurance Scheme has been extended to ED Agents with effect from 01.04.1992 which gives risk cover for Rs. 10,000/- on payment of Rs. 10/- per month.

9) One time payment of ex-gratia compensation upto a maximum of Rs. 500/- to those ED Agents who are exonerated completely on conclusion of disciplinary proceedings or reinstated in service on acceptance of their appeals or review petitions by the competent authority after full exoneration subject to certain conditions.

B : Career advancement opportunities

1) All vacancies in Group 'D' cadre are filled from among the eligible ED Agents.

2) Vacancies in Postmen cadre are apportioned on 50:50 basis between departmental Group 'D' employees and outsiders. The 50% quota of vacancies in postmen cadre earmarked for outsiders is filled in the following manner:

(a) 25% from amongst ED Agents on the basis of their seniority in service and subject to their passing in the departmental recruitment examination;

(b) 25% from amongst ED Agents on the basis of their merit in the departmental recruitment examination.

3) The residuary vacancies pertaining to the departmental quota in Postal/Sorting Assistants cadres are also offered to eligible ED Agents.

[English]

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

1935. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE:
DR. K.D. JESWANI:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI RATI LAL VARMA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Gujarat where electronic telephone exchanges have been set up so far and proposed to be set up, separately;

(b) whether any target was fixed for commissioning telephone exchanges in the State during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of exchanges actually commissioned; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges converted in to electronic ones so far, and proposed to be converted, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Electronic exchanges have been set up at 1211 locations in Gujarat upto 28-2-95. About 75 new electronic exchanges are being set up annually.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details are as under:

Year	Target	Actually commissioned
1993-94	105	105
1994-95	75	35

(upto 28-2-95)

(d) 86 electro-mechanical exchanges have been converted into electronic ones during April to December, 1994. Additional 23 telephone exchanges are to be converted by March, 1995.

Food Processing Industries in Gujarat

1936. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal for assessing the potentiality of raw material in Gujarat for setting up of food processing Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with locations, installed capacity of production of various items, etc.

(c) whether employment aspect has also been taken item consideration while setting up these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) While no such survey has been conducted by this Ministry, the Ministry under its Plan Schemes provides assistance the State Government Organisations for conducting such survey. No proposal seeking assistance for conducting such studies has been received from the Government/Organisations in Gujarat.

Government have been taking 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. As a result of various measures taken since liberalisation till February, 1995, 210 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda have been filed for setting up of Food Processing Industries, involving an investment of Rs. 3116 crores and envisaging an employment of 33956 persons in the State of Gujarat. Of these 56 Projects are reported to have been implemented. In addition, 24 approvals have also been granted for setting up 100% Export Oriented Units, Joint Venture, Foreign Collaboration, etc. involving an investment of Rs. 103 crores.

Bridges in Cochin Port

1937. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the authority responsible for the maintenance and administration of Mattanchery and Venduruty bridges in Cochin Port;

(b) the annual cost of maintenance;

(c) whether there is any proposal to hand over these bridges to the State Government for maintenance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government of India is responsible for maintenance and administration of Mattanchery and Venduruty bridges in Cochin Port. However, Cochin Port Trust is attending to the actual work on cost reimbursement basis.

(b) The average expenditure on the maintenance and repairs including special repairs is approximately Rs. 30 lakhs per year.

(c) and (d) As the major traffic through these bridges is of vehicles of public services, it is proposed to hand over the maintenance and repairs of these bridges to State authorities. After discussions with State and local Administration, State Government has accordingly been requested by the Port Trust.

[Translation]

Australian Investment

1938. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major Australian company has signed an MOU with a public Sector undertaking for mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total capital to be invested by the Australian company; and

(d) the terms and conditions of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) Two Australian Companies i.e. M/s. BHP Minerals International Exploration Inc. (BHP and M/s. Niugini Mining Ltd., (NML) have signed Memoranda of Understanding with Hindustan Zinc Limited for mining in the country.

(b) The MOU with BHP Minerals was signed to conduct grassroots exploration for Lead, Zinc, Copper, Gold and other associated minerals in Rajasthan. The MOU with NML was signed for evaluation and development of known Gold occurrences in India if found viable.

(c) and (d) The mining project for which MOU has been signed with BHP Minerals envisages three stages i.e. pre-feasibility stage, Feasibility Study and Mine Development. Expenditure for pre-feasibility activities is anticipated in the range of US \$ 3 to 5 million and will be exclusively borne by the Australian Company. HZL will provide support services in the pre-feasibility stage. In case a viable resource is discovered, expenditure for feasibility study and mine development would be shared between BHP and HZL in proportion to their equity contribution of 60% and 40% respectively. The total investment for the project would depend on the size of resource outlined and operations contemplated. BHP Minerals, as Manager, will control and direct all exploration activities in association with HZL. A reviewing Committee would approve the overall policies and actions under the MOU, while a technical committee would regularly monitor the progress and results of the exploration. Both the Committees would have representatives of BHP Minerals and HZL. The MOU will terminate on (i) the expiry of five years, or (ii) withdrawal of a party or (iii) execution of a detailed agreement or by mutual consent, whichever is earlier.

HZL and NML will work together to identify gold resources for preliminary evaluation. HZL will provide data related to the known resources. NML, in turn will evaluate the data and conduct pre-feasibility study at its own cost. In case an economically viable resource is identified, expenditure for feasibility study and mine development (if found viable) will be shared in proportion to their equity contribution of 60% and 40% respectively. The MOU is valid for a period of two years unless extended by mutual consent or till a joint venture company is formed, whichever is earlier.

[English]

Private Power Projects

1939. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union government propose to streamline the procedure for giving sanction to private power projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Every power project (private or public sector) has to obtain a number of statutory/non-statutory clearances from different Central/State agencies. The Government have taken a number of steps to streamline the procedures which include creation of an Investment Promotion Cell in the Ministry of Power as a nodal agency, exclusively to provide information and assistance to prospective entrepreneurs to facilitate clearances and a High Powered Board headed by the Cabinet Secretary which, inter-alia, is empowered to issue directives for expediting clearances for the projects. The existing arrangements have been functioning satisfactorily so far.

[Translation]

Food Processing Training Centres

1940. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Processing Training Centres in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, set up during the last two years; and

(b) the achievements made in fruit production sector as a result of the setting up of food processing training centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Ministry under its Plan Schemes has provided assistance for setting up of 121 Food Processing and Training Centres in the country including 20 such centres in Uttar Pradesh during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 first two years of the Eighth Plan. 47 such Centres are reported to have become functional and training have been imparted to more than 1500 persons.

While overall production of fruits and vegetables products in the country have gone up from 4.69 lakh tonnes in 1992 to 6.76 lakh tonnes in 1994, increase in the production of fruits and vegetables products due to setting up of food processing and training centres cannot be delineated at this stage as the whole process of training, setting up of units by the entrepreneurs trained and these units coming into production take time.

*[English]***DDA Plots in Rohini**

1941. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of plots allotted by DDA in Rohini Residential Scheme, Delhi long back still remain unconstructed even much beyond the prescribed limit for construction of such plots under the rules;

(b) if so, the total number of such plots which are still vacant/unconstructed;

(c) whether there is a proposal to cancel the plots and re-allot them to the persons on the waiting list;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) DDA has reported that no survey has been conducted to identify vacant plots allotted by DDA in Rohini Residential Scheme.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal to cancel the allotments and re-allot the plots when the allottees have taken over the physical possession of their respective plots. According to policy, the normal period for construction of houses is three years without any penalty from the date of taking over physical possession. There is a provision under the policy/guidelines for extending the period for construction on payment of composition fee/penalty etc., which is allowed normally upto 20 years. The Rohini Residential Scheme is only 14 years old.

Trifurcating of Telecom Circle

1942. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the date of trifurcating the erstwhile North-West Telecom Circle into three separate circles of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the date of shifting the Headquarters of H.P. Telecom to Shimla in a rented building and to that of Department's own premises;

(c) whether a decision was taken to shift the Headquarters of Punjab Circle to Chandigarh and a building was selected for the purpose in September, 1994;

(d) the reasons for delay in shifting the said Headquarters to Chandigarh; and

(e) the date by which the shifting is likely to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 1-5-1987.

(b) The Headquarters of H.P. Telecom Circle was shifting to Shimla on 8-10-1987 in rented building & on 22-10-94 in Departmental building.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The building selected was on the basis of a 'single tender'. Hence the case has to be decided at Telecom Headquarters as per prescribed procedure.

(e) No definite time limit can be given now, since a decision is yet to be taken whether to accept the single tender or go in for fresh tender.

Allotment of Land

1943. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various cultural and linguistic associations representing different States have been allotted cost free land in National Capital Region of Delhi for establishing their respective cultural amenity centres and schools;

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

(c) whether there exists huge disparity in allotment of land for setting up of such centres and schools amongst these groups;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any requested from any linguistic/cultural group for allotment of cost free land in the National Capital Region of Delhi;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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 in view of reply given to (a) above.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of reply given to (e) above.

Telephone Connections in Rural Areas

1944. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of "Providing telephone services at cheaper rates in rural areas" has been introduced in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of villages covered under the said scheme;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have adopted a policy to provide public telephone at cheaper rates to all the villages of the country including those of Gujarat. As on 15-3-1995, 11,866 such public telephones have been provided in Gujarat.

(c) Question does not arise in view of reply to Part (a) and (b) above.

(d) The Scheme is likely to be implemented progressively by the year 1997 subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

Development of Slums

1945. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked for development of slums in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount allocated for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) As per the information available from the State Plan documents, an amount of Rs. 364.91 crores has been earmarked for the development of slums during the 8th Five Year Plan. A Statement indicating the State-wise allocations is attached.

STATEMENT

Statement Indicating the State-wise Allocation for Improvement of Slums during the VIIIth Five Year Plan

S. No.	STATE/UTS	(Rs. in lakhs)
		Total outlay VIII Plan (1992-97)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1900.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	175.00
4.	Bihar	2150.00
5.	Goa	7.29
6.	Gujarat	1170.00
7.	Haryana	1000.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	315.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	500.00
10.	Karnataka	4440.00
11.	Kerala	450.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1850.00
13.	Maharashtra	6314.00
14.	Manipur	100.00
15.	Meghalaya	161.00
16.	Mizoram	50.00
17.	Nagaland	—
18.	Orissa	391.00
19.	Punjab	900.00
20.	Rajasthan	2040.00
21.	Sikkim	40.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	563.00
23.	Tripura	225.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4250.00
25.	West Bengal	6310.00

1	2	3
UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	A & N Island	50.00
2.	Chandigarh	—
3.	Daman & Diu	15.00
4.	Delhi	1000.00
5.	D & N Haveli	—
6.	Lakshdweep	—
7.	Pondicherry	125.00
GRAND TOTAL		36491.29

[English]

Condition of Roads

1946. SHRI ANKUR RAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Dangerous Roads deter NRI investors" appearing in the Times of India dated January 11, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Regional Passport Office, Lucknow

1947. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Passport Office, Lucknow has unearthed any racket in issuing passports during June, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officers who had given false certificates for obtaining such passport?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No such information has been received about the submission of false certificates by the offices for obtaining passports.

[Translation]

MTNL Services

1948. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Mahanagar

Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi regarding telephones out of order, wrong telephone bills, delay in taking action on complaints separately during 1994-95;

(b) the number of complaints out of them disposed of and complaints still pending with reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide satisfactory services to subscribers?

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

Savour Committee

1949. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the Saviour Committee about extra departmental employees; and

(b) the action being taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Saviour Committee constituted for extra-departmental employees has made 171 recommendations. The same are listed in the statement. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-7380/95]

(b) The recommendations which were finally accepted by Government have been implemented.

[English]

Indo-UAE Joint Commission

1950. SHRI SHARVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the recent (8th) meeting of Joint Indo-UAE commission, the UAE delegation requested India to set up branches of UAE Banks in India.

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the other subjects, including setting up of joint ventures and UAE investments in India, discussed during the meeting and the outcome of the meeting?

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

(b) The Indian side welcomed the proposals and offered full cooperation.

(c) At the Joint Commission Session investments and joint ventures in the field of petroleum, petro-chemicals, tourism portfolio management etc. were discussed. These proposals are currently under consideration.

Housing Pools

1951. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Estates have allowed various statutory and autonomous bodies to have exclusive Housing Pools of their own and allotted flats to each organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the break up of the number of flats of different types allotted to each organisation;

(c) whether keeping in view the acute shortage of Housing some of these organisations have urged the Union Government to either allot or construct more such flats; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGAN): (a) No quarter has been placed with any Statutory/Autonomous organisations for forming their own pool except in case of Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts (IGNCA) for a limited period.

(b) 15 Type V Quarters in Asiad Village has been allotted to IGNCA.

(c) and (d) No Such request is under consideration.

Mineral Deposits in Kerala

1952. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHANAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India recently conducted any survey to discover gold and other mineral deposits in Kerala;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the further exploration of mineral deposits in the State?

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

(b) The details of the mineral deposits location-wise are as under:—

(i) Gold (Primary) : Kapil prospect—varying from 0.35 g/t to 4.14 g/t.
Mankada prospect—0.28 g/t to 1.42 g/t.
Kadannamanna prospect—0.25 to 0.57 ppm.
Attappady Valley, average grade of 7.8 g/t Au over a length of 350 m.

- (ii) Gold (Placer) : Attappady Valley, Palakkad district—A total reserve of 0.56 million m³ of auriferous gravel having an average grade of 0.78 g/m³ over a stretch of 14 km.
Nilambur Valley, Malappuram district—A total reserve of 8.5 million cu.m of older gravel roughly estimated to contain 1972.44 kg. of gold.
- (iii) Molybdenum : Ambalavayal area, Wayanad district—Results are not promising.
- (iv) Scheaelite : Attappady Valley, Palakkad district—Results are not promising.
- (v) Lignite : Aiapuzha, Kollam and Kannur Mainagopalli, Thamarakulam, Komallur, Chunakara, Kuthira-Vattom Kunnu, Pilicod, West of Kuthamat, West of Palai, Malaparambu and Kallnegari areas—total reserve—36.5 million tonnes.
- (vi) Clay : Thiruvanthapuram and Kollam—All grades of clay about 850 million tonnes in an area of 35 sq.km.
Kasargod district—200 million tonnes of china clay over an area of 20 sq.km.

(c) GSI is presently engaged for drilling work in Kappil in Malappuram district, Attappady in Palakkad district and for lignite in Nileshwar area of Kannur district.

Indo-Pak Railway Check Post

1953. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have renewed their long pending proposal for the reopening of Munabao-Khokhrapar railway check post on the Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in the matter

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government are willing to resume the discussions with Pakistan on the reopening of the Munabao-Khokhrapar checkpost

(b) Government are of the view that the reopening of the Munabao-Khokhrapar checkpost in terms of the provisions of the bilateral Visa Agreement signed between India and Pakistan in 1974, would create easier travel facilities for the peoples of the two countries which would mitigate to some extent the acute

hardships presently faced by the people as a result of Pakistan's unilateral decision to close down the Indian Consulate General in Karachi. Government hope that Pakistan would give a constructive response in this regard.

Post-Offices

1954. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 4724 on April 25, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the target for opening of Post Offices during 1994-95 has been finalised;

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

(c) the progress made so far in achieving the target, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c): The Circle-wise details of targets and achievements for opening post offices are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Details of targets and achievements for opening post offices, Circle-wise.

S.No.	Name of Circle	Revised Plan target for opening post offices during 1994-95	No. of Post Offices sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	8	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7	—
3.	Bihar	21	1
4.	Delhi	10	—
5.	Gujarat	16	—
6.	Haryana	14	2
7.	Himachal Pradesh	13	—
8.	J & K	2	—
9.	Karnataka	12	1
10.	Kerala	14	1
11.	Madhya Pradesh	17	1
12.	North East	5	—
13.	Orissa	8	—
14.	Punjab	7	1
15.	Rajasthan	17	2
16.	Maharashtra	15	—
17.	Tamil Nadu	7	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	31	—
19.	West Bengal	6	—

Development of Minimum Level Towns in Andhra Pradesh

1955. SHRI VADDE SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of minimum level towns which are proposed for integrated development in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the total funds that have been released under this scheme; and

(c) the time by which scheme is to be implemented in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) During the Eighth Five Year Plan 33 towns of Andhra Pradesh are proposed for integrated development under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT). The projects for 24 towns have been approved by the Government of India so far. The names of these towns are given in the enclosed statement. The total amount of Central funds released under the IDSMT Scheme for the 24 towns amounts to Rs. 654.00 lakhs.

(c) It is expected that the approved projects will be implemented by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan. However, the actual date of completion of projects will depend on the availability of State share and institutional finance as stipulated under the IDSMT Scheme guidelines.

STATEMENT

Priority list of towns identified by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for inclusion under IDSMT scheme during the Eighth Plan period and the towns in this list which have since been covered under IDSMT

S.No.	Name of Town	Whether covered under IDSMT
1	2	3
1.	Wanaparthy	Yes
2.	Kurnool	Yes
3.	Jaggayyapeta	Yes
4.	Kalidada	Yes
5.	Cuddapah	Yes
6.	Nidadavolu	Yes
7.	Jagitial	Yes
8.	Madanapalle	Yes
9.	Chirala	Yes
10.	Repalle	Yes
11.	Ponnur	Yes
12.	Nizamabad	Yes
13.	Narayanpet	Yes
14.	Srikalahasti	Yes
15.	Anantapur	Yes
16.	Vikarabad	Yes
17.	Tuni	No*
18.	Chilakaluripet	Yes
19.	Mandapeta	No*
20.	Eluru	No*
21.	Palacole	No*
22.	Amalapuram	Yes
23.	Miryalaguda	Yes
24.	Adoni	Yes
25.	Sangareddy	Yes
26.	Macherla	No*
27.	Gudur	Yes
28.	Hindu Pur	Yes
29.	Bochan	Yes
30.	Macherayal	No*
31.	Muzvid.	No*
32.	Bellampelli	No*
33.	Sircilla	No*

*State Government has been asked to revise the project report of these towns and the same are awaited.

[Translation]

Steel Plants

1956. DR. P.R. GANGWAR:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small, medium and big Steel Plants in public and private sectors in the country;

(b) the number out of them functioning in Karnataka;

(c) the number of licences given during 1994-95 for the setting up of steel plants in Karnataka;

(d) the number of applications for the grant of licence pending with the Government;

(e) the details of steel plants producing quality steel; and

(f) the quantity of Steel Exported during 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There are 6 integrated steel plants, and 2 special steel plants in Public Sector. Besides these, there are 7 mini steel plants in public/joint sector. In private sector, there is one integrated steel plant, 174 mini steel plants and over 700 induction furnace units.

(b) Besides a large number of induction furnace units, 13 steel plants are located in the State of Karnataka out of which two mini steel plants are reportedly closed.

(c) and (d) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. An entrepreneur wishing to set up an Iron and Steel unit does not require approval of Government for Industrial Licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 census. No application for grant of licence is pending with the Government.

(e) The steel plants both in public and private sector based on modern technology are equipped to produce quality steel, as per market requirement.

(f) The quantity of steel exported during 1993-94 & 1994-95 (April to December '94) has been reported as 22.21 lakh tonnes & 11.96 lakh tonnes respectively.

*[English]***Nuclear Monitoring Facility in Pak**

1957. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the proposal of the US to set up nuclear monitoring facility in Pakistan to monitor nuclear testing activity in the region;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the establishment of a seismic monitoring station in Pakistan. This is being set up with US assistance as part of an international seismic network that will be used to verify a future Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), currently being negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva. 48 countries, including Pakistan, India and China are participating in the international seismic trial test to be conducted during 1995.

*[Translation]***Telephone Complaints**

1958. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone complaints received by the Government during the last six months;

(b) the number of complaints attended and those which are still pending;

(c) whether the Government propose to take necessary steps so that complaints are attended expeditiously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Government received about 91.3 lakh complaints of telephone going faulty during the last 6 months from August 94 to January 95, which is about 17.7 complaints per 100 lines per month.

(b) More than 90% of the complaints are cleared by next day. Some complaints do take more time due to major cable faults which are cleared in the shortest possible time.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For expeditious disposal of complaints—

(i) Constant which is kept by higher level officers.

(ii) Gradually Fault Repair Centres are being computerised.

(iii) Customer Services Centres are being strengthened.

(iv) Upgradation/modernisation of equipments is done as a regular phenomenon to reduce the no. of faults.

(v) New to modern tools and testing aids are being introduced for rectifying the faults quickly.

*[English]***Mangalore Passport Office**

1959. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications received by the Bangalore Passport Office from Dakshina Kannada District during 1994;

(b) the total number of passport applications received by the Bangalore Passport Office during the period;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open a new passport office at Mangalore to cater to the demands to Dakshina Kannada district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) 18371 applications from Dakshina Kannada District were received by Passport Office Bangalore in 1974.

(b) A total of 82171 applications were received by Passport Office Bangalore in 1994.

(c) No, Sir. However, a Collection Centre is being opened in Mangalore for which the State Government has been requested to provide some skeleton staff and premises.

*[Translation]***GSI Survey in Gujarat & Rajasthan**

1960. SHRI RATILAL VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any geological survey in Gujarat and Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of the mineral reserves found in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. During the last three years, Geological Survey in Gujarat and Rajasthan in the following areas:—

GUJARAT:

i) Copper investigations in Khandia area, Vadodra district;

ii) Gold in Alech hills, Jamnagar district. The samples analysed did not give encouraging results;

- iii) Strategic minerals in Banaskantha district;
- iv) Cement grade limestone in Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kutch and Amreli districts?
- v) A total reserve of 40 m.t. of Lignite in Bharuch, Rajapardi and Vastan areas has been estimated, and
- vi) Investigations for tungsten around Atal village indicated reserves ranging from 0.07 to 1.6% tungsten. Several prospective zones have been identified at Rampura, Gangwara and Kapasia.

RAJASTHAN:

- i) **BASEMETALS:** Investigations in North Sindesar has estimated 936.18 million tonnes of ore reserves averaging 4.7% lead+zinc and other block of north Sindesar ridge estimated 7.34 m.t. of the reserves averaging 1.07% lead, 2.42% zinc, 32 ppm Ag and 116 ppm Cd. In South Sindesar ridge block 300 m long mineralized zone with 5.90% Pb+ZA has been established. Investigations for copper in Chitar block in Pali district established. 800 m long mineralized zone
- ii) **Basemetal investigations** in Sawar-Bajta belt, Ajmer district have indicated 3.0 million tonnes of ore reserves with 5.45% Pb, 85 ppm Ag with 200 ppb average content of gold in South Extension of Tikhi block in Sawar area. Northern Tikhi extension of Tikhi block in Sarwar area. Northern Tikhi extension indicated 1.02 million tonnes of ore reserves with 0.5% Cu, 0.52% Pb and 0.64% Zn with 200 ppb (average) content of gold. In Pipela block in Sirohi district, a reserve of 1.13 million tonnes averaging 0.5% Cu with 0.25 ppm Au has been identified.
- iii) **Tungsten and Lithium exploration** in Pipaliya block in Pali district has indicated two mineralised zones of 600 m and 400 m with WO³ grade of 0.18% and 0.11% respectively, in Motiya³ block, tungsten bearing zone with a length of 200 m with 1% WO³ has been traced. A promising Lithium bearing zone of about to km. has been identified.
- iv) **GOLD:** Exploration for gold in Danwa block in Sirohi district has indicated gold values from 0.18 to 2.57 ppm. In Ajari block 0.58 ppm to 1.30 ppm Au has been found. In Pipela block 1.13 million tonnes of gold ore with 0.25 ppm Au and 0.15% Cu has been indicated. In Anandpuri-Bhukia area, Banswara district, two auriferous zones assaying 3.1 ppm, 1.95 ppm Au with 0.32% Cu and 0.05% Co and the second with upto 2.95 ppm Au have been established. Further work is in progress.

LIGNITE: Investigations for lignite in Kuchaur-Athuni and Bania areas in Bikaner district indicated lignite seams of 3.15 to 7.9 m.

*[English]***Sick deep sea fishing Units in A.P.**

1961. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to take over the management of all sick deep sea fishing in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

1962. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where electronic telephone exchanges have been set up till date in the Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which the electronic telephone exchanges are proposed to be set-up in other places of the State during 1995-96 along with the name of those places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b): Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Land Acquisition by DDA.**

1963. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount earmarked by Delhi Development Authority for land acquisition during 1994-95; and

(b) the details of amount earmarked during the last three years for land acquisition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) It has been reported by Delhi Development Authority that an amount of Rs. 130 crores has been earmarked for land acquisition during 1994-95.

(b) The details of amount earmarked for land acquisition during the last three years is given as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	46.30
1192-93	25.63
1993-94	77.35

[Translation]

Shortage of Pig Iron in Saurashtra

1964. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of pig-iron in Saurashtra region of the Gujarat State;

(b) the annual requirement of pig-iron by foundries in the region;

(c) the allocation of pig-iron made by the Government during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for allocation of additional pig-iron to the region to meet the requirement of steel industries in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No report has been received regarding shortage of pig iron in Saurashtra region of Gujarat State.

(b) and (c): For meeting the requirements of pig iron for small scale industries (including foundries) in various States, allocations are made by the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI&S) to the Small Industries Corporation of the State concerned keeping in view its demand, past offtake and availability of pig iron from the main producers. The allocations made by the DCI&S to Gujarat Small Industries Corporation (GSIC) for distribution to Small Scale Units of Gujarat and quantity lifted by the Corporation during the last three years was as under:

Year	Allocation	(In Lakh tonnes)	
		Offtake	
1992-93	1.53	1.33	
1993-94	1.29	0.60	
1994-95	1.40	0.52	(upto Oct.' 94)

(d) At Present, there is no shortage of pig iron in the country. As on 1.3.95, Main producers were having inventories of about 1.8 lakh tonnes of pig iron. In order to augment the supply of pig iron in the country, Government is facilitating the creation of additional capacity in the private sector. The total production of pig iron during April'94—February, 1995 was 24.8 lakh tonnes showing an increase of 23.5% over the corresponding period last year. Production by Secondary producers who mainly produce foundry grade pig iron has shown an increase of 167.5% import of pig iron is also freely allowed and duty was earlier reduced to 20% However, only about 800 tonnes of pig iron was imported during April-November'94 as domestic availability was adequate.

[Translation]

Diamond Mines in Raipur (MP)

1965. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the location of Diamond mines in Deobhog area of Raipur;

(b) the details of the mines in Deobhog in which mining work is going on;

(c) whether there have been increased incidents of thefts in this area;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to hand over the diamond mining work in Raipur to private sector or to Madhya Pradesh Minerals Corporation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Arrears of Telephones

1966. SHRI KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrears of unrealised telephone revenue have shown an increase during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in comparison to previous years;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government for realisation of arrears; and

(d) the number of cases under litigation till date with details of amount involved therein?

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

(b) The percentage of increase in comparison to previous years is as under:—

Year	Amount outstanding as on 31st March of the year.	Percentage increase
	Rs. in Crores	
1990-91	482	
1991-92	663	37.55
1992-93	906	36.65
1993-94	1158	27.81

(c) The issue of bills and recovery of dues is a continuous process and there are well laid down procedures for recovery of outstanding telephone dues. Efforts are made to settle the billing disputes/Court cases quickly. For other cases recovery is pursued by correspondence/personal visits and legal action.

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

Shifting of PSUs outside Delhi

1967. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift headquarters of certain Public Undertakings and the offices of some national commissions out of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which those are likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) In June, 1988, the Central Government decided to shift the offices of 25 Public Sector Undertakings out of Delhi. Subsequently, the office of one Public Sector Undertaking, namely, Vayudoot was allowed to remain in Delhi. Four Public Sector Undertakings have since been shifted out of Delhi. The names of the remaining Public Sector Undertakings to be shifted out of Delhi are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) It is very difficult to fix a timeframe as the actual shifting depends upon a number of determining factors, like availability of land, construction of building, provision of funds, etc.

STATEMENT

Name of Public Sector Undertaking to be Shifted out of Delhi

1. National Seeds Corporation Ltd.
2. State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.
3. Central Warehousing Corporation.
4. Food Corporation of India.
5. Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation of India Ltd.
6. Helicopter Corporation of India.
7. Airlines Allied Services Ltd.
8. National Airport Authority of India.
9. National Fertiliser Corporation Ltd.
10. Fertilizer Corporation of India.
11. Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd.
12. National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation.
13. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.
14. Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.
15. Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd.
16. State Trading Corporation Ltd.
17. National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
18. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
19. Cement Corporation of India.
20. National Textiles Corporation Ltd. (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan)

Commemorative Stamps.

1968. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received by his ministry from Members of Parliament for release of Commemorative Stamps in the memory of various ex-MPs/Freedom Fighters/other prominent leader of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the number of such requests received during 1993 and 1994; and

(c) the time by which the postal stamps in the memory of such patriotic politicians/leaders/freedom fighters are likely to be issued?

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

(b) The number of requests received from Members of Parliament for commemorative stamps on personalities from West Bengal is 1993 —3

1994 —8

(c) The 11 requests pertained to 8 personalities. Stamps were brought out on 2 of them. There in proposals will be placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee for consideration. The remaining 3 proposals did not satisfy the requirements and therefore could not fructify.

Postal Services in Gujarat

1969. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all villages and important towns in Gujarat have been provided with postal services;

(b) if so, the number of village and towns separately where postal services have been provided; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide these services in the remaining villages and towns of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 8122 villages and all of the 266 towns are having post office facility and daily delivery is being provided to all the villages and towns in Gujarat through these post offices.

(c) The Postal facilities are being extended by opening new post offices under Plan scheme progressively. During the first two years of the Eight Five Year plan, 45 extra departmental branch post offices and 10 departmental sub post offices have been sanctioned in Gujarat. It is proposed to open 4 extra departmental branch post offices and 12 departmental sub post offices during 1994-95 in Gujarat.

Development of Urban Areas

1970. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

SHRI BOOLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ:

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had called upon the Town planners to draw up more effective plans for development of urban areas;

(b) if so, whether a two day national workshop on Master Plan approach, its effectiveness and alternatives, was held in New Delhi on February 23, 1995; and

(c) if so, the details of subjects discussed in the

workshop and the towns for which Master Plan have been approved by the Government?

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

(b) A two-day national workshop on 'Master Plan Approach; Its Efficacy and Alternatives' was organised by the Ministry of Urban Development on 24-25 February, 1995.

(c) The subjects discussed in the Workshop included the problems associated with the present Master Plan approach, possible alternatives, steps to be taken by (State Governments for the preparation and implementation of effective town/city, Metropolitan and District Development Plan, etc. Town Planning is a State subject. Approval of Plans and their revision are done by the respective State Governments from time to time. A recent survey by the Town & Country Planning Organisation reveals that so far about 900 Master Plan/Development Plans have been prepared under various State Acts, while plans for about 300 towns are at the draft stage.

Multinational Companies

1971. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'MNC entry may clog prime routes' appearing in the "Times of India" dated January 18, 1995;

(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) Enhancement of inter-exchange communication links is a continuous process to meet the demands on increased traffic. The private sector companies who will operate telecom network in each telecom circle will have to set up their own inter-exchange network within the circle using advanced digital technology. DoT is also modernising and expanding its network in a phased manner. As such the boom in the demand for telephones can be handled with additional capacities being created on the routes connecting one exchange to another.

Mineral Based Industries in Gujarat

1972. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the mineral based industries set up in the State of Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan and during the current financial year, location-wise?

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

Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement

1973. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The present status of implementation of Indo-Sri Lankan Agreements on people of Indian origin;

(b) the number of persons of Indian origin who have so far applied for registration as Indian citizens and of those who have been so registered and of those who have been actually repatriated to India;

(c) the number of persons of Indian origin who have applied for registration as Sri Lankan citizens and of those who have been registered;

(d) the percentage of fulfilment of Sri Lankan and Indian quotas at the end of 1994; and

(e) the number of persons of Indian origin who remain stateless and the percentage they form of the total number of stateless persons at the time of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreements High Commission of India in Colombo and Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy, have registered and granted Indian citizenship to 5,92,918 persons of Indian origin (accountable 4,20,319 plus natural increase 1,72,599) upto 28.2.95.

(b) Under 1964 and 1974 Agreements, a total number of 5,60,000 (accountable) persons of Indian origin applied to High Commission of India in Colombo and Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy for registration and to acquire Indian citizenship. Out of this number, 4,20,319 accountable plus 1,72,599 natural increase, i.e. a total of 5,92,918 persons have been registered and granted Indian citizenship upto 28.2.1995. Of these, 4,16,999 persons have been repatriated up to 31.12.94.

(c) Under the Agreements of 1964 and 1974 and the 1986 Accord, Sri Lanka Government agreed to grant Sri Lankan Citizenship to 4,69,000 (accountable) persons of Indian origin. The Sri Lankan Government granted Sri Lankan citizenship to 3,37,620 (accountable 2,37,151 plus natural increase 1,00,469) till 31.12.1988. The balance 2,13,849 stateless persons of Indian origin have been absorbed as Sri Lankans under the "Grant of Citizenship to Stateless Persons (Special Provisions) Act No. 39 to 1988."

(d) The grant of Sri Lanka citizenship is linked with the grant of Indian citizenship in the ratio of 4:7. The figures of registration of persons of Indian origin who have acquired Sri Lankan citizenship have not been furnished by the Sri Lankan Government after 31.12.1988. Therefore, it is not possible to furnish the percentage of fulfilment of Sri Lankan and Indian quotas.

(e) At the time of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement there were 9,75,000 stateless persons of Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka. After the "Grant of Citizenship to Stateless Persons (Special Provisions) Act No. 39 of 1988" the balance has been absorbed as Sri

Lankan citizens and as such there is no stateless person of Indian origin remaining in Sri Lanka except for those stateless persons who have applied for Indian citizenship to High Commission of India in Colombo and Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy. There are as on 28.2.1995, 73,563 persons of Indian origin (accountable 70,044, plus 3519 natural increase) who have applied for registration as Indian citizens but have not shown any interest in acquiring Indian citizenship. Their percentage is approximately 7.5% of the original figure of 975,000.

Theft of Telephone Cables

1974. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone network in the country has been suffering huge losses due to thefts of telephone cables;

(b) if so, the details of the losses suffered during 1992-93 and 1993-94 and steps taken to check it;

(c) whether the Government propose to use and progressively replace the conventional 'Copper Cables' with 'Fibre optic Cables' to check thefts and vandalism of cables; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this direction so far?

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

(c) and (d) The department is studying the feasibility of using optical fibre cable in local network.

[Translation]

Natural Gas for Fertilizer Plants

1975. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of natural gas has seriously affected the expansion plans of many fertilizer plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of on-going natural gas based fertilizer plants in the country and the production capacity of these plants; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate quantity of natural gas for the expansion and efficient working of these plants?

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 DEVELOPEMNT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a), (b) and (d) Natural gas has already been allocated for the expansion plants of IFFCO at Aonla

(Uttar Pradesh) and NFL at Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh), as also for the new plant being put up Ms. Bindal Agro Chem. Ltd. at Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh). There are few other proposals which can be taken up only after augmentation of gas availability in the country or import of gas from the countries. Some other expansion proposal, like expansion of Phulpur (Uttar Pradesh) plant of IFFCO, are being planned on dual feedstock basis so that they could be switched over to natural gas as and when additional quantity of natural gas becomes available.

(c) There are presently 18 gas based fertilizer plants in the country having a production capacity of 44.03 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen.

[English]

Private Power Plants of A.P.

1976. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has signed the 23 memoranda of understanding to set up private power plants in the State;

(b) whether the Andhra Pradesh has violated the Union Government policy and guidelines on private sector participation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) As on date, Government of Andhra Pradesh have signed 26 Memoranda of Understanding to set up 30 power projects for a capacity additions of 12123 MW.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Durgapur Steel Plant

1977. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Durgapur Steel Project is facing acute crises;

(b) if so, the nature of crisis;

(c) whether decline of the orders placed by the Railways to this Public Sector Project has led to this critical situation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to meet the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The performance of Durgapur Steel Plant has shown significant improvement during current financial year. Hot metal, crude steel and saleable steel production during April '94 to February '95 registered a growth of 87%, 55% and 39% respectively over the corresponding period of last year.

The Wheel & Axle plant of Durgapur Steel Plant was modernised to meet the projected demand from the Railways. However, reduction in orders by Railways has

led to considerable erosion in product-mix contribution of the plant.

(d) The issue is being continuously pursued with Indian Railways. SAIL is exploring the possibility of supply to other customers, including exports.

Small bridges and culverts

1978. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the small bridges and culverts on the National Highways which are very old need to be replaced or strengthened substantially;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the state-wise break up of the measures which have been completed and which are still in progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Very old small bridges and culverts on National highways are replaced or strengthened as required depending upon their inter-se priority/availability of resources and this is a continuous process.

(b) Widening/reconstruction of 353 Nos. of minor bridges are included in Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed statements I & II.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Minor Bridges

(Costing less than Rs 1.0 crores, sanctioned for widening/reconstruction during VIII Plan)

S.No.	State	Completed in progress	
1.	Assam	—	3
2.	Bihar	—	6
3.	Gujarat	—	4
4.	Himachal Pradesh	—	8
5.	Kerala	—	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	—	2
7.	Maharashtra	—	9
8.	Meghalaya	—	4
9.	Orissa	—	3
10.	Rajasthan	—	3
11.	Tamilnadu	1	8
12.	Uttar Pradesh	—	3
13.	West Bengal	3	1
Total		4	55

STATEMENT-II

Details of Culverts
(Sanctioned during VIII Plan)

S.No.	State	Completed in progress	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	13
2.	Assam	—	8
3.	Bihar	—	2
4.	Haryana	—	1
5.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	—	3
7.	Maharashtra	—	8
8.	Manipur	—	2

S.No.	State	Completed in progress	
9.	Meghalaya	—	8
10.	Nagaland	—	1
11.	Orissa	—	6
12.	Rajasthan	—	2
13.	Tamilnadu	—	5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	—	13
15.	West Bengal	—	10
Total		2	81

Shortage of Fertilizers

1979. KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE:

SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN:

DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will remain shortage of fertilizers in the country during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the increased demand of fertilizers in the country;

(d) whether the Government propose to withdraw fertilizers subsidy to manufacturers; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Adequate availability of urea, which is under price, distribution and movement control, is ensured by the Government. The stocks of urea in the country at the close of the current Rabi season are expected to be quite comfortable. A substantial increase in indigenous urea production is projected in 1995-96, and the gap between indigenous availability and requirement as reflected in the allocations made under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 is met by imports.

The availability of decontrolled fertilizers is governed by the market forces. The opening stocks of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers in the country for 1995-96 are likely to be quite satisfactory.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration.

Investment by NRIs in Housing

1980. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have encouraged the Non-Resident Indians to invest in the housing construction schemes in India; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects in which the Non-Resident Indians are already participating and the projects in which they are likely to invest in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGNON): (a) Government has formulated a scheme for

encouraging NRI investment in housing and real estate development. This scheme is open to the individual Non-Resident Indians as well as to the Overseas Corporate Bodies predominantly owned by non-residents of Indian nationality/origin.

(b) The projects in which investment may be made by NRIs/OCBs are as under:

- (i) Ownership of residential properties in India with benefits of repatriation upto two houses.
- (ii) Development of serviced plots and construction of built-up residential premises.
- (iii) Real estate, covering construction of residential and commercial premises including business centres and offices.
- (iv) Development of townships.
- (v) City level Urban infrastructure facilities including roads and bridges.
- (vi) Building material production units. Preferably related to prefab structures and other associated items.
- (vii) Participatory/collaborative ventures with Indian builders/entrepreneurs in (ii) to (vi).
- (viii) Investments in Housing Finance Companies.

Specific projects are to be formulated and implemented at State level.

Urea Import

1981. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of fertilizers units allowed to import urea;
- (b) whether any criteria has been fixed on the quantity of urea each unit is allowed to import; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of urea imported till February 1995 by the units during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) In view of the shortfall in the arrivals of imported urea during Kharif 1994, Government permitted three public sector fertilizer companies namely, Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Limited (PPCL) to import limited quantities of urea during the year to supplement the efforts of MMTC, the designated canalising agency. NFL & PPCL were asked not to purchase urea of CIS/Gulf origin from the traditional suppliers of MMTC who had supplied urea to MMTC during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto September, 1994). MFL also refrained from tapping the suppliers committed to MMTC. Till February '95, these companies have not been able to import any urea. During the preceding three years, imports of urea were canalised through MMTC.

Post Offices in North Eastern States

1982. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Post Offices opened in each of the North Eastern States during the financial year 1993-94 and during 1995 till date;
- (b) the total number of Post Offices opened throughout the country during the same period; and
- (c) the number of proposals for opening of new Post Offices in each of the North Eastern States pending and the time by which these proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The total number of post offices opened in Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura States during 1993-94 is given in the enclosed statement. During 1995 till date, no post office has been opened.

(b) 801 post offices opened throughout the country during 1993-94 including 44 post offices in North Eastern States.

(c) One proposal each for opening new post offices in Arunachal, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura States are pending. These will be approved subject to fulfilment of departmental norms for opening of post offices.

STATEMENT

Details of number of post offices opened in North Eastern states during 1993-94

S.No	Name of State	Posts offices opened during 1993-94
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
2.	Manipur	11
3.	Meghalaya	8
4.	Mizoram	6
5.	Nagaland	5
6.	Tripura	6
Total		44

Business and Non-Business Telephone Categories

1983. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Telecommunications had decided for classification of residential telephones into business and non-business categories and directed the MTNL, etc. to completed classification by the middle of April, 1995;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the rationales for such classification;
- (c) whether the Government propose to charge higher tariff for business category telephones;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the extra revenue likely to accrue to the Department of Telecommunications by such classification;

(f) whether telephone subscribers and business interest have expressed their resentment over the DOT's move for the aforesaid classification; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the Department of Telecommunications has taken a decision to classify subscribers into business and non-business categories in all the Telecom Circles including MTNL, New Delhi. The target date for MTNL, as middle of April 95 has not been fixed.

(b) The telephones which are used for the purchase of business will be classified in business category. Only one telephone at the residence of an individual will be treated as a non-business telephone.

Such classification is required for studying traffic patterns and working out tariffication structures.

(c) No decision has been taken in the matter so far.

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

(f) and (g) Some letters have been received. These relate mostly to additional information desired by the subscribers on the subject.

National Highway in Kerala

1984. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the process of expansion of Palghat—Kozhikode National Highway has progressed; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Constitutionally Government of India is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Palghat-Kozhikode road is a state road and hence falls within the purview of the State Government of Kerala.

[Translation]

Road projects in Maharashtra

1985. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether road projects in Maharashtra are not progressing satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures being taken in this regard;

(c) whether the World Bank has cancelled its loan due to the slow progress/non-implementation of these road projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Schemes of DDA

1986. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRY:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various housing schemes launched by Delhi Development Authority and the dates when the schemes were introduced;

(b) the details of those projects which have been completed and the total number of flats allotted so far, category-wise;

(c) whether any fresh scheme has been introduced recently by DDA in which applicants need not deposit registration fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether several old schemes are yet to be completed;

(f) if so, reasons for launching new schemes when old schemes are still pending;

(g) whether Government propose to take steps so that previous schemes are completed first by DDA before launching new scheme; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) As reported by DDA, the details of the schemes launched by it together with the present status of each scheme are given in the enclosed statement I.

(b) The total number of flats allotted category-wise under the various schemes are given in the statement II.

(c) and (d) DDA announced recently the 'Expandable Housing Scheme 1995'. The scheme was open to the general public. However, LIG and MIG registrants of New Pattern Registration Scheme, 1979 and Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 1989, upto the prescribed priority number as detailed in the Brochure for the scheme, were also eligible to apply. While fresh applicants were required to deposit an initial amount of Rs. 15,000/-, this was not required to be paid by the registrants of New Pattern Registration Scheme and Ambedkar Awas Yojana.

(e) There is a backlog of registrants under the New Pattern Registration Scheme, 1979 and Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 1989 and the number of registrants waiting allotment is:

	LIG	MIG
New Pattern Registration Schemes, 1979	19248	13415
Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 1989	8027	6512

(f) The expandable houses were initially offered to the registrants of New Pattern Registration Schemes, 1979 and Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 1989. As acceptance rate was very low, the Expandable Housing Scheme, 1995 has been announced and made open to all. However, this scheme provides for giving priority to the registrants of the above two schemes. As far as Self Financing Housing Scheme VII 1995 is concerned it was announced to offer Cat. II SFS flats, for which there was no backlog.

(g) and (h) DDA has plans to offer flats to all the wait-listed LIG and MIG registrants before the end of 8th Five Year Plan period subject to availability of land and infrastructural facilities.

STATEMENT I

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Present Status
1.	General Housing Registration Scheme, 1969	Closed
2.	General Housing Registration Scheme, 1971-72	Closed
3.	General Housing Registration Scheme, 1972	Closed
4.	General Housing Registration Scheme, (SC/ST), 1973	Closed
5.	General Housing Registration Scheme, 1976	Closed
6.	Self Financing Housing Registration Scheme I 1977	Closed
7.	Self Financing Housing Registration Scheme II 1978	Closed
8.	Self Financing Housing Registration Scheme III 1979	Closed
9.	Self Financing Housing Registration Scheme IV 1981	Closed
10.	Spl. Retired/Retiring Persons Scheme (ASFS) 1981	Closed
11.	Spl. Retired/Retiring Persons Scheme (ASFS) 1983	Closed
12.	General Housing Registration Scheme for RPS 1982	Closed
13.	General Housing Registration Scheme for RPS 1985	Closed
14.	New Pattern Registratin Scheme 1979	Live
15.	Self Financing Housing Registration Scheme V 1982	Closed
16.	Self Financing Housing Registration Scheme VI 1985	Closed
17.	Ambedkar Awas Yojana for SC/ST 1989	Live
18.	Self Financing Housing Scheme VII 1995	Closed
19.	Expandable Housing Scheme 1995	Live

STATEMENT II

Allotment of flats made by the Housing Department under various schemes of DDA as on 31.3.94

	JANTA	LIG	MIG	SFS
General Housing Scheme	17717	22791	25082	—
New Pattern Scheme 1979	57428	46290	29308	—
Ambedkar Awas Yojana 1989	1466	1857	—	—
Self Financing Schemes	—	—	—	39567
Total	76611	70938	54390	39567

Complaints against Indian companies

1987. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the complaints received by Indian mission in Germany from foreign entrepreneurs against some Indian State Sector companies for their various lapses and consequent losses to foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such attitude of Indian companies is likely to create differences in the bilateral trade relations; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the issues?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government are aware of some commercial complaints raised by German companies against Indian companies/PSUs. Complaints of a commercial nature are basically for the parties concerned to resolve between themselves. Wherever necessary, Government uses what good offices are possible to facilitate a resolution of such differences.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post offices buildings

1988. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post office buildings being constructed in Maharashtra and Bihar alongwith the locations thereof; and

(b) the time by which construction work in this regard is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) 29 Post Office buildings in Maharashtra and 14 Post Office buildings in Bihar are being constructed. The location of these buildings is given in enclosed statement. These buildings will be completed during the financial year 1995-96 subject to availability of funds.

STATEMENT

Sl. No. Name of the Post Office buildings being constructed

MAHARASHTRA	
1.	P.O. Building at Ahmedpur
2.	P.O. Building at Kinwat Nanded
3.	Extension to HPO Building at Dhule
4.	Siddharthnagar P.O. Goregaon
5.	Mira Road P.O. and SPM Quarter
6.	Canacona P.O. Building
7.	Khed P.O. Building
8.	Seoner P.O. Building and Staff Quarters
9.	Gondia HPO Building and SPM Quarter
10.	Bhandara HPO Building (Reconstruction)
11.	Wani P.O. Building
12.	Sironcha P.O. Building
13.	Salkardara P.O. and SPM Quarter
14.	Kamptee HPO Building Horizontal Extension
15.	Yeotmal HPO Building Horizontal Extension
16.	Khamgaon HPO Building (Reconstruction)
17.	Ghatanji P.O. Building and SPM Quarter
18.	Risod P.O. Building and SPM Quarter
19.	Nandgaon Kezi PO Building and SPM Quarter
20.	Jaigaon Jamod P.O. Building and SPM Quarters
21.	Madha P.O. Building and SPM Quarter, Solapur
22.	Koregaon P.O. building and SPM Quarter
23.	Pimpri P.O. Pencillin Factory (Horizontal Extension)
24.	PONTD Pune
25.	Colongute P.O. (Goa Region)
26.	Jaigaon HPO (Aurangabad Region)

Sl. No.	Name of the Post Office buildings being constructed
27.	Shankar Nagar (Nagpur Region)
28.	Morshi
29.	Dhamangaon
BINAR	
1.	P.O. Building at Bodh Gaya
2.	P.O. Building at Lakhisarai
3.	P.O. Building at Jarnapur
4.	P.O. Building at Barhara
5.	P.O. Building at War
6.	P.O. Building at Bokarao Sec. VI
7.	P.O. Building at Toto, Gumla
8.	P.O. Building at Manjhi, Chapra
9.	P.O. Building at Raghunathpur
10.	P.O. Building at Sikout
11.	P.O. Building at Simri Bakhtiarpur
12.	P.O. Building at Pakri Bhavan
13.	P.O. Building at Chakai
14.	P.O. Building at Lauria

[English]

Foreign aided food processing industries

1989. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
MAJ. GEN. (RTED). BHAWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING

INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Processing Units/Industries started in the country with foreign collaboration or by foreign companies since the start of liberalisation process in 1991;

(b) whether there has been a sharp rise in investment in food processing units/industries due to liberalisation;

(c) if so, the total investment as on date;

(d) whether these industries had any export commitments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which export obligations have been met by these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) Since liberalisation in July, 1991, Food Processing Sector has attracted considerable investment both foreign and domestic. Sector-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) In terms of the current liberalised policy, export commitments are for dividend balancing, neutralisation of foreign exchange requirements and in certain cases export target of certain value of goods over seven to ten years. No report of non-fulfilment of these have been received by this Ministry since these terms have been brought into effect.

STATEMENT

Investment Proposals in Food Processing Industries since Liberalisation

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Sub-sector	Approvals (JV/FC/100% EOU etc.)			Industrial Entrepreneur memoranda's, (IEMs)	
	No.	Total Inv.	Foreign Inv.	No.	Total Inv.
Grain milling & grain based products	36	531	311	163	4304
Fruits & vegetable products	165	1240	203	182	1872
Meat & Poultry	30	1085	291	39	216
Deep sea fishing fish processing & aquaculture	160	2050	536	62	303
Fermentation industry	162	1401	195	276	5727
Consumer industry including soft drinks/water/confectionery etc.	19	905	720	199	3697
Milk & Milk products	6	297	210	914	11960
Others including food additives, flavours etc.	9	170	62	—	—
Edible oil—oil seeds	—	—	—	1211	10630
Total	587	7679	2528	3046	38409

[Translation]

Government accommodation occupied by ex-VIPs

1990. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government accommodation occupied by former ministers, Ex-MPs, Ex-Governors, Ex-Government officers and other VIPs as on 1st January, 1995;

(b) the details of political parties, voluntary institutions

occupying Government accommodation as on 1st January, 1995;

(c) the latest position of amount outstanding against them; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to get these accommodations vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K.

THUNGON): (a) statement attached.

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

(d) Necessary steps have been initiated under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 to get the accommodation vacated.

STATEMENT

The details of former Ministers/Ex-Governors/ex-Govt. Officers/Other VIPs occupying Govt. accommodation unauthorisedly as on 1.1.95.

S. No.	Name of allottees particulars of S/ Shri	accommodation
1.	K.C. Lenka	5, B.R. Mehta Lane
2.	Family of late Sh. Surendra Nath Ex-Governor	68, Lodi Estate
3.	Bhishma Narain Singh Ex-Governor	CI/1, Pandara Park
4.	Smt. Indrani Devi	6, Krishna M. Marg
5.	Devi Lal, Former Dy. PM	16, Tughlak Road
6.	Smt. Chitra Narayan	11, Talkatora Road
7.	S. Kanungo	AB-83, Shahjahan Road
8.	Ravindra Nayak	C-6-3, Shahjahan Road
9.	S.B. Ramesh Babu	C-2-3, Shahjahan Road
10.	C.B. Gautam	CI/29, Moti Bagh
11.	H.N. Sharma	CI/151, Chanakya Puri (upgraded)
12.	R.C. Jain	CI/81, Moti Bagh
13.	S.K. Pandey	CI/46, Shahjahan Road
14.	S.D. Sharma	CI/13, Moti Bagh
15.	S.K.N. Nair	CI/73, Bapa Nagar
16.	B. Sammaiah	CI/20, Bapa Nagar
17.	S.P. Bagla	CI/33, Tilak Marg
18.	N.C. Gupta	1-1, (MS) Shahjahan Road.

Seminar on Ecology

1991. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether School of Planning and Architecture has organised a seminar on ecology recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof with its objections;

(c) whether rapid deterioration in urban environments has increased environmental decay, poverty and hardships;

(d) whether some suggestions have been made in the Seminar;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action on these suggestions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir, However, a Seminar on Urban Environment was organised by the School of Planning & Architecture during 7-10 February, 1995.

(b) The Seminar discussed seven themes which include (i) Environmental Resources and Urban Areas, (ii) Land use and Environmental interface, (iii) Built form as an Urban Environmental Paradigm, (iv) Energy Utilisation in

Urban Areas, (v) Infrastructure and Utilities for Urban Areas, (vi) Urban Areas and Pollution, and (vii) Environmental Quality of Urban Areas. A key objective of the Seminar was to explore the possibilities of integrating environmental concerns with the urban development process.

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) The Seminar being did not come out with any specific recommendations.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Low Cost Technology

1992. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a plan to mobilize low cost technology in regard to storage, processing and marketing of processed food items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The Government is mobilising low cost technology by way of encouraging/assisting research projects for development of low cost/cost effective technologies for storage, processing, packaging and marketing in the country. Central Food Technological Research Institute and some other research Institutes in collaboration with the Ministry have identified large number of low cost/cost effective technologies to be developed and marketed in the country. The Government has also liberalised the foreign technology acquisition by the entrepreneurs and have permitted automatic approval of such foreign technology agreement where the total know-how, design and drawing fee, etc., do not exceed Rs. 1 crore. The Government is also disseminating information on cost effective/low cost technologies through workshops, seminars, discussions, and through literatures and through State level nodal agencies, small Industries Service Institutes and Food processing Training Centres.

Safe Guard of Employees

1993. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of Telecom employees in the wake of Privatisation of Telecom services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Deptt. of Telecom has constituted a committee consisting of the three Staff Federations and the senior officers of the Deptt. of Telecom to go into the issues to safeguard all the interests of the DOT employees and to formulate an effective strategy to enable the DOT to meet the challenge of the private sector competition and to operate on equal footing with them. The Committee has taken several decisions for improvement in customer services to be competitive (enclosed Statement I). The DOT has also launched training programmes to be completed in a time-bound manner to upgrade the skills of the employees at various levels and to enable them to handle new technologies (enclosed Statement II). This process would enable to equip DOT employees both by way of skill upgradation and attitudinal changes to face the prospective challenges.

STATEMENT-I

Decisions of the Telecom reforms Committee

(i) Information brochures will be published by DOT twice a year. This will give information on application for new telephone connections, shifts, additional accessories, waiting list, future plans and commercial information.

(ii) Registration for New Telephone connection will be possible from anywhere in India. Standard formats will be made available in all Customer Service Centres.

(iii) Procedure for Third Party/legal transfer of telephones will be streamlined such that the necessary formalities will be got completed within 4 weeks time. The bills for the transferer will also be settled expeditiously in such cases.

(iv) Existing procedure will be simplified for use of Land lord's telephone by Tenant. A joint declaration from the land lord and the tenant alongwith Rs. 100 as fee will be sufficient for an agreed period.

(v) Safe custody of telephones connected to electronic exchanges will be taken up when the custody is for six months or more. Restoration of safe custody will be done within a month.

(vi) Banks will be utilised for revenue collection in addition to the existing arrangements.

(vii) More customer service centres will be opened so that as much of customer related activities can be handled providing a single window service facility for customers for most of their requirements. The Customer Service Centres will be opened in exchange areas of 1,500 lines or more capacity.

(viii) Simplified forms will be used for new telephone connections.

(ix) Barring those cases due to excess metering or prolonged interruptions in service, any refunds to the customer would be paid within 60 days. Interest will be payable in case of delays beyond this period.

(x) wherever STD/ISD facilities are available, it will be provided within 48 hours of receipt of request from the subscriber.

(xi) Vigilance Squads will be set up to check tempering of telephone connections and equipments unauthorisedly.

(xii) Greater emphasis will be laid on improved customer service in the year 1995-96.

STATEMENT-II

Training Scheme for Groups 'C' & 'D' Staff

1. TRAINING TO RESTRUCTURED CADRES:

The training plan for the training of restructured cadres of Phone Mechanic, Telecom Technical Assistants and Senior Telecom Operating Assistants is as under:—

- 12 Weeks induction training to Phone Mechanic in Switching/External Plant Field.
- 13 Weeks induction training in Switching/Transmission/External Plant Field.
- 4 Weeks induction training to Sr. Telecom Operating Assistant in the field of Computer Operation.

2. TRAINING TO NON-OPTEEES TO RESTRUCTURED CADRES:

In order to upgrade the skill of left-over personnel of Group 'C' & 'D' who will not either opt for or be eligible for the restructured cadres, the training scheme has been formulated so that they are able to handle the State-of-art equipment in the field after training. The training scheme is as under:—

(a) FOR REGULAR MAZDOORS/LINEMEN/WIREMEN/SUB-INSPECTORS:

3 Weeks training module comprising of 34 Video packages.

(b) FOR TELEPHONE OPERATOR/TOA/TELEGRAPH ASSISTANT/TELEGRAPHISTS

3 Weeks training modules comprising of 29 video Packages and Computer Based Training (CBT) Programmes.

These trainings will be provided at 265 Secondary Switching Area Headquarters.

The training to entire Group 'C' and 'D' staff is proposed to be completed in 3 years time frame by augmenting the capacities of training centres by running two shifts and opening branch Training Centres wherever required.

[English]

Haj Pilgrimage

1994. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to accommodate all the applicants for Haj Pilgrimage as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated February 9, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of increase in the number of proposed pilgrims as compared to the number of pilgrims during the last year;

(c) the number of pilgrims expected to travel by air and sea separately; and

(d) the amount of subsidy per pilgrim given during last year and proposed to be given during the current year, separately for air and sea route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have decided to increase the quota for pilgrims going for Haj under Central Haj Committee arrangements to 31000 for Haj-1995. The quota for Haj-1994 was fixed at 25,000.

(c) All pilgrims going for Haj under Central Haj Committee arrangements for 1995 will travel by a.r.

(d) For Haj-1994, Government had shared part of the cost of travel to the extent of Rs. 5000/- per pilgrim going by air. In the case of sea travel, Government pays for the operating costs of the vessel after deduction of earnings from pilgrim fares and excess baggage charges. In addition, Government pays for air/sea charters which are organised between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the mainland in lieu of the withdrawal of M.V. Nicobar from the A and N Islands Administration, again after deduction of earnings from the A and N Islands commuters. For Haj-1994 only air charters were organised in lieu of the withdrawal of the M.V. Nicobar. On these counts, the average cost per pilgrim going by sea worked out to Rs. 32000 for Haj 1994.

For Haj-1995, the decision regarding the extent to which Government will share the cost of air travel is still to be taken.

Construction of Expressway

1995. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a Expressway between Ahmedabad and Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of this Expressway; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started and completed?

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

and (b) Presently an Expressway between Ahmedabad and Vadodara is under construction. The feasibility study for Vadodara-Bombay Expressway has been completed and the detailed engineering is proposed to be taken up with the assistance of Asian Development Bank.

(c) An expenditure of about Rs. 312.11 crores is likely to be incurred on completion of Ahmedabad-Vadodara expressway.

(d) The construction work between Ahmedabad and Vadodara has already commenced and is likely to be completed by March, 1998.

Steel Plants in Gujarat

1996. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up Steel Plant in Gujarat has been scrapped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to reconsider the proposal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The Central Government has no proposal to set up steel plant in Gujarat. The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. An entrepreneur wishing to set up an iron or steel unit does not required approval of Government for industrial licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 census.

National Highway Authority

1997. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Highway Authority to ensure proper maintenance of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The National Highway Authority of India has already been set up with effect from 15-6-1989 under an Act of Parliament, namely, the National Highway Authority of India Act, 1988 (68 of 1988), to develop, maintain and manage the National Highways entrusted to it by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Production Targets

1998. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for the production of fertilizers in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the percentage of targets achieved in 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 30th September 1994);

(c) the total expenditure incurred so far to achieve the above targets;

(d) whether the Government have made a mid-term review of fertilizer production in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The targets fixed for production of fertilizers for the Eight Plan are 98.00 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 30.00 lakh tonnes of Phosphates in terms of nutrients by the end of the terminal year of the Plan period.

(b) The target, actual production and percentage of the targets achieved in 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 30th September, 1994) are given below:

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Target		Actual Production		Percentage achievement of targets	
	Nitrogen	Phosphates	Nitrogen	Phosphates	Nitrogen	Phosphates
1993-94	78.00	22.00	72.31	18.16	92.7	82.5
1994-95 to 30.9.94	39.86	11.69	37.51	11.63	94.1	99.5

(c) To increase the production of fertilizers, the Government has approved doubling of capacity of IFFCO's urea plant at Aonla (Uttar Pradesh) and National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)'s urea plant at Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh); revamp of ammonia/urea/NPK plants of M/s Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL); 900 TPD Ammonia Plant of Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Cochin; and expansion project of IFFCO's ammonia-urea plant at Kalol (Gujarat). M/s Bindal Agro Chemicals Ltd. are also putting up a gas-based ammonia-urea plant at Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), which is expected to be commissioned in the latter half of 1995-96. These projects are expected to contribute approximately 25.2 lakh tonnes of urea and 3 lakh tonnes of complex fertilizers at an estimated cost of Rs. 4497 crores.

(d) and (e) Fertilizer production in the country is being regularly reviewed by the Government.

Diamond Mines

1999. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new diamond mines have been located in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the locations of these mines and their estimated diamond reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) As a result of regional exploration carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during last three years, incidence of diamond at Bahradih, Payalikhand, Jangra and south-east of Kodamali area in Raipur district (Madhya Pradesh) and

near Chigicherla in Anantapur district (Andhra Pradesh) has been located. Four pieces of diamond each weighing 10 cents at Bahradih and Payalikhand and 2 diamonds weighing 0.67 carats and 0.38 carats in Chingicherla have been recovered. Further work is in progress for reserve computation.

[English]

Investments in Mining Projects

2000. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investments made both domestic and foreign, for the development of mining activities in the country in 1994-95, project-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of major joint venture projects cleared for undertaking mining operations in the country during the current financial year; and

(c) the likely impact of these venture on mineral production and exports and generation of employment opportunities?

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.

Speed Post Service

2001. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- whether Speed Post Service has been introduced in all the State capitals;
- if so, the details thereof;
- if not, the reasons therefor; and
- 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) Yes, Sir. All State Capitals except four namely Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar and Kohima, are on the national network and these four are on Point-to Point link.

- and (d) In view of above, does not arise.

Post Offices in Kerala

2002. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- the number of post offices functioning in Kerala;
- whether there is any proposal to start new post offices;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the total volume of postal articles handled by the postal services in Kerala;
- whether there are complaints about delay in the delivery of postal articles; and
- if so, the steps taken to ensure speedy delivery of postal articles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 5039 Post Offices are functioning in Kerala.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to open 4 new post offices and to upgrade 10 extra departmental branch post offices into departmental sub post offices during the current financial year in Kerala. One departmental sub post office at Calicut Airport has already been sanctioned.

(d) 1,319, 081, 859 domestic and 218, 562, 757 international articles handled by postal services annually in Kerala.

(e) There are only occasional complaints about delay in delivery of postal articles. The percentage of such complaints is 0.003, which is negligible.

(f) As soon as a complaint is received, immediate enquiries are taken up to ascertain the cause of delay and suitable remedial measures are taken. Monitoring of mail is done regularly to eliminate delay. To ensure speedy delivery of mail, private airlines are now being used in addition to Indian Airlines wherever required for earlier conveyance of mails. Close liaison is kept with Kerala State Road Transport for utilisation of bus services wherever it is advantageous.

Mining Policy

2003. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- whether the federation of Indian Mineral Industries has demanded further liberalisation of the mining policy;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government propose to examine these demands; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries has suggested some amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. This Act was reviewed recently by enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1994. No further amendments to it are contemplated for the time being.

'Soda'

2004. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- the total demand of soda in the country during 1993-94 and 1994-95;
- the production during that period; and
- the steps taken to meet the increasing requirement of soda in the chemical industry?

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 estimated demand for Caustic Soda and Soda Ash in the country is as given below:

Item	1993-94 (TPA)	1994-95 (TPA)
Caustic Soda	10,80,000	11,20,000
Soda Ash	16,80,000	18,20,000

(b) The production figures for the two years are given below:

Item	1993-94 (TPA)	1994-95 (Upto Dec., '94- Estimate) (TPA)
Caustic Soda	10,79,700	8,65,100
Soda Ash	14,04,100	10,69,000

(c) In so far as Soda Ash is concerned, the Soda Ash

Industry stands delicensed and imports of Soda Ash are permitted under OGL since April 1, 1978 and also imports are allowed to actual users and associations. In so far as the Caustic Soda Industry is concerned, on the basis of Industrial Licence applications received, letters of intent for a capacity of around 8.09 lakhs tonnes per annum were issued during 1994 and 1.2 lakhs tonnes per annum during 1995.

Demolishing of Flats by DDA.

2005. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BRIJBUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has decided to demolish several flats in Mayur Vihar Phase-I for the poor quality of construction;

(b) if so, the action taken against the contractors who were found responsible for poor quality of construction by several enquiry committee reports;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the extent of loss to be suffered by the Government due to demolition of flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) DDA has reported that 163 flats (out of 265 flats) and 220 flats (out of 300 flats) in Mayur Vihar Phase I are to be demolished on account of poor quality of their construction.

(b) and (c) The contractors for both the works

have been black-listed and debarred for further tendering in DDA.

(d) The extent of loss suffered by DDA is Rs. 57.67 lakhs in respect of 163 flats and Rs. 125 lakhs in respect of 220 flats.

Steel Wagons in Bokaro Steel Ltd.

2006. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for allotment of steel wagons in Bokaro Steel Limited;

(b) whether Bokaro Steel Limited, has allotted 20 steel wagons to some parties in the month of November, December 1994 and January 1995; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The procedure for allotment of steel wagons in Bokaro Steel Limited is as under:

The Chief Freight Traffic Manager, South Eastern Railways makes daily allotment of rakes consisting of different number of wagons on the basis of daily indents from Bokaro Steel Limited. The rake size varies from 20 to 30 to 58 wagons and is determined by the Indian Railways from time to time. Bokaro Steel Limited in turn allots these wagons in favour of parties purchasing steel products of Bokaro Steel Ltd., other units of SAIL for inter plant transfer and SAIL stockyards. The details of 20 wagon-rakes booked for the parties from November 1994 to January 1995 are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Details of Wagons allotted to Parties

Date	No. of wagons	Product	Destination
November, 1994			
16th	20	Hot Rolled Coil	Rajendra Steel, Kanpur
30th	20	Hot Rolled Coil	Ravindra, Hissar.
December, 1994			
15th	20	Plates/Sheets	BHEL, Mukund Raipuram
25th	20	Cold Rolled Coil	IOC, Haldia.
28th	20	Hot Rolled & Cold Product	Steel Tube of India, Dewas
29th	20	Cold Rolled Coil	Bharat Berg, Naini.
29th	20	Cold Rolled Coil	Balmer Lawrie & Company.
January, 1995			
Nil			

National Highway in Chandigarh

2007. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been granted to the Union Territory of Chandigarh for development and maintenance of the National Highway passing through it;

allotted for development and maintenance of N.H. No. 21 passing through the Union Territory of Chandigarh during 1994-95.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chandigarh-Mohali road has been identified as a road of inter-State or economic importance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) An amount of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been

(c) and (d) Since Chandigarh-Mohali Road is a part of National Highway No. 21, it does not fall in the category of Road of Inter State or Economic importance.

[Translation]

Investment by NRIs in Power Sector

2008. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for selection of NRIs for investment in power projects;

(b) whether Indians who have resided abroad for six months are eligible to get status of NRIs and can apply for Indian projects as per directives of Reserve Bank of India;

(c) whether such NRIs are supposed to have experience in power generation sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) In the context of paucity of resources with Central/State PSUs and SEBs and to bridge the gap between the rapidly growing demand for electricity and supply, a policy to encourage greater investments by private enterprises in the power sector with the objective of mobilising additional resources for capacity addition in power generation and distribution, had been formulated in 1991 and is currently under implementation. The policy permits both the Indian as well as the foreign including NRI investors to set up power projects. In line with the policy various State Governments have entrusted execution of a number of power projects to Indian as well as foreign promoters (including NRI and Joint venture proposals.) All the promoters Indian as well as foreign, including NRIs who were not active in power sector earlier and are presently setting up power projects in private sector, are tying up joint ventures with suitable power companies for execution of their projects.

New Circle for Bareilly, U.P.

2009. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from several public representatives and Institutions to set up new circle of Communication in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, that details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Few representations have been received and is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Some representations have been examined and it has been decided to locate the Hqr. of Western U.P. Circle at Dehradun. Final replies to pending representation are likely to be issued within a months' time.

Statement

List of Proposals received from some Public Representatives & Institutions

S.No.	Date	Names of Public Representative/Institution
1.	9.12.1994	National Federation of Telecom. Employees, New Delhi.
2.	12.12.1994	Shri Santosh Gangwar, M.P. (LS), Bareilly.
3.	20.2.1995	Shri Bhagwan Shanker Rawat, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee.
4.	—do—	—do—

[English]

Private Sector Participation

2010. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joshi Committee on private sector entry into telecom services has submitted its reports;

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

(c) the decision taken thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Joshi Committee which was constituted to consider issues relating to implementation of National Telecom Policy, 1994, has submitted its report.

(b) The main recommendation of the Committee is that there is scope for investment by private operators to supplement DOT's effort to meet the requirement of telephone on demand by 1997.

(c) The Government considered the report and announced the guidelines for the entry of private sector into the basic telecom services.

Main guidelines are:

1. There will be one private operator in addition to DOT.
2. The licensing of private sector will be on a Circle basis.
3. Only companies registered in India will be permitted to participate in providing basic voice telecom services.
4. In the event of a joint venture between an Indian and a foreign company, not more than 49% foreign equity would be permitted.

Tapping of Telephone in U.P.

2011. DR SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone of leading politicians and journalists are being tapped in Uttar Pradesh;

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

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

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

Table of the House.

[Translation]

Power Generation Capacity

2012. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "power deficit portends dark days" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated December 29, 1994;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the targets fixed regarding addition to the power production capacity during the Eighth Five Year Plan are likely to be achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof including current level of programme implementation in the power sector; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With the likely capacity addition of 20729.7 MW during the 8th Plan, the energy shortage in the terminal year of 8th Plan i.e. 1996-97 would be 14.7% and peaking deficit would be 28.9%. In so far as Private Sector Projects are concerned, as on date, 16 projects, involving a capacity of 9845 MW and an investment of about Rs. 43,000 crores, are on the fast track, a major portion of which capacity is likely to be on stream in the foreseeable future. Out of these, projects like Dabhol Phase-I (695 MW), Paguthan (655 MW), Godavari (235 MW), Jegurupadu (208 MW) and Budge Budge (500 MW) could materialise by 1997-98 itself. Moreover the next batch of 31 fast track projects, involving a capacity of 22743 MW and requiring an investment of approximately Rs. 84,000 crores is also expected to be taken up during the Eighth Plan for completion in the Ninth Plan and beyond.

(c) to (e) During the 8th Five Year Plan, it was envisaged to add 30537.7 MW. It is now estimated that capacity addition of 20729.7 MW may materialises during 8th Plan.

The broad reasons for shortfall in achievement are:—

- Delay in acquisition of land.
- Paucity of funds and cash flow problems.
- Shortages/delays in timely supplies of key inputs such as steel, cement, explosives etc.
- Delays in finalisation/award of contracts for major civil works.
- Delays in initial stages of the projects in creating field organisations and development of infrastructure.

— Delay in placement of order for main equipment and various auxiliary equipments.

Various steps taken in this direction by the Government include early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, implementation of short gestation projects and promoting private sector participation in generation etc.

[English]

Capacity Utilisation of V.S.P.

2013. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has achieved cent percent capacity utilisation;

(b) if so, the details of such optimum utilisation;

(c) whether there is still scope for immediate expansion of capacity; and

(d) if so, the extent of capacity enhancement that can be achieved with minimum cost at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been commissioned in July, 1992 with a 3 million tonnes per year of crude steel capacity. The steel plant is presently in the process of optimising its production and is likely to achieve 100% capacity utilisation by 1996-97.

The production since commencement of commercial operations in VSP has registered a sustained and continuous growth. During 1993-94, it has achieved 70% of the capacity in respect of Hot Metal, 45% in respect of crude steel. During 1994-95, it is expected to achieve 82% in respect of Hot Metal and 64% in respect of crude steel.

(c) and (d) The lay out of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is so designed that it has the potential to expand its capacity upto 10 million tonnes. However, due to resource constraints and in view of the fact, that the plant is in the process of attaining 100% capacity utilisation, no proposal for expansion of the plant, at present, is under consideration.

Telecom Facilities in Backward Areas in Kerala

2014. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any scheme to give priority in providing telecom facility for the economical and industrial development of backward areas in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Five places in Kerala have provisionally identified for setting up Industrial Growth Centre Projects to promote industrialisation of backward areas. These places are Manatheri village in Cannanore district, Vayalar East in

Alleppey district Kunnemthanam in Pathanamthitta district, Panakkad in Malappuram district and Olavanna-Panthoranakavu villages in Kozhikode district.

All these places are already provided with Telephone Exchanges. Growth Centre Development Authority is required to do bulk booking of their additional requirements of telephones/telax, etc. with DOT. The telecom. facilities required for the proposed Growth Centre Projects would be planned after the bulk booking is made by the Development Authority of Growth Centre.

Hybrid Mail Service

2015. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced the Hybrid Mail Service in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas covered thereby; and

(c) the extent to which it will be beneficial in improving the mail service?

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

(b) The Hybrid Mail Service provides facility for transmission of data and text through VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) and Satellite channel and delivery to the addressee through the Postman. This service is presently available for Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla where VSATs are functioning in New Delhi GPO, Bombay GPO, Anna Road GPO Madras, Lucknow GPO, Patna GPO, and Shimla GPO. Messages booked through Hybrid Mail Service up to 3.00 PM are delivered at the destination on the same day.

Service charges are as under:

Minimum charge: Rs.40 for data of 2 Kilobytes or less

Additional charge: Rs.5 for additional data of two Kilobytes or part thereof (only on floppies).

Data Entry charge: Rs.10 per A4 size prepared typed sheet or part.

(c) Hybrid Mail Service provides speedy and efficient transmission of text and also extends the facility of delivery at the addressee's door-step through Postman. Customers can avail this facility of electronic transmission of message without owning a computer terminal or FAX.

Counter Guarantee Submitted by Enron

2016. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given the Unstarred Question No.47 on June 13, 1994 and state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken on the representation for a counter guarantee submitted by the Enron Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement Counter Guaranteeing the Government of Maharashtra's guarantee for Maharashtra State Electricity Board's Payment obligations to the Dabhol Power Company under the Power Purchase Agreement for Dabhol Power Project has been signed on 15.9.1994.

(c) Does not arise.

India-China Border Talks

2017. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether official level India-China Expert Group meetings were held in New Delhi during the first week of March, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the issues discussed at the meeting;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries with regard to the opening of more border posts, the reduction of troops along the India-China border and for the identification of Line of Actual Control;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up steps being taken thereon;

(e) whether any date has been fixed for holding meetings at Foreign Secretaries level in regard to hold more talks on the border issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) At its third meeting, both sides noted with satisfaction that the situation along the India-China LAC was peaceful. Continuing their discussions on additional confidence building measures, they had a useful exchange of views on the drafts on prior notification of military exercises and prevention of air intrusions. They also agreed that additional designated points for meetings between the border personnel of the two countries would be established at Nathu La in the Sikkim Sector and a point to be agreed in the Middle Sector of the India-China

border areas.

(e) and (f) The next meeting of the Foreign Secretaries level Joint Working Group will be held in New Delhi at a Mutually convenient date in 1995.

Conversion of Telephones for freedom fighters

2018. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freedom fighters are entitled to get telephone connections on out-of-turn basis and at the concessional rates as far as installation and calls are concerned; and

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir, the demand for telephone of a freedom fighter is registered under NOYT-SWS category which enjoys highest priority in installation just after talkal category telephones. The guidelines issued in this regard are as under:

1. No installation fee is charged for new telephone connection.
2. The subscriber will be charged only half the normal rental.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Delhi

2019. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications in the waiting list for telephone connections at present in Delhi;

(b) the number of persons to whom telephone connections are likely to be released during 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for releasing the telephone connections at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There are 121189 persons on waiting list of Delhi as on 28.2.1995.

(b) 2,60,000 New telephone connections are proposed to be released during 1995-96.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Telecom. Policy 1994 envisages to provide telephones practically on demand by 1997 all over the country, including Delhi.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Karnataka

2020. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:
DR. R. MALLU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered so far for new telephone connections in Karnataka particularly in Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) the year up to which the waiting list of different categories had been cleared; and

(c) the number of new telephone connections proposed to be given by the end of March 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The total number of persons registered for new telephone connections in Karnataka Circle as on 1.3.95 is as detailed below.

(i) Karnataka Circle—128631 including,

(ii) Bangalore—50021 and

(iii) Mysore—1343

(b) Waiting list clearance position is as given below:—

S.No	Circle/City.	OYT	Non-OYT (S)	Non-OYT (G)
1	*Karnataka Circle.	29.8.89	1.3.88	3.12.84
2.	Bangalore (Except in one exchange area, where it is cleared upto 29.6.89)	31.10.94	19.1.94	24.6.91
3.	Mysore	CURRENT	7.9.94	30.6.94

* The long pending cases are in Exchanges deep in Rural Areas where the nearest telephone exchange is far away from the subscribers premises.

(c) 1,12,000 new telephone connections are targetted for the year 1994-95. Out of this 65,000 Nos. in Bangalore and 6,000 Nos. in Mysore city are proposed to be provided.

Royalty Rates on Minerals

2021. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study group has been constituted to review the rates of royalty and other taxes on minerals;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the study group and other details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the report of the study group is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Study Group are as under:—

(i) To examine the taxation regime for the mineral sector and suggest appropriate tax structure conducive to rapid development of minerals and mineral

based industry in the country.

(ii) To strike an appropriate balance between the above objective and the need for augmenting the States revenues from the mineral sector, and suggest appropriate revision in the rates of royalty on the minerals (except Coal, lignite and sand for stowing) given in Second Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

(iii) Keeping the above two objectives in mind, to suggest appropriate revision in the current rates of Dead Rent.

(c) the Study Group has been asked to submit its report within a period of three months.

Foreign Vessels in Indian Deep Sea

2022. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

DR. R. MALLU:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

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

(a) the total catch declared by the chartered and leased deep sea fishing vessels operators during the year 1993-94;

(b) the details of share of the Union Government in terms of (i) tonnage and (ii) value;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there has been poaching in coastal waters by foreign vessels;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken to stop poaching;

(e) whether joint venture in deep sea fishing is having any negative impact on the Indian Deep Sea Fishing Industry;

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

(g) whether there has been persistent representations against the policy of deep sea fishing by chartered and foreign vessels; and

(h) the details thereof and the action taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) the total catch declared by the chartered and leased deep sea fishing vessels during the year 1993-94 was 8919 tonnes.

(b) Chartering and leasing of deep sea fishing vessels are allowed to Indian companies and there is no share of the Government in such operations. However, licence fee at the rate of Rs. 10,000 per vessel per annum and Rs. 25,000 per vessel per annum is paid by the Indian companies in Charter and Leasing respectively. Moreover, export cess at the rate of 1% on the total catch value is also paid by them.

(c) and (d) There have been instances of foreign fishing vessels poaching in Indian waters from time to time. Details of the Vessels apprehended while poaching in

Indian waters during 1993-94 is given in the inclosed Statement. Action against the poaching foreign fishing vessels is taken in terms of Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 and rules thereunder.

(e) and (f) Vessels under Joint Venture are being operated for exploitation of non-shrimp resources. Operation of vessels under Joint Venture would not have any negative impact on the Indian Deep Sea Fishing Industry which is engaged mostly in exploitation of shrimp resources.

(g) and (h) Representations have been received from Associations of Fishermen in various Maritime States against the Deep Sea Fishing Policy. The matter has been reviewed recently in consultation with the State Governments and through appointment of an Expert Committee for in depth study of the situation. However, no adverse impact of the operation of deep sea fishing vessels on coastal fishing was established. On the other hand, it was found that unchecked and un-regulated increase in the coastal fishing effort had led to the increased competition between tradition fishing boats and mechanised fishing vessels for targetting a finite resource. However, in view of the persistent demands made by the fishermen, it has been decided that no more applications for deep sea fishing will be processed till the whole matter is reviewed.

STATEMENT

Anti Poaching Operations Apprehended Trawlers During 1993-94

S.No.	Nationality	Trawler Number	Crew Number	Remarks
1.	Thailand	20	309	
2.	Mynamar	—	64	
3.	Pakistan	08	126	
4.	Taiwan	01	04	
5.	Sri Lanka	25	121	
6.	North Korea	—	—	
7.	Bangladesh	—	—	
8.	South Korea	—	—	
9.	Malaysia	—	—	
10.	Indonesia	—	—	
11.	China	—	12	
12.	Phillipines	—	06	
Total		54	642	

Loan for Power Projects

2023. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the conditions laid down by the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation for granting loans to Power Project;

(b) whether the Government have accepted the conditions;

(c) if so, the details thereof and their likely impact on electricity tariffs, particularly in agricultural area;

(d) the details of the arrears outstanding against each State Electricity Board; and

(e) the measures or steps being taken by the Government to ensure their clearance expeditiously?

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

(a) to (c) During periodical discussions with the World Bank, the Bank has suggested various measures to improve the financial health of the power sector in India. These, inter-alia, include rationalisation of tariff structure of State Electricity Boards. The Central Government has also been concerned about this issue and the same has also been discussed in various fora including the State Power

Ministers' Conference. There is no direct nextus between the loans received from the World Bank and other funding agencies and the fixation of electricity tariff.

(d) Details of the arrears of the Central Power Sector undertakings against the various State Electricity Boards as on 28th February, 1995 are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) State Governments have been requested to clear the outstanding dues of the Central Power Sector Undertakings from time to time including in the Power Ministers' Conference held on 8th and 9th January, 1993. Action has also been taken to adjust the overdues of Central Power Sector Undertakings from Central Plan Assistance payable to the defaulting States.

STATEMENT

Outstanding dues Payable to Central Sector Power Corporation as on 28th February, 1995

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEBs/ STATES	REC 2/95	NTPC 2/95	NEEPCO 2/95	DVC 2/95	NHPC 2/95	PFC 2/95	PGC 2/95
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.29	91.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.53	0.00	1.14	0.00	-0.18	0.00	0.12
3.	Assam	50.61	0.00	67.69	1.60	34.64	0.00	-0.18
4.	Bihar	164.34	333.51	0.00	669.34	5.97	67.67	-7.53
5.	Gujarat	0.45	59.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.86
6.	Goa	0.00	1.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.33
7.	Haryana	0.00	305.97	0.00	0.00	160.35	0.00	5.01
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01	15.69	0.00	0.00	17.27	0.00	-1.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.21	256.68	0.00	0.00	57.56	0.08	-3.51
10.	Karnataka	0.00	42.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	3.77
11.	Kerala	0.22	30.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.98
12.	Madhya Pradesh	91.80	199.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-14.15
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	88.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-7.40
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	8.23	0.00	17.00	0.22	1.49
15.	Meghalaya	11.12	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.11
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	1.34	0.00	1.46	0.01	0.02
17.	Nagaland	0.13	0.00	5.98	0.00	3.45	0.04	0.61
18.	Orissa	57.79	62.73	0.00	3.00	1.59	0.00	-2.72
19.	Punjab	0.00	25.23	0.00	0.00	36.05	0.33	-6.29
20.	Rajasthan	33.16	139.28	0.00	0.00	27.02	0.03	6.17
21.	Sikkim	0.15	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.23	72.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.55
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	-0.34	0.00	3.75	0.00	-0.09
24.	Uttar Pradesh	203.46	832.20	0.00	0.00	125.62	108.92	72.48
25.	West Bengal	102.26	53.22	0.00	188.38	5.15	29.73	1.31
26.	Desu	0.00	357.12	0.00	0.00	86.15	0.00	6.48
27.	DVC	0.00	118.79	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	7.80
28.	DNH	0.00	-0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.34
29.	UTC	0.00	3.74	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.17
30.	Neeppo	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.65	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
31.	Daman & Diu	0.00	-0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.22
32.	Pondicherry	0.00	-0.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24
33.	Cooperatives	4.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	State Governments	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Power Grid	0.00	3.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		728.52	3093.28	84.96	862.32	586.10	207.06	115.55

CUMULATIVE AS ON 28TH FEBRUARY, 1995: RS. 5,678.25 CRORES.

Civic Amenities to slums in Bombay

2024. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought permission of the Union Government for providing civic amenities to the slums in Bombay which are situated on Central Government lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has been issued the requisite No Objection Certificate in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (e) The accepted policy on the matter is that the Government of Maharashtra may go ahead with providing basic amenities in slums located on lands of Central Government Departments except in cases of (i) slums in the vicinity of the runway of Bombay Airport which cause bird menace due to their proximity to the runway (ii) defence lands where vital installations are to be located (iii) hutments within 30 feet of the railway tracks and (iv) lands which are required by the land owning departments for their immediate use. On the basis of the aforesaid policy, the Government of Maharashtra has to seek 'No Objection Certificates' directly from the concerned central Departments and the decision regarding the issuance of such No Objection Certificate (NOC) is to be taken independently by the Central Government Department concerned.

Re-registration of DDA Flats

2025. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many allottees of DDA flats who were allotted flats years back under the leasehold system got their allotments registered;

(b) if so, whether under the current scheme of converting the above flats from leasehold to freehold system the above flats owners have again to get their allotments registered after the conversion to freehold flats; and

(c) if so, the necessity for such re-registration?

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

(b) and (c) Consequent upon the conversion of leasehold rights into freehold a fresh conveyance deed is executed which is required to be registered to declare the title of the property in question as freehold. The allottee in such cases is required to pay stamp duty only on conversion charges, additional conversion charges, surcharge and consideration amount as the case may be.

Setting up of FPI by Foreign Countries

2026. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of multinationals who have expressed their willingness to set up Food Processing Industries in the country; and

(b) the details of multinationals allowed to set up these Food Processing Industries with locations terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Since liberalisation, the Government have approved 191 cases of foreign investment by foreign companies/NRIs/OCBs in food processing, deep sea fishing and integrated aquaculture sectors. These investments by the foreign companies with or without collaboration with Indian partner include investments by those foreign companies who operates in more than one country. Prominent amongst these foreign companies whose proposals have been approved with location, etc., are given in the enclosed statement. Conditions for such approvals *inter-alia* include dividend balancing and foreign exchange neutrality over a period of five to seven years. Certain companies have indicated certain export targets over 7—10 years, and in the case of alcoholic beverages, the investment proposals have been approved within the existing capacity of the Indian partner.

In addition to the above, several other prominent foreign companies have indicated their interest in investing in India in food processing, sector such as M/s. Mc Cain Foods, Canada, M/s. Farm Frites, Netherlands, M/s. Dole International, USA, M/s. Quaker Oats, USA, M/s. BSN, France, etc.

STATEMENT

List of Major Foreign Companies whose investment whose proposals have been approved in Food Processing sector in India

Sl. No.	Name of the Multi-National Company	Item of Manufacture	Location	Remarks
1		2	3	4
1.	M/s. Kellogg & Co. USA.	Cereal based products from Maize, Rice, Wheat, Oats and Barley.	Taloja (Dist.) Maharashtra (Non-Urban)	—
2.	M/s. PepsiCo Inc., USA.	Processed Potato/Grain Foods, Soft Drink concentrate.	Sangrur Dist., Punjab (Non-Urban)	Export target Rs. 400 crore in 10 years.
3.	M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings, USA	Soft drink Concentrates	Dist. Pune, Maharashtra	Export target Rs. 234 crores over a period of seven years.
4.	M/s. Mc Donald Corpn. USA.	Mc Donald Restaurants	Mc Donald Restaurants in various cities	Non-repatriation of dividends for first 7 years of operation.
5.	Pizza Hut International, Hong Kong.	Restaurants	Pizza Hut Restaurants in various Cities.	-do-
6.	Seagram Co. Ltd. Canada	Whiskey, Scotch and fruit juices	Daurala, Dist. Meerut (U.P.) (Non-Urban)	Production of Alcoholic beverages within the licensed Capacity of the Indian collaboration to maintain foreign exchange neutrality over a period of five years.
7.	United Distillers U.K.	Scotch Whisky etc.	Distt. Nasik Maharashtra	-do-
8.	Hiram Walker Group U.K.	-do-	Distt. Kapurthala, Punjab	-do-
9.	M/s. Heitz Italia, Italy	Milk products, fruit and vegetable products, fish processing etc.	Aligarh. U.P.	—
10.	M/s. KFC, Hong Kong	Restaurants	Restaurants in various cities	Non-repatriation of dividends for 1st to 7 yrs. of operation.
11.	Mars Incorporated, USA	Cocoa based confectionary products	Haryana (Non-urban area)	—
12.	M/s. William Wrigley Jr. Co., USA	Chewing gum	Bangalore (Karnataka)	—
13.	M/s. Perletti SPA, Italy.	Chewing gum	Gurgaon, Haryana	—
14.	C.P. Acquaculture, Thailand	Integrated Acquaculture and fish processing	Dist. Madras, Tamil Nadu	—
15.	Carlsberg International, Denmark	Beer	Distt. Fatehpur, U.P.	—
16.	Hotstin Branerei Ag, Germany	Beer	Distt. Raigarh, Maharashtra	—
17.	Henninger Bran, Germany	Beer	Distt. Alwar, Rajasthan	—
18.	Fosters Brewing Group, Australia	Beer	—	—
19.	Hofbrau Manchen, Germany	Beer	Distt. Riwari, Haryana	—
20.	Finsler Financial Services Ltd., London	Wine	Distt. Bangalore, Karnataka	—
21.	M/s. Cargill South-Asia Ltd.	Citric Acid	U.P./Maharashtra	—

Rehabilitation problems of Singrauli Project

2027. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any analysis has been done regarding the ecological and rehabilitation problems caused by the power projects operated by the NTPC in Singrauli;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the plans if any, formulated for the eradication of ecological problems and the resettlement of those oustees?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A study was undertaken by Electricite de France, France, for the Singrauli region which, inter-alia, includes NTPC Power Stations at Singrauli,

Vindhyachal and Rihand. The study has concluded that for the present, the levels of air and water pollution are within acceptable ranges. It has also concluded that expansion of generating capacity to 11000 MW, as planned, is compatible with environmental protection with regard to air and water quality issues.

NTPC has undertaken socio-economic studies through consultants to generate base-line data on the social and economic status of the population affected by the power projects in the Singrauli region for the formulation of Rehabilitation Action Plans for project-affected persons. These plans include specific details in respect of various rehabilitation and resettlement activities to be undertaken, such as infrastructure in resettlement colonies, different income generation schemes, training, the process of public participation, grievance redressal and the mechanism for monitoring their implementation.

Cess collection from Drug manufacturers

2028. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government are collecting cess from drug manufacturers;
- if so, the rate at which this cess is being collected and the amount spent annually for collecting this cess;
- the amount collected during the last three years, till March 1994; year-wise;
- whether the Government propose to utilise a portion of the cess collected for research and development; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) It is proposed to collect a cess for Research & Development under para 22.8.2 of "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" which provides as follows:

"For strengthening the drug control system including GMP and encouraging R&D, a cess of 1% would be levied on production of drugs and pharmaceuticals through legislation, details of which would be worked out by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare."

Necessary action in this regard has been initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Gas based Power Project

2030. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- whether the four gas based power stations of National Thermal Power Corporation have been linked with the satellite system;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the purpose of linking with satellite system and the extent of success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following gas power projects of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have been linked with Headquarters at New Delhi through Very Small Aperture Terminals:

- Auraiya, District Etawah, Uttar Pradesh
- Anta, District Baran, Rajasthan
- Kawas, P.O. Aditya Nagar, Gujarat
- Jhanor-Gandhar, District Bharuch, Gujarat.

(c) Links have been established for communication between NTPC projects and its Headquarters for more

efficient working of the power projects. Satellite communication links interconnecting gas stations to the Corporate Centre have been successfully operated in December, 1994 and communication services are being utilised very successfully.

[Translation]

Allotment of flats by DDA

2031. SHRI NARESH KUMAR BALIYAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- the total number of flats allotted by the Delhi Development Authority during the last three years category-wise;
- the total number of flats likely to be allotted during 1995-96; and
- the steps proposed to be taken to allot flats expeditiously to those persons who are in the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) DDA has reported that the following allotments of flats have been made during the last three years:

Year	Janta	LIG	MIG	SFS
1991-92	3004	1400	348	1130
1992-93	5285	2053	1443	1437
1993-94	2686	6520	7245	2251

(b) and (c) the number of allotments likely to be made in 1995-96 is contingent among other factors on the likely availability of services in the new project areas. However, DDA has planned to offer flats to all the wait-listed registrants by the end of VIII Five Year Plan period, subject to availability of land and infrastructural facilities.

[English]

Kayamkulam Thermal Power Plant

2032. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- whether the Union Government have received any request from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for their share of Electricity in Kayakulam Thermal Power Project in Kerala;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government have any proposal to distribute electricity in National Power Grid under Gadgil formula; and
- if so, the details thereof and the quantum of electricity Kerala is likely to receive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) Initially, the Bulk Power Supply Agreements (BPSAs) for supply of power from the proposed coal based Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project (420 MW) was signed by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) with all the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) of the Southern region. Subsequently, based on techno-economic considerations, it was decided to implement this as a combined cycle power

project of 400 MW capacity. Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) wanted the total supply of power to be generated from this project, so a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was signed between NTPC and KSEB for the same. NTPC took up the matter with other SEBs of the Southern Region to enter into similar PPAs. However, the PPA signed by KSEB did not find favour with other SEBs and, accordingly, NTPC did not sign this PPA with other SEBs in the Southern Region.

[Translation]

Arrears against leaseholders

2033. SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large amount is to be recovered as conversion charges and other charges under lease and other agreements in Delhi against the leaseholders/unauthorised occupants of the Government assets governed by the land and development officer;

(b) the number of parties against whom rupees more than one crore are outstanding;

(c) whether rupees twenty five crores are to be recovered from a newspaper premises/building located at the Bahadurshah Zafar Marg; and

(d) if so, the measures taken for the recovery of dues?

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

(b) The number of such parties is 24.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(d) In a majority of cases the matter is sub-judice. However, in view of the revised guidelines issued by the Ministry the cases are being reviewed and some of the parties have expressed desire to settle the matter out of court. Thus, Government is making all out efforts to ensure speedy recovery of dues in pursuance of policy guidelines.

Land of Gram Sabhas acquired by DDA

2034. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land of Gram Sabhas has been acquired in Delhi and same has been handed over to the bodies like Delhi Development Authority;

(b) if so, the proposed utilisation of the land; and

(c) the total area of land belonging to Gram Sabhas acquired and the amount of compensation outstanding with the Government?

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

(b) By and large, the land is utilised for urban extension and various projects of DDA.

(c) Approximately 12,197 Bighas 4 Biswas of land of the Gram Sabhas of urbanised villages has been acquired. An amount of Rs. 19.98 crores towards compensation is lying under revenue deposit account.

[English]

Rental arrears

2035. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have waived rental amounting to lakhs of rupees owed by the former Union minister and ICCR President to the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the number of other former ministers and ex-MPs still occupying the Government accommodation and the amount outstanding against each one of them; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to similarly waive those dues also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With the approval of the competent authority it has been decided to regularise the period of overstay by charging normal licence fee instead of damages. On the basis of this decision, a sum of Rs. 1,02,027.00 is payable by him. Shri Vasant Sathe has since paid Rs. 78,576.00 leaving a sum of Rs. 23,451.

(c) A statement giving the details of ex-Ministers/ex-MPs who are still occupying the Govt. accommodation alongwith dues outstanding against them is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

STATEMENT

Statement showing the details of dues against EX-Ministers/Ex-MPs etc. Who have not vacated general pool accommodations as on 28.2.95

S. No.	Name of the allottee S/Shri	Particulars of the accommodation	Amount dues upto 28.2.95
1.	Sharad Pawar	5, Janpath	Rs. 6,71,870/-
2.	M.N. Ali Khan	103-105, N. Avenue	Rs. 3,73,877/-
3.	M.M. jacob	4, Kushak Road	Rs. 3,59,113/-
4.	B.N. Pande	1, Lodi Estate	Rs. 31,245/-
5.	Pt. Ravi Shankar	95, Lodi Estate	Rs. 3,76,842/-
6.	M.C Bhandare	3, Motilal Nehru Mg.	Rs. 1,68,206/-
7.	M. Padmanabhan	7, Raisina Road	Rs. 2,45,411/-
8.	Dr. Subramanian Swamy	5, Saldarjund Rd.	Rs. 3,60,248/-
9.	Kamal Morarka	12, Teen Murti Lane	Rs. 15,813/-
10.	Family of Lat Sh. Darbara Singh	9, K.M. Marg	Rs. 18,59,935/-

11. K.C. Lenka
12. H.K.L. Bhagat

5, B.R. Mehta Lane
34, Prithwi Raj Rd.

Rs. 14,721/-
Rs. 4,69,680/-

Applications from foreign investors

2036. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any state Government has sought the advice of the Union Government on dealing with applications from foreign investors seeking mining rights in an area of more than 25 sq. kms.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) A reference has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking advice of the Central Government on dealing with applications seeking prospecting licences for areas in excess of 25 sq. kms.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Asea Brown Boveri

2037. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Government from Asea Brown Boveri for the export of power equipment by modernising ACC Babcock acquired by them from the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction by making India its export base;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) The rehabilitation package of ACC Babcock Limited (ABL) based on the offer of investment of Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) which has been prepared by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) envisages sales and services to utilities of Central and State Governments and Independent Power Producers and also as providing suitable opportunities for sourcing of components by ABB from ABL, resulting in exports. The proposal forwarded by IDBI, after some modification, is being supported by the Government of India and the matter is under consideration of BIFR.

Decentralisation of DOT

2038. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to decentralise the Department of Telecommunications; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir, Government proposes to give more powers to the field

units with the view to make them more competitive with private sector.

(b) The case is under consideration of the Government.

Export of Fruits and Vegetables

2039. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the export of fruits and vegetables have increased substantially during the current year;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of the fruits and vegetables exported to each country for the last two years till date;

(c) whether Government have decided to give several incentives for export of fruits and vegetables; and

(d) if so, the nature of incentives proposed to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, country-wise quantity & value of exports for the year 1993-94 are given in the enclosed statement-I and provisional value of exported fruits & vegetables from April to December 1994 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority under Ministry of Commerce is providing financial assistance for its schemes besides other developmental activities for export promotion of specific fruits & vegetables in identified countries, organising buyers sellers meet for business interaction, providing assistance for participating in exhibitions and tours etc. in foreign countries.

STATEMENT I

Export of Fruits and Vegetables for the year 1993-94

Source: APEDA/DGCIS, Annual Vol. Product Group: Fruits and Vegetables

Country	Qty in tons.	Value in Rs. Lakhs
U.A.E.	141715.344	9163.273
Bangladesh	104925.653	5108.001
Malaysia	56061.976	3407.600
Saudi Arabia	38555.796	3324.460
Singapore	36345.055	2747.731
Sri Lanka	39552.042	2652.253
U.K.	6893.765	2303.168
Spain	1095.863	1096.826
Germany	1473.158	1051.611
Kuwait	8852.722	967.138
Bahrain	10117.716	896.982
France	854.581	810.738
Netherlands	1482.924	794.610
Greece	621.070	679.084

Country	Qty in tons.	Value in Rs. Lakhs
U.S.A.	923.256	420.031
Mauritius	6860.622	404.615
Qatar	4637.249	377.266
Egypt	227.025	295.990
Denmark	217.538	197.120
Pakistan	3273.541	179.931
Italy	217.310	166.216
Canada	651.126	136.694
Oman	1301.582	125.414
Israel	205.861	124.571
Maldives	1137.706	122.820
Switzerland	394.525	109.455
Russia	373.039	96.955
Jordan	112.850	88.174
Nepal	3001.317	82.001
Australia	479.854	70.852
Portugal	84.612	64.386
Belgium	195.906	61.709
Austria	67.638	51.219
Hong Kong	751.919	49.408
Norway	50.900	45.367
Japan	486.528	44.109
China	168.273	42.682
Netherland Antilas	52.254	31.828
Ireland	29.000	24.334
Yamen Arab Republic	179.648	23.961
Seychelles	190.000	15.409
Tunisia	10.000	14.650
Lebanon	10.000	13.446
Mozambique	117.410	9.049
South Africa	112.076	7.981
Chad	37.200	7.080
Indonesia	59.350	6.594
Turkey	20.000	5.316
Other Country	16.142	4.635
Finland	15.066	4.549
Sweden	22.322	2.954
Reunion	50.000	2.736
Tanzania	7.242	2.506
Kenya	16.595	2.291
Ukraine	8.074	1.166
Tonga	4.271	0.508
New Zealand	1.500	0.391
Congo	1.288	0.300
Nigeria	1.000	0.217
Mali	0.232	0.079
Brunei	0.120	0.064
Zambia	0.250	0.058
Thailand	0.283	0.041
Cameroon	0.300	0.036
Vietnam	0.700	0.030
Somalia	0.835	0.023
Mexico	0.100	0.020
Mongolia	0.092	0.019
Panama	0.200	0.016
Sudan	0.200	0.014
Ethiopia	0.300	0.004
Uganda	0.016	0.000
Grand Total:	475331.708	38542.775

STATEMENT-II*Provisional Figures, Value in Rs. Lakhs**Fruits & Vegetables*

Countries	Unit Qty. Apr. 94—Dec. 94 Value
Argentina	16.08
Australia	269.01
Austria	20.53
Bahamas	0.05
Baharain Is	532.36
Bangladesh	1808.37
Belgium	290.18
Butswana	0.04
Brazil	4.86
Brunei	3.39
Canada	260.36
Chad	
Chinese Taipei	
China P RP	
Congo P PEP	
Denmark	121.40
Egypt A RP	207.68
Ethiopia	0.31
Finland	8.50
France	922.31
Georgia	2.03
German F Rep	1504.03
China	3.97
Greece	432.86
Hongkong	65.64
Indonesia	0.27
Ireland	7.82
Israel	30.20
Italy	206.06
Ivory Coast	0.31
Japan	75.37
Jordan	114.66
Kenya	5.87
Korea Rp	2.50
Kuwait	558.83
Lebanon	0.16
Malawi	11.12
Malaysia	4084.14
Maldives	443.41
Mali	5.03
Mauritius	163.32
Mexico	5.98
Mongolia	0.15
Mozambique	
Nepal	126.40
Netherland	802.33
Netherlandantil	5.70
New Zealand	24.25
Norway	39.51
Oman	109.36
Pakistan	6.88
Panama Republic	
Philippines	0.03
Portugal	87.48
Qatar	171.28
Reunion	5.78
Romania	
Russia	108.24
Saudi Arab	1833.51
Setchelles	4.17
Singapore	2330.74

Countries	Unit Qty.	
	Apr. '94—Dec. '94 Value	
Solomon Is		7.13
Somalia		
South Africa		90.68
Spain		900.99
Sri Lanka		2097.32
St. Helena		0.03
Sudan		
Sweden		6.96
Switzerland		854.92
Tanzania Rep		1.58
Thailand		0.27
Tonga		
Trinidad		1.09
Tunisia		13.11
U Arab Emts		7175.45
UK		2596.97
Ukraine		0.18
USA		524.35
Vietnam Soc Rep		0.07
Yemen Republic		
Zambia		0.39

Coal Supply to SEBs

2040. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. is not supplying coal to Uttar Pradesh and Punjab Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large amount of BCCL is outstanding against these two SEBs; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) There has been a shortfall in the receipts of coal from Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. at the linked power stations of Punjab State Electricity Board and UP State Electricity Board.

The reasons for the shortfall in the supply of coal may be due to the inability of the coal companies and the railways to supply coal as per the approved coal linkage to the thermal power stations.

(c) As per the coal Company, the following amounts was outstanding as on 28.2.1995 against the two SEBs:

(Rs. in lakhs)

			Undisputed	Disputed	Total
Punjab State Electricity Board			—	10556	10556
Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board			3915	4256	8171

(d) The disputed outstanding dues are on account of dispute over short receipt of coal, quality of coal supplied and statutory levies etc.

[Translation]

Development of Water Supply Schemes

2041. SHRI N. J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide additional funds to Gujarat for development of water supply schemes; 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, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): I am very thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Constitutional crisis arising in the State of Bihar. Today, once again I thank you for allowing me to raise those issues again.... (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have raised this matter, had the position in Bihar not come to such a pass. I am here after studying the situation in Bihar for about one and half month. I don't want it but some political parties must be feeling that whatever is happening in Bihar is in their interest and they also must be feeling happy. But tomorrow when elections to Parliament are held and members of Parliament are faced with the same situation, honourable members will realise if it is a President Rule or Election Commissioner's rule. I would not like to name him. I would like to say through you that deliberate attempts are being made to create constitutional crisis in Bihar. Earlier it was decided as the session of Bihar legislative Assembly will be over by the 15th of March and therefore, new Government in Bihar should be formed by 15th of March but the dates were procrastinated repeatedly. Earlier elections were scheduled to be held on 5th, 7th and 9th then after a few days, it was rescheduled for 15th, 19th and 22nd and then 25th and finally 25th was fixed for the elections. Consequently, the elections which should have been held by 15th of March, have now become 'Biral's Khichadi' and nobody knows the time when the results will be declared. Bihar Government have raised no objection for conducting free and fair elections. It was the job of the Union Government and the Election Commission to decide the requirement of C.R.P.F. and B.S.F. Whenever Election Commission desired, Home Commissioner and D.G.Ps were changed. It wanted to change the Home Secretary and the District Magistrate to be transferred, so the same was done. We had only desired that elections should be held as per scheduled dated but still in the first week of April, candidates belonging to our party in Gaya district, polling agents and all the presiding officers alongwith the D.M. and S.P. have been called to Delhi. We do not know if we will be required to go to U.N.O. when the elections in Delhi are held for there is the office of Election Commission in Bihar also and we could have been called there. But the most important thing is

that now it has been decided in the first week of April, it means election process is not likely to be completed there by 30th March and if it happens so, it would mean that Government wants to impose President Rule there...

(Interruption)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is off the record.

(Interruptions)³

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, You must be knowing that initially it was said that no results will be declared unless elections in every States are completed. On the 11th, Bihar was going through first phase of elections and at the same time results from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Orissa were also coming. The Chief Election Commissioner has said that Budget should be deferred for it may influence the election in other States but it was presented. Sir, a sum of Rs. 1 lakh and 35 thousands was fixed to be spent by the candidate as his poll expenditure. Earlier it was required to be spent within the first 20 days and nomination period generally lasted for seven days and after two days papers were scrutinised which was followed by withdrawal. After that elections were conducted within 20 days. But this time 3 months have gone. We started poll campaigning in winter dress wearing coat but this is summer time and no election result has come so far and the expenditure is the same i.e. Rs. 1.35 lakh. I mean to say that what a big mockery it is.....(Interruptions)^{*}

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is off the record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, what is off the record?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not off the record. Your remark is off the record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, sir, I was saying that the Election Commission is also guided by the code of conduct, no Constitutional post is above the law. It is the duty of the Government to see as to where the elections are required and when required. President declares the dates on behalf of the Government, but it seems as if the Election Commission has usurped all the powers.

The Parliament, the Supreme institution is in session but till date we do not have any information about the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, whether normalcy has been restored or not and when the elections are likely to be held? The Government should inform the Parliament in this regard. The Chief Election Commissioner has announced that the elections will be completed in Jammu & Kashmir before July 16.

Mr. Speaker, sir, constitutional crisis is being deliberately created in Bihar. Elections scheduled to be

held on 15th has now been deferred to 31st March. It does not seem possible that the election results in Bihar will be out before closing of the financial year. I do not find chief election commissioner at fault. The Central Government is responsible for all this. The Central Government is deliberately doing such type things. Whatever manoeuvring is there, the results are announced late or things like that, I may challenge that the more the elections are fair the more powerful Government would be formed by Janata Dal in Bihar and nobody can stop that. I am to submit that elections should be contested politically, not technically. Do not try to gain anything in the name of Election Commission, otherwise, you will have to pay for this in future.

Mr. Speaker sir, I would like to know from the Government through you whether the Central Government is manipulating things to avoid elections and impose Presidential Rule in Bihar. I would also like to know whether the election results will be declared before 30th if not, what is the intention of the Government. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, sir, I would like to speak on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing it. I will tell you what the rule is.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The rule is that the same issue can not be raised repeatedly in the same session. Even then this issue has been raised 4 to 5 times in the House during this session. It is not possible to allow everyone to speak on this issue.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker sir, you should give direction to the Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker sir, last friday we celebrated the World Tuberculosis Day. In India, even today, 6 lakh people die of Tuberculosis every year, that is a matter gave concern. This state of affairs really reflects on our Health Policy, more particularly in the face of pharmacological achievements and developments for new techniques in this field. I would like to submit that medicines needed for the treatment of Tuberculosis are getting costlier. The Government is creating awareness about the diseases like cancer and Polio etc. but due attention is not being given towards Tuberculosis, a deadly disease. The farmers and labourers in our cities and villages are falling victims to this disease because of ignorance, illiteracy, mal-nutrition, and working in polluted environment. Out of per 1000 five persons of 5 years of age are suffering from this disease. Our people do not know that a tuberculosis patient can infect another twenty people.

Mr. Speaker sir, there is a need to create awareness among the people about this disease and each dispensary

^{*}Not recorded.

should be provided with the facilities for the treatment of this disease. The Government should take steps to see that the medicines required for the treatment of T.B. are cheaper so as to make this incurable disease curable.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today morning, the newspaper has reported a very disturbing news item. In Bihar, IAS Officers Wives' Association have made a representation to the Chief Secretary, the D.G. (Police) and all concerned that a very close relative of the Chief Minister of Bihar has threatened one of the IAS Officers' wives, who went to cast her vote in Booth Number 23 in Shakti Nagar, with dire consequences if she goes to cast her vote. He has even threatened to kidnap her son. This is a very disturbing news when we are speaking about the rule of law. My friends are speaking about the relations.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not extend it.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I do not want to cast aspersions on anybody. My point is, when the house-wives are crying and when they are representing to the Chief Secretary and the D.G. (Police), this matter need to be investigated. The Government of India should not be a silent spectator in this. There should be investigation done in the matter and all necessary steps should be taken. And when a gentleman went to lodge a complaint in the police station, the police did not lodge the FIR. This is a very serious matter and this matter needs to be investigated.....(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I support it.(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise an important issue. The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R.L. Bhatia is present here. Our attention has been drawn today to a new report in a national newspaper that when the Minister went to the Pakistan High Commission on the occasion of the Pakistan National Day Celebration, proper treatment was not given to him. I am not raising this to create a kind of animosity between the two countries. There are people who want to instigate, provoke certain kind of deterioration in the relationship. We know that in our country, we have the goodwill for the people of Pakistan. We want, despite provocations, the good relations to develop and continue. I want to know whether this is a fact or not. And if that has happened, then our sense of dismay should be conveyed properly. I want to know if he has anything to say about it. Are you going to say something?

MR. SPEAKER: Now we shall take up the Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Today why is the Zero Hour only for fifteen minutes?

MR. SPEAKER: We have a very important business today, the Budget. It is once in a while.

12.13 13½

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review of the working of National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi for 1993-94 etc.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7243/95]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, 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 Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7244/95]

Notifications under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 650(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 1994 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Employees Classification Control and Appeal Amendment Regulations, 1994.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 834(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 1994 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1994. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7245/95]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Calcutta, 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 Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned

at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7246/95]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Dock Labour Board, Kochi, 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 Cochin Dock Labour Board, Kochi, for the year 1993-94.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7247/95]

PETITION RE. CONSIDERING/REVIEWING OF THE DEEP SEA FISHING POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF TRADITIONAL SMALL FISHERMEN.

12.14½ hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I beg to move a petition against the joint venture signed by National convener of National Fishery Action Committee, Kochi Sh. Thomas Kocheri regarding the need to review the deep sea fishing policy of the Government of India to protect and promote the interests of traditional small fishermen.

[English]

12.15 hrs

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty Eighth Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, on behalf of Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 24th March, 1995."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 24th March, 1995."

The Motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up Matters Under Rule 377.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chitorgarh): Before Matters Under 377 is taken up, I want to know at what time you intend to start the discussion on the General Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: May be immediately after this.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to Issue Instructions to Government of Madhya Pradesh for proper utilisation of special grant given by centre under tribal sub plan**

[Translation]

SHRI MANKU RAM SODI (Baster): Deputy Speaker Sir, hand-pumps have been provided to each village in the Baster district of Madhya Pradesh for clean drinking water under the Tribal Sub Plan but most of the hand-pumps have no water during the months of May and June. During the summers, water level goes down and this happens because the pipes have been bored upto the depth of 200 feet. Pressure on water level has considerably increased mainly because the number of hand pumps in the region is very high. It is therefore necessary that the depth of boring for the new pumps should be upto 300 feet instead of the present 200 feet.

The Government, is therefore, requested to issue directions to the State Government for proper utilisation of special grant given by centre to the particular villages under Tribal Sub Plan.

- (ii) **Need to provide more 'Landing' and 'take off' Facilities at Rourkela Airport of Orissa**

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): Sir, Rourkela, apart from being situated at the nerve centre of tribal region, occupies a pride place for having a steel plant under SAIL management. It is on the main line of Howrah-Bombay and as such, has good railway transport facilities. In spite of all facilities provided by the Government for setting up of industries by industrialists and NRI's they are not attracted as there are no facility of air services. The airstrip once owned by Aircraft Authority of India is now owned by Steel Authority of India. The Airport provides landing facilities to small and medium aircrafts during daytime only. I request the Government for the improvement of the airport by providing all facilities of landing and take-off during night time too, to Air Bus and Boeings so that private airlines may be attracted. This will boost the economy of the region.

- (iii) **Need for construction of an overbridge on Agra-Jaipur Highway at Sewar (Rajasthan)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (Deepa) (Bharatpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Delhi-Bombay broadgauge line passes through Sewar near Bharatpur on Agra-Jaipur Highway. Due to ever increasing railway traffic on this route, the railway crossing near the railway station usually remains closed and it causes heavy traffic jam outside the crossing. Long distance buses, tourist buses, trucks, tractor-trolleys also pass through this route. They have to wait for hours for getting the way cleared at crossings. Further, the passengers travelling in buses also face great difficulties and due to delayed arrival of trucks carrying vegetables, people do not get these items on

reasonable prices. Due to the closure of railway crossing, people make attempts to cross the railway line from sides which results in accidents very often.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister of Surface Transport to take immediate steps for the construction of an over-bridge at Sewar so that local people may have a sigh of relief.

(iv) Need to take steps for overall development of Chatra District in Bihar

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Chatra district of Bihar is the most backward and poverty-ridden district of the country. The population living below poverty line in this district exceeds the number of those living elsewhere in the country and other districts of Bihar. The financial assistance extended by various banks as a loan under Integrated Development Programme is far below the target. The target fixed by banks for the year 1993-94, was 5504 but by 30th April, 1994 they could approve only 2076 applications out of 5710 applications forwarded by the district administration. Likewise, under the Prime Minister's Employment Scheme, only one application was approved against the target of 22 applications fixed by State Bank of India, Chatra. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to pay special attention to this backward area and achieve the fixed targets at any cost.

[English]

12.20 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET 1995-96—GENERAL DISCUSSION:
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL),
1995-96 AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND
FOR GRANTS — (GENERAL), 1994-95**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we go to the next item: The Budget (General)—first stage. Items number 8, 9 and 10 will be taken up together and the time allotted is ten hours.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1996 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands No. 1 to 26, 28, 29, 31 to 58, 60 to 91, 93 and 95 to 99".

**Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1995-96
submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha**

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4
Ministry of Agriculture			
1	Agriculture	235,13,00,000	1,91,00,000

1	2	3	4
2	Other Services of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	37,16,00,000	50,87,00,000
3	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	91,48,00,000	—
4	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	47,80,00,000	32,59,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers			
5	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	18,73,00,000	4,04,00,000
6	Department of Fertilizers	1063,72,00,000	40,85,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism			
7	Department of Civil Aviation	11,94,00,000	8,85,00,000
8	Department of Tourism	15,41,00,000	2,74,00,000
Ministry of Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution			
9	Min. of Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	4,45,00,000	15,00,000
Ministry of Coal			
10	Ministry of Coal	29,21,00,000	74,36,00,000
Ministry of Commerce			
11	Department of Commerce	105,89,00,000	14,42,00,000
12	Department of Supply	5,45,00,000	—
Ministry of Communications			
13	Department of Posts	372,69,00,000	12,31,00,000
14	Department of Telecommunication	1584,36,00,000	1159,17,00,000
Ministry of Defence			
15	Ministry of Defence	337,80,00,000	3,42,00,000
16	Defence Pensions	476,13,00,000	—
17	Defence Service-Army	2140,49,00,000	—
18	Defence Services-Navy	261,29,00,000	—
19	Defence Services-Air Force	710,72,00,000	—
20	Defence Ordnance Factories	118,07,00,000	—
21	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	—	1224,55,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests			
22	Ministry of Environment and Forests	71,39,00,000	1,19,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs			
23	Ministry of External Affairs	191,81,00,000	7,84,00,000
Ministry of Finance			
24	Department of Economic Affairs	579,70,00,000	27,67,00,000
25	Currency, Coinage and Stamps	112,96,00,000	59,99,00,000
26	Payments to Financial Institutions	132,14,00,000	1053,96,00,000
28	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	1416,46,00,000	79,17,00,000
29	Loans to Government Servants etc.	—	49,00,00,000
31	Department of Expenditure	2,28,00,000	—
32	Pensions	165,94,00,000	—
33	Audit	66,85,00,000	—
34	Department of Revenue	52,44,00,000	89,00,000
35	Direct Taxes	66,66,00,000	28,25,00,000
36	Indirect Taxes	100,80,00,000	35,95,00,000
Ministry of Food			
37	Ministry of Food	903,71,00,000	27,69,00,000
Ministry of Food Processing Industries			
38	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	6,85,00,000	1,50,00,000
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
39	Department of Health	181,84,00,000	61,23,00,000
40	Department of Family Welfare	315,89,00,000	3,00,000
Ministry of Home Affairs			
41	Min. of Home Affairs	47,38,00,000	2,70,00,000

1	2	3	4
42	Cabinet	8,44,00,000	—
43	Police	498,96,00,000	69,08,00,000
44	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	62,24,00,000	32,74,00,000
45	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	39,15,00,000	41,56,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
46	Department of Education	450,42,00,000	9,00,000
47	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	21,78,00,000	34,00,000
48	Department of Culture	32,62,00,000	—
49	Department of Women and Child Development	129,15,00,000	—
Ministry of Industry			
50	Department of Industrial Development	130,43,00,000	23,00,000
51	Department of Heavy Industry	3,33,00,000	39,92,00,000
52	Department of Public Enterprises	27,00,000	—
53	Department of Small Scale Industry & Agro Rural Industries	109,17,00,000	50,89,00,000
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
54	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	22,31,00,000	3,14,00,000
55	Broadcasting Services	215,50,00,000	50,36,00,000
Ministry of Labour			
56	Ministry of Labour	94,63,00,000	18,00,000
Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs			
57	Law and Justice	58,60,00,000	—
58	Election Commission	55,00,000	—
60	Department of Company Affairs	2,73,00,000	1,00,000
Ministry of Mines			
61	Ministry of Mines	28,09,00,000	4,83,00,000
Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources			
62	Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources	37,39,00,000	4,01,00,000
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs			
63	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	29,00,000	—
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions			
64	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	13,46,00,000	33,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas			
65	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	46,00,000	71,00,000
Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation			
66	Planning	18,98,00,000	4,23,00,000
67	Department of Statistics	11,49,00,000	96,00,000
68	Department of Programme Implementation	131,84,00,000	—
Ministry of Power			
69	Ministry of Power	95,87,00,000	469,31,00,000
Ministry of Rural Development			
70	Department of Rural Development	2286,36,00,000	—
71	Department of Westland Development	17,80,00,000	—
Ministry of Science and Technology			
72	Department of Science and Technology	64,31,00,000	6,00,00,000
73	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	67,01,00,000	1,50,00,000
74	Department of Biotechnology	16,09,00,000	...
Ministry of Steel			
75	Ministry of Steel	81,00,000	48,26,00,000
Ministry of Surface Transport			
76	Surface Transport	6,36,00,000	8,10,00,000
77	Roads	93,85,00,000	157,45,00,000
78	Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	30,12,00,000	45,38,00,000
Ministry of Textile			
79	Ministry of Textile	91,54,00,000	4,51,00,000

1	2	3	4
Ministry of Urban Development			
80	Urban Development and Housing	85,77,00,000	32,93,00,000
81	Public Works	60,46,00,000	32,52,00,000
82	Stationery and Printing	23,51,00,000	92,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
83	Ministry of Water Resources	61,67,00,000	4,56,00,000
Ministry of Welfare			
84	Ministry of Welfare	162,40,00,000	30,78,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy			
85	Atomic Energy	98,56,00,000	111,12,00,000
86	Nuclear Power Schemes	86,00,00,000	50,00,00,000
Department of Electronics			
87	Department of Electronics	26,44,00,000	3,59,00,000
Department of Ocean Development			
88	Department of Ocean Development	9,45,00,000	1,54,00,000
Department of Space			
89	Department of Space	138,75,00,000	14,02,00,000
Parliament, Secretariats of President and Vice-President, Union Public Service Commission			
90	Lok Sabha	8,13,00,000	...
91	Rajya Sabha	4,16,00,000	...
93	Secretariat of the Vice-President	6,00,000	...
Union Territories without Legislature			
95	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	49,33,00,000	29,41,00,000
96	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10,75,00,000	3,33,00,000
97	Lakshadweep	19,05,00,000	2,66,00,000
98	Chandigarh	56,54,00,000	11,03,00,000
99	Daman and Diu	9,45,00,000	2,48,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital		178,86,02,00,000	54,42,30,00,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion Moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Accounts and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1995 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demands No. 1 to 7, 9, 11, to 15, 17 to 25, 27, 29, 32 to 34, 36, 38 to 47, 50 to 56, 58, 60, 63, to 65, 67 to 69, 71, 75, to 80, 82, 83, 88 to 90, 92 and 94 to 98."

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1994-95 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House
1	2	3
1.	Agriculture	264,51,00,000
2.	Other Services of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	3,12,00,000
		73,90,00,000

1	2	3	4
3.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	18,63,00,000	...
4.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	23,68,00,000	...
5.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	1,00,000	7,81,00,000
6.	Department of Fertilisers	75,00,00,000	...
7.	Department of Civil Aviation	69,90,00,000	...
9.	Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	25,20,00,000	...
11.	Department of Commerce	252,19,00,000	...
12.	Department of Supply	78,00,000	...
13.	Ministry of Communications	3,41,00,000	...
14.	Postal Services	120,98,00,000	18,02,00,000
15.	Telecommunication Services	1,00,000	199,99,00,000
17.	Defence Pensions	14,84,00,000	...
18.	Defence Services—Army	256,98,000	...
19.	Defence Services—Navy	77,87,00,000	...
20.	Defence Services—Air Force	205,15,00,000	...
21.	Defence Ordnance Factories	35,84,00,000	...
22.	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	...	102,11,00,000
23.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	1,00,000	...
24.	Ministry of External Affairs	80,74,00,000	1,16,00,000
25.	Department of Economic Affairs	1,00,000	12,86,00,000
27.	Payments of Financial Institutions	255,08,00,000	1075,60,000
29.	Transfers to State and UT Governments	871,90,00,000	94,00,00,000
32.	Department of Expenditure	...	1,82,00,000
33.	Pensions	24,66,00,000	...
34.	Audit	7,73,00,000	...
36.	Direct Taxes	33,00,00,000	45,00,00,000
38.	Ministry of Food	1100,28,00,000	...
39.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	...	1,00,000
40.	Department of Health	185,88,00,000	2100,00,000
41.	Department of Family Welfare	222,76,00,000	214,00,000
42.	Ministry of Home Affairs	13,35,00,000	...
43.	Cabinet	10,04,00,000	...
44.	Police	60,99,00,000	3,00,000
45.	Other Expenditure of Ministry of Home Affairs	...	20,94,00,000
46.	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	5,00,00,000	...
47.	Department of Education	173,25,00,000	...
50.	Department of Women and Child Development	57,00,000	...
51.	Department of Industrial Development	3,00,000	...
52.	Department of Heavy Industry	1,00,000	6031,00,000
53.	Department of Public Enterprises	25,00,000	...
54.	Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries	1,00,000	...
55.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	6,50,00,000	1,00,000
56.	Broadcasting Services	32,92,00,000	...
58.	Law and Justice	1,39,00,000	...
60.	Ministry of Mines	1,58,00,000	...
63.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	2,11,00,000	...
64.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gases	...	552,08,00,000
65.	Planning	...	9,00,00,000
67.	Department of Programme Implementation	22,00,000	...
68.	Ministry of Power	...	2,00,000
69.	Department of Rural Development	200,01,00,000	...
71.	Department of Science and Technology	12,26,00,000	...
72.	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	16,17,00,000	267,00,000
75.	Surface Transport	57,00,000	4,00,00,000

1	2	3	4
76.	Roads	174,74,00,000	69,00,00,000
77.	Ports, Light Houses and Shipping	77,74,00,000	3,00,00,000
78.	Ministry of Textiles	...	106,50,00,000
79.	Urban Development and Housing	25,60,00,000	21,01,00,000
80.	Public Works	47,38,00,000	26,71,00,000
82.	Ministry of Water Resources	...	6,89,00,000
83.	Ministry of Welfare	4,90,00,000	23,77,00,000
88.	Department of Space	20,00,00,000	...
89.	Lok Sabha	6,08,00,000	...
90.	Rajya Sabha	3,83,00,000	...
92.	Secretariat of the Vice-President	2,00,000	...
94.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17,00,00,000	1,00,000
95.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	50,00,000	2,01,00,000
96.	Lakshadweep	2,56,00,000	1,07,00,000
97.	Chandigarh	14,22,00,000	...
98.	Daman and Diu	30,00,000	3,09,00,000
	TOTAL	5162,35,00,000	2567,54,00,000

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jaswant Singh—not present. Next, Shri Debi Prosad Pal.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is all right. Jaswant Singhji, your name was called.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I must apologise for my absence when my name was called. I was informed by the hon. Speaker that indeed this discussion would be taken up. But I did not expect that it would.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Pal, just a minute. Shri Jaswant Singh has come. I have called his name. You may kindly take your seat.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North West): I am to support the Budget, Sir. Therefore, it will be a pleasure if I can open it. I am prepared to do that.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is not the system, Sir. The discussion on the General Budget is not an address by the President.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Pal, you can take your chance afterwards. Now, I shall ask Mr. Jaswant Singh to speak

.....(Interruptions)

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL: I think, Sir, I can start as I am to support the Budget. If the Opposition want to make their comments, I can meet them.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: He does not meet them. It is the Finance Minister who does.....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not want to raise small, cribbing points. Just as we are commencing the discussion on the General Budget, I think it would help if the Finance Minister did us the courtesy of being here. I have all confidence and faith in the great ability of my good friend.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he is having a Cabinet Meeting. He will come, Sir.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is a request that I am making. It is a request that I am making that if the Ministerial colleagues of Shri Chandrashekhara Murthy wish to have consultations, then it would be less disturbing if they went behind and occupied the rear benches for consultations.....(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Then, I will leave.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, it is not for you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has no objection for you to be here.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I will ask Manmohan ji to come.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, firstly I would like to—even though in his absence—convey my congratulations to the hon. Finance Minister for presenting the fifth successive Budget. This is not a distinction that has been attained, to the best of my knowledge, by any Finance Minister in the country; and certainly, there are a very few Finance Ministers globally who have had the benefit of guiding their nation's economy, through this instrument of fiscal policy, for five successive years. If I commend the hon. Finance Minister for this good fortune that he has had, I must lace that commendation with a caution as well because now there is no alibi that the hon. Finance Minister can present.

I recollect well that even when he presented the very first Budget, he started by putting across the 'key sense' which I found untenable and also somewhat stretched—that whatever deterioration had to take place in the nation's economy took place in the interim or interregnum period between 1989 and 1991. Therefore, what the Union Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singhji has now done is to essentially correct what wrong of two year period. I must also point out that the honourable man that he is, he has continued to harp on this very thing in every successive Budget speech that he has made. This is the fifth time in his Budget speech that he has said, "We inherited a badly debilitated economy." Therefore, when I started with a commendation of the good fortune that the Union Finance Minister has, of having had the benefit of presenting the fifth successive Budget, I laced it with a caution; and that caution was that so far as the Union Finance Minister is concerned, there are no alibis now; he cannot now go back to anyone else and place the blame for what is happening to the country on somebody else's shoulders. I also find it necessary to correct a wrong that has been too often repeated by the Union Finance Minister. Personally to score a political point when he presented his first Budget, it is understandable that even a technocrat like Dr. Manmohan Singh would succumb to the temptation of placing the blame on his predecessors and a shallow debating point, however political, would be scored. But when he does it repeatedly for five times, it requires a correction and that correction is that if the nations' economy was in difficulties in the period of 1991, when he inherited, two incontrovertible facts must also be placed

simultaneously on record. For the state of that national economy in 1991, the profligacy of the Rajiv Gandhi Government during the period 1985 to 1989 was entirely responsible. This can be proven if a debate is engaged on this exercise that it was the profligacy,—I am not now talking about the political profligacy of that regime, I am talking of the economic profligacy of Rajiv Gandhi regime—it was the economic profligacy of Rajiv Gandhi regime which contributed most markedly to the inheritance that Dr. Manmohan Singh talks of.

Secondly, it needs to be placed on record that for the guidance of this economy which Dr. Manmohan Singh consistently derived, he himself, in one form or another, is directly responsible.

If the economy was not in a good shape in 1991—as he said it for the the fifth time—then, certainly, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his earlier period in different incarnation, was also responsible.

Having corrected that, Sir, having commended and congratulated the Finance Minister for his fortune, I must also confess to a certain sense of loss as to how I am to describe this budgetary exercise. I have found that all that the Finance Minister has done is to commence with long peroration running over to eight or nine pages which is somewhat of a self-adulatory peroration, a self-praising exercise in which a casual reference is made to late Panditji in continuance of his policies—I do not know how. And then, most unbecomingly and most unconvincingly some praiseworthy references are made to the guidance of the Prime Minister—but I shall let that pass—and in between these two are contained, in this budgetary exercise, no more than simple duty changes in duty rates of excise and imports and thereafter the budgetary speech ends with some wholly unnecessary Urdu poetry. I really did not understand the need of Urdu poetry there. But not it seems to have become a fashion. Therefore, this is somewhat a sandwich of a Budget starting with self-adulation, ending with unnecessary Urdu poetry and in between are combined nothing more than just duty changes and the duty changes were also inevitable. Then why have all this budgetary exercise?(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): This is Urdu poetry of a couplet type.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have nothing at all against Urdu poetry. The hon. Minister does scant justice to my ability and understanding. Of course, certainly, I cannot match his understanding. But I too have a little bit of knowledge, rudimentary perhaps about Urdu poetry and perhaps, a little bit of sense of appreciation too. Here, I am talking of the irrelevance of Urdu poetry where the Budget speech ends. I am not talking of appreciation.....(*Interruptions*).....I would not go into every interruption. But it is a sandwich of a Budget of self-adulation, Urdu poetry and in between duty changes. I really do not understand this. This is the fifth Budget; we expected more. After all, the Union Finance Minister is only a human being and if, as a human being, he engaged in a degree of self-praise and wanted to take credit for the

technical management of certain aspects of Indian economy, certainly he can. Why cannot he take credit? It is a common enough of a human failing and if the Finance Minister is engaged in that exercise, I would not find fault with the part but what is the overriding impression that this Budget has left with me? I am disappointed. The first impression, therefore, is of disappointment. I am disappointed with the electoral politics predominating this budgetary exercise.

My second difficulty is of a more pressing concern. I am concerned because no sooner did the ruling party get a drubbing at the hands of the voter, it did not even take a few days—leave alone weeks or months of deliberation—to come forward with what they call the Budget which is otherwise a document, according to me, that is largely directionless.

It is also lacking in purpose. It is a vogue, tentative half-hearted kind of an accountancy exercise.

Sir, in this final year—perhaps the final months—of Congress, misrule, when I was asked to intervene on this discussion, I did ask, I did enquire of myself how do I address myself to offering comments, to initiating this discussion on the Budget of 1995-96. I really had two alternatives, either I could address myself to what I find are the larger lacunae in this particular Budget, at the level of the management of our economy, where Budget is really an instrument of fiscal policy, and is not an exercise preparatory to elections, or vote gathering, where we address ourselves to macro issues; not the tiny issues of one duty rate moving from 65 per cent to 45 per cent or 65 per cent to 20 per cent etc. And, I came to the conclusion that if I engaged in an exercise of investigating the relevance, or the validity of each change of duty rate that the Budget contains, and nothing else, then I think we will be missing the wood for the trees.

So, Sir, I will endeavour to address myself only to what I think are the issues that arise out of the hon. Finance Minister's Budget Speech and Budget presentation for the year 1995-96. The issues are of course not exhaustive, also that I may have missed some equally that some will naturally be disputed. But I think they are the issues that are certainly uppermost in my mind. I have tried to separate my political persuasions from addressing myself to these issues, though, of course, I cannot, claim the kind of objectivity that the ruling party says that it has, when addressing itself to the economy of the country.

Sir, the very first issue that I must share with the Government and the Union Finance Minister is that despite all the brave talk from the Government despite all the assertions to the contrary by all officials of the Union Finance Ministry, despite all the certifications that you might have been satisfied with, I must caution this Government about the essential fragility of our economy. We will be making a very serious mistake; this Government would be making a very serious mistake if simply on account of the technical management of our balance of payment situation, and simply on account of the fact that today you have roughly 20 billion dollars of foreign capital

in one form of the other—I am not going into an analysis of that hard currency inflow into the country—and if simply on that account, the Government were to talk that now our economy is out of trouble, that the Indian economy has reached a status, a kind of a constantly ascending, invariably ascending, inevitably ascending graph, then you would be making a very serious error. There is a fragility in the Indian economy, and I consider it my duty to caution you about it. This fragility is born of many factors and I am coming to the first factor as to why this fragility. The first reason why I think there is fragility in the Indian economy is that firstly, there is an absence of political will in this Government to carry the logic of reforms in the manner in which it needs to be carried, and in the direction, and at the speed with which it needs to be carried.

Secondly Sir, despite what everyone from the Government is saying, there is an absence of political consensus about what is being done to the national economy.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Political consensus among parties or within their party?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will explain. There is absence of political consensus not simply between political parties, political consensus not between you and the parties in the opposition, political consensus not between the Union Government and the States of the Union, but absence of a large, broad political consensus in the country as a subscription to what you are doing to the economy. As the essence of that political consensus, representatives of political parties sitting here become instruments of achieving that political consensus. Why is this political consensus or political will absent? It is because you arrived at what you call the 'New Economic Reforms Policy' without either an accompanying or supporting political philosophy or, indeed, even a coherent and well thought out economic philosophy. You stumbled on to something, a phrase called 'New Economic Policy' and because you stumbled on to that phrase, therefore, within your own party also there is no agreement on what constitutes this Economic Policy. It is not simply a question of filling in all the detailed contours of this map, but is also about having a basic political philosophy out of which alone is to emerge your economic thought. I must say one thing, without meaning any disrespect to any of my friends sitting on the Treasury Benches. No doubt, they are all highly imbued by a sense of service to the nation and no doubt, they are committed to public good. But if you have a sense of the good of the nation, and if you are committed to public good, then you cannot continue with what you are calling the new economic policy, unless you have a basic political philosophy that you represent. What is that basic political philosophy? What is your economic thought? Because that is the fundamental fault, this Budget paper of yours really becomes a proforma exercise that must be gone through. And you say at one time, "It must be gone through in February." Again you say, "No, no, it cannot be gone through in February, we will go through it in March."

Let me here itself state very clearly that so far as this over-bureaucracy, red tape, deregulation, decontrol, etc.,

are concerned, I think there is reasonable unanimity. There is unanimity in the nation also that so far as this oppressive hand of the Government is concerned, it thwarts the creative genius of India from expressing itself. So, far heaven's sake, remove it. About this there is near unanimity. This, precisely, is what you have not done. This, precisely, is what you have failed to do. Because you have failed to do it, so far as the common Indian is concerned, even you and I are concerned, we are still afflicted with too much of governmental interference, whether it is going to the post office, buying a railway ticket, or catching a bus, or in rural India, whether it is the role of the police or the thanedar or the patwari or the tehsildar. So far as the common Indian is concerned, what does your new economic reform mean to him? It means nothing at all. It has contributed not a bit to his welfare. If you had streamlined government, if you had improved governance, if you had removed excessive governance, if you let the citizen really feel free so as to be able to give voice to his or her creative instinct, it would certainly have improved matters. But certainly, you failed to do it though there is consensus about it.

What are the issues about which there is no consensus? There is no consensus on issues like globalisation and issues like market forces.

Therefore, when some of us said and we did, and I still continue to support the aspect of lifting this dead hand of bureaucracy from the creative spirit of India, but certainly there are differences on what constitutes market forces. Everything cannot be answered by market forces. There is this requirement of a State, a State that is compassionate, a State that is caring and above all a State that is not corrupt. You are none of these. None of these three attributes can I place at your door; and if none of these attributes are yours, then how can the States continue to interfere in the daily existence of the citizens and still say that it is for the citizens that we have got this economic policy.

Sir, that is why, on the second aspect, what you call, by today's clichés and catchwords — 'Globalisation', 'market forces' etc. — there does not exist a national consensus. That is why I started by saying that if there is a fragility, this fragility is on account of an absence of political thought combined with an absence of political will, leading to an absence of political consensus. I would not labour this point too much, but it is worthy of your consideration and even though the Union Finance Minister is not here — I understand that he is occupied somewhere — yet I have no doubt that my good friend, the hon. Minister of State for Finance will convey, what I am saying, to him.

Sir, I come to the third point. I would not like to take much time, but I am afraid that I must continue to express very grave reservations about the fiscal deficit, absence of fiscal discipline and some worry about fiscal figures. There are three separate fiscal points: fiscal deficit, absence of fiscal discipline and some worry about fiscal figures. Now, the hon. Union Finance Minister started by certain claims from the very first Budget that he made, that fiscal deficit

must come down to a certain percentage. I am not going to quibble over figures, and that in the coming year it will come down to 5.5 per cent of GDP. I am also not going to give any credence to some IMF official or somebody who came to Delhi recently and disputed the Government of India's figures. I would much rather continue to believe the figures that my Government gives me rather than the figures that IMF gives me. I would rely on you. But because I rely on you, because the nation relies on the figures that you give, please do not make these figures as a kind of an unimportant exercise merely to be engaged in here. The question is not whether it is 5.5 or 7.3 or 6.8 per cent. The question is: In this fiscal deficit, what is the single largest contributory factor?

The hon. Union Finance Minister suggested that in this fiscal deficit, the contributory factor was the transfer of monies on account of small scale savings; that because small scale savings went up, therefore, the transfer to the States took place and therefore, the fiscal deficit is higher; if you take that aside, it will be lower.

Sir, I would like to submit, this is perhaps, technically one of the answers, but it is a very unsatisfactory answer. This is not an answer that we expect from a Finance Minister. This is certainly an answer that a Finance Secretary would perhaps give to the Finance Minister. I am afraid, the Union Finance Minister was still unable to make out the difference that when he is addressing the Union Budget to the Parliament, he is not giving technical answers. He has to account for and carry conviction about what he is saying. This might well be one of the contributory factors in not bringing the fiscal deficit down, but the contributory factor, perhaps, even of the greatest relevance, certainly a factor which is going completely unattended by the Government: is total lack of discipline on governmental spending.

This is your fifth Budget. You say that you have done remarkably well and you have managed everything perfectly. I do not want to bore the House by reading out figures absent how continuously the Government's spending in the last five years has been really unchecked, the irresponsible. I do not want to lower this debate to that level. A very senior Member of this House, hon. Chandra Shekharji is here. He will correct me. Please reflect on it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some two or three years back when the question of Government's spending came up, hon. Finance Minister made many pronouncements. The Prime Minister said that this must be brought down and to achieve this he is cutting down two Additional Secretaries, three Joint Secretaries, etc. The whole thing became a joke. You are treating the whole question of unchecked Government expenditure with casualness.

Not only was this not done, in all these years that God has been kind enough to entrust me with this responsibility of being in the Parliament, I have never known this kind of completely irresponsible Government spending. Ministers of this government use private aeroplanes as if they are private taxis. When a Minister is going for a function, he considers it below his dignity to share it with the other Minister, who may be going to the same place, to attend

the same function. Of course, now, they consider it below their dignity to travel by Indian Airlines. None of the Ministers wants to travel by the Indian Airlines. All of them want to use their private aeroplanes. They do not own these planes. Earlier they used to travel by the aeroplanes of all the undertakings, whether it is ONGC or any other such organisation. I do not want to list all these names. Not only this, if there is a function, for example in Bhopal, one Minister will take the plane and go himself. Another Minister will take the second plane and the third Minister will take a third plane. I have never known this in my life. If this is the position then why should not Cabinet Secretary or other Secretaries also do it? Therefore they also do the same.

[Translation]

When the Parliament adjourn for a day in the evening, we find convoys of cars leaving the place. You are not required to do much probing is that.

How can they talk about savings when they themselves travel in convoys of 30 to 40 cars? Which country we are living in?

[English]

Sir, statistically you can dispute the point. I do not want to labour this particular point but statistically you can continue to dispute the point whether India is or is not a poor country. Personally I think that India is an immensely rich country, not perhaps in money terms but in many other terms. You can continue to discuss—till the cows come home — whether India is or is not a poor country. But India is most certainly a country of the poor. And, if India continues to be a country of the poor, this kind of profligacy in Government expenditure is a crime against India, and if it is a crime against India then it does not lie in the mouth of the Union Finance Minister to preach to us, and to continue, in the fifth successive Budget speech, to talk about temporary balance of payment difficulty that arose temporarily for two years between 1989 and 1991. This unchecked profligacy of Government expenditure is the single greatest cause behind continuing lack of fiscal discipline resulting in fiscal deficit thus bringing to question the figures of fiscal deficit that the Finance Minister presented to the Parliament.

Sir, I will come to the next point which is about Banking, Insurance and other such instruments. Banking Reform is badly and long overdue. A very good report on Insurance Reform, the Malhotra Committee Report, lies with you.

I was saddened, Sir, by three incidents that have happened in the last four to six weeks outside of India. Two major companies of Great Britain have collapsed. One is Stephen Warbourg, the other is Baring Brothers, a Bank of outstanding reputation, as old and as reputed as the Bank of England. Credit Lyonnais of France then ran into great difficulties in France with the result the Government of France had to go in and establish a rescue package. I am not going into Credit Lyonnais but certainly into Baring Brothers and Stephen Warbourg. Within a period of a fortnight, not only were the quilty identified, whatever national or international action needed to be taken,

whatever steps about the Bank proper, that is Baring Brothers, needed to be taken were taken and all taken visibly, but also their national economy was protected from the consequences of all this wrong doing that was permitted to continue unchecked.

One of the saddest experiences of my Parliamentary life is this wretched Joint Parliamentary Committee. I say this with many apologies to the distinguished Chairman of that Committee who is sitting.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): What is wretched, the Report or the Committee?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The fate of that Committee's Report is wretched. The Committee had laboured for 18 long months and presented an unanimous report. You need not like the Report, nor do you need to say that it is a perfect report. No report of Parliament can ever be a perfect report. Even if it was a half step towards taking some remedial measures, towards taking some corrective steps, what was the Report on which you needed to have taken stock of what you were doing by what you call the new economic policy, reform programme etc. You could have employed that Report as an instrument of leverage to correct all the mistakes that you were making. You should have employed that Report as a positive input towards this national endeavour. In stead, you employed that Report as some kind of thing what was very shameful, something that must be hidden away. Somehow through time, through precisely the kind of bureaucratic obfuscation that we had been talking about, struggling against, asking you to remove, precisely with that kind of bureaucratic over-control you have now buried that Report. Now it is almost April 1995. Not one Bank has yet been hauled up and reformed. They do not hesitate. There are very fine observations made about all the foreign Banks that played truant with India.

13.00 hrs.

No one has been punished. All those people are still operating.

Mr. Finance Minister, I would like to cite an example in the context of what others have done, whether it is Baring Brothers or Stephen Warbourg or Credit Lyonnais. I do this with a great sense of sorrow and shame. How can you have an economic reform programme if your banking system is not functional? If your banking system is not functional, then what are you basing the totality of the entire edifice that you wish to build, or what is the use of talking about globalisation, market forces, this and that? Please remember that the end of communism or end of Karl Marx does not necessarily mean the victory of Milton Freidman. It is also not correct to assert that simply because we talk of marketisation or market forces, therefore, that is equal to good. Please also remember that every market force or market element contained nothing else but profit. The State will still have and must continue to have compassion, care and a lack of corruption, both of spirit and of execution. But you are neither compassionate nor are you caring. Of course you are not uncorrupt. You continue to do this at the cost of the nation. You talk of this

great edifice viz., that you wish to bring about a revival of national economy and you are basing it on quicksand. That is why I started by taking of fragility. If you do not have an efficient banking system, of what use this new economic policy; for whom is this new economic policy?

I want to point out to you a very serious concern that I have. There is some mention here is the hon. Finance Ministers speech. After all, he is a human being and it does not matter if he takes credit for what God had sent by way to rain.

[Translation]

The hon. Minister of Finance has talked about agriculture production. Actually this is a subject which can be expressed better in Hindi than in English. The hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the main concern before the country today is that its agricultural production has stagnated around 180-185 million tonnes. Now it is upto you to pat your back or congratulate yourself or think that you have done a very great job. By God's grace, the country has been experiencing good rainfall for the last 5 years.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: God is only yours. It was due to Rama's blessings.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes, Lord Rama showed the Kindness... (Interruptions) Since the subject is such, have I committed any mistake? (Interruptions)

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar): Do you want that God should not be kind to us.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I wish that by God's grace agriculture production may continue to increase. However you could have just said that agricultural production has increased by the grace of God. Do you want to tell that it has happened due to Government's prodigious policy. I want to caution you on two or three aspects. As far as agricultural production is concerned, it has stagnated somewhere between 180-185 million tonnes. Let you be complacent on your achievement. Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha is sitting here. He has been the Chairman of Agricultural Commission and I hope he will not disagree with my views.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Their report is pending without any action.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Now if their party members do not give any importance to the report, we are not at fault. The agricultural production has stagnated at 180-185 million tonnes. Every time you will go on saying that so long as there is good rain, we would continue to have good crop. How long will it continue?

I would like to apprise the hon. Finance Minister of another problem. The hon. Finance Minister has said in his Budget speech that inflow of capital investment in the agricultural field has stopped. Investments are being made in industries and cities but no investment is being made in agriculture in rural areas. The hon. Finance Minister has admitted this fact and said that he is going to set up a new lending institution. I don't understand why no investment is being made in the rural areas and legal hurdles being put up. So long as there is no capital investment in the

agriculture sector, the production can not increase. God forbid, such a situation may not arise in future. There is a proverb in Rajasthan, "Chaitra Barse Chadpade-Sawan Sukho Jaye". It means, if there is rain in the month of 'Chaitra', there will be no rain in the month of 'Sawan'. We want that there is rain fall in the month of Sravana. When our whole farming depends on rain, you should not pat your back, over the achievements, I request you kindly to pay attention to this problem.

Now, I would like to tell you about the third problem being faced by the agricultural sector and I think you will understand its gravity. India is the only country where tallow is not used for preparing food. All over the world tallow is used for preparing food. Therefore, Ghee, Oil and Dalda are essential commodities in India. Production is going to be adversely affected in the country and due to your policies it will have far reaching consequences. A serious thought should be given to it. I would like to give an instance of Rajasthan in this context. The hon. Dau Dayal Joshiji is sitting here. Earlier Soyabean was not produced in our country. It was said that Soyabean is nutritious that is only its cultivation started here. Besides, you said that farming of groundnut and other oil-seeds would be encouraged in India because we could not remain dependent on other countries in respect of edible oils any more. I would like to apprise you of the news-item published in today's newspaper that import of soyabean is to the tune of about 15 to 35 thousand tonnes. The price of soyabean on reaching here in our country from America will be less as compared to the price prevailing in the domestic market. Then what will be the fate of our farmers? What would happen, if same course was resorted to in respect of Groundnut? Groundnut is produced in America in plenty. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister and his party as to what will happen to our production of groundnut when the imported groundnut will be available at far lower prices as compared to the price of groundnut in our country? There is no need to discuss the fate of the mills which extract vegetable oil and are essential for our country. What will be the result? Our Finance Minister seems to be satisfied by saying that production has reached the level of 180 million tonnes due to our agricultural policy. Since it is the result of Government's policy, so there should be capital investment and for this we are establishing new institutions and we will provide funds to them. May god forbid if there is shortage of foodgrains and edible oils in all over the world, no country will give these things to India inspite of its requests. In these circumstances you will not be able to even purchase these commodities. I would like to warn you in this regard. If I am wrong then the hon. Finance Minister can correct me and say some thing about the problems which I have put before you in brief.

[English]

A great amount of time was spent and so many pages were used by the Government on re-emphasising the social agenda part of the budgetary exercise. I am glad that the Finance Minister found time to refer to vital aspects of States responsibilities like public health, education, drinking water, rural development and the state of the poor. I am left with a nagging doubt; and that doubt is that the Finance Minister has made all these references, all these paragraphs, not because the Government has any conviction about the social programme, but because this Government is now feeling compelled by the electoral drubbing that it has received, repeatedly, that the voters of India are sending some message and saying that whatever you are doing in this Capital City of Delhi seems to be for yourselves.

I would like to leave just one thought with this Government. You cannot have a proper social agenda as a kind of an appendix to the rest of your economic thought. If the rest of your economic thought lacks a political base whereafter lacks coherence, then whatever the social agenda that you put across on paper, like this, will continue to lack conviction. And one more aspect of this social agenda is this. This social agenda cannot be executed by a corrupt Government. If the entire edifice of a State is corrupt, then you can continue to spend thousands of crores, like an endless stomach or a bottomless well these thousands of crores will drown into that 'well of corruption' and will not reach where they are supposed to reach.

If you wish to acquire and to import to the economic reform programme the needed consensus, then your social agenda has to be not just informed but inspired by a consensus of what you wish to do for the country, when it comes to an elementary requirement like drinking water. I need not point out to you this. Leave alone the villages of India, there is not one metropolitan city in this country which has got 24 hours of assured potable supply of water.

Most of us here represent rural India because we represent rural constituencies. If we were to point out to you the conditions of drinking water, the appalling state in which the whole requirement of drinking water in the country is placed.... however, this I will leave as only a caution that I have already voiced.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: The mineral water bottle costs Rs. 11 in the market.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When we attend official parties, we are served mineral water there. It seems that there is some kind of distortion in our thinking. We are ready to drink a bottle of water costing Rs. 30 while the price of one litre milk is much less than this. Today the water has become costlier than milk. You should think over it, where we have reached and where we are going.

[English]

Sir, I will come to one other worry which has three aspects—public debt, currency and economic sovereignty.

The hon. Finance Minister yesterday said that it is not a major area of worry, I am not going into the figures of it, and that the rate of growth of public debt has declined. If you can draw satisfaction on that, fine—draw satisfaction. He further said, "As against roughly 86 billion to 90 billion dollars of total external debt we do have about 20 billion dollars in foreign currency reserves."

This is not a correct measurement; this is an equation of like with unlike. On the question of debt, and economic sovereignty, I do not want to labour this point too much. I want to leave with you a thought and I would be grateful if the hon. Finance Minister refuted. That, in a globalising economy, sovereignty, not just economic sovereignty, of a nation passes from the borrower to the lender. This is an irrefutable assertion. This is a fact of life. The borrower is always transferring some of his responsibility to the lender. I used the word 'responsibility' carefully because what is in effect passed, is sovereignty.

You may derive some empty satisfaction by saying, "No we will continue to assert national sovereignty." Yet I assert that the sharp contours of your national and economic sovereignty are already blurred. If you continue to address the whole question of foreign debt, and the national debt in the same manner as you are doing today, then these blurrings will go even farther and economic and national sovereignty will get diluted further. The nation will become answerable not simply to bankers like the IMF or the World Bank but others also. They are after all bankers. They lend you money. Any banker will place conditions when they lend money. Why do you dispute it? Stand up to the nation and say candidly, "This is what we are faced with, this is what we have to do and this is how we will combat." You are not doing it. Do it. There is one other aspect.

The hon. Finance Minister has not yet clarified what is the debt servicing ratio. He says on the question of debt servicing ratio that we are not in a Mexico kind of a situation. I am reassured that we are not in a Mexico kind of a situation. I hope very much that we do not go down that way. But I think the hon. Finance Minister is oversimplifying. The Mexico kind of a situation is a reality. Mexico is a pointer, Mexico tells us, it cautions us. It is not very much different.

A technical detail is pointed out that on current account deficit, our deficit is only 0.6 per cent and Mexico's current account deficit was much higher. Therefore, that is what happened to Mexico. But that is not only why it happened to Mexico, it also happened on account of this great uncertainty surrounding their currency.

If I may talk about great uncertainty surrounding currency, I am not talking of the precipitous decline of the Peso, I am talking about eventually what is happening today to Dollar-Yen rate. What is happening to dollar? And because of what is happening to dollar, what is

happening to the rupee? You must take the nation into confidence and you must tell us in the Parliament.

This is your understanding of the management of currency rates. You owe it to the Parliament and I request you to please answer.

Sir, I would like to seek two clarifications. I do not like to elaborate them. Firstly, you bank everything on an export-led growth. Please explain to the Parliament your philosophy of export-led growth, given the fact that on 1st January, 1995, the World Trade Organisation has come into being. Given the reality of the World Trade Organisation and given many counter responsibilities of the World Trade Organisation, to me, the claim of export-led growth does not carry conviction. Please convince me.

My second question relates to national security. We will have the time to discuss the details of the defence Budget when we come to it. But if roughly from 1987 to 1995, our expenditure on defence has declined from roughly 4.6 per cent of the GDP to 2.6 per cent of the GDP, and if there is this decline, which is a reality, and if from last year's Budget, of which the revised estimates were roughly Rs. 23,500 crore to Rs. 25,500 crore, which is this year's Budget, given an inflation factor of 11 per cent, it is actually not even a growth but is a retardation of actual spending on our Defence Forces. Thirdly, the fact that 65 per cent of expenditure, out of the defence Budget is on Establishment Costs that is, fixed Costs. Fourthly, given the fact that the next Pay Commission's Report is now imminent and the Pay Commission's Report, without any doubt, will cause a consequence in the Defence Budget, is your total Government expenditure. If this is the situation of the defence budget, if it is in fact, a net effective reduction of the Defence Budget, then how do you guarantee to this House, to this Parliament, the required combat effectiveness of our Armed Forces? Under this very Heading, given the fact that both the present Chief of Naval Staff and the Chief of Army Staff have publicly stated that you are not providing enough money to the Armed Forces — the Chief of Naval Staff has gone to the extent of saying, "If I do not place orders on Mazagon Docks, this the national asset, the quality of Mazagon Docks is likely to completely deteriorate."— how do you explain and guarantee to this nation about the required combat effectiveness of our Armed Forces?

In conclusion, I will talk of corruption, I will talk of corruption of spirit, and I will talk of corruption about money matters. I must caution you that your New Economic Reforms Programme or your New Economic Policy or whatever you say has become synonymous with corruption in public life....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: The Finance Minister has come now....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Finance Minister, I am sorry, Sir, that ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): You need not repeat all that you have said now ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will not repeat, I did not

have the benefit of you, Sir, being here when I had to say what I have to say.

Sir, I am concluding my speech now with just two sentences. ...(Interruptions) Anyway, Sir, I have no doubt in my mind because I have very high personal regard for the hon. the Finance Minister. I do continue to hold, Sir, that in the technical management of a very complicated, intricate situation that he is responsible for, he has conducted himself with great dignity and great technical ability ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: On his appearance, you have changed...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, it has not changed. Truly it has not changed, not at all. ...(Interruptions) This tune has changed because my good friend, Shri Sontosh Mohan dev. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I would like to say that "Jaki Rahi Bhavana Jaisi Tin Hari Murat Pai Taisi". Now what should I say, you will not understand it. If your feelings are like that then how can I change them.

[English]

Anyway, Sir, I was talking about corruption in public life.

We cannot have a successful reform programme. Indeed, we cannot have any reform. We cannot have any programme if you continue to have the kind of corruption that today afflicts the country. It is no good punishing some *patwari* or *thanedar* or somebody who takes hundred rupees or Rs. 500 unless you accept that corruption is now so rampant that unless it is eliminated, we will cause ourselves, as a nation, grave wrongs.

Sir, I will conclude with just one advice to an, otherwise very able man. I do not know who said it first. I do not know if it was a former Chancellor of Exchequer of Great Britain—perhaps it was Hugh Gaitskell. There are only two kinds of Finance Ministers; those that leave before they are found out and those that are dismissed. I must remind the hon. finance Minister that in the very first Budget that he presented, I did mention. I had occasion then also to intervene, and I told him then that he is an instrument; that he is unaware of the political machinations of his own political organisation to which he now belongs and when the going gets tough, this organism is likely to turn around on the Finance Minister and find all the faults with him. That is why I remind him, Sir, of the saying of the Chancellor of Exchequer that there are, Mr. Finance Minister, only two kinds of Finance Ministers; those that leave before they are found out or those that are thrown out. Sir, you have that kind of great wisdom and I am sure that you decide well.

Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned to meet at 2.25 PM.

13.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty-Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

GENERAL BUDGET—1995-96—GENERAL DISCUSSION;
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL),
1995-96;

AND

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(GENERAL). 1994-95

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I call Dr. Debi Prosad Pal, I would like to bring to your notice that the total time allotted for this discussion is 10 hours. The break-up of each Party is as follows:— Congress (I)—four hours and thirty minutes; BJP—two hours and two minutes; CPI (M)—38 minutes; Janata Da—25 minutes; CPI- 15 minutes and so on. So, let us adhere to the timings strictly.
14.34 hrs.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister for the year 1995-96.

I was listening with great interest when Shri Jaswant Singh was making his speech. I have great respect for him. I agree with him when he said that the hon. Finance Minister is presenting the Budget for the fifth occasion. I only want to add that this is a unique feature in the life of a Finance Minister of any country that he had the occasion to present the Budget for the country on five successive occasions.

But I was pained to learn when he was saying that the budget presented by the Finance Minister was nothing but a self-adulation. I have respect not only for what he says but also for how he says. For his rhetoric effusion also, I have an equal respect. But I was wondering how this budget is a self-adulation. Borrowing his own words, he said that the budget is not merely an accounting exercise of the receipts and expenditures of a particular year, it reflects the economic philosophy of the Government, it represents and reflects what the Government has achieved up-till now and what it proposes to do to reach the economic goal for which the budget is to be presented before the nation. Now, if this aspect is taken into account, there is no self-adulation. The Finance Minister has presented before the House what is the achievement which the Government has made and what are its pitfalls, what are the lapses and what it proposes to do for the future.

One must not forget that in June 1991, when the present Government took over the power under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, the financial condition of the country was in a state of collapse. It is no good saying that every time, on all the five occasions, he has repeated the same thing. It is a matter now well known to everybody. In June 1991, when the present Government came into power, our industrial production was only half per cent. Our foreign exchange position was not even adequate to meet a fortnight's requirements. The inflation rate was the highest ever, that is, more than seventeen per

cent in August, 1991. That was the state of economy which we inherited from the earlier Government. The Government, therefore, had to take measures, both short-term and also long-term. To tide over the crisis, the Government had to take certain short-term measures which I need not repeat here for the constraints of time. When the crisis was tided over, the macro economic measures in the form of the New industrial Policy, New Trade Policy and New Taxation Policy, have been evolved, as a result of which, our experience for 1992-93 and 1993-94 yielded satisfactory results. And that was the period of economic or financial consolidation of what we had achieved through these years. The Government's ultimate goal is to reach the fruits of our economic development to the common people. That is why even in the previous year and even in the earlier year also, the thrust of the Government's financial policy was how to improve the economic conditions of the rural people. The Finance Minister made no secret of it. In the present budget he has shown that our policy is to make an anti-poverty programme, our policy is to improve the employment position in the rural sector of our country and our economic goal is that the fruits of the economic growth must reach the weaker sections of the community. That is why the present budget is primarily based upon that objective.

When Jaswant Singh Ji was saying that the Budget does not present anything but merely makes changes in certain rates in direct taxes and indirect taxes, I was rather pained to learn about it. The taxation policy of the Government is a means to an end. The end is how to stimulate the growth.

The end is how to improve the economic development—both in agricultural and also in industrial sector. The twin objectives are to balance economic growth with socio economic justice and that is why this Budget primarily aims at removing the poverty of the people and various measures have been taken for that end. Now we must now forget that this Budget is a continuation of the policy, a policy which has been started since June, 1991. The effectuation and implementation of the policy have been made through these earlier years and it has borne results and the result is that our economic growth today is 5.3 per cent whereas when the Government took over it was only one per cent. Our industrial growth was half per cent when the present Government came to power. Today it is 8.37 per cent and in the manufacturing sector it is 9.2 per cent and in the capital goods sector it is 24.7 per cent. Now this is the achievement which is the result of our new economic policy.

When this policy was enunciated by the present Finance Minister in this House, there were many hon. Members who were haunted with the ghosts of economic subordination to the foreign countries and even today I found a relic of that in the speech of Shri Jaswant Singh. We can see with certain amount of satisfaction that the policy which was enunciated by the present Finance Minister, under the leadership of our Prime Minister

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, is proving good. Even though initially that was subjected to some criticism because of misunderstanding, now there is an emergence of a broad national consensus among almost all the different political parties.

Shri Jaswant Singh was saying that national consensus does not mean consensus among the political parties but among the people at large. Unfortunately, I have to remind him that when there is a national consensus among political parties, the parties represent the people in a democratic constitution and in a democratic country and, therefore, if there is an emergence of a national consensus, it naturally can be said that the people are behind that policy. What is the achievement? The Left Front Government in West Bengal, who have criticised it earlier, now have understood the efficacy of this policy. It is understood that the new economic policy means liberalisation of our economic activities, both in trade and in our industrial policy and also in our foreign exchange and in all the other activities of our economic life. As a result of this liberalisation, the Government wants to liberate the economy from the cobwebs of bureaucracy, controls and licences. It was pointed out by Shri Jaswant Singh that : what about liberalisation policy? We have still enough controls. Unfortunately, all of it cannot be remedied on a single day. But the major thrust of the Government is to remove all these controls and licences as a result of which there is a large flow of direct equity investment of the foreign investors and also our internal investments. .

We have seen how our foreign exchange position has improved. Our foreign exchange position was 1.1 billion dollars in June, 1991 and now it has come to over 20 billion dollars. Therefore, the position of our foreign exchange is so strong that although initially we started certain squeezing or restriction on imports, now we have liberalised it because of the reason that our foreign exchange position is adequate enough to cope up with such a situation. Our exports increased from 17 to 20 per cent in 1994-95. Now the foreign exports finance more than 90 per cent of our imports. Earlier foreign exports would finance not more than 60 per cent of our imports. That is the economic scenario which any Finance Minister, if he is to present the picture before the country, is to narrate. It is not the case of self-adulation. But, at the same time, the hon. Finance Minister has pointed out certain difficulties which have arisen.

For example, we still have inflation which we are trying to control. From 17 per cent we have reduced it to 11 per cent at present. Our deficit could not be kept within the desirable limit but at the same time efforts have been made and are being made to control this. The Economic Survey has pointed out that inflation is primarily caused due to two reasons. Firstly, the money supply has increased beyond the projected level of 16 per cent. The Government has taken steps to tighten monetary policy of the country. The other reason is the increase in foreign exchange reserve and there also the policy has been undertaken for the purpose of seeing that this is not

frittered away for rise in prices. Now, that is the position which the country has achieved. It is a matter of great satisfaction for any Government which is in power for the last few years. Now the whole crisis has been tided over and we are on the path of revival, we are on the path of self-sufficiency and we are on the path of competitiveness through which alone Indian economy can survive. This has been thrust upon us by the needs of the international and national situations. The collapse of the Soviet Russia, emergence of Eastern States in Europe, the emergence of China and the emergence of South-East Asian countries on the economic arena have brought the imperative need for the country to develop a feeling and sense of competitiveness, self-sufficiency and efficiency. There is no good saying that there is no economic independence. The China is one of the leading Communist countries in the world and their foreign investments are eight or nine times more than that of India. Nobody can say that because of the foreign investments China has surrendered its economic sovereignty to the world body. Similarly, in all the five Communist countries, the foreign investments are much higher than what India has.

Today, when we are on the path of revival by the adoption of macro economic measures continuously, the Governments attention is on how to remove the poverty of the teeming millions who live in villages. It is no good saying that it is an Election Budget. The anti-poverty programme was sponsored not in this year alone. It was in existence in the earlier years also and even in the year before last. Our thrust is to reach the goal of anti-poverty programme. The funds for rural development have been increased from Rs. 3,000 crore last year to Rs. 7,000. This is not an Election Budget. Therefore to say that this programme has been only for one particular purpose, in my respectful submission I would say that it is not an objective presentation of the facts.

No, one thing I want to point out before this august House that what is our anti-poverty programme. Our anti-poverty programme is that if the country has to develop, our infrastructure facilities have to be developed. Unless infrastructure facilities are developed, we cannot improve our roads, our bridges, industrial development and agricultural development. That is why the Government is focussing greater attention on infrastructure facilities. For that purpose even in taxation measures Section 80I(A) has been amended this year in the Finance Bill so as to give 100 per cent tax relief to industries which are engaged in the development of infrastructure. This facility of tax deductions has been further extended to small scale industries which are, for the first time, getting the benefit of Section 80I(A). Now, this is not certainly an Election Budget. The whole idea is how to develop the infrastructure of the country and how to develop the economic growth of the country both in rural sector as well as in the urban sector. The industries which now invest their funds in infrastructure facilities will get 100 per cent deduction from their income derived from such infrastructure industries. Our taxation policy also certainly tries to see how to develop small scale industries. Now,

these measures have been taken to improve one of the core sectors of our industry. Our foreign investors are investing more than 80% of the foreign investment in core sector industries, like roads, bridges, power sector and also telecommunication sector.

There is only one thing to which I want to request and invite the attention of the hon. Finance Minister. Whereas in the case of roads and other infrastructure a larger amount of depreciation has been allowed, the same thing should also be equally extended to telecommunication industry because that is also one of the major core sector industries on which depends the economic growth of the country.

Now, we are giving financial support to our rural banking institutions. The NABARD has opened different wings, different branches for the purpose of rural development programme and the loan is to be given through the State Government and the State owned undertakings for the purpose of completion of their on-going project. We have found that very often inflation starts because the Government, either the State Government or any other public utility concern, starts a very tall scheme, but ultimately because of shortness of funds the scheme remains half-finished. And that is why the Government has clearly made a practical attempt to give such type of loans to those State Governments and the State owned undertakings where the on-going projects could not be completed because of the shortness of funds, and for this purpose the NABARD will have different branches all over the country.

Now, for the purpose of giving relief, financial loan and assistance are provided to our Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. They are living in the rural villages; they do not get adequate financial support NABARD will have a particular wing. These are the programmes which the Government have taken up to remove poverty among the rural sector.

The Government also have equally taken steps for improving the employment opportunities in the country. Only three million jobs were there when the present Government came into power in June 1991. Since then, every year, six million jobs were created and the employment opportunities are now increasing in a faster way. And that is one of the objectives of the present Government not only to remove poverty, but also to improve the employment position among the rural sector of the country. Now, nobody can say that these attempts are only with an eye on the elections. These attempts have been made not only in this year's Budget, but in the earlier Budgets also. It is a continuation of the policy which long back has been taken up as our main attempt for reaching the economic goal. Therefore, I would submit very respectfully before this august House that what Shri Jaswant Singh considered 'that a mere change in the rates of duties being the only significant feature of the Budget' is not correct. The Budget represents an economic policy, an economic philosophy. There are changes in the Budget undoubtedly, rates have been changed. Every time, the

Finance Minister should consider what rate should be appropriate in a particular year.

Now, this year also the exemption limit has been increased from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 40,000 to develop the investment among the middle-class and smaller sections of the people. The relief under Section 80-L has been increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 13,000. At the same time, the industrial sector, particularly in the backward areas, has been given tax relief under Section 801A. The software industry which was earning by exporting goods has been now brought on the same level as any other export industry by removing the proviso which was there in Section 80HHE.

Now, these are matters which really pertain to the economic development of the country. Not only that, the present Budget also has removed some of the difficulties and handicaps which were there. For example, take the case of the handicapped people. Their income upto Rs. 20,000 has been given exemption; guardians or the parents of the handicapped people, if they invest in certain funds, even after their death, the income which will be applied for the purpose of relief of these handicapped people has also been given exemption.

There is one thing which I should point out before the hon. Finance Minister. The new Taxation Policy has now introduced the provision of deducting tax at source in respect of various sources of income.

Earlier it was only in respect of the works contract and also labour contract. But now it has been extended to professional peoples' earning and then also to all advertisement contracts and many other contracts. It is true that if the tax is deducted at source, that will be ultimately adjusted towards the payment of tax of the person from whose income it is deducted. But the difficulty is this. The Finance Minister certainly will consult his Ministry on how onerous will be the administrative problem or difficulty. Even now in regard to the tax deduction at source from time deposits, the bankers are expressing difficulty as to how to complete the job and much more difficulty will arise when the certificate is not given. If the person from whose income the tax is deducted at source, does not get the certificate in time, the amount will be deducted from his income but he will not get the credit of the amount in his assessment. So, he has been affected at double points. I was suggesting for the consideration of the Finance Minister that there is no provision under the Income-tax Act that if a person does not give the certificate in time to the effect that he has deducted the tax at source and paid that tax to the Government, then some penal provision should be there so that he will be compelled to give the certificate at the appropriate time.

I ask the Finance Minister why introduce all these administrative difficulties. Either you say 30 per cent or 20 per cent deducted tax at source and that will be taken as tax unless they point out and come forward that their income is much less Presumptive tax, in my humble submission and I place it for the consideration of the Finance Minister, should be made compulsory particularly

in the rural sector, mini industries and agricultural sector. Although agricultural income-tax is not taxable under the Central Act, but if presumptive tax is made compulsory at 15 per cent or 20 per cent, anybody who says that his income is less, let him come and then give his account and if it is found that his income is less, he will get refund but by way of presumptive tax, one can widen the tax net without creating much administrative difficulty, which are involved in deducting tax at source.

The other thing which requires consideration is the depreciation of plant and machinery of less than Rs. 5,000/- which has been omitted in this year's budget. I would personally appeal to the Finance Minister that particularly professional people, doctors, lawyers and those who have to read books, they have to purchase books which are treated as plant and machinery. Already there is a general comment that if this is the position, if they do not get 100 per cent deductions for the books purchased, then nobody will be able to purchase books and, therefore, perhaps even if generally the Finance Minister wants to do away with this because of the block depreciation, at least by an exception it can be retained in respect of books and other instruments with which the professional people carry on their profession. Otherwise, it will rather impede the growth of knowledge in the profession and people will not certainly be inclined to purchase books where they do not get 100 per cent depreciation.

In the rural sector, as I was pointing out, there is already a contribution which has been made for eradication of poverty which has been announced by the hon. Prime Minister and full deduction will be allowed on any contribution to that fund. Similarly, if anybody makes contribution to SCST Fund, he will get full deduction.

These are the measures which are intended to ameliorate the conditions of the weaker sections of the community. For the purpose of our adult education and primary health and also rural health, the rate of growth of expenditure has been increased to 84 per cent in the case of adult education. In the case of primary health facilities, it is increased to 91 per cent.

Once we have made the fiscal consolidation, once we have tided over the crisis which we faced in an unprecedented way in June, 1991 the fruits of development should reach the common people. That is the Government's economic goal.

We are committed to that goal by implementing the pledge that the hon. Prime Minister has given. The hon. Finance Minister has also to implement the pledge which has been given to the country by the Prime Minister. That is the pledge which we are implementing during this year's Budget. We have given enough attention to our Anti-Poverty Programmes. We have given enough attention to our rural employment opportunities so that the jobless people in the country, in the rural areas may get better employment. At the same time, it is true that the country is facing an inflation which we could not have checked completely. But there are two ways of meeting the fiscal deficit and the inflation arising out of it.

15.00 hrs.

[SHRI TARA SINGH *in the Chair*]

As the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech in the last year pointed out, fiscal deficit can be met by either of the two ways. One way of meeting it is if you reduce your expenditure and slash down your expenditure, the growth is thwarted, the growth is affected and thereby you try to reduce your inflation. The other way is when you have got sufficient resources, you have to take a decision. We have got now enough foreign exchange reserves. Our food-stock position is brighter. Our food-stock is much more than what we had even in the earlier years. Our Public Distribution System is stronger. Our investment growth is bright. The inflow of foreign capital in the case of equity shares is growing. The equity shares are coming now. The country has to take a decision whether we shall now slash down our expenditure and reduce the economic growth or even at the risk of certain doses of inflation, we have to proceed with our economic programme, with our development of the economy. That is a choice which we have to make now. Today, if we are to make a choice, we should make a choice of not impeding our economic growth and development. Inflation, undoubtedly, is there. As the Finance Minister has pointed out, the Government is trying to reduce the fiscal deficit by reducing the expenditure. Undoubtedly, it is field where, I think, much more fiscal discipline is to be provided.

The hon. Finance Minister has also cautioned us. Even in the earlier years' Budgets and even in the previous year's Budget, he has cautioned that unless fiscal discipline is practised, it will be difficult to reduce the fiscal deficit to a sizable limit. Even in the present Budget, the fiscal deficit, after all these exercises, has come down only to 5.5 per cent. We could have reduced it a little more. But we cannot do it at the risk of our economic growth, at the risk of our economic development. This is the position.

Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh was saying that this new economic policy cannot be implemented because it is a corrupt Government, it has not implemented the Report of the JPC. I was rather pained to hear this comment. I was also a Member of the JPC. Whatever the recommendations of the JPC, more than 85 per cent of them have been implemented. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Securities Scam have not been implemented. Certainly, the Report of the JPC is not a witch-hunting Report. It is Report for giving certain recommendations as to how best our Financial Institutions can be managed and the sort of things which happened will not be repeated. The Government has accepted most of the recommendations as to how to improve our financial system.

Next, Shri Jaswant Singh was pointing out that the Banking System has not been reformed on the recommendations of the JPC. I was rather pained to learn about this type of a comment. About the Banking System, the Government has already introduced various measures of control on the Banking Institutions and also on the

securities market. Now, one cannot certainly find fault with that. The programme has already been implemented and it will take years to come to have the results much more in an effective way.

Sir, I think that the present year's Budget is the fulfilment, even though partially, of the commitment which the Prime Minister has given.

The hon. Finance Minister has been able to fulfil the commitment of implementing the economic goal; in removing the poverty of the people; removing the unemployment of our teeming millions; in improving our industrial and agricultural growth.

The twin objective of our taxation policy is to create a situation where there is buoyancy of tax collection and at the same time stimulate growth and industrial development. Those two objectives have been fully fulfilled by the present taxation measures which have been introduced by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, we must say that the present year's Budget is to be understood and appreciated in the light of what we have already proclaimed when the present Government came into power. This present year's Budget is really a continuation of the promise which had already been made and which had already been fulfilled, even though, partially under constraints of our circumstances, which sometimes are beyond the control of the Government.

With these words, Sir, I strongly support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance for 1995-96.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Domdum): He should be inducted in the Cabinet.

SHRI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was a great privilege to hear the success story of the four-year economic reforms dictated by IMF and World Bank through Dr. Manmohan Singhji through his Fifth Budget. He claims that he has brought back the economy to a growth of 5.3 per cent in 1994-95 from one per cent in 1991-92; industrial growth from less than one per cent in 1991-92, it has gone up to 8.7 per cent; industry in India is experiencing a broad-based vibrant recovery; foodgrains production had reached a record level of 185 million tonnes from the low level of 168 million tonnes in 1991-92 and the buffer stock of 31 million tonnes in the godowns on January 1, 1985. Also, he adds that his reforms could add six million jobs each year from 1991-92 onwards and this year he expects more. The foreign exchange reserve has gone up to 20 billion dollar from one billion dollar in 1991-92.

But, it is amazing that this success story is not grasped by our people. Why has the majority of the people outvoted the Congress Party in the recent elections in the various States? What is the experience of the people? The Congress Party has to ponder over these things. Why have they outvoted them in spite of all your tall claims that you have achieved so many things in the country?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: They have decided to go. Why should they ponder?

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: That is correct. The food production has reached a record level of 185 million

tonnes from 168 million tonnes. But why is it that the availability of foodgrains has come down from 510 grms to 465 grams?

So, according to the population growth the Government could not produce food stuff to meet the requirement of the people. His godowns are full with 31 million tonnes of foodgrains. In 1991-92 the distribution through the Public Distribution System was 192 lakh tonnes; but now it has come down to 150 lakh tonnes. What is the reason? Is it that people do not want the ration rice? It is because the price of rice has gone up by 86 per cent and that of wheat by 72 per cent. The actual experience is that it is much more. The purchasing capacity of the people has come down and they cannot buy the ration rice. If the 1991-92 consumption level had been maintained, then there would not have been even a single grain in your godowns. Is it shown in the statistics? 31 million tonnes is now in the godowns. But this year they have purchased only 150. That means the food stuff is less than that of 1991-92 in spite of the growth of population. So people's purchasing capacity has gone down. They are not purchasing foodgrains and that is why there is very great stock in your godowns.

Coming to the industrial sector, the claim is that in 1994-95 the growth rate is 8.5 per cent. But if we take the average industrial growth for the last four years, what is it? It is 3.8 per cent only. What was the growth rate during the pre-reform period of 1988-91? The average growth was 8.5 per cent. So during this period you have come only to half of the growth in the pre-reform period.

Take the three years' period. Why Manmohan Singhji is only projecting 1991-92 and 1994-95? Why is he not bringing other statistics? It is because this is more convenient to him. I do not know what would happen to them if 1991-92 was not there. Because all the ills for our development has been attributed to that one year period. But what happened to all these reforms when you have been in power for four years?

The Finance Minister claims that the employment generation has gone up from three million jobs in 1991 to six million jobs last year and this will go up. But what is the reality? The Standing Committee on the Rural Development has criticized that during 1993-94 only 45.2 per cent of the targeted employment could be created. Likewise in urban areas the Rozgar Yojana is implemented. What is its performance? The Committee on Urban Development says that the Ministry in a written reply supplied to the Committee stated that the banks are not sanctioning the loan amount even as per the limit fixed by the Reserve Bank of India. The loan amount sanctioned is very meagre and made it difficult for the beneficiaries to set up their own employment ventures.

Actually, on the basis of the amount allotted, you are calculating the generation of employment. But, what is the actual performance? That is dismal; and that is what, the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development has said. During the four year period of reforms, how many industries have been closed? how many thousand workers are sent away by way of voluntary retrenchment scheme?

According to the Industry Ministry, out of 2.45 lakh sick small scale industries, only 16,000 could be revived. They have told us in the Committee that the rest of the sick undertakings cannot be actually revived. After that, now, the sick mills are numbering about four lakhs; that is, one and a half lakhs more sick units are added. How much can be revived? What is their position? How much employment is lost? Thousands of units are on the verge of closure. In the traditional industries like hand-loom, how many persons have died due to starvation during the reform period? Millions are suffering. The Prime Minister's new package is not going to solve their problem. If one or two societies in a district get aid, how can we help? It is like dissolving *hing* in the ocean. If you dissolve *hing* in the ocean, what will be the result? Your package for the hand-loom is like that. It is not going to help. Instead, previous 'rebate scheme' is much better. How are you going to implement it? That you will learn afterwards.

The small scale sector, according to the Finance Minister, is providing 140 lakh employment, which is 40 per cent out of the total manufacturing output; and 35 per cent of the exports are contributed by the small scale sector. For the small scale sector, our Finance Minister has provided a meagre amount of Rs. 200 crores, and the rest is for the banks to provide financial assistance for quality products aimed at strengthening the export capability. This sector can, not only improve the export capability, but can also cater to the needs of the village people. The Government can create more employment in the villages. But, for improving this, the basic thing is the land reforms. There is no mention about land reforms legislation for the last four years. What are you doing? Actually, the Finance Minister is claiming that West Bengal is following him. 'At least learn something from them', because they have implemented land reforms legislation and as a result of that, there is great improvement in the villages and lakhs of small scale industries have cropped up. I can tell you that a good portion of the small scale industries that are functioning properly is in West Bengal. Why is it so? It is because of the land reforms legislation. Whatever amount you are going to spend for the rural sector is not going to benefit them unless land legislation is properly implemented. You are talking about the *advisis* and other people. But, what is their lot?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): It is for the States to do?

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Is it for the States to do?

But, we are talking much about them here. What is their lot? There are starvation deaths. In Wayanad, I know that there is starvation death. Forty per cent of the people are suffering from anaemia or TB. They cannot even earn. You are going to implement so many things. But will they get them? Have they got any capacity to take any of these things? Much is talked about. You are spending crores of rupees; but it is not reaching them and that will not reach them unless land reform laws are properly implemented.

But your attempt is to help the landed gentry in the villages. Unless the shackles of the common men, the poor

men are actually broken and money is given to them, the money will not reach them. There is no attempt to do that and that is why I said, our Finance Minister should learn from the West Bengal (*Interruptions*)

With regard to helping the poor man, you have to get some lessons from West Bengal. But your Government's objective shall always be to safeguard the interests of the upper strata of the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all these years Dr. Manmohan Singh's effort was to control the fiscal deficit and according to him the cause of all ills of the economy was the fiscal deficit. In 1991-92 the fiscal deficit was Rs. 40,331 crore and in the revised estimates it was Rs. 37,727 crore. But in 1992-93 it stood at Rs. 43,000 crore. In 1994-95 the fiscal deficit expected was Rs. 54,958 crore and in the revised estimates it was Rs. 61,035 crore. In 1995-96 it is Rs. 57,634 crore. It means by the end of this year, it will cross the mark of Rs. 70,000 crore. If you take the previous record, you can end up in Rs. 70,000 crore only. This is in spite of the disinvestment in the public sector, a total of more than Rs. 14 crore or Rs. 15 crore because two in two years period it has given Rs. 7,000 crore and about Rs. 5,200 crore. So, it comes to about Rs. 12,000 crore. Before that also Rs. 2,000 crore and Rs. 3,000 crore. So, how many crore have you got? Taking of that money will also have adverse effects. But that is being taken. In spite of that your fiscal deficit is growing. There is a saying 'milling the seed and eating'. 'You are selling the hard-earned money of the country. The foreigners are very much concerned about your public sector units only. They do not want to begin other industries but they want the public sectors which are in commanding heights. They want to control them and that you are giving those units to them. This is the hard-earned money of this country, of our workers who have worked very well and the States also contributed, which you have now sold and eating. That is what I say, milling the seed and eating'.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Mr. Jyoti Basu is there.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Mr. Nirmal Kanti is more competent to reply to those things because everything is known to him. I can also do but he will be more competent to discuss that.

This is affecting the common man of the country because I am working amongst them. I know the disastrous effects of your economic policy on people. That is why I am talking. Now, so much of fiscal deficit is there. Why is it? Each year our Finance Minister has some excuses. First year it was the financial crises. Second year it was the Babri Masjid issue and the third year it was Share scam and this year fiscal deficit is the reason as a result of which the prices have gone up. This is what he says. Why does this happen? You give tax concessions and duty reduction to the industrialists and the subsequent excise duty reductions. These reforms consequently have aggravated the fiscal crises of the States.

Despite the fact that there has been withdrawal of the State from the role of the investor, this year the tax concessions to the rich and the upper middle class come

to Rs. 2,390 crore, of which the Centre's share is Rs. 1,592 crore. This will also squeeze the resources of the State Governments. It will adversely affect them.

The revenue account deficit in the last four years has forced the Government to borrow more and more. The interest on these borrowings is increasingly alarming and the burden presently is 18 per cent. Therefore, the interest payable on borrowings during 1995-96 will be greater than that of the preceding years with the result that the Budget Estimates on this account will have to be revised in the later part of the year to fully meet the payments of the international borrowings. The transfer to the States has been projected at 5 per cent increase over the revised estimates for 1994-95. In real terms, if the inflationary pressure is taken into account, the transfer to the States in 1995-96 will be a decline by five per cent.

Inflation can be arrested only through supply management, food subsidies, revamping of the Public Distribution System and an appropriate price policy for the agricultural products. The Budget presented by our Finance Minister for 1995-96 lacks all these and the inflationary pressure on the economy is bound to increase in the days to come. The Economic Survey of 1994-95 has given a warning that rise in the fiscal deficit and rapid growth in foreign exchange reserves were responsible for building inflationary pressures on the economy.

What about revenue deficit? A large revenue deficit invariably represents fiscal mismanagement. A revenue deficit indicates that the Government is living beyond its means. Even as far as its current expenditure is concerned, the revenue deficit, as a portion of the GDP was 2.7, 2.7, 2.6 and 3.5 per cent respectively before reform's period. In the subsequent four years of the reform period it has been 2.6, 2.6, 4.2 and 3.8 per cent respectively.

The question that normally arises is: What have the reforms which were justified in the name of fiscal mismanagement, really achieved by way of curbing such mismanagement? If the Finance Minister really wants to bring the inflation rate to a single digit, then lowering of subsidies on essential commodities distributed through the PDS, does not make any sense. Inflation is understood in terms of shortage of goods relating to demand. In the present condition, there is no cause for such a shortage and inflationary pressure on the economy should have been well within his control. Then the reason for this double digit inflation is increase in the administered prices of the whole range of essential commodities. For example, increase in the procurement prices of food grains on the one hand, and not providing food subsidies on the other results in the sharp rise in the issue prices of commodities distributed through the Public Distribution System and open market prices. Escalation in price of one commodity influences the market forces and leads to price rise in others also.

Government's refusal to remove the specific shortage of commodities at a given time, when they could be very easily removed has led to shortage and rise in prices. According to the Finance Minister, the shortage of essential

specific commodities can be made up by resorting to imports by using the plentiful foreign exchange reserves.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Finance Minister why this was not done in the case of sugar. For the benefit of the traders, the Government delayed its import. In the end, after the prices increased in the market, it allowed the industry to import and sell and in turn allowed to loot the people of thousands of crore of rupees. The convertible foreign exchange did not come to the rescue of Manmohanji. Reduction in the import duty or excise duty on air-conditioning machinery, cosmetics, synthetic fibres, colour TV or computers is not going to improve the living standards of the poor. On the contrary it will have a bad effect on the domestic industry. Take the example of the import duty on Captalactum. Reducing it from 60 per cent to 45 per cent will put the public sector enterprise into a difficult situation. In fact its very existence will be in trouble. All the M.Ps from Kerala had approached the Finance Minister and requested him not to reduce that duty but big bosses are more important to the Finance Minister than the workers' representatives or the M.Ps from Kerala, otherwise this would not have been resorted to. Last year itself we had requested him not to reduce it. You have done it this time and this is going to harm us very much.

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): No harm will be done.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Even one per cent reduction will harm the industry. Even when the duty was 60 per cent, a large quantity of caprolactam was lying unsold and it indicate that it has come under pressure from the other big guns.

Announcement of various schemes like housing for the rural poor, old age pensions, welfare schemes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, extension of education facilities for the rural poor, and so on are all an eye-wash. These schemes misguide the people at large. These are all implemented by the State Governments. If the Minister really wanted to help the poor, instead of allowing the banks to implement these schemes, he should have handed them over to the State Governments. Now these banks are also in distress because foreign banks are being allowed to compete with them. Other social liabilities are also with the banks and in addition you have entrusted the banks with the work of implementation of schemes. I feel if you give the money to the State Governments and ask them to implement these schemes, which they have already taken up, it will have much better effect. I would say that the step which you have taken is only an election propaganda and nothing else. I do not know what will happen by the time these are implemented. On the one hand the Strading Committee on Urban Development has said that banks have declined to give enough money and on the other, all the schemes have been implemented through the banks. I do not know what will happen to these schemes.

The new package for the poor is not at all new. It is just like a very old wine in a new bottle. There is nothing new in that. After giving all the concession to 20 per cent

of the upper class people, the Government thinks for the poor. It is just like a landlord after giving a big feast to his friends and relatives call the poor who are standing outside to get some remnants.

That is what is actually being done and that too they do not get it straight away. The rice is still on the fire, it is being boiled and they will get it only afterwards. It is that strategy that you have evolved. A real intention to help the poor is not at all there in this project.

Mr. Sharad Pawar had many packages for people but they were not influenced. In their anger they voted in favour of a section which propagates the same economic policy but is more dangerous to the country. The Congress Party should think as to what are the reasons for their defeat. The reason is that the people are very angry with the Congress Party. Package after package were given to people but there was no improvement in their living standards. How will they vote for Congress Party after all this? So, there are lessons to be learnt from it.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: You should be happy about it because they may vote for you.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: We are not happy because secular forces are not there to take over. Otherwise we would have been happy.

People's burden will increase. Problems of price rise, unemployment and inflation cannot be solved. Besides the General Budget, the Railway Budget is there to harm the people. It seems there is perfect understanding between the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister. Whatever little is given to the salaried people by the Finance Minister will be taken away by the Railway Minister through fare increase on pass holders. Freight charges which are increased by seven per cent are going to harm the country as a whole including the salaried people. There is unity in action of both the Minister because they know how to loot people. One is giving and the other is taking.

I, therefore, appeal to you to see the writing on the wall. Learn a lesson and change your policy. I remember one line from our great poet Kumaran Ashan. He says:

**"Mattivin chattengale swayam
Allangil mattumatee ningele thanna."**

It means: "change your ways, otherwise you will be changed". You have to change yourself by doing away with your pro-rich, pro-IMF, pro-World Bank, and pro-multinationals economic policy. There are enough resources in our own country. It is a rich country and we can build up our country by our own resources. We have to find ways to recast it. If you do not change, people will throw you out.

I oppose this Budget and appeal to the Finance Minister to change this policy. A policy which is conducive to the development of the people in this country should be implemented.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, I cut short my speech.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): The hon.

Chairman, Sir, loud claims have been made in the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. For example it has been stated in the Budget speech that Government wants to make the whole country as well as each and every person self-sufficient so that future generation may lead a respectful life and we may feel proud of being Indian. Our Finance Minister wants to save our countrymen from the curse of poverty that is why various economic policies, economic reforms, liberalisation policies etc. have been introduced. All these policies have been implemented. When I listened to the budget speech I felt that our Finance Minister had made a very good budget. No new tax has been imposed in the Budget and I will say that the budget has been prepared keeping the elections in view. It seems that facilities are being increased but I would like to draw his attention towards certain small-things like exemption given in income tax etc. I may have less knowledge in this field and if I am wrong you can correct me. It is nice to hear that they have given many concessions to individuals and increased the income tax exemption limit upto Rs. 40,000. It gives an impression that something considerable has been given to us. I would also like to say that Finance Minister might have kept in mind the possible increase in the inflation rate which has increased to 11 percent. This is continuous erosion of the value of Rupee and its purchasing power has gone down. In 1994 the exemption limit was fixed at Rs. 3500. Keeping in view the eroding purchasing power, proposed limit of Rs. 40,000 should have been fixed at even higher than Rs. 43,000. It means that the limit of Rs. 40,000 is not enough. With this limit of Rs. 40,000 one cannot purchase anything. Hence it should have been fixed at Rs. 43-45,000.

Sir, I would like to say that concession given in the budget appears to be an illusion. My party had demanded that it be increased to Rs. 55,000. You are raising it to Rs. 40,000 but now it is necessary to increase it upto Rs. 55,000 because this limit stands no where in view of the extent to which inflation has gone up.

There are so many other things. I do not understand that how our hon. Finance Minister said that our future generation would feel proud of being Indian. If they want to be proud of being Indian these they should keeping certain Indian traditions. It becomes necessary to preserve the things inherited from Indian culture on which we can take pride and one of such things is our culture of joint Hindu Family. We want to see our country united and integrated similarly we want to see our family united. Have they thought from this point of view? You have increased the individual tax exemption limit but the tax limit of Hindu Joint Family is stagnant at Rs. 18000 since 1991. It has not been increased. You and your party is saying again and again that they are following the path shown by Indiraji and Rajiv but what is the reality? I remember that Indiraji had once presented a budget and at that time she had said that for us inherited things such as joint Hindu family are like a gift of god and we should not break this healthy system. But what is happening today. Today they are saying that if you want to have a concession in tax, divide your family and have the concession. I submit that if you

want that your future generation should take pride in being Indian then you should think about Joint Hindu Family which is our inheritance. If you really want to follow the path of Indrajai then do something about it otherwise nothing will be achieved by talking.

The hon. Chairman, Sir, similarly we have heard many things about tax system. It seems that heavy relaxation has been given but when it is viewed minutely we see what a common man has actually got. Situation would seem to be somewhat different if we looked at it from the angle of a common man. You said that collection would increase by lowering tax rates but there is a reference to property, land transfer etc. also. I have heard that there will be 'tax deduction at source' on the fees given to advocates.

It was said in 1976 that the provision of T.D.S. will not be applicable on land transportation but today property and land has been included in it. Suppose, a tenant pays a rent of Rs. 10,000/- per month. He will deduct Rs. 2000/- and deposit the same towards T.D.S. Now, if a house owner is not a tax payer, he will have to visit repeatedly I.T.O. for the refund of Rs. 24000/-. This will, in my opinion, result in increase in corruption. What I have said earlier, needs attention. A new scheme under Income Tax has been introduced for the small traders, in which Rs. 1400/- are required to be paid once a year. For this, a Form is required to be filled up by the trader. A washerman or other small businessmen also come in its range. However, there are some ticklish points which are easily understandable by the authorities but not by general public. It was stated that the form will have to be filled up for two years but it was of no use. I have been told that the Government propose to continue with this scheme and the authorities have been asked that each of them has to get 500 forms filled up and submitted. I understand that with this the Government want to show that even the petty businessmen are paying taxes and this scheme is running in profit. It may be that you are doing so to show the figures. In my constituency, an Income Tax Collector was heard saying that he had to submit 500 forms. I don't understand what kind of a scheme is this which has no effect on people. I wish that before introducing this scheme, people should be educated about it. I would like the hon. Minister to reconsider his tax proposals. Income tax limit for HUF has been fixed Rs. 40,000/- which is of little value as on date. This limit should be increased. Now, transportation has also been included in the ambit of tax. It is also required to be looked into.

We talk of liberalisation policy, new economic policy and new industrial policy and wish that a small industrialists of India should also compete in the World market. However, I would like to ask which scheme you have talked about in this Budget for small scale industries? What facilities have been provided to them? If they really have to compete in the World market, they would, first of all, require technical assistance. They will have to spend more on Research and Development. Today from the export of small scale industries, we earn 52 percent of foreign exchange. From the point of view of

employment too, these industries provide maximum number of jobs. But there is no scheme introduced in the budget for the benefit of small scale industries. It is true that the industrialists of the country will have to stand in competition. We tell our children to score good marks but simultaneously, it is essential to provide them facilities, which we have not been able to provide so far. I would like to give a small example. There are a number of small scale industries which did not receive the attention of the Government. We have discussed many a times that there are a large number of foreign companies, who are not permitted to set up industries in their own country but they are setting up chemical factories in our country and thus polluting our atmosphere by taking advantage of our flaccid rules and regulations. I am constrained to say that this is a kind of corruption. Every citizen should have a feeling of nationalism, which we lack. It is because of this that our atmosphere is getting polluted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as plastic bags are concerned, it is said that they do not perish even if they are buried. Thus, they destroy the fertility of the land. Moreover, it causes more pollution. We often see small ragpickers in cities. For most of them this work is their means of livelihood. This is not good from the point of view of environment. These bags are sold to small scale units, where they are processed and converted into granules. Further, many domestic plastic items are manufactured from these granules. After all, what is our policy? It is a fact that when we look very high, we do not pay adequate attention towards needy people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our hon. Finance Minister talks about globalization, implementation of economic reforms and new economic policy, industrialisation etc. but no attention has been paid to the basic things. It is reasonable to charge 25% excise duty on original plastic granules because quality products are manufactured out of them. However, what I am saying is that the poor ragpickers could earn only Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 daily. These plastic bags thus collected are reprocessed and converted into granules. From these granules, small plastic pipes are manufactured for consumers, which are used in watering fields. This plastic is used at low level only. When excise duty is levied on it, the cost of resultant product increases by 3 to 4 percent. The Government has not thought about these small scale industries. Last year, duty was levied on corrugated boxes but later on, the honourable Minister reduced it. Though we wish India to be a prosperous country yet it is a country of the poor people.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to state that today the condition of big industries is also not sound. Many big companies are coming to India. They have their own production, R&D and marketing departments. Whereas, our big industries do not stand against them. It is like a big fish swallowing a small fish. In this budget, no adequate provision has been made for R&D. We talk of globalisation and competing in the world but there are certain things which are essential for market system. I

hope the hon. Finance Minister will look into it and make a provision in this budget.

There is one another important point which is linked with the interest of the farmers of our country. Honourable Jaswant Singh has mentioned in his speech that adequate attention has not been paid towards the interest of the farmers. Even if one goes through a book of class III or IV, one would find the same sentence that "India is an agricultural country and 80 percent people are engaged in agriculture." When we talk of whole country, how much attention do we pay to agriculture? What is the condition of the farmers today? The prices of fertilizers have been increasing leaps and bounds. What is its reason? What have we done to check their prices? Today, at many places, farmers are not getting electricity. In Madhya Pradesh, the situation is most grim. Farmers do not have means of irrigation. How would the seed grow? Rajya Sabha has still to pass the Bill in this regard.

Another important thing is that there has been a decline in national savings. Earlier, savings constituted 24 percent of national income but today it has come down to 17 or 18 percent. Further institutional loans has come down from 32 percent to 27 or 28 percent. That is why, the farmers are not getting loans today. I would also like to add that the honourable Finance Minister should look into it. The tendency of saving among the people has been decreasing and it may decrease further. However, there may be other reasons for this. One thing has come to my mind and that is income tax exemption limit. Though, you have increased the ceiling of personal Income tax, yet a condition has been added to it. The exemption limit on the earnings through bank interest has been raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 13,000/- for which everybody has thanked the hon. Finance Minister. I would like to go into the details because according to amendments in banking rules, no tax will be levied on an income of Rs. 10,000/- earned through bank interests. However, once the amount of interest increased even by Re. 1, the Bank will deduct tax at source on the whole amount of interest. Keeping that in view, raising the exemption limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 13,000 is not a big concession. If TDS will be immediately deducted from the interest accrued on the deposits in the bank, it may have adverse impact on our habit of depositing money in banks. When TDS will be deducted at the rate of 10 percent, why would the depositor keep money in the bank?

16.06 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG *in the Chair*]

I would also like to draw your attention to another aspect. If such a tendency developed among the depositors then some private companies engaged in banking business will benefit. Moreover, we do not have any control over these companies. In this regard, I have met the present Finance Minister and since my election to the Lok Sabha, I have been drawing the attention of every Finance Minister that a big fraud has been committed in the country by Shri Lakshmi Chand

Bhagga. As a result thereof many people have lost faith in this system. Several people had deposited crores of Rupees in the banks and banking companies of this country with the hope that they will get a good rate of interest, and enjoy some more facilities. However, when they saw that TDS will be not deducted even on an interest amount of more than Rs. 10,000 they invested their whole capital in these companies. I have come across many such examples. Today all those people repent for investing their capital in these companies. I told them that I have already drawn the attention of many Finance Ministers in this matter, but in the absence of Government's control over these, nothing can be done. If the fraud in these companies and decline in our savings continued, the people will be reluctant to deposit money in the banks.

The money thus deposited in the banks, is utilised by giving loan to small scale industries under various schemes. It also helps in giving loan to the farmers. The main objective of these schemes is to extend maximum assistance to the farmers but they do not get the benefits of these schemes. Further, the amount earmarked for social development is spent on non-productive works. From the election point of view, the hon. Finance Minister has presented a good budget but it is necessary that the schemes are implemented properly. As much as I could understand, the money deposited by us is spent on the schemes run by the Government. However, I need not to say more on how this amount is spent and what percentage of it percolates down to the people because everybody knows about this. But I would like to mention here that it is time to pay attention in this regard.

We should also look at the situation prevailing in agricultural front. There is no doubt that the Government is doing something for cash crop but the fertility of our land has been declining gradually. We have also to keep this fact in mind. So far, no attention has been paid in this regard.

In the end, I would like to say that we talk of our new economy policy, economic reforms and liberalisation. Are we gaining something from this or not? Being a common person, the tall claims made in the budget are beyond my comprehension. However, one thing which I have been able to comprehend is that, why should we still resort to import?

If the scarcity of any thing arises in our country and its prices shot up, we resort to import in order to check the price rise. For example, we had imported wheat under PL 480 scheme but it was infected with a disease. 'Gazar Gash' and as a result of this we incurred a great loss. Now this is the fate of our country that whatever we import, we invite several diseases with them. Hon'ble Finance Minister, this disease is a bane for the future of our nation and our progeny. This new economic policy is not favourable for our country. Under this policy we imported sugar to control the prices of sugar but there was a big muddle in its import. People like me thought that as sugar is being imported, its prices will decline

but, it did not happen so. Instead, there was a muddle in it. We will have to rethink over this policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of ensuing elections, far-fetched imaginations have been made in this budget.

There are many things which indicate that this is entirely an election-oriented budget. This budget has been presented in the midst of the talk of globalization and world market. It is repeatedly said that though foreign industries will be given encouragement yet Indian industries will not be ignored. Keeping in view all these points. I would like to say that it is like:

"Much Cry, little wool."

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

As per the Budget presented, the projections are:— GDP 5.3 per cent; industrial growth 8.8 per cent; foodgrains production 180 million tonnes and foreign exchange reserves 19 billions. These things show that we are in the progressive stage. But, at the same time, we have to address ourselves to the problems of inflation which reached double digits, about 11 per cent and unemployment which continues to increase. As the figures show, three crore and odd people are registered in Employment Exchanges and what is more the population growth is increasing at the rate of 27 per cent. The other areas where we could not provide even the minimum needs of the common man are: food, shelter, clothing, health and education. All these things are important things in regard to which we are not able to cater to the needs of the common man.

Coming to the common man's problems, we have to look at all those factors which are lacking but which are very much essential for the overall growth of the country and the common man. With the inflation rate of 11 per cent, the prices of essential commodities have increased considerably. We are getting rice at Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 per kilogram, edible at Rs. 40 per kilogram and sugar at Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 per kilogram. Between 1993-94 and 1994-95 itself, the price of rice has increased by about 8.2 per cent, wheat by 9.8 per cent, pulses by 7.2 per cent, oilseeds by twenty-five per cent and steel and fertilisers by seven per cent and ten per cent respectively. We are not in a position to address ourselves how to control this inflation which is affecting the common man at large.

Coming to the problem of unemployment, as per the register for the year 1994, there are 10.40 million unemployed persons in the urban areas and 20.60 million in rural areas. The total number of unemployed as per the 1994 register comes to thirty-one million. These are the figures of those persons only who register themselves in the Employment Exchanges, whereas the number of those unemployed persons who do not register themselves in the Employment Exchanges is much more than this figure.

Coming to the literacy rate in the country, the male literacy rate is 64.13 per cent, the female literacy rate is

39.29 per cent, and the average is 52.21 per cent. The work participation by male is about 51.55 per cent and that by females is 22.25 per cent. The average work participation by males and females is 37.46 per cent. So, even after forty-seven years of our independence, the rate of literacy and work participation is much below the required level. This is where at present we are.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the Government that has been newly elected is trying to address to this kind of problems. When we introduced the Rs. 2 per kilogram rice scheme, everyone said it was a populist scheme. Later on, when it came to the elections, that this kind of schemes had been announced by various parties in different States, including the ruling party, that is, Congress. The hon. Prime Minister himself, when he came to Andhra Pradesh for his election campaign, announced a scheme to provide 10 kilograms of free rice to each family, which comes to five lakh tonnes for Andhra Pradesh itself.

So, this has become a kind of programme where everyone has to think and address himself and come to a consensus to spread this kind of programme all over India. Hence I request that at per the promise of the Prime Minister to the State, the Finance Minister can consider giving this amount or this quantum of food to the State as per their requirement.

Coming to another programme which the Government of Andhra Pradesh started, which is total prohibition, we all very much know that any programme or any policy or any concession that we give is for the betterment of the individuals or the people of the country. Here is a programme where every individual of the family—mother, father and children — are very much happy when this kind of prohibition has been introduced in the State of Andhra Pradesh. You please go and see there. There is no doubt that the families are very very happy. The poor people are flourishing. Their economic status has increased. Their revenues are safe and they are enjoying themselves with this kind of policy that is the total prohibition. Here also I would like to make a request to the Union Government regarding extension of this policy. In 1977 there was a Central Prohibition Committee where all the Chief Ministers got together on 30th July, 1977 and formulated a policy that wherever this prohibition has been introduced, 50 per cent of the revenue and which will not come to the States by means of this prohibition policy should be borne by the Centre. It has been introduced and implemented in a few States. This was said on 30th July, 1977. Later on, this amount has been denied. Here again I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and request them to revive this and give 50% to the State of A.P. Wherever we introduced many policies for the welfare or goodness of the individuals, it was appreciated. This is our policy which is going to give to complete happiness and prosperity to the family.

Sir, coming to irrigation sector, we all very much know that to remove poverty and to give employment, we pay much attention. Irrigation is the backbone of the country as far as the rural area is concerned. For example, in Andhra

Pradesh the potentiality of the total State is that 145 lakh hectares can be irrigated. But out of this, only 55 lakh hectares only have, so far, been irrigated. The river water, that is the entire surface water by the entire river system is 2,746 TMC of 75-dependability. The total cultivated area is 55 lakh hectares. In Godavari river, 1,450 TMC of water of 75% dependability is there. There are only two projects now—Godavari project and Sriramsagar Stage-I. Polavaram Project, Sriramsagar State-II Project and Ichchampalli Project are two or three projects which are pending before the Centre since a long time should be cleared so that the rural areas can be irrigated and employment given as well as foodgrain production in the country can be improved with this kind of activity. At the same time, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted proposals for 16 major and 15 medium irrigation projects. So far, the Planning Commission has approved only five medium irrigation projects. The remaining 16 major and 10 medium irrigation projects are awaiting the permission of the Central Government.

For example, the foundation has been laid for Telugu Ganga by late Smt. Indira Gandhiji, Three Chief Ministers together were present and they have come to the conclusion as well as agreement for the implementation of this programme but it is still lying with the Central Government for clearance. Projects, like Galeru-Naoari and Hundri-Neeva are lying with the Centre for clearance.

Coming to the power sector, we welcome the privatisation of the power sector. But at the same time, we could not follow the methodology that has been adopted by the Central Government for the implementation of the programme. With this kind of implementation, we expect that ultimately the cost of the power is going to be higher. The consumer is going to be levied heavily. In the normal course, we expect that the generation of a megawatt will cost around Rs. 2 to 2.5 crore. But with this kind of investment a megawatt will cost around Rs. 4.5 to 5 crore. Where the projects are being implemented by our Electricity Boards and also by means of public sector undertakings the cost for generation of one megawatt unit is Rs. 2 to 2.5 crore. Here also that certain projects be implemented by competitive bidding and some projects by means of MoU. The MoU means it is a back door method. Why the Government of India is adopting this kind of method, we are not in a position to understand. This is ultimately going to result in high cost of power.

Coming to the corruption side, we all know the scam. So far the authorities are not being punished properly and it has been delayed at large.

Then coming to the sugar scandal also in which thousands of crores of rupees loss was involved, as other Members have also pointed out, nobody has been punished except the hon. Minister who has resigned. But the real culprits who are the real activists and who engineered this kind of sugar scandal have not been punished. The sugar is costing very high to the consumers. At a time when we are liberalising the various

policies, we do not understand why the licensing of the sugar should be done still at the Centre. This process is giving scope to think that there is some kind of mischief. We all know that many people have applied for the licences but never got them and we also know that those who got the licences, how they have got and what methods they have applied for getting these licences. In Andhra Pradesh, there is one district, Srikakulam and there is another district, Nellore. For obtaining a licence for the areas located in Nellore one has to go to Srikakulam and for setting up a sugar mill in Srikakulam one has to go to Nellore for obtaining licence. These kinds of activities are giving reasons to believe that something wrong is going on. On the one hand, we are liberalising the economy and on the other hand, we are adopting these kinds of methods.

Sir, the same water supply, the protected water supply, the drinking water supplies relating to Andhra Pradesh, so many schemes are pending with the Government.

There are 39 villages in Adilabad district and the scheme costs about Rs. 2.4 crore; there are 52 villages in Chittoor district and the scheme costs Rs. 5.29 crore; there are 52 villages in Guntur district and 24 villages in Warangal district where the costs come to Rs. 7.9 crore. In the other 394 villages, it is going to cost Rs. 686 crore. All these projects are pending before the Central Government. I request that funds for these things should be released immediately. And also the programme of the Government, Central as well as the State, to supply drinking water in each and every village should be speeded up so that the goals would be reached as early as possible.

Coming to the fertiliser sector, we feel that the subsidies which were given in this year's Budget are not sufficient. Though the production of foodgrains to the extent of 180 million tonnes, this year, is good enough, we feel that this has been achieved because of good monsoon in the country. But, at the same time due to the shortage of nitrogenous fertilizers and urea, it is going to give bad results in the coming future. This is what we feel genuinely and this sector should be given adequate subsidy and adequate funds for further development.

Sir, there are many poverty alleviation programmes that have been contemplated in the Budget. But at the same time, they have been linked up with the commercial banks and other financial institutions like UTI and others. The lack of budgetary support may affect these kinds of programmes. Even though we welcome these poverty alleviation programmes, we feel that sufficient budgetary support has to be given for these kinds of activities. That should be given utmost importance as far as the rural poor are concerned.

Coming to the industrial sector, people say that the reduction of duties on so many intermediate compounds and on many other items may hamper the Indian domestic industry. So, sufficient care and sufficient protection should be given so that our domestic industry

would not suffer, which otherwise may result in unemployment.

With these comments which I wanted to put down while participating in the debate, I thank the hon. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate.

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Budget.

Sir, many Budgets have been passed in this country and there is always an allegation that no progress has been made through the poverty alleviation programmes. After all these years, right from the First Five Year Plan till today, if you just see, the food production rose from 50 million tonnes during the earlier period to today's bumper crop and heavy stock in the country. This itself shows how much progress the Congress Government has made in this area. On the industrial side, the growth has not been so fast because industries are very limited in this country. All these days, we have the public sector which had consumed all the money and the taxpayers used to fill up the deficits and the public sector used to get away with it. This is how it was a sordid business in the public sector. Now, our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have given a new direction to this country by privatisation. Many people attacked the Government on the question of privatisation saying that it would not help and that the foreign people will come and dominate just like the East India Company which, when it came to India, not only dominated but acquired political power also. This is a wrong notion. India then was very different from what it is today. This I would like to bring to the notice of my friends who criticise us.

Unless we go in for some foreign fund, we cannot flourish even if we have the highest potentiality for marketing in this country. Unless we establish industries, we cannot off-load the people from agriculture. As we know, 75 per cent of our agricultural population is heavily burdened with agriculture for the last four generations. We are not able to off-load them to industry. If we want to off-load them to industries, we have to go in for industrialisation in proportion to the population.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for giving a new direction to this country by privatisation. There is lot of foreign investment flow to this country. We could not make such huge investments in our country specially on ONGC and on electricity and other areas.

More than Rs. 100,000 crores have already been invested but the benefits have not been apparent to the public and we have not been able to communicate the benefits to them properly. Some other friends refuse to understand the benefits of this investment.

I really congratulate the Finance Minister for giving a new direction to this country in industrial area.

So far as small scale industries are concerned, there is not much scope for them to develop because they cannot compete with big industries and MNCs. Therefore, we have to give more and more concessions to them so that young engineers who have come into the field should

not be disheartened or frustrated because when they start taking loan from the bank, they sometimes incur losses. Many of the small-scale industries are running in loss and are being closed down. Our Finance Ministry is aware of this. Feed-back must be there. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister that special care has to be taken of the small scale industries because they have to flourish in small towns and district headquarters. Agro-industries have to be started. If you do not do that, there will be frustration and rebellion against every political party in future. It has to be taken very seriously.

Coming to agriculture, we have not done as much as we should have done when compared to other countries like China who developed agriculture first. We have been saying that agriculture is the backbone of this country and we are helping agriculture. We are building projects for irrigation. But the actual benefits are not satisfactory. Wherever we construct irrigation projects for water management, about 30 to 40 per cent of water is being wasted. We have never cared for it nor is there the State Government or any supervisory power to monitor proper irrigation and to see that every drop of water is important to this country for production. The State Government has to be told very seriously to monitor the system of irrigation. How best can we manage this? We have a lot of projects. We have no trained personnel. We have a Agriculture College, an Engineering College and a Medical College. They are all located in the cities but we have no technical institutions for agricultural people to manage themselves and to make maximum production. If you impart technical knowledge to them, they will be better than anybody in the world. Even now, we are second in wheat production in international area. We are also second in rice production in the world. We are third in milk production. We are competing in many areas. But unfortunately we are not able to impart technical knowledge to the peasants. The peasant is also coming to the Employment Exchange to register his name for employment. He is tempted to come there because we have failed to provide him job by imparting technical know-how.

In this country, we have 160 Universities for 20 per cent of the population and hardly 25 Agricultural Universities for 80 per cent of the population.

We have to think of it very seriously. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that more number of technical institutions are established in towns and district places to cater to the needs of the agriculturists because nowadays we cannot irrigate the land overnight. Whatever quantum of water we have, we have to distribute it. But that is not being done.

Coming to dry-farming, there are many things. There are the fruit-bearing trees. Though the Government is doing well, yet we have failed to educate the people to be receptive to all these programmes. If we plant a tree, it would be cut. If we do anything, that would be abolished. So, we have to create a mechanism whereby we can create an impact by educating the rural-folk that they can be receptive to all the programmes that are being given to them.

Secondly, we have been telling loudly that industry and agriculture will be on par. But it is only remaining on paper. It should be implemented very seriously. Please look at the subsidy on fertilizers. I think, we are sometimes prejudiced towards agriculture. It should not be so. Hardly, the small and marginal farmers are given this subsidy. The big fellow will purchase all these things and take the signatures of the poor fellows and loot whatever has been given to the poor. The poor fellow will give it to the big fellow by taking a little alm. It may not be conducive to tell it. But this is a hard fact in the villages which is going on. Therefore, the subsidy should be increased to Rs. 7000 crore. Last time also, the Minister had promised. This time also, you are promising. I request the hon. Minister to fulfill the promise and help the peasants to come out of the red.

Sir, after the introduction of the Tenancy Act, where is the landlord? At least, in Karnataka, I do not find any landlord. The title 'landlord' remains. But there is no land. The ceiling fixed for dry-farming is 50 acres and for wet-farming, it is 10 acres. Hence you call them as landlords. Where is the marginal agriculturist? Where is the big one? After the introduction of this Tenancy Act, if the father had possessed ten acres some ten years back, now the adult sons have hardly two or three acres. There is no land for distribution. Therefore, there should not be any discrimination in respect of small, marginal and big farmers. The agriculturists are totally poor. They may be possessing the land but there is no production in proportion to the area they have. It is so because of lack of scientific appliances or fertilizers. There is no scope for having such things. Though the Government has increased the procurement price—I thank the Government for this—yet it is not sufficient. If we go to the cities, the people bombard us because the price is high. When you look to the stock position, you are having a bumper stock. If you go to the PDS, you will find that there is *gol mal*. The State Governments are not properly implementing the PDS. They first go to the market and dispose of all these things. This system has frustrated the people. I do not think any other better system could be adopted. But it has to be improved by strict management by the State Governments. A clear-cut direction has to be sent by the Central Government in this regard. Sooner or later, kindly see that agriculture becomes an industry. In the rural areas, we have been canvassing for poultry-farming, sericulture etc. So many allied professions are there to the agriculturists. But correct results are not achieved. These professions can generate employment to the rural-folk in a very big way which we have not implemented totally. Just funding money is not enough. It should be in proportion to the technical know-how, establishment and management. That aspect has been missing. Therefore, it pains me very much to see that the agriculturists and their sons are not getting any proper education for managing themselves.

Apart from subsidy for fertilizers and others there are gobar gas plants. I still remember, Indiraji has done a great service to this country in a great way by asking the banks to help gobar gas plants. Previously it was only with Khadi Board here and there, hardly one per cent was spent for

so many years. So, it is one of the triple benefit schemes for agriculture whereby even having a pair of bullocks or two cows, he can sufficiently meet the needs himself. Even reasonable return could come from the gobar gas plant. I call it as an indigenous industry of agriculture by his own. This fertilizer produced through gobar gas plant will sustain three years in the land and the fertilizer from artificial factory is only for one crop. After it injects the alpine, again the land becomes barren. Therefore, Sir, this has to be taken special care. You have asked the bankers to help. The system of banking is very unfortunate. It has not at all improved. It pains me to tell that any fellow going to the bank will come out with tears. They are not serving the rural folk. I would like to cite an example. A fellow went to take a loan for keeping a shop. He deposited Rs. 3,000. He got a loan of Rs. 5,000. Now, he has to pay Rs. 25,000. The official of which is located in my place. He could not adjust Rs. 3,000 against the loan there at the beginning. He left it till the son became taller than the father. This is most unfortunate management of the bank. It pains me to tell you. Kindly take it very seriously and see that the culprits are punished and the peasants are helped.

After this privatisation, the new direction has come. Even exports have been developed. Foreign exchange has been built. A lot of foreigners are opening their eyes to this country. They are coming and investing in the country.

Tourism is another industry for us. Every year, tourism is on the increase and it has increased since ours is the oldest country in the world. We have not taken as much care because in this country every place is cynical one and every place is beautiful and wherever there is a river or many things at least make one village, in one taluka where tourists can go and take rest. It is only where sea is there, like Goa and Kerala, that something has been done. But not in the other interior parts. There are not even good IDs to stay. Many of the foreigners who come here require swimming pool and some other facilities. You kindly make a survey and prepare a Master Plan and see that such things are done.

In Karnataka, in Mysore, Brindavan Garden is there. At least we can have two or three Brindavan Garden in Belgaum for Ghataprabha and Malprabha. On gravitation only water flows. Lot of land is there, but nobody has taken care. This has to be on the increase. Safety of the tourists is not here. It is most unfortunate that when we look at the newspapers, we find that some Japan lady is looted. What a shame on our part?

This should be taken care of by the Government very seriously and see that any tourist is safe in this country and comes with a free mind and spends his money and see that our purse is swelled.

Sir, so far as power is concerned, it is terrible. The agriculture is suffering. There is no regular power supply even for two hours. We know that the Government is constrained to supply, but some alternative has to be done. You know the working system of any electricity board in this country.

And you must be aware of these things. When will

these things become all right? People are suffering and we cannot enter our constituencies where there is irregular supply of electricity. So, we are accused at home as there is no regular supply of electricity. When we ask the concerned officers, they explain the position in so many ways and there is lot of corruption in the Electricity Board. These are simple matters but they are agitating and creating frustration in the minds of kisans. Whatever it may be, earliest action must be taken, monitoring must be done and theft in the Electricity Boards should be reduced. I do not think that you can eradicate it or totally root it out; it may not be possible but you can reduce it to a certain extent. If you go to any colony even in Delhi, you will find that electricity connection can be got very easily without meter than through regular system. So, this matter has to be taken very seriously.

Coming to sugar production, in my district, there are eight sugar factories which are commissioned in the last 25 years. We have got licence for four of them and we had applied for three more factories in 1993. But so far there is no response from the Central Government. Whereas Maharashtra could get 25 or 30 factories sanctioned. I do not blame other States but then why this disparity? We want at least three factories, namely, Bhagyalakshmi, Krishna and one more in Bidar and Karnataka Government has recommended for three factories. But these have not been cleared. So, I personally request the Finance Minister to look into the matter and see that they are cleared so that our people are happy. Entering cooperative sector is a later course though it is more employment-generating and helps in building up of the capital of the rural folk. Before that, why cannot we decontrol sugar factories? Let people come, invest and harness the potentialities in our country. Why should we wait at the doors of the Government? When you have done so in others areas, you may do so here also as it is a very small area. Hardly Rs. 50 crore is required for one factory and to commission it, it may take one or two years. But when we go for cooperative sector, it will take a long time and we cannot see that sugar is produced immediately. There is nothing wrong in privatisation. I would request the hon. Minister to go in for this method. When the Prime Minister came to Belgaum during the last elections, he announced that there will be decontrol of sugar industry. I request the Finance Minister to do it immediately so that the highest potentiality could be made use of.

I thank you for the increase in the area of land for drip irrigation. If we see the area brought under drip irrigation, it looks very big. 38,650 hectares of land are to be brought under drip irrigation in the present Budget. This figure has to be increased and there is subsidy for this. I have seen and personally experienced that if we go in for drip irrigation, there is double benefit. Firstly, water is saved and secondly, apart from adequate supply of water, there will not be erosion of soil and flooding. So, by any means, kindly double the area for drip irrigation and give it the highest priority. Therefore, decontrol of sugar industry and increasing the area under drip irrigation and modernisation are my important suggestions.

In other areas also, I congratulate the Prime Minister and Finance Minister for giving a new direction to this country. There is still lot of unemployment. You have been trying to reduce unemployment through Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Specially, in regard to Panchayati Raj legislation, I congratulate the Government as it is a historical and revolutionary step and it is also the fulfilment of the dream of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, which we cherish for ever. We are also happy with the provision of 30 per cent reservation for women and adequate representation of all communities.

Parliament, Assemblies and Panchayats have become real replica of the society. I really congratulate the Government for all these things. The future of India is very bright and strong as conceived by our Rajiv Gandhiji. Let us land into the Year 2000 for the bright future.

SHRI P.V. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh unfolded his fifth successive election-oriented Budget which is full of gifts to the rural masses and the urban middle class. At the same time, the Budget tries to take forward the process of tax reform and fiscal stabilization started four years ago.

The Union Budget for 1995-96 has none of the major innovations of the last year's Budget nor is it strongly populist or reformist. What Dr. Manmohan Singh has done is to strike a compromise between political and economic necessity.

Sir, last year's Budget was a gamble which has paid off with impressive growth in the economy with higher revenues and more foreign exchange reserves. This year he has seized the chance to do something directly about mitigating some of the harshness of poverty giving special attention to education, health, jobs and housing in rural areas. We are satisfied that at least the Centre has woken up to the realities on the ground and recognised the needs of the poor and the downtrodden.

The Government has increased allocations towards education, health and other programmes and plans to use some of the mounting stocks of foodgrains to sharply increase the rural employment. However, Sir, none of these programmes are new or different. The programme for poverty alleviation and rectification of social and regional imbalances are generally well-conceived but they are very much on the lines of earlier schemes. Therefore, they will not catch the imagination either of the media or of the beneficiaries. All of them will make only a difference that most of the elector will not even notice.

The benefit of liberalisation is yet to reach the common people. People are reeling under the impact of high prices. The new Economic Policy which is being pursued by the Central Government is yet to benefit the common man by way of providing more employment and bringing down the prices of essential commodities. While there is no evidence of employment generation taking up, one could clearly feel the impact of the rising prices of essential commodities. So, the price rise is all the more serious though the country had bumper crops both rice and

wheat for successive years and the Government had adequate buffer stocks also. Still prices are going up.

Sir, the Union Budget has also not spelled-out adequately the strategy to control the prices. The Finance Minister had indicated that rice price would be kept suitable by trade and tariff policies. This point had been repeatedly emphasised by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also that the rice price in the PDS should not be increased in any case. While welcoming the assurance given by the Finance Minister what I feel is that even more categorical assurance of the PDS, rice price could have been extended.

17.00 hrs. I also strongly feel that an early meeting of the National Development Council should be held to consider the lowering of issue prices of commodities earmarked for PDS.

The foreign exchange reserves position is so comfortable indeed that any shortage can be met by imports. In spite of this being the case, people are still reeling under inflation which is as high as 12 per cent. Even this 12 per cent is rather bogus, since it reflects the prices at wholesale level only. At the retail level, the price rise is as high as 20 per cent. The prices of pulses and edible oils are skyrocketing. But the Government has failed to take steps to bring down the prices. While the Centre has failed to bring down the prices of these essential commodities, the State Governments, with the very limited resources at their disposal, are forced to subsidise the prices in the PDS. For example, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is selling rice in the PDS at the rate of Rs. 2 per kilo. The Government of Karnataka is selling rice at the rate of Rs. 3.50 per kilo. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken adequate steps to bring down the price of rice from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 2.50 per kilo, by reducing one rupee per kilo. The State Government spend several hundreds of crores of rupees from their limited resources on food subsidy. The Government of Tamil Nadu has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 600 crore on its food subsidy. The State Government have also been forced to take up welfare schemes since the Centre has miserably failed to contain the prices.

I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister to spell out in concrete terms steps taken by his Ministry to bring down the rate of inflation at least to 6 per cent. The Finance Minister has come out with some populist schemes, but he has not earmarked adequate funds for these schemes. There were high hopes that exemption limit on personal income tax would be raised to Rs. 50,000. But the announcement of tax exemption limit from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 40,000 is marginal and the tax free limit on income on dividends and the like from Rs. 10,000 to 13,000 aggravated the disappointment of the people. The increase of Rs. 5,000 in the exemption limit is a pittance compared to the level of inflation prevailing in our country. The Finance Minister should be aware that the salaried class alone is penalised. They are the only section of people who are forced to pay tax promptly although they are suffering serious erosion of their income in real terms due to high inflation. I would suggest that the Government should tax only the basic wages and exempt dearness

allowance, TA, HRA, CCA, etc. from the purview of income tax. This measure will go a long way in benefiting the salaried class. There is also deep concern about the outlay earmarked for social development programmes. Though the idea of giving a fillip to social change is welcome, the targets are more in terms of financial outlay for development of rural and small scale industry, elementary and adult education and primary education. The five year tax holiday for companies investing in the area of infrastructure sector and the creation of a special reserve fund were steps in the right direction to promote investment.

At the same time, not enough is being done by the Centre for expediting new investment in the power sector. There is nothing to be gained in the next twelve months, as investments in this power sector, as a result of this tax holiday, would not give results before the Parliamentary elections next year.

Sir, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, our Chief Minister has been demanding for setting up of a Development Bank for the southern region and early finalisation of guarantees for the private sector project in Neyveli. We are greatly disappointed over the Centre's lack of response and the failure to expedite the finalisation of guarantees for the power project. While Dr. Singh has expressed difficulties about continuing the scheme of counter-guarantees and he has talked of it as a 'short-term measure', it does not give credit to the Centre to delay projects which are pending for want of counter-guarantee.

17.05 hrs. [Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

Sir, here I would like to cite the case of Neyveli Zero Unit project in Tamil Nadu, which was pending with the Centre for counter-guarantee for months together. The Centre should come forward with constructive action on those pending proposals. Equally worrying is the continuing attempt by the Union Government to shift the burden of fiscal adjustment on to the State Governments. The Plan assistance to the States and the Union Territories has marginally gone down this year. It is unfair that the Central Government, which runs a fiscal and revenue deficit of gigantic proportions and is unable to discipline itself, should not indulge in short shrift of the States in the matter.

Sir, while the increase in the Plan outlay for certain infrastructure and developmental sector is welcome, the paltry provisions for capital expenditure in the Central Plan as well as in the Central assistance to the State's Plan is highly regrettable. Successive Finance Commissions have failed to render justice to the State Governments. The State Governments have no major resource base, except sales tax.

At far as my State, Tamil Nadu is concerned, it suffers because of its pioneering role in implementing family planning. The State which control population effectively are punished, while States who allow it to explode, get more benefits. The southern States including Tamil Nadu have been pressing the Centre to ensure that the States which implement the population control scheme effectively should

not suffer. But even now, population continues to be one of the major criteria for deciding a State's Plan outlay. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to see that this kind of anomaly is removed forthwith. Those States who implement the population control scheme should be rewarded.

Sir, the Prime Minister has spoken about building a national consensus on the social safety net programme. Such a consensus will be in the interest of the Centre and of the States and most importantly, in the interest of the poor people who needs to be assured that reforms mean a bright future for them as well. What I would like to emphasise in this regard is, economic reforms should be reflected in such a manner which should be based on a real consensus where the issue is not strong States or a stronger Centre, but one of the Centre and the States cooperating to make India an economically vibrant union of States.

The big new programme is the National Social assistance Scheme to help the poor in four ways—pension for aged people, life insurance for families losing their breadwinner, maternity care for women and the release of food-stocks to expand the mid-day meals for school children.

But the Budget shows no large outlays for these programmes. Here I would like to say a few words about the mid-day meals scheme in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu had been a pioneer in introducing the mid-day meals scheme to the poverty stricken people and involved them fully in designing and implementing these schemes. Tamil Nadu had taken the lead not only in the whole country but also had earned praise all over the world. Through this scheme more than one lakh people have got employment opportunity. The Centre should, therefore, recognise the experience of Tamil Nadu and safeguard its position and not make it suffer financially for having been ahead of others.

We also welcome the Finance Minister's a announcement regarding giving donations to State Backward Classes and Minorities Development Corporations. In addition, the profits of these corporations would be exempt from income tax. Some benefits have also been extended for the physically handicapped.

Another welcome feature is the simplification of import duties on capital goods as this would promote investment. The reduction of import duty has now reached a level where the interests of local industry need to be safeguarded. The cut on the import duty on molasses from 65 per cent to 10 per cent will definitely hurt the interest of farmers in sugar producing State like Tamil Nadu. Such a steep reduction will not accord protection to the local industry.

The reduction in excise duties of various items is a step in the right direction, but the increase in excise on cement will naturally affect the housing sector and in particular the infrastructure sector.

Our Chief Minister had repeatedly requested that a Southern Regional Development Bank be constituted with

Madras as the headquarters. She had also raised this issue in the NDC on several occasions. But to our surprise the Finance Minister has made an announcement regarding a regional development bank covering only the North-Eastern region and has ignored the claim of Southern region.

Overall, the Budget is the best one can expect in the context of coming general elections. Dr. Singh has managed to contain the impact of the Finance Commission's transfers, has provided for a larger plan, has increased the provisions for poverty alleviation and yet continued the tax reform process. The Budget does appear to be a curtain raiser for the general elections earlier than later. This Budget must be seen as the one providing continuing incentives to strong industrial growth and investment. It is less definite in its impact on agriculture although State finances should improve.

Lastly, a few words on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. The recommendations have adversely affected the finances of better managed States. While there is no prospect of improved vertical transfer to states, the Commission has adopted unrealistic projections of Tamil Nadu's finances, including issues like eliminating subsidy to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, phasing out food subsidy and disallowing future pay revision.

The recommendations of the Commission provided Rs. 402.86 crore to the local bodies in the states. It is a welcome measure though Tamil Nadu got just Rs. 100.85 crore. This way Tamil Nadu was penalised for its efficient administration. The Centre can also accede to the long-standing request like share of Corporation Tax and implementation of consignment Tax proposal. Though the state of Tamil Nadu had reversed the trend of increasing deficits on the Revenue account, absence of worthwhile relief from the Tenth Finance Commission necessitated vigilance in controlling expenditure. Dr. Manmohan Singh's Budget proposals may not fully achieve even the limited objectives which had been set out. Dr. Singh will succeed certainly in maintaining *status quo* as far as reforms are concerned but the taxation measures may not go far in providing relief from the price spiral for the common man.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to take part in the General Discussion on the General Budget.

Sir, on behalf of our Party RSP, I rise to oppose the Budget. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot appreciate the Budget as it is not a self-reliant Budget. Sir, in a class divided society, Budget always represents a class Budget, a class economy in the interest of Ruling Party only. The Budget as proposed by the hon. Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh appears to me as a Budget for privileged class which will serve the interests of only those people who are already well-placed in our socio-economic system. Of course the Budget contains some flowery words and phrases for the poor. It contains some sweet wishes and noble commitments to give concessions to the poor people. In a welfare State, in a democratic State, these

concessions are very desirable to be given to the poor people. We do not oppose the suggestions for these concessions to be given to the poor. But, at the same time, I should remind the House that these concessions do not have any productive value in themselves. These concessions are of microscopic importance to the poor people in comparison to their needs and demand and aspirations. These concessions appear to me just as dry doles to be given to the poor people before the election year. For many readers of the Budget it must have appeared as a brilliant start for the election.

Sir, let us turn our attention to the beginning chapters of the Budget where the Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has made a very sincere attempt to project this Budget as a growth-oriented Budget. It has been claimed in this Budget that economic growth has accelerated to 5.3 per cent and industrial growth has accelerated to 8.7 per cent. It has also been claimed that his economic growth has created jobs for the unemployed youth.

I am sorry I cannot stand by this statement of fact. The declining condition of the textile industries, the declining condition of the small scale industries and the jute industries, the declining condition of the factories and mills, closure of mills, retrenchment of workers and lock-out, all these taken together prove that it is not a growth-oriented Budget. It is a fact that there is a growth in the economy but the benefits of growth have gone into the hands of those people who own the means of production. They have gone into the hands of those people who invest them in the modern technology. The benefits of growth have not gone into the hands of the poor people. The benefits of growth have not gone for creation of employment for the unemployed youth. The present position of the number of unemployed youth proves that it is a fact. So, Sir, I cannot, appreciate the Budget.

Again, let us, now, turn our attention to another important paragraph, viz., paragraph of inflation. It has been admitted in the Budget that today inflation rate is 11.67 per cent or something more than 11 per cent. The growing rate of inflation corresponds to 0.4 per cent rise in prices of essential commodities. It has gone beyond the reach of the common people of this country. How can the hon. Finance Minister claim that this Budget is a growth-oriented Budget? How can the hon. Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh claim that this is the pro-people's Budget when there is no provision for the control of inflation?

Sir, there is another point to judge and that is the fiscal deficit. It has been claimed in the Budget that our external debt has declined by 300 million dollars. This is the achievement during these four years. On the basis of this achievement, our hon. Finance Minister has eulogised the leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri P.V., Narasimha Rao. It is because the Prime Minister has accepted the new economic policy, the policy of privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation of Indian economy.

Sir, I have the statistics in my hand but I do not want to quote here all the statistical juggleries but I want to mention here, with your kind permission, that today, India has secured the third place in the world as the loanee

country just after Brazil and Mexico. Is it the brilliant achievement of the Government during the last four years? The real problem lies elsewhere. The real problem is that the fiscal deficit has gone up very high and the external assistance has been utilised to cover up the deficit. There is no credit for a Finance Minister like Dr. Manmohan Singh, who is the maiter-mind of this subject. Sir, the most important feature of the Budget which has appeared to me is the attempt to reduce the import duty. Reduction of import duty is an important feature in this Budget.

Sir, what would be the fate of the Indian indigenous industries? I am not a good student of economics. But our hon. Finance Minister is a good economist. He is a giant in the subject and he is the master of the subject. How can he claim that the reduction of import duty will be helpful to the economic development of the country without the infrastructural preparedness? In such a situation the Indian industrialists have to compete with the multinationals on an uneven ground. In this situation the indigenous industry will suffer heavy loss. I fail to understand the brilliant success or the brilliant achievements of the Indian economy during the last four years. I beg to oppose this Budget.

I have a good heart. I do not only criticise the Government or the Finance Minister, I have some good things to say about the Budget too. I welcome the good proposals mentioned in the Budget. I welcome the proposals for setting up of North-Eastern Development Bank, Small Industries Development Bank of India; National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. I welcome the proposals meant to develop the khadi industries, handloom industries and the rural industries. I would urge upon the Government and the Finance Ministry to ensure that the facilities offered by the banks should go into the hands of the poor people and not to the able middle class.

Sir, when we were studying in the college, fourteen banks were nationalised under the leadership of the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. After the nationalisation, a rickshaw puller used to get Rs. 3,000 for purchase of a rickshaw whereas an able middle class young man would get Rs. 3 lakh for the purchase of a car or a bus. All these days banking facilities were taken advantage of by the middle class. I beg to remind you all these things. In order to insist upon you to take some action in this regard. Necessary safeguards should be provided so that the facility of the banking system goes to the poor and the needy and not to the able middle class.

Sir, I have the modesty to confess that I am not competent to speak on the Budget. Our Finance Minister is a brilliant economist. But I learnt things from my real life experience. I gained knowledge by reason, conscience and the sufferings of the humanity. That is why I am forced to chargesheet the Finance Ministry.

It is a chargesheet against the Government for drafting such an anti-people Budget. I beg your pardon, if I have used any word unparliamentary to your choice. Thank you, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, we have to complete a lot of things like Vote on Account on the General Budget, Railways Budget as well as for Jammu & Kashmir during the next three-four days. We do not have much time at our disposal. I would request that we may kindly sit upto 7.00 p.m. today and allow as many Members as possible so that today we may get at least five and half hours and tomorrow probably we can pass the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Right.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: If it is extended at this hour, there can be no objection if they bring their speakers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are quite a number of speakers. Your proposal is well taken.

SHRI K.M. MATHEW (Idukki): Sir, I rise to support the Bill as well as to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting such a good Budget. During the past so many years the country has been presented with so many Budgets but I would like to say that this is one of the best Budget which has been put across so far.

The Budget is in tune with the economic reforms, which we have already launched and the economic reforms have been well accepted all over the country. I am sure, the present Budget which is in tune with the economic reforms will be well appreciated in the country. As a result of the last two-three Budgets and also the economic reforms the image of our country has been brightened profoundly not only in India but all over the world.

Now the Finance Minister has made considerable changes in the excise duty, tariffs, tax structure, social sector and so many other fields. These are also well appreciated. Now, of course, the Budget will have certain defects but generally speaking the Budget is very well esteemed and we can make criticism only for its own sake.

Sir, I would like to make one or two constructive suggestions for the kind consideration of the Finance Minister. As has already been pointed out here by some of the preceding speakers, there is some concern over the double digit inflation. I am happy to see that the Finance Minister is taking sufficient steps to control it.

But a concerted anti-inflation policy is very much required especially for reducing the prices. What affects the poor man to a very large extent is the increase in the prices especially of essential commodities. So, reduction in the prices of essential commodities should be given top priority. Therefore, as I suggested, a concerted anti-inflation policy is absolutely imperative.

Fiscal deficit is projected as 5.5 per cent of the GDP. But we have to take into consideration the State deficits and the PSU borrowings also. So, I doubt whether we would be able to limit this to 5.5 per cent when both these factors are also taken into consideration or rather both these factors are also added. Now, a sound money policy

through the RBI and other agencies may be required for controlling these things.

One other suggestion that I would like to make is that more resources should be given to the States. Now, Kerala is one of the States for which some more resources are very much essentially required because it is one of the States which has been neglected during the last few years. So, at least this year there should be some more consideration.

Now there is a very welcome point which I would like to appreciate. There is a thrust on exports. This is well and good. But I would like to suggest that there should be more consideration and more incentive for the export of cash crops like cardamom, pepper. Now, there has been a demand for the export of rubber also. But at the moment, even without this, rubber can stand on its own. At least for pepper, cardamom and other cash crops, there should be more incentive and especially for cardamom, the price of which is going down considerably.

Now, Sir, I referred to the economic reforms. As has been pointed out by an U.N. expert, the economic reforms will suffer heavily if the human capital is also not improved. That is very essential. So, there should be more allocation for education, for poverty alleviation programmes, for employment programmes, for improving the productivity of the labour and also for getting their cooperation.

Now, from the angle of Kerala, which is my State, I would like to make one or two suggestions for the consideration for the hon. Finance Minister. Now this reduction of excise duty is, generally speaking a welcome step. But protection and development of indigenous industries also should be taken into account. The reduction of import duty on caprolactam will affect the FACT very seriously and, perhaps, it may ruin it totally. So, this aspect has also to be considered.

There is a mention about the Kayamkulam Thermal Project. But no allocation has been made for that. There is not even, as far as I remember, a mention of the Ezhimalai Naval Academy.

Generally the allocation for centrally-sponsored projects in Kerala is not enough.

One more word about the NRIs. Sir, the NRIs all over the world, especially in the Gulf countries, are reeling under so many difficulties. I think, in the Gulf area, out of the total NRIs, more than 50 per cent are from Kerala, my own State. I am not going to mention all their problems here. But they should also be treated on a par with exporters. Whatever facilities, such as incentives and encouragements that we are giving to the exporters, should be given to the NRIs also.

Sir, on the whole this is a good Budget and the Finance Minister has given a very good leadership in the economic and financial realms of the country.

There are two kinds of leadership: the transacting leadership and the transforming leadership, and I am happy to see that the Finance Minister has given a

transforming leadership in the field of finance and economics. I once again congratulate him.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VERMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has presented his fifth budget in this House. The people have generally appreciated the budget and termed it a budget for the poor as well as middle class people. Once they went into the depth of this budget, they felt that this budget is not in the interest of the poor and middle class people but the industrialists. By this budget, the rich will become richer and the poor will become poorer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ours is an agricultural country and the farmers have been called the feeder of this nation. But the Government have not paid any attention towards them. As a result, their condition have become miserable. Nothing has been provided to them in this budget. In 1994-95, Rs. 1302.50 crores had been allocated for them which was later revised to Rs. 1815.25 crores. Even then, this amount was insufficient. Now in the current budget i.e. 1995-96 an amount of Rs. 1460.22 crores has been allocated which is less than the revised allocation amount of the previous year. It shows that the allocation made in this year's budget is very less and it is not going to serve any purpose.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the son of a farmer is prepared to become a driver but he is not prepared to drive tractor in his field. Further, he is prepared to work as a peon, fetch a glass of water and carry file in offices but not prepared to work in his fields. It is because of new economic policy and presentation of this type of budget time and again that the condition of this country has worsened to this extent.

Sir, there was talk about fertilizers. Due to good Monsoon this year the farmers were happy. When they sow the seed, the need for fertilizers arose. There was acute shortage of fertilisers in Gujarat. A reference to this effect had also been made in the concerned Parliamentary Committee. Urea was supposed to reach there in time there, but it did not reach. As a result the farmers had to face great difficulties. Urea was sold everywhere in black market. Today, farmers do not get urea and electricity in time. If he needs power supply for 18 hours, he is getting it only for 8 to 6 hours or sometime for 10 hours and that too, not at a fixed time. Farmers have to remain in their fields, even upto 2 O'Clock in the night. Industries in our country are getting 24 hours power supply. I am not against it but what harm our farmers have done that they do not get timely power supply. Union Government should have the same approach towards both the sectors.

Prices of the implements needed by our farmers go so high that they become beyond their reach-rendering them unable to utilize the implements. They do not get even small tractors for their use in time. They have to purchase implements from black market. Funds allocated for this purpose should be increased.

Availability of fertilizers is also in a very bad state. The condition is so bad that our farmer have to run from pillar

to post to get them. There should be pre-allocation of the fertilisers and a survey should be conducted to find out the requirement of Urea and Nitrogen. Accordingly, it should be allocated to every State. Non-availability of prior arrangements create problems for everyone.

An amount of Rs. 1255.02 crores was allocated for health in 1994-95 Budget. In the revised budget, it went upto Rs. 1397.90 crores. This time, the amount has been increased in 1995-96 budget and a sum of Rs. 1458.45 crores has been earmarked for this purpose. I think it is quite inadequate. We need to pay the utmost attention to the health of the people. Much is being propagated about health improvement through T.V. and magazines. Financial aid of crores of rupees is also given for this purpose. Actually, such facilities are required to be given in advance which can make our children, seniors and youth healthy. The country, which has hungry and unhealthy children, can never make any progress. Which kind of life a country would give to its youth whose children have spent their childhood in hunger? Today children are depending on medicine. Mortality rate particularly of the slum-dwelling children is increasing in the country. We must become health conscious by increasing the allocation made for it so that India may emerge as a stronger nation and its people may live with pride and glory.

'Family Welfare' was given 1678.78 crores of rupees in 1994-95. In the revised budget this allocation was increased to Rs. 1795.58 crores. This year, in the Budget for 1995-96, only one thousand crores of rupees has been increased which is quite less. Much importance should be given to the family welfare in Indian Culture. Disabled persons number much in our country. They are helpless and in difficulty. They want to live a respectable life. Good jobs and respectful profession should be made available to our disabled people so that they may live-up their lives on their own and do not become burden on others. They therefore, should be extended much help. The provision made for this purpose should be increased.

It is said that disabled people will be given jobs in big industries but it is not given. They are, therefore, still faced with difficulties. It requires our attention.

A sum of Rs. 2433.63 crores was allocated for education in 1994-95. It was increased to Rs. 2494.54 crores in the revised Budget but this time in the Budget for 1995-96 only three thousand crores of rupees had been increased which is again quite less. Education has much importance in the country. The country, which pays proper attention towards its education, always moves ahead and shines in the world. Today many places have no schools at all. I would like to refer to my constituency. Situation in my constituency is the worst one. If there are schools, they do not have teachers to teach and if there are teachers they haven't got table and chairs to sit. If everything is there then there is no blackboard. In the farflung areas, a teacher has to teach even five classes at a time. What care a teacher can take of his students who is already teaching five classes. He can ensure only this much that students do not go outside their classes and remain in their classrooms. Some of the schools do not have even roofs.

You would be surprised to listen that during the rainy-days students are asked to remain in their houses and thus they do not come to schools for a period of two months. This is the condition of our students there and the plight of teachers in Gujarat is so pitiable that they are ready to serve a petty job of just Rs. 300/-, should they get it. On the one hand, such is the position of child education and on the other, people loitering with B.A. and M.A. degree. You would be surprised to know that in the cities people have to pay one lakh of rupees for getting a job of teachers and in the rural areas, it is Rs. 40,000/-. One can get the job of a teacher only on payment of this gratification. Today's child is tomorrow's bright future of India. If he lives in such a state of affairs, how can he become educated? In my view, for their schooling, they should be given books and two pairs of uniform. We had started a mid-day meal scheme in Gujarat, according to which the child, who would be going to school with 80 per cent attendance, would be getting 10 kg. of wheat from the Government. Suppose there are five children in a family, then that family would be getting 50 kgs. of wheat. In such a situation, parents used to send their children to schools. But when the new Government took over, they discontinued the scheme. Now there is again Bhartiya Janata Party Government which would relaunch it. They have promised it in their election manifesto. This is my humble request to the Central Government that they should launch this scheme nationwide. If it happens so, the child will become an earning member of the family right from his childhood and there would be nationwide spread of education.

Alongwith this, there is the problem of shortage of colleges. Students opting medical or other disciplines have to go outside the state for their higher studies. They go to Karnataka and Tamilnadu and take admissions there for their further studies. I want to let you know that number of agriculture universities in Gujarat requires to be increased. Even people of my constituency have promised to give away 50 acres of land for setting-up of an agriculture university. I have also written to hon'ble Minister in this regard. We will have to pay more attention on education. Donation is prevalent in education. I mean, you have to give bribe for your higher studies. If he gives donation for his studies, what will he do in future? Alongwith this, hostel facilities are also required for them. Many a times this question is raised that when a SC/ST student comes to a city for his higher education, he does not get a lodging to live in. Women's hostels are also needed as women will be needing some place to live in when they come outside their houses for their education. What can a student do by passing seventh or eighth standard and they would like to pursue their studies, get through the SSC and other examinations. I want that teachers and students both should get due respect. But what actually happens is that when teachers try to raise their demand or organize a rally, they are lathicharged by the police. The persons whom we consider our 'guru' are lathicharged by the police. This is also very bad, such an incident has occurred in Gujarat. Therefore, I want to say that there should be more and

more colleges, more and more schools and each village must have Primary School and teachers should also be there. Education without teacher may be possible in colleges but not in schools and as such the future of the students would be in jeopardy. Government should pay particular attention towards it.

So far as the defence is concerned, funds should also be allocated for the defence of the country. Defence of the country is important. As we go out of Parliament House, we too need security. When we enter the Parliament, checking is made for security point of view. This is a good thing. But it is a matter of regret that there are no adequate arrangements to check the infiltration of terrorists across the border in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kashmir and the coastal areas of South. There are no adequate security forces. The persons who do good work do not get the desired appreciation. Terrorists infiltrate in Gujarat from Pakistan and other countries. We have promised that no terrorist would be able to infiltrate in Gujarat. I want to submit that at the time of allocation of grants, more funds should be allocated for the security of Gujarat and Rajasthan. There would be peace in the entire country if more attention is paid to the security of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Gujarat has a sea coast and coastal Highway-From security point of view that should be converted into National Highway-If more grants are allocated to Gujarat for that, it can help the whole country.

Sir, I would like to say something about the Department of Women and Child Development. In 1994 Budget, Rs. 705.59 crore were allocated for this and later on it was revised to Rs. 706.16 crore. But in 1995, only Rs. 774.89 crores have been allocated for this purpose. This amount is quite less and it should be enhanced so that the women in the country may lead a respectable life, set up their own business and makes progress. As I have already said, the children in the country would develop and rise in life only if we take care of them. We know that children are the future of India. If we do not take care of them, you can well imagine about the future of India.

"Balak hai Anjan, use karao pahehan. Kaise bare hamari shan, balak bana agar badmash to ghar ka hoga satyanash, balak bana agar insan to duniya mein kahelayega Mahan."

If good education is not imparted to the child from his childhood, he would grow into a wicked fellow and would indulge in anti-social activities. If good education is given to him, he would be prepared to die for the sake of his country.

Now I would like to say something on water-resources. Water resources are quite important for Gujarat. In 1994-95 Budget, Rs. 392.85 crores were allocated for this but the amount spent was Rs. 372.57 crores i.e. Rs. 20 crores less than the Budget allocation. The question of non-availability of drinking water is frequently raised. It is a matter of regret that even after 46 years of independence, there is no drinking water in the villages of India. When we visit villages, people ask us as to what have we done for them. The water supplied in my constituency is not fit for drinking and the old people who drink water in the evening

become sick by next morning. Drinking water is supplied there through tankers. People are not getting drinking water properly.

Sir, I would like to say something about Narmada Project. The issue of Narmada Project has been debated not only in India but all over the world. We are fighting for Narmada Project for the last 20 years, but it has not been completed. Work on it is stopped due to one or the other reason. This work has not been completed inspite of the assurances given by Shri Manu Bhai Kotadia and Shukla Ji. Now B.J.P. has formed Government there. They have given assurance that they would complete the Project at any cost. Only Gujarat is not going to be benefited from this project. Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh would also be benefited by it. As the land of Kutchh is lying vacant, the terrorist come and settle there. If the cultivators of Kutchh are provided facility, the population in those villages would increase, and the issue of drinking water would also be solved.

18.00 hrs.

Summer has not set in yet and the people in the villages of my Constituency have already started facing shortage of drinking water. Drinking water is being supplied through tankers there. When the Tanker arrives, the villagers gather there to take water, several times they even quarrel over it. Such is the factual position of drinking water in the country even after 46 years of independence. Had the Government acted earlier and not allowed the water to flow into the sea and had prepared small water projects, there would have no drinking water problem in Gujarat and also in whole country. Crores of rupees were spent on industries but attention was not paid towards villages. As a result thereof people left villages and shifted to big cities like Bombay, Delhi and Madras. Today if we travel in train, agricultural land is seen only for 10 minutes and barren land is seen for 30 minutes. Who is responsible for this barren land? We, the representatives of the people and our senior representative of the people are responsible for it. Bhakhra Dam was constructed in Punjab and as a result thereof it has become a prosperous State. Our Finance Minister also belongs to Punjab. Today, in the advertisements of tractors, fertilizers or diesel saving the photograph of Sardarji is being shown. The reason behind it is that Punjab is prosperous today. Punjab is number one all over the country. Had Narmada Sagar Project been completed, Gujarat would also have been a green and prosperous State like Punjab. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that Narmada Project should be declared a national project and should be completed expeditiously. The original estimated cost of the Project has gone up four times due to delay. If work is held up even for one day, there will be loss of crores of rupees. I wish that hon'ble Minister should give assurance in this regard in his reply.

I also want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards one more important aspect, i.e. about the arrangement of water for animals. The ponds in villages should be dug 10-15-20 feet deep so that rain water may be stored therein and may be used for animals in summer.

In this connection, once I had asked former Chief Minister Chiman Bhai Patel that the farmer would get drinking water from the tanker, but how he would manage water for his cattle. In a written reply I was informed that it would be the responsibility of the owner to arrange water for his cattle but not the responsibility of the Government. When the farmer has no arrangement of drinking water for himself, how can he arrange water for his cattle. Therefore, it is necessary to make ponds deep in the villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, likewise Rs. 1330.41 crores have been allocated for social welfare. This amount is meagre. It should be increased. Billions of rupees have been spent on social welfare after independence, but the factual condition of the Backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in villages remained the same. These people cannot take water from common well, they cannot go to the temples, they cannot take tea in hotels. Though untouchability is no more in urban areas, yet it is still there in rural areas. Where has gone that money, which was allocated for social welfare. Even today we see that the houses of the people of backward classes in villages are made up of mud and Bamboo. When we visit the villages, these people use to say that the leaders have become prosperous but our condition is the same. This is the factual position. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister that more funds should be allocated for social welfare and more attention should be paid towards this so that these people can get proper education. More loans should be given to the backward people so that they can be able to set up some small industries and may progress. To give a loan of Rs. 2000-5000 is a mockery. Today Rs. 5000 is even not enough to set up a beetle shop. It is a mockery of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people. If you really want to give them loan, the loan amount should be enhanced, otherwise do not give them loans.

As far as railway is concerned, injustice is being done to Gujarat. This time also Gujarat has been given nothing. After six years of persuasions only a broad gauge line from Delhi to Ahmedabad has been sanctioned. There was a longstanding demand for laying railway line from Bhavnagar to Alang. The ship breaking yard situated there, is the largest Project in Asia. The Minister of Railway had replied that Rs. 300 crore were required for that purpose and the government did not have that much amount. Iron from Alang is transported by road throughout the country. It involves a lot of expenditure. If that area is connected by railway line the country will be benefited a lot. The people of Gujarat should get a direct railway line from Bhavnagar to Delhi and Bombay. An Express train should also be introduced there.

We had made a demand for electricity, also, we don't know when the shortage of electricity would come to an end in this country. In Gujarat electricity is generated with the help of coal which is costly. Our farmers are in trouble. The farmers of Gujarat started an agitation to bring down the rates of electricity and they went to Gandhi Nagar. But they were fired at and many farmers were killed. We should be supplied gas from Pipava. This will help the

farmers of Gujarat in getting electricity at cheaper rates and thereafter their crops will also increase.

The Government has not paid uniform attention towards the industrial production of Gujarat. In some parts, while the Government has paid too much attention, some parts have been totally left. I urge upon the Government that it should pay attention towards this side also.

Unemployment is a major problem in our country. We have demanded in Lok Sabha also that unemployment allowances should be given to unemployed people. If we don't pay unemployment allowances to them where will they go? Today they are helpless. They need work, food and shelter but we only listen to them. But we are not doing anything for them. If we do not do anything for them, their minds may be diverted somewhere else and that may become a headache for us. I, therefore, demand that those people who do not get employment should be given employment allowance.

Last week a question was raised in this House regarding revival of closed cotton mills of National Textile Corporation. It is not known, when the closed mills will reopen? Many Mills have been closed in Gujarat also. Honourable Minister had told that the Government would be revived those mills but it is not known when these mills will start functioning. The officers of those closed mills are selling the machinery. Recently I found that an officer was trying to sell a boiler. I asked him why he was selling that boiler when the mill would be reopened. I demand from the Government that it should give assistance to the closed mills of National Textile Corporation and other mills immediately. The Government prepare schemes of crores of rupees but the labourers do not get their wages. If the labourers become frustrated, they can follow the path of terrorism; then a dangerous situation can arise. Today labourers in Ahmedabad are compelled to commit suicide due to unemployment. There is Kankariya pond where one or two frustrated labourers are committing suicide every week. I, therefore, request the Government that it should revive the closed mills.

The Government had introduced voluntary retirement scheme. People were retired under that scheme after giving them some money. But what is happening there, the employees of closed mills are being threaten and told that those mills would not be revived and they may go to their homes. If the Government does not want to reopen those mills, then it should pay gratuity, and P.F. to them and ask them to go on retirement, because as per rules, half pay is to be paid to the employees of the closed mills. Thus the country have to suffer from loss after loss. When the hon. Minister gives his statement, he must tell about their plight.

I would like to know from the honourable Minister as to how much amount of assistance has been increased or decreased, for Gujarat State for its various schemes and the reasons therefor? As the amount of grant given by the Central Government, has not been received in time, the schemes have failed. Besides, it also causes cost overrun as it has happened in Narmada project. Therefore, the Government should release grants timely.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Central Government

sends circulars in English and Hindi to the State Governments but the circulars are sent to Southern States in their own languages. On the similar times, circulars to Gujarat must be sent in Gujarati.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the budget. However, at the outset, I would like to state that I am agreeable with the observation of the hon. Finance Minister as regards the performance of the Finance Ministry during the last four years. He has enumerated the achievements in his Budget speech under item three. I am agreeable and I feel convinced and I appreciate this.

But why I oppose, I shall mention the reasons later on. I shall give the justification for my opposing it.

Sir, I am also prepared to respond to the call that the hon. Finance Minister has made through his Budget speech. He has stated in his Budget speech and gave the call which I quote here.

"It is time for rededication and reaffirmation of our collective solemn resolve to work tirelessly for building a new India worthy of the framers of the founding fathers of our Republic, an India which will enable our children and grandchildren to lead a life of dignity and self-respect, to take pride of being an Indian."

I am prepared to respond to it. And I feel very much convinced of the call. And also, Sir, I am prepared to agree with the proposals for the reduction of taxes, exemption of taxes which are laid down in his Budget and also with the proposal for imposing new taxes or rates. But still, I am not supporting the Budget because of the negligence of the Finance Ministry in particular and the Central Government in general of the region of North-East.

The North-Eastern region is regarded as a backward region and it is neglected. The region comprises of many small States which are not viable due to their geographical position, their population and meagre resources etc. However, it is a part and parcel of our country. Because of its strategic position, they are established as small States in that region. The consideration of non-viability of these States should not stand in the way of development programmes. This is my plea.

My opposition to the budget is because of the negligence on the part of the Central Government in general and the Finance Ministry, in particular, towards this region and towards the small States of that region which include Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal, Tripura and Sikkim etc. These are small States and they are not viable. Their revenue income is very meagre. They cannot rely on that. But particularly Manipur has many resources. It has plenty of fertile land but it remains barren because that land could not be exploited for want of funds. There are plenty of resources for power generation. There is a proposal for Loktak downstream which will produce hydro-electricity. That proposal is lying with the Central

Government. No clearance is given. In this House, I raised this issue again and again and the reply was that "It is being examined". It is now four years and the clearance has not been given. This is the attitude of the Central Government. If it happened in a big State like Maharashtra or Bihar or West Bengal, the Central Government could not have said that it is being examined. A proposal from a small State is not cared for. This is the fate of the small State.

You might have visited Manipur which commands scenic beauty. You might have seen the natural lake Loktak and the scenic beauty in the hill stations and the pleasant climate there. It is described as Eastern Kashmir and it is sometimes compared to Switzerland as regards its climate. One of our late lamented Prime Ministers, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru described it as the jewel of India. But whenever a national programme is prepared for development of tourism in this region, it excludes Manipur. It does not cover Manipur. Likewise, this area is full of resources. But the resources are not exploited for want of funds. The fund is not provided by the Finance Minister. This is the attitude. So, there has been imbalance in this region since the time of Independence. This imbalance has to be overcome by doubling the allocation, by providing special funds or by preparing an extraordinary budget for this region. Otherwise, it will not come up on par with the other parts of the country. We differ with you for this reason. It is for this reason that I oppose this Budget.

18.21 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair]

Sir, I have just stated that I am agreeable very much to the many proposals of the hon. Finance Minister for the development of that area in many sectors. I need not quote all those programmes because of the time factor. Still, for example, I would like to mention the Anti-Poverty Programmes which are very good. But when they are to be implemented, we have to think which agency will implement the programmes. That is the crux of the problem. The Finance Minister may provide funds for taking up many programmes for the welfare of the people of that region. I am prepared to agree with him. I am convinced of it, but the crux of the problem is who will implement, who will execute those programmes.

In the State of Manipur, there are two Governments at the moment in the present state of affairs. One Government is run by the underground insurgent organisation. What they do is they collect ransom regularly. I would mention that if members of each and every family of the State are employed under the Administration, they are bound to make regular contribution. It is so from the Secretariat level to the lower level, from the Chief Minister's level to the peon's level. If the members of the family of the Inspector-General or the Superintendent of Police or any of the security people are employed in a school, then, they have to contribute to the underground organisations through their wives or other family members because if they do not contribute to it, they will be shot dead. If any children are in a school or college, the families are bound to pay because if they do not pay, the underground insurgent people will kidnap and ask for a very big ransom.

Likewise even the commanders of the security forces have been contributing to this organisation. It is our information. So there is none who does not pay. If he is an employee of the administration, he pays it on a monthly basis or once in three months. If a cashier is booked to collect Rs. 100 per teacher or Rs. 200 per professor or Rs. 300 per higher category person and if he does not collect the fixed ransom, then he or she will be shot dead. Under this threat, every year they collect and pay as their contribution to this organisation. The businessmen and the contractors have to pay. Even the political leaders are bound to contribute because they do not like to face the bullet of this underground organisation. This is the present state of affairs. The Government is run by them. If they do not like somebody to be a party to it, then he or she is warned of this. If they refuse it, they are shot dead. Whenever these underground people give a warning, it has to be obeyed. In this way, the administration is run. If there is a corrupt officer, then they give a warning asking for money from him. If he fails to give that money, then he is shot dead. They are trying to check corruption that way. Even in the kidnapping cases, they appeal to those persons who are victims and thus correct such wrong doings.

Another agency that will implement the programmes of the Government is the Government and the Ministry and in the present case, it is the Congress and the defectors' Government. It was installed very recently. I will take two minutes only in describing why and how the programmes of the Government have failed...(interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken more than twenty minutes.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: In that case, I will conclude now itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is up to you ...(interruptions)

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: I have been sitting here throughout the day to speak. When I am trying to criticise the ruling party, you pass strictures. I just want to tell you what is the result of the last elections. ...(interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. We are discussing the General Budget. That will not go on record. ...(interruptions)

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Still the party managed to form the Government and run the administration. What justice is there? Is it fair? I had been in the Congress Party since 1938 to 1968.

There was a Congress culture. At that time, the morale was so high. How did the Congress form a Government with a minority? Why are they after power?

As you know, Sir, it is a fact that I met the Governor. But he refused to give us permission to form the Government; whereas with 21 MLAs, the Congress Party was allowed to form the Government. So, this is the situation. How will this Ministry function?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which Ministry?

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Now, they are trying to increase the number of Ministers to more than 28 just to accommodate all the defectors. Would our Finance Minister be in a position to implement all these things? That is what I want to know. Please do not make it a precedent by increasing the number to more than 20 by accommodating all the defectors in the Ministry without any merit. This way we are suffering.

There must be a railway-line up to Manipur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the discussion on the General Budget. We will come to the Railway Budget later.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: The price of petrol has risen to Rs. 40 a litre. We have to purchase it. The price of kerosene has risen to Rs. 25 per litre. Likewise the price of all the essential commodities has increased because there was some problem in the National Highways. Because of all these things, it is the people who suffer ultimately. If there is a railway-line, at least, some of the grievances can be redressed.

Sir, as you know, North-Eastern Region is very much neglected as far as Railways are concerned. What is the situation in Imphal, Dimapur and Silchar? Whenever, you have some overused aircraft, you send the same to the North-Eastern Region. This is the discrimination which you are meeting out to the North-Eastern Region.

As regards the National Highways, I think you have the experience that they are very badly constructed. It is the most backward State in that respect. So I rise to expose all these things in this House.

Why I oppose this Budget is because we have been demanding a central university in the State and it is not yet fulfilled. The academic standard is so low in the region. At least a central university should be provided to the State of Manipur. If the Finance Minister is generous enough, he can provide funds for a central university. It is for the uplift of the country. Without uplifting this region, you cannot claim that the country is uplifted.

Lastly I would like to give this warning to the Union Government that they should not compromise with terrorists or insurgents as regards the territorial integrity of the State of Manipur. It is the decision of my party that no territorial integrity of Manipur be compromised with any organisation or insurgents or any section. It can be done only over the dead body of the Manipur People's Party.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Budget proposals for the year 1995-96. I congratulate the Finance Minister for the announcement of several social security measures in this year's Budget. It is a laudable measure. I would like to thank our Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for announcing a Pension of Rs. 75 each to all the aged. Social security measures extended to widows and girls of marriageable age have also been included in the Budget. In the footsteps of our great leader Late Shri Kamaraj, you are going to introduce Noon Meal Scheme all over the country to benefit all the needy school children. You have also increased the allocation to Education to the tune of about Rs. 300 crores. This has been in keeping with the vision of great Kamaraj. I would like to congratulate both our Prime

Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for these effective social measures.

I also find reduction in the levy of Central Excise on several consumer items. But I have to point out certain lacunae there. While appreciating your approach, I have to bring to your notice the plight of knitting and Banian industry which have been hard hit by the Central Excise levy.

I recall a saying in Tamil, "Even if God provides, the Poojari comes in between." I would prefer to highlight the plight of knitting industry spread all over the country. This has been carried out as a Cottage Industry and Small Scale Industry.

There are about 25,000 units pertaining to this industry spread all over the country. It is common knowledge that the knitting industry and textile industry have got several process thereby giving rise to several processing units. But, unfortunately now the levy of Central Excise has started affecting these processing units and thereby affects thousands of poor people involved in the functioning of these units. When we enquired from our Finance Minister it was stated that knitting industry shall not be subjected to the levy of Central Excise duty further. When the office bearers of various Associations connected with this industry from places like Tiruppur, Karur, Erode, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Varanasi, Calcutta, Kanpur, Delhi and Maharashtra met our Finance Minister, they were told that there would not be any excise levy. But the contrary is going on now. Ever after the Sixteenth of March, that is from the day when Budget was tabled in this House, Central Excise authorities are acting in a different way. They have raided several units and have sealed many of them.

Here I would like to raise a particular question. Both the union and the State Governments are not able to provide enough jobs to the needy and the unemployed in the way as they used to. But the private sector is able to generate employment potential and opportunity in a big way. For instance, the Hosiery and knitting industries provide job opportunities to about 30 lakhs of people. Semi skilled, unskilled, unemployed and even uneducated women get job opportunities. People from all walks of life including scheduled castes and tribes benefit from the immense job potential of this industry. I have even shown you the photographs pertaining to the working of these units. They indicated as to how people work in these units. Last year, Central Excise was levied on powerloom. On its being represented, Hon'ble the Finance Minister gave directions to lift the same. Even at a time when the prices of yarn had soared high, the powerloom industry was able to operate efficiently because of your kind gesture. I would like to point out one thing here. Had you not acted upon our request immediately then, thousands of workers might have lost their jobs. It is only because you attended to their problem as and when necessary, the people of the country

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

are appreciating your Budget. At this juncture, my request to Dr. Manmohan Singh is just one. It is not for this Kuppuswamy the individual but it is for the lot of this knitting industry.

I who have been treading the path of great Kamaraj, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and our present leader and Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, would like to emphasize my demand for a common cause. This knitwear industry in the Small Scale Sector which could export to the tune of about Rs. 3500 crores has faced a sort of fall in the past one year. It has come down by about Rs. 1000 crores. Whatever be the problem faced by this industry, the processes like Dyeing, Bleaching and printing go on. There are several such tiny units thus functioning. Rolls are being shifted to various units by using cycle, Auto-Rickshaw and mopeds as mode of transportation. Bleaching is carried on in one unit. Later on those rolls are taken for printing. Calendaring is done in another unit. After Dyeing is done another man will carry ten such rolls to power table. They may not be big. There may be 10 seat power table, 6 seat power table and so on. this industry though it is vast consists of several such small units. I could emphatically describe the scenario there because I have personally known this trade and particularly the plight of owners of such small units. I have represented the workers there as a Trade Union Leader. This industry is going on in this country for more than a century now. I have known the intricacies of this industry for the past thirty years.

I would like to compare this Small Scale Industry to that of a Golden Goose in the famous fable. A farmers Golden Goose was laying one golden egg a day. The greedy man thought one day to have more eggs one and the same day by way of cutting the goose. That is not pragmatic. This industry goes on for more than 100 years now in India. If we are going to kill our industry, tiny countries like Taiwan alongwith China could out beat us. We have signed the GATT Agreement. We have announced several incentives to promote Exports. Incentives to import Capital goods machinery are commendable. But still certain problems have been pointed out. They are not ordinary representations. People from various Associations have submitted their representations. I have handed over a memorandum to you. You have assured us that you will consider them. Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance Shri Chandrasekhara Moorthy has told us that the matter will be considered. I have also submitted a memorandum signed by about 70, 80 Members of Parliament from various parties and places like Varanasi, Kanpur and Ludhiana. Not one or two but many Associations have represented the case to the Finance Ministry.

Uttar Pradesh Hosiery manufacture Association,
Amritsar Knitwear Association,

Hosiery Manufacture Association, Delhi.

Ludhiana Hosiery Manufacture Association,
West Bengal Hosiery Manufacture Assaioiaon,
Tirupur Hosiery Manufacture Assaioiaon.

The President of this Association alongwith Exporters Association has given a representation. Because there is a set back now. This industry could generate employment opportunity. We may not be able to provide more jobs through Food Corporation of India, Telecommunication Department, Postal Department, Banks, Union and State Government offices at this juncture. When this is available in plenty in this Small Scale Sector, we must ensure that they do not face problems leading to closure.

I humbly request you to consider this case. This Kuppuswamy knows the ins and out of this industry. That is one reason why I emphasize this point for consideration. I could not get sleep ever after the presentation of your Budget on Sixteenth of this month. I request Dr. Manmohan Singh and his colleague Minister to save this Small Scale Industry from perishing. My only interest is that this industry should grow further. My prayer to you would be that you must create a conducive atmosphere for the growth of this industry. Through this august House of the Parliament, I place my request to be considered by you.

From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Maharashtra to West Bengal, this industry has spread and established itself in the Small Scale Sector. That is the reason why I am laying stress on this request to spare us from Central Excise levy. I again request you to look into it immediately. When I met certain officials they gave me information that are not found to be true. This pains us. I am afraid that they scuttle the good job done by this Government. Else they may be trying to misdirect us. They claim that officials are being sent to every place. Let them go and inspect and let them ensure that this century old industry famous in India do not fall sick.

Nextly, let me bring to your notice the plight of Karur weaving knitting Factories. So many women most of them uneducated get job opportunities there. Towel manufacturing units employ women to tie knots in the made-up goods. I have given such photographs alongwith further details to our Hon'ble Minister. Such dyeing factories are found in good number in Karur, Erode, Pallipalayam, Tiruchengode, Salem, Somanur, some places in Orissa and several other States. The Yarns they handle are already taxed. Excise levy on yarn as such adds to the cost of production. How is that you propose to introduce another tax on the same material that go into the final product. When there is tax on yarn, how is that it is extended to other processes like dyeing and calendaring processing, printing for and bleaching. How can you expect unhindered growth to that industry. With these hurdles we may not be able to compete with the Western

countries which have sophisticated machinery.

Likewise the bedsheet manufacturing units are facing bleak future. You told us that Handloom sector may not have additional tax burden. But something has gone wrong somewhere. Now they also come under tax net. You must look into it.

Let me tell you about wet grinder industry. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Members of Parliament present here. Wet grinder manufacture involves several labour components. Various process go into the making of this wet grinder manufacturing. Stone is obtained from the quarry. There will be another labourer who will cut the stone to make grinding stone. Plates needed for the body of the wet grinder come from another unit belts come from some other unit. Coimbatore is the only place in whole of India or even in whole of the world where wet grinders are manufactured. This comes under the Small Scale Sector. There are about 4000 workers depending on these units. Central Excise levy extends to such units also. After our bringing to your notice, you were kind enough to instruct them not to proceed further. But still Central Excise officials go there. Such units will not have more than 15, 20, 30 or 40 workers.

Our Coimbatore was an industrial city once. It should continue to be an industrial town. When an economist from Coimbatore Shri R.K. Shamugam Chethiar was our Finance Minister, he gave an impetus to the industrial growth of this city. During his times he was able to serve this city in his own way. Likewise I am also trying through you to get a better deal for Coimbatore. Unmindful of wild criticism levelled against him, our Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh continue to contribute his mite to this country and its complex economy. We wish to have unhindered industrial growth. We must eradicate poverty. Hence, our Minister should look into the problems faced by small interpreneurs who contribute in a big way.

You allocate funds for various schemes to be carried out in Tamil Nadu. In the interest of the nation and uniform industrial growth you must monitor their effective implementation.

When we are to speak of villages, drinking water problem is very acute. Farmers face shortage of power supply. How can they contribute to increase the production? Our signing of GATT Treaty has enabled us to export more. But care must be taken while exporting essential commodities. Our requirements should be met first. But at the same time, there should not be a ban on exporting onion, jaggery, mollasses, cotton etc. I request you to consider lifting the ban after the comprehensive study of exporting these agro-products.

You must announce through this august House your favourable decision in this regard. There should be a co-ordination between Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of Finance. I do request you on behalf of the farming community.

With this, I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on Budget. I

also thank our young and energetic Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shri Mukul Wasnik to have enabled me to put forth my views.

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti): Mr. Chairman Sir, we are discussing the general budget. A Budget is a mirror of a nation which gives glimpse of its economic development, and prosperity. Our hon. Finance Minister has presented the whole budget in a very dramatical manner. He has given some concessions on some items but those who belong to high middle class income group or high income group are getting the benefit of these concessions. Too much tax exemption has been given on those luxury items which they use in their day to day life. However, no concession has been given on items like sugar, kerosene oil, wheat, rice or fertilizers etc. which are commonly used by the generally public. Thus they are deprived of the benefits of these concessions. Sir, thus the concession given in the budget is only an illusion and day-dream for the poor. Some concessions have been given to industries. However more concessions have been given to those big industries which are engaged in import and export of items. The small scale industries, medium-scale-industries, and cottage industries are not benefited by such budget concessions. If the concessions are given in such a manner, we can not protect these industries. Ultimately these will not be able to stand in the competition with multinational companies which are likely to come. As a result, small scale industries, medium scale industries and cottage industries would be closed down and unemployment and starvation will increase. Besides this, there are more opportunities of employment in medium scale industries, small scale industries and cottage industries than in the big industries. Therefore, if the Government desire to remove unemployment and starvation from the country, it should give financial and trade protection to small scale industries and cottage industries.

The hon. Minister has shown deficit in the budget but there is no mention about it as to how it will be met. In 1992-93 the percentage of those people who were living below the poverty line, was 40%. Their number was 35.5 crore according to the census of that time. This number might have increased during these two years. It has been stated that the production of foodgrains also increased during these years. We have stock of 18 crore 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Despite this, foodgrains have become costly. What is its justification? It appears that the arrangements of selling the foodgrains are not proper. The sale of fair price shops has declined by 50% during last 2-3 years. It is not the reason behind it that foodgrains are not available in our stock. Its reason is that people are unemployed, they have no work, they have no money and their purchasing power has decreased. Thus, more and more families are going down to poverty line. The concession shown in the budget indicates relief to the poor as well as the rich. But it is actually a budget of rich people and only they will be benefited.

Sir, so far as the welfare of poor rural people is

concerned, a provision of Rs. 7700 crore has been made in the budget for the Ministry of Rural Development, which is two times more in comparison to previous years. The schemes for economic and social upliftment of villages were also chalked out in previous years but the villages were not developed in proportion to the amount spent. We also could not achieve the target fixed for the upliftment of those people who were living below the poverty line. When the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi used to visit rural areas, he used to say that only an amount of Rs. 15/- reaches in villages out of Rs. 100 which the Central Government used to send from Delhi. It means that no where in the world exploitation of poor people in such a large scale is being done where is that money going, which was being sent for the development of villages and poor people. Only Rs. 15/- reached there. Then where has Rs. 85/- been spent. It is evident, that Rs. 85/- were taken away by middlemen. Accordingly, we have made the provision of Rs. 7700 crore for the development of villages but I doubt whether this amount will reach the villages. Whether those middlemen are no more in picture now. We talk about the development of villages by spending millions of rupees therein but there are shortcomings in our functioning. Until and unless we remove those shortcomings and take it seriously, rural folk will remain poor inspite of spending the huge amount. Therefore, first of all, we have to think about our functioning, systems and schemes when we talk about villages and our schemes must be rural oriented.

19.00 hrs.

Those people should be given basic know-how of rural network, social system and cultural background etc. who are engaged in rural developmental work. Thus rural areas will be more benefited by that money which will be spent on rural development.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Munda, will you please yield for one minute? Now it is seven o' clock. In addition to Shri Munda, there is only one speaker, namely Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh. Should we sit for some more time and finish it?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): No Sir. We can resume the debate tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time do you require? Can you complete within five minutes?

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: No Sir. I have started just now and I require at least another fifteen to twenty minutes. I will continue tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 hours.

19.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 28, 1995/Chaitra 7, 1917 (Saka)

PLS. 40 XXXVIII-10
670

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