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Tuesday, August 28, 1990
Bhadra, 6, 1912 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Ninth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, August, 28, 1990/Bhadra 6,
1912 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English] 1 - 9

Upgradation of Hyderabad Airport

+
*263. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:
SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the Hyderabad airport into an international airport in view of heavy traffic going to Gulf countries from Andhra Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY: Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it

is a fact that the Director of Airport Authority has drawn up a development programme for the Hyderabad Airport for its upgradation and has allocated Rs. 11 crores for the purpose of converting it into an international airport? Secondly, is it a fact that the new integrated cargo complex and the international passenger block are being constructed at the Hyderabad Airport to cater to the future cargo and passenger needs? Thirdly, is it a fact that the international block and cargo complex is estimated to cost Rs. five crores and would be completed within one year? Fourthly? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Baga Reddy, you can put two questions. You have a right to put two questions but one at a time.

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY: All right, Sir. I will request the hon. Minister to please reply.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned certain additional facilities which are going to be created at Hyderabad Airport, which is correct. The Hyderabad Airport already has a big terminal building and other associated facilities. The other existing facilities are: Very High Frequency Radio Telephony, Non-Directional Beacon, Doppler frequency of omni-Range; Distance Measuring Equipment, Instrument Landing System. It is also true, Sir, that in 1985, Air India started limited international flights to and from Hyderabad by AB-310 type of aircraft. The existing terminal building was modified to specifically handle the international flights. At present, Air India is operating two international flights in a week from Hyderabad Airport to Bombay by A-310 type of aircraft. The facilities available at this airport can accommodate additional flights, subject to restriction on type of

aircraft, for international operations

The future plans which the hon Member has pointed out, are also being implemented. The effort is to create all the facilities which are in conformity with the regulations, or which are the requirements as per the regulations of ICAO and to constantly upgrade the facilities which are available

[*Translation*]

SHRIM BAGA REDDY, It is a matter of happiness that the hon Minister has accepted the fact that Hyderabad is an important place and the traffic is also very heavy there. The number of passengers going to and from gulf countries is very high. It is good that a number of facilities have been created to upgrade this airport. Two international flights are operating from Hyderabad every week and the hon Minister has agreed that it can accommodate additional flights. Secondly, he has also stated that funds will be provided to create more facilities. In this connection I would like to know when these facilities will be made operational and the time by which it can be converted into a fulfilled international airport?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN As a matter of fact the importance of Hyderabad cannot be denied. It is indeed, a very important city. At present we have four international airports in the country. In case we convert any airport into an international airport we are required to follow the instructions issued by the international organisation ICAO in this regard and must provide all the facilities as has been prescribed by them. Providing all these facilities requires huge funds. It is not a small amount. At present, we have four international airports. Of them, let us take the example of Madras and Calcutta where the facilities are still under utilised. We are not able to utilise fully our capacity. Even after making such a huge investment if we are not able to make full capacity utilisation, we are constrained to think about mobilising money and resources which are required to convert an airport into an international airport before taking any steps in this direction.

Without declaring it an international airport we will make all our efforts to provide all those facilities in Hyderabad airport as early as possible which are generally available at international airports. Two international flights are already operating from Hyderabad airport in a week. We also want that international flights should operate not only from Hyderabad but also from Trivandrum and other airports in South India.

[*English*]

SHRI Y S RAJASEKHAR REDDY Hyderabad and Trivandrum happen to be the largest centres for traffic to Gulf countries. You have also mentioned this fact. It is a fact that Hyderabad happens to be a Centre where a lot of eggs are produced. If only a regular flight to the Gulf countries is provided by Air India, I am sure the traffic of eggs and vegetables to Gulf countries will increase. That will give a big boost to the agriculturists and others. Will the hon Minister kindly consider providing a regular air service to the Gulf countries? In the meantime, as the Minister says 'as we go along in meeting the requirement', we presume that the Government is contemplating to upgrade this airport as an International Airport in due course. But in the meantime, they want the Government to introduce more number of flights to facilitate both the passenger traffic and cargo traffic. Will the Minister consider putting up more number of flights to the Middle-East countries?

Secondly, I would like to know whether any survey has been conducted with regard to the amount of foreign exchange earnings of these two States in the country and because of this foreign exchange earnings the need to upgrade this Airport to the level of international airport also increases. Will the Minister also consider this?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN Sir, Air India is operating two flights from Hyderabad Airport since 1985 and, Sir, as far as I know they are regular in their operation. What the hon Member possibly wanted to say was that to increase the frequency of

flights the number of flights from the Hyderabad Airport should be increased, as I have already stated, perhaps from this Airport to the other Airports also. Our effort is to upgrade all the facilities, bring them up to the standard or the regulations of ICAO and start more flights from these Airports. I am not aware of any survey. He has mentioned about the foreign exchange which is earned by the residents of these two States. I am not aware of any such survey. But the Government had set up a High-level Committee in January 1985 to recommend measures for reducing congestion at Bombay Airport. In pursuance of the recommendations of this Committee, the International Airports Authority was directed to conduct traffic survey at Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Nagpur and Mangalore airports with a view to identifying two or more airports for being declared as international airports. This survey was completed by the IAAI in September 1985. Subsequently at the instance of the Government the international Airports Authority also conducted the traffic survey at Bangalore Airport, the findings of which were submitted to the Government in April 1986. The weekly international passenger traffic as assessed by the Survey at the six Airports were as follows:

Airport	
Weekly estimated international	
Passenger traffic	
1	Trivandrum
2	Hyderabad
3	Bangalore
4	Ahmedabad
5	Mangalore
6	Nagpur

This can be an answer to the other question which was raised by the hon

Member about the foreign exchange which is being earned because this is the total weekly estimated international passenger traffic. (Interruptions)

SHRI Y S RAJASEKHAR REDDY: WILL THE MINISTER contemplate to increase the number of flights? (Interruptions)

6 SHRI MANIK SANYAL: Sir, the ambit of this question is very specific. It relates to the development of Hyderabad Airport. I do consider that this development is necessary, but at the same time, I want to draw your attention to the fact that some other airports in India like Bagdogra airport warrants the attention of the Government.

MR SPEAKER: Sanyal ji, it is about Hyderabad.

[English]

SHRI MANIK SANYAL: Sir, since that Airport links with the two neighbouring countries and also links Assam and Delhi and other parts of West Bengal. (Interruptions) The development of this Airport caters to the needs of the passengers. There is a rush of passengers every day. May I know whether any development project is under taken to develop the Bagdogra Airport so that it can not only cater to the needs of the neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bhutan, but also the neighbouring States like Sikkim, West Bengal and Assam? This is my question.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Yes, Sir. The Bagdogra is also a very important airport and, Sir, as I have already stated, we are very keen to develop all these airports and create more and more facilities, upgrade them particularly the airports like Bagdogra which provide access to very remote areas. I totally agree with the hon Member. I have already stated about the constraint of resources. We are mobilising the resources and as soon as we will be in a position to solve this problem, we will definitely take up this question of creating of all the facilities.

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though my question is not directly related to Hyderabad Airport, yet it is identical to a great extent. When weather in Delhi is bad, flights are diverted from here. There should be an alternate airport near Delhi, where all facilities of an international airport are available. Jaipur has been selected for this purpose and the Government wants to develop it as an alternate airport. Through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that foreign tourists who arrive here first of all wish to visit Rajasthan. Keeping this in view, the Government intends to develop it as an alternate airport and provide all facilities of an international airport. Three days back, on the occasion of inauguration of an Indian Airlines Office, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan clearly stated in this regard...

MR. SPEAKER: Nathu Singhji, this is question hour, please put your question.

SHRI NATHU SINGH: I am putting question only, Sir. He said that the State Government is prepared to provide all facilities after acquiring land. Will the hon. Minister please state the time by which Jaipur airport will be provided all the facilities available at an international airport and how much money is proposed to be spent on this work and whether any estimate has been prepared for this purpose? When the State Government is prepared to co-operate with the Central Government in this work, there should be no difficulty in this regard.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: At the same time, please plead the case of Haryana, because Haryana is nearer to Delhi.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, Jaipur is very important for us.

MR. SPEAKER: As is the case of Bagdogra which is also a very important airport.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir,

the hon. Member is entirely correct. It has been considered necessary to develop an airport as an alternate to Delhi airport where all the facilities could be made available and we are taking action in this regard. As regards modernisation and upgradation of Delhi and Bombay airports and providing more facilities, if not more, at least in conformity with the international standards, I have already stated that we are going to implement a sub-plan this year for this purpose. As regards, our scheme for Jaipur airport, its plan is almost ready and we are going to provide all facilities in this airport at the earliest possible by developing it into an alternate airport.

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is connected with Hyderabad..... (*Interruptions*) ...Through you, I would like to put a question in connection with Hyderabad. I would like to know whether there is any scheme to provide an airline between Hyderabad and Patna. Does the Government want to keep Hyderabad disconnected from North India or Bihar. Secondly, I would like to know that while the Government proposes to develop Delhi and Bombay airports in conformity with international standards, is there any proposal with the Government to develop Patna airport in conformity with national standards. Today, Patna airport is the most neglected airport where even basic facilities are not available. Due to this, no important industrialist or V.I.P. prefers to land at Patna airport. The hon. Minister must have himself seen the condition. Will he please assure the House that Patna airport will be provided all the facilities which are generally available at other national airports and if so the time by which the condition of this airport will be improved?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are making every effort to ensure that all the facilities which are required for flight safety, are provided at Patna airport. We want to ensure that facilities of not only national but also international standards are made available there.

DR. SHAILNDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA: First, please provide the facilities of national standard, then I would ask for facilities of international standards.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Two international flights to Nepal are already operating from Patna. Sir, I have already said that airports, especially those in State capitals are of special importance. Certainly, there should be facilities in these airports—and we are making all out efforts for this purpose. But, as I said earlier, the problem is of mobilising resources. Keeping in view the availability of resources, facilities, whatever required, will be made available.

We will seriously consider the request of the hon. Member.

Supply of LPG Through Pipeline

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*265. **SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:**
SHRI MANJAI LAL:

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

(a) whether Government propose to make supply of LPG in several big cities in the country through pipelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Indian and foreign firms have been contacted for undertaking this work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. It is not feasible to supply LPG through pipelines. However, natural gas is being supplied a domestic fuel in Baroda, Bharuch-Ankleshwar, Sibsagar, Duliajan and Moran. Commitments of natural gas have also been made for city supply schemes in Agartala, Bombay

and Surat. Feasibility studies for supplying natural gas to some other cities are being conducted by GAIL.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. GAIL has undertaken techno-economic feasibility studies with the assistance of M/s. Sofragaz of France in respect of Bombay, and M/s. British Gas with respect to Delhi, Noida and Kanpur. While reports in respect of Bombay, Delhi and Noida have been received, the Kanpur study is under finalization by M/s. British Gas.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir it appears from the reply given by the hon. Minister that either he could not follow my question or he is deliberately giving wrong information to the House. I have asked very clearly in the part (a) of the question, whether Government propose to make supply of LPG in several big cities in the country through pipelines and part (b) of the question is—"if so, the details thereof". The reply given by the hon. Minister to parts (a) and (b) of the question is "No, Sir" whereas the reply to parts (c) and (d) is—"Yes, Sir. GAIL has undertaken techno-economic feasibility studies with the assistance of M/s. Sofragaz of France in respect of Bombay, and M/s. British Gas with respect to Delhi, Noida and Kanpur. While reports in respect of Bombay, Delhi and Noida have been received, the Kanpur study is under finalization by M/s. British Gas." Mr. Speaker, Sir I fail to understand how it is possible that on the one hand the hon. Minister says that there is no proposal to supply gas through pipelines whereas on the other hand Government is consulting foreign agencies for this purpose. Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the estimated cost of Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline project was Rs. 97 crores which escalated to Rs. 1062 crores due to the wrong policies of the Government and red tapism of the Government departments. That means the Government will have to spend Rs. 145 crores more now on this project. Not only this, under the agreement with the British company we will

have to pay 0.3 lakh dollars every year as commitment charges to the company if the project is not completed within the stipulated time. The hon. Minister should clarify as to why this provision has been made in the agreement. At present there is acute shortage of gas supply in the country. So I would like to know by which time the pipeline project would be completed and whether the Government would think in this direction seriously?

[English]

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY Sir, there is no misunderstanding on my part. He had asked whether the Government proposes to make supply of LPG in several cities in the country through pipelines. LPG is not supplied through pipelines but it is supplied through cylinders. We supply only natural gas through pipeline. Let the hon. Member understand the difference between LPG and natural gas. We want to supply natural gas to various users and the domestic user is very important. He jumped suddenly to Khandla Bhatinda pipeline project. That does not arise from this question.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA Mr Speaker, Sir, the cost of 30 per cent output during Eighth Five Year Plan was Rs. 1400 crores. The hon. Minister has stated that the production will be about 50 million tonnes by 1994-95. The hon. Minister has stated that natural gas would be made easily available in a number of big cities. I would like to know whether the Government have fixed any target in this regard? Has the Government fixed any target for Eighth Five Year Plan to make natural gas available not only in big cities but also in big towns? Besides 550 km long gas pipeline passes through Madhya Pradesh and therefore I would like to know whether the backward areas like Bastar and Raipur in Madhya Pradesh will get benefit of this pipeline?

[English]

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY Sir

he has confused many issues. I think I have to ask him question for clarification.

MR SPEAKER You only reply to those aspects which arise out of this question.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY He has asked whether the natural gas that is produced in India is being effectively used and whether it is being taken to various parts of the country for various uses. So far as domestic use is concerned, I have already mentioned in the reply some areas like Delhi, Bombay, NOIDA, Kanpur, Agartala, etc.

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI Sir, he has asked about Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY You please clarify on his behalf. If he is thinking of HBJ pipeline, that is known to all Members that HBJ pipeline does not arise from this Question at all. That requires a separate notice and I am prepared to answer any question on that.

Let me assure the Member that we intend to supply natural gas for domestic purpose. For that purpose, various techno-economic feasibility studies are being conducted. We are already supplying gas to domestic users in Baroda and Baroch.

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL Mr Speaker Sir, it has been stated by the hon. Minister in reply to part (a) and (b) of the question that feasibility studies for supplying natural gas to some other cities are being conducted by GAIL. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the name of those cities particularly the cities in Bihar for which studies for supplying natural gas are being conducted?

[English]

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY It will be our endeavour to see that more cities are covered in future and we want to make natural gas available and we want to supply gas to domestic users and also we want to

supply more natural gas to commercial and industrial purposes

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV The hon. Minister in his reply has mentioned that a commitment has been made for supply of natural gas under city supply scheme to Agartala, Bombay and Surat. You have said, a commitment has been made for supply of natural gas. I would like to know when was the commitment made and what is the progress and whether the rate of supply of natural gas has been finalised with the State Government. If not, how soon you are going to finalise it? (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER I am not allowing you, please sit down

[English]

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY I have already said that apart from the cities to which gas is being supplied, already commitment for gas supply to Surat, Agartala and Bombay, has been made. The techno-economic feasibility report is being prepared and I have mentioned it already in my reply.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV I am asking you, when was the commitment made by you and the fixation of rate of supply of gas. This comes in my constituency and I have written a letter you. Your reply is negative. Your reply and the answer given in the House should be the same.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY He is referring to rate, price for gas. That is being looked into. We have constituted a committee in the Department for going into the entire gas supply and they have submitted a report. Price is also one of the things that has been considered. We are looking into the report. Very soon, we are going to decide on that.

SHRI M M PALLAM RAJU If anybody

approaches GAIL for supply of natural gas, they put the condition that they will supply the gas by so and date. But in case, the person does not use that gas, even then, he will have to pay for it. But in return, they are not agreeing to the condition that the user wants like—if GAIL is unable to supply as by that date, it has to pay the compensation. They are not willing to take this responsibility.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY You are referring to domestic user, or for industry, trade.

SHRI M M PALLAM RAJU It is for industrial use.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY Sir, that question does not arise at all from the main Question. I want a separate notice.

SHRI M M PALLAM RAJU My question is not answered.

MR SPEAKER The hon. Minister does not want to answer.

SHRI K S RAO In all the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, the availability of firewood is almost nil for domestic consumption. There is shortage of firewood. So, the entire population including lower middle class, middle-class or even some of the poor people depend on gas supply now and the consumption of gas in some centres has gone up substantially. The availability of gas is very much less in coastal districts. There is a constant demand for more and more agencies. Apart from that, the availability of gas in the coastal belt is found to be very high compared to the oil which they have already explored.

I just want to know from the hon. Minister keeping in view the availability of gas in the coastal district and also the immediate necessity of the same for the people there, because of the shortage of firewood, whether he will think in terms of starting some more LPG bottling plants in Vizag or in between Vizag and Vijayawada and make more

number of agencies in that area so that more people can make use of it immediately.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: We have got sufficient bottling capacity in the country. What is deficient is LPG availability. We are importing LPG in bulk quantities and we are short of foreign exchange and it is extremely difficult for us to meet the demand. But, I agree with the hon. Member that our effort is to see that as far as possible we supply LPG cylinder to largest number of people so that forest and other natural wealth is saved.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Are we importing gas cylinders?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: We are not importing cylinders at all. Only gas cylinders are manufactured in India and we have got bottling plant which is sufficient more or less but we are importing LPG gas in bulk quantities.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has undertaken any study regarding the techno-economic feasibility of supply of natural gas from Tripura to adjoining States and also whether at any time the Government of India has discussed with the Bangladesh Government regarding the possibility of laying pipeline for the purpose through Bangladesh.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: No.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Your supplementary is over.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is regarding supply of LPG through gas pipeline to big cities of the country whereas there is acute shortage of gas in Madhya Pradesh for the last two months. Neither gas nor Kerosene oil is reaching the towns and cities in Madhya Pradesh as a result of which people are facing lot of difficulties. Will the hon. Minister augment the supply of cooking gas for Madhya Pradesh?

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: No.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manjay Lal, please sit down. I am not allowing you to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that when there is a shortage of gas supply in the country, the main distribution comes in the mainland and the far-flung areas are normally forgotten. There are areas like Andaman and Lakshadweep. I come from Laskhadweep.. (*Interruptions*) of late, we have pushed in our population in intensive fishing. Whatever fire-wood available is used for domestic purpose. Because of this, we are having an acute shortage of fire-wood. Therefore, the Government of India, long back, made a commitment that at least three or four major Islands would be supplied with LPG connection. Now, one Islands' demands were met partially by the Government of India and the remaining three or four Islands have still not been supplied wit even a single LPG connection. Will the hon. Minister, who happens to be a good old friend of mien and having known even my place also, give some concession in this regard?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. It is true that the demand in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for LPG is rising. What we are supplying is not adequate... (*Interruptions*) What we have been supplying is not adequate to meet the rising demand. There are the local Governments also to take steps. We are trying to do our best in this regard. Btu as the hon. Member is aware, we are facing problems. So far as this area is concerned, it is under our active consideration.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PYARE LAL LAL KHANDELWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Government has con-

tacted two foreign companies—one British and another French—for this purpose. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether besides French and British companies, the Government has contacted any other foreign company also and if so, the name of that country and company and what response the Government received from that company?

[English]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, M/s. Sofragaz is a Company which has been asked by the Ministry to have a techno-economic feasibility survey in Bombay. They have given the report and that report has been sent to PIB for consideration. The PIB has raised certain issues.

[Translation]

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Which are those countries?

[English]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: We are trying to reply to those issues. At this stage, this is the position. Our intention is to see that Bombay and some other Cities may be taken over for comprehensive gas supply not only for domestic purposes but also for commercial purposes.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not getting proper reply to our questions from the hon. Minister. We seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English] 17-22

Setting up of Windpumps and Windfarm Demonstration Projects in Punjab

*266. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken for setting up of windpumps and windfarm demonstration projects in Punjab and the targets achieved so far; and

(b) the districts in Punjab where such projects are proposed to be implemented during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Seventy-seven water pumping windmills were set up in Punjab under a demonstration programme. There is no proposal to undertake wind energy projects in the State during 1990-91 as the available data shows that the wind potential in the State is low.

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid the reply given to the Minister by his Department is not really correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go about that. Please hear the Minister. He will reply to it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: It appears that the reply has been framed either by a terrorist victim or the victim of the Mandal Commission Report. May I know from the hon. Minister how much money has been spent on these 77 water pumps and from which year to which year?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: All the 77 water pumping windmills have been implemented during the period from 1980-81 to 1984-85. The total money that has been spent on these projects, on each wind pumping mill, is available. There is an expenditure of Rs. 12000/-. The total comes to Rs. 9 lakhs.

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: As I said, the reply is not correct. I have operated from all the air fields in Punjab and most of the air fields in the Western sector. I know the wind pattern. The winds are calm before dawn. They pick up during the day and die down by the dusk. And they are calm from dusk to

dawn The winds are also affected by the pressure pattern, the low pressure which is formed at the Mediterranean Sea and it affects the Northern India in the form of Western disturbances Secondly, the depression which is developed at the Bay of Bengal moves north westwards and this also affects Punjab Thirdly, winds due to pressure pattern on Northern India also affects this part of the country The wind pattern everyday is sufficient to run these wind mills The Minister has already mentioned that the money spent on each windmill is just about Rs 12000 This is the cheapest source of energy I will not tax the Minister with another question But may I suggest to him to kindly continue this project and try these windmills in villages where the power supply is only available just from two hours to eight hours?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN Sir, I know that the hon Member is an experienced pilot and I do not dispute his experience and his knowledge But the information available with me is based on a scientific study which was conducted by an experts group These seventy-seven water pumping windmills were installed in Punjab during the Sixth Plan, as I said earlier However, in view of inadequate wind speeds their performance, even today after installation was not found to be satisfactory That is why, more pumping sets were taken up during the Seventh Plan as the performance was not satisfactory As a result, the programme was not continued in the Seventh Plan An annual mean wind speed—this is important—of 12 kilometres per hour is required for setting up wind pump projects for supply of irrigation and drinking water For wind farm projects, where power is generated for supply to the grid, an annual mean wind speed 18 kilometres per hour is required According to the Handbook on Wind Energy Data for India which is published in 1983 under a project of the Commission for Additional Sources of energy, which gives wind data collected by observatories of the Meteorological Department, the annual mean wind speeds in Punjab are below ten kilometres per hour There are no major mountainous areas in the State where higher wind speeds

may be expected on account of local factors I have here with me the break-up district-wise of the wind data in Punjab In Amritsar the speed is 7.9 kilometre per hour, in Bhatinda, it is 4 kilometre per hour, in Chandigarh it is 6.0, in Ferozepur it is 2.9, in Ludhiana it is 4.0, in Patiala it is 8.1 and in Pathankot it is 6.6 kilometre per hour If we are not setting up these pumps in more number because of the inadequate availability of wind, it does not mean that we are not setting up other projects under the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Punjab In fact, there are various other projects like the Biogas Development Programme in Punjab which is being done very successfully Then there is Improved Chulhas Programme Again the average possibility is more than the national average Then there are Community Institution Biogas Plants and especially the Rice Straw Project which is coming up only in Punjab

[Translation]

SHRI KARIAMUNDA Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister through you that keeping in view the shortage of electricity and diesel whether there is any proposal to implement wind mill project in other states also besides Punjab

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN Mr Speaker, Sir, we are trying our best to make the maximum energy available If we cannot make it available through conventional resources, we will do it through non-conventional resources including wind mills but the main problem is dearth of resources The programmes which I have already mentioned are not for Punjab alone This question was asked in the context of Punjab and I gave the related figures This programme is being implemented throughout the country and we will try to expand it further

[English]

SHRID AMAT Mr Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon Minister that apart from Punjab, whether New Delhi's Non-Conven-

tional Energy Source has sponsored some such project in Orissa under which at least one village in a parliamentary constituency will be adopted for exploiting energy from solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy or bio-gas?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN Yes Sir I think, the hon. Member is referring to the urjagram programme. The Department is implementing a village-based decentralized rural energy programme, called urjagrams. An urjagram comprises a mix of non-conventional energy devices and systems to meet bulk of the energy requirements of a village. Planning of urjagram projects take into account availability of the local energy resources and energy requirements in the village. A project to carry out energy surveys in 50 villages was sanctioned.

I would like to conclude that 27 urjagrams have been completed in the country and 221 are under implementation. I do not have the figures about the individual States. If the hon. Member is interested, I will supply that information.

[Translation] 2 1

SHRI ARVIND NETAM Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Minister has said that wind mills did not prove a success in Punjab and also gave the reason that wind speed is lower than the required speed. The required speed of wind is the basic need for the wind mills. In the circumstances, I would like to know as to why these had been installed without considering the speed of wind.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN Mr. Speaker Sir, I have told in the main reply that wind mills were basically set up under a demonstration programme in all the states. Thereafter, we got the figures about which I mentioned earlier. Then a scientific study was made and some information was made available to us. On the basis of that information, we are preparing future programmes. Where the velocity of wind is low, there are other resources of non-conventional energy

and the programmes there (Interpellations)

[English] 2 2

SHRI JESS FERNANDEZ Sir, I understand that in view of the energy crunch windmills are a very useful source of non-conventional energy as compared to conventional sources of energy, like oil. It is understood that there was a survey made about this many years back. At a certain height, windmills can operate at 1500 RFM for 16 hours almost throughout the year in our country particularly in South India.

I would request the hon. Minister through you to investigate the possibilities of utilizing the wind power energy as this is the only answer for additional sources of energy.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN I totally agree with the hon. Member. The energy which is generated from the non-conventional sources is very important. More so, it is so because it is non-polluting. The suggestion given by the hon. Member will be taken into consideration.

[Translation]

2 4
SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister through you to the fact that the border areas of Rajasthan where the wind blows fast are desert areas and are facing acute shortage of electricity. Will the Hon'ble Minister like to pay personal attention to the problem of these areas so that these areas may get cheaper electricity on priority basis?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN Definitely, we will pay our attention to it.

22-24
**Increase in Capacity of Bhopal Bhanila
LPG Bottling Plant**

*267 **SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI**
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to

double the capacity of Bhopal Bakania LPG bottling plant; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be completed?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration, at present.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: The hon'ble Minister simply replied in negative. In Madhya Pradesh the shortage of cooking gas is so acute that the Food Minister himself is visiting the agencies and making personal investigations and trying to find out the ways to meet the demand for refilled cylinders, which are being supplied after 20 to 25 days. I had asked whether there was any proposal to double the capacity of the plant, he straightway refused that there was no such proposal. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. You may ask the question later on.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Please make the arrangements for the cooking gas in Madhya Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Verma, please sit down. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the capacity of Bhopal bottling plant is according to the needs of the consumers of

India Oil in Madhya Pradesh? Secondly is that I would like to ask from the hon. Minister in case its capacity cannot be doubled, and Madhya Pradesh continuous to supply from Baroda bottling plant, as to when the present refilling shortage varying from 20 to 25 days, will be normalized?

[English]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, the present bottling capacity of Madhya Pradesh is 1.66 lakhs Metric Tonnes which means about 117 lakhs cylinders per annum. The daily average of production of cylinder is 40000 in Madhya Pradesh. The total daily demand for re-filling of cylinders in Madhya Pradesh is about 24000 cylinders. There is excess capacity... (Interruptions) ...The question is about bottling capacity and bottling plant and not about LPT cylinders. Please do not have a confusion. The bottling capacity is excess there. When 40000 cylinders is the daily average production, only 24000 cylinders is the requirement per day. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Please investigate whether forty Thousand cylinders are filled daily or not?

[English]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: If you are referring to the demand of the LPG cylinders, then I can say that the demand is growing all over India and also in Madhya Pradesh. It is true that the demand is growing. But this question does not refer to that part. It refers to bottling capacity. (Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

25 *Small-Scale Industries***Apex Body for SSI Modernisation**

*264. **SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI:**
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up an apex body for SSI modernisation to encourage rural industries;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to revamp and restructure the existing infrastructure including the KVIC before creating the new set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The policy measures for the promotion of small scale and agro industries include the proposal to set up Technology Centres, Tool Rooms, Process and Product Development Centres, Testing Centres, etc. under the umbrella of an apex technology development centre in the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO). This is proposed with a view to undertaking programmes for modernisation and upgradation of technology which, in turn, would improve the competitiveness of products manufactured in the small scale sector.

(c) In order to assist the large number of artisans engaged in the rural and cottage industries, the activities of the KVIC and KVI

Boards will be expanded and these organisations will be strengthened to discharge the responsibility more effectively. Special marketing organisations at the Centre and State levels shall be created to assist rural artisans in marketing their products and also in supply of raw materials. Besides providing concessional credit, training facilities and consultancy to groups of artisans will also be provided. The existing infrastructure at the Central, State and District levels would be fully geared to provide the requisite support for the development and spread of small scale and agro industries.

26
Consumption of Petroleum Products in Railways

*268. **SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:**
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The year-wise consumption of diesel and other petroleum products by Railways during the last five years; and

(b) The steps taken by Government to reduce it?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The year-wise consumption of diesel and other petroleum products in the Indian Railways for the five year period from 1985-86 to 1989-90 is as under :-

Year	Consumption of Diesel for traction	Consumption of diesel & other petroleum products for non-traction
1985-86	14.63	1.06
1986-87	15.36	0.85

<i>Year</i>	<i>Consumption of Diesel for traction</i>	<i>Consumption of diesel & other petroleum products for non-traction</i>
1987-88	15.96	0.82
1988-89	16.53	0.80
1989-90	16.77	0.78

(Provisional)

(b) Some of the important steps taken to reduce the consumption are as under :-

- (i) Proper house keeping and accountal.
- (ii) Monitoring the consumption of diesel on locomotives driver-wise and engine-wise.
- (iii) Maintaining locomotives in good mechanical fettle.
- (iv) Lubrication of tracks and wheel flanges etc.

[Translation] 2)

Dalli-Rajhara to Jagdalpur Railway Line

*269. **SHRI MANKURAM SODHI:**
SHRIRESHAMLAL JANGDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final survey with regard to Dalli-Rajhara to Jagdalpur rail line in Madhya Pradesh has been completed:

(b) if so, the outcome and the estimated cost thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of the 235 km long line was Rs. 218 crores as per 1987-88 price level.

(c) It is difficult to state, at this stage, as to when the project would be sanctioned.

[English]

Supply of Coal to Kanti Thermal Power Plant, Muzaffarpur

*270. **SHRI A. K. ROY:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal adulterated with stones had been supplied at Kanti Thermal Power Plant in Muzaffarpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of such complaints received in the last three years and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). At times, coal containing some extraneous material has been received at Kanti Thermal Power Plant in Muzaffarpur. The number of complaints received from the power station dur-

ing the last three years in terms of wagons, wherein such coal was received, is 91.

The quality of coal supplied to various thermal power stations in the country including this power plant is continuously monitored by the concerned agencies. Necessary steps are taken for proper grading and billing accordingly, to improve the situation. At the mines, packable pieces of stones/shales etc. are picked up and separated to the extent possible before despatch.

Vacancies in Jammu Wing of Railways

*27. SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies available as on July, 1990 in Jammu wing of Indian Railways;

(b) when these vacancies are proposed to be filled; and

(c) whether Government contemplate a separate railway recruitment cell located at Srinagar?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNADES): (a) Such information is generally maintained Division-wise and Zonal Railwaywise and not regionwise or Statewise. However, the total number of vacancies as on 7.9.90 against the quota for direct recruitment in the Jammu-Kathuwa Section of Northern Railway, is 5.

(b) Selection for the above vacancies has already been held by the Railway Recruitment Board, Jammu. However, the occurrence of vacancies (due to superannuation, Voluntary retirement, medical incapacitation, resignation, removal, death etc.) and their filling in through prescribed modes like direct recruitment, departmental promotion, absorption of casual labour etc. are all

a continuous process, thus there will always be some vacancies at any given point of time. Hence it is not practicable to indicate any specific time frame for filling vacancies.

(c) There is no proposal to set up a separate recruitment cell for Northern Railway at Srinagar. A Railway Recruitment Board already functions at Jammu & Srinagar which inter alia recruits Group C staff for the Ferozepur Division of the Northern Railway.

Conversion of Hassan-Arasikera Line

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

(a) whether there is a proposal for the conversion of metre gauge line between Hassan and Arasikere into broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the conversion work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNADES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

[Translation]

Casual Labourers in Moradabad Division of Northern Railway

*273. SHRISANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agitation is being launched by the Indian Loco Mechanical Staff Association in Moradabad division in Northern Railway for recalling casual labourers;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) whether any cases of corruption in the recruitment of casual labourers have also come to light and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) (a) and (b) Indian Railway Loco Mechanical Staff Association have launched an agitation on the ground that 285 persons engaged as loco cleaners in Moradabad Locoshed have been so engaged allegedly on the basis of bogus records, ignoring the claims of genuine candidates. They have demanded that the candidates engaged allegedly on bogus records should be discharged from service and the candidates who are the genuine ones, according to the their Association, should be engaged in their place

(c) and (d) With reference to complaints received in this regard, investigation in 44 cases of appointment as loco cleaners in Moradabad Loco Shed of Northern Railway on the basis of alleged forged documents is being conducted by the Vigilance Department of Northern Railway. Out of these 44 cases, investigations in respect of 3 cases have since been completed and DAR action against the delinquent staff is being taken. Regarding remaining 3 cases investigations are being done by the Vigilance. The remaining cases referred to in the complaints, are being investigated by a Committee of Officers

After the investigations on hand are completed, further action as found necessary will be taken by the Railway Administration in the light of the outcome of the investigations

32 Railways
Penalty for Entering into Reserved Compartments.

***274 SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether any order has been issued for charging penalty for entering into reserved compartments by the passengers travelling with valid tickets,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw this order keeping in view the economic conditions and difficulties being faced by the passengers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) (a) Section 55 of the Railways Act, 1989 stipulates imposition of a fine upto Rs 500/- if a passenger without reservation enters a reserved compartment or occupies a berth or seat reserved for some other passenger and refuses to leave when asked to do so

(b) This is to ensure that the passengers having reserved accommodation are not inconvenienced

(c) There is no proposal to amend the said provision of the Railways Act

32 Oil Exploration
Hiring of Rigs and Drilling Machines

***275 SHRI C D GAMIT** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the number of rigs and drilling machines hired by Government for the exploration and drilling of crude oil and gas,

(b) the annual payment of rent for hiring

each rig and drilling machine and the total payment made to foreign countries so far on account of hiring of these machines; and

(c) the number of hired rigs and drilling machines which have not been used so far out of them and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) ONGC and Oil India Limited hire and deliver rigs according to their

operational requirements. At present the number of rigs charter hired by ONGC and Oil India Limited is 33.

(b) The annual payment of charter hire charges made during 1989-90 by ONGC and Oil India Limited in respect of each rig hired from foreign as well as Indian companies is given in the statement below.

(c) All hired rigs were used for drilling purposes.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of rig</i>	<i>annual charter hire payment 1989-90 (Rs./lakhs)</i>
<i>A. Rigs hired from foreign companies</i>	
1. Saipem	574.0
2. DST	479.0
3. 5 rigs under Indo-Soviet cooperation	4289.78
4. Forex Neptune	571.96
5. D. R. Stewart	899.60
6. D. K. McIntosh	797.0
7. Trident-II	885.57
8. C/Itza	1058.56
9. Uxmal	996.21
10. Hakuryu-9	971.60
11. Sedco-445	80.97
12. DF-95	425.30
13. Richter rig	328.09
14. Deutag rig	489.70
Total :	12847.34

<i>Name of rig</i>	<i>annual charter hire payment 1989-90 (Rs./laks)</i>
<i>B. Rigs hired from Indian Companies</i>	
1. Essar-II	115.22
2. Essar-III	308.22
3. Essar-I	373.59
4. 3 mobile rigs of Triveni	945.50
5. 4 mobile rigs of Essar	1919.35
6. 4 rigs of Aban	697.32
7. Kedarnath	651.78
8. Badrinath	107.86
9. Bonito-I	1216.65
10. Bonito-II	1182.84
11. Hitdril	1019.85
12. Ile D Amsterdam	933.35
13. Explorer	745.01
14. GA-III	608.10
15. GA-II	717.0
16. Danwood ice	81.05
17. GMP-III	1193.29
18. Dual 38	1156.92
19. Jagson-II	1265.70
20. Jagson-III	1157.02
21. Viking Driller	607.45
22. ED Host	939.74

<i>Name of rig</i>	<i>annual charter hire payment 1989-90 (Rs./lakhs)</i>
23. Perronegro	813.69
Total	18747.50

37

Coal Production

*276. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI NAKUL NAYAK:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) The estimated demand and the quantity of coal to be produced in the country by the end of the Eighth Plan;

(b) whether any long term policy has been formulated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The Eighth Five Year Plan is under finalisation. However, the Working Group on Coal and Lignite for Eighth Five year Plan set up by the Planning Commission, has estimated the raw coal demand by the terminal year of Eighth Plan (1994-95) as 35 million tonnes. The Working Group has suggested a coal production plan of 310.31 m. t. for the year 1994-95 and the gap between demand and availability has been proposed to be met by drawal from the pit-head stocks and import of coking coal required for the steel sector. The increase in productions, will be achieved by increasing productivity, production from the existing mines, ongoing projects and by development of new projects.

[English]

- 8

Civil Aviation
Operation of Air Taxis

*277. SHRI SHANTARAM
POTDUKHE:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-
DAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted some private Air Taxi Operators to fly on Indian Airlines' busy routes;

(b) if so, the rationale behind permitting private operators into the Indian air transportation field;

(c) the terms and conditions on which these airlines have been permitted to operate and how their tariff have been approved;

(d) the charges payable by these private air taxi operators to Government and the airport authorities concerned for the services rendered to them at the airports;

(e) the details of check by the Director General, Civil Aviation and other Government agencies concerned to be exercised on the air-worthiness of the fleet and their day-to-day operations; and

(f) whether the passengers travelling in these private airlines will be entitled to the same compensation in case of any mishap

facilities as in the case of Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). Air taxis can operate to all airports in the country which are open for scheduled operations subject to the prior approval of the airport authorities concerned. The Air Taxi Scheme is expected to enhance passenger capacity without public sector investment and foreign exchange outgo and also increase earnings from the tourism sector. It will also introduce an element of healthy competition in the domestic sector. The air taxi operators are free to determine their fares without prior Government approval.

(d) The air taxi operators shall pay all the prescribed charges to the authorities in charge of Airports in accordance with the rates stipulated by them.

(e) The Director General of Civil Aviation shall ensure enforcement of the safety standards in accordance with the powers vested in him under the Aircraft Act and Rules.

(f) The passengers travelling by air taxi shall be entitled to the compensation stipulated by the Government under the Carriage By Air Act, 1972. The operators are, however, free to pay a larger amount of compensation, if they so desire. At present, Indian Airlines is paying compensation, in the case of death due to accidents in excess of the amount stipulated under the Carriage By Air Act, 1972

Dust Control Device for Units of Cement Corporation of India

*278. SHRI P. NARSA REDDY:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether dust control device has been provided in the Cement Corporation of India; and

(b) if not, the arrangements made for controlling the pollution in these units?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacturing of Gas Stoves and Regulators

*279. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued by licences for manufacture of gas stoves and regulators;

(b) if so, whether manufacturers produce fake and inferior quality of gas stoves and regulators; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken against such manufactures?

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

(b) The Government have not received any complaint against the licensed manufacturers regarding manufacture of fake and inferior quality of Gas Stoves and Regulators.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

pin Accident 10
Inquiry on Air Disasters at Guwahati and Ahmedabad

*280. SHRI HARISHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inquiry was set up to enquire into the air-disasters at Guwahati and Ahmedabad in 1988;

(b) if so, whether the reports of Inquiry have since been received; and

(c) if so, the causes of these accidents as per Inquiry reports and further action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). Two separate Courts of Inquiry were set up to investigate the accidents at Guwahati and Ahmedabad. Both the enquiry reports have been received.

2. Accident to Vayudoot F-27 aircraft at Guwahati on 19.10.88 was caused by total non-adherence to ILS let down procedures at Guwahati. The wrong clearance by ATC in asking the aircraft to report outer marker inbound when captain-in-command reported non-availability of the Glide Slope has also contributed to this accident.

3. The cause of accident to Indian Airlines B-737 aircraft near Ahmedabad on

19.10.88 is error on the part of the pilot-in-command as well as co-pilot due to non-adherence to laid down procedures under poor visibility conditions.

4. The Government has accepted the recommendations aimed at enhancing the safety of aircraft operations. Copies of the enquiry reports have been placed in the Lok Sabha Library.

[English]

Modernisation of Stations in Orissa

*281. SHRI RAVINARAYAN PANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the on-going schemes of modernisation of railway stations in Orissa; and

(b) the details of new proposals in this regard under consideration of Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Ongoing works in railway stations in Orissa.

(Figures in lakhs of Rs.)				
Sl. No.	Particulars of works	Anticipated cost	Outlay for 1990-91	
1	2	3	4	
1.	Bhubaneswar-Development as Model Station	94.64	17.64	
2.	Electrification of Khaliapali, Patasahi, Chandiposh and Champajharna stations	12.00	5.00	
3.	Raurkela-8 Nos. double bedded retiring rooms including 2 Nos. A.C. rooms at	9.61	5.11	
4.	Khurda Road-RCC overhead tank of 50,000 gallons capacity for improvement of water supply	9.96	8.46	
5.	Bhadrak-Foot over bridge in lieu of existing one	21.19	5.00	
6.	Raurkela-Rail level platforms on line No. 5-A	8.12	4.42	
7.	Dhanmandal-Raising of platform level	9.86	0.50	
8.	Dhanmandal-Provision of platform covers	6.47	1.00	

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Particulars of works</i>	<i>Anticipated cost</i>	<i>Outlay for 1990-91</i>
1	2	3	4
9.	Cuttack-Raising of platform No. 1	6.61	0.50
10.	Cuttack-Train Indication Board	3.74	0.50
11.	Panposh-Platform shed	3.71	1.50
12.	Dhankanal-Raising of platform No. 1	2.04	0.50
13.	Mancheshwar-Raising of Island platform	6.25	1.00
14.	Baitarani Road-Raising of platform	4.61	0.75
Total		198.81	51.88

(b) Works included in 1990-91.

(Figures in lakhs of Rs.)

Sl. No.	Particulars of works	Anticipated cost	Outlay for 1990-91
1	2	3	4
15.	Berpali-One tubewell at the station	4.37	2.00
16.	Vanivihar-Provision of IInd class waiting room	3.17	1.66
17.	Lingaraj Temple Road-Provision of IInd class waiting hall	2.02	2.02
18.	Talchar Thermal Passenger Halt-Provision of IInd class waiting hall	3.17	1.50
19.	Electrification of Dulakhapatna, Argul, Golabai and Nukeswar stations	9.09	3.40
20.	Motari-Extension of IInd class waiting hall	3.00	2.00
21.	Cuttack-Improvements to station	15.01	4.00
22.	Himgir-Provision of foot over bridge across the yard	9.17	2.00
23.	Balangir-Provision of foot over bridge	3.11	1.00
24.	Kesingra-Raising of rail level platform	7.61	1.00
Total		59.72	20.58
Grand Total		258.53	72.46

[Translation]

29 *29* *50* *KVIC*
**Attachment of Additional Coaches in
 Narmada Express**

*282 SHRIMATI SUMITRAMAHAJAN:
 Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to
 state:

(a) whether all the trains commencing
 from Indore are being run with their full
 capacity; and

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to
 attach additional coaches with the 8233/
 8234 Narmada Express running between
 Indore and Bilaspur, at Indore instead of
 Bhopal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
 MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY
 SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not presently.

[English]

4 *4* *50*
Purchase of Apple Juice

3050. SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the
 Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to
 purchase the apple juice produced by the J
 & K Horticulture Marketing and Processing
 Corporation and market it through railway
 outlets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
 GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Zonal
 Railways have been advised to arrange
 venting of apple juice produced by J & K
 Horticulture Marketing and Processing Cor-
 poration through departmental outlets and
 also to permit its sale by catering/vending
 licences through their establishments.

KVIC
Misuse of Money

3051. SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN: Will
 the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to
 state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
 the certified societies are utilising the money
 which they are getting from KVIC as interest
 free loan for other business purposes; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government
 and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in
 the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
 DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUS-
 TRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUS-
 TRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
 (SHRISRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). KVIC
 disburses funds in the form of loan and grant
 for implementation of Khadi and Village
 Industries programmes to State Khadi and
 Village Industries Boards, registered institu-
 tions and cooperatives. Khadi loans are in-
 terest free whereas village industries loans
 carry four per cent interest. Through the
 system of procuring utilisation certificates
 from such implementing agencies, the ex-
 tent of proper utilisation of funds for the
 intended purpose is ascertained. Wherever
 the Utilisation Certificates disclose mis-utili-
 sation of the funds steps are taken to recover
 the said amount from the concerned
 institutions.

50
**Wage Revision of Workmen in M/s.
 Burn Standard Co. Ltd.**

3052. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the
 Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the last wage
 agreement was made for the workers of
 Refractory and Ceramic Group of M/s. Burn
 Standard Company Ltd.

(b) whether the workers have submit-

ted the Charter of Demands for wage revision etc.;

(c) if so, when and whether wage agreement has been settled; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The dates of last Wage Settlement in respect of workers of Refractory Units of M/s. Burn Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) are as under:-

(i)	Raniganj Group of Works	—	24.10.79
(ii)	Gulfarbari Workes	—	24.10.79
(iii)	Jabalpur Works	—	22.9.79
(iv)	Niwar Works	—	11.9.79
(v)	Salem Works	—	17.8.87

(b) to (d). Unions submitted their Charter of Demands for wage revision as under:-

(i)	Raniganj Group of Works	—	16.5.83
(ii)	Gulfarbari Workes	—	17.1.83
(iii)	Jabalpur Works	—	25.1.83
(iv)	Niwar Works	—	1.1.83
(v)	Salem Works	—	15.2.90

Excepting Salem all other Refractory Units Of BSCL have been continuously incurring heavy losses. In view of the continuing losses and the financial constraints the company is not in a position to revise the wages of these loss making units. However, to alleviate hardships, variable dearness allowance, @ Rs. 1.65 per point with effect from 1.4.84 has been granted to the workers.

[Translation]

Special Drive For Recruitment of Adivasis of Bihar

3053. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has started any special recruitment drive for the Adivasis in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the Division-wise number thereof recruited during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes. Sir.

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

Complaints Against Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps

3054. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of gross irregularities in the allotment of petrol and diesel pumps and cooking gas agencies have been received during the last three years;

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

(c) the remedial steps being taken by Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). Selection for LPG distributorships and Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) dealerships is done by specially constituted Oil Selection Boards (OSBs) headed by retired High Court Judges. No gross irregularities have been reported during the last 3 years. However, any complaint received against selection of dealerships/distributorships is duly investigated and remedial action taken, wherever found necessary.

[English]

Ban on Smoking in Railways

3055. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have banned smoking in trains, hospitals and dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to enforce the ban?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Smoking has been prohibited in all Railway Hospitals, health Units, AC Sleeper/AC Chair Car Coaches and in suburban trains.

(c) In Railway Hospital and Health Units, notice boards bearing "No Smoking" have been displayed, and ban is enforced through personalised contact, communication and counselling. Similar notices are displayed in AC Sleeper/AC Chair Car Coaches and in the coaches of suburban trains. A person who smokes in these coaches may be fined upto Rs. 100/- as per the provisions of the Railway Act, 1989.

[Translation]

Train Between Howrah and Samastipur

3056. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to run an Express train between Howrah and Samastipur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Six pairs of Express trains are already available between Howrah and Samastipur. There is no proposal to run any additional train between these two stations.

[English]

Vayudoot Service Between Calicut-Madras-Trivandrum-Bangalore

3057. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot service is propose to be introduced between Calicut-Madras-Trivandrum-Bangalore or between any other Southern stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Vayudoot Limited is already operating thrice a week Dornier services on the route Madras-Bangalore-Calicut-Cochin-Trivandrum and back and the Company has no plan for introduction of new services in the near future.

Import of Petroleum from Islamic Countries

3058. SHRI S. C. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petroleum and petro-

leum products separately imported in the country during 1987, 1988 and 1989 and how much of it has come from the Islamic countries of the middle east;

(b) the year-wise projected imports and indigenous production of petroleum in India by 2001 A. D. ; and

(c) how much oil is being consumed for electricity generation and in locomotives?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The import of crude oil and petroleum products including from Middle East Countries during the financial year 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 was as under:-

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Quantity in MMT Value Rs./Crores							
	1987-88				1988-89			
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Crude Oil	17.73	2986	17.81	2863	19.49	4090	
2.	Petroleum Products	3.95	979	6.26	1515	6.54	2228	
	Total	21.68	3965	24.07	4378	26.03	6318	

*Provisional

Purchases are made both under term contract as well as spot. Spot purchases are not made country-wise. Therefore it is difficult to indicate the share of Islamic Countries.

(b) Year-wise imports for the year upto

2001 A.D. will depend upon the gap between the demand and indigenous production. They will be known with a degree of certainty only after finalisation of 8th and 9th five year Plan.

(c) The details of consumption of oil in electricity generation is as under:

(In '000' MTs)

Year	HSD	LDO	LSHS	FO
1986-87	161	273	1489	712
1987-88	209	251	1659	636
1988-89	134	338	1572	607

The details of consumption of oil in the Locomotives for the period 1986-87 to 1988-89 is given below:

(In '000' MTs)

Year	FO
1986-87	1309
1987-88	1375
1988-89	1440

Prices of Drugs Manufactured by IDPL

3059. SHRI K. S. RAQ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of drugs manufactured by the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited are fixed by Government;

(b) if so, whether in order to boost the sale of the drugs of IDPL, his Ministry had requested the Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare to suggest to the hospitals under it and the Ministries of Defence, Railways, Labour and the State Governments to purchase these drugs from the IDPL;

(c) if so, the purchase made by the aforesaid hospitals from IDPL during the last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA: (a) The prices of drugs produced by IDPL are fixed by Government or by the company under the provisions of DPCO, 1987.

(b) Government has issued instructions to the effect that Govt. purchasing departments and public sector undertakings should place their orders for the purchase of drugs and pharmaceuticals manufactured by the public sector drug and pharmaceuticals companies, but not made in the small scale sector, without inviting tenders.

(c) and (d). The Institutional sales of IDPL to Defence, ESI (Labour), Railways, public sector undertakings, State Governments and others during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

1987-88	35.00
1988-89	46.14
1989-90	48.43

Satellite Railway Stations Around Delhi

3060. SHRI J. P. AGARWAL:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PURO-
HIT:
SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that business and trade are facing a lot of problems in booking their goods for outside towns by railways;

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme to develop satellite freight and passenger railway stations around Delhi to solve this problem;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) by what time these stations will start functioning; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No problems are being faced by business and trade in Delhi for booking their goods for outside towns.

(b) to (e). Land is being acquired for 3 satellite terminals at Holambi Kalan, Bijwasan and Anand Vihar, but no time schedule has been finalised.

Supply of Coal to Ceramic Industry

3061. SHRISHANTILAL PURUSHOT-
AMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of EN-
 ERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ceramic industry of Gujarat has been facing acute shortage of coal;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from this industry for regular and uninterrupted supply of coal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of action taken by Government on the representations?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (d). According to information received from Coal India Limited, rail despatches of coal to Ceramic Industry of Gujarat during the period January to July, 90 has been 3422 Four Wheeler Wagons (F.W.Ws) against 3480 F.W.Ws supplied during the corresponding period of 1989. The shortfall in rail despatches has been more than made up by road releases which during January to July, 90 were 65419 metric tonnes against 16323 metric tonnes during the corresponding period of 1989.

Gujarat Ceramic Industries Federation has represented for increasing supplies of coal to Ceramic industry, reserving total production of coal of Korea-I colliery for them and ensuring coal supplies to ceramic industry being free of shale, slack and stones.

Instructions have been issued to the coal company to ensure equitable distribution of coal produced at Korea-I colliery between Ceramic industry of Gujarat and other consumers, to endeavour to increase production from Korea-I colliery to offer additional quantities of coal from alternate

sources acceptable to Ceramic industry and to ensure proper quality of coal.

Allotment of one Compartment from Baroda In Surat-Varanasi Train

3062. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government has sent a proposal for allotting one compartment from Baroda in the Surat Varanasi Train; and

(b) if so, by what time final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Double Price for Petrol and Diesel

3063. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt double price system for petrol and diesel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Des not arise.

Setting up of Gas Cracker Plant at Vijaypur, Madhya Pradesh

3064. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up of a gas cracker plant and down stream industries at Vijaypur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal indicating the proposed capacity and estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) (a) to (c). No proposal for setting up of a gas cracker plant and down stream units at Vijaypur in Madhya Pradesh is envisaged.

Workers' Strike in TAFCO

3065. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited, Kanpur have gone on strike;

(b) whether the production of the company has been affected since January 1990 due to no-supply of inputs;

(c) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has been entrusted the task of making indepth study of the Corporation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Most of the Technical Workers in the two factories of TAFCO have gone

on strike from 28.7.1990 in factory No. 1 and from 30.7.1990 in factory No. 2 and are still continuing.

(b) Despite constraints, production of the company for the period from January-July, 1990 is Rs. 394.06 lakhs as against Rs. 359.87 lakhs during the same period last year.

(c) and (d). Government have requested IDBI to undertake an indepth study into the working of TAFCO. The points of reference of this study are to examine the viability of the Company's operations and suggest ways and means for TAFCO's revival.

Smuggling Charges Against Employees of Indian Airlines/Air India

3066. SHRI D. AMAT:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the Air-India and Indian Airlines separately arrested on charges of smuggling during the last three years, year-wise and institution wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to prevent this trend?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The number of employees of Air-India and Indian Air-Lines arrested on charges of smuggling during the last three years in given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Air-India</i>	<i>Indian Airlines</i>
1987	4	3
1988	9	1
1989	3	1

(b) The staff/employees involved in smuggling are prosecuted by the Customs Department and disciplinary action is taken against them by the organisations concerned. Regulation of entry, frisking of staff and sealing of APU and toilet panels is being carried out.

[Translation]

Central Assistance to States for Construction of Rail Lines

3067. PROF. PREMKUMAR DHUMAL:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work for construction of railway lines in some States has been obstructed for non-acquisition of land by concerned State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide special assistance to such States for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Delays in acquisition of land have occurred in the case of the following projects:

1. Assam: Jogighopa-Guwahati, new B.G. line
2. Himachal Pradesh: Land beyond Una, Nangaldam-Talwara, New B.G. line project
3. Karnataka: Bangalore-Mysore, Gauge Conversion Project.

4. Punjab: Beas-Goindwal New B.G. line.
5. Uttar Pradesh: Rampur-New Haldwai, New B. G. Line.
6. West Bengal: Tamluk-Digha, New B. G. Line.

(c) and (d). Since land required for Railway Projects is acquired by State Governments on behalf of Railways no need for providing any special assistance has been felt.

[English]

SC/ST Employees in Bharat Coking Coal Limited

3068. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) total number of employees of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL);

(b) the total number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and displaced persons category-wise;

(c) the number of pending cases of displaced persons for employment in the Bharat Coking Coal Limited;

(d) the time by which all the pending cases of displaced persons will be settled; and

(e) when the backlog vacancies of SC/ST in the Bharat Coking Coal Limited will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) A total of 166653 employees are on the rolls of Bharat coking Coal Limited as on 31.7.90.

(b) The number of employees, group-wise, belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is given below:

<i>Group</i>	<i>Scheduled Castes</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribes</i>
'A'	56	13
'B'	52	16
'C'	35639	12850
'D'	14120	3676
Sweepers	2072	-
	51939	16555

2328 land losers have so far been provided employment in BCCL.

(c) and (d). 3192 cases of land losers are pending for employment in BCCL. Offers of appointment will be issued to them as soon as they hand over vacant possession

of land to BCCL after registration.

(e) Bharat Coking Coal Limited have already advertised backlog vacancies of SC/ST and are taking action to fill up these vacancies in accordance with the instructions of the Government on the subject.

69

Export of Scooters

3069. SHRISRIKANTA DATTANARA-
SIMHA RAJA WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the scooter companies exporting scooters to different countries;

(b) the year since the scooters are

being exported by those companies;

(c) the target set for the export of scooters in 1990-91; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange expected to be earned by exporting scooters?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Information regarding export performance as reported by the major manufacturers of scooters in the country is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Year of commencing exports	Target of export 1990-91	FE expected to the earned-1990-91
1	2	3	4	5
1.	M/s. Bajaj Auto Limited	1973	Rs. 12 crore (including Motor Cycle 3-wheelers and spares)	Rs. 12 crore
2.	M/s. LML Limited (including Vespa Car Co.)	1987	7500 Nos.	Rs. 8 crore
3.	M/s. Kinetic Honda Motors Limited	1986-87	700 Nos.	Rs. 0.85 crore
4.	M/s. Gujarat Narmada Auto Limited	1988-89	500 Nos.	Rs. 51.33 lakhs

[Translation]

73 *Rajasthan*
Issue of Letters of Intent

3070. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of entrepreneurs alongwith details of industries for which applications were submitted for obtaining industrial licences to set up industries in Rajasthan from 1.7.89 to 30.6.90; and

(b) the details of applicants whom letters of intent have been issued/rejected and are under consideration of Government at present?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b). During the period from 1.7.89 to 30.6.90, 68 IL applications for setting up industries in Rajasthan were received. Of these, 12 proposals have been approved and letters of intent granted. Of the remaining 56 applications, 25 have been rejected or otherwise disposed of and 31 applications are at various stages of processing. Details, such as name of the applicants, location, item(s) of manufacture and capacity in respect of all letters of intent issued are published regularly by the Indian Investment Centre in their "Monthly News Letter". Copies of this publication are being sent to the Parliament Library. The details of pending applications are not divulged till the Government have taken final decision thereon.

[English]

3 *Doubling and Electrification*
Discontinuation of Loan Licence System

3071. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discontinue the loan licence system in the drug industry;

(b) whether loan licence system is prevailing in all countries including USA, UK, Germany and Japan;

(c) if so, the reasons for the discontinuation of loan licence system, in the country;

(d) how Government propose to utilise the installed capacity created by these units; and

(e) whether Government are working out any proposal to offer job to the people who will be rendered jobless by discontinuation of loan licence system?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been decided that the loan licensing system would be discontinued with effect from 31.12.1991.

(b) to (e). The system of contract manufacture exists in several countries. The reasons for discontinuance in this country include need to ensure Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and prevention of misuse of the facilities extended under the scheme. Government would lend all possible support to proposals for utilising existing installed capacities. Towards this purpose, adequate time gap has been given so that persons involved could work out possible alternatives to meet the changed situation when loan licensing system is discontinued.

Doubling and Electrification of Delhi-Moradabad Rail Line

3072. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for conversion of single railway line into double

line between Delhi and Moradabad via Hapur.

(b) whether there is a proposal of electrification of the above railway line;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Delhi-Ghaziabad section is already a double line section and there is no proposal to double the line from Ghaziabad to Moradabad.

(b) Delhi-Ghaziabad section is already electrified. There is no proposal to extend electrification from Ghaziabad to Moradabad.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The traffic density on Ghaziabad-Moradabad section does not justify doubling or electrification of the section.

[Translation]

Thane Creek Bridge

3073. SHRIMATI JAYAWATI NAV-INCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stipulated time schedule for completion of Thane Creek bridge between Mankhurd and Balapur railway stations on Central Railway; and

(b) the reasons for delay in the completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) March, 1991.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Change in Flight Schedules by Vayudoot

3074. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Vayudoot have rescheduled its passenger flight operations during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any established practice/guidelines in this regard; and

(d) the efforts being made to maintain the flight schedules already announced?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Vayudoot printed its revised flight schedules 9 times during the last three years.

(b) and (c). Changes in the flights schedule are made to meet traffic demand from time to time and in the larger commercial interests of the organisation.

(d) Vayudoot makes all efforts to stick to the announced flight schedules within, however, the constraints of aircraft capacity.

[Translation]

Coal Supply to Suratgarh Power Project

3075. SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal supply to the Suratgarh Power Project has been sanctioned;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which approval to the Suratgarh power project would be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The coal linkage for Suratgarh Power Project (2 X 210 MW) has been given from the North Karanpura Coalfield and coal supply is scheduled to commence from the year 1995-96.

[English]

Provision of A/C in Cholan Express

3076. SHRI S. SINGARAVADIVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no Air-Condition facility in any of the long distance trains on the main line between Thanjavur and Madras;

(b) whether there is a demand for A/C in the Cholan Express and Rameshwaram Express in particular; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some demands have been received.

(c) Presently not feasible due to non-availability of adequate A. C. coaches.

[Translation]

Industrial Development of Eastern UP

3077. SHRI RAM KRISHNA YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Uttar Pradesh is industrially extremely backward area and if

so, the details of the steps being taken by Government for its industrial development;

(b) whether Government propose to issue licences to set up any large scale industry in the no-industry district, Azamgarh or whether there is any crash programme to develop cottage industries in this district; and

(c) if so, the details in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). Industrialisation of particular district (s) in a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the Central Government supplement their efforts by offering certain incentives such as priority in licensing, concessional finance, etc. to entrepreneurs setting up industries in centrally declared backward district. The following districts in Eastern UP have been declared as centrally backward and are eligible to receive the above incentives:

1. Azamgarh
2. Bahraich
3. Balia
4. Basti
5. Deoria
6. Faizabad
7. Ghazipur
8. Gonda
9. Jaunpur
10. Pratapgarh
11. Sultanpur

Applications for setting up industries in Azamgarh district as and when received will be considered on merits in accordance with the prevailing licensing policy.

[English]

Operational Difficulties in Passenger Service Between Howrah and Naihati

3078. **SHRI AMAL DATTA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 7 July, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 38 regarding passenger service between Howrah and Naihati and state:

(a) the details of the operational difficulties in starting a passenger service between Howrah and Naihati in the Sealdah division of Eastern Railway;

(b) when and by whom the feasibility study was made; and

(c) whether any traffic survey has been made by the Railways to assess the requirement of such a service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The route for Howrah-Naihati train will be via Bandel. Presently, 17 pairs of EMU trains with the provision of one EMU rake and 3 pairs of on-EMU passenger trains are running on Naihati-Bandel section. These trains are dealt with both at Bandel and Naihati on a bay-platform without having any infringement with the main line. Running a direct train between Howrah and Naihati via Bandel will involve reversal of direction which will take about 10 minutes time. It will also be necessary to deal with proposed Howrah-Naihati (via Bandel) trains on platform No. 2 and 3 at Bandel where large number of EMU trains originate/terminate and run through. Blocking of plat-

form by a rake will cause severe operational constraints when a large number of trains pass through those platform lines. Running time between Naihati and Bandel is 20 minutes each way. Taking into account the terminal time at Bandel and Naihati for reversal of direction, the proposed train between Howrah and Naihati will require extra time of 60 minutes. None of the EMU rakes at Bandel has a lie-over of more than 60 minutes during the day time and, therefore, additional rake will be required for the proposed train which is presently not feasible due to acute shortage of EMU coaches.

(b) The examination was not undertaken by any individual officer. The demand for running Howrah-Naihati train is an old one and it has been examined by the Eastern Railway on several occasions on the basis of master-chart/layout of stations etc.

(c) A survey done in July '90 indicated only 111 passengers on an average travelling per train from stations on Howrah-Bandel section to those on Bandel-Naihati section by 40 trains running daily on Naihati-Bandel section.

[Translation]

Uttar Pradesh
Allocation of Kerosene to U.P

3079. **SHRI HARSH VARDHAN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the quantity of kerosene allocated to Uttar Pradesh in each month from January 1990 to July by Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): The quantity of Kerosene oil allocated to Uttar Pradesh for each month from January to July 1990 is as under:

Month	Regular allocation	Adhoc allocation	Total allocation
1	2	3	4
<i>(Figures in tonnes)</i>			
January 1990	75790	2000	77790
February 1990	75790	1000	76790
March 1990	66192	5848	72040
April 1990	66192	5848	72040
May 1990	66192	5848	72040
June 1990	66192	5848	72040
July 1990	70593	5848	76441

Supply of Kerosene to States

3080. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
SHRI SURVA NARAYAN
YADAV;

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

(a) the quantity of kerosene being allotted and allocated and supplied in actual to State Governments against their demand during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted therefor;

(c) whether any State Government has requested for allocation of increased quota;

(d) if so, when and details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURU-
PADASWAMY): (a) to (e). The Kerosene oil requirements of States/Union Territories are assessed by allowing a suitable rate of growth over the allocations made in the corresponding period of the previous year, and allocations made accordingly. Besides the regular allocations, additional adhoc releases are also made at the requests of State Govts. to meet specific situations like floods, droughts, shortage of LPG etc.

A number of States/Union Territories had requested for additional allocation of kerosene which were considered and additional allocations given as feasible.

The details of regular allocations adhoc allocations and releases of kerosene made to the States/Union Territories during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 are given in the attached statements.

STATEMENT

Allocation and Release of Kerosene Oil made to States and Union Territories during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989

1987

(Figures in Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Regular allocation	Additional allocation	Total allocation	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	199302	16833	216135	218187
2.	Andhra Pradesh	473038	9862	482900	437251
3.	Bihar	342094	81577	423671	404149
4.	Gujarat	630402	15663	646065	647464
5.	Haryana	122114	9687	131801	132617
6.	Himachal Pradesh	27590	5000	32590	32740
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	51748	5002	56750	57478
8.	Karnataka	358588	18957	377545	371771

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Regular allocation	Additional allocation	Total allocation	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Kerala	202414	24832	227246	221182
10.	Madhya Pradesh	283298	46181	329479	320205
11.	Maharashtra	1198854	27066	1225920	1226571
12.	Manipur	16654	1971	18625	17782
13.	Meghalaya	12254	2631	14885	14859
14.	Nagaland	8128	972	9100	10182
15.	Orissa	113374	17986	131360	125221
16.	Punjab	258242	5338	263580	266916
17.	Rajasthan	197318	25050	222368	216782
18.	Sikkim	5928	132	6060	11083
19.	Tamil Nadu	529768	11382	541150	541857

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Regular allocation	Additional allocation	Total allocation	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Tripura	16722	3508	20230	18238
21.	Uttar Pradesh	677042	89162	766204	769847
22.	West Bengal	593090	29790	622880	624935
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	2820	900	3720	3599
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	7520	1160	8680	12293
25.	Chandigarh	16872	368	17240	14650
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli/ Goa, Daman & Diu	26762	598	27360	28384
27.	Delhi	192692	4038	196730	193166
28.	Mizoram	4836	664	5500	6503
29.	Pondicherry	11742	448	12190	11814
30.	Lakshadweep	690	20	710	20

1989

(Figures in Tonnes)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Regular Allocation	Additional Adhoc Allocation	Total	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	548260	2511	550771	539520
2.	Assam	231020	4471	235491	239366
3.	Bihar	434706	19635	454341	454828
4.	Gujarat	731305	4602	735907	739042
5.	Haryana	141410	1169	142579	143188
6.	Himachal Pradesh	34030	1486	35516	36941
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	60120	5613	65733	36941
8.	Karnataka	415490	5223	420713	421599
9.	Kerala	246736	4519	251255	250274
10.	Madhya Pradesh	353596	9369	362965	362206

Sl. No.	State/UT	Regular Allocation	Additional Adhoc Allocation	Total	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Maharashtra	1388760	27082	1415842	1419937
12.	Manipur	19360	750	20110	21599
13.	Meghalaya	14230	1336	15566	16739
14.	Mizoram	5650	973	6023	8930
15.	Nagaland	9410	497	9907	10896
16.	Orissa	144020	6285	150305	156722
17.	Punjab	298980	1470	300450	312750
18.	Rajasthan	246128	5036	251164	253278
19.	Sikkim	6940	126	7066	13188
20.	Tamil Nadu	613690	9883	623573	628154
21.	Tripura	19450	1393	20843	21779

Sl. No.	State/UT	Regular Allocation	Additional Adhoc Allocation	Total	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Uttar Pradesh	842364	38703	881067	890049
23.	West Bengal	686960	11596	698556	708873
24.	Andaman & Nicobar	3300	523	3823	4137
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	8700	889	9589	15082
26.	Chandigarh	19590	93	19683	17472
27.	Delhi	223380	1014	224394	209253
28.	Goa	25420	126	25546	6953
29.	Pondicherry	13660	307	13967	13872
30.	Lakshadweep	822	—	822	188
31.	Daman & Diu & Dadra & N.H.	5670	80	5750	5737

1988

(Figures in tonnes)					
Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Regular allocation	Additional Adhoc allocation	Total allocation	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	217184	12806	229990	237679
2.	Andhra Pradesh	515450	4650	520100	462671
3.	Bihar	372792	54760	427552	428081
4.	Gujarat	686910	5365	692275	696054
5.	Haryana	133060	4595	137655	137411
6.	Himachal Pradesh	30090	4800	34890	35279
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	56436	4349	60785	61759
8.	Karnataka	390728	8197	398925	404782
9.	Kerala	220588	18054	238642	239446
10.	Madhya Pradesh	308730	37872	346602	345823

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Regular allocation	Additional Adhoc allocation	Total allocation	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Maharashtra	1306330	5210	1311540	1320481
12.	Manipur	18180	605	18785	20511
13.	Meghalaya	13388	2802	16190	17644
14.	Nagaland	8844	836	9680	10972
15.	Orissa	123548	17501	141049	140864
16.	Punjab	281414	6066	287480	285754
17.	Rajasthan	214994	22592	237586	238347
18.	Sikkim	6470	40	6510	8663
19.	Tamil Nadu	577270	4310	581580	581422
20.	Tripura	18240	2035	20275	21466
21.	Uttar Pradesh	737762	73986	811748	819845

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of State/UT</i>	<i>Regular allocation</i>	<i>Additional Adhoc allocation</i>	<i>Total allocation</i>	<i>Release</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	West Bengal	646276	11544	657820	662818
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	3104	866	3970	3884
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	8170	1400	9570	13553
25.	Chandigarh	18406	84	18490	15256
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	30323	122	30445	29266
27.	Delhi	209986	884	210870	200353
28.	Mizoram	5290	1040	6330	7017
29.	Pondicherry	12814	106	12920	12977
30.	Lakshadweep	766	4	770	242

[English]

103 **Book Stalls at Railway Stations**

3081. **SHRI RAMDAS SINGH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration with his Ministry to rationalise all the book stalls in the country held by private parties at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of book stalls allotted zone-wise at present;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these book stalls are selling the books at the higher rates; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

103 **Central Investment Subsidies to Industries Set Up in Silvassa**

3082. **SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declined to grant Central Investment subsidies to the

Industries set up in Silvassa, Dadar and Nagar Haveli;

(b) whether the applications for subsidy were cleared after the expiry of stipulated period although the forms were received in DIC in time; and

(c) the action taken by Government with regard to the protest lodged in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme was discontinued with effect from 1.10.1988. Government had vide their letter dated 21.7.1989 advised the State Government/UT Administrations to disburse subsidy to non-manufacturing activities by 30th September, 1989 and to manufacturing activities by 31st December, 1989 provided the projects were approved by the State Level Committee/District Level Committee on or before 30.9.1988, i. e. within the validity period of the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme.

The Dadra & Nagar Haveli administration had submitted claims amounting to Rs. 7.67 Crores involving 77 units. As the subsidy in all the above cases was sanctioned by the State Level Committee after 30.9.1988, the amount was not released to the UT administration.

[English]

Vayudoot Service Between Calcutta and Haldia

3083. **SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Vayudoot services between Calcutta and Haldia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF
MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Shortage of aircraft capacity and paucity of other resources do not permit introduction of more services by Vayudoot Limited in the near future.

Overbridge at Avaneeswaram

3084. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct overbridge at Avaneeswaram on Quilon-Schencottah meter gauge line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of road overbridge near Kuri at Km. 720/7-8 between Avaneeswaram and Kottarakkara, at a cost of Rs. 39.38 lakhs, has already been taken up by the Railways on deposit terms.

Sub-Centre of Central Tool Room Project, Calcutta at Bhubaneswar

3085. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI:
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had a proposal to set up at Bhubaneswar a sub-centre of the Central Tool Room Project, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Originally, Govt.'s intention was to set up a sub-centre of the Central Tool room Project, Calcutta; subsequently, it has been decided in principle, to set up a full-fledged Central Tool Room & Training Centre at Bhubaneswar.

(b) The Centre at Bhubaneswar is likely to be set up during Eighth Five Year Plan.

Railway Station at Anand Vihar

3086. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a railway station near Anand Vihar (Trans Yamuna), Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). There is already a halt station at Anand Vihar. There was also a demand for opening of a new halt station between Anand Vihar and Tilak Bridge stations, which was examined but was not found justified.

However, there is a proposal for providing a directional terminal at Anand Vihar, which would be finalised when necessary land is acquired by Delhi Development Authority and handed over to the Railway.

Pilots and Crew Members of Air India in Kuwait

3087. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pilots and crew members of Air India are stranded in Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details of such employees;

(c) the reasons for the same;

(d) the steps being taken to bring back these persons from Kuwait;

(e) whether the pilots of Air India have shown resentments and refused to operate the aircraft till their colleagues are returned from Kuwait; and

(f) whether Government have taken up the matter with the concerned authorities in this regard and if so, the latest position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (f). The pilots and other members of Air India crew, who were stranded in Kuwait, have returned to India.

Diesel Multiple Units

3088. SHRI SATYANARAYAN YATIYA:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stressed the need for introduction of Electrical Multiple Units (EMUs) and Diesel multiple Units (DMUs) in order to provide faster inter-city passenger trains;

(b) if so, whether any feasibility tests have been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the name of railway routes on which such trains are proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). For the present there is no proposal to introduce any new EMU/DMU type inter-city passenger services, though a Survey for running EMU services between Bombay and Ahmedabad has been undertaken.

Bonds for Konkan and Other Rail Lines

3089. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in construction work of Konkan Railway Project;

(b) the quantum of funds raised so far and proposed to be raised further; and the source thereof;

(c) whether there is proposal to construct other new rail lines by raising money in similar manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Konkan Railway Corporation Limited for construction of Konkan Railway Project, was registered on 19th July, 1990. The certificate of commencement of Business by the Corporation has been issued only on 20th August, 1990 by the Registrar of companies.

(b) No funds for the project have been raised so far. However the financing of the Konkan Railway Project will be as under:

(i) 25% of the cost will be met through equity participation by the Union Govt. and the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa and Kerala; and

(ii) the balance 75% by issue of public bonds.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.
(09)

Pending Applications under Industrial Disputes Act

3090. SHRI MANIK SANYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications under section 33(2) (b) of Industrial Disputes Act pending before the authorities from the Air India;

(b) the number of applications approved and rejected by the labour tribunal/court and labour commissioners in the last three years;

(c) whether the Air India has stopped making such applications now; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Number of approval applications pending is 36.

(b) Number of applications approved is 30 and the number rejected is 21. These figures are for the period from 1.4.1987 till date.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since, at present, the provisions of Section 33 of the Industrial Disputes Act are not attracted, the Corporation is not filing any approval application.

LPG Bottling Plants

3091. SHRI BALVANT MANVAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG Bottling capacity in the country is at present insufficient to meet the consumers' needs; and

(b) if not, the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The existing LPG bottling capacity of 2.5 million tones per annum in the country is sufficient to meet the demand of packed LPG of 2.2 million tonnes during 1990-91.

National Average of Track Length

3092. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States/Union Territories where railway tracks in kilometers is below the national average in terms of track-length per sq. km. of area of per 100,000 of population (1981) or both; and

(b) whether any long-term plan has been evolved by his Ministry to reduce the inter-se disparity?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The names of States/Union Territories are as under:-

1. Andhra Pradesh

2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Bihar
4. Goa
5. Himachal Pradesh
6. Jammu & Kashmir
7. Karnataka
8. Kerala
9. Madhya Pradesh
10. Maharashtra
11. Manipur
12. Meghalaya
13. Mizoram
14. Nagaland
15. Orissa
16. Rajasthan
17. Sikkim
18. Tamil Nadu
19. Tripura
20. Uttar Pradesh
21. West Bengal
22. Andaman & Nicobar

23. Chandigarh
24. Delhi
25. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
26. Daman & Diu
27. Lakshadweep
28. Pondicherry

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

112

Representation of Bihar In Oil Selection Board (East)

3093. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar has been represented adequately in the Oil Selection Board (East);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to give due representation to Bihar in Oil Selection Board (East)?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). The Members of the Six Oil Selection Boards (OSBs) are not chosen on a State or regional basis. The OSB (East) which covers the state of Bihar has a retired High Court Judge as its Chairman and two eminent persons as its Members. It would do full justice in the selection of candidates for dealerships and distributorships in Bihar State.

113 **Price of Cement**

3094. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government has requested Union Government to ask the cement producers to apply voluntary price control;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered such request so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No Sir.

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

[English]

113 **Bhatty Committee on Trade Margins**

3095. SHRI KALPNATH SONKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the finding of the Bhatty Committee on trade margins of medicines and when these were submitted;

(b) the expenditure incurred by Government on the Committee;

(c) whether his Ministry revised the trade margins without waiting for the finding of this Committee; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The draft report, which was submitted in March, 1990, is under

consideration of the Government.

(b) The cost of this study is Rs. 5.6 lakhs.

(c) and (d). The trade margin under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1987 was increased in March, 1988 in view of the increase in the MAPE available to the industry. This increase was based in the light of the recommendations made by the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, BICP. The Bhatty Committee was, however, appointed by the Government in September, 1988.

[Translation]

114 **Vallarpur Open Cost Coal Mine**

3096. DR. KHUSHAL PARASRAM BOPCHE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vallarpur open cast coal mine in Maharashtra was flooded with rain water on 18 June, 1990;

(b) whether Government have made investigations in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated loss suffered on this account?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ballarpur Opencast mine was flooded on 18.6.90 due to unprecedented rain.

(b) Western Coalfields Limited has constituted an enquiry committee to investigate into the circumstances leading to the flooding of the mine. The Directorate General of Mines Safety is also conducting an enquiry into the incident.

(c) There has been a production loss of about 66,200 tonnes during the period 18.6.90 to 22.8.90.

[English]

Visit of Cuban Delegation to India

3097. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level Cuban delegation visited India in June, 1990;

(b) if so, the important points discussed and the decisions arrived at;

(c) whether the Cuban has agreed to provide technology for newsprint project in India; and

(d) to what extent, Cuban technology for newsprint projects will be introduced in the country?

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

(b) and (c). The members of Cuban delegation had discussions with M/s. Punjab Agro Newsprint Mills Ltd. and the Officers of the Government of Punjab in respect of Cuban technology process being proposed for the newsprint Plan to be set up by M/s. Punjab Agro Newsprint Mills Ltd.

(d) No such estimate can be made unless Cuban technology is successfully tried in the country.

[Translation]

Daily Running of 'Palace on Wheels'

3098. SHRIGULABCHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to run 'Palace on Wheels' on regular basis; and

(b) if so, since when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). 'Palace on Wheels' has been running regularly between October to March since 1982-83 with a 7 day itinerary. At present, it is not feasible to run it during the summer months as it is a non-airconditioned rake of very old saloons.

[English]

Ancillary Units of Punjab Tractors Ltd.

3099. BABA SUCHA SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ancillary units with Punjab Tractors Ltd. situated outside Punjab;

(b) the idle capacity with the ancillary units situated in Punjab and around Punjab Tractors Ltd.; and

(c) the reasons for not encouraging the local units and for going to units outside the State?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). M/s Punjab Tractors Ltd. (PTL) have reported that there are two hundred and fifteen small scale units within Punjab that are supplying components to them as against twenty one-out-side Punjab and Chandigarh. Ten out of these twenty-one units are located within a radius of 40 K.M The manufacturers have further reported that they are making efforts to develop near-by suppliers and that their small scale suppliers have adequate orders.

117 **Revival of Nagaland Express**

3100. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagaland Express running between Guwahati and Dimapur has been suspended and a few bogies have been attached to Kamrup Express;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the train is likely to be revived?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Running of 5807/5808 Dimapur-Guwahati Express has not been suspended. The train is hauled alongwith 5905/5906 Kamrup Express.

(b) Combined hauling of two trains save locomotive, crew and path thereby reduce avoidable expenditure.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

117 **Helicopter Service to Ajanta**

3101. SHRI PUNDLIK HARI DANWE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in regard to introduction of helicopter service for Ajanta caves;

(b) whether land for constructing a helipad near the caves has been acquired;

(c) whether adequate compensation has been paid to the land owners; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Helicopter services to Ajanta caves have not been introduced so far.

(b) to (d). The General Master Plan for development of Ajanta caves provides for construction of a helipad near the caves. Land for the purpose has so far not been acquired by the State Government of Maharashtra.

Gondia Railway Station, Maharashtra

3102. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to develop Gondi railway station in Nagpur division as a model station;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be spent thereon and the amount spent so far; and

(c) the facilities which are provided at model station and the facilities out of them proposed to be provided at Gondia station.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 36.90 lac out of which Rs. 8.00 lac has been spent so far.

(c) Facilities being provided at the model stations comprise drinking water toilets, improvement to platforms, shelter over platforms, waiting halls/rooms, improved booking facilities, improvement to circulating area, retiring rooms, foot over-bridges to suit the requirements of the passenger traffic in the coming years. All the above mentioned facilities are planned to be provided at Gondia.

[English]

Overbridge at Kalhapur

3103. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO NANA-SAHAB GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no overbridge at Kalhapur from 1st platform to 3rd platform for the use of public;

(b) whether Government propose construct overbridge there; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no foot over bridge at Kalhapur at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Work of provision of the foot overbridge is being sanctioned as an 'out of turn' work during 1990-91 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 7.5 lac.

Electrification of Rail Lines in Kerala

3104. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted in the likely cost of electrification of railway lines in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to electrify any line in Kerala during this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Traffic density on sections falling in the State of Kerala is considered inadequate to justify electrification on financial considerations.

Hussaini Committee Report on Westland Helicopters

3105. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Hussaini Committee report on operational/safety aspect of Westland Helicopters;

(b) if so, the findings and the recommendations thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to equip Oil and Natural Gas Commission with its own adequate number of helicopters in view of the fact that ONGC is spending huge amount on borrowing helicopters for operational and investigation/oil finding purposes and at times faced with problem of non-availability of helicopters at the crucial moments and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to dispose-off the Westland helicopters for replacement or to get them overhauled and suitably repaired; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Copies of the report have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). There is no proposal to dispose of Westland helicopters. It has been decided to re-induct them into service after making suitable modifications and improvements suggested by the Committee.

Adulteration of Diesel With Kerosene

3106. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur):
SHRI RAM NAIK:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether Government have directed that Kerosene Oil Control Order be promulgated in the States incorporating therein a provision for prevention of adulteration of the kerosene oil in diesel and its diversion in the black market;

(b) if so, whether these orders have been promulgated by the States and Union Territories by now;

(c) whether no rules exist at present to prevent adulteration of kerosene with diesel;

(d) if so, the reasons for issuing fresh orders; and

(e) whether Government also propose to colour the kerosene to prevent adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). While no instructions have been issued by the Central Gov-

ernment to the State Government to issue kerosene Control Order for prevention of adulteration of kerosene in diesel etc., some State governments have issued control order in this regard in exercise of the powers delegated to them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The cases of adulteration of diesel with kerosene, as may be detected, are dealt with by the oil companies under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and by the State Governments under the rules/orders issued by them.

(e) A chemical names "Furfural" is being introduced for doping with kerosene to check its adulteration in diesel at various supply locations in a phased manner.

[Translation]

Koel-Karo Project of Bihar

3107. SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Koel-Karo Project, when it is likely to be completed and the amount spent so far thereon;

(b) whether compensation has been paid to the tribals and other people affected by this project and whether adequate arrangements have been made for their rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the amount of compensation paid and the number of beneficiaries; and

(d) the details thereof and if not, the policy likely to be adopted for granting compensation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Preliminary infrastructural facilities such as residential

quarters, office buildings and store sheds for the existing staff have so far been constructed at the Koel Karo Project. The main project works could not be started due to problems of land acquisition. The project has been accorded forest clearance in July, 1990 and the updated cost estimates of the project are being processed for investment decision. The project is scheduled to be completed within 7-1/2 years from the date of investment approval to the revised cost estimates. An amount Rs. 8.53 crores has been spent on the project upto July, 1990.

(b) to (d). The Writ Petition filed by local persons inter alia asking for adoption of liberal rehabilitation measures has been disposed of by the Supreme Court on 6.2.1989 with a direction regarding offer of employment and land to the extent possible by way of rehabilitation to the oustees and those affected by the project. Rehabilitation arrangements are being made in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court. So far only 47 acres of land has been acquired by the project authorities without displacement and compensation amounting to Rs. 30 lakhs was paid to the affected people. Adequate provision exists for the rehabilitation of oustees in the detailed rehabilitation plan proposed by the State Govt. of Bihar. 7000 families are expected to be benefitted by this rehabilitation plan in terms of land for residential purposes and employment opportunities.

Allotment of Railway Land in Hilly Areas

3108. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of railway land under illegal possession in hilly areas of the country;

(b) the details of the area of land rented out; and

(c) the policy of Government regarding allotment of railway land?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 35.67 hectares.

(b) About 635 hectares of railway land in hilly areas is under licence.

(c) Railway land is licensed for only those purposes connected with Railway working, such as stacking of goods transported by Rail, staff welfare measures etc. Licences granted prior to formulation of this policy in 1984, even if they are not connected with Railway working, are, however, renewed annually till such time the land is required for Railways' developmental works.

[English]

Additional Coaches for Trains

3109. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to increase the carrying capacity of passenger trains by adding more coaches to long distance trains and augmenting the seating capacity of every coach;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be finalised/implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). Augmentation of carrying capacity of the trains is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility, resource availability and commercial justification.

125 *Starting Point of Gwalior-Howrah
Chambal Express*

3110 SHRI R N RAKESH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Gwalior-Howrah (Chambal Express) and Gwalior-Bombay (Lashkar Express) are running from Agra, instead of Gwalior,

(b) if so, the reasons for change of their starting point, and

(c) whether Government propose to start it again from Gwalior instead of Agra and if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) Yes, Sir But tri-weekly Chambal Express runs to/from Agra only on one day out of three

(b) Extension has been arranged to meet growing need of traffic and utilise the assets more intensively

(c) No, Sir, as the revised arrangements are more popular and provide better service

125 *Promotion of Small Scale Industries*

3111 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the registration figures of industries in Rajasthan as on 31 December 1990,

(b) the number of licences issued for large and medium scale industries set up in that State during Seventh Plan period,

(c) whether Government have taken a policy decision to promote small scale units which can also develop the ancillary industries, and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in that direction in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) The number of Small Scale Industries registered upto 31 12 1989 with Directorate of Industries, Rajasthan is 58367. The details for the period from January 1990 onwards are not available

(b) The number of Letters of Intent, Industrial Licences & DGTD Registrations issued to set up industries in Rajasthan during 1985 to 1990 (upto March) are 219, 96 and 274 respectively

(c) and (d) Government is giving priority to setting up Small Scale Industries & Ancillary Industries in various States including Rajasthan. The "policy measures for the promotion of small scale and agro-based industries and changes in procedures for industrial approvals" was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 31 5 1990

[Translation]

125 *LPG Facilities in Hilly District Headquarters of U.P.*

3112 SHRI HARISH RAWAT Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have any proposal to make cooking gas available to every block headquarter in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh,

(b) if so the number of block headquarters in these areas where cooking gas is not available,

(c) whether cooking gas is likely to be

made available to all these headquarters by the end of this year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No Sir. There is no such proposal at present, under the consideration of the Government.

(b) LPG is not marketed in 28 of the 89 block headquarters in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Jammu-Udhampur Rail Line

3113. SHRI DHARAM PAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in construction work of Jammu-Udhampur railway line; and

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 21%

(b) Rs. 40 crores upto 3/90.

[Translation]

Submerge of Machines in Collieries of Vishrampur

3114. SHRI A. LARANG SAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether flood water entered into one of the collieries in Vishrampur as a result of which several machines were submerged;

(b) if so, the amount spent on flushing

out water and retrieving the machines from the colliery;

(c) the number of days for which the colliery remained unoperative due to inundation and the amount of loss suffered;

(d) whether the machines have been brought out of the colliery and the colliery made operative; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (e). Due to very heavy rain on 6-7 May, 1990 there was a flash flood in Pasang Nallah as a result of which flood water entered Quarry No. 7 of Bistrampur Colliery. Three shovels, two drills and one crane got drowned. The entire dewatering operation was executed with available departmental work force and resources. However, an estimated additional expenditure on account of extra electric power consumed to the tune of Rs. 1.06 lakhs and for new pumps and fittings costing Rs. 4.65 lakhs (approx.) were spent for retrieving the machine and making the mine operative. The new pumps and fittings shall, however, be available for use in other mines of SECL in similar crisis. The mine was dewatered by 22-5-90 and total loss of coal is estimated at 30,000 tonnes

[English]

New Drug Policy

3115. SHRI AJIT PANJA:
SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA DOME:
SHRI NAKUL NAYAK:

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

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate a new drug policy;

(b) if so, the details of its salient features?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Government is currently reviewing the Drug Policy, 1986. This exercise is in progress.

[Translation]

Complaints Against LPG Agencies in Madhya Pradesh

3116. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding the allotment of LPG agencies in violation of the guidelines and the declared policy in this regard during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action in the matter; and

(c) the number of applications received regarding allotment of new gas agencies from Rajgarh, Guna, Vidisha, Shajapur and Dewas districts in Madhya Pradesh during the last one year and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Selection for LPG distributorships is done by specially constituted Oil Selection Boards (OSBs) headed by retired High Court Judges. No complaints regarding allotment of LPG distributorship in violation of the selection policy guidelines have been received from Madhya Pradesh during the last 3 years. However, as a policy any complaint received against selection of LPG distributors is duly investigated and remedial action taken, wherever found necessary.

(c) No LPG distributorship in these

districts was advertised during the last one year.

[English]

Frequency of Vidarbha Express Train

3117. SHRI SUDAM DATTATRYA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand for increasing the frequency of Vidarbha Express (Nagpur-Bombay-Nagpur of Central Railway) and making it a Daily train; and

(b) whether there is a rising demand for starting Daily express train from Gondia (last important station of Eastern Maharashtra) to Bombay, the Capital of Maharashtra; if so, when this extension is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, but not found feasible due to operational/resource constraints.

Reactions to new Industrial Policy

3118. SHRINARASINGRAO SURYAWANSHI:

SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MEWAR:

DR. SUDHI RAY:

SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI ANBARASU ERA:

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI A.K. ROY:

PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:

SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRI HARISH PAL:

DR. BENGALI SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the wide spread criticism of its new industrial policy,

(b) if so, the main points of criticism and Government's reaction thereto,

(c) whether Government propose to re-examine the new industrial policy, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b) There have been comments, both favourable as well as critical, on the measures titled 'Policy Measures for the promotion of small scale and agro based industries and changes in procedures for industrial approvals' which were laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on 31st May, 1990. Some of the main points of criticism have been (i) likely adverse impact on the Balance of Payments (BOP) situation (ii) easier entry of multi national companies (MNCs) in low technology, non-essential products (iii) adverse impact on our R & D efforts due to easy access to foreign technical collaborations (iv) channelisation of domestic investment in low priority areas such as consumer durables (v) changes in procedures will benefit large houses excessively

The measures announced have been taken within the broad framework of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956, and as elaborated from time to time. The main thrust of these policy measures for small scale sector is on increasing productive employment generation in rural and backward areas of the country, whereas the main thrust of the changes in industrial approvals is towards reducing unnecessary bureaucratic control and consequent delays and corruption. In fact, the proposed package of measures is more designed to encourage medium size units and to promote the entry into industry of a new class of entrepreneurs

thereby diversifying the investment pattern in industry

The measures announced provide for exemption from licensing only for investment upto Rs 25 crores in non-backward areas and upto Rs 75 crores in backward areas subject to satisfying certain specified parameters and conditions. The exemption from licensing, freedom to conclude foreign technical collaborations, foreign investment on automatic basis will be applicable only to certain items and would be further subject to quantitative restrictions regarding import of capital goods, raw materials and components lumpsum and royalty payments and extent of foreign equity participation. These safeguards will adequately meet the main points of criticism

(c) Examination of industrial policy is a continuing process

(d) Does not arise

Prices of Drugs Sold By IDPL

3119 SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the prices at which the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited is selling Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B6 and Folic Acid,

(b) what were prices of these drugs before the Drugs Prices Control Order 1987 and how many of these drugs are outside the price control,

(c) the reasons as to why these drugs have been exempted from price control, and

(d) the quantity of each of these drugs imported by the IDPL during 1986-87 to 1989-90 and what was the CIF value of such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMI-
CALS (SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA) (a)

IDPL is selling Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vita-
min B6 and Folic Acid at a prices indicated as
under:—

(Rs per kg)

1	2
Vitamin B1 (Hcl)	1483/-
Vitamin B1 (Mono)	1550/-
Vitamin B2	2912/-
Vitamin B6	1400/-
Folic Acid	2640/-

(b) The prices of these drugs before DPCO, 1987 were as under —

(Rs per kg)

1	2
Vitamin B1 (Hcl)	950 00
Vitamin B1 (Mono)	1011 50
Vitamin B2	2098 00
Vitamin B6	1200 00
Folic Acid	2631 62

All the above Bulk drugs have been
decontrolled under DPCO, 1987

the Kelkar Committee. However, combina-
tion formulations of Vitamins are price con-
trolled

(c) These drugs were put outside price
control on the basis the recommendations of

(d) Details of imports by the IDPL are as
under —

Name of the drug	Year	Quantity imported (kgs.)	c i f price of imports (Rs per kg)
1	2	3	4
Vitamin B1 (Hcl)	1987-88	15000	457.79
Vitamin B1 (Mono)	1987-88	5000	449.00

<i>Name of the drug</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity imported (kgs.)</i>	<i>c.i.f. price of imports (Rs. per kg.)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Vitamin B2	1987-88	5000	680.00
	1988-89	3000	672.35
Vitamin B6	1988-89	3000	517.78

NRI's Investment in Certain Sectors

3120. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to achieve objective of economic development of the country, Government have decided to change the pattern of industrial Policy Resolution 1956 under which NRIs' investment in certain sectors of Industry is being encouraged;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) the response till June, 1990 of the NRI's?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). Within the broad framework of the existing industrial policy of the Govt. of India as enunciated in the industrial policy resolution of 1956 and as elaborated from time to time, the Government has recently taken some decisions which have been laid in the form of paper on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on 31st May, 1990. The paper is titled *agro based industries and changes in producers for industrial approvals*. No change in the pattern of the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956 is envisaged.

The NRI investment policy is also constantly kept under review. Government have

constituted a consultative Committee in the Department of Economic Affairs which looks into the various Policy and procedural issues connected with NRI investment. As a result of the deliberations of this Committee, several policy and procedural issues such as visa norms for NRI entrepreneurs, opening of subscription collection account at the overseas location and refund of money therefrom without bringing to India, foreign currency denominated bonds on non-repatriation basis, investment in Hotels and Air Taxis etc. have been initiated with a view to improving the investment climate in India.

Notices to Drug Companies

3121. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various products for which notices under Drugs Prices Equalisation Account have been issued; and

(b) the names of all the companies who were served notices during 1986?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Letters were issued to about 100 companies during the years 1983 to 1986. The names of the drugs in respect of which letters were issued are given below in the Statement.

STATEMENT

1. Ethambutal
2. Ampilicillin Trihydrate/Anhydrous
3. Amoxycillin
4. Vitamin C
5. Trimethoprim and Sulphamethoxazole
6. Phenobarbitone
7. Pyrantil Panoate
8. Piperazine and its Salts.
9. Tetrachyline
10. Gentamycin
11. Metronidazole
12. Chloroquin Phosphate
13. Doxycycline
14. Naproxin
15. Oxyphenbutazone
16. Dexamethasone
17. Analgin
18. Chloramphenicol
19. Rifampicin
20. Ibuprofen
21. Dipyradimol
22. Salbutamol

23. Clotazamine

138 *Railway*
Separate Zone for Bombay-Nasik Traffic Users

3122. **DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is public demand from the Bombay-Nasik industrial belt to formulate separate suburban traffic zone for the Bombay-Nasik traffic users; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan proposed by Government and when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

138 *Land-golf*

Over Bridge at Nimbola Crossing at Highway No. 27

3123. **SHRI AMRATLAL VALLABHDAS TARWALA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for constructing overbridge over Nimbola railway crossing is under consideration of Government; and

(b) at which stage this proposal is still pending?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal in this regard has been sponsored by the State Government.

(b) The proposal is in the planning stage. The State Government has not yet furnished to the Railway the plans and estimate for the work.

[English]

Yerraguntla Project of Cement Corporation of India in Andhra Pradesh

3124 SHRI NATHU SINGH Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Cement Corporation of India has approved a project at Yerraguntla in Andhra Pradesh,

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in its implementation

(c) the cost escalation of the project due to the delay, and

(d) the measures Government propose to expedite the project and fix the responsibility for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) Cement Corporation of India implementing a project for manufacture of the million tonne cement per annum at Yerraguntla Andhra Pradesh

(b) The implementation of the project has been delayed for various reasons including disputes with the contractors and suppliers of the machinery

(c) The cost of the project is now estimated at Rs 220 crores assuming that disputes with the contractors/suppliers are resolved immediately

(d) The implementation of the Project is linked to the resolution of disputes with the various parties particularly M/s WIL which is under arbitration. CCI is pursuing the matter both in the arbitration case as well as with the parties. Monitoring of the project is being done both by the administrative Ministry and the Ministry of Programme Implementation on a continuous basis and appropriate

measures are taken where necessary

Expansion of BHEL, Ranipet

3125 SHRI R JEEVARATHINAM Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal to expand the BHEL Unit at Ranipet in Tamil Nadu,

(b) whether a member from each family from whom the land has been acquired was to be provided with a suitable employment in the BHEL, Ranipet unit,

(c) if so, how many families have got the benefit of this and how many have not been given employment so far and

(d) the reasons for not giving employment to remaining families?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) No, Sir

(b) to (d) So far 569 land givers have been given employment by BHEL and 747 applications for employment are pending because there is no requirement of manpower in the unit in the unskilled category

[Translation]

Rail Services to Western Border Areas

3126 SHRI GUMANLAL LODHA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to link western border areas, adjoining Pakistan with the North-East and South by providing direct rail service, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

[English]

141 Air Services

Cancellation of Scheduled Flights from Calicut

3127 SHRIM RAMANNARAI Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) the number of scheduled flights canceled at Calicut Airport in the last three years,

(b) the number of passengers affected due to the cancellation of Scheduled Flights from Calicut, and

(c) the net loss suffered due to such cancellation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) Indian Airline flights to/from Calicut were introduced with effect from the 13th of April, 1988. During the period April, 1988 to July, 1990, out of a total of 496 flights of Indian Airlines ex-Calicut 8 flights were cancelled

As regards Vayudoot, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

(b) Based on the average annual seat factors obtained during the above mentioned period on Calicut-Bombay service, the estimated number of passengers affected due to cancellations was 836

As regards Vayudoot, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

(c) It is not possible to quantify the loss due to cancellations of flights, as in such contingencies a large number of passengers travel by alternative scheduled services of Indian Airlines. However, Indian Airlines incurred expenditure on passengers towards hotel accommodation, food and transportation. The expenditure on the account during the said period is estimated at Rs. 0.65 lakhs

As regards Vayudoot, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

12 Drug and Medicine

Production of non-Essential Drugs

3128 SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY, Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether the drug industry instead of concentrating on bulk drugs from basic stage upward and making life saving drugs for TB, Diarrhoea, leprosy etc. are wasting their resources on production formulations for making non-essential drugs, and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated to discipline the drug industry to produce essential drugs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) (a) and (b) Production of bulk drugs in the country has been rising over the last decade. The values of production of bulk drugs since 1982-83 are given below in the statement. A large number of bulk drugs are produced from the basic stages and the country is self-reliant in several essential and vital drugs. For certain bulk drugs like Rifampicin for TB and leprosy, technology for production from basic stage is difficult to obtain. Some foreign collaboration approvals have been approved. The manufacture of formulations is regulated in the organised sector by imposing a

ration between the value of production of bulk drugs and formulation depending upon the total turnover of the company. No company in the organised sector is given permission to produce formulations without undertaking bulk drug activity set by the ratio parameters.

STATEMENT

Year		Production (Rs. crores)
1982-83	—	345
1983-84	—	355
1984-85	—	377
1985-86	—	416
1986-87	—	458
1987-88	—	480
1988-89	—	550
*1989-90	—	610
*1990-91	—	675

*Estimated.

Announcement in Kannada of Flight at Bangalore Airport

3129. SHRI H.C. SRIKANTHIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether announcement about arrivals and departures of flights at Bangalore Airport are made in Kannada; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to arrange announcements in Kannada also?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTEROFCIVIL AVIATION (SHRIARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Indian

Airlines makes ground announcements also in Kannada language in addition to Hindi and English at Bangalore airport. However, Vayudoot was not making announcements in Kannada language at Bangalore but recently the Company has issued instructions to do so.

Merger of Incheck Tyres Limited with Tyre Corporation of India

3130. CH. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Incheck Tyre Limited has been merged with the Tyre Corporation of India Limited;

(b) if so, whether the equity share holders of erstwhile Incheck Tyres Ltd. have been made share-holders of the new Corporation; and

(c) if not, what decision has been taken by Government regarding share money of the equity shareholders of Incheck Tyres Limited?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Two companies viz. M/s. Incheck Tyres and National Rubber Manufacturers Ltd. were nationalised by virtue of the Incheck Tyres Ltd. and National Rubber Manufacturers Ltd. (Nationalisation) Act, 1984. The right, title and interest of each of the two companies have been vested in the Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. in terms of the provisions of the Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The various claims including those of equity share holders are settled by the commissioner of Payments appointed for the purpose under the provisions of the Incheck Tyres Ltd. and National Rubber Manufacturers Ltd. (Nationalisation) Act, 1984.

15 *Madhya Pradesh*
Night Landing Facilities at Khajuraho

3131. KUMAR UMABHARATI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether night landing facility exist for planes at Khanjraho airport; and

(b) if not, when it is likely to be provided at this airport?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

145 *Madhya Pradesh*
**New Train Between New Jalpaiguri-
 Calcutta and Delhi**

3132. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether from New Jalpaiguri station, one train to Calcutta and other to Delhi were started 50 years ago and no other passenger train starts from this station; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and whether his Ministry will take steps to immediately start one additional train from New Jalpaiguri to Calcutta and one to Delhi keeping in view the increased population and industrial activities of Darjeeling, Siliguri etc.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. New Jalpaiguri station came into existence after the construction of Broad Gauge line in 1964. Prior to that Darjeeling Mail used to run in the Metre Gauge from Siliguri Town to Calcutta after gauge transshipment at Manihari Ghat.

No direct service then existed between Siliguri Town and Delhi Darjeeling Mail in B.G. now runs daily from new Jalpaiguri to Seal-dah.

(b) At present 3 daily and 3 weekly trains connect New Jalpaiguri with Calcutta and 3 daily trains link New Jalpaiguri with Delhi/New Delhi. There is no proposal at present to start any additional service from New Jalpaiguri either to Calcutta or to Delhi due to operational difficulty and resource constraints.

146 *Delhi*

**Issue of Letter of Intents for Retail
 Outlets in Delhi/New Delhi**

3133. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letters of Intent have been issued by various oil Companies for commissioning of petrol/diesel retail outlets in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) if so, the names of the parties in whose favour the letters of intent have been issued and on which dates; and

(c) the time by which the outlets would be commissioned.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is given below in the statement.

(c) Except in one case pending in the court, the commissioning of such outlets has been held up on account of difficulty in getting suitable land. Hence it is not possible to indicate the time by which these outlets are likely to be commissioned.

STATEMENT

*Sl.No. Name of Parties
Date*

1. Shrimati Promila Sharma
12.02.1990
2. Shri Deepak Sareen
08.03.1990
3. Shrimati Neelam Goyal
04.04.1990
4. Miss Dev Sena 13.02.1985
5. Shri Sunil R. Masih
09.05.1986
6. Shrimati Noshi Sethi
16.03.1990
7. Shrimati Meena Bhogal
08.11.1989
8. Shrimati Pushpalata M. Kulkarni
26.07.1990
9. Shrimati Queenie Sharma
17.11.1989
10. Shri Chandan Das
08.11.1989
11. Shri Prakash Ram
08.11.1989
12. Shri S.C. Tripathi 26.06.1990

97 **Consumption of Natural Gas in Maharashtra**

3134. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of natural gas distribution and consumption marketed by the

Gas Authority of India Ltd. in Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(b) the measures being taken to provide more natural gas to the backward districts of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) GAIL is not marketing any gas in Maharashtra at present. This is being done by ONGC. ONGC can currently supply upto 10.5 MMSCME of natural gas in Maharashtra, against which the offtake by the parties to whom gas has been committed has been as follows during the last three years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Average Offtake (MMSCMD)</i>
1987-88	9.76
1988-89	9.12
1989-90	10.04

(b) The supply of more gas in Maharashtra is limited by the availability of natural gas Ex-Uran and the capacity of the shore terminal at Uran. Against a maximum capacity of 16 MMSCMD of the Uran terminal, commitments have already been made to the extent of about 18 MMSCD. Further commitments are dependent on considerable investment in gas processing, compression and transportation facilities and a second shore terminal.

145 **Train From Dhanbad to Sudamdih**

3135. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a passenger train between Dhanbad Adra via Patherdih and Sudamdih; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

149

Decline in Coir Industry

3136 SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the coir industry is facing decline,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether any plan of action is under consideration to re-vitalise this industry, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d) On a continuing basis, the coir Board has been implementing various programmes for promoting over-all development of the coir industry. An increased budgetary provision of Rs 795 Lakhs for 1990-91 has been made as against Rs 619 Lakhs during 1989-90 for Coir Board to implement various programmes for the development of the coir industry.

9 *Prasanna*
Double Line from Khurda to Puri and Electrification of Kharagpur-Puri Section

3137 SHRI ANADI CHARANDAS Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a long standing demand of the people of Orissa for the construction of double line from Khurda to Puri and electrification of Kharagpur to Puri Section of South Eastern Railways, and

(b) if so, the steps proposed in this regard and the time schedule laid down for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Traffic density on Khurda Road-Puri and Kharagpur-Puri section is too low to justify doubling and electrification respectively on financial considerations. As such, there is no proposal at present for doubling of Khurda to Puri and electrification of Kharagpur-Puri section.

50 *Maharaja Krishna*
Modernisation of Nagpur Airport

3138 SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the modernisation and expansion work of the Nagpur Airport has since been undertaken,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the allocation made for this purpose and

(d) when the work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) to (d) National Airport Authority has decided to construct an entirely new terminal building, strengthen the existing runway and associated pavements, and to extend the existing apron at Nagpur Airport at an estimated cost of Rs 9.50 crores.

Air Route Surveillance Radar (ARSR) and Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) are also being installed at a total estimated cost of Rs. 15.32 crores.

While the installation of ARSR and AMSS is likely to be completed during 1991, the civil work at the airport will take two years time to complete from the date of award of work.

Survey of Gas Affected Families in Bhopal

3139. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government had engaged a team of experts to conduct survey of the gas affected families in Bhopal; and

(b) if so, the names of members of the team and whether the Union Government has received its complete findings and the analysis of the data collected during the survey?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). A Socio-economic Survey of the effects of the gas leak from Union Carbide Plant, Bhopal was conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Bombay in 1985 for the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The TISS did not draw up any report as such. However, the data collected was subjected to computer analysis by M/s Operations Research Group, Baroda. The Government has received a copy of the survey schedule administered and of the computer abstract of the information collected.

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps on M.P.s and Ministers Recommendations

3140. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for the allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps on the recommendation of the Members of Parliament and Ministers;

(b) whether there has been any change in the criteria during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps allotted on their recommendations, separately from 1st December, 1989 till date and how it compare with the allotments made during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Retail Outlet (Diesel/Petrol) dealerships/LPG distributorships are allotted to candidates selected by the Oil Selection Boards. However, some dealerships and distributorships are granted at the discretion of the Government, depending on the merits of individual cases. No criteria are laid down for such cases.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

152 Oil Exploration
Drilling in Krishna Godavari and Cochin High

3141. SHRIRAMESH CHENNITHALA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest Oil and Natural Gas Commission activities with results thereof in Krishna Godavari basin and Cochin High;

(b) whether Government contemplate to set up gas based power plants and in the South bottling plants to overcome acute power and LPG crisis by utilising abundant available natural gas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) During 1989-90 a total 8104 SLK of seismic surveys, was carried out by four departmental parties in different parts of the Krishna-Godavari basin. In addition to this one contract party carried out 370 GLK on land and 3583 LK of 3D seismic surveys in offshore areas. Presently 8 rigs are operating in Krishna Godavari offshore.

Cochin High is a part of Kerala Konkar offshore basin. In 1987-88 ONGC drilled one prospect Cochin High-1 (CH-1-1) but it proved to be dry. Recently another well CSP-1 was drilled north of Cochin High-1 but this also turned out to be dry.

Drilling results have, however, given indications about conditions which support possibility of hydrocarbon generation and have established presence of reservoir rocks which could contain hydrocarbons.

(b) and (c). Government has already committed 0.4 MMSCMD of gas for the Vijeshwaran power station in the Krishna Godavari Basin. Further linkage of 1.5 MMSCMD each for two power plants to be set up in the same basin, one in the Central and the other in the State Sector has been agreed to. Further it has also been agreed to commit a gas linkage of 2.0 MMSCMD for power plants in the Cauvery basin. However this will not be available at a single location and the actual availability location-wise and

the implementing agency is yet to be firmed up. At present there is no proposal to set up any LPG recovery plant in the South, based on natural gas.

Modernisation of Cochin Airport

3142 PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cochin airport will be modernised and expanded in its present location or a new airport will be constructed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Various options, including the extension and strengthening of the main runway, for Airbus operations, realignment of the secondary runway presently used for naval operations; and construction of a new airport at an alternative site have been examined. The option for the realignment of the secondary runway has been preferred. The project, however involved participation of a number of Government agencies. It has not been possible to take up the project because of the paucity of resources with the agencies involved.

[Translation]

Demands of Railways Employees

3143. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI RAM NAIK:
SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

representations from Unions of railway employees, recently relating to their demands/grievances

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) to (c). Various unions of railway employees submit their demands/grievances from time to time which are looked into by the concerned authorities and appropriate action taken as necessary. However, in the absence of specific details of any reference, it is not possible to give details of the action taken.

Railways Changes in Nangal Dam Express

3144. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for changing the departure time of Nangal Dam Express running between Nangal and Delhi, between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to issue necessary instructions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Due to law and order problem in Punjab.

[English]

Oil Exploration Exploration for Oil and Gas in Nilgiris

3145. SHRI C. SRINIVASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any exploration of Nilgiris and the neighbouring districts in Tamil Nadu for possibility of oil/gas therewith the heli rig power pack developed by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited unit in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Nilgiris and neighbouring districts in Tamil Nadu are located on a shield area with exposed igneous and metamorphic rocks of Pre-Cambrian age. The area is devoid of sedimentary cover which is vital for generation and accumulation of oil and natural gas.

150 Drilling Operations in Vaigai and Tambarabarani River Basins in Tamil Nadu

3146. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission have made any survey and undertaken any drilling operations in the Vaigai and Tambarabarani river basins in Tamil Nadu for possibility of oil/gas find in area;

(b) if so, with what results; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes Sir. ONGC has undertaken exploratory surveys and drilling

operations in Vaigai area but no exploratory surveys and drilling have been undertaken in Tambarani area

(b) Seismic surveys, in information and exploratory drilling are still continuing in Ramnad sub-basin of the Vaigai area

(c) The sedimentary thickness of the area drained by river Tambarabarani is not significant enough to justify hydrocarbon exploration

157

Refineries in Eighth Plan

3147 SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the number of refineries proposed to be constructed during the Eighth Plan period indicating the location capacity and expenditure involved,

(b) whether Government have decided to set up some of these refineries on joint sector or private sector, and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) to (c) The creation of additional refining capacity in the country during the Eighth Plan and their location would depend on the outlays in that plan which are yet to be finalised

157

Kelkar Committee Report

3148 SHRI VASANT SATHE Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Kelkar to go into the natural gas pricing in the country,

(b) if so, the main recommendations of Committee, and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) to (c) Yes Sir The report has been received and is presently under the consideration of the Government

158

Stoppage of Navyug Express at Tirur

3149 SHRI G M BANATWALA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Jammu-Tawi-Mangalore Navyug Express has no stoppage in the entire district of Malappuram in Kerala,

(b) whether there is a demand for a stoppage at least at Tirur, and

(c) if so the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

(c) Stoppage of Navyug Express is being provided at Tirur with effect from 19 1990

157

Clearance of NRIs Proposals

3150 SHRI MANDHATA SINGH Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether under the new industrial policy, the NRIs are being afforded any facility for clearance of their projects by establishing certain centres in Delhi and other metropolitan cities where they can be given facilities and encouragement to make investment, and

(b) if so, the places where such centres are proposed to be established and when will they start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the NRI investment policy is constantly kept under review. Government have constituted a Consultative Committee in the Department of Economic Affairs which looks into the various Policy and procedural issues connected with NRI investment. As a result of the deliberations of this Committee, several, policy and procedural issues such as visa norms for NRI entrepreneurs, opening of subscription collection account at the overseas location and refund of money therefrom without bringing to India, foreign currency denominated bonds on non repatriation basis, investment in Hotels and Air Taxes etc. have been initiated with a view to improving the investment climate in India.

Import and Consumption of Petrol and Petroleum Products

3151 SHRI T. BASHEER Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the estimated consumption of petroleum and petroleum products in the current year

(b) the estimated domestic production and import country-wise of petroleum and petroleum products for the same period, and

(c) the estimated foreign exchange earning from internal production, and the amount likely to be spent on imports during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) (a) The demand of petroleum products for the year 1990-91 has been estimated at 58.87 million tonnes

(b) The indigenous production of crude oil (including NGL) for the year 1990-91 is estimated to be about 35.9 million tonnes. The gap between consumption and indigenous production is planned to be met by imports. The imports are done both under term contracts with national oil companies of oil producing countries as well as on spot purchases.

(c) For the year 1990-91, foreign exchange of Rs. 7000 crores has been allocated for the imports of crude oil and petroleum product. A quantity of 1.722 million tonnes of petroleum products is expected to be exported during 1990-91. The value of these exports in foreign exchange will depend upon the prevailing international prices of those products.

Direct Supply of LPG to Consumers

3152 SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to supply LPG direct to the consumers instead of through its private appointed agents

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor

(c) whether these private agents cause a great inconvenience to the consumers in supplying the LPG, and

(d) if so, the reason in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) (a) While the oil companies are making supplies of bulk LPG directly to the non-domestic consumers, there is no proposal at present to make packed LPG supplies directly by oil companies to domestic consumers.

(b) In view of the larger number of LPG consumers in the country, it is not practical to supply packed LPG directly to the consumers by the oil companies.

(c) and (d). By and large supplies of LPG by distributors are effected without any inconvenience to consumers. However, at times supplies to consumers are affected for reasons such as shortfall in the availability of LPG, transportation bottlenecks, industrial relations problems civil disturbances and other unforeseen events.

151 Bhopal Gas Tragedy
Union Carbide Case

3563. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the remarks of the Full Bench of the Supreme Court, dealing with the Union Carbide case, to the effect that the ICMR Report of April 1986 estimating the number of gas victims was never brought to the Court's notice when the quantum of interim relief was decided as part of the settlement between the company and the Government;

(b) if so, whether any revised estimated of the real number of affected persons, as per the ICMR report, has been made by Government; and

(c) the corresponding increase in the total amount of interim relief required?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). Review petitions, challenging the Settlement Order of 14th and 15th February, 1989 in the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster case are being heard by the Supreme Court of India and the matter is sub-judice.

[Translation]

32 Rail Gauge Conversion
Conversion of Chandrapur-Balaghat-Jabalpur and Balaghat-Tirodi Rail Lines

3154. SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for converting Chandrapur-Gondia-Balaghat-Jabalpur and Balaghat-Kantagi-Tirodi narrow gauge line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard in view of the popular demand of giving priority to the development of backward area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). The survey carried out in 1980 for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia N.G. line to B.G. has been updated to examine its viability as an alternative North-South route. The updated cost of conversion has been estimated at Rs. 185.35 crores with a negative rate of return. In the meantime, S.E. Railway has suggested a survey for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia-Chanda Fort N.G. line to B.G. so that it can serve as an alternative North-South route. This survey has since been approved.

[English]

32 Industry
Dispersal of Industries Away From Metropolitan Towns and Cities

3155. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to implement the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 regarding the dispersal of industries

away from the metropolitan town and cities; and

(b) the concrete result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Regulation of Industrial locations is required to be done by State Governments, keeping in mind the local conditions and requirements and their respective spatial development plans, zoning and town planning laws. However, the Central Government, with a view to bringing about dispersal of industries offer a number of incentives such as priority in licensing, concessional finance etc. for entrepreneurs setting up units in industrially backward areas.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to Bihar

3156. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of coal supplied to various small scales industries of Bihar during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) whether small scale industries are in a winding up stage because of irregular supply of coal;

(c) the preset annual requirement of coal in Bihar; and

(d) the details of measures being taken by Government to ensure regular supply of coal to Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited, the total quantities of coal/hard coke supplied by Coal India Ltd. to various small scale industries in Bihar during 1987-88,

1988-89 and 1989-90 are as under:

	(lakh tonnes)
1987-88	21.23
1988-89	26.46
1989-90	25.88

(b) Coal India Ltd. have denied having received any such information.

(c) Demand for coal is worked out sector-wise and not State-wise. However, quantity of coal supplied by Coal India Ltd. to consumers in the non core sector in the State of Bihar during 1989-90 was about 60.37 lakh tonnes.

(d) Measures being taken to ensure regular supply of coal to industries in Bihar include moving coal by rail or road as per the sponsorships received from State Govt. authorities. In addition, Coal India Ltd. also offer coal from specified collieries upto 500 metric tonnes by road to each applicant at a time without producing any sponsorship documents etc.

[English]

Petrochemicals Products in Jalgaon District of Maharashtra

3157. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petrochemical reserves have been found in Chopada taluka in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No oil and gas reserves

have yet been established in Chopada taluka in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

165 Mining in Baskuppi Colliery at Deoghar

358. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake mining in Baskuppi Colliery in Deoghar district; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). There is no colliery by name Baskuppi Colliery. However Baskuppi is a village within the lease hold area of Central Jayanti Colliery of Central Coalfields. Limited. The possibility of working Jayanti Coalfields has been examined but no economically workable reserve have been established.

[English]

165

Conversion of Amritsar-Ludhiana Into Shuttle Train

3159. SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert Amritsar-Ludhiana train into a shuttle train; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including timings of the train?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) There is no proposal to classify-

ing Amritsar-Ludhiana passenger train into a shuttle train.

(b) Does not arise.

Decontrolling and Reducing
Price Decontrol of Drugs

3160. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decontrol of prices and an increase in profitability of a large number of drugs has led to increased production of essential drugs;

(b) if so, the comparative production figures thereof; and

(c) how much of the total production of drugs is consumed by Government sector (both Central and State)?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Productive of drugs in the country has registered a growth of about 10% per annum. The production figures of monitored bulk drugs are regularly published in the Annual Performance Budget of this Ministry, copies of which are available into in the Parliament Library.

(c) This Ministry does not monitor purchase by the Central and State Governments.

55 Madhya Pradesh
Change in Location of Khajuraho Airport

3161. SHRI LOKENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khajuraho airport is capable for the landing and take-off of bigger aircraft than 737 Boeing etc.; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to change the location of the airport to any nearby appropriate area for landing of bigger plans?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) and (b) No, Sir

Public Grievances at Thane (C.R.)

3162 PROF RAM GANESH KAPSE Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state

(a) whether he had received a representation from the Chamber of Small Industry Association, Thane (Maharashtra) regarding public grievances on account of closure of good parcel/perishable office on Central Railway, Thane (Maharashtra), and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Railways are not contemplating the closure of Thane Parcel Office. The suggestion of shifting the parcel office to the West side of the station is not considered feasible as there is not suitable place for locating it without causing inconvenience to the passengers.

[Translation]

Popularisation of Tubelights

3163 SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Will the Minister of ENERGY pleased to state

(a) whether publicity is being made to install tube lights in homes with a view to minimise the consumption of electricity,

(b) is so, whether Government propose

to provide tubelight connections along with the bulbs in Government accommodations,

(c) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) The various energy conservation measures, including the use of efficient lighting systems in domestic and commercial sectors, are proposed to be publicised with a view to create an awareness amongst the consumers.

(b) to (d) It has been decided by the Government to provide tubelight fittings in Types I, II and III general pool quarters to be constructed in future.

Rural Electrification in Saharsa District of Bihar

3164 SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) the number of villages in Saharsa district of Bihar which have been electrified so far and the number of villages yet to be electrified, and

(b) the time by which these remaining villages are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) As per available information, in the Saharsa district of Bihar, out of the total of 954 inhabited villages, 774 have been electrified as on 31.3.1989 leaving a balance of 180 villages yet to be electrified.

(b) Districtwise Rural electrification activities are finalised at the State level based

on the availability of funds and inter-se priorities fixed by the State Government. However, all the remaining unelectrified villages are likely to be electrified during the Eighth Plan period subject to the availability of funds and other inputs.

[English]

169

Capital Funds Drawn by IDPL

3165. DR. ASIMBALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of capital funds drawn by the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. during the last four years;

(b) the actual expenditure on capital works year-wise ; during the period and the excess amount drawn, if any;

(c) the procedure for releasing capital funds to public undertakings;

(d) whether this procedure has been followed in case of IDPL;

(e) the authority which can sanction diversion of capital funds for revenue expenditure;

(f) whether the approval of competent authority was obtained by the IDPL; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA): (a) The Plan Funds released by Government to IDPL during the last 4 years are as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Amount released
1	2
1986-87	4.00
1987-88	7.30
1988-89	9.50
1989-90	8.00

(b) The actual expenditure incurred by IDPL on Capital works during the last 4 years are as under:

Year	Actual expenditure
1	2
1986-87	1.03
1987-88	1.05
1988-89	2.82
1989-90	3.52

No excess amount was released to IDPL over and above the provisions made in the budget for the respective years.

(c) and (d). The amount were released to IDPL after following the procedure laid down for release of funds.

(e) and (g). Some amount of capital funds has been utilised by the company to meet the cash losses, statutory payments etc. as no other alternative for funding of cash losses was available.

171 **Reservation in Konark Express**

3166. SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received to reserve one II class sleeper bogie in the Konark Express from Berhampur (Ganjam) to Bombay; and

(b) if so, when this facility is proposed to be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to limited availability of reserved accommodation and full utilisation of the quotas at the existing quota holding stations, there is no proposal to increase the existing quota at Berhampur by Konark/Minar Express trains.

[Translation]

171 **Use of Passenger Planes as Cargo by Air India**

3167. SHRI SHEO SHARAN VERMA,
SHRI HARISH PAL,
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has proposed to convert its passenger planes into cargo planes in order to make it more financially beneficial; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

172 (b) Does not arise.

Coal from Mand Coal area to Mand Thermal Power Project

3168. SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal from Mand coal area has now been allotted to the Mand Thermal Power Project;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which coal will be allotted for the only project of the State from the Mand area?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The proposal to set up Mand Thermal Power Station (2x210 MW) is based on availability of coal from Mand -Raigarh coalfield. The exploration carried out in this coalfield so far does not hold out the prospect of establishing adequate coal production to meet the requirement of the proposed Mand TPS.

172 **Capital Goods clearance for Import of Plants and Equipments**

3169. SHRI M.S. PAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from Uttar Pradesh Government in regard to capital goods clearance for the import of plants and equipments costing rupees 59 crores for continental floor glass project in the Bargarh industrial areas which is a no industry district of Banda; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The necessary CG approval letter for Rs. 49.53 crores to M/s Continental Float Glass Ltd. has been issued on 16.4.1990

[Translation]

173
Complaints Against Hotels under MRTP Act

3170. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint of the violation of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act is registered against hotels and if so, the details thereof, hotel-wise;

(b) the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such cases lying pending and since when these are pending; and

(d) the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d). The MRTP Commission/Director General of Investigation & Registration received 11 complaints since 1.1.1987 against hotels under the MRTP Act. Eight (8) complaints have been disposed of and only three (3) complaints are pending for final orders of the commission. Details of these cases are given below in the statement.

MRTP Commission, being a quasi judicial body, is empowered to pass appropriate orders under the provisions of the MRTP Act and no time limit has been prescribed for the Commission for disposing of the cases under the Act. The time taken in disposing of the cases varies from case to case depending upon the nature of the issues involved, conduct of the parties etc.

STATEMENT

Sl. No	Name of the Hotel	Nature of Complaint	Action taken	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5

LIST OF CASES DISPOSED OF

1	Asian Hotel Ltd , New Delhi	The complaint received in November '1987 alleged that the Hotel had not provided satisfactory service to customers	The complaint was got investigated by the DG (I&R)	The case was closed after considering the findings brought out in the investigation report
2.	U P Hotels Ltd , New Delhi	The DG (I&R) filed an application under Section 36B (c) of the MRTP Act in June '1988 alleging that the company had given misleading information to the investors regarding market value of its shares in its letter of offer addressed to the shareholders in order to sell its shares	The DG's application was registered as U T P Enquiry Number 336 of 1988	The Commission passed an order for closing the enquiry "Since the shares do not fall within the definition of 'goods' as defined in MRTP Act, 1969 before allotment, as such the Commission is totally unable to look into the matter "

Sl. No.	Name of the Hotel	Nature of Complaint	Action taken	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
3.	Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi	The complaint received in June '1988 alleged that the complainant was not given the prize won by him at the New Year Eve function of the Hotel.	The complaint was sent to the complainee Hotel for comments.	The proceedings were dropped after the complainee gave an assurance that the prize would be given to the complainant soon.
4.	Hotel Oberoi Clarkes, Shimla	The DG (I&R) received a complaint in June '1988 which alleged that the Hotel was charging for food also alongwith the accomodation charges.	The matter was taken up by the DG (I&R) with the complainee.	On receipt of the complainee's reply which was considered satisfactory by the DG (I&R), no further action was taken.
5.	Arun Goel, Proprietor, M/s. Ajaymeru International, Ajmer	The complainee falsely claimed that it was engaged in the business of Hoteliers and had already taken up construction of Hotel Ajaymeru—A Hotel under the management of Welcome Group of Hotels—at Ajmer.	An enquiry was instituted in U.T.P. Enquiry No. 401/1988.	The Commission passed an order under section 36D (1) of the MRTP Act that "respondent No. 1 (Arun Goel, Prop. M/s. Ajaymeru International) would not repeat the unfair trade practices. ..."

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Hotel</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Action taken</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	2	3	4	5
6.	Hotel Clarks Avadh, Lucknow	The complaint received in November '1988 alleged that the Hotel made a misrepresentation about its status	The complaint was got investigated by the DG (I&R)	After considering the findings as brought out in the report, the Commission closed the proceedings
7.	The Oberoi, Taj International and other Five Star Hotels	An information was received in December '1988 that some Five Star Hotels were manipulating the telephone charges.	The complaint/information was got investigated by the DG (I&R)	After considering the findings as brought out in the report, the Commission closed the proceedings
8.	Taj Palace Intercontinental Hotel, New Delhi	A complaint was received by DG (I&R) in June '1990 which alleged that the Hotel had introduced a scheme of Favoured Guest Club offering gifts but had denied the gift to the complainant who was entitled under the scheme	The DG referred the complaint to the complainee	The complaint was closed by the DG (I&R) after the complainee had settled the matter & filed the complaint.

Sl. No.	Name of the Hotel	Nature of Complaint	Action taken	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
"LIST OF CASES PENDING"				
1.	LMB Hotel, Jaipur	The complaint dated June 1988 alleged that the Hotel had made false and misleading claims regarding the quality or standard of its services provided to the customers.	An enquiry was instituted in U.T.P. Enquiry Number 64 of 1989 and a Notice of Enquiry issued to the respondent on 22nd May 1989.	The Enquiry is to come up before the Commission for the complainant's evidence on 7th December 1990.
2.	Hotel Goradia's Pvt. Ltd., Bombay	The complaint received in March 1990 alleged that the complainee had issued a misleading advertisement offering accommodation for pilgrims by introducing a scheme for limited number of members on first come first served basis against payment of partly refundable amount of Rs. 5,000/- as an advance for five years.	The DG (I&R) was directed on 6th April, 1990 to investigate into the complaint and submit a report within sixty days.	The investigation is in progress.

Sl. No	Name of the Hotel	Nature of Complaint	Action taken	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
3.	Hotels in Baroda	A complaint was received in March 1990 alleging that the Hotels in Baroda were indulging in unfair trade practices	<p>The complainant was asked to furnish information on the following points</p> <p>(i) The nature of unfair trade Practice indulged in by each of the hotels,</p> <p>(ii) the evidence in the form of bills, pamphlets and advertisements, and the complete address of each of the hotels indulging in unfair trade practices</p>	The complainant has not reverted in the matter

185 **Medical Facilities in Rajpara Coal Washery Plant**

3171. PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards the problems being faced by Rajrapa project operated under the Central Coalfields Limited;

(b) whether the Central Coalfields Limited Employees' Union, have submitted any memorandum in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to solve these problems; and

(d) the time by which medical facilities are likely to be provided in Rajrapa Coal Washery Plant?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

185 [English] **Rail Gauge Conversion -**
Conversion of Rajkot-Veraval Rail Line

3172. SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH:
SHRI BALVANT MANVAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat have requested the Railways for the conversion of Rajkot-Veraval metre gauge line into broad gauge line and also extension of this route upto Kodinar;

(b) whether the project is viable and the

Planning Commission has cleared this project; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not implementing the said project especially when there are numerous industrial projects round-about this line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The gauge conversion project from Rajkot to Veraval was found financially viable and Planning Commission has decided that it may be considered for taking up during Eighth Plan. As regards its extension to Kodinar only about 19 Km BG extension from Veraval to a focal point has been included in the conversion project. Beyond this focal point the user industries could be provided with B.G. sidings at their cost.

186 **Automobiles**
Missing of Maruti Vehicles

3173. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of Maruti vehicles have been found missing from the factory premises during 1988-89;

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

(c) whether any progress has been made in tracing out these vehicles;

(d) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incident in future; and

(e) how Government propose to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

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

**LPG Plant at Chelari in Malappuram,
Kerala**

3174. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of LPG Plant at Chelari in Malappuram district of Kerala has been completed; and

(b) if not, when it is likely to be completed and commence production; and

(c) the number of gas cylinders expected to be produced in the plants by the company per day?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The LPG bottling plant at Chelari is expected to be completed by November, 1991 and bottling is likely to commence from December, 1991.

(c) The installed capacity of the plants is 10,000 Metric Tonne per annum which works out to approximately 2,400 LPG cylinders per day.

[Translation] *अस. से नहीं*

Vayudoot Service from Gaya to Patna

3175. DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRI-VASTAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Gaya, Rajgir and Parasnath with Patna through Vayudoot service; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Shortage of aircraft capacity and paucity of other resources do not permit introduction of more services by Vayudoot Limited in the near future.

**Demand and Availability of Power in
Bihar**

3176. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the daily demand and availability of power in Bihar;

(b) whether any request have been made by the State Government to Government for the supply of more power; and

(c) if so, the details in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) During the period April-July, 1990, the average daily energy requirement in Bihar was about 17.3 Million Units (MU) against which the overall availability was 13.1 MU/day.

(b) and (c). A request was made by the Government of Bihar in October, 1989 for supply of 300 MW of power from the Northern Grid. It has not been possible to make any firm allocation of power to Bihar from the Central Sector power stations in the Northern Region, which are to meet the requirement of the constituents of the Northern Region. Bihar forms part of the Eastern Grid. However, Bihar has been provided assistance from the Northern Grid, whenever the system conditions permit. During the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 (upto July, 1990) Bihar received 234 MU and 179 MU respectively

from the Northern Grid. This was besides the assistance provided to Bihar from the Central Sector stations in the Eastern Region.

[Translation]

Manmad-Aurangabad Railway Line

[English]

Import of Crude Oil from Middle East

3177. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about four lakh tonnes of crude oil has been imported from some countries of Middle East during this month;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of countries from which this has been imported;

(c) the arrangement of these supplies and payments made thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to get some more supplies from some more countries of Middle East; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e). Planned imports crude oil for the month of August are more than one million tonne including imports from the middle east countries. These imports are made both under term contract with the National Oil Companies of oil producing countries and through purchases under spot market. Payments are made in accordance with the terms of payment as agreed to under various contracts. Efforts are being made to get additional quantities of crude oil from various oil producing countries including the middle east countries to meet the shortfall of crude oil because of recent developments in the middle east. It will take some time before the final outcome of those efforts is known.

3178. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Manmad-Aurangabad-Parbhani railway line has begun;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) if not, the difficulties being faced in the commencement of this work;

(d) the amount likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) when the said railway line is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 65.1% of the work has been completed upto 30.6.1990 on Manmad-Aurangabad portion.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rs. 148 crores approximately.

(e) The conversion work for Manmad to Aurangabad is planned for completion during 1991-92. However, no target date has been fixed for completion of the balance portion of this project.

[English]

Eklakhi-Balughat Railway Line

3179. SHRI PALAS BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the on going project of construction of new broad gauge line from Eklakhi to Balurghat in West Bengal has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount already spent and the work completed on that project so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). Eklakhi-Balurghat, new BG line project, was taken up in 1983-84 and so far an amount of Rs. 3.04 crores has been spent on earthwork between Eklakhi and Gazol. From 1985-86, due to resource constraint, only token funds of Rs. 1000/- could be provided for this project.

Expansion of Calicut Airport

3180. SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Airports Authority has completed the studies about extending the runway of the Calicut airport; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to expand this airport in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in Bihar

3181. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in Bihar so far;

(b) the number of unelectrified villages in the State;

(c) whether electrification target has been achieved in Bihar so far; and

(d) if not, the effort being made by Government for electrification of remaining villages in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Out of the total 67546 inhabited villages (as per 1981 Census) in the State of Bihar, 46,205 villages have been electrified as on 31st May, 1990 leaving a balance of 21341 villages unelectrified.

(c) During the year 1989-90, Bihar State Electricity Board has electrified 2449 inhabited villages against a target of 2300 villages.

(d) The rural electrification programme is finalised on an Annual Plan basis keeping in view the resources position, infrastructural facilities, power availability etc. of the individual State and the inter-se priorities fixed by the concerned State. However, the remaining unelectrified villages in the State of Bihar are expected to be electrified by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan subject to the availability of funds and other inputs.

[English]

Malpractices at Petrol Pumps

3182. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the malpractice cases registered after the introduction of the re-

stricted timings of petrol pumps in the country; and

(b) the action taken against such cases?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) and (b) The instructions regarding restricted working hours at the retail outlets have been issued by the oil companies under the dealership agreements, and non-observance of these instructions by any dealer would be dealt with by the concerned oil company under the said agreements. Some cases of such violation and irregularities have come to the notice of the oil companies and action has been initiated in such cases in accordance with the dealership agreements and the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

193 Airbus Service to Coimbatore

3183 SHRI C K KUPPUSWAMY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether there was a proposal to run an Airbus touching Coimbatore,

(b) if so, when, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir. There was a proposal to operate A-320 service to/from Coimbatore.

(b) and (c) Due to suspension of Airbus A-320 aircraft operation Indian Airlines could not introduce services with this type of aircraft to Coimbatore. Coimbatore airport is not suitable for Airbus-300 operation.

Central Investment in Backward Districts of Kerala

3184 SHRI PALAI K M MATHEW

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the central investment made in the backward districts of Kerala for the development of industry during the last one year,

(b) whether Union Government have received any request from Kerala Government in this regard for the backward districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta,

(c) if so, the action taken thereon, and

(d) whether Union Government propose to make Central investments for development industries in the cash crop and rubber-producing districts of Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) Investment in terms of gross block in the Central Public Sector Enterprises in the State of Kerala during the year 1988-89 is Rs. 222.44 cores.

(b) to (d) No proposal has been received in the Department of Industrial Development for making investment by the Central Government in the backward districts of Kerala. Besides, the 8th Five Year Plan has yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

194 Passenger Amenities on Ajmer-Khandwa Section

3185 DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been heavy increase in the number of passengers and

goods traffic on Ajmer-Khandwa (Metre-Gauge) Section during past years;

(b) whether adequate number of platforms, sheds, waiting rooms and other facilities are lacking on various stations on this section; and

(c) if so, the details of additional passenger amenities likely to be provided there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Adequate passenger amenities are available at most of the stations on Ajmer-Khandwa (Metre-Gauge) Section. Provision of booking-cum-waiting arrangements at 11 stations, sanitised latrines at 45 stations, benches at 8 stations, cover-over-platforms at 13 stations, had-pumps at 20 stations, extensions of waiting halls at 9 stations, extension of rail level platforms at 5 stations and extension of medium level platforms at 13 stations are included in Railway Works Programme for 1990-91.

[English]

Proposal to Raise MRTP Limit

3186. SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise MRTP limit from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, the objective to be achieved thereby; and

(c) when the proposal is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

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

LPG Connections in Uttar Pradesh

3187. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the applicants for gas connections in Etah and other districts of the Uttar Pradesh registered for the last eight years have not yet been given connection while gas connections are being sold in black market; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The waiting list of customers with some LPG distributors operating in Uttar Pradesh is more than 8 years old. All complaints regarding sale of gas connections in black market are investigated and appropriate action is taken in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Rural Electrification in Andhra Pradesh

3188. SHRI RAJAMOHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Ongole in Andhra Pradesh without electricity at present;

(b) whether any time bound programme has been drawn to provide electricity in all the villages in Ongole, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of villages likely to be electrified during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). As per information available, the State of Andhra Pradesh has achieved cent percent electrification of villages as per 1981 Census, by the end of March, 1990.

197 *Railways*
Production of Wheelsets

3189. SHRI R. GUNDU RAO:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of wheelsets made by Wheels and Axle Plants, Bangalore during the last three years and the total number of wheelsets imported by Govern-

ment during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the production capacity of wheelsets in the country; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) The total number of Wheelsets produced by Wheels and Axle Plant, Bangalore and also the total number of wheelsets for which import orders were placed during the last three years viz 1987-88 to 1989-90 are 63422 and 35239 respectively.

(b) and (c). Wheelsets are being manufactured in the country by Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore (WAP) and Durgapur Steel Plant. There are plans to increase the capacity as under by the end of the Eighth Plan;

Unit	Annual level of Supplies in terms of Wheels	
	Present	After expansion
WAP	60,000	84,000
Durgapur Steel Plants (DSP)	25,000	80,000

197 *Railways*
Long Distance Trains Beyond Ahmedabad to Viramgam

3190. SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the long distance new trains beyond Ahmedabad to Viramgam and ahead implemented by the Railways on Western Railway tracks in the last three years; and

(b) the details of utilisation percentages of track beyond Ahmedabad to Viramgam,

Hapa and Gandhidham on broad gauge, separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) 1269/1270 Rajkot-Ahmedabad-Bhopal Express from April 1988, 2997/2998 Hapa-Rajkot-Ahmedabad-Jammu Tawi Express from May 1990, 2603/2604 Trivandrum-Ahmedabad and 2731/2732 Secunderabad-Ahmedabad Expresses extended upto Rajkot from May 1989, 9153/9154 Ahmedabad-Rajkot Inter-city Express extended upto Hapa (3 days a week from November 1989 and 6 days a week from May 1990).

(b) The track capacity utilisation based on 1989-90 running is as follows:

<i>Ahmedabad-Viramgam-Hapa section</i>		<i>Viramgam-Gandhidham section</i>	
Ahmedabad-Sabarmati	— 62.4%	Viramgam-Jhund	— 72.1%
Sabarmati-Viramgam	— 65.5%	Jhund-Dhrangadhra	— 67.4%
Viramgam-Surendranagar	— 76.5%	Dhrangadhra-Halvad	— 69.7%
Surendranagar-Wankaner	— 76.5%	Halvad-Maliya Miyana	— 70.0%
Wankaner-Rajkot	— 77.5%	Maliya Miyana Gandhidham	— 63.0%
Rajkot-Hapa	— 62.0%		

[*Translation*]

Foreign Collaboration in Power Sector

3191. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise total number of proposals received by Government to collaborate in power schemes alongwith financial assistance from foreign Government's and power equipment manufacturing companies during the last two years;

(b) the names of proposal amongst them which Government have considered in last seven months; and

(c) the decision taken by Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

199 *Indian Airlines*
[*English*]

Reservation in I.A. Aircraft

3192. SHRI R. PRABHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several passengers are finding it difficult to get reservation in Indian Airlines aircraft due to paucity of aircraft; and

(b) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent upon the grounding of Airbus A-320 operations, the following steps have been taken to meet the situation:—

- Fuller utilisation of the rest of the fleet leading to a distinct improvement in the overall load factor of the system as a whole.
- Leasing in of additional capacity from Air India.
- Efforts are also on to lease in capacity from other airline/leasing companies.

200 *Air Services*
Delhi-Bagdogra Flight

3193. SHRI NANDU THAPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand for resumption of Delhi-Bagdogra flight via Patna in view of the vast areas to be covered by Bagdogra Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when it is likely to resume?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTEROFCIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has received three requests to resume Delhi-Bagdogra flight via Patna.

(c) At present Indian Airlines has no plans to resume the said service.

Punctuality of Trains and Better Amenities to Commuters

3194. SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU:

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the punctuality of trains and provision of better amenities to the commuters have been badly affected during the last six seven months;

(b) whether the authorities have completely failed to maintain punctuality in trains and to provide adequate amenities to the commuters; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to take to improve the services of trains throughout the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). Unavoidable causes

like devastation by cyclone on East Coast, heavy unprecedented rains in Andhra Pradesh, Bombay area and Rajasthan, dense fog in January 1990, besides Bandhs in Assam, Punjab, Tamilnadu, alarm chain pulling etc., total power break down in West Bengal on 26.6.90 and a few equipment failures did affect the punctuality of trains. However, adequate amenities to passengers are being maintained.

(c) Monitoring and intensive chasing is continuing to improve performance.

[Translation] *Railways*
202 **Wagon Factory at Katihar**

3195. SHRI YUVRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have acquired more than 100 acres of land near Katihar Gaushala for setting up of a railway wagon factory there;

(b) whether that land is suitable for setting up the said factory; and

(c) if so, when it will be set up there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) An area of 109.192 acres of land was acquired in 1962 for construction of staff quarters, out of which the N.F. Railway propose to relinquish 55 acres of land for National Airport Authority for setting up an very high frequency Omni range station.

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

[English] *Recovery of Arrears*
202 **Recovery of Arrears by World Bank from D.E.S.U.**

3196. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World bank has served DESU with notice for unsatisfactory recovery of arrears;

(b) whether it is a fact that the 60 million dollar loan offered by the World Bank would be cancelled if the recoveries are not effected as per directive of the World Bank; and

(c) the steps Government will take to avail of the loan of 60 million dollars and the action proposed to be taken for the recovery of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The World Bank had agreed to provide a loan of US\$ 60 million for the 400 KV transmission ring project of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking. The agreement signed with the World Bank inter-alia stipulated that the DESU would take steps to improve its financial viability and furnish to the Bank a satisfactory plan for its financial strengthening by the 29th February, 1988. Since this condition could not be complied with by the stipulated date, the World Bank suspended the disbursement of the loan in January, 1989.

(c) A financial recovery plan of the DESU, inter-alia, involving waiving off the dues payable by the DESU to the Badarpur Thermal Power Station/Interest on Government loans outstanding as on 31.3.1989 and treating the loans as perpetual loans was approved by the Government in August, 1989. However, the World Bank did not revoke the suspension of the loan and insisted on the implementation of a financial recovery plan by the DESU to ensure earning of a minimum rate of return of 3% on its net fixed assets. Since the DESU cannot achieve financial viability without suitable revision of its present highly uneconomical tariff and as the Delhi Electric Supply Committee/Municipal Corporation of Delhi could

not take a decision in this regard, the World Bank has since cancelled the loan.

Debentures for Funding Marathwada Railway Project

3197. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has sent a proposal to issue debentures for launching of Marathwada railways project;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has some analogy with Konkan Railway project;

(d) whether Government have taken any action on those proposals so far; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (e). The State Government of Maharashtra had suggested that they would like to contribute funds by floating debentures for accelerating progress of the gauge conversion projects. Railways had agreed that such contribution could be in addition to and quite separate from Railway's Annual Plan outlay and that no additional financial liability would come on Railways as a result thereof, whether in the form of interest payment or redemption of debentures, or in any other manner. Proposal on these lines has not been received from the State Government. In the meanwhile the Ministry of Finance in a communication has opined that if such schemes are to be financed by raising of debentures outside the Plan, the Central Government should agree to a pro-tanto reduction in borrowing programme to accommodate such requests. Further, they have suggested that the only way to expe-

dite execution of these gauge conversion projects is to make adequate provision for these schemes within the Plan outlay for Railways.

[Translation]

205

Loss in Eastern Coalfield Unit of Coal India Limited

3198. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfield unit of the Coal India Limited is running in loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Eastern Coalfield Limited suffered a loss of Rs. 142.19 crores and Rs 48.74 cores respectively. During 1988-89 according to audited accounts of Coal India Limited, Eastern Coalfields Limited earned a profit of Rs. 33.75 crores after Coal Price Regulation Accounts (CPRA). Before CPRA, it suffered a loss of Rs. 129.58 crores in 1988-89.

The main reasons for losses are failure to achieve targetted production and increase in the cost on account of the implementation of National Coal Wage Agreement IV.

Following steps are being taken for improving performance of losing mines:

1. Rationalisation of manpower.
2. Redeployment of manpower.
3. Training for skill upliftment.

4. Voluntary retirement scheme.

5. Improving productivity.

6. Increasing production of superior grades of coal, if available.

7. Intensive monitoring of identified mines.

[English]

Restoration of Alarm Chain

3199. SHRI L. V. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of deaths due to fire on 16 April, 1990 in running train No. 383 Up Mokamah-Arrah occurred due to non-functioning of alarm chain in the train; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to restore alarm chains in running trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) According to the preliminary report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle, who conducted the inquiry, the train was stopped shortly after the fire broke out, but the fire had engulfed the coach rapidly by then thereby resulting in heavy casualties.

(b) The alarm chain apparatus in some passenger carrying trains (including the train under reference) having high incidence of alarm chain pulling and misuse thereof is blanked off under the provisions of the Railways Act.

Shuttle Train Between Tuni and Visakhapatnam

3200. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA KON-ATHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce shuttle train between Tuni and Visakhapatnam (South Central Railway), Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the South Central Railway have any proposal to introduce new trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Khalilabad-Balrampur Rail Line

3202. SHRI RAM PRASAD
CHAUDHARY:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TI-
WARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey of Khalilabad, Basi Dumriyaganj, Utraul and Balrampur during 1977-78;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to lay railway line on Dumriyangaj-Balrampur via Khalilabad route; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the survey was carried out in 1979.

(b) The cost of construction of the line at the then prevailing price level was estimated at Rs. 16.17 crores. Anticipated return was 4.08%

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Unmanned Railway Crossing in Madhya Pradesh

3203. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossing in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of accidents on unmanned railway crossing during the last three years in Central Railway, Western Railway and South Eastern Railway; and

(c) whether the unmanned level crossing in the district of Khargone and Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be converted into manned crossings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) There are 1710 unmanned level crossings, which exclude cattle and canal crossings.

(b) The details of accidents are as follows:

<i>Railway</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
Central	4	3	4
South Eastern	4	7	1
Western	7	4	6

(c) The Railways undertake manning of only such of the level crossing which are justified by the volume of traffic or other special features. For the present, there is no proposal to convert the existing unmanned level crossings in Mandsaur and Khargone Districts into manned ones.

[Translation]

09 Rail Gauge Conversion

Conversion of Gwalior-Sheopurkala N.G. Line and its Extension upto Sawai-Madhupur

3204. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a narrow-gauge railway line from Gwalior to Sheopurkala at present;

(b) whether a plan to convert this railway line into meter-gauge line and to extent it upto Sawai-Madhupur is proposed to be undertaken by Government;

(c) if so, whether its survey has been conducted and estimate prepared, if so, the estimated amount likely to be spent on this plan; and

(d) whether the administrative approval has been accorded and when the work is likely to be started on it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Survey for conversion of Gwalior-Sheopurkalan NG line into BG (and not into MG) and its extension upto Digod near Kota has been approved in 1989-90 at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs. Another survey of new BG line from Jhansi to Shivpuri and onwards to Sheopurkalan and Sawai Madhopur has also been approved in 1989-90 at a cost of Rs. 18.13 lakhs.

(d) No, Sir.

[English]

210

Issue of Consumers Bill By D.E.S.U.

3205. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether DESU takes on an average 13 months to 45 months for the first bill to issue to new consumers from the date of connection; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this inordinate delay and the amount of DESU locked up thereby?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). According to the DESU, issuing of the first bill in respect of a new connection takes a comparatively longer time due to the completion of a number of formalities. As a result of the steps taken by the DESU to improve its electricity billing system, it now takes normally two to three months to issue the first

bill. With the reduction in the time gap for issuing the first bill within the reasonable limit of 2-3 months, the question of locking up of the DESU money does not arise.

Power Generation in Eighth Plan

3206. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation in Eighth Plan period would be 30,000 M.W. and not 38,000 M.W. as planned;

(b) whether it will be less than the target envisaged in the Seventh Plan period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Union Government to keep power generation in tune with the requirement and the extent to which alternative sources of energy will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The target for installation of additional generating capacity in the Eighth Five Year Plan has not been finalised so far. However, as per the Report of the Working Group on Power for the Eighth Plan, a capacity addition of 38369 MW has been envisaged in the Plan period against the target of 22,245 MW in the Seventh Plan.

(d) A number of measures have also been taken to increase generation by optimum utilisation of installed capacity, renovation & modernisation of existing power stations, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, efficient load management and energy conservation on short term and long term basis. Measures are also being taken to develop alternate sources of energy to the extent possible. The target for the Eighth Plan has not been finalised as yet.

Supply of Kerosene to West Bengal

3207. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the quantity of kerosene demanded by West Bengal during the last two years, year wise and the actual supply made by Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): The kerosene requirements of all States/Union Territories, including West Bengal assessed by allowing a suitable rate of growth over the allocations made in the corresponding period of the previous year, and allocations made accordingly. Besides the regular allocations, additional adhoc releases are also made at the requests of State Governments to meet the specific situations like floods, droughts, cyclones, shortage of LPG etc.

The details of allocation and release of kerosene made to West Bengal during the last two years are as under:

Year	Regular allocations	Adhoc allocation	Total allocation (Figures in tonnes)	Releases
1	2	3	4	5
1988	646276	11544	657820	662818
1989	686960	11596	698596	708873

Silk Industrial Units

3208. SHRI LOKANATH CH. OUDHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sick industrial units in Orissa and amount of loans from banks locked up therein; and

(b) the number of small scale, large and medium sick units likely to be declared unviable and closed down?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. As per the latest information available from the Reserve Bank of India as at the end of June, 1988, there are 12 sick units in Non-SSI sector and 9125 sick units in the SSI sector in Orissa and the amount outstanding against them is Rs. 36.52 crores and Rs. 33.41 crores respectively.

(b) Viability-wise position of sick units in Orissa is indicated as under:

Category	No. of viable units	No. of Non-viable units be decided	No. of units in respect of which viability is yet to
SSI sick units.	216	8,876	33
Non-SSI sick units	6	5	1

As regard the number of units likely to be closed down, Reserve Bank of India do not maintain such information.

Demand of Ethylene Oxide

3209. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether present domestic production of Ethylene Oxide is less than the demand and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether many industries based on Ethylene Oxide as their raw materials are facing closure due to non availability of Ethylene Oxide;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are considering to permit imports of Ethylene Oxide to the

actual users and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). The indigenous production of Ethylene Oxide is not sufficient to meet the demand. Ethylene Oxide being inflammable and hazardous can not be imported to make up the shortfall. However, the situation is likely to improve in the near future with the commission of some more projects.

[Translation.]

B.G. Rail Line Between Muzaffarpur and Narkatlaganj

3210. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted survey to lay the broad gauge railway line between Muzaffarpur and Narkatiaganj junction;

(b) if so, when this work is likely to be started and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The conversion of Muzaffarpur-Narkatiaganj M.G. section to B.G., 161 Km has been estimated to cost Rs. 86.76 crores. Due to acute constraint of resources and heavy commitments on hand it is difficult to state, at this stage, as to when the work on this project would be started.

[English]

Stoppage of Delhi-Howrah Express at Sarsaul, Kanpur

3211. SHRI KESHRI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been persistent demand to stop Delhi-Howrah Express (12Dn) at Sarsaul, Kanpur;

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

(c) when the stop is likely to be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Demand for stoppage of 3012 Delhi-Howrah Express at Sarsaul near Kanpur exists.

(b) The demand has been examined but not found justified.

(c) Does not arise.

Transportation of Gas from Tripura

3212. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities of transporting natural gas from Tripura to other consumption centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the constraints in its way, if any; and

(c) the steps taken to remove these constraints?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) propose to undertake a techno-economic feasibility study for the transportation of natural gas from Tripura to other consumption centres, with the assistance of an international consultant. Constraints, if any, would be identified in the proposed study.

Development of Trivandrum Central Station

3213. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far for the development of Trivandrum Central Railway Station as a model station; and

(b) the target fixed for the completion of this station?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Rs. 65.15 lac upto March, 1990.

(b) The work is expected to be completed in 1992-93.

[Translation]

Appointment of SC/ST in Vayudoot Directorate

3214. SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has instructed the Vayudoot Directorate restricting appointments in Vayudoot services;

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

(c) whether the guidelines laid down by Government were followed and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes were considered for appointments; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Vayudoot Inquiry Commission

3215. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot Inquiry Commission has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any request from the Advocates' Association of Western India for certain changes in the persons conducting the inquiry; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed by Government to complete the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The Court of Inquiry has not yet completed the inquiry.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Subsequently the Bombay High Court stayed further conduct of the inquiry. The matter is now sub-judice.

[Translation]

Shortage of Gas Regulators in Bihar

3216. SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to remove the shortage of gas regulators in Bihar,

(b) whether Government are aware of the use of duplicate regulators by consumers due to the non-availability of original regulators; and

(c) whether Government propose to make available these regulators, if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). There is no shortage of LPG pressure regulators, at present, in Bihar. All bonafide LPG connection are provided with genuine pressure regulators procured by the oil companies from approved manufacturers which conform to BIS specifications and hence there is no need for using duplicate regulators.

[English]

LPG Agencies in Pauri Garhwal

3217 DR A K PATEL Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the number and location of LPG agencies operating in Pauri Garhwal district of Uttar Pradesh and

(b) the number of location of LPG agencies proposed to be allotted under various categories in the above district during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) The information is given below in the statement

(b) The extension point at Rudraprayag is proposed to be upgraded as a location for distributorship. Since marketing of LPG in this district has been entrusted to the Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam, a State Government Undertaking, no categorisation is made applicable.

STATEMENT*Locations of Distributorship*

- 1 Pauri
- 2 Srinagar
- 3 Landsdown
4. Kotdwara
- 5 Kalagarh

Extension Points

- 1 Rudra Prayag

2 Dugadda

3 Padampur

4 Jandhi Chowk

5 Lalpani Kshetra

6 Gunkhal

7 Satpuli

8 Gee ta Bhavan

9 Swarga Ashram

Lonand-Solapur Railway Line

3218 SHRI S B THORAT Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether construction of Lonand-Solapur via Pandharpur new railway line is under consideration of Government, and

(b) if so, whether the Draft Project Report has been prepared and approved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Land Acquisition by CIL

3219 SHRI RAVI NARAYAN PANI Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) the details of land acquired by the Coal India Limited in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether the company has paid compensation to all the farmers whose land has been taken over; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The extent of land acquired in Orissa for the coal project during the last three years is as given below:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Land acquired in acres</i>
1	2
1987-88	1183.367
1988-89	392.290
1989-90	682.119

(b) and (c). The assessed amounts of compensation have been deposited in full with the concerned Special Land Acquisition Officers of the State Government for disbursement to the tenants whose lands have been acquired under the Land Acquisition Act. As regards land acquired under Coal Bearing Areas Act, information regarding payment of compensation is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Working of Coal India Limited

3220. SHRI RAVI NARAYAN PANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of open coal mines and other coal mines under operation at present in Orissa; and

(b) whether the working of the Coal India Limited management is ignoring the safety of general public of this coal mines area?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) At present 8 open-cast and 7 underground mines (taking Ori-

ent) Nos. 1,2,3, and 4 as one mine) in Ib Valley and Talcher Coalfields of Orissa are in operation.

(b) No, Sir. Coal India Limited have set up a Regional Institute of Central Mine Planning and design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) at Bhubaneshwar. All the exploration and planning work for mines falling within Orissa are being carried out by this Regional Institute which ensures safety of general public right from the exploration and planning stage.

A post of Director (Tech) in South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. with Headquarters at Sambalpur has also been created to look after the operations and projects in Orissa coalfields.

Workmen in Pit Mines and Open Cast Projects

3221. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the actual number of workmen working under ground and on surface other than clerical, supervisory staff and officers in Pit Mines and Open Cast Projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Number of workmen working underground and on surface other than clerical, supervisory staff and officers in pit mines and opencast projects in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited is given below:

<i>Underground</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Opencast</i>
408432	39276	89413

Mining of Open Cast Project by Private Contractors

3222. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the name of Open Cast Projects mined by private contractors,

(b) the details state-wise and the number of workmen involved therein, and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to regularise the contractor workers?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

[Translation]

Minimum Wages to Contractual Labourers in Dhori Project

3225 SHRI SIMON MARANDI Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether the contractual labourers in Dhori Project under the Central Coalfields Limited are paid 15-16 rupees as daily wages rather than minimum wages,

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Central Coalfields Limited is following the pay scale agreement 4 in letter and spirit in this regard,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) and (b) The contractors pay to the contractual labourers in Dhori Project minimum wages, as revised from time to time by the State Government, in the presence of management representatives. The Books and Registers maintained by the contractors are also inspected by the

Labour Enforcement authority (Central)

(c) The NCWA-IV does not contain any provision regarding rate of payment of wages to contract labour

(d) and (e) Do not arise

[English]

Phasing out of Steam Locomotives

3224 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have prepared any programme for phasing out all the steam locomotives before the turn of the century,

(b) if so, the total number of such locomotives involved and

(c) the estimated capital outlay involved in phasing out all these locomotives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) (a) Yes Sir

(b) About 3322 Steam Locomotives

(c) No specific capital outlay is involved in Phasing out. These aged and outdated locomotives would in any case require replacement which is now being gradually done by diesel/electric locomotives

Waiting List for LPG in Kerala

3225 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the number of LPG connections in

each district in Kerala as on 30 June, 1990;
and

ala as on 30 June, 1990.

(b) the number of applications pending
for LPG connections in each district of Ker-

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS (SHRI M S. GURU-
PADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The informa-
tion is given below in the statement.

STATEMENT

(As on 30.6.90)

S. No.	Name of District	No. of LPG consumers	No. of persons on waiting list
1	2	3	4
1.	Trivandrum	71226	16148
2.	Quilon	27016	9662
3.	Pathanamthitta	24177	14441
4.	Alleppey	32535	15328
5.	Kottayam	38936	17385
6.	Iddukki	6376	3655
7.	Ernakulam	129164	34266
8.	Trichur	53964	14554
9.	Palghat	31061	9537
10	Mallapuram	12256	3353
11.	Calicut	33196	11167
12.	Cannanore	31200	8268
13.	Wynad	2829	396
14.	Kasargod	12113	5761
Total		506049	163943

Vayudoot Service Between Calicut and Sharjah

3226. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce Vayudoot service between Calicut and Sharjah (Gulf);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any study has been made to determine the average number of Gulf passengers from the Malabar area and other district of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has envisaged only a domestic role for Vayudoot.

(c) and (d). Traffic on Kerala-Gulf route is regularly monitored so as provide adequate capacity on this sector.

[Translation]

Setting up of Ancillary Unit of BHEL, Bhopal

3227. SHRI S.C. VARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal has given approval for setting up any new ancillary industrial units during the last three years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the meeting of Plant Level Committee constituted in the BHEL, Bhopal is being held quarterly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) BHEL, Bhopal has 48 Ancillary Units. In addition, 220 small scale units have also come up which are being given facilities like provision of raw material, load etc.

(c) and (d). A Sub-Committee consisting of representatives of Ancillary Units, Small Scale Units, State Government and BHEL meets 8-10 times a year depending upon the need. The Sub-Committee puts up deliberations/decisions to the Plant Level Committee which meets twice a year.

Overbridge at Sehore City in Madhya Pradesh

3228. SHRI S.C. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of construction of railway overbridge in Sehore city of Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the present position thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of construction of overbridge, the amount to be borne by railways and State administration respectively; and

(d) the time by which this overbridge is likely to be constructed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Railway has not so far received any proposal in this regard from the state Government.

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

[English]

229

Performance of N.T.P.C.

3229. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has exceeded its targets in almost each and every area of its operation during 1989-90;

(b) the details of the targets fixed for

overall capacity additions, operations and transmission lines and the targets achieved in 1989-90; and

(c) the details of the profits made by the Corporation during 1989-90 as against targets fixed in the Memorandum of Understanding?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details are as under:

	<i>Memorandum of Understanding target for 1989-90</i>	<i>Achievement in 1989-90</i>
Capacity addition	1634 MW	2095 MW
Generation	37300 MU	40893 MU
Transmission lines	2917 ckt. Kms.	3116 ckt. Kms.
Profit (before tax)	Rs. 207.64 crores	Rs. 404.51 crores
(Provisional)		

Ban on Recruitment of Wards of Deceased Employees in IDPL

3230. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited has imposed a ban on recruitment of wards of the deceased employees;

(b) if so, whether it is not contrary to the policy of Union Government; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY FOR PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA): (a) to (c). The policy of IDPL to provide employment to dependent members of the families of its deceased employees has been kept in abeyance in view of the extreme sickness of the company, gross overmanning and very high wage bill. As and when the situation improves, candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria will be employed.

Issuing of Licences to Drug Manufacturers

3231. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have liberalised issuing of licences to drug manufacturers

(b) if so, whether this liberalisation has led to unhealthy competitions from small manufacturing units,

(c) whether any market survey was made before issuing licences and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to check the unhealthy competition?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) Yes Sir Almost the entire pharmaceutical sector is delicensed

(b) There is no unhealthy competition from SSI sector

(c) The liberalisation has been done with a view to ensure abundant supply of essential medicines at reasonable prices

(d) Does not arise

Tribunal on wages of IA/AI

3232 SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether it has been decided to set up a Tribunal to examine the demands of the Indian Airlines and Air India relating to wages and working conditions,

(b) if so the compositions of this Tribunal,

(c) its terms of reference, and

(d) when is it likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) to (d) The question of setting up a Tribunal to examine the question of wage structure in Air India and India Airlines, including relativity in wage structure between Air India and India Airlines, is under consideration of the Government

Closing Down of Workshops in Gujarat

3233 SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTAM DAS PATEL Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have closed some Western Railway workshops in Gujarat during the last two years,

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for closure, and

(c) the number of employees rendered jobless as a result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Only one workshop on Western Railway in Gujarat State was closed during the two year period from August 1988 to July 1990 Morvi workshop, which has been closed on 30.06.90, was a small metre gauge and narrow gauge Carriage & Wagon workshop catering to a limited number of stock working on a small section of Western Railway This workshop was set up more than 100 years ago to cater to the requirements of the then State Railway This workshop structures were in a dilapidated state and machines were over aged This workshop had not further utility for Railways, and it was not feasible to make major investments to renovate the infrastructure considering the limited capability of this small workshop

(c) No employees have been rendered jobless due to the closure of Morvi workshop. This workshop employed only 160 men of whom 89 have opted for voluntary retirement. Dependents of nearly 70 of these staff have been given some employment and the remaining staff have been transferred to nearby workshops in the Saurashtra region.

[Translation]

Loss Due o ULFA Agitation

3234. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered as a result of disruption in the production and supply of oil due to agitation in Assam by the United Liberation Front; and

(b) the impact on the oil refinery during the period of kidnapping of the General Manager of Guwahati Refinery?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) There was a loss of production of about 99,000 tonnes of crude due to various Bandhs and barricades in Assam in the current year, 1990-91 (April to 21st August, 1990). It is not possible to specify how much of this loss was due to activities of ULFA

(b) There was considerable apprehension and sense of insecurity in the mind of employees during the period of abduction of Shri H.K.L. Das, General Manger, Guwahati Refinery. However, the refinery operations were maintained.

[English]

Appeal Against Judgement of Central Labour Tribunal

3235. SHRI A.K. ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a rule for the nationalised coal companies to take prior permission-cum-sanction from his ministry before going for an appeal against the judgement of the Central Labour Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this rule was followed since 1 January, 1990; and

(d) if not, the name of the awards where it was not followed and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). There is no rule as such requiring the nationalised coal companies to take prior permission of the administrative Ministry before filing an appeal against the judgement of the Central Labour Tribunal. However, as per instructions of the Ministry of Labour, a public sector undertaking of the Govt. of India is required to consult its administrative Ministry if it desires to file an appeal against an award or judgement of a Labour Court/Tribunal, High Court etc. The administrative Ministry, in turn, examines the matter in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Labour and conveys advice to the undertaking.

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

Construction of Over Bridge

3236. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government have requested that work on foot over bridge connecting the eastern side of Baroda Station with Alokपुर may be undertaken at the earliest; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). Although no request has been received from Gujarat Government, work on the foot over bridge has been taken in hand and the same is nearing completion.

Extension of Rajkot-Bhopal Superfast to Jabalpur

3237. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government has sent a proposal for extension of Rajkot-Bhopal Superfast upto Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, by what time Union Government propose to implement the said proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, demands have been received from other users in this regard, but the suggestion has not been found feasible of implementation due to operational and resource constraints.

Funds for Setting up Gas Cracker Units

3238. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to tap the market to meet a large portion of shortfall in the fund requirements for its gas cracker project;

(b) if so, whether any decision in this regard has been taken; and

(c) to what extent funds have been obtained for setting up a gas cracker unit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). Generally, the large gas cracker units in the country are being encouraged to raise rupee resources from their own internal generation and the capital market.

Consumption of Petrol and Petroleum Products

3239. SHRI D. AMAT: SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether there has been any reduction in consumption of petrol and diesel since last price hike; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The prices of petrol and diesel were increased from 20th March, 1990. The growth recorded in the consumption of these products during the period April-July, 1990 over the same period of previous two years have been as under:

Percentage growth during the period April-July

<i>Year</i>	<i>Petrol</i>	<i>Diesel</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1990 over 1989	9.1	4.2
1989 over 1988	14.4	12.6

The lower growth recorded in the consumption of petrol and diesel during April-July, 1990 cannot, however be attributed only to the increase in the prices of these products.

Development of Cottage Industry

3240. SHRI D. AMAT:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated any policy for the development of cottage industries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study about potters and cobblers; and

(d) if so, the number of persons engaged in these professions and the difficulties being faced by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). The present policy of the Government is to lay emphasis on the development of cottage industries. For the development of cottage

industries in the KVI sector, an allocation of Rs. 205 crores under Plan have been provided for the year 1990-91. During the Eighth Plan, promotion of cottage industries under KVI sector will be accelerated by extending the coverage of more villages. For the development of Khadi & village Industries, KVIC provides various facilities like financial assistance at low rate of interest, interest subsidy, purchase preference, excise duty exemption training of artisans, assistance in marketing etc.

(c) and (d). No Sir, However, the number of person engaged in the KVI sector under leather and pottery industries is 2.93 lakhs and 3.54 lakhs respectively.

Reopening of Small Industries Service Institute

3241. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHU-MAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for reopening of Small Industries Service Institute Extension Centre at Jal-andhar city (Punjab);

(b) if so, whether Union Government propose to reopen this centre;

(c) if so, the likely date by which it will be reopened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The question of re-opening the Centre has been considered in consultation with the Government of Punjab and it has been decided not to reopen it.

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in South Bihar

3242. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of petrol pumps and LPG agencies allotted to Scheduled Tribes in South Bihar;

(b) the names of the places whether LPG agencies and petrol pumps are likely to be allotted in near future in South Bihar; and

(c) the percentage of these likely to be allotted to Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Fixing of Customs Duty on Paraxylene

3243. SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOT-TAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken with regard to fixing of level of customs duty on Paraxylene;

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

(c) whether Government have shifted paraxylene to OGL;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what would be the surplus paraxylene available from the IPCL in 1990-91, 1991-92 for merchant sale after meeting its own in-house requirements?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). Import duty changes are related to both the international price as well as fair selling price of indigenous material. Recently Government have announced that certain petrochemical items including paraxylene can be imported against additional licences which are freely traded and can be used for import of these items liberally.

(e) Around 13000 tons surplus paraxylene is expected to be available, given adequate feed-stock availability. However, current surplus may be limited due to feed stock constraint.

IPCL Plant for Manufacture of Paraxylene

3244. SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOT-TAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the new plant of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. for manufacture of Paraxylene commenced production;

(b) the reasons for the delay, if any and the action taken in this regard,

(c) the estimated production of the IPCL after expansion during 1990-91,

(d) the estimated percentage share of the IPCL in the total paraxylene production in the country during 1990-91 and 1991-92, and

(e) the cost of production of paraxylene by this new plant and fair selling price of the paraxylene produced by the plant?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) and (b) The Commercial production of IPCL's Xylene expansion plant started in May, 1990. Commercial production was delayed for the reasons that hook-up activities were to be coordinated with shut-down of Olefins and down-stream plants, and due to delay in procurement of equipments and receipt of feedstock.

(c) to (e) The plant is expected to produce 55,000 tones of total Xylene each in 1990-91 and 1991-92, subject to availability of required quantity and quality of feedstock and therefore, the percentage share of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., will depend upto their actual production as well as the production level of other producers. As there is no price control on paraxylene, the company fixes its selling price having regard to the prevailing market situation.

41 *Cost and Fair Price Study of DMT*

3245 SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOT-TAMDAS PATEL Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the agency which conducted the cost and fair price study of the DMT Plant of Bombay Dying,

(b) the cost of production and fair selling price of DMT produced by Bombay Dying as per this study,

(c) what was the cost of feed stock (Paraxylene) one one MT of DMT production, and

(d) how the fair selling price of DMT produced by the Indian Petrochemicals Ltd Bombay Dying Bogaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd compare?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) to (d) The cost study of DMT plant of Bombay Dying was carried out by BICP. There is no statutory price control over petrochemical items like DMT etc. Cost studies are carried out with a view to use them in overall decision making for tariff levels, import policy etc. and details of such cost studies are not disclosed.

Unremunerative Prices for drugs

3246 SHRI P NARSAREDDY,
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether many drugs are given very unremunerative prices,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether drug pricing policy is to be liberalised to enable the industry to earn the permitted profitability?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) No, Sir. Fair and reasonable prices are fixed under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) order, 1987.

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

(c) While reviewing the present drug policy all the view points would be take into consideration.

[Translation]

Pong Dam Oustees

3247. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHU-MAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 1 April, 1990 to Unstarred Question No 5254 regarding rehabilitation of Pong Dam oustees and state

(a) how far the problems of the displaced people have been mitigated so far; and

(b) the details of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). 5352 oustees have been rehabilitated upto 31st July, 1990.

The problems of the oustees arising from time to time are reviewed frequently with the representatives of Governments of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh with a view to resolve them. This is a continuing process.

[English]

Use of Natural Gas for Power and Fertilizers

3248. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded greater priority to use the natural gas for power and fertilizers in the new gas utilisation policy; and

(b) if so, the details and decision taken by Government regarding relative priority to be accorded to the allocation of natural gas for power and fertilizers and the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The parameters of the comprehensive gas use policy are currently under examination.

Privatisation of Hotel Corporation of India

3249. SHRI K.S. RAO
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hotels functioning presently under the Hotel Corporation of India;

(b) the break-up of the losses/profits made by these hotels during the last three years;

(c) whether Air India has recently decided to 'privatise' the Hotel Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia reasons for privatisation of the hotels under the Hotel Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). there are four 5 Star Hotels of the Hotel Corporation of India located in Bombay, Delhi and Srinagar. Loss/Profit of each hotel from 1987-88 onwards is indicated below:—

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Hotel	Profit/(Loss) (Rs. in crores)			
		1987-88	1988-89	1989-90 (Unaudited)	
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	Centaur Hotel, Bombay Airport, Bombay	2.45	1.85	2.09	
2.	Centaur Hotel, Juhu Beach, Bombay	(1.51) Loss	(1.24) Loss	(1.47) Loss	
3.	Centaur Hotel, Delhi Airport, Delhi	(0.41) Loss	(1.81) Loss	(1.22) Loss	
4.	Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar	(2.58) Loss	(2.93) Loss	(3.65) Loss	

(c) and (d) Equity participation of a reputed hotel chain would improve the functioning of this company by providing capital and management expertise and ease the financial burden on Air India

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in Uttar Pradesh

3250 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether the target fixed for the rural electrification in Uttar Pradesh during Seventh Plan has been achieved,

(b) if not the reasons therefor, and

(c) the number of villages in Jhansi and Lalitpur districts electrified during Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) As per the information available in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan, 17,283 villages have been electrified and 127,222 pumpsets energized against the targets of 17,405 villages and 120,200 pumpsets

(b) The target of village electrification could not be achieved due to funds constraints

(c) The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board has reported electrification of 122 villages in Jhansi and 119 villages in Lalitpur districts during the Seventh Plan period

[English]

Revival of Scooters India Ltd

3251 SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI
Will the Ministry of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the decision taken by Government regarding revival of Scooters India Ltd and the protection of service of the employees of this unit

(b) the reasons for the delay in taking a decision in this regard resulting in avoidable national loss, and

(c) the decision taken in regard to the proposal mooted earlier to sell the unit to Bajaj Auto Ltd ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) to (c) Government have entrusted the Study of Scooters India Ltd (SIL) to the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). The terms of reference for the Study inter-alia, include study of the current market scenario for 2/3 wheelers, the existing production in the country, capabilities of SL to produce and market a product that can compete successfully with existing brand leaders, areas of diversification etc. IDBI have been requested to submit their Study Report preferably before the 30th Sept, 1990

Entrusting of Projects of Scooters India Limited

3252 SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to make use of the Scooters India Limited Plant for manufacture of auto components by Maruti Udyog Limited and the private sector as infrastructural facilities already exist there,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to send a team of technical professionals to the Scooters India Limited to study the facilities and identify new products for the plants, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). Government have entrusted the study of Scooters India Ltd. (SIL) to the Industrial Development Bank of India. The terms of reference for the study inter-alia, include study of the current market scenario for 2/3 wheelers, the existing production in the country, capabilities of SIL to produce and market a product that can compete successfully with existing brand leaders, areas of diversification etc. IDBI have been requested to submit their Study Report preferably before the 30th September, 1990.

[Translation] ७ ३ ९

Oil Exploration by Foreign Companies

3253. SHRI PHOOLCHAND VERMA:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:
SHRI B.N. REDDY:
SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR
REDDY:
SHRI MATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE:
SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD
VARMA:
SHRI MANJAI LAL:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to handover the work of oil exploration drilling in certain certain areas to foreign companies.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, the names of such areas, companies and the norms fixed therefor etc;

(c) whether many Indian companies have resented this decision;

(d) whether these companies are interested in drilling oil in these areas;

(e) if so, the reason for which Government have assigned this job to foreign companies; and

(f) whether the offer of Indian companies for drilling oil is comparatively cheaper to that of foreign companies; and

(g) if not, the details of both the offers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (g). The question of inviting bids in the country under the proposed Fourth Round is under examination.

Some Indian Private Companies have indicated their interest in undertaking oil exploration in the country.

Issue relating to participation of India Private Companies in the Fourth Round is also currently under consideration.

Issue of licences to Public/Private Sector in Madhya Pradesh

3254. SHRI PHOOLCHAND VERMA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-
DEY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any public sector or private sector undertaking has applied after January, 1990 for issuing licence to start industries in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received

any proposals from Madhya Pradesh Government for setting up of industries: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d). During the period 1.1.1990 to 30.6.1990, 64 Industrial Licence applications, including 1 application from the Madhya Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. for setting up of Industries in the State of Madhya Pradesh were received. Of these 10 proposals have been approved and Letters of Intent granted. Of the remaining 54 applications, 31 have been rejected or otherwise disposed of and 23 are at various stages of processing.

The Industrial Licence application received from the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd. has been rejected.

[English]

Complaints Against LPG Agencies in Delhi and Noida

3255. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies operating in Delhi and Noida, city-wise;

(b) the number of agencies in Delhi and Noida against whom complaints from consumers for underweight cylinders and pilferage of gas, black-marketing of cylinders, irregular supply of cylinders, supply of cylinders on road side instead of delivery at home, compelling consumers to buy gas Chulha while giving gas connections and misbehavior with the consumers have been received; and

(c) the details of action taken against them agency-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) At present 200 LPG distributorships are operating in the Union Territory of Delhi and 6 in Noida.

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

Super Fast Train Between Delhi and Hoshalapur

3256. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce direct super fast train between Delhi and Hoshiarpur;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Damage to Railway Property in Punjab

3257. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of damage to railway property in Punjab due to terrorist activities in the last three years ending March, 1990, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to safeguard railway property in Punjab.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) The damage to railway property in Punjab due to terrorist activities during last three years ending March, 1990 is as under:—

1987-88	Nil
1988-89	Rs. 16.80 Lakhs (Approx.)
1989-90	Rs. 5.28 Lakhs (Approx.)

The damage was in the shape of burning of station buildings and other railway properties including furniture etc., blowing of track, damage to rolling stock, damage due to derailment etc.

(b) The following security steps are being taken to safeguard railway property in Punjab.

1. Vital installations are being guarded by Police, paramilitary Forces and RPF.
2. Security of all Railway stations has been strengthened. Block stations situated in terrorist prone areas are provided with static RPF guards. Mobile checking parties of GRP/RPF are also visiting these stations to provide security cover.
3. Track patrolling by armed GRP personnel, Gangmen & Homeguards has been intensified.
4. Special armed Guard patrolling by Police is being undertaken in the areas identified as most sensitive.

5. There are five patrol specials running in the Sections viz. Amritsar Ludhiana, Ludhiana-Jakhal, Ludhiana-Ferozepur, Ferozepur-Bhatinda, Ferozepur-Jalandhar.

6. On main line sections, trains are run on convoy system, proceed by a pilot.

7. Surprise track patrolling by GRP and RPF has been started by locating vehicles at Amritsar, Mukerian, Bhatinda, Rajpura, Beas and Jalandhar.

8. 127 Mail Express and Passenger trains are being escorted by GRP and Police Homeguards, during night hours.

9. Checking of luggage by Police has been introduced at all important railway stations.

10. Wide publicity through mass media and public address system are being given at stations to educate travelling public for reporting immediately about recovery of suspected article to Police/Railwaymen on duty.

254

Flaring of LPG in Punjab

3258 SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cooking gas is being flared up in Punjab due to lack of LPG bottling facilities; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up an LPG bottling plant in Punjab with a view to supplying LPG in scarcity areas of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.
(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of HSD Outlets and LPG Agencies in Madhya Pradesh

3259. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI;
SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE;
SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA;

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

(a) the names of places in Madhya Pradesh where Government propose to allot L.P.G. agencies and High Speed Diesel outlets; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be allotted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The names of places in Madhya Pradesh which have been identified for development of petrol/diesel Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships are given below in the statement.

(b) In view of the various steps preceding allotment of a dealership/distributorship, it is not possible to indicate the time by which these are likely to be allotted.

STATEMENT

Names of places where LPG distributorships/petrol diesel Retail Outlets are proposed to be allotted in Madhya Pradesh

LPG Distributorships

1. Singrauli

2. Sarni
3. Barwaha
4. Begumganj
5. Garba Kota
6. Samalgarh
7. Deori
8. Gadarwara
9. Ambah
10. Baloda Bazar
11. Durg (two)
12. Bhilai (three)
13. Mandsaur
14. Amlai
15. Hoshangabad
16. Shujalpur
17. Sagar
18. Bhopal (two)
19. Gwalior (three)
20. Khandwa
21. Burhanpur
22. Indore (three)
23. Jabalpur (four)
24. Raipur
25. Baghabara

26. Bilaspur
27. Mandideep
28. Korba
29. Rewa
30. Satna

Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets

1. Indore A-B on NH-3
2. Bhilai
3. Bijapur (two)
4. Bilkeesganj
5. Ambikapur
6. Sarkunda
7. Pharsgaon
8. Kahvasa
9. Tikaria
10. Baheri
11. Majouli
12. Shivour Kalan
13. Morar
14. Banmore
15. Khalwa
16. Khilchipur
17. Shamsabad
18. Chiklod

19. Gautampura
20. Nagpur
21. Katghora (two)
22. Shahdol
23. Lormi (two)
24. Kasdol
25. Indergarh
26. Bagicha
27. Piploda
28. Gargoda
29. Ratlabad
30. Dhamtari
31. Mandsaur
32. Ujjain
33. Shivgarh
34. Segaon
35. Birpur
36. Bistan
37. Rattangarh
38. Purur
39. Harangaon
40. Bypass Road, Bhopal
41. Harri
42. Deosar

43. Pangarh
 44. Ranpur Baghelon
 45. Rehli
 46. Dewas City
 47. Mandideep
 48. Govindgarh
 49. Bilaspur
 50. Chitrانجي
 51. Pakanjore
 52. Sironj
 53. Ajaygarh
 54. Rani Singh
 55. Kota
 56. Runecha crossing
 57. Datia
 58. Bhind
 59. Sagar Bhopal Road
 60. Telibanda

307 L.P.G. Distributors

**Implementation of Joshi Committee
 Recommendation By LPG Distributors
 In Madhya Pradesh**

3260. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI:
 Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'safety norms' and recommendations of 'Sudha Joshi Committee' have been implemented by the LPG distributors of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to put pressure on these companies to implement these recommendations in the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The LPG distributors are under instructions to strictly follow the safety norms and other relevant accepted recommendation of the said committee. All the three LPG marketing Oil Companies are regularly monitoring the progress of its implementation.

[English]

260 Railways
 Rail Network

3261. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway lines at present with zone-wise break up; and

(b) the total length of railway lines electrified so far, zone-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). The zone-wise route length of railway lines and the length of electrified lines as on 31.3.90 is as under:—

<i>Railway</i>	<i>Total Route Length (in km)</i>	<i>Route Electrified (in km)</i>
Central	6892	1859

<i>Railway</i>	<i>Total Route Length (in km)</i>	<i>Route Electrified (in km)</i>
Eastern	4291	1259
Northern	10992	945
North-Eastern	5145	—
Northeast Frontier	3841	—
Southern	6850	646
South-Central	7204	891
South-Eastern	7116	2158
Western	9848	1494
Total	62225	9252

Bombay High and Heera Oil Fields

3262. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKATA:
SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR
REDDY:
SHRI YADVENDRA DATT:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI RAM NAIK:
SHRI B.N. REDDY:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the World Bank in a report estimated that there is a production loss of nearly 150 million tonnes of oil costing about 31,500 crores in Bombay High and Heera Oil

fields situated in Western Off-shore of India;

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

(c) the action taken or contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). Only a summary of the preliminary findings of the World Bank Report on Evaluation of India's oil and gas Production has been received. The detail findings are awaited. It would be premature to say if there has been any loss in oil production from reservoirs of Bombay High and Heera Oilfields and Western Offshore region due to mismanagement. There have conflicting reports and differences in technical opinions as to whether any permanent damage has been caused to Bombay High reservoirs.

Government has appointed a commit-

tee to go into all the issues on 26-4-1990 under this Chairmanship of Shri A.B Das Gupta an eminent geo-scientist and a retired Chairman of Oil India. The following are the terms of reference of the Committee:—

To review the development and management of the Bombay High Reservoirs (Bombay High South and Bombay High North) and to specifically determine:

- (i) whether the levels of withdrawal of crude oil from the reservoirs have been in line with the levels recommended by the developmental schemes prepared from time to time;
- (ii) whether deviations, if any, in the levels of production were justified according to the accepted industry practices, having due regard to the point of view of production and reservoir health;
- (iii) whether alternative pressure maintenance schemes were examined and evaluated by ONGC over a period of time and, if so, the results thereof;
- (iv) whether there have been period of over exploitation having regard to the delays in setting up of the facilities and in implementation of pressure maintenance schemes;
- (v) whether the above factors have been responsible for the incidence of high gas-oil ration, high water-cut and losses in the production of exploitable reserves;
- (vi) whether the above led to reservoir damage, and if yes, what is

the nature and magnitude thereof;

- (vii) what steps can now be taken to mitigate such adverse impact or damage and what lessons can be learnt from the above analysis;
- (viii) whether any changes in procedure and practices in respect of the development of an oil field are necessary to avoid recurrence of such situation in the future.

The Committee's report is awaited.

Declaration of Units as 'Sick'

3263. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some entrepreneurs after taking huge amount of subsidy from Government institutions declare their units as sick after showing huge losses year after year; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take against such entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No specific case has come to the notice of this Department with regard to Central Investment Subsidy and Transport Subsidy. As far as state subsidies are concerned, this information is not being centrally maintained.

(b) vide Section 24 of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985, Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has been empowered to take punitive action in such cases. Reserve Bank of India also monitors irregular accounts through Banks and Financial Institu-

tions for necessary action.

[Translation]

265

Bodhghat Hydel Power Project

3264. SHRI MANKURAM SODHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time likely to be taken in according final approval to the Bodhghat Hydel Power project in Bastar district; and

(b) the number of houses build upto 31 March, 1990 for the families who will be displaced and the area of land proposed to be provided to each family for housing and agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The Bodhghat Hydel Power Project will be sanctioned finally only after its clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) One hut has been constructed and work for another 24 huts is being taken up shortly. 2 hectares of agricultural land and 500 sq. m. plot with a house built on it is proposed to be given to every displaced family free of cost.

[English]

265 Rail Gauge Conversion

Conversion of Yelahanka-Bangarpet Line

3265. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from the people of Karnataka for the conversion of the narrow gauge line between Yelahanka and Bangarpet; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was not found to be financially viable on the basis of the survey Report and hence not taken up.

Conversion of Mysore-Chamaraja Nagar Line

3266. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the conversion of metre gauge line between Mysore and Chamaraja Nagar;

(b) the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(c) by what time it will be completed;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) The project has not been taken up for execution.

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

[Translation]

Employment to Tehri Dam Project Displaced Persons

3267. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI RAM SAJIWAN:
SHRI ARVIND NETAM:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the rehabilitation and employment of displaced persons due to Tehri Dam Project and the number of people provided employment;

(b) whether there is a proposal to apply the scheme of providing employment to each adult person by treating him as family on the lines of Narmada Award; and

(c) the total number of employees including officers in the Tehri Dam Project from 1989 to June 1990 and the number of those out of them who are residents of Tehri Garhwal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) A rehabilitation policy formulated by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, in consultation with the local people, is being implemented by the Project authorities, for which an amount of Rs. 268 Crores has been provided. In the first phase, out of 1924 fully affected families, 1880 families have already been resettled. Preference in employment is given to persons affected due to the construction of the Tehri Dam Project. One hundred and thirty three persons from submerged/affected areas have already been provided employment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The total man power inducted from June, 1989 till date is 672 which includes 140 from submerged/affected areas of Tehri and 124 from other areas of Tehri Garhwal.

Irregularities in Allotting LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Uttar Pradesh

3268. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of serious irregularities being committed in the allotment of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in Uttar Pradesh have been received in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have looked into these complaints and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to check these irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURU-PADASWAMY): (a) to (d). Selection for LPG distributorships and Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) dealerships is done by specially constituted Oil Selection Boards (OSBs) headed by retired High Court Judges. No serious irregularities have been reported during the last 3 years. However, any complaint received against selection of dealerships/distributorships is duly investigated and remedial action taken, wherever found necessary.

LPG Facility in Uttar Pradesh

3269. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI RAJEVEER SINGH:

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

(a) whether LPG facility has been made available in district headquarters, towns and cities of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of towns in Uttar Pradesh where Government propose to provide this facility during the current Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURU-PADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Presently LPG is being marketed at 45 districts headquarters and 110 towns/cities of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) As per the existing policy LPG is

introduced in towns and cities having a population of 20,000 or more, which offer commercially viable, distributorships. The identification of new locations for the introduction of LPG is as on going process and is based on the market surveys conducted by the oil industry. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate, at present the towns that would be provided LPG facility during the 8th Plan period.

69

Impact of Iraq-Kuwait war on Petroleum and Petroleum Products

3270. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI LOKANATH CH-
OUDHARY:
SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD
VARMA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
DR. BENGALI SINGH:

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

(a) whether the prices of imported oil have gone up and oil supply to India is likely to be affected due to Iraq-Kuwait/war;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in regard to making alternate arrangements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The recent developments in the Middle East have affected the supplies of crude oil and products from Iraq, Kuwait and USSR, and have led to increase in process of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market. This is expected to result in considerable

increase in the import bill for crude and petroleum products.

(c) and (d). Efforts are under way to procure crude oil and petroleum products from alternative sources to make up for the shortfall.

[English]

Laid Down Procedures for Pilot/Co-pilots

3271. SHRI M.V. CHAN-
DRASHEKARA MUR-
THY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in most of the reports of Boing crashes negligence has been found on the part of pilots/Co-pilots; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take against those pilots/co-pilots who are not following the procedures laid down in the rules?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Since 1980, out of 18 accidents to India registered Boeing aircraft engaged in scheduled operations, only in 5 cases flight crew did not adhere to laid down procedures.

(b) Appropriate action has been taken against the flight crew found blameworthy.

Import of Locomotives

3272. SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had imported

electric locomotives a few years back with the assistance of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the number of such locomotives imported and the cost involved;

(c) whether Government have proposed to import three phase locomotives under its upgradation and modernisation programme;

(d) if so, the number of such locomotives proposed to be imported;

(e) whether the experts of the World Bank during their recent visit to India have expressed reservation about these electric locomotives and advised against the import of the same;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 18 prototype 25 KV Act Thyristor Electric Locomotives of 6000 H.P. at the approximate FOB cost of \$ 64 million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The quantity may vary between 30 to 40.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise

[Translation]

SC/ST Employees in Northern Railway and Railway Board

3273. SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of officers belonging to Group 'A' and Group 'B' working in Railway Board and Northern Railway;

(b) the category-wise number of officers among them belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) the present number of railway officers and employees working on deputation in other ministries and public undertakings and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[English]

Import of Coal for Cement Industry

3274. SHRI G.S BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cement Industry is facing great shortage of coal;

(b) whether cement industry has urged Government to import coal to meet the shortages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) A number of cement plants, particularly in Southern region, are reportedly having low stocks of coal with them. Despatch of coal to cement industry during April-July '90 has been 3.204 million tonnes (provisional) against 2.816 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year representing a growth of 13.78%. In addition Neyveli Lignite Corporation has supplied approximately 2.28 lakh tonnes of

Lignite to cement plants in the South during April-July '90

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Despatches to cement plants are being stepped up in view of the possibility of meeting demand for coal from cement industry from indigenous sources, the request for import has not been agreed

273

Bodhghat Power Project

3275 SHRI S C VARMA Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether there is still short fall of 300 megawatts of power as compared to the peak demand thereof in Madhya Pradesh,

(b) whether this demand is increasing at the rate of 11 per cent every year,

(c) the total production of power in Madhya Pradesh till date and the quantum of electricity required under the Eighth Plan and

(d) the names of the power projects to

be set up through which requirements of electricity will be met by the end of Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) During the period April-July, 1990 the monthly power shortage in Madhya Pradesh was in the range of about 300 MW to 480 MW

(b) According to the 13th Annual Power Survey Report, the peak load in Madhya Pradesh during the 8th plan period is likely to increase by about 11% annually

(c) The total energy generation during April-July, 1990 in Madhya Pradesh was 8948 Million Units. According to the 13th Annual Power Survey Report the anticipated energy requirement at the end of the 8th i.e. 1994-95 will be 27014 Million Units

(d) The Working Group on power for the 8th Plan has recommended the following capacity addition in Madhya Pradesh during the 8th plan period subject to availability of resources and other inputs —

Name of the Project

Capacity (MW)

Ban Sagar Tons PH-1, 8 Units (Hydel)

405.00

Barna (Hydel)

1.50

Bhimgarh (Hydel)

2.40

Birisinghpur (Hydel)

20.00

Hasdeo Bango (Hydel)

120.00

Tawa, LBC (Hydel)

12.00

Birisinghpur Extn., U-3,4 (Thermal)

420.00

Korba West-5,6 (Thermal)

420.00

Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
Pench U-1 & 2 (thermal)	420.00
Birsinhpur (Ext. U-1,2 (thermal)	420.00
Total	2240.90

In addition, the State will also get its due share from the Central Sector Power Stations which are being set up in the Western Region.

(b) whether the amount has been utilised by the state government for the said purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Amount Allocated to Hydro-Electric Projects of Maharashtra

3276. SHRI HARISHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated by Union Government for the hydro-electric projects of Maharashtra during the last three years;

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The amount allocated by the Planning Commission in the State plan for the Hydro-electric Projects of Maharashtra and the actual expenditure for the last 3 years are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Approved outlay	Expenditure
1987-88	73.23	56.50
1988-89	84.34	79.32
1989-90	86.00	64.33

(*) Revised estimates.

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

[Translation]

Rural Electrification in Maharashtra

3277. SHRI HARISHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the rural electrification in Maharashtra during Seventh Plan;

(b) whether the target fixed for Maharashtra during Seventh Plan has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of villages of Nasik district electrified during Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). During

the Seventh Five Year Plan, target and achievement for Rural electrification in Maharashtra are as under:—

	Target	Achievement
Village Electrification	2150	5888
Pumpsets Energisation	337250	570164

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As reported by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board, during the last four years of the Seventh Five Year Plan, 174 villages have been electrified in the Nasik district of Maharashtra.

[English]

277

DESU Losses

3278. SHRI J.P. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether DESU has been suffering huge losses;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether DESU follows zone-wise accounting; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The DESU has been incurring revenue losses due to the all round increase in the cost of inputs including the purchase of power, without any corresponding increase in tariff since April, 1985.

(c) and (d). The accounts of power generation and supply etc. are maintained by the DESU centrally and not zonewise

according to the Maintenance of Accounts Regulation, 1959 framed under Section 204 and 480 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. It is not feasible to maintain zone wise accounts in the absence of area-wise energy accounting system. Adoption of such a system would entail considerable expenses on re-modelling/modernisation of heavily meshed and interconnected transmission and distribution system of the DESU.

278

Delay in Clearance Under Explosives Act

3279. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of criminal cases are delayed for filing the charge sheet in the Courts in the absence of clearance by Govt. under the Explosives Act;

(b) if so, the number of cases from Andhra Pradesh pending for such clearance together with the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which clearance will be given for all the cases?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). No clearance is required from the Central Govt. under the Explosives Act for filing charge sheets in the Courts. However, the Police authorities in the States send samples of the seized explosives to the Office of the Controller of Explosives.

sives in the State for their opinion as to whether the samples are explosives or not. During the period 1-4-89 to 30-7-90, 52 such sample cases were received in the Office of Controller of Explosives, Hyderabad, from the Police authorities in Andhra Pradesh and reports in all these cases have been submitted to the Police authorities. Normally, such cases are disposed off within a month of receipt.

**Appointment of Government Directors
In Joint Stock Corporate and Private
Sector Companies**

3280 SHRI SUDAM DATTATRYA DESHMUKH Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) the list of the companies in joint stock corporate and private sector whose five per cent or more shares are held by Government, and

(b) whether Government have nominated Directors in all these companies, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b) There are over two lakhs companies registered under the Companies Act all over the country. The information relating to share holding pattern of companies as also their Board of Directors including Government nominated Directors is indicated in the Annual Returns filed by the companies with the Registrar of Companies, with whom they are registered. The requisite information is not centrally compiled in the Department. Compilation of information of this order will not be commensurate with the benefits likely to be achieved.

Ban on Import of Raw Films

3281 SHRI K. S. RAO Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are contemplating not to permit the Hindustan Photo Films to import and distribute raw films,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the particulars of the agency which will be importing and distributing the films instead?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise

280 Cabinet Committee on Economic
Affairs

3282 PROF. RUPCHAND PAL
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether Union Government have recently decided that only projects above Rs. 200 Crore would now go to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for clearance and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b) Government have recently increased the investment limit in respect of proposals or grant of letters of Intent requiring prior approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 200 crores with a view to reduce delays.

281 Pilot Plan to Produce Alcohol

3283 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether a unique pilot plant to

convert rice straw into alcohol in which Government agencies had spent over Rs 10 million over a period of a decade has not gone into production so far,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the work done and money spent on the pilot plant so far do not go waste, and

(d) whether Government are having another look at the project relevant in the context of the Government's thrust for renewable sources of energy?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) and (b) A small-scale demonstration facility for production of ethanol from rice straw was sanctioned to IIT Delhi, in 1985 at a cost of about Rs 74 lakhs. The main reasons of delay in the completion of the project and the escalation in its cost include delays in construction work, absence of Principal Investigator of IIT, Delhi on a foreign assignment, changes in scope of the project by the IIT to include a computerised monitoring system, and frequent revision in the cost estimates

(c) and (d) The status of the project has been reviewed from time to time by experts. It has been decided that additional financial assistance to the extent of Rs 60 lakhs may be extended to the project in order to bring it to a completion within a specific time frame

Tripeni-Plasu Project of Uttar Pradesh

3284 SHRI M S PAL Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether any memorandum has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh in regard to Tripeni-Plasu Project, and

(b) if so, the cost involved in the development of the project and the time by which it is likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) and (b) No Project Report by the name "Tripeni-Plasu Project" has been received from the Govt of Uttar Pradesh. However, a project report of Trieni Plasu Hydel Scheme (3x 16.67 MW) with an estimated cost of Rs 96.01 crores was received by the CEA in April, 1989. The report was examined in CEA/CWC and was returned to the project authorities in March, 1990 due to deficiencies in the hydrological and planning studies.

Availability of Life Saving Drugs

3285 SHRI G M BANATWALLA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the steps taken to ensure the availability of essential and life saving drugs at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) The prices of controlled drugs are fixed in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1987. Manufactures of decontrolled drugs are free to revise the prices. But Government keeps a watch over the price increase of non-controlled formulations and intervenes whenever required.

As regards availability of essential drugs, whenever shortage of any drug comes to the notice of the Government, the concerned manufacturers are instructed to immediately rush stocks. Generally shortages are of localised nature and therapeutic equivalents were available.

Refusal by Fertilizer Plants to Lift Gas

3286 SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL
SHRI PRAKASH KOKO
BRAHMBHATT

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether some fertilizer plants in the private sector have refused to enter into contracts with the Gas Authority of India Limited to lift the gas committed to them and make payments,

(b) the main terms of contracts between the GAIL and the owners of these fertilizer plants, and

(c) the action contemplated against them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Main terms of the Standard Gas supply Contract of GAIL are given in the statement below

(c) Action in this regard is under consideration of Government

STATEMENT

Main clauses of Standard Gas Supply Contract

Article 1 This lays down definitions of various terms used in the contract, and their interpretation

Article 2 & 3 These deal with (i) the period of contract and (ii) deposits and bank guarantee to be given by the buyer, Period of contract is upto 20002 A D , or in 5 years periods there so Contract can be further extended on mutually negotiated terms

The buyer is expected to make a cash deposit equivalent to cost of one month gas supply, an to give a bank guarantee equivalent to three months supply of gas as commitment charges, a safeguard against delays in the commissioning of the project for which the gas is being contracted The cash deposit shall carry an interest of 8%, and can be forfeited, along wit the Bank Guarantee, if the milestones fixed in the implementation schedule dare not adhered to

Article 4 This deals with the point at which the gas would be delivered, and with the responsibility transfer of gas The article also lays down the pressure at which gas is to be supplied, and this may be between 15 Kg/Cm to 40 Kg/CM2 depending on the location of the plant

Article 5 This deals with the quantity of gas to be supplied, and prescribes the minimum offtake, which is that least 6% of committed supply, which the buyer msust pay for

Article 6 This deals with the quality of gas to be supplied , specifying, minimum component percentage of methane (75%), gaseous hydrocarbons (20%) other non combustible gases (20%), sulphur content (10 ppm) and moisture content (zero)

Article 8 This deals with the measurement and celebration of gas supplied, and lays down how and where metering shall be done, and how the heat component will be calculated It also lays down that GAIL will retain records for a minimum period of 30 days rom the presentation of invoice

ARC

Article 10 This lays down the Force Majeur Clause which read as under

"The term Force Majeure in this contra means act of God, war, revolt, riot, tempest, flood, earthquake, lighting, direct indirect, consequences of war (declared/undeclared), sabotage, fire, hostilities, natural Palamity, national emergency, civil disturbances, or commotion embarago or any law or promulgation regulation or ordinance or executive order whether Central or State and explosion in Buyer's/Seller's plant' installation Upon occurrence or termination of such an event the party rendered unable fulfill the contractual obligation as aforesaid shall notify the party in writing within 24 (Twenty four)

statement (:) Deficit

hours of the beginning and ending giving full particulars and satisfactory evidence thereof."

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Budgeted Deficit (:) (.)

Article 11: This deals with the price of gas to be charged for gas having a specified range of heating values, and provides for rebates if heating values are lower than the prescribe range of 8500-10,000 kilo calories. The price and rebates are as per Govt. decisions taken from time to time.

Article 12: This deals with the mode of payment to GAIL, and lays down that the buyer shall open revolving Letter of Credit, against which GAIL'S fortnightly invoices would be defrayed.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): In the Budget Speech for 1990-91, I had indicated that a review of the actual developments in the budgetary situation would be made, so that the people and the Parliament would be kept informed about the performance in relation to the budget. Subsequently, I informed the House that a report on the budgetary situation would be made every four months. With my irrevocable commitment to greater transparency and openness, I am now presenting the report for the first four months of the current financial year.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Mayawatiiji, please take your seat. Why are you behaving like this? I am on my legs. Please take your seat. Ashokji, please take your seat. What are you saying?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ashokji, I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like today that as per the agenda our hon. Minister of Finance, Prof Madhuji is to make a statement which is to be referred to the Rajya Sabha for calling attention. I will take up next item after his statement.

In order to facilitate an understanding of the problems associated with monitoring the budget deficit, or making any projections thereof, I am placing before the House a Technical Note [Placed in Library See No. LT- 1349/90] This note explains the principal statistical methods that may be used to monitor or project the budget deficit on the basis of data on actual deficits during the last ten years. Unlike most other economic phenomena, however, the budget deficit varies from week to week and month to month because flows of receipts and expenditures are unevenly distributed over the year, partly because of discretionary decisions on the part of the Government. The results derived from statistical analysis, therefore, have to be combined with available information about Government decisions in the past four months, and an assessment of possible developments in the next eight months.

There are two characteristics of budget deficits that emerge from the available evidence on month-end deficits during the past ten financial years. First, the deficit during the greater part of the year is higher than the year-end deficit. Second, broadly speaking, the month-end deficit registers a steady increase in the first six months of the financial

year, peaks sometime during the four months that follow, and then declines to a lower level at the end of the financial year. It is important to recognise that, on any day during a financial year, the actual budget deficit is determined by receipts and expenditure flows up to that date. It is not a cumulative aggregate; consequently, the budget deficit on a particular day or at the end of a particular month is quite often higher than the end figure.

The actual budget deficit, on 31st July 1990, at the end of the first four months of the current financial year was Rs. 9926 crores as compared with Rs. 11390 crores in the preceding financial year. Thus, the budgeted deficit at the end of July 1990 was nearly Rs. 1500 crores lower than the budget deficit at the end of July 1989.

In order to provide an effective mechanism for monitoring expenditure and receipts, a system of monthly budgeting has been introduced in all Ministries and Departments. The accounts figures available upto June, 1990 show that except in one or two cases, expenditure of all Ministries were within the monthly expenditure targets. Overall, as per the preliminary accounts figures, there was no excess over the expenditure targets upto June, 1990. As a result of strict expenditure control for the first time in many years there is no net cash outgo in the first batch of Supplementary Demands which has been presented to Parliament on 16th August 1990. This is a significant achievement for which I am grateful to all my colleagues who have extended to me their utmost cooperation in observing the expenditure ceilings.

The position in respect of expenditure, so far in the current financial year, is as follows. Expenditure on major subsidies (viz. food, fertilisers, export promotion and market development) upto the end of June, 1990 was Rs. 1988 crores which is 23.3 per cent of the budget estimates as against Rs. 2186 crores which was 29.3 per cent of the budget for the same period last year. Interest payments for the period ending June, 1990 were Rs. 2128 crores which is 10.2 per cent of the budget as against Rs. 2226 crores which

was 13.1 per cent of the budget in the corresponding period last year. Central assistance to States for State Plans upto the end of July was Rs. 2937 crores which is 27.8 per cent of the budget estimates as against Rs. 2407 crores which was 27.3 per cent of the budget estimates during the corresponding period last year. The States' share of taxes, duties and revenue deficit grants upto the end of July was Rs. 4560 crores amounting to 26.9 per cent of the budget estimates as against Rs. 4355 crores which was 33.2 per cent of the budget estimates during the corresponding period last year.

The position in respect of receipts from direct and indirect taxes is as follows. In the sphere of direct taxes, collection of personal income tax during April-July 1990 was Rs. 819 crores which was 12.1 per cent higher than Rs. 730 crores during April-July 1989; the collections of corporation tax, however, during April-July 1990 were lower than during April-July 1989; in fact, net collections in April and May were negative on account of large refunds given in the first two months of the financial year, but this is not indicative of the ultimate trend as the first instalment of the advance tax becomes due only in the month of September. In the sphere of indirect taxes, revenue collections from customs were Rs. 6085 crores during April-July 1990 which were 15 per cent higher than Rs. 5294 crores during April-July 1989; collections from central excise during April-July 1990 were Rs. 7259 crores which were 10.1 per cent higher than Rs. 6592 crores during April-July 1989. Although there has been a fairly good increase over the collections in the corresponding period of the last financial year, there has been a slight shortfall in the customs and central excise collections in the period April-July 1990 in relation to the target. The shortfall as compared to the target is 1.77 per cent in the case of customs duties and 0.94 per cent in the case of central excise duties.

Among capital receipts, market loans aggregated to Rs. 2002 crores up to the end of July, 1990 which is 25 per cent of the budget estimates, as against Rs. 1158 crores

which was 16 per cent of the budget estimates for the corresponding period last year. Receipts under special deposits amounted to Rs. 1017 crores upto the end of July which is 14 per cent of the budget estimates as against Rs. 904 crores which was 15 per cent of the budget estimates for the corresponding period last year. Net external assistance upto the end of June amounted to Rs. 644 crores which is 15 per cent of the budget estimates as against Rs. 790 crores which was 21 per cent of the budget estimates for the corresponding period last year. Net small savings collections upto the end of June, 1990 were Rs. 929 crores as against Rs. 775 crores at the end of June, 1989. According to current indications, the Oil Coordination Committee deposits budgeted at Rs. 1400 crores are not likely to materialise due to the hardening of international oil prices.

On the basis of data and information available so far, it is too early to make an assessment of what the budget deficit would be at the end of the current financial year. For the purposes of monitoring, however, the Technical Note which has been placed before the House attempts to assess the likely outcome for 1990-91 by using available statistical methods and the latest available data. It must be emphasised that this is not a forecast. The actual outcome would depend upon government decisions and actual developments in the remaining eight months of the current financial year.

In conclusion, I would like to state candidly that while we have been able to achieve a reduction of Rs. 1500 crores in the budget deficit so far, as compared to last year, there can be no room for complacency. Our needs are large and the pressures on expenditure remain. Success at containing the budget deficit will call for the exercise of the utmost fiscal discipline. We must also recognise the impact of the unfavourable developments on our borders and the implications of changes in the international environment. In this situation, in addition to the maximum possible restraint on expenditure, we will have to redouble our efforts to mobilise revenues.

Those who violate our laws will have to face the heavy hand of the enforcement machinery. I assure the House that we shall spare no efforts in these areas. In this difficult task, I seek the cooperation of the entire House.

TECHNICAL NOTE

I. Introduction

1. In recent years, deficits in the budget of the Central Government have been a matter of some concern. Persistent and large deficits have serious implications not only for the finances of Government but also for the stability of the economy. Hence, containing the deficits constitutes one of the top priorities of the Government in the management of the economy. If, however, the deficits are to be kept within reasonable limits, there must be an efficient system of monitoring so that appropriate action can be taken in time whenever there are indications that the gap between expenditure and receipts of the Government is likely to go beyond the budget estimate for the year or what can be considered tolerable margins thereof.
2. The task of deriving monthly norms for monitoring the budget deficit during a financial year would be relatively simple had there been a clearly discernible pattern or regularity in the fluctuations and movements of the monthly deficits over the year. The data on the actual deficits during the last ten years, month by month, beginning April, 1980, are presented in Table 1. These figures on end-month deficits are depicted in graphic form in Figures A and B. A study of these graphs suggests that there is a rising trend in the deficit during certain months of the year while there is a decline towards the end of the year, reflecting a degree of

seasonality in the government's expenditure and revenue flows. Such seasonality is perhaps to be expected partly because certain receipts of the government tend to be bunched (such as payment of taxes like the advance income tax and capital receipts from sources like small savings and market loans), coupled with the fact that certain commitments of the Government cannot be deferred over the year while expenditure due to natural calamities such as droughts and floods occurs seasonally. But the deficits are also subject to the influence of factors which are not periodic or regular in their operation, manifest in the government's response to unforeseen economic and political events. Since the non-regular factors cannot be predicted and the seasonal pattern is not definite, it is not possible to forecast with precision what the order of the deficit is going to be at the end of the year on the basis of the actual deficit figure for a given month during the year.

3. Nevertheless, to the extent the movements in the deficits are marked by identifiable patterns

(whether seasonal and intra-year or secular and inter-year), it should be possible, given a year-end budget deficit, to derive monthly norms for monitoring. These norms may help to form an idea as to whether the deficit during a given month of the year is in conformity with the end-year budget estimate and, if not, to forecast the likely order of the deficit for the remaining months of the year.

4. Several statistical techniques are available for isolating the seasonal and trend influences in a time series which can be used for forecasting monthly deficits that are likely to occur in a year based on the past figures. Some of these techniques are also helpful in estimating norms of deficits for each month in a given year based on the targetted deficit of the year. These norms could be used in monitoring whether the actual deficit in a given month is in conformity with the budget estimate. The same techniques could also be used to forecast the likely level of the deficit for the remaining months of the year from the deficit figure of any given month.

Table 1

Budget Deficit

		<i>Month-end Actuals: 1980-81 to 1989-90 (In Rs. Crores)</i>										
<i>At the end of</i>	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
April	-622	-12	726	—	1914	2092	3251	4204	3754	4628		
May	635	955	-418	1671	2854	2782	4997	4662	4655	6777		
June	16682	2315	-604	3499	4019	5610	7132	6239	7998	9852		
July	1040	1209	-1269	2904	3921	4123	6017	5536	8360	11390		
August	894	1189	5444	3115	4372	5140	6406	6528	8175	12403		
September	1653	1051	5385	2613	4473	5665	5669	7694	8410	12431		
October	882	716	5151	2686	3746	6622	7104	5909	9437	11151		
November	1569	915	5983	3066	4636	8069	7529	7383	9430	13082		
December	1530	90	4469	1569	4049	6814	8494	6704	8644	11789		

Month-end Actuals: 1980-81 to 1989-90 (In Rs. Crores)											
At the end of	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
January	1872	208	4772	2467	4071	7837	8938	8128	8883	14504	
February	1726	710	4778	2343	4866	7988	11432	8445	9187	13908	
March	2576	1392	1656	1416	3745	5315	8261	5816	5642	11466	
Budget Estimate	1445	1539	1375	1586	1773	3316	3703	5688	7484	7337	
Revised Estimate	1975	1700	1935	1695	3985	4490	8285	6080	7940	11750	

Figure A
TREND IN END-MONTH BUDGET DEFICITS
1980-81 to 1984-85 (Rs. 000 Crores)

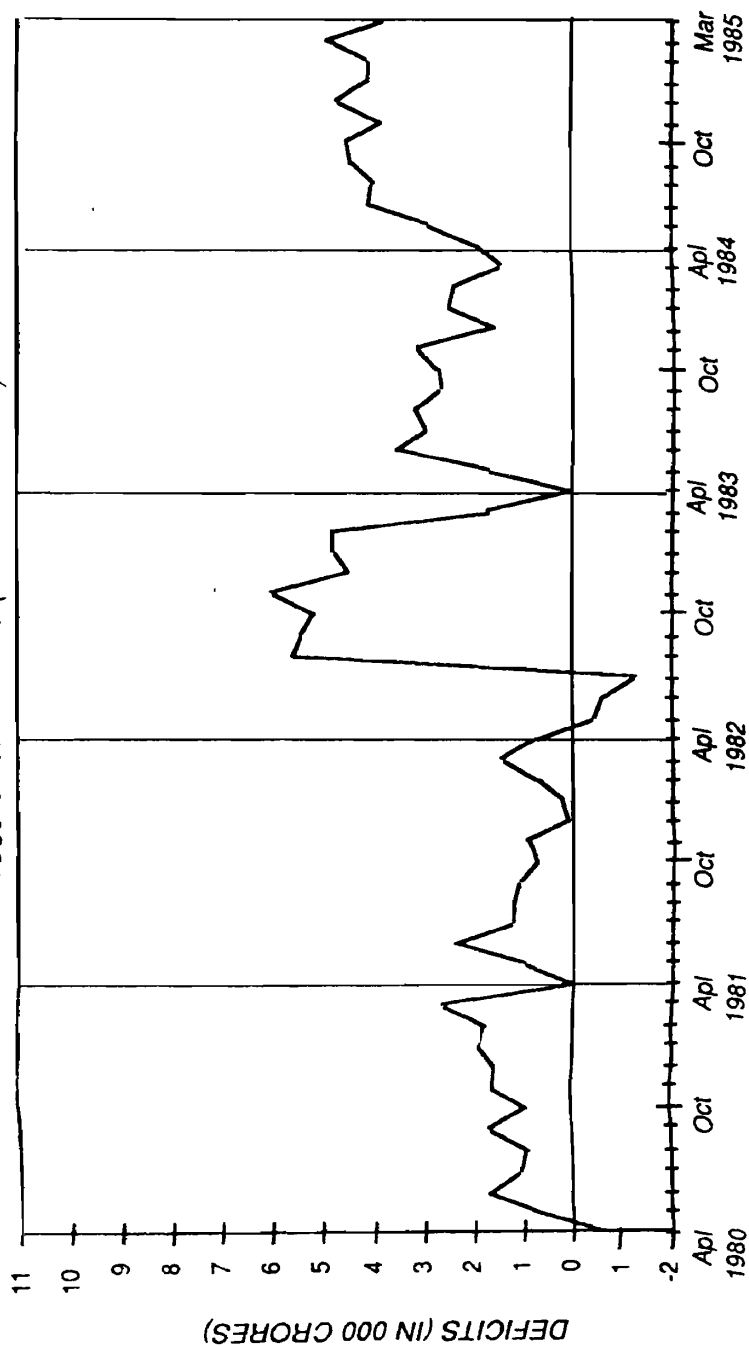
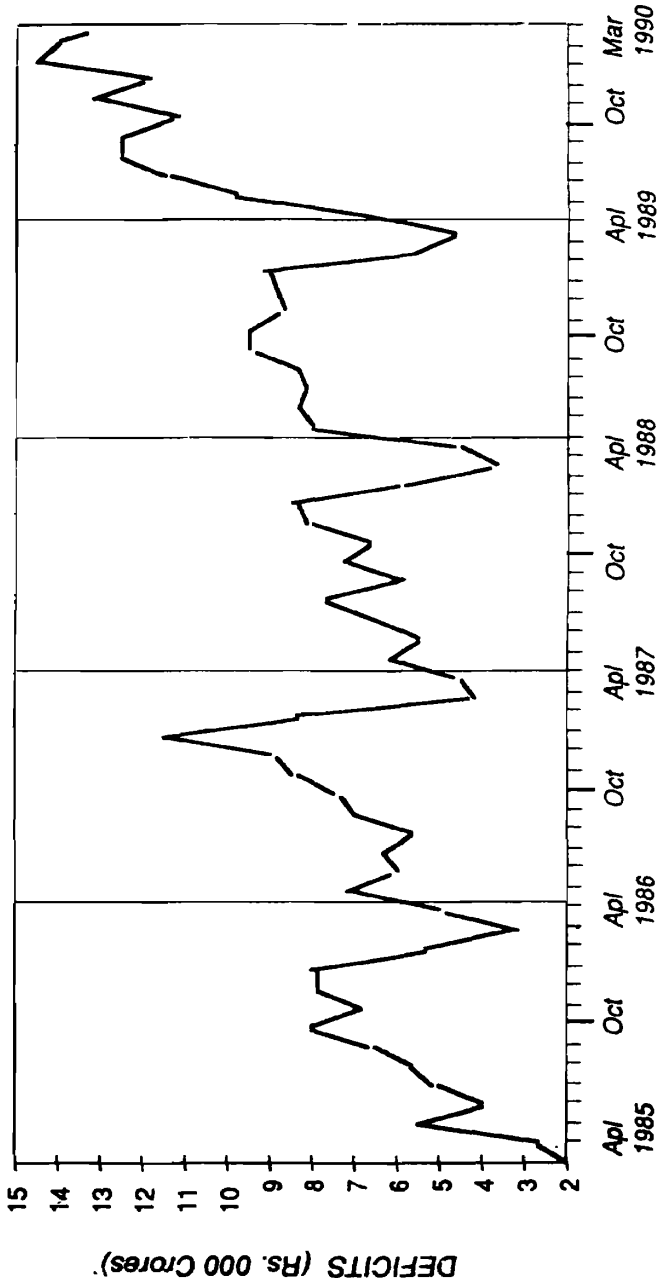


Figure B

TREND IN END-MONTH BUDGET DEFICITS
1985-86 TO 1989-90 (Rs. 000 Crores)



5. Unlike most other economic phenomena, however, the budget deficit varies from week to week and month to month because the flows of revenue and expenditure are unevenly distributed over the year, partly because of established patterns or random occurrences and partly because of discretionary decisions on the part of Government. This places some limits on the use of statistical methods for projecting deficits. All the same, in order to monitor the likely course of the deficit during the rest of the financial year, it is useful to set some norms, taking into account seasonal and secular factors, so that a judgement, however imperfect, can be made on whether the targets are very much out of line from the norm for reaching the year-end target. An attempt has, therefore, been made to evaluate alternative statistical methods for their predictive ability by using available data on the end-month budget deficits for the period 1980-81 to 1989-90. The discussion that follows describes the principal methods which were considered and evaluates their relative strengths or weaknesses.

II. Statistical Methods for Forecasting

6. The movements of a time series, particularly for an economic variable, are made up of four components: secular, cyclical, seasonal and random movements. For purposes of forecasting, it is necessary to identify these components and isolate their influence on the movement of a time series. Several models are used for estimating the contribution of the different components in the movement of a time series variate. These models can

be classified broadly into univariate and multivariate models. The univariate models ignore exogenous factors and seek to determine current values of the variable simply in terms of its past movements. It is worth noting that there are models which merely decompose the movements with reference to the past, and there are models which also help to project the components into the future.

7. This section endeavours to explain and evaluate, as simply as possible, five statistical methods that can be used for forecasting budget deficits: average relatives, monthly trend equations, link relatives, multiple regression analysis and Box Jenkins models. The next section of the note calibrates and tests these methods for their predictive capability. The empirical basis of the exercise is provided by the evidence on month-end budget deficits during the period 1980-81 to 1989-90, which is presented in Table 1. The objective is to use the available statistical methods to forecast the month-end and year-end budget deficits for 1989-90, on the basis of monthly data on the actual budget deficits observed from 1980-81 to 1988-89, and these estimates are then compared with the actuals for 1989-90.

Method of Average Relatives :

8. Under this method, the month-end budget deficits for each year during the period 1980-81 to 1988-89 are expressed as percentages of the respective year-end figures. Next, the percentages for a particular month of the nine years are averaged out, and the average percentage for a month is regarded as

The Ministry of Finance would like to thank the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, in particular, Dr. A. Bagchi and Dr. J. V. M. Sarma, for help in the preparation of this technical note, and Prof. K. L. Krishna of the Delhi School of Economics for advice.

indicative of the pattern of the monthly deficit during any given year, in this case 1989-90. A serious drawback of this method is that it fails to take into account the changing pattern of the monthly deficits. It can only help to decompose the seasonal factors in a given months deficit. Like any other summary measure, an average figure conceals more than it reveals, and thus cannot be used for forecasting.

Method of Monthly Trend Regressions :

9. Under this method, a semi-logarithmic time trend of the following form is fitted separately for each of the 12 months on the basis of 9 observations for each month during the years from 1980-81 to 1988-89.

$$\ln (D) = \alpha + \beta t$$

When D = month-end deficit for an particular month

t = time having a value of 1 for 1980-81, 2 for 1981-82 and so on.

ln = natural logarithms

Then, the monthly projections are made on the basis of time trends. This method allows for changes in seasonality factors unlike the method of average relatives and also can take into account the random component. But it fails to bring out the monthly inter-links and makes no recognition of the possibility that the level of the budget deficit in a month, in addition, may also depend on the previous months' levels.

Method of Link Relatives :

10. By this method, initially, the April-end budget deficit of a given year is expressed as a percentage of the Budget Estimate for the corresponding year, and the deficits for

the subsequent month (from May to March) are expressed as percentage of the preceding month. The percentages for different months are called the link relatives. The link relatives for a particular month during 9 years are then arranged in ascending order and the middle value (median) is taken as the typical or the representative link relative for the month. The median link relatives are multiplied cumulatively for the successive months to estimate the chain relatives. These chain relatives are then expressed as percentages of the March-end figures to obtain seasonal indices. This is essentially a decomposition method, but given a targeted budget deficit, it can be used to work-out 'norms' for monthly levels. A serious limitation of this method is that it fails to identify the random component. Further, it is of no avail in forecasting the deficits for future months based on a given month's deficit.

Multiple Regression Analysis:

11. In order to capture the cyclicity of monthly deficits, a regression equation line of the following form has been fitted for the period from 1980-81 to 1988-89.

$$D_m = a + b_1 M + b_2 \ln (M) + b_3 BE$$

Where D_m = Actual month-end deficit in month m in a year

M = Month having values of 1, 2, ..., 12 for the months of April, May, ..., March respectively.

ln = Natural logarithm

BE = Budget Estimate for the corresponding year

The equation takes into account the secular, cyclical and the seasonal compo-

nents The model can be easily applied to forecast monthly deficits given the budget estimate The drawback of this method is that it takes into account only the intra-year variations in the budget deficit and does not consider inter-year variations of month-end deficits

The Box-Jenkins Models

- 12 The Box-Jenkins method overcomes many of the shortcomings

$$a(L) a_p (Lp) (1 - L)^d (1 - Lp)^D X_t = A + b (L) b_p (Lp) e_t \quad (1)$$

Where L is a lag operator, A is a constant, a_p , b and b_p are the associated polynomials in the lag operators, d and D are degrees of integration and e, the stochastic term The estimation procedure involves identification of the suitable degree of integration, as well as the forms of the four polynomials, and solving for the values of the parameters by econometric methods such as the Maximum Likelihood method For forecasting purposes, the equation needs to be transformed and the auto-regressive and the moving average lags combined Thereby the current period's value of the variable is expressed as a weighted linear combination of its past values

III. Empirical Results

- 14 The five alternative statistical methods, explained in the preceding section, have been calibrated on the basis of month end actual deficits during the year 1980-81 to 1988-89 The relative performance of these methods

of the above methods The general form of the Box Jenkins seasonal models allow tracing of the inter-year and intra-year movements in the budget deficit, as well as helps to remove the random component The general form of the B-J model is outlined below

- 13 If x_t is a seasonal time-series with period p sub-periods, the seasonal Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) filter is

is then judged by estimating the month-end deficits for the year 1989-90 and comparing these with estimates of actual month-end deficits during the year The results are presented in Table 2

Method of average relatives

- 15 Estimated month-end deficits given by this method for the year 1989-90 are presented in Column 6 of Table 2 In this method the month-end deficits for the year 1989-90 are obtained by computing the norms such that the year-end estimate conforms to the Budget Estimate of Rs 7337 crores Although the actual deficit far exceeded the budget estimate of Rs 7337 crores the value of R^2 between the actual and estimated monthly deficits by this method is 0.83 and significant

Table 2
Estimated Month-end Deficits by Alternative Methods for 1989-90

<i>(In Rupees Crores)</i>						
<i>Month</i>	<i>Actual Deficit</i>	<i>Trend Method</i>	<i>Box Jenkins</i>	<i>Multiple Regression</i>	<i>Average Ratio</i>	<i>Link Relative</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
April	4628	8778	3914	5717	2344	5031
May	6777	17158	4733	7193	4384	5579
June	9852	23685	6719	7952	8070	9586
July	11390	26122	5966	8417	6148	8087
August	12403	12778	6472	8721	9921	8610
September	12431	11982	6704	8923	9990	8809
October	11151	15011	6821	9055	9505	8426
November	13082	14871	7513	9135	11127	10267
December	11789	18873	7389	9176	8594	8967

<i>Month</i>	<i>Actual Deficit</i>	<i>Trend Method</i>	<i>Box Jenkins</i>	<i>Multiple Regression</i>	<i>Average Ratio</i>	<i>Link Relative</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
January	14504	18341	8144	9186	9877	10314
February	13908	17741	9221	9171	10587	10667
March	11466	8920	6151	9135	7337	7337
R-Square between actual & Estimated values	1 00	0 05	0 85	0 88	0 83	0 80

Note Estimated Deficits given in columns (6) and (7) are not strictly comparable with either the actual deficits in column (2) or with the forecasts derived from other methods in columns (3) to (5), as these are based on norms calibrated to yield a March-end value that conforms to the budget estimate, whereas the other methods yield projections or forecasts, hence, the corresponding R-square values are also not strictly comparable

Method of monthly trend equations

- 16 Estimated parameters (α and β) for the fitted exponential trends of 12 months are presented in Apendix Table A1. Estimated month-end deficits on the basis of these equations for the year 1989-90 are presented in Column 3 of Table 2. The value of the R^2 between the estimates and the actuals clearly shows that most of the fitted equations are not significant, consequently this method yields poor projections.

Method of link relatives

- 17 Estimated month-end deficits by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Monthly Deficits} = & -1367.62 - 252.75 \text{ Month} \\ & (1.75) \quad (1.68) \\ & + 2494.68 \ln(\text{Month}) + 1.00 \text{ BE} \\ & (3.48) \quad (12.35) \end{aligned}$$

The equation explains 65 percent of the intra year variations in budget deficit. Estimated month end deficits for the year 1989-90 are presented in Column 5 of Table 2. The R^2 between the actual and the estimated monthly deficits is 0.88.

Multiple regression annalysis

- 18 The fitted equation on the basis of month-end deficits for the years 1980-81 to 1988-89 is as follows

$$R^2 = 0.65$$

Box-Jenkins Model

- 19 Several alternatives of the ARIMA model specified in equation (1) were tried and the best fitted ARIMA model turns out to be

$$(1 + 0.2L) (1 + 0.72L^{12} + 0.35L^{24}) (1 - L^{12}) X_t = \epsilon_t \quad (2)$$

The above estimated filter traces out a yearly common patterns consisting of a secular trend and a seasonal component. It explains roughly 53 per cent of the total variation in the 12 month differenced series, $[x_t - x_{(t-12)}]$ in terms of two yearly lags and one monthly lag. The rest of the variation is either due to variations in economic factors influencing the budget deficit or due to pure random (white noise) disturbances. Statistical details of the empirical exercise of the BJ

model are given in Appendix Table A3. The final results for the month end budget deficit forecasts during the period from 1985-86 to 1988-89, as compared to actual month end deficits, are presented in Appendix Table A3. These projections are based on the actuals for end-April each year.

- 20 Simplifying equation (2), one gets the current month's budget deficit X_t as

$$X_t = -0.24X_{t-1} + (0.27X_{t-12} + 0.07X_{t-13}) + (0.38X_{t-24} + 0.09X_{t-25}) + (0.35X_{t-36} + 0.08X_{t-37}) \quad (3)$$

this method for the year 1989-90 are presented in Column 7 of Table 2. In this method, as in the case of average relatives, the estimated Month-end deficits for 1989-90 are obtained by computing norms such that the estimated year-end deficit is equal to the Budget Estimates of Rs 7337 crores, hence, this method yields norms rather than projections. There is however, significant correlation between actual and estimated month-end deficits and R^2 is 0.80.

Equation 3 depicts the growth process of deficits as one in which the current month's budget deficit is determined as a weighted moving average of the corresponding months in the past three years, adjusted to the monthly seasonal effect. Thus, the deficit in, say, the month of June 1989 is approximated by the sum of

- (a) 24 per cent (negative sign indicates partial inverse movement) in relation to what it was in May 1989
- (b) 27 per cent of June 1988 and 7 per cent of its preceding month May 1988
- (c) 38 per cent of June 1987 and 9 per cent of its preceding month May 1987, and
- (d) 35 per cent of June 1986 and 8 per cent of its preceding month May 1986

The estimated deficits for the year 1989-90 are presented in Column 4 of Table 2. The R^2 between the actual and the estimated month end budget deficits is 0.85.

- 21 It is worth noting that, as a statistical methodology for forecasting, the Box-Jenkins Model is better than all other methods because it takes into account both the inter-year and the inter-year variations in month end budget deficits. This model also helps us to forecast the year-end deficit on the basis of movements in the month end deficit in a given year. It can also estimate the probability of the actual deficit remaining within the budget estimate or a specified range.

IV. An Assessment

- 22 The preceding discussion on alternative statistical methods and their application to past data

suggests that, by itself, none of the methods is able to predict, with any degree of certainty, the likely year-end deficit on the basis of past data. In some years, or in particular months, the actual deficit may be close to the projected deficit. However, in other years, or in particular months, the actual deficit may diverge widely from the projected deficit. Nevertheless, in terms of intra-year variations, a rough seasonal pattern is discernible over the past ten years. The month-end budget deficit registers a steady increase in the first six months of the financial year, peaks sometime during the three or four months that follow, and then declines to lower level at the end of the financial year.

23

From the discussion in the preceding sections, it is also clear that Box-Jenkins models are the best among the available methodologies. Hence, for purposes of monitoring budget deficits during the financial year, it is proposed to use the Box-jenkins methodology as one of the inputs in our assessment of the likely outcome. This purely statistical exercise, however, needs to be supplemented with information on actual decisions taken by the government during the recent past and an assessment of their impact on revenue and expenditure flows.

24

In attempting an assessment of the likely year-end outcome, the relative importance of the statistical exercise and any qualitative judgment would inevitably change depending upon ground reality or the actual situation. For example, in a drought year when government expenditure increases unexpectedly by a large

amount, the predictive power of any statistical method would be poor. On the other hand, in a normal year, when there are not many unforeseen changes in expenditure or revenue, and the growth in output or income is consistent with past trends, it is possible to rely more on projections derived from statistical methods.

- 25 In view of the above, an attempt has been made to assess the likely outcome for 1990-91 by using the latest available data on the actual budget deficit at the end of July, 1990. The end-July budgeted deficit of the Central Government was Rs 9926 crores in 1990 which was almost Rs 1500 crores lower than the corresponding figure of Rs 11390 crores in 1989. The use of the Box-Jenkins methodology leads to an estimate that the end-year deficit in March 1991 would be Rs 8931 crores. For 1989-90, based on data for end-July 1989, the Box-Jenkins methodology would have led to an estimate that the end-year deficit would have been Rs 11576 crores at the end of March 1990. The deficit at the end of the previous financial year, however, turned out to be Rs 11466 crores as per the end-March figures, the revised estimates were Rs 11750 crores while the latest available provisional actuals figure is Rs 10625 crores. It need hardly be stressed that estimates diverge from actuals because of government decisions or other variables and factors not captured by statistical methods of estimation.

- 26 The results of the statistical exercise need to be combined with a qualitative judgement of Government decisions or actual

developments, in recent months, to arrive at an informed assessment. For the period April-July 1990, *inter-alia*, the following factors are relevant and would need to be taken into consideration. In order to provide an effective mechanism for monitoring expenditure and receipts, a system of monthly budgeting has been introduced in all ministries and departments. The accounts figures available upto June 1990 show that, except in one or two cases, the expenditures of all Ministries were within the monthly expenditure targets. As a result of strict expenditure control, for the first time in many years, there is no cash outgo in the first batch of supplementary demands which has been presented to Parliament. In respect of revenues, although there has been a fairly good increase over the collections in the corresponding period of the last financial year, there has been a slight shortfall in the customs and central excise collections during the period April-July 1990 in relation to the target. The shortfall as compared to the target is 1.77 per cent in the case of customs duties and 0.94 per cent in the case of central excise duties, but this is likely to be made up during the remaining months of the current financial year. In the sphere of capital receipts, Oil Coordination Committee (OCC) deposits budgeted at Rs 1400 crores may not materialise because of the rise in the international prices.

- 27 Assuming that the rest of the financial year turns out to be normal, the statistical exercise and the qualitative judgment (on the basis of information available so far), taken together, suggest that the budget deficit at

the end of the year is likely to be in the range of Rs 7900-8500 crores. It needs to be emphasised that although some success has been achieved when compared with last year, much more remains to be done during the remainder of the current financial year. This means that a serious attempt must be made to correct the situation and reduce the difference between expenditure and receipts.

- 28 It should be stressed once again that the statistical assessment is based on the assumption that there are some clearly identifiable trends or regularities in the movement of the budget deficit over the financial year. As mentioned at the outset, while there are factors which seem to impart

a measure of seasonality or trend, there are a host of other factors which influence the deficit of the government at any point of time. These cannot be predicted in advance. Besides, in forecasting budget deficits, it is necessary to take into account the impact of all relevant economic variables having a significant bearing on the level of the deficits and not the past behaviour of the deficits alone. For all the progress that has taken place in the techniques of forecasting there is no methodology yet which can project the behaviour of economic variables like the budget deficit with any degree of confidence. The Government would welcome comments and suggestions for improving the methodology to monitor budget deficits on a firmer basis.

Appendix: Table A.1

Estimated Regression Coefficients for Semi-logarithmic Trends of Monthly Deficits

$$\ln(\text{Def}) = \text{Alpha} + \text{Beta} \cdot \text{Year}$$

MONTH	ALPHA	BETA	R-Square
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
APRIL	4.12	1.32	0.69
MAY	2.69	0.71	0.17
JUNE	3.36	0.67	0.14
JULY	2.68	0.75	0.16
AUGUST	6.99	0.25	0.75
SEPTEMBER	7.17	0.22	0.73
OCTOBER	6.72	0.29	0.74
NOVEMBER	7.13	0.25	0.70
DECEMBER	6.08	0.38	0.50

<i>MONTH</i>	<i>ALPHA</i>	<i>BETA</i>	<i>R-Square</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>

JANUARY	6.54	0.33	0.55
FEBRUARY	6.94	0.28	0.71
MARCH	7.10	0.20	0.65

Appendix: Table A.2

A Comparison of Box-Jenkins Forecasts of the Month End Budget Deficit with the actuals: 1985-86 to 1988-89

At the end of	(In crores of Rupees)															
	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88		1988-89									
	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast	Actual	Forecast
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9								
April	2092	2092	3251	3251	4204	4204	3754	3754	3754	4204	4204	4655	4655	4666	4666	4666
May	2782	2684	4997	4295	4662	5142	7998	6877	7998	7073	6086	8360	8360	5764	5764	5764
June	5610	3493	7132	5851	6239	7073	7998	6877	7998	7073	6086	8360	8360	5764	5764	5764
July	4123	3006	6017	5169	5536	6086	8360	5764	8360	6086	5536	6086	6086	5764	5764	5764
August	5140	5240	6406	5721	6528	6754	8175	6521	8175	6754	6528	8175	8175	6521	6521	6521
September	5665	5048	5669	5765	7694	6778	8410	6724	8410	6778	7694	8410	8410	6724	6724	6724
October	6622	4793	7104	5775	5909	7372	9437	7065	9437	7372	5909	9437	9437	7065	7065	7065
November	8069	5459	7529	6677	7363	8351	9430	8100	9430	8351	7363	9430	9430	8100	8100	8100

<i>At the end of</i>	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88		1988-89	
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Forecast</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Forecast</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Forecast</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Forecast</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
December	6814	4226	8494	5620	6704	7951	8644	7921
January	7837	4687	8938	6200	8128	8503	8883	8827
February	7988	4873	11432	6529	8445	9539	9187	9977
March	5315	3231	8261	5008	5816	7184	5642	7115

Note: Forecasts for the year are based on actuals for end-April of each year.

*Appendix: Table A.3**Details of Box-Jenkins Model Estimation*

Autocorrelations of Series 1 BD Variance .21385E + 07

Number of Observations 107

From 80 : 5 Until 89 : 3

1:	-.248993	.052463	-.083734	-.037161	.063867	-.073438
7:	-.018780	-.068681	-.010725	.071670	-.213910	.415068
13:	-.221407	.084573	.041046	-.109602	.120271	-.050850
19:	-.028346	.104780	-.067243	-.000515	-.191137	.375936
25:	-.167563	-.003388	.054758	-.157147	.092630	-.88074
31:	-.020737	.079016	-.072846	.023240	-.148276	.319645
37:	-.87230	.001435	.046388	-.136936		

First Seasonal Filtering.

Autocorrelations of Series 7 BDF Variance .23420E + 07

Number of Observations 96

From 81 : 4 Until 89 : 3

1:	-.092003	-.088188	-.254756	.091362	.005838	.018821
7:	-.107885	-.167270	.183190	.116114	.092462	-.500302
13:	-.030098	.080222	.140615	-.014106	.028981	.026362
19:	.034935	.155682	-.052705	-.079551	-.059008	.038751
25:	.036189	-.076285	.008708	-.051856	.044481	-.046953
31:	.056402	-.110605	.017674	.025147	.039213	.093740
37:	.012627	-.003019	-.047059	-.011512		

Partial Autocorrelations of Series 7 BDF

Number of Observations 96

From 81 : 4 Until 89 : 3

1:	-.092003	-.097478	-.277594	.024423	-.039999	-.045786
7:	-.091869	-.227479	.124373	.067136	.070373	-.443304
13:	-.148335	.012739	-.129898	-.021168	.058581	.070895
19:	-.043963	.007590	.121666	.075912	.084193	-.232925
25:	-.030764	-.045249	-.018974	-.051388	.050241	.029512
31:	-.013132	-.066305	.043679	.043229	.010337	.003780
37:	.041071	-.061694	-.008151	-.114097		

Convergence Reached on Iteration 7

Dependent Variable 7 BDF

From 83 : 5 Until 89 : 3

Total Observations 71 Skipped/Missing 0

Usable Observation 71 Degrees of Freedom 68

R # 2 .54706352 RBAR # 2 .53374186

SSR 69003937. SEE 1007.3548

Durbin-Watson 1.91770228

Q (24) = 20.5705 Significance Level .663912

No.	Label	Var	Lag	Coefficient	Stand. Error	T-Statistic
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	AR	1	1	-.2414842	.1188206	-2.032344
2	AR-Seas	2	12	-.7260505	.8304750E-01	-8.742593
3	AR-Seas	3	24	-.3506905	.864788E-01	-4.055543

Equation 1

Dependent Variable 1 BD

No.	Label	Var	Lag	Coefficient
1	2	3	4	5
1	BD	1	1	-.2414842
2	BD	1	12	.2739495
3	BD	1	13	.6615449E-01
4	BD	1	24	.3753600
5	BD	1	25	.9064353E-01
6	BD	1	36	.3506905
7	BD	1	37	.8468622E-01

Forecast Accuracy Statistics

Forecast Span = 12

Root Mean Square Error (87 : 4 to 89 : 3) = 953.6

Mean Absolute Percent Error (87 : 4 to 89 : 3) = 9.73 Percent

(Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY
(Mangalore): We want a discussion on this
statement. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): a
discussion under rule 193 should be al-
lowed. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA
(Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like
to seek some clarification about the state-
ment made by the hon. Minister. Sir, the
people want to know if 10 per cent cut has
been resorted, what is the amount to be
spent?

MR. SPEAKER: The whole budget is
being presented. Please take your seat.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Bijnor): Mr.
Speaker, Sir, *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mayawatiji, please take
your seat.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Mr. Speaker,
Sir, I will not take my seat. Please listen to
me. Two muslims have been killed in my
constituency. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mayawatiji, first of all,
please take your seat.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Mr. Speaker,
Sir, three days ago in the district of Bijnor.....
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mayawatiji, I
would like to tell you that I have received your
notice and now it depends on me as to
whether I call you or not. Although, I have
already decided to call you but the method

you are adopting is not proper.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir,
I represent Bijnor Parliamentary constitu-
ency. Three days ago, in Bijnor city of Uttar
Pradesh, some people belonging to the Shiv
Sena, the Bajrang Dal, the R. S.S. and the
Bhartiya Janta Party forcibly constructed a
temple and started chanting holy songs in
front of a mosque situated in a muslim
dominated area, as a result of which commu-
nal violence flared up there. Two muslims
including a woman have been killed in this
communal violence. I would like to urge that
guilty persons be punished and compensa-
tion be given to the families of deceased as
also financial assistance be given to the
injured. *(Interruptions)* The land of the
mosque was by the people belonging to
Shiv Sena, Bajrang Dal, R. S.S. and B.J.P.
has... *(Interruptions)* Situation in Bijnor is
very tense and markets are closed..... *(Inter-
ruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mayawatiji, please take
your seat..... *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAYAWATI: There is possi-
bility of riots in Bijnor. Bandh is being ob-
served in the entire Bijnor the hon. Home
Minister should be called..... *(Interruptions)*
.....

PROF. YADU NATH PANDEY
(Hazaribagh): It is totally wrong People blame
R. S. S. for every incident that took place in
the country the Congress Government also
used to say like this..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.
I am on my legs..... *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAYAWATI: The hon. Home
Minister should be called here.

..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mayawatiji, I am telling
you again and again., and you are not listen-
ing to me. Now you have made your point

and I will not allow you to speak any more.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, I shall listen to your point of order.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear his point of order. Then I will call you, Mr. Kumaraman-galam. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

Please take your seat first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to appeal to the hon. Members.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shrivastava, please take your seat. I would like to say you that business of the House will be conducted in accordance with the rules. Every hon. Member.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I would like to request particularly Kumari Mayawati to take her seat as I have already made repeated request to her to resume her seat. You had your say. Now why don't you take your seat? I allowed you to make your point and now please take your seat. Now I am calling Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to raise his point of order. Please take your seat, Now I will listen to Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
She does not heed to even your directions.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You people have stood up again. Mayawati please do not do it. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, it cannot happen. Kumari Mayawati, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: First of all please take your seats.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT (Jaunpur):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, please expunge such irresponsible allegations from the proceedings.
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting you. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

Mr. Bhat please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not listening to you. Just now point of order is being raised. Please take your seat, it will not be allowed. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a high regard for all the hon. Members of the House, particularly lady members..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mayawati, please take your seat.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
How can I speak? I can speak only after she takes her seat.

MR. SPEAKER: What can we do. You may please take your seat.

[English]

You must sit down. Please take your seat. I order you to take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying..... (Interruptions) Please ask her to resume her seat, only then I can speak. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You must obey the orders of the Speaker. I order you to take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Obey my orders.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mayawati, you must take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Why is this being taken lightly? Please call the Home Minister first. Otherwise, I will not let him speak. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot order the Home Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You must function as a

hon. Member of this House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I was telling you that I have a high regard for all hon. Members of this House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever is said by Mayawati will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have a high regard for women and wouldn't like to interrupt a lady Member's speech but there are certain limits to it. If one Party is to be criticised, there are certain methods for it. Communalism has been the subject of discussion a number of times but Shri Akbar has done a strange thing by going and**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit Mr. Akbar on a point of personal explanation.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Communalism may be discussed for any length of time but it is not proper to exploit the situation at the cost of others for their narrow end. The law and order situation in U. P. is the responsibility of the State Government. But it is in very bad taste if someone makes critical comments here in respect of the B. J. P., the R.S.S. or the Bajrang Dal.

Sir, you can hold discussions on a subject like communalism a discussion on Bijnor riots may also be held. But it is not proper on the part of any individual to level allegations against any Party on the basis of any single issue. (Interruptions) Is the hon. Prime Minister taking any initiative to vert 'Delhi Bandh' to be observed in protest

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

against the Mandal Commission Report.
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Akbar, I am permitting you because he took your name.

SHRI M. J. AKBAR (Kishanganj): Sir, he took my name. First, if we have to conduct this House, in the interest of truth ask Mr. Malhotra to tender a personal apology here in front of everybody for arbitrarily without any reason taking my name after having heard Mayawatiji what she had to say... (*Interruptions*) Such incidents are happening not only in Bijnor but also at various places in U.P. and other States..... (*Interruptions*) Unless it is checked, it will cause fire throughout the north.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI M. J. AKBAR: Sir, I demand an apology from Mr. Malhotra ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): It is a serious matter and it has long-term implications. When one hon. Member, Mayawatiji was speaking, they raised a hue and cry. You told us to sit down and we did so..... (*Interruptions*) You must protect the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him on a point of explanation.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT (Jaunpur): It is a state matter of law and order problem. Can it be raised here? Can anybody abuse any party here? Therefore, I request you to expunge the whole thing..... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, Shri Malhotra has cast not only cast aspersions on an hon. Member but has also insulted the hon. Lady Member Kumari Mayawati. Shri Malhotra said that on Shri Akbar's Kumari Mayawati acted in this manner. This is an

insult of the hon. Lady Member. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, in this House no Member can level allegations against any other Member. One Member has.....the other Member and in this way both Members are insulted. By saying that Mayawatiji has raised this issue on the.....of some Member, the hon. Lady Member has been insulted. So it should be expunged from the record. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Bhagat.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): Sir, the Congress has played this card because it does not want Government business to be conducted.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): Sir, the Congress has played this card because it does not want Government business to be transacted.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[*English*]

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT (East Delhi): I am on a point of order. I shall invite your attention to rules 351 and 352. You may kindly read with me. Rule 352 (ii) says:

"A member while speaking shall not -

make personal reference by way of making an allegation imputing a motive to or questioning the bona fides of any other member of the House unless it be imperatively necessary for the purpose of the debate being itself a matter in issue....."

Rule 353 says:

"No allegation of a defamatory or in-

criminary nature shall be made by a member against any persons unless the member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned....."

Now Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra is, I believe, normally a sensible and balanced person. I do not expect him to say such a thing. If he has said that, he should apologise. This is against the elementary rules..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: He has made no allegation.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, it is amply clear that Mr. Malhotra has taken the name of Mr. Akbar..... (*Interruptions*) We only request an apology from him. Please direct him to apologise before this House. Not only he has brought disrespect to Mayawati Ji but also violated the rules. I request you to kindly ask Mr. Malhotra to apologize.

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked Mr. Akbar to give his personal explanation.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: It is not a question of personal explanation. It is in violation of rules and disrespect to the Member. He should apologise.

MR. SPEAKER: It is customary that if a Member's name is taken, he is given the right to explain. I have allowed him to explain.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN:..... (*Interruptions*) Please direct him to apologise..... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): If there is any objectionable word, you can delete it from the proceedings.

MR. SPEAKER: I will go into the record. No allegation of a personal nature would go on record. Yes, Mr. Sathe. I am now allowing you to make a submission.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I have a point of order. Can junior Members raise point of order?

MR. SPEAKER: What is it you are asking? There is no junior or senior Member.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Then, I have a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order? under what rule? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Under Rule 376. I raise this point of order. Now Dr. Malhotraji..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Regarding that, I have said what I have to say. There is no point of order.

Mr. Sathe, please be brief.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

12.39 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): I will be very brief Sir. Sir, there is a healthy convention and a tradition in this House started right from the beginning and I would like to quote the rulings of your learned predecessors when the matter was brought to their notice by senior Members of the House like Shri Indrajit Guptaji, Shri Dandavateji and others. This has been very clearly stated. I would only like to reiterate that..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
Have you given the consent, Sir?..... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Are they not your friends?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I will not take much time. I know the rules. I know that a statement of policy or a proposal of policy made outside, when the House is in session, is not technically a breach of privilege..... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Do you know that?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Yes, I know it. I am not, therefore, urging it. I have raised it because as a convention- this House also goes by healthy conventions it has been held repeatedly, right from the beginning of our parliament, that any such statement made outside is an act of impropriety and Government or Ministers should not do it. I will only read two portions from your predecessors' decisions, nothing more.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it necessary?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Yes, it is, Sir. It is for the guidance of you and us, Sir. On March 7, 1988, on a point raised by Shri Dandavate and Shri Indrajit Guptaji, the Speaker had to make this observation..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Yes, Sir, it is. I will not take much time.

MR. SPEAKER: Within a second you finish it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, kindly don't say like that. I am doing it for the sake of

interest of the House..... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am permitting him.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am reading out, Sir: "No breach of privilege. It is disallowed. However, it is well-established that when Parliament is in session, policy decisions must first be announced on the floor of the House. It is a matter of judgement whether the present decision amounts to a policy decision or not. I do feel that when Parliament is in session, it would have been more desirable to take the House into confidence and inform it of the proposed action, instead of Members knowing of important developments only through the newspapers." here, Sir, it is also television-"I have mentioned it as a matter of propriety and hope that in future such decisions would be first announced on the floor of the House." This was in 1988. But let us go back as early as..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have said it now.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I will like also to quote Sardar Hukam Singh deciding on May 1st, 1959. This is when it was raised by Tyagiji and Feroze Gandhi..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mayawatiji, please take your seat..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Take your seat please. I have not permitted you..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sathe, please conclude.....

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mayawati Ji, please sit

down You should not speak without my permission

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER Mayavati Ji you cannot speak without my permission

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI P UPENDRA Sir she cannot hold the House to ransom like this

MR SPEAKER Miss Mayavati if you don't behave properly, if you repeatedly disobey the Chair I will be compelled to ask you to quit the House Please take your seat

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER Yes Mr Sathe

SHRI VASANT SATHE When it was brought to my notice I requested all hon Members who are Ministers not to make statements outside When the House is in session, matters of policy must first be communicated to this House and thereafter through other sources Therefore, it is a matter of regret that important matters like the LIC Report should have been noticed in the newspapers

MR SPEAKER That is all right That is not necessary

SHRI VASANT SATHE It is necessary, Sir

'Again and again questions are put and the Government answers the questions by saying that the report has no doubt been received but it is under consideration But before it is ultimately brought to this House, every person other than a Member of this House seems to know it It is rather unfortunate I do wish that it should be rigorously taken note of that no statement shall be made by any Minister outside this House Otherwise,

this House could become only a rubber stamp for anything that is happening elsewhere "

So, Sir, my submission is this Yesterday the Prime Minister gave a statement Sir, that statement-nearly verbatim-has appeared in the newspapers earlier Sir, the decision was taken by the Political Affairs Committee, presided over by the Prime Minister and, Sir, it was announced on the Television which is the medium under the Government in those very terms that were later on quoted Sir, what is the sanctity? When the news came the next day that was absolutely quoted Sir I would beg of you that just to play with a word here and say that it is not our policy but a proposal has no meaning It is a proposal as also a policy Therefore, I would like you, Sir kindly to give a ruling that this is a breach of healthy precedent, well-established conventions and kindly ask the Government not to do this In fact, I would have requested the Prime Minister to express regret to this House That being so, if the Government tries to justify this, I feel that the House is reduced to a rubber stamp and a mockery

MR SPEAKER It is well established that no privilege of the House is involved if statements on matters of public interest are not first made in the House and are made outside In the instant case, I find that the Prime Minister has taken the first opportunity to inform the House about Government's proposal to reserve 5-10% of jobs in Government services for people belonging to economically weaker sections and for providing more job opportunities for the youth

Hence no question of privilege is involved The notices given under Rule 22 by S/Shri K V Thomas, Vasant Sathe, P C Thomas and Era Anbarasu are out of order

Now, Mr Kumaramangalam

MR SPEAKER Mr Kumaramangalam

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha) We

are walking out in protest.

12.52 hrs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given my Ruling.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Are you disregarding the Rulings of your learned predecessors? You should have commented on the impropriety committed by the Prime Minister. We are walking out in protest.

(At this stage, Prof. P. J. Kurien and some other hon. Members left the House)

12.51 1/2 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Death, Retirement and Terminal Gratuity (Amendment) Regulations, 1989

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Papers Laid on the Table. Shri Gurupadaswamy.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, on behalf of Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Death, Retirement and Terminal Gratuity) (Amendment) Regulations, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. Sec/RR/3.7.89 in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 1990 under sub-section (4) of section 32 of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT—1347/90]

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Third Report — 220

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixty-first Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on India Tourism Development Corporation Limited.

12.53 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sixteenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): Sir, I move—

"That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 27th August 1990"

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the notice I gave.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Naik ji, your notice was received, but it was too late. That is why you are not being permitted.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The report of Business Advisory Committee has been presented in the House. I had proposed an amendment.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): I have already written a letter to you in regard to BAC. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the beginning it was said that Delhi Statehood Bill would be presented in the House in the first week, then it was postponed to second week, third week and ultimately to the last week of the session. Now when the last week of this session is about to start, we apprehend that the same excuse will be made this time also that the Bill cannot be presented due to heavy Parliamentary business. Neither a Metropolitan Council or any Corporation in Delhi has been formed. Uncertainty prevails in the city and people are running from pillar to post. I would like to know when Delhi Statehood Bill will be presented in the House? As a promise has been made, kindly tell us when it would be presented?

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have also given notice, Sir.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, the hon. Members are aware that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill and also a separate Bill on Delhi have already been introduced in this House and are waiting for the consideration of the House. Sir, during the three weeks so far we could pass only three Bills now. And We are witnessing the happenings in this House every day and you know how much time the Government

business is getting. The Bills are there, it is for the House to decide to take them up any time they want.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Let us sit till late in the night. My submission is that it should be taken first otherwise an excuse will be made that the Bill could not be passed owing to paucity of time.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, in response to the hon. Member, I propose that we dispense with the Lunch Hour today and sit up to Eight O' Clock today.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: This is for you. Your Government is in power.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Khurana has raised the issue several times in the House. I myself represent Delhi and thus I am aware of how Delhi administration has been functioning for the last three years. Bureaucracy is virtually ruling. Neither there is an elected metropolitan Council nor Municipal Corporation, and since the first session was held in the month of December, it was expected that this Bill will be passed in the House and elections will be held immediately. But this did not happen for one reason or the other. Just now the hon. Minister stated that only two Bills have been passed. He might be having complaints against all of us, but I have complaint against the Government that it has not even asked the Business Advisory Committee to allot time for this Bill. So far as I remember second Bill has not been presented so far. Therefore, the apprehensions of my friend Shri Khurana are not baseless. Even the citizens of Delhi apprehend that this Bill never be presented and it will be postponed on one ground or the other. My submission is that in the list of Business to be taken up next week the Bill to provide Statehood to Delhi should be at the top. The hon.

Minister should seek time for this from the Business Advisory Committee. The Government itself should have taken the initiative. I also expect the opposition to cooperate with us in this matter.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Advani Ji, we are always ready to cooperate with you in good things.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Not only today, until we finish the Business we can forgo the Lunch break.

[Translation]

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: I would like the hon. Minister to kindly give priority to this matter. I think we should accept his suggestion to forgo the Lunch.

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, in the case of Prasar Bharati Bill, we offered our cooperation and we gave some amendments. The discussion is going on and more or less agreement is coming on almost all the amendments. Likewise, in Delhi Statehood Bill also, I would like to request the Government to take the Opposition into confidence. We have also our views on this. Let us discuss and come out with a Bill which is agreeable to all. We do not agree to the Bill as it is today. Let there be discussions so that we can arrive at a consensus. It is not only the concern of the Delhi people alone; it is the concern of all the people. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the members of Congress al-

ready have the copies of this Bill. They can think upon it and give their opinion to the hon. Minister. There is no need to delay it further. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Naik Ji, please sit down, some other issue is being discussed.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will be really very difficult if this Bill is not presented in the House next week. It will be difficult for us to face the people.

MR. SPEAKER: Your representatives are in Business Advisory Committee also.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Shri Advani has submitted just now that you direct the Government to present this Bill for discussion in the next week positively.

MR. SPEAKER: That is enough.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister, and the Minister of Home Affairs had assured, the House that the Bill would be brought forward soon. In spite of all that we fail to understand why this Bill has not been introduced in the House so far.

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill has already been presented before the Business Advisory Committee. They have gone through it, only time is to be allotted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister about the Mandal Commission, it has been stated in the List of Business that the discussion would be held under Rule 193. My submission is that this issue is so important that full debate should be held on it under Rule 184. Rather all the Members should give their suggestions. The statement of the Hon. Prime Minister should be discussed at full length and there should be voting on it. Only then the people of this country would know the

[Sh. Ram Naik]

actual position. And we would also be able to face the people without any hesitation.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: O. K. Let me finish first.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 27th August, 1990."

The motion was adopted

13.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear Mr. Kurien.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): We are also Members of this House. I am also a Member. Let me also speak. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is.....

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given in writing?

You have not given in writing. I am not permitting you.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: It is a matter of urgent public importance. Kindly hear me.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what you are going to raise. You have not given in writing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: A dele-

gation of Delhi Bar Association met the Minister, Shri Sharad Yadav, congratulated him on the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. The Minister is reported to have said, these Brahmins.....

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting you. You give in writing. Shri Harish Rawat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Shri Harish Rawat.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is our foremost duty to see that communal harmony and brotherhood prevails in the country. Today Mayawati ji raised an issue and a few days back my friend Shri Jagpal Singh also raised the issue of destruction of mosques in Saharanpur. I want to raise here an issue which is many times more important than that. Recently, an organisation has announced to start the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya from Oct. 30. I would like to draw the attention of the House to it. They have declared that the construction work of the Ram Mandir will start on Oct. 30, however, 'Ram Jyoti' will be lit up on Sept., 19. A part of it will be taken to Kashi and the other to Mathura and after that the 'Jyoti' will be taken through out the country and the festival of 'Vijay Dashmi' will be celebrated as 'Vijay Diwas'. Through you I would like to appeal to those friends who have made such announcements that it will make the situation grim. When such processions are taken, certainly some anti-social elements would take the advantage of the situation, disturb the communal harmony which will ultimately create tension in the country. In view of the prevailing circumstances and danger looming large on our borders and the situation created by the announcement made by the Government in

regard to the Mandal Commission..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There will be discussion on Mandal Commission why are you raising this issue?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, This issue will make the situation worse. Through you, I would like to appeal to the Government and the caner elements that we should adopt moderate attitude in dealing with this matter, and those people should be advised not to take such processions. Whose victory they want to celebrate?..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not making allegation against anybody.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have already spoken.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Whose victory is going to be celebrated. What type of situation do they want to create in the country? We will have to think what they want.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): There is a move to shift the Marketing Office of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation which is now in Calcutta to Delhi.

The Fertiliser Corporation of India was bifurcated and Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation came into being in 1976. Government of India took a very wise decision to shift the

Headquarters of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation from Delhi to Calcutta because all the units of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, Barauni, Durgapur, Namrup and Haldia and Sindri have started production. Calcutta is centrally located place. But still the Headquarter is in Delhi and now there is a plan and move to shift the Marketing Office. All the units of Hindustan Fertiliser are located in Eastern India, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal and North-Eastern States and so, Calcutta is centrally located place. The marketing office should not be shifted from Calcutta and the decision taken much earlier in 1978 when Janata Party Government was there and when Fertiliser Corporation of India was bifurcated to shift the Headquarters of Hindustan Fertiliser to Calcutta should be implemented because Calcutta is centrally located place of all those units which are in and around Calcutta.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Soz. you have not been allowed, but you can mention.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): You are the custodian of our privileges....(*Interruptions*).....

[*English*]

I am not even mentioning the name of the hon. Member. I have moved a motion of breach of privilege under Rule 222 against the BJP Member. I am not mentioning his name. I will not take much of the time of the House. I will briefly say that he called me a Pakistani. He said that Ms. Benazir Bhutto's speeches on Kashmir had a tenor and spirit of my speeches on Kashmir and I was helping the Pakistani propaganda machinery against India. He also alleged that I was a supporter of one former Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court who has moved a petition against the former Governor Mr. Jagmohan and in that petition he is purported to have made remarks which are derogatory to Indian Constitution. So, he has clearly committed a breach of privilege. You kindly seek his explanation and consider it.

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

Are you considering or not?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

13.09 hrs.

RE: PRIVATISATION OF NATIONALISED
BANKS

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): The Union Deputy Finance Minister had made certain remarks at Baroda yesterday. He has said that he was in favour of privatisation of nationalised commercial banks. He had mentioned a number also. He has said that 5 of the 26 nationalised banks should be privatised. This is very much against the declared policy of the Government and we seek a clarification from the Government on this score.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): In that statement, the Deputy Finance Minister has stated that foreign banks with some 250 branches make a profit of 100 crores of rupees a year. But the Public Sector Banks, running into thousands of Branches make a profit of only Rs. 260 crores. The point is that the Deputy Finance Minister forgets that the Public Sector Banks do some social duties. They have a differential rate of interest, lending money at 4 per cent rate of interest. They give loan under IRDP. No foreign bank in India is called upon to discharge that obligation. In my view, to compare both the Banks is absurd. What I am afraid of is the present Government, in continuing the liberalisation atmosphere of the past regime is ending up with privatisation of even the Banks.....(Interruptions) That is why I want to draw your attention.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): It seems that Shri Anil Shastri has made this

statement under pressure from the BJP.....(Interruptions).....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand why you are doing so.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do submit that I have not read this statement. But if this is the statement, the Government is duty-bound to make a statement on this whether it is a view of the hon. Minister or the Government because it is a very serious matter. It not only affects the whole policy but it affects the whole economic attitude of the Government. Every matter should not be taken lightly. If the statement made by the two hon. Members is correct, the Government, by this evening, should make the position clear so that confusion is not created in the financial markets and in the people who think about the finances and about the future of the country. I do not know about it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not seen the statement. But it is a very serious statement that has been made. I hope the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs will ask the Minister of Finance to come at the earliest and before the day goes, tomorrow's papers should get the view of the Government on this issue. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): We will clarify the position.

DR. SUDHIR RAY (Burdwan): Sir, in Delhi the Punjabi Academe has been set up with a view to propagate the Punjabi culture and language. There are two thousand people who have been employed in this Academi and they teach for two hours which means they teach three periods duration per day. These teachers are appointed every year. They have no permanent appointment

and during summer vacation their services are retrenched. Therefore, I would request the Education Minister to see that they are made permanent because they get only Rs. 500-600/- per month.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV (Godda):
MR. Speaker, Sir. Please allow us also to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not disallowed you. But you should listen to others also.

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, I want to react to what Shri Chandra Shekhar has said. The point is that the hon. Member has also referred to the liberalisation policy. So, I would like to react that if the Minister has made such a statement..... (Interruptions) We have been referred to by one of the Members. (Interruptions)

SHRI. P. UPENDRA: We will clarify it.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I would like to make our policy very clear. The point is that Nationalisation was done by Madam Indira Gandhi, by the Congress Party and it is benefiting all the people, society, the poor and the down-trodden of the country. We stand by that. If the present Government has changed that policy, as Shri Chandra Shekhar has put it, it should come forward and make a statement. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):
Sir, at the time of Nationalisation of Banks the then Prime Minister Madam Indira Gandhi was expelled from the Congress Party and they expelled all others..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you, when your turn comes..... (Interruptions)

DR. RAJENDRA KUMAR BAIJAI (Sitapur): Sir, he is telling some wrong things. She was in the Congress. She was not expelled. She was leading the Congress Party. We were all with her. Shri Chandra Shekhar was with us. So, she was in the Congress. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I have only stated the fact. (Interruptions)

13.15 hrs.

RE: COVERAGE GIVEN BY DOORDARSHAN TO THE VIEWS OF THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MANDAL COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a great respect for Bhogendra Jha. I think, he would look up the history books and know that he has made a wrong statement. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am not going into that. I want to raise a very important issue. The issue is, today we are seeing all around us, problems on the question of the Mandal Commission's recommendations, its acceptance, orders, reservations etc. Suddenly it looks like that the Government out of desperation has resorted to misquoting and quoting out of context. Yesterday in Doordarshan we suddenly heard Shri Rajiv Gandhi was supposed to have given a statement. As the Leader of the Opposition, his statements are important. But no such statement has been given. Unfortunately, untruth has been said and it really amounts to a privilege as Leader of the Opposition being quoted when he has not made a statement at all. Such a situation should not come. I understand that some other Member has made some statement

[Sh. P. R. Kumaramangalam]

(Interruptions)

and they quoted that Member out of context who gave a statement with regard to his personal point of view. This is most unfortunate that they take it out and quote it out of context. I think a clarification should be carried that it was not a statement made by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It was the statement of somebody else where he has given his point of view. We are not saying that it is wrong. You take only what is convenient to you and leave the rest out. That is not a fair method of presentation of news. Similarly, on the same news, on the *Bandh* affair.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Naikji, please take your seat. Bajpaiji, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The misfortune is, this House has still not the opportunity to discuss it. The BAC has decided that either tomorrow or day after we may discuss it and at that time views of everybody would come. It is not necessary for the Government to quote out of context.

Another very important matter..... (Interruptions) I am saying in connection with this. I am not saying out of connection. We have seen yesterday Doordarshan reporting that the *Bandh* that was caused by students and youth was a failure. I think, this is a wrong reporting. But the issue is, there is a *Bandh* coming up tomorrow and schools have been closed. They do not mention anything about that in the news. They have adopted a technique of pure censorship, not editing at all. They will bring out news convenient to them, and news inconvenient, they will not. They will take out of context and quote. It is high time that Minister realises this. On the one hand, he moves the Prasar Bharti Bill and on the other hand, he does this. I do not know whether he thinks this as the last opportunity that he has. He is playing with the Doordarshan to the maximum possible extent.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Government should call all parties meeting and discuss this matter of reservation in depth so that a consensus is arrived at and the nation can solve this problem on the socio-economic reform. Otherwise, it is not right. That is my request.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, it is very unfair to expect the Minister to respond to every point raised here on a daily basis. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Deora, you go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: If I interfere to much they will say I am worse than Mr. K. K. Tewary and they still hold me responsible for every news item and every sentence broadcast there. This is a double standard policy. On this, they had alerted me in the morning and I got the details. I was based on a statement issued by Mr. Era Anbarasu, Secretary Congress (I) Party in Parliament. The last para says..... (Interruptions) You please have the patience. The last para says:

"Shri Rajiv Gandhi while welcoming the implementation of the recommendations of Mandal Commission specifically said that the Government should also bring about amendment to Constitution to provide reservation of jobs to the economically weaker sections of the society. Therefore, the Congress Party is very much committed to the progress of the socially and economically backward classes of the society as well as the economically weaker sections of the society."

And the bulletin Says:

"The Congress-I President Mr Rajiv Gandhi while welcoming the implementation of the recommendations of Mandal Commission has said that the Government should also bring forward an amendment to the Constitution to provide reservation of jobs to the economically weaker sections of society. The Congress-I Parliamentary Party Secretary Mr Era Anbarasu said in a statement that there is no provision in the Constitution for reservation on economic basis and the Prime Minister did not mention about this in Parliament. Regarding the proposal to make the right to work a fundamental right, he said such a step would be mockery in the absence of any serious attempts to generate job opportunities."

It is completely based on the exact sentences taken from the Statement

SHRI P R KUMARAMANGALAM It looks as though it is an extract of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's statement. It was not mentioned that it is the statement of Shri Anbarasu. It looks first Rajiv Gandhi's and then Anbarasu's statement. The attempt is to mislead. This is a desperate mischief.

SHRI P J KURIEN: You should have said Shri Anbarasu said like that. Don't say Shri Rajiv Gandhi said like that. You are very clever.....(Interruptions). He has admitted that Shri Rajiv Gandhi has not issued a Statement. He was quoting from Shri Anbarasu's statement. Doordarshan should have said that Mr Anbarasu said like this and not Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: That is what they say.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: The bulletin has said that Shri Rajiv Gandhi has said like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have said, the Minister has responded and Mr. kurien has also said. Now Mr. Gangwar to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) Mr Speaker, Sir, it was stated by the hon Food Minister in this House that in the rural areas of the country, Sugar is being distributed at the rate of 450 grams per unit. The hon Food Minister is present here. I would like to tell him that it is really unfortunate that in the villages of Uttar Pradesh, sugar is being distributed at the rate of 200 grams per unit. I would like to request the hon Minister that the festivals are approaching, so the quota of sugar in Uttar Pradesh should be raised, so that the people living in the rural areas of that state may be provided with more quantity of sugar.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) Mr Speaker, Sir, disrespect has been shown to the statue of Dr Ambedkar in Hyderabad. This act should be condemned here.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the situation is this that persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are not being recruited against the vacancies reserved for them in the services and the Government is also not coming out with the details regarding the total number of posts reserved for them and also the number of such posts which are lying vacant. Therefore, it is not known as to how many posts are lying vacant. There is ban on the new recruitment, but irrespective of that, the Government is making declarations regarding the new reservations. Today, it has proved the veracity of the following adage, 'Soot na kapas, Julahon main latham latha'.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Government to make a survey and in form the general public in respect of the number of reserved posts still lying vacant in the services. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag) I want to bring to the notice of the Government the incident of one ex-MLA of the National Conference who has been

[Sh. Piyare Lal Handoo]

shot dead yesterday when he was on his way to his home. We have been repeatedly asking the Government to ensure security of political activists in Kashmir generally and in the rural areas particularly on the Punjab type. After the promulgation of the President's Rule we had hoped that things would improve, but yesterday an activist of the Janata Dal and an ex-MLA of the National Conference were shot at—one was dead yesterday and the other is dying in the hospital. We appeal to the Government that immediate steps must be taken to ensure that political activists remain mobile and politically active. They should be provided security immediately on the Punjab type.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than a thousand employees of the National Projects Construction Corporation have been on a peaceful *Dharna* near the Parliament House for about three weeks. The Government has turned a deaf ear to it. It is a violation of its previous commitment. Even the commitment of the present Minister of Water Resources is not being implemented.

I want to submit that we value the very existence of the NPCC. In Bihar, in 1984, it has been allotted the construction of a syphon across the river, Kamla, on western Kosi canal. The NPCC dithered for five years and it did not even begin the work.

This year, the new Government have again awarded and accepted the tender of the NPCC for the same job. We are serious that they should implement it. If the NPCC constructs the syphon, then all these employees can be absorbed. Neither they are beginning the work nor are they allowing the employees to resume the work. Only for this, they are resorting to *dharna* without following any violent methods.

I urge upon you to direct the Minister to make a statement in the House and also

begin negotiations with the employees who are on *dharna*.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR (Quilon): Sir, Indians from the Gulf are now returning in two planes every day. They are being fleeced and given inhuman treatment by the Customs. You know, they have come with whatever belongings they could take. Yesterday, one person came with a small TV. He was wearing a lungi. He had nothing else. He had no money on his person. He was charged Rs. 6,000 for that TV. So, we desire that Government should give instructions to the Customs that up to Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 5,000, there should not be any duty.

Also, the Railways are giving Rs. 25 only to these people to travel for three days to Kerala. They must give a decent amount. Under the present conditions, it is a very small amount. It is insulting to them. So, instructions may be given by the Government speedily.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch to reassemble at 2.30 P.M.

13.28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[English]

The Lok Sabha re-assemble after Lunch at thirty four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE: PRIVATISATION OF NATIONALISED BANKS - CONTD.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, in the morning, a point was raised regarding privatisation of banks and

there was a demand that Mr Shastri should clarify it. So, Mr Shastri would like to clarify that point now.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) MR Deputy Speaker Sir, I wish to clarify that there is no proposal by the Government to privatise nationalised banks. What had happened was on Sunday, there was an open house discussion in Baroda in which I had participated. There were a number of suggestions given for improving the functioning of the banks. There was also a speaker who stated that when 115 foreign branches can give a profit of Rs 100 crores, why 55000 nationalised branches could give us a profit of only Rs 65 crores. There was also a suggestion that five banks can be privatised by the Government on an experimental basis. But I said that this is a matter which concerns so many people and it could be taken up as a national debate. I would like to once again clarify and reiterate the Government's stand in this matter that there is no proposal whatsoever to privatise any nationalised bank.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) Even then Sir, such a statement made by the Government is highly objectionable. That gives a wrong signal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA He says that he did not make any statement.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE He has responded to in this manner that this is a subject which can be discussed. He says that the Government has no policy.

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI In the open house or seminar, suggestions come and anything can be on a national debate. What is on a national debate today is the malfunctioning and the deterioration in the services of the nationalised banks. There is a Calling Attention Motion going on in the Rajya Sabha malfunctioning and deterioration in the services of the nationalised banks. So, this is a matter which can be taken up by people in the open

house discussion. If a suggestion comes, we cannot stop it. If the matter has to be debated, it can be debated and if there is any suggestion which can improve the working of the banks, I think we all will be happy with it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE One can talk about the malfunctioning of the public sector banks. One can also talk about the malfunctioning of the Government. Therefore, does that mean that you should privatise the Government? That can be the subject matter of the discussion. The point is that false alternatives have been posed. One is profitable and the other is not. The functions are different. Does any foreign bank give loan to the poorer section of the population? So, what I request through you, Sir, is that if any Minister of the Government is accommodating even to this extent that this is a question which has to be discussed then it gives a wrong signal to the country. Particularly, in the context of this I would like to say that all segments of the House are critical about the industrial policy and about the liberalisation policy and if such a hint is there then one does not know where the country will go. I, therefore, request that the Government should be more cautious in their pronouncement and indicate absolutely firmly that there is no consideration of such matters at all.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV Sir, the news item attributed that the Minister has suggested it and now the Minister is saying that the suggestion came from one of the participants. If that is the case then an official statement should be released and just telling the Parliament is not all right. You have clarified it here but it should come in the news.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER I think that Hon. Minister has categorically stated that there is no proposal. Are you saying that you have not made a statement?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI What I would like to say is that in the open house discussion, as the hon. Members are aware, anybody is

[Sh. Anil Shastri]

free to say whatever he likes. He can give any suggestion he likes otherwise the same member will complain that the Deputy Finance Minister was trying to censor the open house.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): The remark was made by one of the participants and the Minister was present there. He should have reacted to it stating the Government of India's point of view in that regard. On the other hand he has said that this is a suggestion and there should be a national dialogue on it. Therefore, this means that the Government is also of the view that this kind of discussion should be taken up by the people as a whole. That gives a wrong signal. I must say that.

14.40 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to introduce EMU train service between Arakkonam and Madras** (406 377)

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Sir, at present, there is an EMU train service starting from Arakkonam at 8.30 AM and reaching Madras Central at about 10.00 AM. There is also an express train starting from Jolarpet at about 7.15 AM touching Arakkonam and reaching Madras Central at about 9.00 AM. But this train is already full before it touches Arakkonam railway station.

Sir, there are more than 20,000 people belonging to different walks of life who are residing in Arakkonam and in the neighbouring areas who are finding it extremely difficult to reach Madras Central daily. The above-mentioned trains are already running to full

capacity as they cater to various segments of commuters.

It is, therefore, requested that the Railway Ministry should take immediate steps to introduce an EMU service starting from Arakkonam at about 7.45 or 8.00 AM reaching Madras Central at about 9.15 AM and in the evening the same service should be introduced starting from Madras Central at about 6.30 PM reaching Arakkonam at about 7.45 PM so that the plight of the commuters is mitigated to a great extent.

(ii) **Need for expeditious completion of upper Bhadra Project in Karnataka** (406 377)

[English]

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga): The long pending Upper Bhadra Project is considered as panacea to the drought hit Chitradurga district. The project if implemented would be a boon to many taluks in Tumkur and Kolar districts also. The people of Karnataka especially from the drought hit Chitradurga, Kolar and Tumkur are urging for the immediate implementation of this vital project on priority basis.

The Planning Commission would be providing only 30 crores of rupees for the irrigation projects in Karnataka during the current year and it is apprehended that this important project may not be implemented in the near future. It is very essential to take up this project immediately to save the poor farmers. The percentages of irrigated land in Karnataka is the lowest when compared to the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to expedite the sanction of this key irrigational project and allocate at least 150 crores of rupees during the current financial year to complete it.

*Translation of the speech originally raised in Tamil.

(iii) **Need to set up an electronic telephone exchange at Rosera (Bihar)** (MUR 377)

[Translation]

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Rosera): All the telephones in Ghanshyampur, Biraul, Kusheshwar and Hasanpur divisions of Rosera constituency in Bihar have been out of order since 1987. Despite repeated complaints from the public, nothing has been done to set the telephones in order. The telephone lines of all the afore-said divisions have been connected with the Khagaria exchange, whereas these should have been connected with Darbhanga and Samastipur exchanges. Moreover, there is an urgent need of an electronic exchange at Rosera. The Rosera telephone exchange had been shifted to Dal Singh Sarai in contravention of the rules.

I would, therefore, like to urge upon the Government to set up a new electronic exchange at Rosera and to get all the telephones in the entire constituency set in order at the earliest.

(iv) **Need to develop Champaran into a popular tourist resort** (MUR 377)

[English]

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA (Bettiah): Sir, the districts of East and West Champaran, originally Champaran, is the Karambhumi of Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation where from Gandhiji started in 1917 the freedom movement to free the motherland from the bondage of British Salavery. It is mere coincidence that nearly 23 hundred years after the birth of Chandragupta Maurya at village Rampurva, West Champaran, Gandhiji reached almost the same vilage and kneeled down to flight the Nilahas i.e. the British Indigo planters from his Bhitiharawa Ashram. Rampurva and Bhitiharawa are almost adjacent being hardly 1 km. apart. There are many other world famous historical and tourist sights in Champaran like Loria Nandangarh, Chankigarh,

Loria Araraj etc. market by 5 Ashokan pillars not to be found anywhere in the world. The Bull capital, one of the Ashokan pillars at Rampurva stands before the Darbar Hall at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, while the lion capital of the second Rampurva pillar is still at Calcutta museum. The Ashokan pillars with lion capital mark Champaran as the land of renunciation by Sidhartha who subsequently became world famous Gautam Buddha and the route he took to, there after to Champran is also the land of Valmiki, the great saint. To promote the glarious past of India it is imperative that the Buddhist circuit be extended from Vaishali to the above sights of Champaran and Champaran be brought on the national and international tourist map through development of tourist infrastructure.

(v) **Need to give recognition to the electropathy system of medicine** (MUR 377)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH (Sidhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Under Rule 377 I would like to submit here that four systems of medicines viz. allopathy, Homeopathy, Unani and Ayurveda, have been popular in our country for the past many years. They have all been recognised by the Ministry of Health. Another system of medicine, called Electropathy or Electrohomeopathy is being spread and propagated by N.E.H.M. of India. Sixty medical institutions in the country are offering three year diploma course in B.I.M.S. Upon the request of the N.E.H.M. of India, New Delhi, the Health Minisry constituted a committee to give recognition to this system of medicine. This five member committee consisted of four allopathic Doctors and one Homeopathic Doctor. Although the time given to the committee for this purpose is over, it is yet to submit its report to the Health Ministry. This system, which is much more effective, beneficial and haromless as compared to other systems of medicines should be given due recognition. I request the hon. Minister of State of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ask for the

[Sh. Jaganath Singh]

committee's report within one week and lay it on the Table of the House, immediately. The Government should protect and patronise the N.E.H.M. of India, New Delhi and ensure bright future for this system of medicine.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before raising the matter under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of your goodself and the august House towards the problems being faced by sportsmen including Gold-medalists of Bikaner (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the approved text will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Before raising the matter under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the plight of our Gold-medalists. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, not like that.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall look into it myself. Why are you interrupting unnecessarily?

(*Interruptions*)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not form part of the proceedings.

(*Interruptions*)

(vi) **Need to take adequate steps to promote cycling competitions particularly in Bikaner, Rajasthan** *1 AUG 377*

[Translation]

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Under Rule 377 I would like to submit that Bikaner city and its adjoining areas have always held a prominent place in the field of sports in the country. For the past twenty years, players from that area have topped the national level cycling competitions. It won't be an exaggeration to call Bikaner 'Road king'. When we see the performance of our sportsmen in Olympics and Asian Games, our heads hang in shame. In a country of 83 crore people. There is no lack of talent. Unfortunately, we do not care for our talented sportsmen and those who have won gold medals at national level, though we lavishly spent crores of rupees for constructing flyovers etc., during Asiad. There are no proper arrangements for providing even good food to them.

Sir, there are many cycling champions in Bikaner who have won dozens of medals including Gold medals at national level competitions and who aspire to establish new national and international records, but unfortunately, their dreams and aspirations are getting frustrated due to poverty. There is also no provision to provide these talented people jobs, on which they can bank upon for their sustenance nor are there any arrangements to provide them good food. They do not have either track or stadium facilities, or coaches to train them. Bikaner has a cycling track but the problem is that the coaches there do not permit them to practice there. If both the State and Central Governments pay even a little attention towards providing them good food, making arrangements for employment and coaching, it is certain that Bikaner will produce cycling champions of international standards, who will keep the country's flag flying at championships.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): I am on a point of order. I dare raise it because he belongs to our party. I have seen that again and again, from different sections of the house various things are displayed in the House which is highly objectionable in terms of our rules. I am mentioning this case in particular because he belongs to my party. Nobody will object to this. On the other day ahirts were displayed from this side and from that side on another side again shirts were displayed. I distinctly remember that when I was a Member of the other House I was asked to apologise next morning by the Chair.

Now, perhaps in our very democratic mood in the House bordering on anarchy, we are permitting all these things. Perhaps this is due to ignorance also. I, therefore, humbly submit to you, that for refreshing the memory of all the Members of the House, in the bulletin let it be mentioned that no such physical things can be displayed here inside the House; and tomorrow something else may be displayed. So, in order to make this humble submission to you I have stood up. I have completed my statement. Thank you.

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): One of the present Ministers Prof. Madhu Dandavate once exhibited a revolver in the House. Where was this theory then? Nothing was done. No apology was tendered.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: My point, is, what should be done?

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hashiar-pur): Why did he mention about Rajya Sabha?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why are you talking across, Mr. Kamal Chaudhry? The point is very well taken. I know that the hon. Member also knows it. It is not necessary for us to inform him about it. But even though it is not in order we will take it in good spirit and we will think that the Member will not do it in the future, and we will stop it here only. It is

no necessary to circulate anything. It is already in the papers. The hon. Member is a quite responsible member. He has been behaving properly. Sometimes, if he has done it, he has not said it with any bad intention. Now, Shri P.C. Thomas.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: You give him permission to sue me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, that is crossing the limits. I have objection to your doing it. Yes, Mr. Thomas.

(vii) **Need to develop the hilly areas of Melukavu in Meenachil Taluk in Kottayam district of Kerala** (MUV 377)

SHRI P. C. TOMAS (Muvattupuzha): The hilly areas of Melukavu in Meeanachil Taluk in Kottayam district in Kerala thickly inhabited by hill tribes is in a deplorable condition due to scarcity of road facilities. I request the Government to sanction funds from the Central Road funds and/or any other schemes for developing this area by construction of proper roads connecting areas like Nellappara, Kolani, Mechal, Erumapra, etc. This will be a great relief to the economically backward thickly populated hill tribe area.

(viii) **Need to revive M/s Bengal Enamel Works Ltd, West Bengal** (MUV 377)

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL (Calcutta North West): M/s. Bengal Enamel Works Ltd. in West Bengal which was established with active guidance, support and co-operation from the late Acharya P.C. Roy during the "Swadesh Movement" in the year 1921 is lying closed though the expert committee has found the factory is a viable company. It has caused hardship to workers and more than twenty workers have committed suicide to avoid starvation. There is immediate need to look into the proposal already forwarded to the Ministry of Industry for revival of the Company. The revival of the company would provide work to thousands of starving work-

[Dr. Debi Prosad Pal]

ers of the company. Therefore, I request the Government to give adequate financial assistance for revival of the company.

14.55 hrs.

PRASAR BHARATI (BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF INDIA) BILL-

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Bill for consideration motion for which was moved on 21 August, 1990

Mr. A.N. Singh Deo to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA (Rajahmundry): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir are you postponing the discussion on Atrocities on women?

[English]

Many ladies are in the list.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They will discuss with each other and we will see later. Mr. A.N. Singh Deo.

SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO (Aska): Sir, Broadcasting was brought to India somewhere around 20s and '30s. Since then, the then Government kept the broadcasting under its control and it became a regular part of the Government. Even after independence, you will see that the pattern that was set by the British Government was followed by the Congress Government and up-till now, the electronic media, i.e. the All India Radio and the television, was completely under the control of Government. Naturally it was the Government which utilised this media for its own purpose. It is well known that

some time ago for AIR, we used to say 'All India Radio'. Naturally when our friends on the opposite side, Congress Party, talk about giving autonomy to the electronic media, they are confused over the whole issue. With the result, one Member criticised the Bill and said that there is no autonomy in the Prasar Bharati Bill while another Member clearly said that their Party does not believe in autonomy and they want to keep the media under the Government control.

I would refer to the speech of my hon. friend Shri Krishna Kumar and quote:

"This Bill goes beyond the genuine requirements of functional autonomy and takes this Powerful media's outside the influence and control of not only the political executive."

So, his whole argument is that this media must be kept under the political executive, that is the Government, so that the Government can utilise this media for its own publicity for aggrandisement of individual functionaries and their policies and programmes. He also says:

"Congress Party is only for the functional autonomy and not for divesting the electronic media totally of the direction and control of Parliament and the executive."

Sir, in the name of Parliament, many Members have said that Parliament should have the control over it. But as our friend and senior Member Advaniji has said yesterday that the control of parliament also means the control of the majority party in Parliament, that is the Government. So, indirectly they are saying that this media should not go out of the control of the Government and also Parliament.

Sir, another friend Mr. Vasant Sathe has said that every Party before the elections mentioned in their manifesto that autonomy should be given to the broadcasting media, the electronic media and, therefore, they are supporting this view.

15.00 hrs.

But on the other hand, he says that there is no autonomy in this Bill. Now according to his definition autonomy means autonomous government. He says that there is no difference about giving autonomy to the Doordarshan and Radio, but the autonomy means the power or the right of self-Government. Now we have yet to learn that autonomy of a particular self-government can be said about the broadcasting media. The broadcasting media has no self-government. Probably Mr. Sathe will say that the autonomy of the state is not complete because of IAS cadre does not have a representation in the Cabinet. Because 30,000 officers have no representation or they are not kept in charge of the management—the MD is ignored, the directors are ignored—so it is not autonomy. So we are still to learn autonomy from Mr. State. According to him any corporation which does not give representation or does not give management to the directors or officials it has not autonomy.

Another point was being made by some of my friends from this side also that the works should also have participation in it. The policy of the National Front Government is to have participation of the workers in industry. You cannot say that Doordarshan or Prasar Bharati or the corporation which we are going to create is an industry. It is an agency which has come about for a specific purpose, to take over the power of the electronic media from the Government because it has used it very badly in the past, and create an autonomous body so that media will be free. We cannot have a completely free media like the press. As we know, throughout the world, this electronic media has gained importance. Every country has its own pattern of managing the broadcasting media. One extreme is in America where the media is completely free. It is in the private hands. Then we come to the other extreme i.e. the communist countries where the media is completely under the control of the Government. So we are somewhere in the middle where we cannot completely give the broadcasting media to private enterprise nor do we want it to be

controlled fully by the Government

It was pointed out by one senior Member yesterday that it was the Congress policy which wanted to hand over the whole media to the private enterprise. But unfortunately, when this idea was frustrated by the present Government they are coming with double talks. One person says that we should not create this agency. Another person says that is not a proper autonomy.

I want to point out another point that is made by our friend Shri Vasant Sathe. He said that the media would be in a worst position because of not only this amount would go out of Government's hands, but those people will also become slaves of capitalists. These capitalists will control the whole system. Now, this is a peculiar argument. At one point they say we should make it a free media, as in America, give it to private hands, namely, capitalists. Now, this amounts to criticising themselves. So, we can understand the dilemma of our friends, who are like what you say between the devil and the deep sea. When they say they welcome this Broadcasting Corporation or this Prasar Bharati, this will go against their very aim because they had not done it for so many years. Now, they want to take a credit that it is in their election manifesto. If it is in their election manifesto, I want to ask them there were so many election manifestos earlier. Had they included this media should be taken out of the Government control and entrusted to an agency like Prasar Bharati. What were they doing for the last 20-30 years. Why did they not take it out of the hands of the Government. Because it is well known that the media which was, as was planned, was only for the skew of the propaganda and the party in power. Therefore, it is the commitment of the National Front Government that this Bill should be brought and the electronic media should be taken out of the control of the Government.

Now, they have said the Prasar Bharati which is going to be created, it will not do the necessary which is necessary for a broadcasting media under the constitution.

[Sh. A.N. Singh Deo]

But, I would draw your attention to Section 12 of the act which says:

- (2) The Corporation shall, in the discharge of its functions, be guided by the following objectives, namely:—
 - (a) upholding the unity and integrity of the country and the democratic and social values enshrined in the Constitution;

I think this is sufficient. Not only that you further read. There are so many conditions, how the Prasar Bharati will be bound by this statute. They have to do these functions. They have to look to women's welfare, they have to look to the welfare of the backward sections. They have to look to the welfare of the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. They have to look promoting sports. They have to look to promoting social justice and combat social exploitation. All the principles we followed in our Constitution—fundamental rights and fundamental duties—they have been entrusted to this Prasar Bharati. So, how can you say that Prasar Bharati would go out of the Constitutions, to negate the Constitution. I think what they fear is, that is that the Prasar Bharati will go into criticising the functions of the Executive and the Government which they do not like. He says the Chairman must be an experienced administrator having experience in Management, the broadcasting, education and such other fields. He says this is too much for a person to have, so you cannot find a person like that. Then he says the finance provision is that there will be a person of having knowledge of practical experience in respect of financial matters and the Government. Now, he says you cannot find a person. In a vast country like India when we can get administrators, parliamentarians of experience, Prime Minister and Ministers of experience who can hold their own against any other similar functionaries in the world, why cannot we have these functionaries. Probably what our friends, on the other side mean is that Gov-

ernors should have the sort of experience which was there when the Congress was in power. In my view, probably they would have welcomed such persons who have eminence in expressing loyalty to the leadership. According to their version, they must be loyal to the leader. The Executive Governor should have experience in sycophancy, should be able to browbeat the media, should be an expert in forging documents, and should be an expert in giving disinformation. The Governor in charge of Finance should be able to settle deals like Bofors, etc. Therefore, I would say that Prasar Bharati is a commitment of not only the Janata Dal as such but of the Janta Party and of all those who are sitting on this side. It has been a commitment for several years.

I have brought an amendment and I would like to say a few words on that. I agree with many Members how have said that the Parliament at least should have a say in the scheme of things. Therefore, I have brought an amendment where I have said that the members of the committee to advise the President to select the Board of Governors should have Members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. I would also agree and endorse the view of many Members that there should be a body of Parliament, like other Committees, such as, Public Undertakings Committee, at least to oversee the functioning of the Prasar Bharati. I come to learn that our senior Member, Shri Advaniji has brought an amendment, which may be accepted by the Government... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): They have agreed to it. Is not it?

SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO: I do not know that. The Minister will say. But I would endorse this view.

The second thing is that there is one aspect in Prasar Bharati which should not be forgotten, and that is the aspect that India is a federal country; it is not a unitary country. So, in a federal country, the media also must be decentralised. Unfortunately, what is happening is, the proposed Broadcasting

Corporation or Prasar Bharati is completely a centralised organisation. We may not have a fully decentralised media. In fact, there was a demand—if I remember correctly, our ex-Chief Minister, Mr. Hegde had made that demand—that the second channel should be entrusted to the States. Well, we may not go into that point, but at least we should be entrusted to the states. Well, we may not go into that point, but at least we should see that the Regional Broadcasting Centres, the Regional Doordarshan should have a separate council which should have the power to go into all the matters that are entrusted to the Central Council. Otherwise what will happen is we will have only the centralised Broadcasting Corporation where the whole of the country has to listen to what is broadcast from here.

Some time back I was in Calcutta and I visited the zoo there. There is a peculiar animal there which I found is cross between a tiger and a lion. They call it 'tilon'. The morning Doordarshan programme is something like that. In the morning programme, one sentence is spoken in Hindi and the next sentence is spoken in English. So, neither the person who knows Hindi able to understand the whole programme, nor the person who knows English. I do not know the who has introduced this cross between English and Hindi. I will call it 'Hinglish'. Why is this half Hindi and half English? So, we should bring in proper supervision over this agency so that the regional languages are given a proper place.

With these words, I support this Bill and hope the Minister will accept some of the progressive measures which we have suggested, and the House will pass this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI M J AKBAR (Kishanganj) Sir, may I seek your indulgence to raise a matter of very great urgency on which I think we in the House required a clarification. The PTI report says that the Union Minister, Mr. Dinesh Goswami has resigned. Sir, we know that the Government has been riven apart because of mismanagement of the Assam

problems and there have been internal differences. There is a rift between Ministers. We have heard the Union Finance Minister and the Home Minister talking with different voices. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow) How is the House concerned about this?

SHRI K J AKBAR Sir, the Government's clarification is required.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH I have a point of order. Kindly enlighten us whether some one of us get a news flash from somewhere—it might be from the PTI or a lightening call from the sky—is the House bound to take notice of such submission and waste its time? If somebody has resigned, he will come and make a statement in the House. (Interruptions) Sir, you please give your ruling.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) The PTI has given this news. It is important for the House to know if the Minister has submitted his resignation, as reported by the PTI. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here. He should inform us whether such a thing has happened. It cannot be a rumour because it is from the PTI.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Well, a point of order was raised and some points have also been raised. Now, if the Members are interested to know as to what has happened, the representative of the Government is here. He may respond in whatever manner they like. But I am not going to allow a discussion on this point.

Now, Mr. Pal, are you interested to speak on the Bill?

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West) He is not verifying. I will go and verify the position.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Kusuma Krishnamurthy

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY (Amalapuram) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir

SHRI D.P. PAL (Calcutta Northwest): Sir, I am here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I called you to speak. Now, I have called Mr. Krishna Murthy to speak. He will speak now.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY (Amlapuram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, any sincere effort to create one more institution to make our democratic set up vibrant functional needs of the people of India, it is quite welcome. Probably, with this objective, in mind, the Government introduced this Bill initially. The Prasar Bharati Bill was introduced in the very first session of the 9th Lok Sabha, that is, on 29th December 1989. Sir, in the Preamble of the Bill, it was clearly stated that the declared policy of the Government was to confer autonomy on Akashvani and Doordarshan. It is not just an autonomy, but a genuine autonomy. Whenever a non-Congress Government comes into power, we always listen about the word genuine. In 1977, when Janata came to power Sir, after introducing this Bill, the Government made many exercises involving many people from different walks of life. Meeting were held; seminars were conducted; thousands of opinions were processed through computers and they came to conclusion. I was really happy that an important exercise was done to create an institution which is very significant for the democratic set up of our country. Later on the Government brought some Amendment and again they brought Amendments to the Amendment. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister specifically after computersing thousands of opinions whether they have suggested to introduce Sections 22A 22B and 22C with sweeping power which furnished the promised autonomy in the Bill. It gives a clear understanding slowly why those amendments were dropped finally of this Bill. The Government was not clear as to what kind of basic concepts they are introduced in the Bill. Which they brought it hastily. The clear analysis of the Corporation which they are going to create gives the impression that it is neither genuine nor autonomous.

In 1977-79 when the Janata Govern-

ment was in power, they all also used to shout at the top of their voice that they were going to create an autonomous body for Akashvani and Doordarshan. Accordingly the responsibility was entrusted to the Verghese Committee. It mooted for the first time in India Prasar Bharati concept with a high degree of autonomy. And almost 10 years ago the then Information and Broadcasting Minister Shri L.K. Advani introduced the Prasar Bharati Bill in this Lok Sabha, I think it on 1st May 1979. In fact, yesterday Mr. Advani was telling that he was very happy because whatever he started is going to be realised now. But in fact with all the clauses be introduced in the Bill he created almost a creature of the Government giving a place for the secretary of Finance, Secretary of Information and Broadcasting and Director-General. In that respect Mr. Upendra improved the Bill. But later on, in the other concept that is the Complaints Board which was created in Mr. Advani's Bill has some powers. In fact, when I was asking this thing from Mr. Advani he was not agreeing. Sir, I will read out this portion from Mr. Advani's Bill as follows:—

"The Complaints Boards shall, for the purpose of this Act, have the same powers as are vested in a court under the Code of civil Procedure, 1908."

He gave some powers to it. but in the Broadcasting Council was created without any voice.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN in
the Chair]

15.23 hrs.

Sir, a very important thing is, it is not important whether you are introducing Governors or Governors-General or in whatever name you call the Members of the Corporation, nor are we are very much interested about the numbers of members of the Corporation. How you are constituting the Corporation is very important. How are your constituting the Corporation? The President appoints the Chairman and the other Governors on the advice of a Committee consisting

of Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Chariman of the Press Council of India and—very important—his won nominee It is very interesting, Sir The President of India is made to depend upon the advice of his own nominee can give I do not know what kind of independent opinion his nominee let alone a contradictory opinion Is it not a mockery of the autonomy when the President of India is made to depend upon his own nominee for his advice?

The second and equally important thing is, through their, the Government intended to constitute the whole Corporation through their own nominees This is a very important aspect The hon Member from other side who spoke just now, also agreed with this point that this clause should not be there The very important aspect is that all major decision of the Corporation will be taken by a majority votes of Governors present and voting Unless they are drawn from different walks of life, independent life, how they are able to exercise their franchise fairly and freely? How they are going to achieve the objective, the purpose and the autonomy with this kind of set up? Therefore, I gave an amendment that in place of the 'nominee' of the President, we create an opportunity for an independent body for a democratic set up

The other important aspect is the functions of the Corporation If the Corporation is made to discharge the functions of the Corporation through 'ifts' and 'buts' under various pressures, it would nullify the very concept of autonomy I would like to draw the hon Minister's attention to section 12(2) (b) wherein he has made it very clear that they are not allowed to express their own opinion When it is made to work under the guidance of the Government completely, it would not be able to serve its purpose When the Bill was introduced, the Minister referred about the BBC I also studied and understood about the BBC when I was in London I know the concept very well We cannot compare with the kind of autonomy which the BBC is enjoying I can quote an example for this During Falkland war, the BBC released a news item fairly, freely, frankly and truthfully

that embarrassed the Government of Mrs Margare Thatcher Not only that, I would like to quote a historical event When Napoleon was defeated in the battle of Waterloo, a very important historical event the whole world know about that historical event, except the French people Until Napoleon was driven out from France to Elba, the French people were not allowed to know this truth because the media was totally controlled When you are controlling the media, you are denying democratic rights of the people to know information In section 22 (b) you are giving directions to the media under which it has to act That means you are interfering in the day—today affairs of the Corporation If that is the case what is the autonomy you are promising to give? In the amendment 22 (b) you have created a warning clause that if the Corporation does not comply with the directions you will prepare a report and lay it on the Table of the House In the presence of that section 22 is contradictory Then, you have brought three important amendments 22(a), 22(b) and 22(c) In 22(b) you have empowered the President to supersede the Board of Governors and later you have dropped it In 22(c), you have given the President the powers to suspend the very act of Prasar Bharati under emergency, again you have dropped that also Then, you have made a lot of exercises I do not know who has suggested you to introduce this amendment Yesterday only I came to know that it has been dropped only on the advice of the supporting part is I came to know about it when Mr Advani mentioned about it yesterday Under section 22(c) in the original Bill you gave an opportunity to the Corporation to justify the demanding of information That clause was there for carrying on its objectives and later it was removed You have taken full powers to demand whenever or whatever information you want The other important thing is the Broadcasting Council You have borrowed the concept and the phraseology from the BBC The BBC has a Chairman, you also have Chairman The BBC used 'Governors' and you have also used 'Governors' The BBC has a general advisory council and you have a Broadcasting Council But in the BBC, the Chairman

[Sh. Kusuma Krishna Murthy]

the General Advisory Council involve in the policy matters, whereas in this case even the report given by this Broadcasting Council will not be accepted. Therefore, I gave an amendment. If you want to introduce a body for the purpose of checks and balances, then it should have some powers; otherwise, it does not serve any purpose at all. Therefore, when you constitute the Broadcasting Council, it should be broad-based; it should not only have the recommendatory powers but its powers should be mandatory. When you come to the financial autonomy of the corporation under section 19, originally corporation has some powers to revise the estimates of Corporation of course, with the advice of the Government. Later on, you have removed that clause. You have taken the full powers and the total financial autonomy of the Corporation is nullified. If financial autonomy is not there, then the other autonomy is insignificant. When funds are allocated to the Corporation, under you terms and conditions it must be left to it for day to day functioning. As long as their expenditure is subjected to the audit of the Comptroller and Auditor General and later on to the scrutiny of Parliament, you need not worry about it. But the more dangerous thing is, if you leave it to the commercial organisation, they will be vulnerable in the discharge of their functions. For that, care should be taken. Apart from that the Minister is also talking about the autonomy and comparing with the autonomy of the election Commission, the Judiciary, and the UPSC. I think, he is quite aware of their position. Election Commission has the autonomy under Article 324 and the Representation of the People Act is there. Article 124 gives independence to the judiciary. No Government can touch its independence. Similar articles 145 give autonomy to UPSC. We cannot compare these institutions with the type of autonomy you are giving to the media. At best, you can create your own style of autonomy. Yesterday, Mr. Advani was telling, Congress Government had done such things equal to not in one Khula Manch but hundreds of Khula Manches. But in a short period this Govern-

ment have done unbelievable things. I quote an example. Known and unknown Khula Manch are being implemented in the Information & Broadcasting Ministry under the hon. Minister's direction. We went to our parliamentary constituency where the Minister came. He fixed the programme without consulting me. But in deference to the wishes of my people, I went there. For inauguration of TV transmitter, I presided over the meeting. The following day evening, in the local TV it was shown like this: My portion was cut off and the Minister and a defeated Telugu Dasam MLA were shown. I presided over the meeting and he inaugurated it. What does it mean? The Minister while introducing the Bill said that he wanted to restore the credibility of the media. Is it the way to restore the credibility of the media. He said, there was large scale misuse of the media. In yesterday evenings news of Doordarshan Rajivi was quoted in news item. Our general body of parliamentary meeting was held on 9th of August and this news item relates that and where is the need for it to quote it now. But for their convenience, the portions which are useful to them they quote those portions and this distortion of facts is a regular feature for them.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): That was issued yesterday.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: I am talking about the meeting held on the 9th August. Therefore, when you are taking about restoring credibility, stopping large scale misuse of media, you should search you heart. Here, you must know, what kind of system you are creating. I do not advice advise you to copy somebody else. In Australia, in the broadcasting system a high degree of autonomy is there. In Canada, there is a mixed system of private and public. In China and Russia, it is totally controlled by the State. In Japan and America, it is a highly commercialised and privatised. In U.K., there is a high degree of autonomy. What kind of system you are creating? You must make it clear. Even today you are not clear about the

concepts You are oscillating Somebody suggests something and you are not able to decide You made a tremendous exercise to give an impression that you were creating a democratic set up Finally you have brought very startling amendments and again you have withdrawn it some of them

Therefore if the intentions of the Government are clear and if they want to create an autonomy, our politicians and professionals who are capable enough to give a shape to our various national policies and make our democracy vibrant If their intentions are sincere, it is not very difficult for them to create an autonomy Therefore if you really wanted to create an autonomy, you make it very clear In the name of autonomy you are creating something else and still you are saying it is an autonomy We are not going to support that kind of setup Therefore, I would like to state very clearly that the Bill as it is giving the impression that you are creating an autonomy but at the same time you are nullifying the total autonomy and make it an agency of the Government to suit your requirements Therefore about the Bill, as it is unless the amendments which we have moved are accepted I totally oppose this Bill

15.35 hrs

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow) Mr Chairman, at the outset I would like to congratulate the National Front Government and Shri P. Upendra in particular on bringing up the baby that was conceived during the previous regime of Janata Party and now that baby has come of age because it has attained the age on only 13 or 14 The baby was originally conceived by our leader our previous colleague, Shri L. K. Advani Now the baby is 13 or 14 years old

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): We will deliver it

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: As we have now given voting rights to persons attaining the age of 18, I hope and pray that by that

time when the baby attains the age of 18 (*Interruptions*) What objection?

MR CHAIRMAN No comments please

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH You will protect me from those who are trying to interrupt me unnecessarily I am yet to provoke them

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM We are not provoking We are responding (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH I was simply congratulating the Government for not conceiving which was conceived much earlier I am congratulating for producing the baby which is still passing through the teens and it will attain the age of 18 in some more time (*Interruptions*) I hope you fully understand what I mean Anyway, after offering congratulations, I would also like to thank in the same breath some of the speakers from the Opposition and one of them was former Minister for Information & Broadcasting who spoke vehemently yesterday by hurling abuses in the choicest possible phraseology that was at his disposal I have not taken copious notes but certainly I noted down certain words and I missed this paper this morning But somehow I could catch hold of it this afternoon and some of the phrases used by the former I & B Minister are—that is for your consideration and for the consideration of our senior leaders like Shri V. N. Gadgil and certainly not of youth leaders like Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam That poor creature called Mr P. Upendra is expected to

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) You cannot call him a creature

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH I am not calling him a teacher I am calling him a creature and you are also a creature I am also a creature All are creatures We are all created by nature I hope you will improve your vocabulary very soon Consult some dictionary I should not address him directly

Probably the hon. Minister and the ex-

[Sh. Mandhata Singh]

Ministers sitting on the opposite benches also, those creatures are only animals but not human beings. He is under the wrong impression. Anyway, I am not going to indulge in linguistics at the present moment. Anyway, I am yet to take off. After offering my congratulations, I was coming to the thanks giving part. Thanks are due to those persons who held responsible position, held even the rank of the I & B Minister. They chose to use the phraseology which I mentioned earlier. I referred to the present Minister as creature, as that creation of nature. They accused him of filling the Board of Governors with a coterie of people. Everybody in this House knows how this world coterie came into prominence during the last few years. It doesn't need any elaboration. *(Interruptions)* It seems to me that they seem to be haunted by their own shadows even now. *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: They cannot go beyond that.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: They are being constantly haunted by their own shadows. The sins committed by them during the past years are there. I will not name any Member or name any person but all the people are intelligent enough to understand what I mean. *(Interruptions)* Please bear with me for a while. Your hair is as grey as mine. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Then you should have been more wise. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I could tolerate men with black hairs. But to me it is very shocking that even a senior and aged person like you—is not prepared to bear with me. I must thank the National Front Government for bringing forward this Bill.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Do you mean you tolerate Shri Upendra

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I thank all the Members of the National Front Government including the supporting parties in this regard... *(Interruptions)* We should thank those who chose this auspicious occasion, this august occasion and the platform of this august House to hurl abuses at the man who has the guts to come forward with this Bill which probably has created a legislative history. I am not competent to speak about the history of the Lok Sabha. I have been serving the legislature elsewhere. I was looking through the list of the amendments. I thank this Secretariat also which came out with a gist of the amendments today. I tried to count their numbers. They are in hundreds. More than 300 amendments are there to one Bill. *(Interruptions)* To be accurate, there are 340 amendments as the hon. Minister is enlightening me. There are 340 amendments to one single Bill! I hope our elder Member, our elder leader Prof. Ranga will bear testimony that there were only a few occasions in the history of this august House when one single Bill had the honour of inviting 340 amendments. This fact alone indicates what amount of interest and heat this Bill has generated and that augurs well for the functioning of democracy in this country.

Sir, this House is not interested in certain individuals. Upendras may come and go. V.P. Singhs may come and go. *(Interruptions)* Nobody is going by your 'ho'.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): I am on a point of order. Please ask him to address the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody is enjoying. We also are enjoying it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Even the Chair has white hair. And all the white hair people... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI: You ask him to address the Chair.

MR CHAIRMAN Mandhata Singhji, the hon. lady Member is suggesting you to please address the Chair And for your information in you introductory speech itself, you have take more than 12 minutes It is time for you to conclude

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH I will not move my neck now I will straight look at you

MR CHAIRMAN You please address the Chair

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH The previous speaker was talking about the credibility of our electronic media Shall I react immediately? I wanted to say something else, but it is my habit that I react immediately to the immediate circumstances I had some other points He talked about the credibility Who will answer my question? Who eroded the credibility of the electronic media during the last five years? Who eroded it? He was complaining that in certain function somewhere where the Information and Broadcasting Minister was also there

(Interruptions)

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY Not somewhere It was in my constituency

SHRIMANDHATA SINGH Yes, I know I was in your constituency and you were presiding over the function I have heard you with rapt attention Your complaint was that those who covered the programme cut out your face and put in his face only That is a genuine complaint I honour your feelings But those guys who had the guts to do this, the small fry of that particular station who had the guts or courage to cut your face out of the screen, they can be dealt with properly But why forget that they were nurtured and trained and they flourished and flowered during you regime itself So, so much about the credibility Then I pass on to *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P R KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) About 'Khula Manch', Upendraji is very democratic

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH 'Khula Manch' (Open House) programme has been launched for the first time Till now it was a closed forum

[English]

Let it open up Why are you in such a hurry? I hope, Mr Upendra will make it more open The Prime Minister says that he is heading an open Government And you, all the time feel in the house that it is an open Government What you call crutches, they are always attacking the Government and the Government bears the assault smilingly That is the characteristic of an open Government I will rush through

MR CHAIRMAN Your Party has given a long list of 18 Members and you have taken about fifteen minutes I request you to conclude *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH Constantly, lot of interruptions are there and I lose my time I have to be compensated for that Who will protect my interest?

MR CHAIRMAN To some extent, you are inviting it

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH I am afraid, if Mayawati comes in then what will happen *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN Please conclude

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH Especially she is tutored by these people, anyway I appreciate it

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI (Vijayawada) He cannot remark like that against a lady member of the House

SHRIMANDHATA SINGH Madam, why are you worried, you name is not Shrimati Mayawati *(Interruptions)* Please bear with

[Sh. Mandhata Singh]

me. Autonomy can never be absolute. Autonomy is not an absolute term.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: You tell him that.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I have to tell others also. Autonomy is not an absolute term. Neither the word 'freedom' is absolute. I need not mention that famous story that after the Russian Revolution one person started walking in the middle of the street saying that the country is free. A driver had to warn that person that he should keep himself aside. The person said, no I have the freedom to walk on the street. Then the driver said that in that case he has the freedom to crush him down also. That is the famous story.

Any autonomous institution has to function within its own parameters, certain particular guidelines. Therefore, those who advocate that it will be a sell-out to some multi-nationals and what not are suffering from, I shall use another word, hallucination. They are seen in their own shadows in the mirror of this Bill.

There is another relevant point. Somebody talked about the representation of Parliamentarians on the Board of Governors and all that. I am not in favour of that because it is tampering with autonomy, it is an insertion of political element into the autonomous body. But I support the general consensus that has now emerged—Mr. Advani, the Congress, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee and other people have said—like some of our Financial Committees such as PUC, PAC or the Estimates Committee, a Parliamentary Committee would have to examine its functioning because the Parliament sanctions the money and we have a right to look into the matter whether it is used properly or not.

Funding has to be done by the Government because we don't want a sell-out to the multi-nationals or to the private party. The amendment brought forward by my friend Shri P. Chidambaram loudly speaks about—

not silently speaks about—the privatisation of this corporation. I am against it. I am against privatisation. I am against the sell-out to the multi-nationals. In this connection I would like to specially underline the fact that the consumerist propaganda—my sister yesterday spoke very brilliantly about it; I don't want to repeat it—will some day lead us into the shackles of the multi-nationals. But I have no reservation also. I still request the Government to consider the representation of the artists and the personnel who are involved in this broadcasting process.

Lastly, it is only a fervent appeal to all sections of the House, especially, the Members who call themselves 'Opposition', not to give a bad name to this Bill by forcing us to resort to voting. It would be in the fitness of this that this Bill—a new chapter in India democracy—should be passed unanimously in this House, thus giving a strong impetus to resort to democratic methods for achieving democratic ends.

I am thankful to you specially for bearing with me and to other Members of the House. If somebody has felt it, I beg to apologise to him.

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SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, autonomy, which has been discussed and sought to be given to the Prasar Bharati, is in great controversy when we go into the discussions which have come from either side. I would think that we all have different concepts of autonomy. We have different perceptions of the autonomy of which we are talking. I would think that the right of the people to own the media should be with the people and not delegated in any manner. If the people feel that a programme or a policy with regard to broadcasting or televising is to be in a particular manner, they should have the full right to own such powers and to give full effect to the implementation of such policy.

It is necessary to save the media from the extreme control of Government. I would also think that if an extreme control is given to Government, there is every chance of it

being misused I think, the best thing in this case will be to give a separate kind of autonomy where will be control by the people through the Parliament for the general policy—making aspects of it, for the general funding of it, for the general control with regard to funds for it and with an autonomy for the person, who control it, to have the day-to-day affairs and the programmes conducted. It should not be felt that the people or, for that matter, the Parliament, will be acting so immoral if the powers to control, the powers to implement the policies are given to the people or, for that matter to the Parliament. There is more chance of it being misused when the delegated body is given more powers. So, I am viewing the Bill in this respect that some kind of autonomy is to be given with due powers by the Parliament to the body elected by the people. When I go through the provisions of the Bill, I see that in the preamble itself, the word 'autonomy' is missing. It is, of course detailed that the general policy will be in this manner

[DR THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

16.00 hrs.

I think that the word 'autonomy' also should have been inducted in the Preamble as such. Another example which I have found in the Bill is autonomy, which is sought, is not given with regard to the Broadcasting Council. I would think that a kind of dictatorial autonomy is given to the Broadcasting Council which is made with very limited powers and those powers can be taken over by a body which controls the Corporation. It is just like giving powers to the council and saying that the Council will hear the complaints and decide on them but they shall be finally decided by a few persons in power, thus discarding them completely. I would think that the Broadcasting Council should be given a separate kind of make up, a separate constitution with more powers so that the Director, as stated in Section 13 will not find himself unable to accept the Broadcasting Council's directions as such. It is also amusing to find that even the Director or the Board as such can again refuse to act on the Broadcasting Council's recommendations. I think it is a provision which should be

taken of. Section 12(5) says that there will be no scope for any cases to be filed against the Corporation for civil liability. I think this provision should be taken of from the Bill because there must be accountability to the people even for civil liability. Section 24 says that no suit shall be filed against the Corporation. This should be subjected to amendment. With regard to the structure of the Corporation, if the autonomy which is talked of is to be obtained then I think, several changes have to be made. There is ambiguity in the very perception of the qualifications which are to be given to the Chairman and other Governors. It has been discussed already that as far as the Chairman is concerned, whether he is part time or full time Chairman, though he is not a full time Chairman as is stated now his qualifications should be well defined. I think the mere words 'people of eminence' will not be enough. I think the discussions which have come in have suggested very many qualifications which should be included in this Bill. I would also say that the removal of Governors should be subjected to certain changes. Here of course, for removal of the Chairman, when a complaint is presented, the President is bound to take action. The President is the person who has to give the final orders. But it is subjected to certain reference to the supreme Court. The point as to whether it can be referred to the supreme Court and the procedure to be adopted by the President should be clarified. It can be clarified in the rules and if it will not be clarified and the rules which will come later on, then some kind of a direction should be given at this stage itself. The term 'misbehaviour' also should be defined. Otherwise, there will be a mischief in the very finding as to whether there is misbehaviour or not. I would suggest that Section 7 (3) (c) where the President can remove the Chairman or the Governor on his own by reason of infirmity of body or mind, also requires some clarification. I have also moved some amendments and I am not going into the details of the amendments which I have suggested. But, I feel, if autonomy is to be given then it may be given subject to the amendments which have been suggested by way of control by the Parliament.

[Translation]

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SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV

(Azamgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, not only in our country, but elsewhere in the world also newspapers, radio and television are powerful medium for the development of human mind and intellect. It is through these media that there is free flow of information in the society, but unfortunately in our country, both the radio and television have remained under Government control and the newspapers too are controlled by the powerful capitalists. Thus the voice of the people do not find an expression either in the Government controlled media or in the capitalist owned press. Both Doordarshan and AIR are the mouthpiece of the Government and the press plays to the tune of the capitalists. Therefore, I would like to say that the radio, television and the press has miserably failed to become the people's media. Perhaps, it is in this perspective that the necessity of bringing forward this Bill was felt. The purpose of this legislation is to make the Doordarshan and AIR, the voice of the masses and the nation, the people's media in the real sense of the term and to remove the label of its being a Government media. Ours is a democratic country, it is not fiefdom of the capitalists or the affluent class. I hope that it would be given the shape of a legislation. It should become the voice of the masses, of the farmers and the working class. In our country, it has been observed that the press is not independent. People look upon it with suspicion and believe that it contains nothing but lies and misinformation and our All India Radio too is more popularly known as 'Jhootistan Radio'. The former Prime Minister, Shri Charan Singh had once said that he never listens to All India Radio and does not watch Doordarshan programmes because mostly the information is unreliable and based on falsehood. Over the years both radio and television have lost their credibility and people have more faith in the B.B.C. programmes relayed from London. Therefore, if its credibility is to be established, then it is essential to give it autonomy. But autonomy does not mean that this media becomes independent to the extent that it dishes out information to

suit the vested interests or according to their whims and fancies. If we want to take the country ahead, media will have to play a vital role and keep restraint in some respect. The cardinal principles of our Constitution like secularism, socialism and new order should be given wide coverage on the media. It should be so defined that the people are able to understand comprehensively about democracy, social change and socialism.

So far whatever has been broadcast or telecast has entirely gone against the principles of democracy, socialism and secularism. Some of my friends may feel bad but it is a fact that the teleserials like Ramayana and Mahabharata symbolise a particular religion. Though I am a Hindu yet I would say that such religious serials should not be telecast. . . (Interruptions) ... You ask a christian or Muslim about it..... (Interruptions) ... I am a greater Hindu than you are.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (Sonapat):
Better you speak about the obscene things which are shown on television.

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: I am quite clear on this that no religion should get coverage on Radio and Television. You are a Hindu. So you feel good about the televising serials like Ramayana and Mahabharata. But what about the children of Muslims and Christians. Is it secular to televise Ramayana?... (Interruptions) I do not want to engage myself in a debate over this. I simply want to say that issues which are propagated and popularised should be the fundamental principles enshrined in the constitution, like democracy, secularism and socialism. It may be an autonomous body but it should guarantee that the above mentioned principles would be given publicity through the media. Its programmes lack the feeling and fervour of nationalism and patriotism. These two instruments of mass media are considered to be a means of entertainment and they are used for commercial advertisements. I would like to know from the Minister of Information and Broadcasting if Radio and Television would be allowed to become just a tool for commercial advertisements. It must

not be so. Public money should also be invested in it.

Secondly, I would like to say that the Bill should ensure that obscene and vulgar programmes are not shown on television. Instead of merely becoming a means of entertainment, it should become a tool for national development. It should be freed from the clutches of the capitalists. I had said earlier also that the Newspapers fail to raise the voice of the people. This Bill should guarantee that the autonomous body is free to serve the cause of National security, sovereignty and development. All of us including the poor, farmers and labourers should participate in it.

Lastly, I would like to say that Radio and Television should broadcast and telecast the proceedings of Parliament and State Assemblies so that the people may know what their representative speak inside the House. The direct relay on Radio and Television would clear all doubts regarding this. With these words, I conclude and wish that this corporation should function as an autonomous body.

[English] 405

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Upendra brought this Bill, one thought that the real intention of the Government is not to give functional autonomy or even autonomy to Doordarshan or AIR but rather to somehow or the other, keep their election promise on record. But in reality, not to give autonomy at all to Doordarshan or AIR. One may quite understand it because the manner in which the '*Khula Manch*' has been edited and news is edited and the manner in which he is now directly handling the Doordarshan—though I think he is not doing too badly from the point of view of Government—clearly indicates what exactly the Government wants, to come out

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: You are not speak-

ing loudly

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: What happened, Sir? Is the mike not working?

[English]

Unfortunately, it looks like that Mr. Upendra is succeeding successfully as an Information Minister of the Government to ensure that the electronic media only transmits what he wants to transmit and what is convenient to the Government. But, then, he is proving to be a pretty good Minister from that point of view, and I compliment him for it.

It is in this background, and in the background of the provisions that are there in the Bill that has been presented before us, that one feels a little nervous whether at all he really wants to give autonomy to Doordarshan and AIR. To really make Doordarshan and AIR autonomous, one extreme thought process is to make it private. But I hope the whole House would agree with me that it is not the intention of anyone of us. But definitely what is required is that it should have a management which is dedicated to the media. We do not have people especially IAS officers and so-called professionals with lien somewhere else, attachment somewhere else and working as Governors, or whatever one may call them, in the new Board of Governors which is proposed, and ultimately singing the tune of the real employer in the garb of being autonomous. What we require really is that we have a management or a Board of Governors which is dedicated, attached to the electronic media, whose service and future is completely linked to that media. Even if he comes from any other source, the moment he takes employment here, not only will he be paid by the media, his lien and his future should be linked to the media, so that this commitment is full to that Corporation, and he is not on deputation or on lien, having one foot here and another foot somewhere else, and playing and singing the tune of the other master. Then you will not have real autonomy at all.

We have proposed this as an amendment. We have also insisted upon this with

[Sh. P.R. Kumaramangalam]

the Government during our discussions. I think all the parties in the House, including the Government, have at last seen the light, and seem to agree to this and feel that it is correct that those who are in management, should not have been somewhere else, and should really be direct employees of the Broadcasting Corporation.

I am happy that the Left parties as well as BJP and the Government seem to be agreeing at least on this point. *(Interruptions)* I am happy that at least the Left parties say that there was a difference. There was some difference; Mr. Upendra has been kind enough to concede it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I concede all reasonable demands.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I can say you are conceding all our reasonable demands. All our demands are reasonable; that is why. *(Interruptions)* The other important issue which is very necessary for the Government and the House to consider is this: these are the other amendments to the effect that you cannot have a public sector Corporation or any public sector body that is dealing with such a sensitive issue like the electronic media, one of the most powerful media that modern technology and the world see today, which is totally beyond the purview of the people; the equipment it will use, the money that it would have at its disposal from the Consolidated Fund of India for future development, and the services of its employees, should not be beyond the purview of the people. I think Government has also realized that the so-called autonomy of having outsiders who are not accountable at all, being the only persons to oversee grievances, look into grievances, and on top of it, to be the only persons who can recommend, without any elected representative being involved, is wrong. I understand quite reliable that Government has also come to this position, where they understand...

SHRI P. UPENDRA: You are reading

too much.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Government has come to this position where they understand that it is necessary that for any Broadcasting Council to oversee, the Council must have teeth, must have the power, must have the ability to really enforce its recommendation on the Board of Governors, so that the people who are the ultimate sovereign and the owners of this Corporation, can really ensure that it serves national interests, and that the Corporation is not used to serve any vested interest. *(Interruptions)*

I would like to clarify that when you brought forward this Bill, you did not apply your mind to these problems. It is surprising. That is why I had said in the beginning that the Government seemed to have brought it forward somehow or the other to meet the demand that there has to be autonomy; and for the sake of bringing autonomy, the Bill has been brought forward. *(Interruptions)* You will have your chance to reply. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I said, there will be a national debate on that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I do not know whether he has become wiser after the foreign tour or after the genuine discussion here. But I do recollect that while moving it during this session the Minister categorically said that there would be wide discussion and that he had done everything that was necessary in every form. If that was so, then I don't think there was any need for the government to consider our amendment but to agree with us. Not that we are saying that it is wrong, but we are happy that you have realised that all of us, irrespective of political affiliation, want this powerful electronic media to have autonomy at the same time being committed to national interest and national objective.

I would like to point out that in addition to the fact that Members of Parliament should be on the Broadcasting Council to ensure that people representation is there, and the

Broadcasting Council has the power to recommend and its recommendation would be a vetoing authority, that is it will be capable of having the sword to carry out the correction that would be necessary or the steps that would be necessary to really ensure national interest, not only that would do, but what is really necessary is the Joint Parliamentary Committee from both Houses of Parliament, which really represent the people in our present parliamentary system. Though, of course, I do recollect one Minister of the Cabinet on some matter said that 540 Members do not represent the people here. I suppose that was said in the flush of the moment. He did not realise what he said. But in the Indian system, under our Constitution, with the parliamentary system, all of us and the whole country would agree that if today there is anybody that can claim to represent the people, it is the Parliament. This Parliament does not mean the Ninth Parliament or the Tenth Parliament, it means the Parliament as a whole, if you understand English. My Comrades, would you understand it? Unfortunately, my Comrades, are trying to learn the English language, but it should not be at my expense. But what is important is that the Joint Parliamentary Committee must have at least the same power as the Committee on Public Undertakings have. (*Interruptions*) I think they are in the process of agreeing to it. So that the Corporation that we form under this Act is understood to be a public corporation, which is of a private nature, it should be public in the full sense of the term, which is capable of being supervised, oversaw and investigated into by Parliament so that it does not leave the path. All of us have agreed to autonomy on the functional point of view to ensure, according to Mr Upendra's term, that it does not get used by any vested interest. We have the fear that unless it is supervised by Parliament, it is possible that vested interests which are capitalist in nature would exploit it, and that is one caution which I think all of us must take with great amount of seriousness.

I should hope that government in its process of considering this amendment that we have placed would take this also seri-

ously. I understand my friends who are on my left and not the extreme left, who represent some one else, they also agree with us that the Joint parliamentary Committee is a necessity, and it is not to be taken lightly. (*Interruptions*) We are not confused. Don't worry. We are very clear. Unlike you, we are not dabbling.

What is even more fundamental is, these assets of the Government of India which run into thousands of crores, are they going to be just transferred by an Act of Parliament to some people who have no accountability at all or are we going to keep the assets with us and allow this Corporation which is functionally independent to use those assets? Because it is quite possible that not today but sometime later may be, or may be some time even later when these assets could be transferred to someone else by this Corporation because of certain mistakes, this may happen. Such a situation would be, when our friends there might come with your assistance at present moment—you never know what can happen, that you bring then in such a big way, supporting the most communal and cast outlooks today, one does not know what can happen. But the issue is that the need of the hour is to realise that while we appreciate the autonomy, autonomy should not become a double-edged sword. The object of autonomy is to ensure that the media is free so that honest media handling is done, with the national interest in the background, as a guiding factor.

I had taken a long time. I would like to end, by saying, that today we had discussions and I hope that our discussions would help Mr Upendra to bring about unanimity and to bring about the Bill and an Act which would be in the interests of the nation to ensure that all corners are tied and real autonomy is given and not a mere sham or just one of those dramas. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

What can I do if you understand neither English nor translation? Why shall we oppose it if our amendments are incorporated?

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khar-gone): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Prasar Bharati Bill introduced by Shri Upen-dra. The need for this Bill was felt because of the way in which the Radio and T.V. were misused during Emergency. They became tools of suppression. Everyone knows about it. The name of leaders like Jaiprakash Narayanji was maligned. He was charged through the electronic media of inciting the army. They could not have misused it worse than this. Therefore, it was felt that things cannot improve without providing autonomy to the media.

We were held in jails under MISA at that time and when we heard the news on Radio and T.V. we used to wonder if they would be misused in this way for all times to come. Today, I am glad that our dream of autonomy for mass media is coming true. Besides, even during Congress rule the committees like Chanda Committee and Bhagwantam Committee demanded autonomy for Radio and T.V. But this demand was never fulfilled and suddenly one day it was announced that autonomy cannot be given. And all the conduct rules which were drafted in 1970 were flouted in 1975-76. It is an open secret. Radio and T.V. slowly lost credibility. It touched its nadir when Indira Gandhi was assassinated and Rajiv Gandhi who was on a tour to West Bengal preferred to listen to B.B.C. for the correct information regarding the assassination. Nothing can be more surprising than the fact that the son of the Prime Minister doubted the credibility of the electronic media.

Sir, the B.G. Verghese Committee was set up by Shri L.K. Advani in 1977. The White Paper on the excesses committed during Emergency categorically stated that the relationship between the Government and the Media should be clearly defined. We feel that unless there is a distinction between national interest and Government interest, Radio and T.V. cannot be run properly. Even today, without such a clearly marked distinction, no improvement would be possible. Our broadcasters would also have to realise the distinction between national and Government's interests.

Therefore, I hope that after the adoption of this Bill, we would learn to distinguish between national interest and Government's interest. The Prasar Bharati Bill also seeks to achieve this purpose, and the National Front Government has introduced this Bill with lot of courage. The Bill would help in delegating power to the officers concerned with News as lot of clarity and courage is required in this field. Hon. Satheji was saying that they had given full autonomy to officials for telecasting Asian Games and every one had appreciated their work. I want to point out that you gave them autonomy for the telecast of sports programmes alone but did you ever give them autonomy for the News Bulletins and for programmes like 'Aajkal'? And then the way Doordarshan was being misused during the election time and the political pressure it is subjected to, were they ever given autonomy in this regard? Viewing it from this angle, what happened to the autonomy with regard to the slogan 'Gali Gali mean shor hai, aur chor hai' (there is a street talk that a particular person is a cheat)? The slogan reached the ears of a professor who was conducting a programme on journalism. This is the episode of our state, Madhya Pradesh itself. This programme on journalism was going on in Sagar University and the professor had granted permission for this. A question was asked as to what was the street talk all about. At this, one of the students told him about that slogan. Later on the Professor was forced to stroll around the street after besmearing him in black, his clothes were torn apart and he was beaten up. Can there be a better example of autonomy than this? This is how they were misused and subjected to different pressures.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that so many committees were constituted like the Bhagwantam Committee and then the Purnachand Joshi Committee but their recommendations were not accepted. Then came the Sarkaria Commission which recommended while toeing the line of the Government that there is no question of granting autonomy. Then in 1980 came the Parthasarathi Committee which further set up a sub-committee comprising people like Mulkraj Anand and they laid down certain

directives for the telecasters, the news casters to be complied to. Certain guidelines were set for the compliance thereof and they were presented before the Lok Sabha as well in 1982 but even after that they were discarded like anything and were never considered again. I would like to urge the Government that the guidelines set by the Parthasarathi Committee were very good and they should have been considered. No weightage was given to them while formulating this Bill. I hope, therefore, that they will be considered

I hope that this autonomy would not remain merely a structural autonomy. In fact the autonomy has come as a matter of right. As regards repeated assertions about the financial autonomy that such and such amount of money would be granted, I would say that they will be getting this as their rightful money and not in the shape of Government doles.

Therefore, their financial autonomy will be preserved and Prasar Bharati will function as a totally economically independent entity. As a matter of fact, autonomy cannot be acquired merely through laws, regulations and constitutional amendments. I agree that this can be achieved by dint of morality, political will and consideration for public interest on the part of the Government. Autonomy cannot be achieved by merely enacting laws, though without making laws, it can never be achieved. It is a very good legislation that is being enacted. Many times the issue of credibility is raised. I wanted to say that one Shrimati Shalini Malhotra died of burns in 1982. Shri Kamaleshwar was the Additional Director General then. He recorded the interview of the lady before her death and presented that interview cassette before the court in the shape of dying declaration of the deceased but the court did not admit it as a legal evidence. Therefore, when we are talking about autonomy, its credibility should be enhanced to the extent that such things are treated as legal evidence in courts and elsewhere. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Cabinet has given

assent to the Indian Broadcasting Programme Service (I.B.P.S.). I wish that all such services should be brought on the same footing before Prasar Bharati comes into being. As you know, the Indian Broadcasting Engineering Service is eight years old, the I.B.P.S. is being given the final shape now, so, it would be better if these services are brought on the same footing before work is started. The Indian Information Service does the work of editing and compilation of the news under the Central Government. I understand that it is because of the people of this service that there were allegations and counter-allegations in the recent days which led to erosion of credibility of the news. They should either be totally merged with the Prasar Bharati or if they are to be kept as a separate entity, the Prasar Bharati people alone should be entrusted with editing and compilation of the news.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make one more submission. The issue of promotions on 100 per cent basis of the mixed cadres of the Broadcasting Executives, Production Assistants, Sub-editors, Assistant-editors etc. in Akashvani and Doordarshan for the posts of Broadcasting Executives and Programme Executives is under active consideration of the Department of Personnel. This matter should also be disposed of expeditiously.

I shall conclude after I make one more important point. I want that the rights being conferred on the Broadcasting Council have restricted it to the level of merely an advisory body. Prasar Bharati should be equipped with enough powers so that decisions could be reached after scrutinising all the complaints and grievances after making use of their own common sense and judgement without waiting for the complaints to be received from outside from the Radio, the Newspapers and journals and the divisions so taken should be binding on the Board of Governors. Things cannot be set right unless the decision becomes binding on the Board of Governors. Why should the Council be relegated to be merely an advisory body? Their suggestions should be accepted.

[Sh. Rameshwar Patidar]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the members of all the political parties of Australia are directly given representation in the Board of Governors of the Australia Broadcasting Authority in proportion to their respective party strength in their Parliament. In West Germany too, their rights and powers have been made fully effective in order to enable them to function properly in the Information and Broadcasting Department. Likewise, rights and powers should be conferred upon the committee to be constituted, as per Shri Advani's suggestion, in order to supervise its functioning and that committee should be constituted on the lines of P.U.C. and the Estimates Committee. With these words, I conclude.

[English] 415

DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL (Calcutta North West): The Prasar Bharati Bill that has come for discussion before the House, it will be seen how in haste and speed this Bill was introduced in the very first session of Lok Sabha. There are more than 340 amendments. As a learned Member from the other side has pointed out that the Bill was introduced with so much haste and speed that it required serious consideration. If those amendments which have been moved from our side are accepted, then, of course, there is nothing to be said. Otherwise, the Bill requires to be sent to a Select Committee for serious consideration because the Prasar Bharati Bill will create a great impact and it has a great influence upon one of the most important electronic media. The object of the Bill is a laudable one. The work of the Prasar Bharati will be innovative, dynamic and so many laudable expressions have been used in the object clause. But we have to consider whether this Bill will introduce a real autonomy for the functioning of the administration of the Broadcasting Corporation. In order to appreciate what is the real autonomy to be introduced, we have to examine who are the persons who have to be appointed, in the different Committees and the different agencies through which this Corporation is to function. We are to examine who are the

persons who will be responsible for making the appointments and in what manner the influence of the Government will be felt even though indirectly in the selection of the personnel and who are to fill up the various agencies of the Corporation.

The third point which we have to consider is after the appointment of these personnel whether it will be possible for them to exercise their function fairly, independently without any influence from the Government. These are the points which have to be taken into consideration in order to appreciate whether real autonomy is sought to be introduced by this Bill or it is a mere pretension or veneer in order to exercise the control of the Government through an indirect way. If it is an autonomous Corporation but the Government will exercise its control through an indirect means, then it will be a dangerous position. Because if the Government runs the broadcasting under their Ministry of Information and Broadcasting then the Government will be answerable to this House and the officers will be accountable, if there is any mismanagement, if there is no proper functioning of the administration. But, when you create a Corporation and under the Corporation, you give certain powers to the agencies and whenever any mal-administration comes, the Government can take shelter and say that that are not responsible for it. An autonomous Corporations will be running the Broadcasting Department, and therefore, there is no provision in the Bill under which the autonomous Corporation will be accountable to this House or they will be answerable to this House. All that the Bill provides is that they are to prepare a statement, and the statement is to be placed before this House. Therefore, we have to see whether the real accountability has been provided for in this Bill. Now the agency of the Government who have to run this administration, the Board of Governors, originally the Bill introduced a full time Chairman. But the most important amendment which has been introduced showed that the Chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation will be a part-time one. I do not understand how such an august body which has to perform this

important function is to be headed by a part-time Chairman. His is to be like the Chairman of a private company who is a part-time Chairman. That means his duties and responsibilities will be a half-hearted one and he will not be answerable to the House for his actions. The Board of Governors, who are to function, you might call them Governors, you might call them whatever you like. It reminds me of a very good story. In the municipality the sweepers were given the name Assistant Conservancy Inspectors. Then, the municipality decided to increase their salary, but they have to give their names as sweepers and not Assistant Conservancy Inspectors. All the sweepers stood on strike—we do not want any increase in salary, but our name should be as Assistant Conservancy Inspectors. Now, whatever name you may give to the Governor, it is a very, if I may say so, an ostentatious name. But, how far this Board of Governors who are independent will be exercising their functions. In the appointment of the Board of Governors, the Chairman of the Council of States, the Chairman of the Press Council and a nominee of the Government are to be responsible for selecting these persons. In other words, the Government's influence will not only be overt but that will be all pervading, and if any member does not attend the meeting, because of his absence the decision of the Committee will not be invalidated. So, ultimately, the Government will certainly be exercising its control over the appointment of the Board Governors.

The important agency is the Broadcasting Council. Those who are aggrieved by the manner in which the Broadcasting Corporation is to function, they can lodge their complaint before the Council. The Council has to hear and ultimately decide whether the complaint is justified or not. Its functions are of a quasi-judicial nature, and it is an elementary principle that if the Council is to function as a quasi-judicial body to hear and determine the complaints which are to be filed by the persons from the public, they have no power like any other quasi-judicial body to compel the attendance of the persons whose presence will be necessary for

the proper decision of the complaint. They have no power to compel the production of certain documents or books which are necessary if the complaint is to be properly gone into. Such powers are given to any quasi-judicial institution which has to determine and decide the complaint lodged by the parties. What will be the position of the recommendation of the Council? The Council will make recommendation and they have no power even to execute or to enforce their decision. This will go to the Executive Governor and if he is not satisfied with the recommendation of the Council, then ultimately it will be placed before the Board of Governors, and if they do not accept the recommendation of the Council, they will only record the reasons. But ultimately to whom are they answerable? The Council's recommendations are not to be placed before the House so that the House may be in a position to know what recommendation the Council has given and why the Board of Governors or the Executive Governor are not in a position to accept it. Even in the appointment of the members of the Council, they will be appointed by the President, in consultation with the Chairman. The part-time Chairman will ultimately be recommended by a body in which the nominee of the Government will have a larger role to play, and the President will be deciding the constitution of the Council, in consultation with the Chairman. The appointment of the Council also will necessarily evoke certain amount of criticism because if the members of the Council are to be appointed as a fair and also an impartial body of people, then it is necessary that a broad-based constitution should be made and also people like, for example, the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission, the Auditor General of India, the Chief Justice of India and people who are not associated with the running of the Government, should be members, in order to recommend the members of the Council and also the members of the Board of Governors. But there is no such provision in the Bill. More important is that although the Broadcasting Corporation has been made on the model of the British Broadcasting Corporation, many of its important provi-

[Dr. Debi Prosad Pal]

sions we have not been adopted. There is another point which required consideration. Under the Telegraph Act, as it is today, the definition of telegraph is very wide in its sweep and character. It includes television. It includes radio waves. It includes all sorts of electronic media and the Government has been given the power under the statute to run these electronic media. The Government has the power to grant licence. Now, if the licence is granted and the Broadcasting Corporation being an autonomous body, as it appears, it requires a licence under the Telegraph Act from the Government of India. Questions will arise whether the Government can give an exclusive licence to an autonomous body like a Broadcasting Corporation. If the Licence is to be given, then there is no provision for giving exclusive licence to an autonomous body which is a juristic entity. That is why, even those who are to run the broadcasting media can also equally claim for a licence to be given. If the Government does not run for itself then there is no reason why the citizens also cannot apply for a licence to run the broadcasting media, like the American Federal Communication Council which has the right to grant licence to the broadcaster Government can grant licence to others subject to any condition it may impose in the Prasar Bharati Bill if the autonomous body is to run, if at all independently to two important principals there should be the principle of fairness provided and the principle of equal opportunity. If, for example, one Party wants to place their views through this electronic media, the other Party must be given the same privilege and if there is any deviation from it, there will be lapses in the maintenance of the principle of fairness. Now, this should have been provided for in the Bill. We are ultimately relying upon the good sense of those who will be running this Prasar Bharati or the Broadcasting Corporation. If there is no statutory protection for maintaining these elementary principles which are recognised in all civilised democratic countries, then ultimately you will have to depend upon the good sense of those who will be running this

Broadcasting Corporation. Who are those people? Those people are ultimately to be appointed by the Government and they will be under the control or influence of the Government. And if the Government's directives are not complied with, then ultimately the Government may not give the necessary finance. There is no provision for financial autonomy in the Broadcasting Corporation Bill. If, for example, the Broadcasting Corporation takes certain amount of money from the private business houses and thereby they do not want to depend upon the Government finance, there is no protection under the Bill as to what amount the private monopolists, the private business people will be able to finance this Broadcasting Corporation. Otherwise, they will ultimately go into the hands of these big business houses and the Government, in alliance with the big business houses will ultimately convert this Broadcasting Corporation into a monster which will not be responsible to the Parliament which will not be responsible to the people and this electronic media which is the most important media for imparting information education, entertainment among the common people, people in the rural sector, the people who are most uneducated, will be ultimately going into the control, in the hands of a few coteries who, in alliance with the Government in power and also with the big business houses, may completely deprive the people of the benefits of this important media.

Sir, these are very important considerations for which the Bill should not have been introduced with haste. The amendments which have been suggested from my Party are amendments only to remove some of these lacunae and if the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting is really serious and has an open mind, then he should accept the suggestions which have been made from our side. The whole idea is that if you want a really autonomous Corporation which will be answerable to the people, which will be answerable to the House, there is no provision for accountability to this House. On the other hand, what will happen is that the Government is given the power to give

directions to the Corporation for the purpose of security and for the purpose of maintenance of public order and if those directives are not complied with, then the Government can take action against those who are running the Corporation. In other words, in the name of public order the Government can introduce any directive by which the Corporation is to be controlled and influenced. Even the mind of the Minister to introduce a rigid control is very clear when the Minister for Information and Broadcasting has introduced so many amendments in Section 22 (A), (B) and (C). The whole purpose of these amendments is to introduce a tight and rigid control over the functioning of this Corporation. This is a very serious thing. It has been accused by Advaniji that when our Government was running the Administration, there were many lapses. I can only point out to Advaniji that even during his Administration during the period from 1977 to 1979, it has been reported in the press that on 15th August 1979, 15 minutes were devoted for the purpose of glorifying the President of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and that was highlighted in the press that this was nothing but a sort of undue influence being exercised by the Minister at that time and Mr. Madhu Limaye, the General Secretary of the Janata Party at that time criticized it very strongly. Even when he was the Information Minister, at that time the President of the Rashtriya Sevak Sangh was glorified and equated with Mahatma Gandhi, and with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and this was criticised by Mr. Madhu Limaye. You will see the report in *The National Herald* of 3rd August 1979 where he pointed out that this was an insult to the nation that the President of the Rashtriya Sevak Sangh is glorified and equated with those leaders. And this is the way how the Government ran this Department during his Administration to equate and identify one R.S.S. and through the media they wanted to introduce and popularise his party. This was the way how it functioned and it does not lie in his mouth to say that when the Congress Government under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi was running this Information Department, there were lapses of that nature, but still we want

that this Prasar Bharati is to be really an autonomous institution in its functioning and it will be answerable to the people. Otherwise it will be a pretention, it will not be a real autonomous institution. This is a very dangerous thing, Sir, because if you cannot really introduce an autonomous institution answerable to the people, the portents of this sinister move will be for future years and the House will consider it very seriously.

17.00 hrs.

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SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I congratulate the National Front Government for bringing this important piece of legislation. It was their commitment made to the people during the last Lok Sabha poll. It was a declaration made in their election manifesto. I particularly thank Mr. Upendra for the care he had taken during the last eight months or so, to interact with all sections of the people, the media experts, the political leaders and the social workers. But, still I am rather amazed to hear the speeches made by the Members from the other side. They are all accusing that this had been done in a mad hurry and undue haste. But that is not so. During the last eight months, Mr. Upendra had interacted in such a manner that we can just say that it had been done in the best democratic traditions which could not be imagined by them the Cong. (I) people. The least I had expected from them was that before speaking on this Bill, from the Congress (I) speakers like Mr. Sathe would apologise in this House and through this House to the nation, for the disgraceful misuse and for the most irresponsible manner in which they had misused the electronic media during their days. I shall just remind them of two occasions only. I can cite hundreds of such examples. But I do not want to take much time of the House. I shall mention only two occasions. In the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid controversy, when the court verdict was given at 4.30 p.m., the lock was opened by breaking it at 4.40 p.m. and at 8.40 p.m., the whole detail as to what happened after the judgement was shown on Doordarshan. As a result, within 48 hours

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only in Uttar Pradesh, communal riots started in no less than 18 places. This was the 'responsible' Government who behaved in such a manner and this was their way of dealing in the matter of Doordarshan. I am referring to another occasion. On 31st October, 1984, Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated and of course, it was an unfortunate incident. But what had happened after that? I think the Doordarshan must have been ready for all these that slogans of retaliation and statements made in retaliation were shown for 30 long minutes on Doordarshan. What was the result? The ugliest riots that had ever taken place in the world, had taken place in Delhi. I am citing only two examples. When this was the way they have behaved, at least they should have first apologised before speaking on this autonomy of the electronic media. Sir, many things have been said about autonomy. But in the ultimate analyses, it is the extension of the rights of the people; it is a power given to the people and not simply to some institutions. It is to be seen as to how the people are going to be benefited as a result of this autonomy. Autonomy is not a cricket ball to be thrown at the opponent's wicket.

Nor it is an apple to be picked up and eaten immediately by the ruling Party. It has to be created and allowed to grow. We have all to contribute to this concept of autonomy. There is nothing like absolute autonomy. So, I think, that this will have to be seen in relation to the rights of the people, how they are going to be benefited as a result of autonomy. I have no illusion that overnight the scene is going to change radically and immediately after the Bill is adopted here, the downtrodden, the weaker sections, the women, the peasantry, the agricultural labour, the working class will begin to dominate the small screen. They will not. In a class-divided society, those who rule the society, will rule the media or it may also said that those who rule the media will also rule the society. There is no radical change. I know that the same elitist consumerism will continue and half-fed children of our country

will continue to look at the Cadbury advertisements and other such advertisements quite dazed and stare at the colourful advertisements of Cadbury or other food products manufactured by the multi-nationals which they will never taste in life. I do not have such illusion that radical changes are going to take place tomorrow in the electronic media.

But are we to allow unbridled power to the new Prasar Bharati board so that it can be controlled by proxy by the multinationals, by the monopoly houses? No. There must be some provision, some control so that after it is converted into an autonomous corporation, the multi-national corporations, the monopoly houses cannot call the tune either from behind or from the corner.

I think, Government funding is required for this. About second-channel, we have moved some amendments. I do not know whether the Government is going to accept them or not. But our feeling is that the Government has been acting in a most democratic manner to achieve a national consensus on that.

Let me now come to the speeches made by the hon. Members from the Congress—I. Shri Satheji was speaking like a pseudo Sanyasi. Those who have committed the gravest crimes on democracy, who have tried to destroy all the democratic institutions—judiciary, Parliament, Co-constitution, CAG office and everything—those who have misused the media in the most disgraceful and are speaking irresponsible manner about real autonomy, genuine autonomy and they are trying to describe this Bill as a fraud. We have seen many ironical situations in history. The demand for real of Congress (I) autonomy must be a memorable occasion and one of the finest honours of Indian history, on doubt. We have moved some amendments. The Congress people do not have any positive stand. They are speaking in two voices. Mr. Chidambaram wants privatisation. They are in favour of privatisation. Their leader has also said that he is in favour of privatisation. At the same time, they are speaking indifferent voices real autonomy,

genuine autonomy and all that. We have said, there must be some sort of parliamentary control and for that matter, a joint parliamentary committee consisting of representatives of both the Houses of Parliament will be the best answer so that the committee can supervise, oversee and monitor it. They can ensure the accountability of this Corporation to Parliament. About the Broadcasting Council, we have moved some amendment and we hope the Government will accept that i.e., there must be some parliamentary representation in the Council also, so that some political approach to complaints, some political intervention in respect of the feed-back from the viewers and the listeners, may be possible and complaint may be taken up seriously.

We have another amendment. I think Shri Vasant Satheje is not here. He has been speaking about that. Will it only be 'impotent rage' with which Parliament will react in case of persistent failure to obey or comply with the directives and the request of the Government for providing information? No. Our amendment is that the Parliament will have the power to supersede in case of failure of this Board to comply with the Directives of the Government or in the case of failure to provide necessary information to the Government.

The State Governments must have their say. We had demanded earlier that the second channel should be given to the State Government. Now there is provision for Regional Council. The State Government must have some say in this matter. Prof. N.G. Ranga is here. I am reminding him that on 28th June, 1947 Shri P. Sitaramaiah while speaking in the constituent Assembly had advocated that the powers in this regard should be given to the State Governments in the interest of rural education and rousing mass initiative. So, this consideration should be given that the State Government should have some say in the matter.

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): Are you pressing your amendment?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes.

SHRI SONTOSH MOANDEV: We shall support it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We have another amendment. This Government is very much in favour of workers participation in management. We propose that there must be some representation of workers of all categories and the programme staff on the Board itself. The Government of India today as yet does not have any national cultural policy. In a country like ours with so much of linguistic and cultural diversity, we need have a national cultural policy. We do not have any national information policy. For a third world country like ours, what is information? We need a definition? What is the information give except saying that Mr. Bush is going from this place to another place. This is no information for us. Our information should be what is the need of the peasantry, what is the need of the working class and what is the need of the country itself, the national unity, and all those questions.

Keeping in mind all these questions, we require a national information policy. We have a national education policy. But it should be reviewed and in the perspective of all these, national cultural policy, cultural policy, information policy, national education policy, we should have a media a national policy relevant for a country like ours. It should not be imported BBC model. It should be very much relevant. For a third world country like ours with all our commitment to non-alignment, anti-imperialist struggle, democratic conventions, we must evolve a new concept of autonomy, in the background of all these national policies. We can do that. We can enrich our concept of autonomy in this way.

I think the Government will accept all our amendments and with that we shall find a landmark is created and a new Chapter in the history of Indian broadcasting is created. It will strengthen our democracy. It will strengthen the hands of the people of this country.

With these words I commend that the Prasar Bharati Bill be passed with all these amendments.

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SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I deem it my great privilege and pleasure to rise and support and welcome the Prasar Bharati Bill. My friend Shri Upendra has really demonstrated and exhibited a sincere, sustained effort to persuade those Members in the House who have refused to see the good points and plus points in the Bill. However, it is their freedom and it is all his patience and good wishes that will ultimately see the end of the day.

Sir, I welcome this Bill because of various reasons. Firstly this has been done in fulfilment of the promises that have been made by the National Front during the election campaign. Secondly, I again support this Bill because of the reason that there has been persistent demand for the autonomy of the electronic media. Right from the early 60s, there has been that kind of a demand which was voiced again and again on the floor of both the Houses of Parliament for introducing autonomy in the media.

This Bill seeks to set up or establish a Corporation which will function as a genuine autonomous body in a manner which is fair, which is objective and also in a creative manner. I hope that the number of provisions have strengthened this attitude of giving autonomy to the media.

Sir, you will agree with me that this Bill holds out a promise that All-India Radio, which has the potentiality of reaching cent per cent of the population of our country and Doordarshan which has the potentiality of reaching 75 per cent of our people today, will be free from the clutches of those who want to maintain their control over the media in order to fulfil their partisan interests. This Bill will liberate the electronic media from such controls.

Sir, the support for this Bill has been universal in our country. This support has been there because the people have still got fresh in their mind the experience that they had to undergo during the earlier periods, particularly during the regime of the previous Government. Some instances have been cited I do not like to misuse my time by giving

more examples in this regard. If you have kindly noted the trend of the discussion in this House, I think you might have noticed that there are criticisms on two grounds. One such ground is that real autonomy has not been given. I would only say that I do not know what they really mean by autonomy and what they really mean by real autonomy.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is like Non-Alignment and genuine Non-Alignment.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Non-Alignment is Non-Alignment. There cannot be unreal Non-Alignment and also real Non-Alignment. (*Interruptions*) Autonomy is autonomy. Autonomy means the least degree of control by the Government. There is the functional autonomy. That functional autonomy does not mean abdication of all kinds of control. They should also understand this. I again repeat what the Bill proposes to give is a functional autonomy. It doesn't provide a mechanism which is free from all kinds of controls. There must be some degree of control. It is necessary because of the societal interest. From that point of view, there should be some social control. This is what is meant by functional autonomy. Those who have criticised this Bill on the basis that this is no real autonomy, I think, their charges are grave and also reflects a negative attitude to autonomy.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): Future will speak.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I also repeat that. And I think, the House is the best judge and this Bill is the best under the present circumstances particularly taking into account the existing social, economic as well as financial realities that we face today. Therefore, so far as principle is concerned, this is the best under the existing circumstances, under the given circumstances.

The second criticism is and that generally emanates from the so-called free thinkers, free entrepreneurs and who are the votaries of free enterprise in the country. And they are the free thinkers against all kinds of

administrative and social control irrespective of the need of social control, irrespective of the conditions prevailing in the society. I cannot use a less harsh word for this. This is nothing but a madness and blindness to the reality of the situation of the society. If this is the attitude of the free thinkers or if the attitude of the varies of free enterprise is accepted, then what will be the future of this electronic media which is such an important sensitive instrument to reach the people? It will become nothing more than what is happening in the print media today. That is a jute press, a textile press, that is, a press which is being monopolised by big industrialists. Therefore, there cannot be that kind of free enterprise; there cannot be that kind of free thinkers. That is nothing but allowing the privatisation of this important instrument which is for disseminating information.

In this connection, I would also want to remind the hon. Minister his commitment and also I want to warn a note of caution. I think, it has not been possible for the Government to control the print media to democratise the print media. Some attempts are being made to democratise this media and the democratisation cannot be possible, autonomy cannot be preserved unless the responsibility of funding is taken by the Government. I appreciate and I repeat and I quote what Mr. Upendra said in Madras some time ago regarding this point. I quote:

"We are not in favour of AIR and TV getting into the clutches of multinationals for their survival after getting relief from the Government clutches."

You said so. Right. I appreciate and I congratulate for making such a candid statement. We also do not like to deliberately allow this media to land in the clutches, in the lap of the multinationals. I hope, I believe and I trust that he will adhere to his commitment. He will accept some amendments so that in order to earn a revenue he will not leave this electronic media to the commercial adver-

tisement which has been moved by many from this side of the House.

Now I come to the question of directives to be issued by the Corporation. I don't find my good friend Mr. V. N. Gadgil here. He was a one-time I&B Minister. He was ridiculing the idea of autonomy. With your permission, I want to quote what he said in June 1985. He said, if I want to interfere I can interfere in an autonomous corporation also. That was their attitude. The attitude was to interfere and he boasts and takes pride in saying, have an autonomous body and yet I as a Minister will interfere. This must be listened to Mr. Upendra. That was their attitude.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Upendra himself agreed that he is interfering. He has said that it is still under the Government and he has the authority to interfere. He said it during the President's Address.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I only said, they are still a Government media and I cannot absolve myself of my responsibility. That is all I said. I did not say I interfere.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Mr. Upendra, refer to your 18 minutes editing in the tape. Compare your editing with the Nixon's editing of the Watergate tapes!

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I sound a note of warning. Don't follow them. They may have pride to say even in an autonomous body they can interfere. Don't have that attitude. This is my note of caution. Autonomous body is an autonomous body. It must enjoy the functional autonomy and you cannot interfere on behalf of the Government. I say as a sound of warning that you don't have the attitude that they have displayed and allow this autonomous corporation to function in an atmosphere of autonomy, in an atmosphere of democratisation to fulfil the objective for which the corporation is going to be set up.

I would also need to emphasize that there is need of issuing directives.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Then what is autonomy?

[Translation]

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SHRI CHITTA BASU: Here I say you have got a negative attitude. You want that there should be no social control. Is it not eh social need to maintain the unity of the country? Is it not the social need and social urgency to maintain public order? Is it not the necessity for the country as whole to allow the unity to be strengthened in the face of diversity? These are the social needs; these are the national needs and in order to fulfil them it is necessary to have some social control. In order to exercise that social control there should be some mechanism to issue that kind of instructions or directions.

Article 22 in this case is a positive guarantee against the misuse. That should be done in writing. You have been giving all these years telephonic advices. You have been advising the editors through somebody else that PM's office wants it, Mr. Chidambaram desires it, Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev wants it or such and such people want it. That was the mechanism of giving directives and misusing the power. Here the guarantee is, this must be in writing. That must also be placed before the House. Do you mean to say that this does not enjoy autonomy? Do you mean to say that this does not enjoy sovereignty? It does. It represents the sovereignty of the people. This is the highest sovereign body which can sit over it. This is the real attitude of having functional autonomy, called free-for-all, as all social controls are to be negativised. I think, that is a dangerous attitude. This is counter-productive as this is the model which the Western media wants us to follow. I think, we cannot emulate the Western media system because, as has been very rightly pointed out, our society needs a different treatment of the matter. Therefore, we are against the emulation of the Western media. We are to serve the purpose of Indian realities. In this case, I think, this Bill is a correct reflection of the needs of the Indian people. Thank you very much.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Domariaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to congratulate hon. Upendra and the Government for introducing this historic Bill in the House. The heirs and successors of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru did not give shape to his dreams of 1948. They proved to be sheer successors of his position and his property. But the National Front Government and our hon. Minister have turned those dreams into reality by bringing forward this Bill in the House. This was also a dream of our National Movement and of the struggle for independence. I was very patiently and seriously listening to the member of the prominent opposition party who are very senior Members of the House and have held different Government positions. Just now, one of our senior members said that the Congress Members speak very loudly and one could easily distinguish the voice of Shri Sathe and Shri Chidambaram. I say that there were not just two voices but too many Kangues. The greatest testimony to that lies in the amendment of Article 326 and 300 that was brought on behalf of the main opposition party, the Congress party. I cannot understand as to how do they visualise all sorts of things—on the one hand they talk about functional autonomy, on the other hand they talk about privatisation and in the same breath they also advocate participation of the Government employees and officers in it. It is but natural that their imagination cannot go beyond this point once they have discarded the civilization and the culture they were bred and brought up viz the culture of the freedom struggle. The objective of the Bill has clearly been mentioned in the Bill itself. This is an innovative, a dynamic and a flexible Bill. These are the three characteristics laid down in the Bill. There existed a proposal for an autonomous corporation in our country but no framework had been laid down therefor. I have studied the broadcasting arrangements in vogue in certain countries. I would like to say that the countries that have opted for the autonomy of their Broadcasting Agencies harbour democratic traditions as well. Democracy is a part and parcel

of the social life of these countries. Today they talk of sovereignty of the Parliament and are expressing such apprehensions that in case the supervision and control of this supreme institution of the country is lifted and this becomes a totally autonomous body or corporation it might be taken over by the multinational companies or the bureaucracy and the vested interests might gain control over it. Therefore, the Parliament should exercise its control over it. But the way previous Government shamelessly misused Parliament and its majority brute majority one can hardly find a parallel example in any other democratic country of the world. You changed the Allahabad High Court verdict and rendered it null and void by misusing your majority in this Parliament. By dint of majority which you enjoyed in this very House once, you turned the whole country virtually into a jail and abrogated the right to life by imposing Emergency. That is why the people are apprehensive. This is a fact that the House will have an over all control over this autonomous corporation if the present composition of this House continues. India is a vast country having diverse religions and cultural entities and the way the peoples verdict is sought in elections, we failed to follow the democratic traditions in our Broad casting system and the result was that we had to face the hazards. This is nothing but a conflict between the mind and the ideologies that on the one hand you talk about creating a monopoly and on the other you talk about the functional autonomy. This is sheer nonsense.

I have great regard for Sathe ji. I was keenly listening to him. Did he give them the functional autonomy? The same smooth tongued people, the same wrong type of people who have no imagination, no creativity, these few English knowing people today want to impose this culture on our country. Till date Doordarshan and Akashwani did not formulate any policy with regard to our culture, language or public life. I agree that the music and dance are very essential for the entertainment of the people. But if a Government or a system endeavours and aims by way of dance and music, to disuade

the youth of the country and its people from the debates on matters of principles, it is a great sin, it is a very dangerous tried. Our aim is to provide information, education and entertainment but all the three cannot be viewed in isolation. They have to be viewed in unison and in totality. I would, therefore, like to say that all the provisions made in the Bill are well thought out provisions made in the Bill are well thought out provisions.

I would like to compliment our Government, particularly the hon. Minister. The Members sitting opposite will not be able to appreciate it because they are not used to survive in such an environment. The hon. Minister invited nationwide debate and amendments the day this Bill was presented in House. By doing so, he did not display his infirmity. We would have got the Bill passed in our own way if the Government and its supporting parties so liked, but we did not do that. As I said earlier, the composition of the present Parliament is a testimony to the fact that no Bill can be unanimously passed without everybody's consent. That is why the hon. Minister candidly stated that this Bill neither seeks any party interest, nor it is for the Government interest. Besides, it does not aim at earning a name for the Prime Minister. We are going to form such an institution and through that institution, we are going to establish such traditions as would be indicative of the direction our future history and system should take recourse to. The option has, therefore, been left open for giving a serious consideration to the amendments proposed, if any. You know that our Government and the hon. Minister accepted the serious amendments without any hesitation or discrimination and thereafter came the Government amendments. The day before yesterday, we entered into a dialogue with the Congress people which continued today as well and we are reaching a conclusion, but our opposition parties insist on a general consensus. They will again ask for a consensus when the Mandal Commission report is discussed. 195 people have been elected from their party. They should say with a firm voice that they do not favour the Mandal Commission recommendations and

[Sh. Brij Bhusha Tiwari]

as, such, these should not be implemented or else they may say that they are in favour of the implementation thereof, if they have sufficient courage and honesty. How is it that they demand financial autonomy at one point of time, the functional autonomy at the other and the participative autonomy at still other point of time. Such logics will not do. Merely talking will not help. There is dissidence in your party also on this issue. I also want to say that those people who have doubts in their minds that the Bill aims at giving powers to any institution in particular and that their powers are being eroded rendering them helpless are mistaken. Advaniji has correctly stated that it is a simple Bill. Parliament is supreme and as such the suggestion given by the Verghese Committee has not been accepted in which they had recommended amendment in the constitution to make room for constitutional provision. Our friends have correctly stated that if this corporation or autonomous corporation works in contravention of their directions and tries to ignore the objectives that have been laid down, then there would be control over it. You will see that the charter which has been referred to is a part of our Bill. Our Senior Members of Parliament made a mention of control. A hint in this direction has been given in the objectives of the bill. As such if the officers of this corporation try to ignore those objectives, policies or directives then the House will be at a liberty to think in terms of creating a new set up or making necessary amendments. But raising doubts of different kinds at this stage and talking of putting riders on it in the name of Parliament is of no use. The people belonging to Congress keep on dreaming of coming back to power. Their condition is that of a fish out of water. They have spoiled their habits by remaining in power for a long time. All the time they keep on thinking that their party may come back to power once again. If our party is returned to power for another term and such an organization is set up then that organization would not be accountable to any Government, it would be accountable to the House, i.e. the people and this we have clearly incorporated in the objectives of this Bill.

[English]

"The intention is that the proposed Corporation should function as a genuinely autonomous body—innovative, dynamic and flexible—with a high degree of credibility. It must function in a democratic manner which enriches our democratic traditions and institutions, being responsible to the people and Parliament of India and keeping in mind the variegated traditions, languages and cultures of the country."

[Translation]

As such, this is our objective. This bill has been brought with this objective. So I would like that keeping in view the serious and country-wide debate that has taken place on this bill followed by discussion in this House, if we pass this Bill unanimously, we shall be doing a good job. With these words, I once again support this Bill from the core of my heart and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset I would like to make clear our Party's view point. A wrong trend has been set in this House by the ruling party and their crutches that we are against the autonomy of the Doordarshan and AIR. Of course, we have certain reservations and we have interacted with the hon. Minister also. We are glad that gradually he is accepting our view point and also the allied parties are supporting some of the amendments moved by us.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: That is also the other way round because you are supporting their amendments also.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I feel it will be a happy day for all of us when tomorrow we will pass this Bill unanimously provided the Government do not change its mind tonight, because every time it is changing its views.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It is you who are

changing your mind. I am always consistent.

17.47 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Just now I heard Mr. Tiwari's speech. It was a very strong speech. A few minutes ago I heard Shri Rupchand Pal speaking on the subject. What you preach, you should also practice and what you say, you must see that that is being done also. He has alleged that during the regime of Congress Party, many things were done which were contrary to the spirit of democracy and that we had misused our power. Probably, you do not know this incident. Today, when we are speaking in this House one of our ex—Minister Shrimati Sheila Dikshit and one of our ex-MLA Shri Balram Singh Yadav are spending their time in the U.P. Jail because they had gone on hunger strike. (*Interruptions*) Please do not interrupt me. I did not interrupt you. When you throw a potato at me, you must get an egg from me also.

They are now being kept in the jail. For the last fourteen days, they are in jail. What was their crime? They tried to ventilate the people's problem by observing hunger strike. And you have put them in the jail. Now, it is said—as per today's *Nav Bharat Times*—that you are going to keep them in the jail for another fourteen days. Our friends from CPI (M) spoke so loudly about this Bill, I welcome their speeches. But what happened in Calcutta, when the Congress (I) launched an agitation? I do not want to go into what had happened in the streets of Calcutta. When the Calcutta Doordarshan focused this matter in the news, the Chief Minister and another Minister, in a public meeting, condemned Doordarshan. The Chief Secretary wrote a letter to the Director, Doordarshan by saying that in future, before giving any news of this nature of law and order, he should get the approval of the West Bengal Government. It has come out in newspapers. If I am wrong, I will definitely beg an apology. But I have read in *Aaj Kal*. Just now, I went out and again read the *Aaj Kal*. *Aaj Kal* is known to be a newspaper which supports you.

They have written this. Now, let us not quote what had happened there. Shri Upendra is a good friend of mine. But let me say what has happened during his last eight months. We are glad to see that he has really an open mind and is a democratic Minister. You see how very nicely Shri Jethmalani was treated in front of Shri Chandra Sekhar's house! All country appreciated it! Really, Doordarshan has become an autonomous organisation before passing this Autonomy Bill! But what happened? During the Presidential Address also, when some Members stood up and said something, you called Doordarshan people in your Chamber and you said that they must not show it in the T.V. Of course, subsequently, you said, it is not you but the Speaker has done it. I do not know whether it is you or the Speaker who has done it. But somebody has done it.

Last Sunday, there was a programme—Focus—where some women had participated. You did not call even one lady Member from the Congress (I) in that discussion. Four women Members were there. One each from CPI (M), CPI, Janata Dal and another Party. Why? If you are really trying to give autonomy, then you must first prove by your action. What has happened to you? But, even then, you are trying to do a good thing. We appreciate it. We have brought some Amendments. Is it not our right, as Members of Parliament, to bring Amendments? You may accept them or you may reject them but you should not say that we are against it. That is not a correct attitude. We have a right and we will accept it. If you say that particular Amendment is not correct and that is not acceptable, from that respect, I appreciate the stand of the Government. I appreciate that you have taken such a stand. I also appreciate the Bharatiya Janta Party and CPI (M). They have also said, that if some good amendments are there—Mr. Advani himself said—the Government should accept them. We gave an amendment that the

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

name of the Governor should be changed. Mr. Advani himself said that. I also personally feel that this should be changed. There are many points on which we have meeting grounds. Now, you are saying that we had during our time misused the power. Yes, on certain occasions, it might have been misused. I do not dispute or abuse it. I agree. But I would like to have this thing from Mr. Upendra. You please listen to me. You tell this House, in the last eight months, how many times you have projected the Prime Minister on T.V.?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I will give it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Let him say how many days he projected the Prime Minister, and how many days he has shown other political parties. You may not show my leader; forget it. I do not want it.

During our time, we have covered BJP's executive committee meeting; we have covered the CPI (M) meeting, maybe for a short time. But I myself wrote on two occasions to your Doordarshan office at Calcutta, to cover my leader's meeting which was attended by 4.5 lakhs of people. Nobody bothered to do it. I do not blame you. You are giving autonomy to them, but they must know how to use autonomy. This is very important. When you do the selection of persons, you must do it in a satisfactory manner. I do not want to name anybody, but I would like to sound a note of caution. Just as this House is divided into JD, BJP, Congress (I), CPI (M) and CPI, there are persons in Doordarshan also, whose loyalty is divided among different political parties.

In our time, a committee was formed, and I was a member of that committee. I have had a dialogue with them; I have seen their attitude. You are giving autonomy to the bureaucrats. Think about the set-up which is there, before you get the President's assent to this Bill. *(Interruptions)*

I think you will ultimately agree to have the Joint Parliamentary Committee; you must give enough scope, not to interfere but to interact with the activities of these autonomous bodies in future. There is nothing wrong in a democracy, to have Parliament's control over this. You have the Public Accounts Committee, PU Committee and the Estimates Committee. By convention, some Committees are headed by the ruling party, and some by the Opposition. I will also request you to see that when you frame these rules—I do not say it should be given to the Opposition—the chairmanship should go, by rotation, to the ruling party, then to its supporting parties, and then the Opposition parties so that this Joint Parliamentary Committee can be an effective body.

I would like to request you to explain certain things. In the past, we have seen it and in future also it will happen: when Ministers from other countries come here, and you have discussions, you generally decide to interact your cultural programme with different countries; and even film shows. Now it will be an autonomous body. How are you going to enforce your international commitments through this autonomous body? I have gone through it; there is no such clause to ensure this, if they refuse. Suppose it is decided in SAARC Conference that each of the SAARC countries will project its culture. *(Interruptions)* I have gone through it; there is nothing there. I have gone through it. I have seen it. There are such commitments that from Bangladesh, some features will be shown in India; and similarly from India.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgur): It is Save.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: All right; subject to correction. You are a seasoned politician. I accept your correction.

I would like to know how you are going to protect this, because this interaction between different SAARC countries is also one of the most important things in this region.

As I said, the other day we discussed

the atrocities on women. I remember that many lady Members spoke in this House about atrocities by the employer. Even after that, last Sunday there was a picture in your TV, and the theme of the picture was that the Office Secretary was not keen to have a love affair with a lady employee; and the lady employee was telling her friends; "I will see how he escapes from me, even if he is married. I will see that he comes to my clutches." (*Interruptions*) I do not blame you; it is not possible for you to see all these things.

But those who are running the TV, they screen all these pictures. After you give autonomy, what will be the position of Members of Parliament who come from different parts of the country? Will we not be answerable to the people? I would like to know whether those who are selected in the Governing Body and the Broadcasting Council Committee, will be in a position to know about our country.

I come from Tripura. In the case of a match in Tripura, we have to depend on Bangladesh TV, not on your TV. Why? The first preference must be given—whatever programmes are available—to the length and breadth of this country. You probably do not know. I would like to remind you. In Tura, a question was asked: who is the President of India? The students of the Fifth class replied, Mr. Ershad. Why? Because in Tura, they are only seeing Bangladesh TV. Now these are the dangerous things; we have to take care of these dangerous things. I am not against autonomy. When I come to you and explain certain things, you must have got political sense to understand what I am saying. If we want to talk to the Secretaries to the Ministers, they are not willing to talk to us; they are afraid because their Ministers may get annoyed. I am the Chairman of the PAC. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee there are members from your party who are member of this Committee. You ask them about it. They will share the experience about it with you. I do not say anything without any information. Nobody is against autonomy, but autonomy should not be used by those per-

sons who will be there to go against the interest of the nation. Mr. Chitta Basu has very rightly spoken about our cultural heritage. India's main strength is unity in diversity. We have got different languages; we have got different States. Whenever there is a dangerous situation, India has always stood as one. That is our culture and that has to be inculcated in this autonomous set-up that you are going to have.

I am thankful to you that you have of late agreed to bring consensus amongst all the parties. I will appeal to you not to change your mind by tonight; by tomorrow afternoon, you give a final shape to it. As Mr. Advaniji has said and as many hon. Members have said, let it be a red letter day in the history of our country that all parties have stood together and unanimously passed this Bill. If there is a danger, let the danger be to all of us; if there is a good thing, let the good thing be to all of us.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Very constructive speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Inderjit.

Now it is six O'clock. By what time, are we supposed to sit?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: We had agreed to complete the speeches portion of it, except one speaker from the Congress Party, who would speak tomorrow. We will finish the speeches today. Then tomorrow before I reply to the debate, Mr. Gadgil will speak. After that, I will reply to the debate.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ (Baramulla): I have got no objection to Mr. Inderjit speaking now. But what about me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They had already decided about it. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN-SOZ: I have got no objection to Mr. Inderjit speaking now. But it is wrong. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is

wrong? You don't want that this members should be given time to speak. He is from the media. You don't want to hear him.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: What is the procedure?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was decided by the Presiding Officers.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: But there should be some norms. Are we not bound by the norms?

18.00 hrs.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: But there should be some norms. We are also bound by norms. *(Interruptions)* You will not be doing any favour to me by giving me time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Members who are wanting to speak, may note. The Minister has said that all the Members will speak and then we will get up. *You please remember this thing and take as little time as possible, or condense your speeches in such a fashion that in the shortest time you are able to make the points. But if every Members gets up and says that his name should be given first and I start using discretion according to his sweet wish, then I will not be able to conduct the business of the House.*

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I am representing the National Congress.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may say, Prof. Soz, you may be representing your party. I have given you a chance out of turn also when we were discussing the Kashmir issue.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: That is a different matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will give you time. But when you get it is a different thing.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: But when?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, you will get the time. I will give you time. But all of you cannot talk at one and the same time. You have to talk one after the other. Prof. Soz cannot get the opportunity by saying that he represents a party.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I have no objection. Let him speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, why are you taking up the time? Let Mr. Inderjit speak.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): I have submitted my name, from the RSP group.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time and we will try to satisfy as many Members as it is possible. The only request I am making is you please condense your speeches and in the shortest possible time make as many points as you can.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: You think of discipline at the fag end of the session. That discipline should be imposed on everybody.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For Mr. Soz's information, I would like to read this:

"This Speaker shall not be bound by the list or the order in which the names have been given by the parties or the groups or individuals directly."

I would, yet, take into consideration your reasons.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Does it mean that in future this will be the order?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going to discuss any more.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Then I will not speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not speak. I have no objection.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur): He says that he is calling you.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: He is not doing me a favour by calling me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a favour. You cannot impose your wish on the House.

Mr. Inderjit

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am most grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to speak. I am glad that you have taken into consideration the fact that I have spend some 40 years in the Media and I have certain things to say.

I have great pleasure in fully supporting this Bill. At the same time, however, I do sincerely wish that the Minister has seen the wisdom of referring this very important Bill to a select committee for its consideration, a deep and in-depth consideration. I did venture to make this suggestion to the Minister but the Minister thought that this was an attempt on the part of some Opposition parties to try and scuttle or try and delay the passage of this Bill.

I do not think this is a constructive way of looking at the suggestion. I do hope that this very important Bill will still ought to be referred to a select committee. We could make a provision that the Select Committee would report back by the first day of the next session. We could also stipulate that under no circumstances would it seek any further time. I would still urge the Minister to consider the possibility of referring the Bill it to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for an in-depth consideration and for such suggestions as can be made.

Some kind of an effort has been made during the last few days, happily between the Government Benches and the Opposition to

try and hammer out agreed amendments. But this by itself is not enough. If the matter is referred to a Select Committee, a lot more could be done.

In this context, I regret that the Minister of Information and Broadcasting has limited his consultations only to the main Opposition Party, the Congress (I) and to the BJP and the other supporting parties. No attempt has been made to involve the smaller groups even though some of the members of the smaller groups had much to suggest and much to comment.

The Minister has conceded in his speech, at the time of introduction this Bill, that the Bill would be a charter of freedom that it would give voice to the people of India, etc. and also to say that this would be a genuinely autonomous body, innovative, dynamic, flexible with a high degree of credibility. The long title itself should have provided for this namely that it is going to be an autonomous body. I would therefore, like him to consider the possibility of changing the long title or introducing a few words in the long title. This could then read, To provide for the establishment of Broadcasting Corporation for India to be known as 'Prasar Bharati' and the words which I would like to be introduced are, "which shall be an autonomous public broadcasting service accountable to the people of India through Parliament". I do think that these words ought to be introduced. The very fact that it is going to be an autonomous corporation and that it is answerable to Parliament ought to be provided in the long title itself. I do not think that I am asking for too much in making this suggestion.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): I do not think the Minister has heard you.

SHRI INDER JIT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I repeat for the benefit of the Minister who is busy in other consultations? My suggestion is that the long title itself should provide for the fact that this is going to be an autonomous corporation, it would be an autonomous public broadcasting service and

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it would be accountable to the people of India through Parliament.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Like Preamble to our Constitution.

SHRI INDERJIT: These are the words which I would like to be introduced—"which shall be an autonomous public broadcasting service accountable to the people of India through Parliament."

Sir, I have many other suggestions to make. I will make them point by point rather than speak at any length in the matter.

Apart from this long title, I would like very strongly to urge that we should really think in terms of going in for what I would call a two-tier system of management and control instead of one-tier system which is now advocated. That is why, I am recommending very strongly the need for a Select Committee. These are suggestions which deserve in-depth consideration. What we are trying to do is to provide for a Board of Governors, which is not enough. I think, what we need is a two-tier arrangement, in which we could have a Board of Governments and a Board of management. May be we could have one institution which could be a non-management kind of a body at the top and you could have a management board under it. In other words, you could have a Board of Governors or shall we call it a Board of Trustees. I think trustee is a much better expression than Governor. We could have a Board of Trustees which would uphold this charter as a trust, which would function as its conscience in upholding the spirit of the charter. Therefore, we could have a Board of Trustees at the top which would be a non-management organisation and under that, we could have a Board of Management.

The next thing I would like to suggest is to add a new objective which is now missing. That objective would be to uphold the fraternity and the secular ideal and promote the

spirit of truth and enquiry among all sections of the people." I think, this is very necessary because we must try and promote this kind of a fraternity and also promote the spirit of truth and enquiry which is needed.

The Board of Governors, as it stands today, has certain structural defects. At the moment what we have done is to have provided for an Executive Governor and we have also provided for a Governor for Personnel and another Governor for Finance. Now both these Governors will be functioning under the Executive Governor but they will also be members of the Board of Governors. Therein lie the seeds of conflict. Either the Executive Governor is going to run the Prasar Bharati or he is not. If he is going to have these two Governors as members of the Board of Governors, you have a problem there. I think, you must seriously consider the matter. The Governor Incharge of Personnel and Governor Incharge of Finance should really function under the Executive Governor in the Board of Management. So my first suggestion is that you should have a Board of Trustees, a non-functional board at the top and under this you should have a functional Board of management.

Now next suggestion. In so far as the Board of Governors is concerned, you have provided for a part-time Chairman. I personally think that in the initial stages it would be more useful to have a full time Chairman and also full time Governors. So far as the tenure of the Governors is concerned, I think that a six-year term for the Board of Trustees as I would call them, is far too long and so also for the Executive Governor since we are trying a new experiment. In case you find you have landed yourself with a bad set of Trustees or Governors or a bad set in the Management board, it should be possible for you to change them before very long. So I would suggest that you have this appoint them only for three years initially and in case the gentleman or the Board of Governors is doing well, they could be given another three years instead of giving them straightway a tenure of six years which I think, is fraught with danger and difficulties.

My next suggestion The Boardcasting Council is an excellent idea. Lot of friends here have said that we do not need a Broadcasting Council. I think that we do want a Broadcasting Council, which would be a non—political one and this is very necessary especially when we are thinking in terms of ensuring the accountability of the Corporation to Parliament.

We should certainly go in for it. I think, it is very important.

I am glad that the Minister has agreed in principle to the concept of a parliamentary committee which would hold this Broadcasting Corporation accountable. But then the question is what kind of a parliamentary committee and what kind of accountability? I think, we will have to be very careful in making sure that this parliamentary body is not involved in overseeing day functioning if the Corporation. The moment you bring in overseeing on a day to day basis it could lead to a lot of interference in the autonomy which you want to give to the Corporation. Therefore, we should be clear about our basic concept in regard to the parliamentary committee. The parliamentary committee should hold Prasar Bharati accountable. But it should not interfere in its day to day management.

I would like to make two other specific suggestions. In so far as the Parliamentary Committee is concerned, My first suggestion is that this committee, should not be formed only on a political basis. I would like the Minister to take note. What is happening in this House is that the Parliamentary Committees are being largely constituted on a political basis, on the basis of which party has how many members. I think this Parliamentary Committee should represent the entire House including the smaller groups. I am not saying this merely because I am the sole representative of a party, the GNLF. I am making the suggestion as I feel that every effort should be made to try and involve all the available talents. We should see that this Parliamentary Committee does not totally function in a political way. If it start

functioning totally in a political way, we will have lots of problems. This is my first suggestion. Therefore, it should be a committee which should represent all the parties and all the groups. The hon. Speaker should have a specific voice and he must exercise his full discretion in the matter.

Along with this, I have one another suggestion which I would like the hon. Minister to consider, Since we are going to have 11 Governors or 11 trustees, why can't we think in terms of providing for one Member of Parliament from this Committee also to be on the Board of Governors, if this is a constitutionally possible. This could provide a regular kind of a link between the functioning of Prasar Bharati and Parliament. Likewise I would like to see Members of Parliament represented on the Broadcasting council on the same pattern as Members of Parliament are given adequate representation on the Press Council. This Broadcasting Council would thus be a non-political body, while the Parliamentary Committee would essentially be a political body. So, these are two suggestions which I would like the Minister to kindly consider.

Now, so far as the Broadcasting Council is concerned, I would like the hon. Minister to consider the question of giving it more teeth. I am not one of those who think that the Broadcasting Council is redundant. It has a very important role to play as a non-political body. But, it must be well constituted and this body should draw up its own rules. As things have been provided in the Bill so far, one is left with the impression that this Broadcasting Council would essentially become some kind of a Govt. body. The Government would lay down the rules or the Prasar Bharati would provide for the rules. The Prasar Bharati will lay down all kinds of rules about now it should function, etc. Then the Broadcasting Council will report to Prasar Bharati and whatever is in the report of the Broadcasting Council will then be appended to the report of Prasar Bharati when it is presented to Parliament. In my opinion, the Broadcasting Council, should like the Press Council, be able to frame its own rules. In my view, the

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Broadcasting Council should be empowered to report directly to Parliament and not to Prasar Bharati.

Thirdly, the Prasar Bharati must do one other thing that as in the case of newspapers, wherever the Press Council passes any strictures against a newspaper, the newspaper is required indeed is obliged to published carry the stricture, it is morally obliged to do so not legally ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They do not care.

SHRI INDER JIT: The hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee is absolutely right. Some don't care. But they are morally obliged to carry the strictures. In the case of the Prasar Bharati and the Broadcasting Council, if the Broadcasting Council feels that there has been a violation by the Prasar Bharati of the spirit and the letter of then Charter, and things have not been done properly, in my opinion the Broadcasting Council... then (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Akbar never did it.

SHRI INDER JIT: Well, that was his privilege, it was for the Press Council to have taken serious notice of him. However, what I would suggest is that so far as Prasar Bharati and Broadcasting Council are concerned, if the Broadcasting Council passes any strictures against any particular programme in any particular channel, the Prasar Bharati must be obliged, not only morally, but if necessary also legally, to carry those strictures. Thus, if the Prasar Bharati goes wrong in the view of the Broadcasting Council the people at large should know where it has gone wrong. So, I would strongly urge the Minister to try and give more teeth to the Broadcasting Council.

The next point I would like to make is with regard to external and monitoring Services. As of now, the Government has been

authorised to farm out these external services to whomsoever it likes. I do not think this is a good idea. I think in this way the Government would exercise control over the external services. Then a question arises what exactly are external services? Take, the Jullundur Television Station. What it telecasts is seen in Lahore. What we telecast from Calcutta, is seen in Bangladesh. So, I would strongly urge the Minister to try and see that these external services are part of the Prasar Bharati operations. They should not be left to the Government and its sweet will and the manner in which it wants to carry on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have taken a lot of your time I will just conclude in a minute or two. I would like to make two other points. The first point I would like to make is in regard to the question of personnel and the manning of Prasar Bharati, I think the biggest problem which I, as a media man, see in the functioning of Doordarshan and of All India Radio, with all respect to some very fine people who are in both these organisation, is a tremendous lack of competence, I think something has to be done about it. Time and again, I have had occasion to talk to the Minister, even in regard to the manner in which even news is handled. For example, when the Minister decided to give them autonomy in terms of news casts and told them that they must have more international coverage, We came a cross then we find all kinds of absurd news coming through an aie crash in Argentina or some such things.

Therefore, there is need for trying to get greater competence and merit into these organisations, for which I would like to make a specific suggestion. My specific suggestion is that the Prasar Bharati should be given enabling powers to set up some Institute for training people for working in the Corporation, both for Broadcasting as well as for Television. Some years ago, an FTTI—the Film and Television Training Institute—was created. But that Institute has virtually been taken over by the films. I would suggest that the Prasar Bharati could possibly take a leaf out of the experience of the Times of

India Group which set up a training scheme, an institute, from where those who passed were absorbed by the Group. So, I would like to see the Prasar Bharati set up some kind of a training institute for training people and absorbing them, once they come out of this Institute. This is most necessary if we are really serious about getting some competent people into it. I am sure the Minister is fully aware of the problem.

In the initial stages, I think he will have to provide for some kind of lateral entry from the media, from the various professions. In some cases, I believe, he may even have to induct some people from the administration—the IAS and other Central Services—But there I would like to make a very specific suggestion. I think we should try to avoid inducting people from the administrative services into the Prasar Bharati Corporation. If it must be done, then this must be limited to a maximum of one year. Those who wish to stay beyond one year, must be prepared to resign from their parent services to join this Prasar Bharati Corporation on a permanent basis. Unless you do this, we will have the same kind of problem which has come up in any number of public sector enterprises where you have Indian Administrative Service officers coming in for a limited period, only to mark time for better opportunities within their own services. So, I would like to make this suggestion.

There is just one other small point which I would like to make. There has been talk about the Indian Broadcasting Programme Service. I think it is a very good idea. Everything ought to be done to ensure its success. But I have had occasion to talk to some friends since I belong to the media. In my exchange of thoughts with them I find a general demand everywhere that there should be parity in a pay-scales, with the Indian information service, comparable to the recent cadre review of the Indian Information Service. The Minister told the House that on. The Indian Information Service had been created and that there has been a cadre review, But nothing of this sort has so far been Provided in regard to the Indian

Broadcasting Programme Service. Something of this sort ought to be done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I conclude I would again like to urge upon the Minister to seriously consider referring the Bill to a Select Committee. I realise he is worried that things might get delayed. However, let him at least, do one thing if he is still not prepared to refer it to a Select Committee worrying that the Bill might get scuttled, I do not think that will happen, but let him at least have more detailed discussions and interaction with all sections of this House for the many ideas which are there.

Thank you very much. Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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SHRI KIRPAL SINGH (Amritsar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me opportunity to express my views on this important and historical bill. I have heard the speeches of the Members belonging to all parties, particularly, our colleagues belonging to the Congress Party. I was not at all surprised over their reaction to this Bill. I want to give one or two suggestions. There should be an advisory committee for each language to project the regional culture, language and history and separate channel should be provided to each language since the Minister had stated that only 11 per cent time was being given to regional language and majority of the remaining time was being devoted to Hindi followed by English. There is no problem in understanding English and Hindi for the people living in Hindi regions but the people from other regions particularly from rural areas face problems in understanding English and Hindi. They complain that very little time is devoted to their culture, language and history.

Secondly, the Punjabi programme relayed by Lahore is more in demand and very much appreciated in Amritsar and certain areas of Jammu and Brodering Pakistan. People switch off their channel and prefer to switch on Lahore or Rawalpindi channel

[Sh. Kirpal Singh]

because from language point of view their dialect is closer to Punjabi. Our own rural programmes are not that effective as compared to their programmes of rural background as they are more representative of Punjabi culture. Such excellence can be attained here only if a separate channel is provided to project regional language, culture and history. If this is done, the freedom which is being given to this media, particularly Prasar Bharati, can be enjoyed by them. As my friends have said a large number of amendments have been received from both the sides seeking more autonomy. But we have seen a phase of history which brought in its wake unprecedented atrocities. This was the time when Indira Gandhi was murdered and her dead body was kept for public viewing for three days. The people were not told that in Delhi some people were being burnt by putting the tyres around their necks, and setting them on fire, that drums were being beaten on seeing people crying in agony whose mouths were set aflame after forcibly pouring petrol into them. It was never mentioned how many people were the victims of these atrocities, how many children were burnt alive and how many women were raped. These things could have formed part of the news but by exhibiting a dead body for three days. The people were incited to such an extent that the history itself was spoiled. We have been a witness to that show. Today this Bill has been brought in the House. But those who ruled this country through out except a period of two and a half years, have never been able to bring any such bill. I would go to the extent of saying that today they feel as if something strange is happening since they could not do any such thing during their own rule.

"Apne apne hein hausle, apni apni udan hai

Koi udke reh gaya bampar, koi kahakashan se guzar gaya."

These people were not able to do anything worth while during their rule. Today this

Bill has been brought in the House and it is a piece of good news for the people of India and they will be grateful to Shri V.P. Singh for it. In future any Government may come and go, it is not going to make any difference but at least the phase during which we were forced to see wicked faces on our T.V. screens is over. It was because of such faces that we had to change channels since it was merely a propaganda that was shown on Doordarshan and it used to be far from reality. Many things were said merely to make a show of things. They were depicting their atrocities in such a manner as if they were doing favour to the people of India. The phase of such things now over. Now if some corporation is being set up for Askashvani and Doordarshan, our Prime Minister, the Government and the Information and Broadcasting Minister deserve to be congratulated for it. I certainly want the benefits of this step to percolate down to people living in rural areas and speaking various languages. We have seen how this medium was used in the recent past and what sort of things were shown. (*Interruptions*) Atrocities were committed on the people but something else was shown on T.V.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kirpal Singh ji, time is short, there are many members to speak. As such you please restrict your speech to this Bill.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: I am grateful to you; I never violate the directions of the Chair. I am not one of those who keep on speaking without the permission of the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been permitted, you speak on the Bill.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: I want to say that we feel happy when "Sword of Tipu Sultan" or "Rani Jhansi" is shown on T.V. as they were our torch bearers. These people made sacrifices for this country. Today people are gradually forgetting them. The people in this country had forgotten the four battles fought during the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in which General Shyam Singh Attari and General Sher Singh Attari exhibited their valour

and defeated the Britishers. These four battles were so important that they gave a direction to the history in paving the way to independence. The story of these brave sons has been narrated by a contemporary poet in these words.

Shan Muhammada ek sarker bajhon,
faujan jit ke ant nu haryan ne.

There was no mention of them on the T.V. earlier. Media is not ** but it was the misfortune of this country that during the last 40 years media was reduced to**, praises of ** were sung on Doordarshan and they had been doing what they felt like doing.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not correct. This will not form part of the record.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: There was time when Farooq Abdullah used to be called a traitor but hardly ten days would have passed he was again proclaimed as a patriot. In this way definition of patriotism changed from day to day. Like wise, Sheikh Abdullah was once called appatriot but after some time it began to be propagated that he was an agent of Pakistan. Everybody was free to say whatever he liked. I, therefore, want to submit this much only that we should also be included in it and a separate Advisory Board should be constituted for all the linguistics minorities especially for the Punjabis and the Sikhs who have been subjected to much atrocities by the government. It is necessary to protect thier interest. You should use the media to clear the whole atmosphere. The Sikh community have always sacrificed for this country and they always acted in way to save this country. With the above words I thank you for providing me opportunity to speak.

[English]

PROF. SAI-FUD-DIN SOZ (Baramulla):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I rise to support this

Prasar Bharati Bill, especially the concept that is enshrined in this Bill. But I have some apprehensions. As Advaniji said, even the title is from BJP and therefore, I think, the Minister has to be on guard because it is not possible to agree with BJP on all issues. I accept this title Prasar Bharati Bill and Advanije had paid a tribute to the Minister as he had not even changed the title, perhaps he had not even changed the comma. But this is bold on the part of the Minister to have piloted this Bill because it has some far-reaching consequences for the nation which are very good, specially the appointment of Chairman and the Governors as proposed in the Bill. It is for the first time proposed and that is something revolutionary. The President of India will appoint the Chairman and the Governors and it will be on the recommendation of the committee consisting of Chairman of the Council of States, the chairman of the Press Council and one nominee of the President of India.

Since you have reserved very limited time for those who have come to speak at the fag end of the day, I must not repeat the points that have been made by learned speakers here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even otherwise, you should not repeat.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Certainly, Sir.

As I said, in the Bill, there is a good measure. But in clause 4 of the Bill, I find the Chairman does not hold any pre-eminent position. The word " Governor" does not seem to be palatable to my ears. As Shri Inderjit suggested, as Advaniji Suggested, it could be Board of Trustees, Board of Directors and over them would be the Chairman. I do not know what will be the powers of the Chairman. That must be known to the Minister who may enlighten us at the time of reply to the debate.

All the powers will be given to the Executive Director by the Board of Governors.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Prof. Safuddin Soz]

I do not know how the chairman will discharge his duties. The Executive Governor, the Governor (Finance) shall be whole-time Governors and the Chairman shall be working as be part-time. The Minister knows the implications. The Chairman is not whole time Chairman. Therefore, they will say, the Chairman will come and go and we are the permanent people. Therefore, the Chairman holds neither pre-eminent position nor does he has any executive authority. But the spirit of the Bill, the Chairman will be somebody who will not exercise any authority. I do not know what is the job of the Chairman, according to this Bill.

First of all, I must come to Shri Inderjit's point. He has suggested that the Board of Governors should not have a life of six years. It is by telepathy, he could take it. I have also suggested in my notes that it should be three years because six years will be much too boring for a nation because they will be holding a very important position. If somebody gets into the chair—I do not know how people will be selected. That is the area of my apprehension. Even though the President of India will be appointing them, I do not know how things will be cooked behind the scene. Ultimately it depends on the Minister of information. Advaniji has made a good suggestion that in future, the Ministry should be called the Ministry of Information and not Information and Broadcasting. It is because broadcasting area is now going to Prasar Bharati.

Mr. Sathe has made a point. That point is that there are about 38,000 employees working in the media. It should not happen that they will be working under the Managing Director or Chairman and they will have no say in any matter. In all other public sector undertakings, we are wanting autonomy, we are wanting the Ministry to sign M O U. We want powers to flow down the level. We want participation in the management. Here, these workers should not be at the mercy of some top level bureaucrat so that they have no say in the matter. Therefore, there should be

vertical mobility. Somebody from below must be able to rise to the highest level. That is not provided in this Bill. That is something worrying me. Some people will join after the Corporation is instituted and some may not join. But as far Mr. Inderjit has said, about perks and cadre, these things should be fixed in such a manner that people feel easier to go to the Corporation. They should be willing. But supposing some people remain behind. What do they do? Government should not come forward so easily for a golden shake hand. That is not done so easily in such cases.

At page 3 the Bill says that they will constitute so many Committees for consultation etc and I would request the hon. Minister to kindly apply his mind. He has some time to consider it. These Committees will have Governors as Members but there will be some people invited like eminent journalists etc. But they will have no right to vote. You have some Governors. May be they are eminent people. But many eminent people will remain in the field, people like Mr. Verghese who gave you a report. So many people and I should not mention all of them. But those eminent people will be called and made Members of the Committee. But they will have no right to vote. I do not think any eminent journalist will come to become a Member of such a Committee.

There is constraint of time. I had moved some amendments in the Bill. But those amendments will become suggestions. So I will not come to those amendments. I cannot come. One is that we must provide due representation in the Recruitment Board to the minority community and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. In fact Mr. Inderjit made a couple of very important suggestions. Mr. Inderjit's last point is my first point. Ultimately it will depend on training, on conventions, on traditions and on what sort of people will be recruited there. But, once you institute Recruitment Boards, even now I would request that there should be somebody to represent the minorities and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes on the Recruitment Board.

As many hon. Members like Shri Chitta Basu, Shri L.K. Advani, Shri Vasant Sathe and others have said, there should be a second channel available to the State Governments. This is my next point. I support it and my comrades very rightly and strongly recommended this. I also support them. This second channel should be provided to Government because actually there is a rumour in the country which is called 'Ehsas' in Urdu and that is from Hindi heartland. Some people talk of India's unity and integrity. But they mean, all the time in their view, and they think that India is Hindi heartland. India is a vast land. We must take notice of regional aspirations. We must take notice of sub-cultures and this is very important in the promotion of culture. We are one. But it was Shri Jawaharlal Nehru who had stressed it but that fact is not recognised now, very widely by those who have a unique conception of India's unity. Some of them indulge in narrow concept of nationalism. They have been broad-minded and Shri Jawaharlal Nehru had suggested that we have woven unity in India out of the texture of diversity. That diversity is being ruined.

I give one example from Kashmir. I am not going to discuss Kashmir in this Prasar Bharati Bill. But I tell you there may be many external factors which have created a situation in Kashmir. But one of the factors is Radio Kashmir and Doordarshan Srinagar and a now a delegation visited my home and they said "We do not want anything. We listen to Doordarshan. But can you do us a favour? This Radio Kashmir and Doordarshan Srinagar, should be shifted away to Delhi. We do not want it because those two institutions have indulged in falsehood, as Sardarji was saying and they distorted the news and they distorted the culture of Kashmir."

Let the hon. Minister go into it. Even we want that they should not tamper with our language. They should not tamper with our culture. They have done it. I have certain proof for that. For instance, they put up on the television. They say, I translate it into Hindi

"Sham ka wakt, wakt ka karna hota hai unko Mukhfaf".

It will be *wow* and *khe*. We have organised a cultural akademi telling the Doordarshan people. All-India Radio people that they have no right to use *wow* and *khe* because they are distorting our Kashmiri language in creating a romance of phonetics. We reject phonetics because language has certain principles. Our Arabic-based words and Persian-based words must be intact. But they have never done it. It came to the vernacular Press. It created an impression that some people in Delhi want to destroy our culture. I am making this complaint so that the hon. Minister may look into that. I could go on telling how Radio Kashmir, Srinagar and Doordarshan, Srinagar do not deserve to be in Srinagar at all. The Minister may take them away anywhere he likes. Therefore, the people of Kashmir listen to the BBC. This is a routine thing. The hon. Minister can see that.

Sir, I have got only two suggestions. One suggestion is about advertisements. My objection is that in the main channel our time should not be wasted on advertisement. We cannot fight multinationals. It may be Chitta Basu or Basudeb Acharia, they talk against multinationals. I join them. We have to go far to fight them. They have grabbed the Television. It may be biscuits, it may be things which are in the neighborhood. But the multinationals will come and teach us a lesson. So, there can be a separate channel on advertisement. I had proposed one thing by way of an amendment. There is a consensus. Advani-ji is agreeable. So also Mr. Chidambaram and Mr. Sathe. All of us agree that there should be a Parliamentary Committee. I have proposed that it will overlook that. But I became wiser after listening to all people. It should be said that the Committee will be on the lines of the Public Undertakings Committee and the other financial Committee, but not the Estimates Committee. But if it doesn't oversee, it can advise on matters of policy. Already, the hon. Minister has given an assurance. Or, he may come forward in his speech and agree to this because there is consensus. There should

[Prof. Safuddin Soz]

be a Parliamentary Committee to regulate policy for the Prasar Bharati.

With these words I welcome this Bill.

SHRI ANANTHRAO DESHMUKH (Washim): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset let me make one thing very clear that all of us sitting over here are for the autonomy to the electronic media. But Sir, we simply cannot transplant the BBC Charter or to that extent the American system into the Indian soil. What we need is the evolution of our own version of autonomy. I don't think this House is divided over the issue of giving autonomy to the electronic media. The dispute is over the version of autonomy. My colleagues have spoken elaborately on the nature of this version and I do not want to take time of the House by mentioning the same thing again. Neither have I to refer to my amendments. Which I would move at the appropriate time. It would be my endeavour to show to this House that even if we assume that the Government's intentions regarding the version of autonomy are clear and they want to give near independence to the electronic media without interference from the Government, even then the Government's intentions are belied by many provisions of this Bill. I will elaborate this. How can we support this Bill which has envisaged the Government's obsession for a structural change while not being bothered about the actual performance? For example, the Corporation is to be guided by certain objectives. These objectives are so diverse and wide to be of any practical assistance to the Corporation in laying down its norms. For example, if you refer to page No. 10 of this Bill it has been mentioned that one of the objectives is providing comprehensive broadcast coverage through the choice of appropriate technology etc. etc. I want to argue with the hon. Minister on this score. What does it mean in actual terms, in practical terms? Even to that extent, if you take section '14', which actually provides redressal mechanism for grievances. This section is impotent as far as the redressal of griev-

ances is concerned therefore how can we cannot support this Bill? This Bill is also an example of the clashing of idealism of the two parties sitting over there but supporting each other for pursuit of power. I will elaborate my point and I will be very specific. For example, yesterday, Shri Advani had said one thing in the House. While talking about the Verghese Committee Report. And he had conveniently forgotten what he had observed earlier. He had said in 1979 on the autonomy question

"If the Government had not gone as far as the Verghese Committee wanted it to, it was because, he said, "We had conceived of autonomy, while the committee conceived of independence." Mr. Advani added: "The Verghese Committee had recommended the creation of an independent, constitutional entity, parallel to the judiciary, on which the legislature has no control. No, we cannot accept it."

And we will also see what the hon. Minister Mr. Parvataneni Upendra had to say about this. He has gone on record and it has been observed in 'The Tribune' dated 28th December, 1989, and I quote:

"The Information Minister, Mr. Parvataneni Upendra has said that he would be guided in the matter by the Akash Bharati Report, better known as the Verghese Committee Report and not the Prasar Bharati Bill."

As for Mr. Upendra, the guiding factor behind the formulation of this Bill is the same Verghese Committee Report which Mr. Advani wanted to throw away in 1979. Yet we see his party supporting this Bill. The interesting fact is Shri George Verghese the guiding force behind the formulation of the Akash Bharati Report which incidentally is the guiding factor behind the formulation of this Bill, himself has said that no self-respecting person would like to associate himself on such a Board of this Corporation. I will point out another instance about the casual approach shown by the Government

in the formulation of this Bill. Since there is lot of time constraint I would not say anything on his foreign trip. But while introducing this Bill in Parliament when the Minister was discussing about the financial fact, he has assured that we may—not worry about the financial help this Corporation would be getting from Government because the Election Commission, the CAG and other bodies are also funded from the Government, so we do not have to worry about this aspect and this Corporation is also going to be funded from the Government. I do not know how come the Minister has not realised the difference between the constitutional body and an enacted statutory body. For example, the expenses incurred on the constitutional bodies are charged to the Consolidated Fund of India and are not discussed here. While it is not going to be the case in this present circumstance. I will cite another example. For example, AIR and Doordarshan have presented their eighth plan requirement of Rs. 2,5000 crores and Rs. 5,000 crores respectively for the eighth Plan. I want to ask the hon. Minister does he assure the House that this will be approved,— No it would not be can you do the same thing with the judiciary? For Heaven's Sake, please do not try to mislead the House. If you want to get the Bill through, do it but do not mislead the House. This Bill must provide an independent and objective coverage of news, a balanced presentation of views, and a healthy entertainment that is in tune with the national ethos. Even if we assume that the Government's objectives are absolutely clear, nowhere you will find the exact pattern of interaction between the Corporation and the Government to ensure that the objectives are properly implemented. Of course, we can say that the Government made some provision not for the interaction but for interference. For example, Section 22 provides that the Government reserves to itself the right under Section 22 to issue directives to the Corporation in the interest of the security of the State or of public order to delete a broadcast or to make one. Of course in the latter case the Corporation can mention that this particular broadcast has been made as per the directives of the Government. This

reminds me of a legend "Cigarette smoking is injurious to health" in advertisement offering cigarettes in attractive packages. What is the guarantee that this particular Section will not be misused by the Government? The Minister himself has said on this I won't say anything about the 'Khula Manch' programme. I will cite another incident which has been reported in the Hindustan Times dated 15th July, 1990. Mr. Upendra himself has conceded that many of his Cabinet colleagues have been telephoning Doordarshan for the coverage of their programmes. Is it not an interference? Won't you call it an interference?

How can we support the Bill which according to Mr. Upendra himself has many flaws? I would point out an example where Mr. Upendra himself has said that this Bill has many flaws. It is reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 23rd January that "as it stands today, the Bill is not perfect and has many flaws—the Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr. P. Upendra who introduced it has said this. "Even then he expects us to support this Bill over which he himself says of having has many flaws. Therefore I want to request the hon. Minister that he can let this Bill be circulated; let there be more dialogue, let there be more interaction or he has also a choice; he can appoint a Committee of parliament. He has another choice; whatever amendments we have given to him, he can accept them. Please don't make haste and try to go through any sort of a legislation.

AN. HON.MEMBER: What is the party line of Congress?

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: I have already said that I am in agreement with the news as has been said by my colleagues, regarding the nature of version of autonomy. So I don't want to repeat it again. I am just trying to show to the House the hapazard way the hon. Minister has shown in presenting this Bill to the Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please carry on in your own way.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: If you see Section 4, the Government has provided for the formation of a Committee comprising three members. It would be out of place if I mention that two of the nominees in fact would be the members of the Government and yet Government speaks of giving autonomy to it and releasing it from the Government's clutches! That is why I am trying to tell the hon. Minister that please don't make haste because whatever Bill we see today is more out of a strategy and not out of a commitment. Therefore, as has been said by my colleagues, kindly accept these amendments and after you can certainly expect support from us.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA (Bengaluru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, with all humility I would submit to you that lest our party is misunderstood, I have to speak something. Otherwise I would not have spoken. In a way most of the norms—I am not accusing you, I am not saying anything against you, kindly don't take it personally—are not being followed. There must be some norms.

Whatever that be, I must be very brief and I am not going to say anything which has been said by my other friends, particularly the leftist friends. I know also the latest position, the latest outcome of the all party discussions held today.

The introduction of this Bill is something very new and perhaps the erstwhile Congress Government did not conceive the idea of giving the autonomy to this important media. Otherwise they could have brought this Bill long long before. It is a new venture. After today's all party discussions I hope and expect that the outcome and the result of these discussions will be quite welcome for all Members, irrespective of the fact whether they are in treasury benches, or they are the supporters or in the opposition. I only submit in this context that to start with, this Bill, after some modifications which have been made in the last discussions, should be passed. The modified Bill is enough with which we can make a headway to a new opportunity.

19.00 hrs.

This House will get ample opportunity to make improvement on this Act subsequently on the basis of the experience we earn from the working of this institution. So, on behalf of the RSP, I give full support. We welcome the new Government which has kept its promise to the people. With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI NANDU THAPA (Sikkim): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my party welcomes the Bill and I rise to support it. In fact, all grounds pertaining to the Bill have, by and large, been covered by now though discussions and many amendments, as we have seen. So, nothing substantial remains therein. The Indian democracy has withstood almost all the tests during the last 43 years after Independence. The democracy has its deep roots in the country. There is no doubt about it. So, there is no apprehension or scope that if the media is left in the hands of the people to manage it without the Government's control, it would affect or destroy the democratic pattern in the country.

We all know that the powerful electronic media—Radio and TV—has withstood the tests of the time.

It has even survived the darkest days of the Emergency. Thus, it has come to this stage.

Speaking about the Bill, regarding the board of governors, I am in agreement with some of my friends who have said that the term of the Governors must be three years and not six years. Six years will be a very long period for the board of governors. We do not know at the initial stage whether the media or the council or the Prasar Bharati agency is in the right hands or wrong hands.

The other point I want to draw the attention of the Government to very specifically is about the external services of the All India Radio. Almost in all the countries of the world, the external radio services are controlled by the Government. Of course, this

will also be controlled by the Government. But the Government must have a very clear and well thought—over control over the external services. The entire impression of the Government, the programme of the Government, the image of the Government and the policy of the Government throughout the world depend on the programming of the external services of the All India Radio. Therefore, we want that the Government should think once again very carefully about the external services. We do not know how the electronic media functions tomorrow when it is autonomous. It is not that we are opposing the autonomy.

Being a lone Member from the State of Sikkim, I appeal to all the Members on the right, on the left and at the centre—to pass this Bill unanimously. In case there are certain shortcomings, which may come up, we can always correct and consider them in the future. It is at a trial stage. So, they should not obstruct the Bill at this stage.

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DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful for giving me an opportunity to participate in this debate. I may also congratulate our Minister who brought forward this Bill. His intention may be good. But we have to wait and see as to how he is going to implement. The Statement of Objects and Reasons has given laudable ideas which we welcome. He said that in this context he proposes to provide for the establishment of a Broadcasting Corporation of India to be known as Prasar Bharati and entrust to it the functions which are at present discharged by AIR and Doordarshan. He also said that innovate and dynamic ideas will be given for giving more autonomy. There is no second thought while giving autonomy to this media. Nobody is against this Bill. But as he said, it must be genuine autonomy and not just in paper. It should not be just for the sake of creating a Corporation and giving autonomy to it. It should be real autonomy. How are they going to implement real autonomy in this regard? Even the Congress Party said that they were interested to give autonomy by making a Corporation. When Corporations are formed, they

may remain as Corporations in the rules but for practical purposes, we are not seeing any autonomy in most of the Corporations formed. We form Corporations in the public sector to give more powers but practically, all such Corporations are controlled by the Government in power. We cannot deny that. Corporations are generally formed to get more financial assistance and improve the performance. When Ministries cannot do certain functions, the status of a Corporation is given to see that they function properly. Of course, there may be other reasons also. Our Prime Minister often said in public meetings that the Government must not misuse the media for its propaganda and also said that its programmes must not be covered more. Misuse of the media for propaganda must be restricted. This was his idea. I appreciate his intention. But how are the authorities going to implement this idea? We do not know about this. What is happening in Tamil Nadu? I want to mention certain things as the partner of National Front Government is there in power, in Tamil Nadu. How are they using the media? Even though it may be under the control of the Central Minister, they are magnifying and telecasting their own programmes. We are more critical on this point. Before the formation of the National Front Government, the Chief Minister of the State criticised the functioning of the Doordarshan and AIR. He said that it is very partial and he also conducted *Dharnas* and demonstrations in front of Madras Doordarshan. He criticised that his programmes were not fully covered. But what is happening now? When one puts on the TV in Tamil Nadu, you can find that the Madras Doordarshan Kendra telecasting the programmes of Government of Tamil Nadu mostly. Even in them, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is shown often. Madras Doordarshan is not worried about other parties. The programmes and the statements of the leaders of the Congress Party and AIADMK are not at all covered. I do not know whether the National Front Government is following what they are preaching. They should sincerely advise the Madras Doordarshan Kendra to function impartially and must show the same way to this Corporation also. Section 4 deals with

[Dr. Thambi Durai]

the appointment of Governors. He should mention as to how they are going to select the Board of Governors when they form the Board. I want to say one thing in this regard. When they are forming such a kind of Corporation and giving autonomy, they should not have persons who will work on part time basis. As suggested by many hon. Members, it is better to have a full time man.

Then about the functioning of the Council, I should like to say that the Council should be a forum where all the complaints can be received and the grievances of the people may be solved. The Council should not be all-in all. It looks like a quasi-judicial body but it does not have the sufficient power to solve all the problems and complaints which it will receive.

There is one thing in which the Corporation is lacking and that is, as suggested by many hon. colleagues, the workers participation. There is no workers participation in the management. Therefore, I request that the Minister should see that the workers may also be included in the governing body of the Corporation.

Many hon. Members have demanded that second channel may also be given to the States. When we are demanding a Corporation which is an autonomous body—which cannot be controlled by the Central Government—how can we give second channel to the States? Therefore, my suggestion is that we can have any number of channels but one body can control one channel. This body may be more or less just like the Corporation. So, when we will have different Corporations, we can get good programmes and also because of the competition we can also increase the revenue. This Corporation can be controlled by the Government indirectly, I would suggest that sufficient representation may be given to peoples representatives on these different bodies. Whatever autonomy you may give to this Corporation, the representatives of the people should be there who can give suggestions and do

something for the betterment of the Corporation. I request the Minister to see that a body is formed which will consist of the Members of Parliament. This body may be given the power as enjoyed by the financial committees so that it can effectively control its functioning. In the name of autonomy the Corporation must not misuse the media. Therefore, it is the high time to think that the Corporation may be indirectly controlled by the representatives of people. It is very essential.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar.

SHRI J.P. AGARWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, only one minute please. A call for Maha Bandh for tomorrow has been given, so it would be very difficult for me to come to Parliament as I reside in Old Delhi. You are well aware with the incident that took place the otherday in which Chidambaram Saheb was dragged out of his vehicle and assaulted. What security arrangements have been made for me for tomorrow?

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SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on this important subject. Much has already been said on it by other Members who spoke prior to me, so I would not like to repeat those things. I would like to put only some suggestions in brief. A mention has been made about public complaints under section 14 as no time—limit has been fixed for disposal of public complaints. I want that the matter should be reconsidered and time limit be fixed for effective disposal of these complaints so that the public may feel that a proper beginning has been made. Some of our hon. colleagues have expressed opinions that other crewmen be also included under the proposed corporation for T.V. and Radio. This suggestion should be considered. The members are of this view also that the period of the 6 years is a bit longer, so it should be reduced to maximum 3 or 4 years.

Sir, I would like to submit yet another point that the total income would be around Rs. 200 to 250 crores from it against the total expenditure of Rs. 400 crore per annum on it. If timely arrangements are not made to meet this shortage, it will adversely affect the proposed corporation which may fall under the hands of such persons who will not help in increasing the income of the corporation. This is a very good step that has been taken by the Government. This will help in strengthening the democracy for which we have been struggling after independence. As it has been stated that we are relying on the B.B.C. for the important News so it should be ensured that such thing does not occur again. The Government should not interfere into it. In the end, I would like to request the House to pass this important Bill unanimously so that a strong democratic set-up in the country is established thereby.

[English]

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SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): First of all, let me, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill wholeheartedly. This Bill has passed a *vanvas* of twelve years at the hands of the main Opposition and somehow, it has conceived. Now, it is about to be delivered tomorrow, provided the so-called co-operation offered by the Congress Party comes forward. I am sure that we may not have to see the abortion of this Bill tomorrow if the proper co-operation is given.

First of all, it is proposed to give autonomy out of this Bill and not the freedom of the electronic media which is one of the Election pledges given by the Janata Dal. As promised, they have come forward with this Bill. Autonomy of Electronic media is one of the election pledges and people are expecting things to happen swiftly and hope that this pledge would be redeemed.

In the draft Bill circulated, the Corporation is expected to safeguard the interests of the country and to protect the social values

as enshrined in the Constitution. Fortunately, the Minister was kind enough to modify the Clause number 22 suitably and dropped the idea which was conceived originally.

We believe that the right to information, i.e. to be informed freely and truly, is paramount for the people. The Prasar Bharati Bill aims at freeing the media from the Government and bureaucratic control. This has to be indeed welcomed. However, people have a genuine fear that the appointments on the Board of Governors may not be without bias. I propose that instead of calling them as Governors, you call them as Trustees or Directors. Therefore, it is suggested that the Governors may be picked up from the wealth of talent that we have in media film industry and music circles besides Administrators of fine arts and music in this country.

As we approach the 21st Century, a clear perception has to emerge about the aspirations of the youth and women. I suggest that proper representation to women on the Board of Governors or Board of Directors may be given. Programmes with an adequate coverage of problems relating to these two segments are mentioned in the Bill. We welcome this move. The Prasar Bharati Bill also seeks to focus its attention on problems relating to the social justice aspect. There is a mention of combating exploitation and inequality, as also untouchability.

High-sounding phrases, loud mentioning of pious intentions have been a regular feature in our country. I would insist that implementation, with sincerity, of such programmes, is essential to infuse confidence in the public at large.

I would draw attention to the very relevant portion in the Bill where regional broadcasting has been emphasized. I propose that there should be two regular channels, of which on one channel, there should be national broadcasting, and the second channel should be exclusively reserved for the regional languages. We can uphold the integrity of this country only through the development of regional language broadcasting units.

[Sh. Moreshwar Save]

A note of warning while establishing new channels and relay centres. All efforts must be made to reach the remotest corners, where media is yet to make its presence felt. At the moment, about 75% of the people are covered by this media, but there are so many other areas also wherein this facility is required. (Interruptions)

The responsibility of the proposed Corporation is enhanced because the proposed Corporation is an integration of two existing units.

Finally I propose that there should be a permanent Chairman. Women should get proper representation and besides that there should be some charge i.e. licence fee for getting revenues. I am also of the opinion that these Governors should not be called as Governors, but as Trustees.

The only fear which is engaging the minds of the intellectuals is the ability of the Corporation to remain fair and truthful to the information to be provided to the people at large. The Chairman, Executive Governor and the Council should be chosen in such a manner that a very wide cross-section of our people are adequately and duly represented. The recruitment board, funding agencies and the change-over of existing assets of the two units can make the Corporation strong enough to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of our people.

We belong to a developing rather backward region of a prosperous State. People have been deprived of the good usage of the media for too long. It is hoped that this Bill will result in the forming of Prasar Bharati which would be meaningful, and fully acquaint itself with the objectives set forth. I welcome the expeditious action on its formation and I wish the Minister all success. Thank you.

SHRI PALAK M. MATHEW (Idukki): I have been very closely listening to all the speeches yesterday and today. The House has been trying to find out the true extent,

depth and also the content of the word autonomy. The discussions have been mostly on finding out a sort of consensus regarding autonomy.

In this connection, I would like to point out a very unpleasant truth, viz. that the autonomy of the electronic media generally signifies only a re-arrangement of political control. A well known expert of the BBC by name Prof. Anthony Smith is on record thus:

"Radio and Television are never left to emerge or grow alone anywhere, and indeed can never be and always exist as it were, in a condition of political emergency either recovering from a reform or awaiting the next one."

So this means, as has already been pointed out by many colleagues here, that absolute autonomy is in a way very difficult to find. It is not possible. Now, with this background, I would like to pose certain questions and move through you before the hon. Minister.

The provisions of the Bill say that there are certain constitutional objectives in this Bill. It is dedicated to certain constitutional objectives, such as upholding social and democratic values, social justice, protecting diverse culture and also giving special attention to the fields of education, literacy, agriculture, environment, health, welfare and so on. How can a media controlled by indigenous capitalists, extreme rightists and communalists discharge this most important function? How can a few people, representing only certain sections of the country, certain areas only or certain interests only, how can such a body of governors, fulfil this objective? I am at a loss to understand that.

Another thing which is stipulated in the Bill is that the media is not to advocate any opinion or ideology. But this Bill does not make any statement as to how this could be put into practice? You are setting up an iron curtain of a kind of obscurantism and opposition to different ideas and different views. The much discussed *Khula Manch* itself is

an example for this. So, I do not want to give so many other examples. There are, of course, certain grandiose virtuous objectives in the Bill which ring hollow when you examine the agency or instrumentality envisaged to implement these virtuous objectives.

Now, there is a 10-member Board of which six are part-timers. This is the main instrumentality but there are no representatives from trade unions. I mean there is no stipulation for that from trade unions, agricultural labourers, Adivasis, untouchables. There is no provision for workers' participation. There is no one from producers, artists, engineers, media critics, viewers, listeners and news readers. How can these objectives be achieved by such a non-representative Board or body? Many friends have suggested about functional autonomy. But I would suggest that it should be a fully participative autonomy that only can perform the enormous functions which are envisaged in the Bill.

The Bill says that eminent persons will be appointed on the Board of Governors and all that. But we know that eminence in many cases especially in our own country is a product of political patronage. So, this also has to be taken into consideration.

Then, regarding the accountability, I do not want to repeat what has already been discussed here. The management or the controllers of the Media should be finally and ultimately responsible to the people and accountable to the people of India, I mean, through the Parliament. That is all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Shailendra Nath Shrivastava.

[*Translation*]

DR SHAILLENDRA NATH SHRIVASTAVA (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): I HAVE BEEN IN THIS HOUSE FOR A Longer time than the honourable gentleman. I have never seen that the question of quorum is raised when such a discussion is taking place.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have no option now. Your Members wanted to speak, that is why we are sitting. Otherwise, we would have finished it earlier.

Let the quorum bell be rung.

The bell is being rung.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11 A.M. as there is no quorum.

19.40 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 29, 1990/ Bhadra 7, 1912 (Saka)