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Tuesday, January 8, 1991
Pausa 18, 1912 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Ninth Lok Sabha)



सभाकेषु जयते

(Vol. XIII contains No 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, January 8, 1991/Pausa 18, 1912
(Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Hijacking of Indian Airlines Aircraft

*162. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that an attempt was made by a 27 year old youth to hijack the Indian Airlines aircraft on Coimbatore-Bangalore flight sometime in the second week of September, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the Youth was arrested and interrogated; and

(c) if so, the reasons for hijacking the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The accused was an engineering

student and wanted to go to Perth in Australia to make a living. He was reported to be under mental tension.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Sir, I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister under what circumstances this boy could enter into the aircraft without security check and all that; what was the instrument or weapon through which he tried to hijack the aircraft and if at all any weapon was found with him, how did he escape the security check.

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the security check was there. When the investigation was completed, it was found that there was no hand-grenade as he alleged that he was having in his hand. Ultimately it was found that he had a pears soap, which was engulfed in his handkerchief. There was no arm with him.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHWA: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the second part of the statement of the hon. Minister, in which he mentioned that the youth was a technical graduate and he was under a tremendous mental tension. This very fact should not be taken very lightly. This shows that unemployment is leading to frustration and frustration is leading to all these sorts of activities. As a result of which we are having these activities in Punjab, Kashmir, Assam and other parts of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: I am com-

ing to the question. This should be an eye-opener for the Government of India. I would like to know from the Minister as to what are the opportunities they are going to create for the youth in future in Air India and Indian Airlines.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not arise out of the original question.

[*English*]

SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARDHANAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to ask a supplementary. I am sorry to inform the Minister that there is lot of distortion of information in part (c) of his reply. He has told that the accused was an engineering graduate and was going to Australia. But on that particular day, in all the Tamil newspapers it was reported that the boy had come from Sri Lanka and was mentally retarded. Therefore, I want to know from the Minister that from which Department he has got this information, whether from the Civil Aviation Ministry or from the Home Department of Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Home Department has been giving such false news, hiding the Sri Lankan bulletins. Therefore, I want to know categorically from the Minister whether the reply has come from the Home Department of Tamil Nadu or from the Centre. In the Tamil newspapers it was not at all reported that he was an Australian. He was reported to be a citizen from Sri Lanka.

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that Mr. Mahalingam, the 27 years old young engineering student was a native of Coimbatore and he had boarded the plane which was to go to Madras via Bangalore. IC-534 is the flight number. So, to say that he is a Sri Lankan citizen is wrong. The fact is that he was a native from Coimbatore and he was under mental tension and for his living he wanted to go to Australia. In fact, he told the cockpit crew people that he wanted to go to Colombo. This is the factual position.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete, Mr. Janardhanan.

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: I have report from Karnataka Government as well as from Tamil Nadu Government and the full facts are there. The case is already registered against the accused and the proceedings are going on (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Mr. Janardhanan.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if he is an Indian national we feel that the mental tension is an excuse. However, we would like to know the cause of mental tension. If the cause is valid the why a case against him?

[*English*]

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the case has been registered. From whatever investigations have so far been carried out, no motive has been attached to it. In fact, some fears were expressed that some organisation's support is there but nothing such has been established. It is just a whimsical thinking of the young man. He was out of job. For a living he wanted to go to Australia and he told the captain that he wanted to go to Colombo and from there he wanted to go to Parth in Australia. This is the factual position and the facts are there before us.

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in the light of the problems in the troubled States of Assam, Kashmir and Punjab, what steps is the Government taking to ensure security measures and what type of equipment or security devices are they having to see that the hijackers do not pass through these security devices unnoticed, especially at the smaller airports.

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Sir, although what the hon. Member has asked is

not connected with the question, but whatever has come to our notice is that there is a tradition of constant security check and various equipment are needed to check the things. I cannot right now say what action is being taken in this regard. As and when the situation arises, we are quite aware of it and we are going to tighten the security measures.

[*Translation*]

Electrification of Hilly Areas in Uttar Pradesh

*163. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals regarding the rural electrification of the hilly areas from the Government of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any limit on expenditure per village, has been fixed by the Rural Electrification Corporation, for the approved schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the programme to extend electrification facilities to the hilly areas is being adversely affected due to the limit fixed on expenditure; and

(f) if so, when these restrictions are proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) and (b). No separate proposal specially for hilly area of Uttar Pradesh has been received in the Central Government. The Districtwise RE activities are finalised at the State level basis on the availability of funds and inter-se priority fixed by the State Government. 206 rural electrification schemes sponsored by the UPSEB for electrification of 14757 villages in the 8 hilly

Districts of Uttar Pradesh have been sanctioned by the REC so far for financial assistance of Rs. 128.18 crores.

(c) to (f). No specific limit of expenditure per village has been fixed by the Rural Electrification Corporation.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while expressing my dissatisfaction over the apathy shown in the matter of sanctioning rural electrification Schemes by Rural Electrification Corporation, I would like to know from the honourable Minister the number of rural electrification schemes forwarded by the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board last year and how many of them have been sanctioned and also the reasons for not sanctioning them on a time bound basis by the Union Ministry?

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board submitted a State level scheme which included eight hill districts. In these eight districts, there are nearly 651 villages and electrification thereof has been sanctioned for this year. The work is likely to begin shortly.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are complaints of misuse of money allotted for such works and also of diversion of funds. But such complaints regarding these schemes of hill areas are more serious. On the basis of the information available, the Union Ministry has decided that, whatever be the population of the village as per the census of 1981, only 50 electric poles will be installed there. Problem is that in the hilly areas the distance between one village and the other is considerable. Moreover, the terrain is also difficult. Villages are small and the population is also scattered. The villages being electrified by the State Electricity Board are not being electrified fully. This is creating discontent among the local people. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister, through you, whether the norms for putting up electric poles and sanctioning of funds have been fixed by his Ministry on the basis of population?

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify that we have not shown any indifference towards the development of hilly areas. Seventyone percent of the villages in entire UP are electrified and in hilly areas 69.12 per cent villagers are electrified. So, no indifference has been shown. However, the Planning Commission has fixed a criterion of Rs. 2.2 lakh and we spend accordingly. We give sanction for electrification taking some villages as a group. So, there is no restriction whether the electrification of a particular village involves more expenditure or less. In spite of this, if there are some hilly areas facing scarcity of electricity because of their geographical and topographical conditions, we will consider their requirement keeping in view their development. We will not allow the villages to continue as scarcity areas.

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Minister has replied that there is no separate proposal for hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. Honourable Shri Kalviji has no doubt touched these points, but I want a clear assurance. Will any special Central assistance be given for the hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh so as to ensure speedy electrification of the backward and hilly areas of these states?

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rural Electrification Corporation sanctions funds for the purpose of electrification in rural areas on demand from the State Governments concerned. No funds are sanctioned to any individual rather the total amount is sanctioned to the State Government as per their total requirement. The Central Government monitors the progress of work of electrification besides giving financial assistance. We have nothing to do with the spending of amount or according sanction for electrification of villages as such.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply given by the hon. Minister, it has been claimed that 71 per cent electrification i.e. the full quota, has been

completed in Uttar Pradesh. The hon. Minister has misled the House to some extent.(*Interruptions*)I would like to submit that the electrification of a particular village includes its Gram Sabha which covers hill area and also the plateau. One Gram Sabha consists of 10/12 small hamlets. But electrification is done only in the main village and all other hamlets are neglected. No electrification is done in these hamlets whereas the fact is that their population is more than that of the Gram Sabha. Though the hon. Minister claims to have completed 71 per cent electrification but it is 25 per cent in hill areas and Bundelkhand plateaus of Uttar Pradesh. In rest of the villages, electrification work is lying incomplete. Perhaps the target of 71 per cent electrification might have been fulfilled by covering other remaining areas of Uttar Pradesh.....(*Interruptions*)But what measures are going to be taken to remove this imbalance? What decision will be taken with regard to the electrification in the hamlets which come under a Gram Sabha.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that it is for the State Government to earmark the villages proposed to be brought under electrification programme. We provide funds keeping in view the demands put forth by the State Government and monitor the progress of the work.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister something with regard to Rajasthan. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not compel the hon. Minister to say any thing in regard to Rajasthan. You can ask about Uttar Pradesh, if you want.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: As you have stated, facilities should be provided in hill areas. Villages in desert areas are also scattered at distant places in the same manner.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it clear to the hon. Member, who belongs to Rajasthan, that similar difficulties exist in hilly areas where villages are situated at distant places say at 10-20 kilometres as well as in desert areas, Therefore, all geographical factors will be taken into consideration.

SHRI RAMDHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the State Governments frame and also implement the schemes, Central Government merely provides financial aid. However, the reality is that the State Governments have been spending the funds provided for this purpose elsewhere. The Government of India had chalked out a plan for the electrification of Harijan colonies but in fact these colonies were neglected and instead other colonies have been brought in electrification programme. Recently, a Central team was sent to Uttar Pradesh do to coordination work in rural areas but then it was withdrawn. Will the Government sent that team again so that the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Electricity Board may function properly and the funds are utilized in a proper manner.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, sir, we accord priority to the electrification of Harijan colonies..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM DHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has stated that priority is given to Harijan colonies.

SHRI RAM DHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was not my point, he is misleading the House. My submission is that the Central team which has been sent to do the coordination work in Uttar Pradesh has been withdrawn. Funds which are allocated for particular purpose are diverted elsewhere. The hon'ble Minister has not stated the steps taken in this regard.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main question relates to the electrification in Uttar Pradesh. The list of identified

Harijan areas published recently by the Government of Uttar Pradesh is not correct.....(*Interruptions*)Will the hon. Minister direct the Government of Uttar Pradesh to verify the list, if so by when and whether its report will be placed on the table of the House?

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides providing the list of Harijan colonies, electrification of those Harijan colonies has been made compulsory, which are adjacent to the villages proposed to be covered under the electrification programme.

[*English*]

Power Availability

*164. SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any plan for maximising power availability from the existing stations by reducing transmission and distribution losses and improving plant load factor of thermal plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Measures taken to maximise power availability from the existing stations include implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Renovation & Modernisation programme for thermal power stations, reduction of T&D losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures, transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas, arranging adequate quantity and quality of coal, training of op-

eration and maintenance personnel etc. Power stations are constantly monitored by the Power utilities and the Central Electricity Authority for maximising their generation.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that forecast of power supply *versus* demand envisaged by Working Group of Planning Commission has indicated a deteriorating situation generally in Southern region and particularly in Andhra Pradesh by the end of 1994-95.

I would also like to know whether it is a fact that during the first three years of Eighth Five Year Plan, there are no new power generating schemes in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, to obviate this difficulty of serious power shortage, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to take up sort gestation-gas based Thermal power stations at Vijeswaram, Kakinada, Rajmundry and Amalapuram. If so, what steps the Government of India have taken to clear these projects and for providing natural gas to the projects?

Mr third part of the question is, whether the Government of India is aware of the fact that crisis is brewing up at Vijayawada Thermal power station due to serious drop of supply of coal from Talcher coal mines in Orissa? If it is so, will the Government of India take some urgent steps to regularise the coal supply to Vijayawada Thermal station?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, separate notice is required for this question

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has stated that he is unable to reply this specific question, you should give separate notice.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. S. RAO: The first supplementary is not answered. (*Interruptions*) The question is very much related to the main question.

SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY: I would like to know whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed the setting up of two power stations at Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam of Nellore district and sent the proposals to the Central Electricity Authority and, if so, what is the stage at which they are at present; and

(b) I would like to know whether it is a fact that a number of private parties have approached the State Electricity Boards of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for setting up power generating units following the policy guidelines announced by the Government to promote private sector participation in power generation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker Sir, this supplementary question is not related to the main question. If the hon. Member gives separate notice then it will be replied.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, with reference to your specific question on Andhra Pradesh, the hon. Minister has said that he would reply to it if separate notice is given.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether it is a fact that even the 35% area of Rajasthan, which is being electrified, does not get adequate supply of electricity and if so, how the hon. Minister proposed to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Supplementary question is not related to the main question. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main question is regarding transmission and distribution of electricity and I am answering Supplementary Questions related to the same.

[*English*]

SHRI K. S. RAO: You must protect the House. The hon. Minister cannot evade the answer like this. How can the hon. Minister pass on like this? You please tell the hon. Minister at least to come prepared next time.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have not heard the hon. Minister. He says that he has no information regarding specific States and he has no details. He is unable to answer that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall definitely answer the questions being asked by the hon. Members, but so far as this particular question is concerned, it is regarding power transmission and distribution and about which I have already furnished the information to the House. I am prepared to answer any Supplementary question related to the main question. But, the hon. Members are asking questions about Rajasthan and Orissa. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Rajasthan is very much part of India.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Let the hon. Minister come prepared tomorrow.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: This is a very important issue. Let us have Half-an-Hour

Discussion on this. (*Interruptions*) I would like to say that this is a very important issue. Half-an-Hour discussion should be allowed. This is a most important issue... (*Interruptions*) Throughout India this transmission and distribution loss is very grave. Some urgent steps should be taken. I appeal to you to allow an Half-an-Hour discussion

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: I would like to request the hon. Members to first go through the main question and I am prepared to answer any question related to that.

[*English*]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, please look at the question. This is a serious matter. The Minister must understand that it is not a simple question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen that.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The Question says:

"Whether the Government have drawn up any plan for maximising power availability from the existing stations by reducing transmission and distribution losses and improving plant load factor of thermal plants, and

if so, the details thereof"

This goes to the whole gamut of power distribution in India. They cannot say that this is beyond their scope and that is within their scope. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: But he cannot answer that. He has to deal with it. But he confesses that he has not got the details about the different States. You have to admit it. He has to get the details.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Let there be an Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: The Supplementary Question being asked are about power generation, while the main question is regarding transmission and distribution losses and load factor of thermal plants.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: You can talk eloquently about Roop Kunwar, but you are unable to say a few words about the power situation..(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I will look into it. I will give my decision. all of you, please take your seats.....(*Interruptions*) ..

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I want to say that I shall definitely look into Shri Ajit Panja's proposal for an half-an-hour discussion on this issue, but I would like to tell the hon. Minister that when questions of such comprehensive nature are raised, the hon. Members are free to ask supplementary questions about the States. Therefore, in future, he should keep this in mind and come prepared to the House.

[*English*]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies To Unemployed Youths

*165. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petrol pumps and LPG agencies are being allotted to unemployed youths as announced by the previous Gov-

ernment.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). No scheme to allot petrol pumps and LPG agencies for unemployed youths was finalised by the previous Government. However, as per existing policy for allotment of retail outlets (diesel/petrol dealerships) and LPG distributorships, preference is given to unemployed graduates and unemployed engineering graduates over other applicants, except Consumer Cooperative Societies, in the 'Open' category.

[*English*]

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Sir, unfortunately, I have the English version of the answer sheet and therefore I will put my supplementaries in English. The hon. Minister has read it out in Hindi. But I have got the English copy of the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Mandhataji, is there any discrepancy between the written answer and the oral answer?

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: It doesn't make any difference in any way.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all right.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I know the hon. Minister personally. He is very well-versed in English.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has replied in English. It is in Roman script. That is all. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I had asked whether the previous Government had framed any policy regarding allotment of gas

agency and other related items to unemployed youth. And the answer says, no scheme was finalised by the previous Government. I want to ask....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Where has Shri V. P. Singh gone? he is absent.(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: He has gone along with Shri Rajiv Gandhi somewhere. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has a right to put the question. Mandhata Singhji, please, address the Speaker.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: The answer given is: No scheme was finalised by the previous Government. It clearly indicates that the previous Government has done some spade work and it was not finalised. May I know from the Minister what spade work was done by the previous Government and whether the present Government proposes to pursue the same and act accordingly?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: I think, Shri Mandhata Singh knows, the previous Government was headed by Shri V. P. Singh. Shri V. P. Singh made an announcement at the two public meetings one was held in Madras and the other one was held in Kerala on the 23rd of September, 1990. And the announcement was, "Government is thinking of allotting petrol pumps, gas agencies and other agencies to those meritorious students who are economically weak. Such meritorious and economically weak students will be provided loans from banks to establish and run these agencies. This will be done with a view to provide employment to educated youth and will be a step towards self-employment of youth. And

thereafter on 4th October, a letter was sent by the Prime Minister's Office to the then Secretary of Petroleum and thereafter nothing was done over it.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Reacting to the Minister's answer.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: The second part has not come.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I reserve my second question.

MR. SPEAKER: What reserve?

[*Translation*]

You are asking your second supplementary question.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I can connect two questions together. The Minister says that the Government was thinking. Firstly, I want to know whether that thinking.....

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: I said, letter was sent from the Prime Minister's Office and not by Government.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Yes. Shri V. P. Singh represented that Government. I hope, you concede that. I want to ask whether that thinking has stopped. And then the related question is like this. The answer says that under the existing scheme of things unemployed youths are given preference. May I know, during the last one year, how many unemployed youngmen were given these facilities and will the Minister lay a detailed statement on the Table of the House?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: So far as these figures are concerned, that is not available with me. I will supply that to the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, his question was whether that

thinking has stopped or is it under the consideration of the Government?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has not said that thinking has been stopped.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: When their Government was thinking, they were also sinking. So, how could they do it? *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether there is any reservation for the Scheduled Caste youths, so far as the allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies is concerned and if so, the details thereof? I would also like to know, the number of petrol pumps and gas agencies allotted in the last ten years and the number of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes among them?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in terms of the present scheme, the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who fall in the age group of 21 to 50 years, are entitled to get the facility of twenty five per cent reservation.

SHRI KALKA DAS: I had asked about the total number of gas agencies and petrol pumps allotted during the last ten years and the percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe allottees among them.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Right at the moment these statistics are not available.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Will these be placed on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes Sir, these will be placed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to the original question raised by the member whether the present Government proposes to follow or not the policies of the previous Government in this regard. At the same time I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many gas agencies and petrol pumps have been allotted in Delhi and elsewhere since the Chandra Shekhar Government assumed charge. I would also like to know about the number of allottees begging to SC and ST among them and the ratio adopted and whether in the process of allotment any favouritism was made in this regard?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: In reply to the second part of the question I would like to state that not a single allotment has been made since Shri Chandra Shekhar became Prime Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: Allotments have been made.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: No, Sir. In response to the announcement made by the previous government regarding the allotment of petrol pumps to the talented students and allotment of gas agencies to the poor people, we are giving due consideration to this aspect.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: The previous Government has made a provision of allotting petrol pumps and gas agencies to the unemployed youths but these are being distributed among the private parties. In November 1987, a decision was taken by this Ministry to allot L. P. G. agencies to wholesale consumers' cooperatives but as per my knowledge no allotment has been made so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has made any announcement to allot the dealership of gas agencies and petrol pumps to cooperatives or the decision has been reversed. What are the reasons therefor?

SHRISATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an open category and the consumers' cooperatives which fall under this category, are given priority but at present there is no provision for the cooperatives in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: There are so many wholesale consumer cooperatives which are waiting for distributorship. At least 12 of them are waiting but they are not going to be allotted the distributorship. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. S. RAO: The policy of the Government to allot its petrol pumps and gas agencies to unemployed youth is excellent. As matters stand today, the petrol pumps and the gas agencies are at a distance of 20 to 40 kms. in some areas particularly in the delta and coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh. The need for these things is too high because the farmers are using tractors in a good number and the people are using gas because no other form of fuel like wood is available. So it is both for serving the purpose of giving employment to more and more youth as well as to help the consumers who are not able to carry the cylinders which causes danger to the life. It causes even danger to the life if they carry cylinders in cycles for long distances. Transport buses are not permitting them to carry cylinders in buses. I wish to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he would think in terms of bifurcating or trifurcating even the existing agencies—which is necessary—and install more, in the semi-urban and urban places in the villages which are developing into new centres so that more youth can be employed and it will also be within the reach of the farming community as well as the consumers.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Sir, I will get this proposal examined by my Ministry.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the policy of the Government regarding allotment of petrol pumps, diesel pumps and gas agencies includes the disabled and others belonging to the category of handicapped. Sir, Diesel pumps are in great demand in rural areas now a days. As such, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any rule has been framed or not with regard to allotment of diesel pumps at Development Block level.

SHRISATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Sir, 7.5% reservation is being provided for the physically handicapped persons and as far as part (b) is concerned, this right rests with the State Governments.

Delay in supply of LPG Refills

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*166. **SHRI R. N. RAKESH:**
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Endless wait for LPG Refill", appearing in the Tribune dated 29 November, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the supply of LPG in the country falls far short of the demand;

(c) if so, the position in regard to its demand and supply;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed by the Government for supplying LPG refills to consumers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the arrangements made for initiating action against distributors for not supplying refills within the prescribed time limit and the number of such distributors against whom

action has been taken so far during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRISATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The demand for LPG outstrips indigenous availability which is being augmented through imports.

(d) and (e). The distributors are under instructions from the LPG marketing oil companies to supply refills promptly on demand on a first come first serve basis. Regular and surprise inspections are carried out by the field staff of oil companies. All complaints received regarding delay in the delivery of refills are investigated and appropriate action taken against the erring distributors in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and distributorship agreement.

The information regarding the number of such distributors against whom action has been taken during the last one year for delay in supply of refills is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI R. N. RAKESH (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that gas cylinders are being imported from abroad in order to meet the growing demand. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how many cylinders are in short supply in the country which are being imported from abroad.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: At this juncture, we are facing shortage of gas itself and there is no shortage of cylinders.

SHRI R. N. RAKESH: It does figure in part four of the question.

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask.

SHRI R. N. RAKESH: I would like to

know from the hon. Minister as to how much time the Ministry would take to redress the grievances of the consumers from all parts of the country who are making complaints regularly regarding refilling and supply of gas cylinders.

SHRISATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the complaints received in this regard are looked into but if the hon. Member has any specific complaint in this connection, he may scented the same to us. It will be investigated and in the course of the investigation if any distributor is found guilty, stringent action will be taken against him.

SHRI M. S. PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire House is aware of the fact that the whole of Northern India is in the grip of severe cold and gas connections are not being sanctioned in this region for quite some time and in addition to that the people are not getting electric supply as the supply and communication lines have been damaged due to snowfall keeping it in view is the Government considering to respect grant of new gas connections.

SHRISATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are certainly maintaining the refilling facility to the existing consumers but the supply of new gas connections are banned for the time being.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: We are already in the midst of many difficulties and the Ministry of Petroleum too has added to our difficulties. The prices of food items in the markets are soaring sky high and there are other commodities which are not available in the market but the non availability of cooking gas is making even the coking of the available items more difficult. As the hon. Minister told right now that there was no scarcity of gas cylinders but there was a crisis to cooking gas. I want to highlight the situation in my region, where the people who registered their names in 1982, have not been provided gas connections. Owing to this the markets are full of duplicate cylinders and numerous accident cases are reported frequently and we have to face the conse-

quences of these mishaps. Is the Government aware of these duplicate cylinders that are in circulation in the markets? If yes, what are the concrete steps that have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRISATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Mr. Speaker, sir, as far as the question of duplicate cylinder is concerned, we will certainly investigate the matter and take appropriate action if in case any complaint is received either from any hon. Member or from the public, but our efforts are to make sure that the duplicate cylinders are not supplied to anyone.

.....(*Interruptions*).....

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The Hon. Minister has said that there is a shortage of gas. But in certain parts of the country, for example, in Tripura and Assam, the gas is being wasted. The Governments there are requesting the Central Government to give them a reasonable rate so that the gas can be utilised best for household as well as for commercial purposes. What is the stand of the Government of India on this? What decision are they going to take to ease the gas situation in the country?

SHRISATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: We have received proposals from the concerned State Governments. We are examining them and we will take a decision soon.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATINDER PAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Rajpura division of Patiala district a tanker of Hindustan Petroleum while going from Gujarat to Jalandhar, met with an accident near Ghanori Kalan due to leakage of gas from it. The cause of the mishap was that it was carrying gas in duplicate cylinders. When there was a leakage, fire broke out. The driver of the said tanker abandoned the tanker and fled. As a result of this accident sixty houses were totally gutted, their roof

were blown off, fifteen people were killed, 250 cattle died and seventy people, who received more than fifty percent burns, are still battling for their lives in Rajendra Hospital located in Patiala. I want to ask the hon. Minister through you as to what steps do you propose to take to check the pilferage of gas which causes heavy loss to the people and the action taken in respect of Ghanori Kalan accident.

SHRISATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question put by the hon. Member is not linked with the main question. I need a separate notice for it.

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Minister is not in a position to reply to my question right now, he may be directed to lay it on the Table of the House later. Fifteen lives have been lost in this incident.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, the hon. Minister will lay the reply to your question on the Table of the House. Please take your seat.

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Mr. Speaker, the country is passing through a domestic fuel crisis. The traditional fuel, i.e., cutting the trees and utilising them for the purpose of domestic fuel, is not available in the country side now as deforestation had taken place on a mass scale. And the LPG gas is also not available. So, in view of the non-availability of domestic fuel and LPG gas, will the Ministry of Petroleum, in consultation with the Ministry of Energy, evolve a National Domestic Fuel Policy so that the whole country can know the policy of the Government regarding domestic fuel?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Sir, I have taken note to his suggestion.

SHRISRIKANTAJENA: Sir, the Minister has said that there is non-availability of gas in the country and as Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev has said, there is wastage of gas in Assam and Bombay High. What exactly are

the steps which the Government is going to take to get the gas which is going waste and distribute it? What are the steps to be taken by the Government in this respect in the following Eighth Five Year Plan?

SHRISATYAPRAKASH MALVIYA: Sir, this is a new question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far, the facility of L.P.G. connection is available in cities only on the basis of ration card, but this facility has not been extended to 70 lakh villages of the country where crores of people live. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to extend L.P.G. connection facility to the people living in villages too?

SHRISATYAPRAKASH MALVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the existing provisions, L.P.G. is supplied to the areas having population of 20,000 or more. So far as the question of villages is concerned, there are a number of difficulties involved in it. The agents in town areas face a variety of difficulties in supplying L.P.G. to villages. However, I shall consider the suggestion given by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that L.P.G. is supplied to the areas having population of 20,000 or more. All hon. Members know it pretty well that the people from rural areas have to transport L.P.G. from town areas, where gas agencies are located, to the villages through buses and other modes of transport. With a view to checking accidents which take place during the course of transportation of L.P.G. from town areas to the villages, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to open LPG agencies at the block level through-out the country in order to extend the facility of LPG supply to the villages?

SHRISATYAPRAKASH MALVIYA: Sir, I had said in the beginning itself that LPG agencies are opened in the areas where population is 20 thousand or more. So far as the question of opening agencies at the block level is concerned, there is no such proposal for the present.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, The hon. Minister said a shortwhile ago that there was shortage of LPG. In this connection, I would like to know from him whether there is any fixed period say 15 or 20 days, within which the refill cylinder is supplied, because in my constituency, refill is not supplied even after 20-30 days?

SHRISATYAPRAKASH MALVIYA: Sir, a period of 21 days has been fixed for this purpose. Refill of LPG is supplied 21 days after the supply of first cylinder.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Refill is not supplied for as long as 20 days. My question is as to how long does it take to supply the refill?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Refill will be supplied after 21 days.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: In the light of fuel prices in our country, particularly in the eastern part - West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar, I would like to know whether there is any proposal for the expansion of the capacity of the LPG bottling plant in Haldia refinery of the IOC?

[*Translation*]

SHRISATYAPRAKASH MALVIYA: The hon. Member's question is different from what has been asked in the main question. However, I shall look into it if he gives it in writing.

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA: In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the waiting time for getting a refill is more than a month. This is because all the refills are transported by ship and the ship does not run every day. I would, therefore, like to know from the Minister whether Government would consider to stock sufficient number of refills in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which will help to ease the situation.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: We will take steps to adequately improve the situation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Demand of Employees of National Airport Authority

*167. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers and employees of the National Airports Authority are on agitation for settling of their demands;

(b) if so, the details of demands made by them; and

(c) the action taken so far to settle the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Prompted by financial reliefs given by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited to their employees, six Unions/Associations of the employees/officers of the National Airports Authority have submitted a joint memorandum demanding identical relief which includes one advance increment from the date of their absorption in the National Airports Authority and one time financial relief varying between Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- to all the employees. They have proposed to go on agitation if the issue is not settled.

(c) The issue is under discussion with Associations/Unions.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia-Chandrapur Railway Line

*168. SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in regard to

conversion of metregauge railway lines of Jabalpur, Gondia and Chandrapur into broadgauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) The Railway has been advised in August '90 to extend the scope of the survey conducted for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia Narrow Gauge line to Broad Gauge upto Chandrapur so that establishment of a meaningful alternative North-South route can be considered.

Stepping Up On-Shore Oil Exploration

[*English*]

*169. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

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

(a) whether there is a tremendous potential of on-shore oil in the country whose exploration is less expensive than that of off-shore oil;

(b) whether the Government have worked out any strategy to step up on-shore oil exploration to sustain economic growth and to improve balance of payments position;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the foreign aid, if any;

(d) whether the Government have received any request from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) There is a good potential for finding oil and gas in the onland sedimentary basins. Offshore basins of India are also considered to be very prospective. The strategy for exploitation and exploitation has to have a judicious mix of fields from both onshore and offshore.

(b) Government's strategy is to maintain if not increase the tempo of exploration in both the onshore as well as offshore basins of India.

(c) As a part of long term strategy both intensive and extensive exploratory efforts are planned which would enable both immediate gains in terms of crude oil production, as also establishing adequate reserves and future exploration leads. Intensive exploration in category I basins have resulted in identification and delineation of nearly all the obvious and simple type of hydrocarbon traps. More advanced survey techniques will be used to identify subtle and geological more complex kind of combination traps. To supplement the efforts of the national oil companies, international companies have been invited in three previous rounds of bidding to explore blocks offered in the country. In the Fourth Round of bidding, which is imminent, it is expected that a number of onland blocks would also be offered.

(d) Government have not received any such request from Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

**Standing Committee on Exclusion/
Inclusion of Drugs**

170. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

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

(a) Whether the Standing Committee constituted to look into the representations against Kelkar Committee Report relating to exclusion/inclusion of certain drugs from the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 has since completed its work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). The Standing Committee constituted by the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals is a permanent Committee, to consider representations received by the Government from time to time on the issues concerning the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 including the inclusion/exclusion of bulk drugs under price control and to make its recommendations on the subject to the Government. In its first report, the Standing Committee has made recommendations with regard to major/minor ingredients, categorisation of combination formulations etc. which have been accepted and implemented by the Government. The other issues are before the Standing Committee and further details would be furnished after a final decision is taken by the Government.

Utilisation of Natural Gas

*171. SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to

draw up a time bound action plan for the use of natural gas in various sectors to avoid oil imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). Government have already allocated natural gas likely to be available for use to various consumers in the power, fertilizer, sponge iron and other sectors. Such allocations currently total approximately 82 million cubic metres of gas per day.

This is approximately equivalent to 30 MT of oil. However, the full offtake and use of the allocated gas is dependent on upstream investment in facilities to process, compress and transport the gas and downstream investment in the setting up of user industries.

As and when new gas discoveries are made, and the gas becomes available for use, it is allocated to consumers.

[English]

Additional Air Services to Udaipur and Other Cities

*172. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional air service is proposed to be provided to Udaipur in order to boost tourism and earn more foreign exchange;

(b) whether the Government propose to operate Bombay-Surat-Udaipur and Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur Vayudoot service in the near future on all the seven days instead of three days a week and if so, when; and

(c) the steps taken to provide Vayudoot service to Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Indian Airlines has introduced a second daily service to Udaipur with effect from 16th December, 1990. Vayudoot has no plans to make its services to Udaipur daily.

(c) Vayudoot has no plans to airlink Bundi and Jhalawar. There are no immediate plans to restore operations to Kota which were suspended due to inadequate load factor.

[English]

Pipeline from Bombay High to Mangalore

*173. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to lay a gas pipeline from Bombay High to Mangalore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) No, Sir. No such project proposal is pending currently.

(b) Does not arise.

Release of DBC

*174. DR. C. SILVERA:
SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA
MUNDA:

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

(a) whether there is a ban on issue of double barrel connections in the country, especially in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to lift the ban?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). A second cylinder is released to LPG consumers in a planned manner subject to product availability and backlogs in LPG supplies. In the context of the recent Gulf crisis, restricted availability of the product and backlogs, release of a second cylinder has been withheld all over the country till the situation improves. Actions are being taken to augment availability of the product, its speedy movement, enhanced bottling and to steps up delivery of refills so as to reduce the backlogs.

[Translation]

Condition of Labourers In South Eastern Coalfields Limited

*175. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether labourers are engaged by contractors for carrying coal from mines, to load and unload coal in trucks in Gabra (Bilaspur district) Mehgaon and Katkona

(Surguja district), Rajnagar and Bijuri (Sahdola district) under South Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) whether these labourers are paid one fourth or one third of the minimum wages fixed by law by the contractors;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to declare all these labourers as regular workers of the Coal India Limited;

(d) whether the case of contractors versus labourers of Gabra Project is pending with the Chief Labour Commissioner, Delhi for the last four years; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the delay, and if not, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) The contractors engaged by SECL for coal transportation and loading in Gevra, Bhatgaon, Katkona, Rajnagar and Bijuri execute the jobs; by mechanical means and not by manual.

(b) SECL has reported that transport contractors pay to their workers wages varying between Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 per month depending on their designation. Mainly, drivers, khalasis, mechanics, helpers are employed by contractors for driving and maintenance of tippers. While the minimum wages fixed by the M.P. Government under the Minimum Wages Act is reported to be Rs. 21/- per day of Rs. 546/- for 26 working days of a month, no worker of the contractor is reported to be paid less than Rs. 750/- per month.

(c) Contractors' workers are not employees of the SECL and the question of employing them as regular workers of the coal company does not arise.

(d) and (e). A complaint demanding payment for contract workers at par with

principal employer workers on account of same or similar nature of job being performed by them in Gevra Project was received by CLC(c) in December 1987. This matter is under arbitration in accordance with the mutual agreement arrived at by the parties in May 1989. The arbitration is in progress. A meeting is fixed for the 3rd week of January 1991.

[English]

Rehabilitation of N.C.L. Oustees

*176. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1982 the Northern Coalfields Limited agreed with representatives of the land oustees to rehabilitate them;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement arrived at;

(c) the extent of its implementation especially in respect of outstees belonging to Kharia, Bina and Khakri projects;

(d) the reasons for not implementing the agreement in full; and

(e) the time by which it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (e). In a meeting held on 25.7.82 with the representatives of villagers, Shri R. P. Panika, the then Member of Parliament and the representatives of CCL (now NCL), the following decisions were taken with regard to rehabilitation of displaced persons:

- (i) Compensation for the tenancy land at the rate of Rs. 7700/- was fixed.
- (ii) Compensation for houses, wells,

trees and band has were also decided to be paid based on C.C.L. schedule.

(iii) Employment to the land oustees should be given as per norms, suitability and need of the project.

(iv) All such persons whose houses have been acquired should be provided 60 ft. x 40 ft. plot for their rehabilitation within 1-2 Kms. of project area. Apart from this, CCL (now NCL) would, as far as possible, provide assistance to U.P. Government for providing drinking water, electricity and educational facilities.

The rehabilitation sites in U.P. are very near to the projects in case of Kakri and Bina projects. In case of Khadia project, because of non-availability of suitable land in the project area and nearby, rehabilitation site has been developed at a distance of about 8 Kms. from the Project site, in consultation with the Rehabilitation Cell under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate constituted by U. P. Government, keeping in view its proximity to main road and transport system. The families who are moved are paid an amount of Rs. 1000/- for shifting of their belongings.

Street Lights in Delhi

*177. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether street lights have not been provided so far in R. K. Puram and other areas of Delhi, after their widening of roads;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) when the street lights are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (c). According to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, it takes six to eight months to execute a scheme for shifting/removal of electricity poles during the road widening process after the requisite estimated charges are deposited by the concerned road maintaining agency, i. e., the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Public Works Department, Central Public Works Department and Delhi Development Authority, etc. In the R. K. Puram area, DESU has already completed the work of shifting of poles, etc., on the Vivekanand Marg and Sangam Marg. The work in respect of Venkateshwar Marg and Kama Kutti Marg are likely to be completed by June, 1991. Shifting of electricity Poles on the other roads in the R. K. Puram area can be undertaken by DESU only after receipt of the requisite payments from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. At present about 110 cases pertaining to street lighting deposit works in other parts of Delhi are at various stages of execution by DESU.

Alleged Injustice Against SC/ST Officials

*178. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Parliament had sent a memorandum during March, 1989 enlisting numerous cases of injustice meted out to the SC and ST officials;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was conducted;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken on the enquiry

report and against the officials found responsible for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (d). No such memorandum as referred to appears to have been received during March, 1989. However a letter dated 23.3.1988 signed by Shri Somjibhai Damor and several other MPs was received.

Each individual case referred to was personally examined by General Manager, Northern Railway. The report by General Manager/Northern Railway was also examined in Railway Board and no case of any injustice or harassment of SC/ST officers was established.

Since the various allegations of harassment or discrimination etc. were not found correct, the question of taking any action against any officer did not arise.

Operation of Air Bus A-320

*179. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the A-320 Airbus which were grounded after the Bangalore accident have been put back into service;

(b) the number of such aircraft with the Indian Airlines and how many were grounded and for how long;

(c) when the report of the Committee appointed to go into the air worthiness of these aircraft was made available to the Government and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether Airbus A-320 aircraft are

being used by other countries if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any other country had also grounded such aircraft for identical technical reasons; if so, the names of such countries; and

(f) the number of such aircraft proposed to be purchased in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Fourteen Airbus A-320 aircraft have remained on ground from 19.2.1990 onwards. four Airbus A320 aircraft, which were received during October, 1990 had remained so from the date of their arrival. Between 7th September and 10th October, some of the A320 aircraft were used for evacuation of our nationals from the Gulf region. From 28th October, 1990, Airbus A320 aircraft have been reinducted in the external sector of the Indian Airlines network and from 3rd December, 1990, they have been reinducted in the domestic sector as well. The reinduction in proceeding in a phased manner. Seven such aircraft are now in operation.

(c) Government did not appoint any Committee to go into the question of airworthiness of the Airbus A320 aircraft. However, the Ramdas Committee had been appointed to evaluate the state of preparedness of Indian Airlines for the safe operation of the Airbus A320 aircraft. The Committee submitted its interim report in March, 1990 and final report in June, 1990. Copies of the report have been placed in the library of the Parliament (Index No. 621.13252 R). Indian Airlines has taken adequate steps to implement the recommendations of the Ramdas Committee.

(d). According to the bulletin of Airbus Industry dated 9th November, 1990, 35 customers of the world had placed firm orders

for 657 of the A320 aircraft. The aircraft fitted with CFM or V2500 engine is presently being flown by a number of airlines of the world such as Air France, Air Inter, British Airways, Lufthansa, Air Canada, Ansett Airlines, North British Orient, Adria, Cyprus Airways and Royal Jordanian Airlines.

(e) No, Sir,

(f) Twelve.

Electrification of J. J. Colonies in Delhi

*180. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has decided to electrify all dwelling units in J.J. Colonies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such colonies and the number of dwelling units to be electrified this year; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) No decision has been taken to provide electric connections to each dwelling unit in J.J. colonies in Delhi.

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

[*Translation*]

Shortage of LPG in Bihar

*181. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumers in Bihar are facing difficulties because of shortage of LPG and resultant malpractices; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to restore normal supply of cooking gas and to eradicate blackmarketing and other malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). A temporary shortage in the supply of LPG refills was reported in certain locations of Bihar on account of constraints in the availability of bulk LPG, transportation problems, and sporadic law and order problems. Actions are being taken to augment availability of LPG, transportation problems, and sporadic law and order problems. Actions are being taken to augment availability of LPG, increase bottling, expedite movement and step up delivery of refills so as to restore normalcy. In order to prevent malpractices, including black marketing, regular and surprise inspections are carried out by the field staff of Oil companies. All complaints received against the LPG distributors are investigated and appropriate action taken in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, and dealership agreement.

[English]

Shifting of Administrative Building of Jaipur Airport

1861. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative building of the Jaipur Airport is situated at a wrong location without proper approach road;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to construct a better building on the main road; and

(c) the time by which the work on this plan is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d). As a short term measure, the existing terminal building is being extended and modified to cope with the passenger traffic. For the long term, the State Government has been requested to acquire additional land on the northern side of the airfield for construction of new terminal complex.

Absorption of Vigilance Officers by Air India and Indian Airlines

1862. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been laid down or any norms followed in the matter of vigilance officers first posted to the Air-India and Indian Airlines on deputation and then their absorption in these organisations;

(b) whether such officers are entitled to all facilities and perks and concessions like free travel, transport, accommodation etc. during their deputation period:

(c) what is the tenure of the present Director of vigilance in the Air-India and whether allowances, perks and facilities enjoyed by his counterparts in the Indian Airlines are also being given to him;

(d) whether Government have permitted his permanent absorption in the Air-India; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Chief Vigilance Officers are appointed by the Government on deputation from the panel received from

the Department of Personnel in consultation with the Chief Vigilance Commission. Absorption of such officers in Indian Airlines/Air-India is not envisaged generally.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The tenure of the present Director of Vigilance is upto 31.5.92. He is being given allowances, perks and facilities as per the terms and conditions of deputation which are comparable to those of his counterpart in Indian Airlines.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of Dining/Pantry Car Contracts on Northern Railway

1863. SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted contracts for dining/pantry cars on Northern Railway during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith total number of such contracts;

(c) whether unemployed graduates youth and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have also been allotted such contracts;

(d) if so, the number of those unemployed youth and SC/ST persons separately; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). A contract for catering service in New Delhi-Chandigarh-Kalka Shatabdi Express has

been awarded with effect from 11.12.1990.

(c) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(e) The contract for catering service in New Delhi-Chandigarh-Kalka Express has been awarded to the most suitable candidate on merits.

[English]

Alternative to Petrol

1864. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO
BRAHMABHATT:
SHRI NARSINGRAO
SURYAWANSHI:
SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA:
SHRI P. C. THOMAS:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that a liquid formation of a chemical compound available in abundance in the country and also 'tapioca' material can be used as fuel in motor vehicles saving the consumption of petrol;

(b) if so, the steps taken to commercialise its technology;

(c) whether SHELL International also possesses the technology to convert gas into diesel and kerosene and is willing to sell it;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to go in for these technologies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIA-

MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). All carbohydrates including tapioca, when fermented, give alcohol which can be used in partial or total substitution of petrol. However, the use of alcohol in admixture with petrol as automotive fuel is not made or encouraged as surplus alcohol is not available on sustained basis. Further, alcohol can be better used for producing value-added chemicals.

(c) to (e). SHELL has a technology for this conversion and a pilot plant in their laboratory in Holland. No commercial unit, based on this technology, is reported to have been set up.

A process for conversion of natural gas into middle distillates has also been developed by the National Chemicals Laboratory, Pune. A pilot plant based on this process is being set up in Bharat Petroleum Corporation's Refinery at Bombay for testing the process and developing data for design purposes. This process could be used when it becomes economical and necessary to convert natural gas into diesel and kerosene.

Role of ECL in Industrial Development

1865. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ECL does not adhere to the Government directive to help in the development of small scale and ancillary industries of Asansol/Durgapur region of West Bengal;

(b) whether due to the growth of small scale in the region has been deferred; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to see that these directives are adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (c). All public sector undertakings under the administrative

control of Department of Coal including the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) have been advised to follow the Government directives to help in the development of small scale and ancillary industries. No specific case of non-compliance of these directives by ECL have been brought to the notice.

Price Reduction Benefit to Consumers

1866. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian scientist has succeeded in lowering prices of several drugs;

(b) if so, the details of the drugs involved indicating the benefits passed on to the consumers;

(c) whether there are any proposals to encourage such entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) The Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals has no such information available with it.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Since it is the endeavour of the Government to ensure availability of medicines to the consumers in abundant quantity at cheaper and reasonable prices, Government will welcome any such proposal.

[*Translation*]

Fire Caused by Rail Tankers Filled with Crude Naptha

1867. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was heavy loss of life and property in the devastating fire caused by the rail tankers filled with crude Naptha in 1990 near Negda station of Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of enquiry conducted in the matter and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). There was no loss of life in the incident. The cost of damage to railway property is estimated to be Rs. 2.42 crores approximately. The enquiry conducted by the department in the matter has not held any railway employees responsible for the fire. According to Enquiry Committee the cause of the fire was formation of vapour clouds due to inadequate vapour space in the tank wagons and also due to overflow of the contents.

The findings of the Enquiry Committee have been forwarded to Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals who are required to take the follow up action.

[English]

Chair Cars In Express Trains

1868. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide chair cars in some Express Trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Provision of Chair cars in trains is a continuous process depending upon traffic requirements and availability of coaches.

Expansion and Development of Udaipur and Hamirgarh Airports

1869. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MEWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of expansion and other facilities proposed to be provided at Udaipur and Hamirgarh airports between Bhilwara and Chittorgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): Subject to availability of funds the terminal complex at Udaipur airport is proposed to be upgraded by the National Airports Authority. Hamirgarh Airports belongs to Government of Rajasthan and the National Airports Authority has no plans of providing facilities there.

Electrification of Railway Lines

1870. PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comparative study of electric/diesel/steam traction has been undertaken by the railways;

(b) if so, whether electric traction is found to be the cheapest in addition to being non-pollutant;

(c) if so, whether steps are being taken to undertake electrification projects in an efforts to increase the electric traction and reduce consumption of diesel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, in some cases depending upon traffic density of the route, costs of electrical energy, diesel oil etc. and operational advantages.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, Electrification is being done in a planned manner, During the 7th Plan 2612 route Kms were electrified. Work is currently in progress in about 2600 Kms which are programmed to be completed during the VIII Plan.

**Multi Disciplinary Integrated Approach
by ONGC**

1871. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-disciplinary integrated approach by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been adopted in the new organisational set up in order to achieve close coordination and working among the various groups associated with the implementation of the project during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to strengthen the project management system in ONGC the project management groups concerned with formulation and implementation of the projects have been made multi disciplinary by drawing personnel from different disciplines in the Commission. This is expected to achieve better coordination among the different groups in the Commission and outside agencies connected with the projects. A three level monitoring system has also been introduced for effective monitoring of the projects.

**Movement of Rail Traffic Due to
Shortage of Petroleum**

1872. SHRI JANARDHANAPOOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cut in diesel supplies has resulted in reducing the movement of rail transport leading to rise in prices of essential commodities; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take for the free movement of rail transport?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Movement of freight by rail per se has not suffered for no cut has been enforced in the supplies of diesel oil to Indian Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

**Supply of Food by Private Contractors
to IA and AI**

1873. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated yearly expenditure which the Air India incurs in India and abroad on its catering in flight and on ground;

(b) the manner in which such catering contracts are entered into both in India and abroad and how these were concluded during the current year—the names of the firms given the contracts;

(c) the reasons why the Air India and the Indian Airlines do not get their food-stuffs in the domestic flights and those taking off from India from the Hotel Corporation of India's Hotels in Bombay and New Delhi instead of from the contractors; and

(d) what are the difficulties which lie in the way of the Hotel Corporation of India's Hotels in improving their stuff and bring it at par with the private contractors etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Air India's expenditure on catering, for the year 1989-90 was as under—

	<i>In India (Rs. in crores)</i>	<i>In Abroad (Rs. in crores)</i>
Catering on Board	11.31	26.70
Catering on Ground	1.00	1.76

(b) In most Gulf stations, the local Government rules do not permit any competition. In such places, contract is awarded without calling for tenders. In other places, tender procedure is followed and contracts are entered into for 2-3 years, for safeguarding against escalation in cost. List of catering contracts concluded during 1990 is given below.

(c) Sixty Five percent of Air India's catering requirements and 25 percent of

India Airlines flight catering requirements are uplifted from Chefair. To have an alternate source of supply in case of problems arising with Chefair and to provide competition, catering contracts have been entered into with private parties.

(d) Hotel Corporation of India is facing heavy interest/depreciation burden which makes its product comparatively costly. There is also scope for improvement in efficiency.

STATEMENT*Catering Contracts Concluded by Air India During 1990*

Bombay	—	Taj Air Caterers/Chefair	Bahrain-Bahrain Airport Services
Delhi	—	Chefair/Taj	Moscow-AEROMAR
Madras	—	Taj Coramandel	Muscut-Oman International Services Ltd.
Calcutta	—	ITDC	Nairobi-NAS Caterers
Trivandrum	—	Shashes Flight Kitchen	Sharjah-Albert Abela
New York	—	Trust House Forte	Hongkong-Dairy Farm
Singapore	—	SATS	Kuwait-Kuwait Aviation Services
Tokyo	—	Tokyo Flight Kitchen	Riyadh-Saudia Catering
Dhahran	—	Abdul Majeed/Abdul Jadayel Est.	Jeddah-Saudia Catering
London	—	SAS	Tehran-Iran Air
Sydney	—	Quantas Flight Kitchen	
Frankfurt	—	Steigenburger (CATERAIR)	Rome-Aeroporti De Roma

Bangkok-Ihai Airways International Ltd.

Servair

—

Paris

Abu Dhabi International Airport Catering

—

Abu Dhabi

Quartar National Hotels Co.

—

Doha

Albert Abela

—

Dubai

Setting up of Chemicals & Petrochemicals Projects in Karnataka

1874. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up some chemical and petro-chemical projects in Karnataka is pending before the Government since long;

(b) if so, the names of those pending projects;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the clearance of those projects; and

(d) how many of those projects are expected to be set up during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (d). Applications for Industrial licence for the manufacture of various chemicals and petro-chemicals including those of projects proposed to be located in Karnataka are received from time to time. These are examined and decided upon the techno-economic consideration in line with existing policies as a continuous process.

Pantry Cars for Trains

1875. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pantry cars are being attached to all mail and express trains;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of pantry cars at present

held by the railways zone wise and the plan to have more pantry cars?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Pantry Car service is provided only on certain selected mail/express trains where adequate catering through static units enroute is not feasible, subject to the availability of pantry cars as well as room on trains.

(c) The number of pantry cars held by the Railways zone-wise is as under:-

<i>Railways</i>	<i>No. of Pantry Cars held</i>
Central	21
Eastern	28
Northern	22
North Eastern	16
Northeast Frontier	17
Southern	51
South Central	8
South Eastern	38
Western	34
Total	235

The 1990-91 Plan provides for the manufacture of 30 pantry cars.

World Bank Assisted Power Projects

1876. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of location, cost, generation capacities of the power projects that

were taken for implementation under the World Bank assisted programme during the decade ending December, 1990;

(b) the present stage of these power projects and the present rate of power generation of completed projects during that period; and

(c) whether most of the projects under this scheme had the stipulations on purchase and procurement of plants and equipments from the given names of the countries; if so,

the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). Details are given in the statement below.

(c) The procurement of equipment for power projects under the assistance from World Bank is done under International Competitive Bidding procedures and there are no specific stipulations in the loan agreements that the procurement of equipment would be from a specific country.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Location (State)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Total Generation from April- November, 1990 (MU)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Sjingarauli STPP State-II	1420	U.P.	1177.67	8183	All units commissioned
2.	Farakka STPP Stage-I	630	W.B.	622.82	1788	All units commissioned
3.	Korba STPP Stage-II	1000	M.P.	793.80	7548	All units commissioned
4.	Ramagundam STPP Stage-II	1000	A.P.	735.03	4755	All units commissioned
5.	Upper Indravati HPP	600	Orissa	380.65	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1992-93
6.	Central Transmission Project-I	1655 Ckt Km	A.P.	388.05	-	HVDC Back to Back link between Ramagundam and Vindychal has been commissioned. Remaining part is Scheduled to be commissioned in 1992.

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Location (State)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Total Generation from April- November, 1990 (MU)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Indira Sarovar HEP	500	M.P.	612.85	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1995.
8.	Farakka STPP Stage-II	1000	W.B.	1003.39	-	Scheduled to be Commissioned in 1991-92.
9.	Chandrapur TPP	1000	Maharashtra	902.00	-	Scheduled to be Commissioned in 1991.
10.	Rihand Transmission System	2596 Ckt. Km	U.P.	1063	-	The project is partly commissioned. The remaining part is scheduled to be commissioned during 1991-92.
11.	Lower Perriyar HEP	180	Kerala	140.00	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1992.

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Location (State)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Total Generation from April-November, 1990 (MU)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Auriya GT	652	U.P.	566.07	1169	All units commissioned.
13.	Anta GT	413	Rajasthan	372.99	920	All units commissioned.
14.	Kawas GT	632	Gujarat	598.41	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1992-93.
15.	Kalinadi HEP Stage-II	270	Karnataka	317.80	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1993-94
16.	National Capital Thermal Power Project (Dadri)	840	U.P.	1364.10	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1992-93.
17.	Telcher TPP	1000	Orissa	1404.00	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1994-95.

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Location (State)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Total Generation from April- November, 1990 (MU)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	Sharavathi Tail Race HEP	240	Karnataka	232.00	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1994-95.
19.	Srinagar HEP	330	U.P.	372.32	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1995-96.
20.	Nathpa Jhakri HEP	1500	H.P.	1678.02	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1996-97.
21.	Koyna HEP Stage-IV	1000	Maharashtra	470.50	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1994-95.
22.	Trombay TPS Unit-VI	500	-do-	426.00	4429	Unit commissioned in March, 90.

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Location (State)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Total Generation from April- November, 1990 (MU)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Norther Regional Transmission System	3076 Ckt. Km.	J&K. H.P., Punjab, Rajasthan	1309.89	-	Scheduled to be commissioned in 1988.
24.	REC-III	-	SEB's(*)	-	-	Completed on 31.12.1988.

(*) West Bengal, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Gujarat.

**Appointment of IDPL Stockists/Dealers
In Orissa**

1877. SHRI MANGARAJ MALLIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the IDPL drugs/medicines are more in demand and are in short supply in Orissa, resulting in over-charging by the chemists; and

(b) if so, the action taken to meet the demand fully and to appoint more stockists/distributors of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in Orissa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) and (b). IDPL has reported that it is not aware of any shortage of its drugs/medicines or over-charging by chemists in Orissa nor has it received such complaints from any source. The company is having 31 stockists all over Orissa and the needs of the retail chemists are adequately met by these stockists.

**Facilities/Amenities to Members of
Parliament**

1878. SHRI BALVANT MANVAR:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKATA:
SHRI A. K. ROY:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament pending with Government increase in facilities/amenities to the sitting and ex-Members

of Parliament;

(b) the position with regard to each recommendation;

(c) whether the facilities/amenities/salary and allowances being drawn by M.Ps are less than the legislators and if so, the steps being taken to remove this anomaly;

(d) whether Government have decided to give rail travel facilities to ex-MPs and their spouses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a), (b), (d) and (e). The Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament have made 14 recommendations as given in the statement given below for providing certain facilities to Members and ex-Members of Parliament. These include recommendation for giving rail travel facilities to Ex-Members of Parliament. No recommendation has however been made for providing rail travel facilities to spouses of ex-Members of Parliament.

These recommendations are being processed in consultation with Ministries concerned.

(c) The information asked for is available in the document published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat titled 'Legislators in India-Salaries and other Facilities'. As regards removing of anomalies the matter is considered from time to time by the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament and the recommendations made by them are processed by the Government.

STATEMENT*For Members of Parliament:*

1. Increase in telephone calls from 30,000 to 60,000.
2. Unrestricted number of rail journeys for spouse of Member of Parliament from usual place of residence to Delhi and back.
3. Unavailed air journeys available to an MP to be utilised by Spouse of MP.
4. Increase in Office Expense Allowance.
5. Increase in advance for purchase of conveyance from Rs 50,000/- to Rs. 1 lakh.
6. Increase of single air journeys from 16 to 24 in a year.
7. Increasing of DA rate from Rs. 150/- per day to Rs. 200/- per day.
8. Increase in the rate of road mileage allowance from Rs. 3/- per km. to Rs. 5/- per km.
9. That the unutilised telephone calls in a year may be adjusted during the subsequent year.
10. To issue a steamer pass to each MP to travel from an Island to mainland and vice-versa.

For ex-Members of Parliament:

11. Relaxation of minimum period of membership for pension and increase in pension (Rs 300/- for one year of service upto 5 years

and Rs. 100/- per month for each year of membership subsequent to 5 years, maximum ceiling- Rs. 5000/-.

12. Grant of pension in addition to other pension upto a maximum ceiling of Rs. 5000/- per month.
13. Railway pass for ex-members of Parliament.
14. Medical facilities through CGHS for ex-MPs and their families and in case of deceased ex-MP to the dependents for life.

Re-employment in IRCON after Retirement

1879. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in IRCON after their retirement;

(b) whether there are standing instructions that re-employment after retirement is not to be given;

(c) if so, the reasons for ignoring the Government instructions and steps proposed to be taken to remove all re-employed personnel; and

(d) the details of other persons given re-employment in his Ministry and offices/corporations falling under it with reasons/justification therefor office/corporation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) 85.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The number of persons, who have been engaged after retirement are:

(i)	Ministry of Railways and Zonal Railways	—	81
(ii)	Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES)	—	12
(iii)	Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)	—	03
(iv)	Konkan Railway Corporation (KRC)	—	28
(v)	Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)	—	22

The continued engagement of these persons has been necessitated due to non-availability of suitable persons, requiring special skills/experience and is in the public interest.

Foreign Vessels Engaged by ONGC

1880. SHRIM. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign supply vessels engaged by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) under chartering system both from domestic and foreign sources during the last three years;

(b) whether the ONGC has sought exemption of rules under the Merchant Shipping Act;

(c) whether Government have received representation against the move from Indian National Ship Owner's Association; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) ONGC has engaged following five foreign flag vessels from Indian companies during last 3 years:

<i>Name of Co.</i>	<i>vessel Name</i>	<i>Year</i>
M/s. Garware Shipping Corporation Limited	PACIFIC DIRK	1988-89
M/s. Taj Trade Tpt.	JENSEN TIDE	1989-91
"	RAMEY TIDE	-do-
"	MIRE TIDE	-do-
M/s Seaspan Shipping & drg.	STATE DEFENDER	1990-91

However, no foreign flag vessel has been hired from a foreign company by the ONGC in the last three years.

(b) These vessels were deployed after obtaining the approval of the DG, Shipping under the Merchant Shipping Act;

(c) and (d). ONGC and OIL have been permitted to procure their requirement of equipment and services under global tenders. Accordingly ONGC has been inviting global tenders for charter hiring of offshore supply vessels also. However Indian National Shipowners' Association has been representing that over-riding preference should be given to Indian flag vessels.

Power Breakdown In Yadav Nagar, Delhi

1881. PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct any enquiry into frequent power breakdown in Yadav Nagar, a residential colony in North Delhi; and

(b) if so, when the enquiry is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). According to DESU the power supply position in the said area is by and large satisfactory. As such the question of conducting any enquiry in the matter does not arise.

Production of Analgin

1882. SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufacture of Analgin is reserved for public sector units;

(b) whether Analgin is also produced by several small scale industrial units; and

(c) if so, the total production of Analgin made by various companies, sector-wise

during 1989 together with percentage of production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Production of drugs in the Small Scale Sector is not monitored by this Ministry. In the organised sector only M/s. IDPL is producing Analgin. Its production during 1988-89 and 1989-90 was 271.80 and 235.2 MT respectively.

Surplus Stock of Penicillin

1883. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the surplus stock of Penicillin lying with the public sector units; and

(b) the steps Government have taken/propose to take to ban import of Penicillin-G?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) As on 1.12.1990, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) had a stock of 9225 BUs of Pen.G 1st Crystals and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) had 'Nil' stock.

(b) Indigenous production of Pen. G 1st Crystals is not sufficient for the manufacture of semi synthetic Penicillin and import of Pen. G 1st Crystals is regulated to meet the shortage in this regard.

Expansion of Cochin Refinery

1884. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invest more funds for the expansion of Cochin Refineries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for the expansion of capacity of Cochin Refinery was given first stage clearance by the Government for preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report, in May, 1990.

A Detailed Feasibility Report has been received from M/s. Cochin Refineries Limited on December 31, 1990 for the expansion of the refinery at a total estimated cost of Rs. 363 crores. The project proposal will be processed for Government approval.

Performance of BCCL

1885. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and finan-

cial position of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited for the last three year, year-wise break up for the underground and open cast mines, separately:

(b) the details of the miners in the underground mines and the capacity utilisation of machine in open cast mines for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the amount paid as full back wages and the amount lost for absenteeism of the miners contributing to the loss;

(d) the categories of officers and the time they are supposed to be in the underground mines physically guiding the production; and

(e) the cost of production of coal in the percentage contribution of different factors in the cost and also making the loss perennial and the steps taken to minimise the losses?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) The production and financial position of Bharat Coking Coal (Ltd. (BCCL) for the last three years is as follows:

Production: (Million Tonnes)

1987-88		1988-89		1989-90	
Under-Ground	Open-cast	Under-ground	Open-cast	Under-ground	Open-cast
13.81	11.80	14.36	11.94	13.29	13.32

Financial Position (After adjustment under Coal Price Regulation Account)

1987-88		1988-89		1989-90	
<i>(Rs. crores)</i>					
— 112.01		— 5.19		+ 51.33 (+ Profit — Loss)	

(b) to (e). The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Kelkar Committee on Natural Gas

1886. SHRI M. M. PATEL:
SHRI PRAKASH KOKO
BRAHMBHATT:

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

(a) whether the Government have received the Kelkar Committee report for fixing the Price of Natural Gas;

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

(c) the action taken thereon and if not, the time by which it is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Government. A final decision is likely to be taken early.

Power Generation in Country

1887. SHRIMANORANJAN BHAKATA:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the generation and shortfall of power, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the short-term and long-term measures taken or proposed to be taken to meet the power requirement, state-wise/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) The desired information is given in the Statement given below.

(b) The measures being taken to improve the availability of Power include expediting commissioning of new generation capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas. The long term measures for rationalising power development include acceleration of hydro development, layer programme of transmission and distribution, coal beneficiation, diversification of fuels and modes of transportation of coal, etc.

STATEMENT

State/System/Union Territory-Wise total generation against the target and % shortfall/excess of target during 1990-91 (April-Dec. 90)

State/System/ Union Territory	Total Generation (Apr. 90-Dec. 90)			%Shortfall (-)/ Surplus (+)
	Target (Gwh)	Actual (Gwh)		
1	2	3	4	
BBMB	9336	10564	(-) 13.2	
Delhi	4669	4893	(+) 4.8	
J & K	2650	2506	(-) 5.4	
H.P.	1655	1679	(+) 1.5	
Haryana	2568	1618	(-) 29.4	
Rajasthan	5479	4650	(-) 15.1	
Punjab	7826	6592	(-) 15.8	
Uttar Pradesh	30604	27840	(-) 9.0	
Gujarat	14104	14377	(+) 1.9	

State/System/ Union Territory	Total Generation (Apr. 90-Dec. 90)			%Shortfall (-)/ Surplus (+)
	Target (Gwh)	Actual (Gwh)	3	
1	2	3	4	
Maharashtra	26575	27769		(+) 4.5
Madhya Pradesh	22143	21323		(-) 3.7
Andhra Pradesh	20209	19249		(-) 4.8
Karnataka	8278	8838		(+) 6.8
Kerala	3945	4158		(+) 5.4
Tamil Nadu	17000	16784		(-) 1.3
Bihar	3304	2326		(-) 29.6
Orissa	3729	4124		(+) 10.6
West Bengal	9204	8632		(-) 6.2

State/System/ Union Territory	Total Generation (Apr. 90-Dec. 90)			%Shortfall (-)/ Surplus (+)
	Target (Gwh)	Actual (Gwh)		
1	2	3	4	
D.V.C.	5128	3692		(-) 28.0
Sikkim	36	22		(-) 38.9
Assam	1175	882		(-) 24.9
Meghalaya	367	883		(+) 1.8
Tripura	144	103		(-) 28.5
Manipur	310	333		(+) 7.4
ALL INDIA	200936	194032		(-) 3.4

**Transfer of Trivandrum Airport from
NAA to IAAI**

1888. SHRI PALLAI K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the reasons for transferring Trivandrum airport from the National Airport Authority to the International Airport Authority of India after it was declared an international airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): Management of international airports of the country vests in the International Airports Authority of India in accordance with the law on the subject.

**Outlay and Receipts of International
Airport Authority of India**

1889. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to

state:

(b) the break up of the receipts of the International Airport Authority of India into domestic & International sectors during the last five years-airport-wise, and

(b) break up of outlays into domestic and international sectors for the last five years-airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Details of the revenue of the International Airports Authority of India, airport wise, for the last five years are given in the Statement-I below.

(b) Details of the outlays of the International Airports Authority of India, airport-wise, for the last five years are in the Statement-II below.

STATEMENT-I

Revenue of the International Airports Authority of India, Airportwise, for the last Five Years

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>					
	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>	
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	
Bombay Airport						
—International	2371.91	3007.75	3252.03	3491.6	4467.31	
—Domestic	3474.96	4001.41	4906.97	5681.90	5196.66	
Calcutta Airport						
—International	210.91	241.91	338.27	436.00	502.98	
—Domestic	849.52	944.55	1158.25	1220.33	1242.51	
Delhi Airport						
—International	1410.89	1612.61	1786.29	2103.58	3070.71	
—Domestic	1580.53	3287.01	4531.01	5315.38	4563.82	

(Rs. in lakhs)

<i>Particulars</i>	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Madras Airport</i>					
—International	92.75	133.38	156.17	178.92	222.25
—Domestic	814.54	1012.99	1161.74	1348.38	1457.99
Headquarters	503.32	507.02	919.24	1271.90	2085.55
INTERANTIONAL*	4086.46	4995.65	5532.76	6209.76	8263.25
DOMESTIC**	7222.87	9752.98	12677.21	14837.89	14519.53
TOTAL :—	11309.33	14748.63	18209.97	21047.65	22782.78

*Denotes income from International Airlines towards Landing & Parking.

**Also includes income from Indian Airlines on foreign operations.

STATEMENT-II

*Plan Outlay of the IAAI for the last Five Years, Airportwise**(Rs. in crores)*

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Bombay Airport</i>					
—International	11.23	9.07	6.74	7.78	8.91
—Domestic	1.82	2.13	4.56	8.22	11.44
<i>Calcutta Airport</i>					
—International	1.84	1.44	2.79	3.63	8.94
—Domestic	1.22	0.82	1.86	2.18	3.96
<i>Delhi Airport</i>					
—International	24.25	14.01	4.43	7.72	8.52
—Domestic	0.83	1.25	3.07	5.29	6.95

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Madras Airport</i>					
—International	1.64	1.57	7.17	10.96	6.49
—Domestic	5.26	0.91	1.42	2.22	3.79
Total:—	48.09	31.20	32.00	48.00	59.00

Oil Exploration in West Bengal

1890. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum on oil exploration in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). Government have received a memorandum from Prof. Pradeep Das Gupta, Head of the Department of Geology, Presidency College, Calcutta on exploration of oil by ONGC in West Bengal. The memorandum has been examined in consultation with ONGC and it is proposed to hold further clarificatory discussions with Prof. Pradeep Das Gupta in the matter.

DESU Electricity Bill

1891. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the billing system by DESU causes harassment and inconvenience to the consumers;

(b) whether the DESU has introduced a new procedure of billing cycle from October, 1990 period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the difficulties faced by the DESU in preparing bills bi-monthly on a regular basis as per the reading for the period under billing to avoid such confusion and adjustment later?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) According to DESU, its billing system is not causing any harassment and inconvenience to the consumers.

(b) and (c). Under the new billing system introduced by DESU from October, 1990, bills are sent every two months. A bill on actual meter reading basis is prepared every four months and a bill on provisional basis is sent in between for two months based on past consumption. The bill on actual reading basis is prepared after giving credit for the payment made against the provisional bill. there is no change in the billing system for small industrial/large industrial power consumers.

(d) The new billing system has been adopted to avoid requirement of large number of additional Meter Readers in DESU.

New Catering Policy

1892. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced new catering policy in the Railways;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations of the Alagesan Committee (1955) and Parimal Ghosh committee (1967) have been included in the new catering policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received a memorandum dated 29, September, 1990 from Karnataka Passengers & Traffic Relief Association, Hubli regarding new catering policy;

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

(f) whether the Government propose to give preferential treatment to SC/ST, widows of Railway employees, freedom fighters, ex-servicemen etc. in the allotment of catering contracts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) A policy decision has been taken that all catering/vending licences, excepting at small and road-side stations, will be allotted by calling tenders.

(b) and (c). These Committees did not make any recommendation on the procedure for awarding the catering licences.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no proposal to change the policy decision taken.

(f) and (g). The old policy regarding award of catering/vending licences will continue to be followed at a very large number of stations where the existing order of preference for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Freedom Fighters, Ex-Servicemen/War Widows will continue to apply.

Production Target of CIL

1893. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited had appointed a task force to ensure the production target set for the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the production targets of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries for 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(c) whether these targets have been achieved or expected to be achieved;

(d) whether the task force will be monitoring the supply of spares and equipments of the coal producing companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e). Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of the Coal Companies have been assigned, among others, the responsibility for achieving the production targets. The production targets and achievements for 1989-90 and targets for 1990-91 are as under:-

(in million tonnes)

<i>Company</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achievement 1989-90</i>	<i>Target 1990-91</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
ECL	30.90	24.49	29.00
BCCL	27.50	26.61	28.60
CCL	28.00	28.61	289.17

1	2	3	4
NCL	23.00	23.28	27.20
SECL	50.50	51.78	55.33
WCL	22.70	23.01	23.90
NEC	0.90	0.84	0.80
TOTAL CIL	183.50	178.62	194.00

Efforts are directed by way of constant monitoring and coordination towards achieving the targets set.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Kashipur-Ramnagar Line

1894. SHRI M. S. PAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the metre gauge railway line between Kashipur and Ramnagar into broad-gauge; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Moradabad-Kashipur-Ramnagar BG line was opened to traffic in June 1988.

[*English*]

Utilisation of Neemuch Airfield for Vayudoot Service

1895. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests/proposals to grant permission for utilizing the airfield at Neemuch being used by the C.R.P.F. for operating Vayudoot service;

(b) whether such permission has been given for operating passenger planes at Jodhpur, Gwalior and other airports under the control of Army; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide the said facility at Neemuch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHANDHAWAN): (a) to (c). There is no scope at present for Vayudoot providing a service to Neemuch because of constraint of aircraft, paucity of resources, and the non-viability of such operations.

Power Generation in Eighth Plan

1896. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total energy production capacity in the country as on 30 September, 1990;

(b) the annual production of power

during 1988 and 1989 and the total production during first three quarters of 1990;

(c) the rate of growth in demand and supply of power during the past three years;

(d) the power production target fixed under the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(e) whether the Government propose to cut the plan target; and

(f) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) The installed generating capacity in the country as on 30th Septem-

ber, 1990 was about 64,000 MW.

(b) The power generation during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 (upto December, 1990) is as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Generation (in MUs)</i>
1988-89	221125
1989-90	245141
1990-91 (upto Dec. '90)	194032

(c) The details of the actual power supply position in the country and the annual percentage growth rate for the last three years are given below:-

	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
Requirement (MU)	192356	210993	223194	247762
Annual Growth rate (%)	—	.7	5.8	11.0
Availability (MU)	174276	187976	205909	228151
Annual Growth rate (%)	—	7.9	9.5	10.8

(d) to (f). Eighth Plan has not been finalised so far by the Planning Commission.

Financial Performance of NEFR and NER

1897. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North East Frontier and North Eastern Railway Zones are incurring losses chronically;

(b) if so, the factors contributing to it and the steps taken to eliminate the losses; and

(c) the facts regarding 'operating ratio' of the different zonal railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The economics of working of Indian Railways is normally judged for the system as a whole and as such no individual Railway is considered to be a loosing Railway. However, if the operating results of Northeast Frontier and North Eastern Railways are taken in isolation, they may be considered to be incurring losses.

(b) The deficit/losses incurred by these two Zonal Railways are due to various adverse factors inherent in the system, such as the traffic mix, quantum and nature of traffic

offering and unfavourable working conditions, including natural factors such as terrain floods etc. necessitating higher expenditure on maintenance of track. Steps are taken to economise in working expenses and improve earnings through better productivity of manpower and material resources, saving in fuel, preventing ticketless travel and other losses, and more effective marketing efforts.

(c) The Operating Ratio of different Zonal Railways for 1989-90 was as under:-

CR	:	78.89%
ER	:	107.64%
NR	:	83.47%
NER	:	169.37%
NFR	:	177.60%
SR	:	124.02%
SCR	:	90.07%
SER	:	75.16%
WR	:	77.71%

Bombay High and Heera Oil Fields

1898. SHRIRAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 28 August, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 3262 regarding Bombay High and Heera Oil Fields and state:

(a) whether Government have received report of the Committee appointed on 26th April, 1990;

(b) if so, the recommendations and findings of the Committee: and

(c) if not, how many meetings were held by the Committee since 26 April, 1990 and the steps taken/proposed by Government to expedite the report?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is currently under examination of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Power Plant at Bettiah in Bihar

1899. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people and the industries of West Champaran and East Champaran districts of Bihar are seriously affected due to shortage of power:

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up 1000 MW power plant at Bettiah: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) The power shortage in Bihar during April-November, 1990 was of the order of 26.4%. The supply of power to various categories of consumers is decided by the State Authorities, keeping in view the overall demand for power and its availability.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to set up 1000 MW power plant at Bettiah.

Return of Security Deposits to Consumers by DESU

1900. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH:
SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Electricity Undertaking (DESU) takes years to refund the security deposits made by the consumers during their life-time for domestic power supply to their widows;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such cases pending at the DESU, Shankar Road Office, New Delhi since 1989 particularly from the Rehabilitation Colonies like East Patel Nagar; and

(d) the immediate steps being taken to ensure refunds being made to the widows concerned, who had made repeated representations and verbal submissions over this long period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (d). According to DESU, a well defined procedure already exists for the transfer of electricity connections and refund of security deposits to the widows within a reasonable time after completion of the prescribed commercial formalities. Appropriate action is taken whenever any specific case of undue delay or harassment to the consumer is brought to the notice of DESU. No such case is reported to be pending since 1989 in Shanker Road Office of DESU, which also caters to the consumers of East Patel Nagar.

Over Bridges in Kanpur District

1901. SHRI KESHARI LAL: Will the

Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of over bridges proposed to be constructed on railway tracks of Kanpur city and its rural areas;

(b) the time by which the construction work of over-bridges of Kanpur rural area would start and the expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) One overbridge in replacement of level crossing No. 79 on Grand Trunk Road has been sanctioned in Railway's works programme of 1990-91 on sponsoring by the State Government. The Railway has not so far received firm proposal for any other road overbridge in Kanpur rural areas from the State Government.

(b) The work will be taken up for execution after finalisation of the scheme as well as the estimate for the bridge approaches by the State Government.

(c) As the work is still in the planning stage, the time for its completion has not been fixed so far.

[*Translation*]

Samastipur-Darbhanga Railway Line

1902. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the names of the places and the nature of work completed or is in progress in regard to the construction of broad gauge line between Samastipur and Darbhanga and the amount spent from the total allocations made during the current budget year, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Work prepara-

tory to taking up construction viz. preparation of detailed plans and designs for yards and bridges has been commenced. Upto end of Sept. 90 an amount of Rs. 4 lakhs has been spent out of the allocation of Rs. 4.09 crores for the current year.

[English]

First Class Reservation Quota in Dimapur Booking Office

1903. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only one seat in 1st Class for the State of Nagaland at Dimapur Railway Booking Office has been allocated;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

(c) whether there is a proposal to increase this quota; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). A quota of 30 first Class and 12 AC sleeper berths is already available at Dimapur in various trains. There is no proposal to increase the same due to limited availability of accommodation and full utilisation of quotas at other stations.

[Translation]

Losses in Coal Mines

1904. SHRI RAMDAS SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the collieries have been running at a loss since their nationalisation except during the year from 1977 to 1980;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount of losses suffered during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the losses and run the collieries in profit; and

(d) the scheme of Government to earn more profit therefrom in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) Since its inception, coal India Limited, has been suffering losses every year except during the year 1981-82 and 1989-90 when it earned a profit of Rs. 34.20 crores and Rs. 80.13 crores respectively.

(b) Main reason for losses in coal India Limited, is that in the past the increase in administered price did not fully cover the escalation in the cost of various inputs like wages, power, fuel, explosives, capital etc. and there was always a time lag between price increase and escalation in the cost of inputs. Low productivity has also been responsible for losses. Profit/loss of CIL during the last 3 years is given below:-

Year	Profit/loss (Rs. in crores)	
	(+)	(-)
1987-88	(-)	224.64
1988-89	(-)	23.26
1989-90	(+)	80.13

(c) Some of the important steps to contain the losses of Coal India Limited and increase its efficiency are briefly indicated below:-

(i) Increase in production and productivity, with special emphasis

on underground mines.

[English]

- (ii) Improvement in availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipment.
- (iii) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.
- (iv) Economy in the consumption of spares and various other inputs by improving blasting efficiency, power factor and improved inventory control.
- (v) Improved monitoring of cost reduction measures.
- (vi) Efforts are being made to reduce the total outstandings against major consumers like State Electricity Boards.
- (vii) A number of systems improvement and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.
- (viii) Efforts towards reorganisation of existing mines to improve productivity.

(d) As a result of these efforts man and machine productivity in Coal India Limited has improved during the last few years and consequently Coal India Limited have earned a profit of Rs. 80.13 crores during 1989-90.

Complaints Against LPG Agencies In Outer Delhi

1905. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints against LPG agencies regarding alleged malpractices in Outer Delhi especially from Meera Bagh, Sunder Vihar, Peeragarhi, Jwalahedi and Punjabi Bagh in this regard;

(b) if so, action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the consumers against such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). All complaints received against the LPG distributors are investigated and wherever established appropriate action, ranging from issuing of warning letters to even termination of distributorship, it taken in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and Distributorship Agreements, During the year 1990 (upto November) 7 complaints have been established so far against LPG agencies operating in Outer Delhi. Regular and surprise checks are carried out by the field staff of LPG Marketing Oil companies to check malpractices.

Power Station in Salempur in U.P.

1906. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 132 K.V. power station in Salempur in Uttar Pradesh is ready to be

commissioned;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in commissioning it;

(c) whether sub-standard equipment has been reportedly used therein; and

(d) if so, the details of the action being taken against the officers responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The 132 KV power station at Salempur in U.P. was initially targetted for commissioning in March, 1989 but could not be completed by the UPSEB due to acute financial constraints. It is now targetted for commissioning in March 1991.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

New Trains from New Coochbehar to Calcutta

1907. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for introduction of a new pair of trains from New Coochbehar to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Lines in Bihar and W.B.

1908. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new railway lines under construction in Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) whether the work is progressing according to the schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the target dates fixed and the dates by which the each work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). Details of new line projects in Bihar and West Bengal are as under :-

S.No.	Project	Length (Km)	Approved Cost (Rs. in crores)	Target Year for completion
1	2	3	4	5
BIHAR				
1.	Chhitauni-Bagaha	28	40.90 74.82 (deposit)	1993 Subject to the shares of funds being made available by Govts. of U.P. Bihar & Min. of Water Resources.
WEST BENGAL				
1.	Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana	47	41.13	1992 (Lakshmikantapur - Kulpi sec- tion) For the rest, target not fixed.
2.	Eklakhi-Balurghat	87	47.18	Not fixed. Will depend upon availabil- ity of resources.
3.	Howrah-Amta/Champadanga	74	31.43	
4.	Tamluk-Digha	87	73.71	

Due to various factors like constraint of resources and delay in the acquisition of land, where required, by the State Governments, the progress has not been as per schedule.

Doubling of Cochin-Trivendrum and Shoranur-Mangalore Lines

1909. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had undertaken any survey for doubling the railway line from Cochin to Trivendrum and Shoranur to Mangalore in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposed time schedule for doubling the lines, if any?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). A survey was carried out for doubling on Kayankulam-Trivandrum section along with an alternative BG alignment via Kottarakara and Nedumanged. As the alternative alignment was not found to be financially viable, the doubling of Kayankulam-Quilon and Quilon-Trivandrum was approved in the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey has been approved in 1990-91 to examine the feasibility and need for doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore section.

On Ernakulam (Cochin) Kayankulam section, an alternative BG line has been taken up for construction via Alleppey. Out of this BG line, Ernakulam-Alleppey section has been commissioned in October, 1989 and the line on Alleppey-Kayankulam is likely to be completed during 1991-92. When completed, it will provide double line facility on this section—one the existing line via Kottayam and the other via Alleppey.

Completion of doubling on Kayankulam-Quilon-Trivandrum would depend upon the availability of resources. Doubling on Mangalore-Shoranur would depend on the

findings of the survey report.

Thapar-Dupont tie-up

1910. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Thapar-Dupont tie-up may be snapped" appearing in the Economic Times of 18 September, 1990;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) since when these joint venture proposals are pending and the reasons for delay in their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. M/s Thapar Du Pont submitted a composite application for foreign collaboration and import of capital goods for setting up of a unit in Goa for the manufacture of Nylon-66 Tyre Cord/Industrial Yarn in technical and financial collaboration with M/s. E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co. of USA. Decision on such proposals are taken on techno-economic considerations after the evaluation of the project proposals.

LPG Cylinder Blast in Hospital in Bangalore

1911. SHRI JOSS FERNANDEZ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an explosion in the Nature Cure Hospital in Bangalore City due to leakage of an LPG cylinder;

(b) if so, the details of the incident and

the number of casualties;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). An accident took place in the Nature Cure Hospital, Bangalore on 14.11.90 due to leakage of LPG following an attempt to connect a refill cylinder. In the accident 13 persons were injured but there was no death.

(c) and (d). The accident has been investigated by the officials of Indian Oil Corporation. An FIR has been filed with the Police.

Setting up of Gas based Power Plants in Andhra Pradesh

1912. **SHRI T. MANEMMA:**
SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gas based power plants set up in Andhra Pradesh, and the names of the pending ones; and

(b) the quantum of power generated by them and by when the pending projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). On generating set of 33 MW of Vijjeswaram coined gas turbine (2 x 33 MW Gas Turbine + 1 x 33 MW Steam Turbine) was commissioned on 31st August, 1990; second set of 33 MW of gas turbine generating station and one unit of Steam Turbine of 33 MW is envisaged to be commissioned by January and June, 1991 respectively. The details of the Project Reports in respect of installation of gas-based power plants in Andhra Pradesh and the status of their clearance are contained in the statement given below.

The Vijjeswaram Combined Cycle Gas station generated 17 Million Units during November-December, 1990.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Scheme and Capacity	Present status
1	2	3
<i>Proposals received from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)</i>		
1.	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Project Stage-I at Kakinada, East Godavari District (400 MW)	Project accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in July, 90. Investment decision is awaited.
<i>Proposals received from Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB)</i>		
2.	Wind Gas based Power Plant at Vijeswaram (3x100 MW) District West Godavari.	The Department of Petroleum & Natural Gas have made an allocation of 3 MCMD of gas for power plants from the Krishna Godavari Basin. The allocated quantity of gas envisages installation of two 400 MW gas based plants one to be set up by the NTPC (mentioned at (1) above) in the Central Sector and other by the State Authorities in the State Sector subject to APSEB having adequate resources for implementation of the project. In view of the availability of gas for one 400 MW plant in the State Sector, the APSEB has given their preference in
3.	Gas based TPS at Kakinada (Combined Cycle) (300 MW) District Est Godavari.	
4.	Gas based Power Plant near Amalapuram (3x25MW) Stage-I + 3x100MW Stage-II District East Godavari.	

S.No.	Name of the Scheme and Capacity	Present status
1	2	3
5.	Gas based Power Plant near Jegurupadu (Rajamundry) District East Godavari (400MW)	<p>favour of the gas based power plant near Jegurupadu (Rajamundry) in East Godavari district. This proposal is under examination in the CEA and the APSEB has been requested to tie up inputs such as compliance of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, availability of water, clearance from Civil Aviation authorities and clearance from Ministry of Environment. This scheme would be considered for techno-economic clearance after all the inputs have been tied up and necessary clearance have become available. As regards other schemes, they could be considered after additional gas become available and other essential inputs are tied up.</p>

[*Translation*]

Recruitment of Labourers in Western Coalfields Limited

1913. SHRI HARI BHAI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government regarding the bogus recruitment of labourers in the Western Coalfields Limited, Nagpur, affecting the retrenchment of a large number of regular labourers there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard and also the details of the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) and (b). Western Coalfield Limited had recruited certain ex-casuals in accordance with settlements reached with certain Trade Unions. Complaints have been received in WCL from the President, Rashtriya Koyla Khadan Mazdoor Sangh; General Secretary, Western Coalfields Ltd., SC/ST/BC Employees Council; Md. Haneef and seven others of Kanhan Area and Secretary, SC/ST Council, Majri Breach alleging irregularities regarding age, impersonation, seniority of ex-casuals etc., in the matter of recruitment. These complaints are under various stages of investigation. There has been no retrenchment of any regular worker in WCL.

Symposia by ONGC, Dehradun

1914. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred on symposia/seminars on science organised in Keshav Dev Malviya Petroleum Research

Institute, Dehradun during the last two financial years;

(b) whether research papers in these seminars were read out in Hindi also as per the directive issued by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons for violating these directives; and

(d) the details of the action proposed to be taken in future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) An expenditure of Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 20,241/- respectively was spent by Keshava Deva Malviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration on seminars/conference in 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Scientific & technical officers are being encouraged to write & present technical papers in Hindi, as part of the policy to increase the use of Hindi in official work.

[*English*]

Demand of Indian Oil Corporation Workers

1915. SHRI INDRA JIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of the Indian Oil Corporation have submitted a memorandum to outlining their long standing demands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). The Petroleum Workers Union, Indian Oil Unit, submitted a memorandum addressed to the Director (Marketing) IOC on 7.12.1990 demanding:—

- i) Implementation of computer settlement.
- ii) Increase in transport subsidy.
- iii) Finalisation of a good promotion policy in a meeting with the management.
- iv) Issue of promotion orders for Grade I to V without further delay.
- v) Immediate meeting to finalise the Long Term Settlement.

Most of the points raised by the regional unit of (PWU) Petroleum Workers Union are of all India nature and, therefore, need to be discussed in All-India meeting with the main units of all the recognised Unions in the Corporation.

Care on Wheels

1916. SHRI PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Memorandum of Understanding has since been finalised in respect of the project 'Care on Wheels' proposed to be taken up in Bihar by the 'Impact of India Foundation'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The Memorandum of Understanding was entered into on 12th October, 1990 between the Impact India Foundation and the President of India (Ministry of Railways), in consideration of the Impact India Foundations' proposal to set up a Mobile Hospital Unit to cater to on the spot diagnostic, medical and surgical treatment for prevention and curative intervention to restore sight, mobility and hearing to the people living in the rural areas.

The Impact India Foundation agreed to do the following:

- (i) The pilot project will be taken up in the State of Bihar in the first instance. However, projects in other States may be considered to be initiated in due course after due appraisal of the pilot project by both the parties.
- (ii) The activities especially made available by the Impact India Foundation, confining to the stations indicated by ED (Coaching) working with the Ministry of Railways in the territory comprised in the State of Bihar for the pilot project, and after due appraisal referred to above in other States subsequently after successful implementation in Bihar, which are connected by Broad Gauge system of the Railways.
- (iii) To furnish specifications and other technical details for re-modelling of the rolling stock (BG coaches) by the Ministry of Railways within one month from the date of the Memorandum of understanding.
- (iv) The bear all cost of such re-modelling and refurbishing of rolling stock.

- (v) To bear the cost of all ancillary arrangements, electricity, water/sanitary and other requirements etc., including hydraulic hoist for shifting of patients from ground level to the carriage.
- (vi) To bear 50% of the cost of operations, maintenance/repairs of the coaching services which will be indicated by the Ministry of Railways from time to time and the same shall be paid by the Impact India Foundation forthwith.
- (vii) To bear the entire cost of all ancillaries including generating sets, medical equipment and miscellaneous equipments.
- (viii) To undertake all social, technical and medical work in running the mobile hospitals.

The Minister of Railways agreed to do the following:—

- (i) To spare three ordinary BG coaches for use by the Impact India Foundation after remodelling.
- (ii) To prepare the estimate of cost of re-modelling of the above mentioned BG coaches within two months of furnishing of the details of remodelling of the coaches by the Impact India Foundation. The cost of remodelling would be non-negotiable.
- (iii) Remodelling of the coaches shall be started only after the receipt of the full cost and compatible equipment (if any) from the Impact India Foundation and completed within six months of receipt of such cost.
- (iv) To give estimate of cost of diesel

generating set which shall be supplied to the Impact India Foundation after receipt of the cost of sets from them.

- (v) To charge as a very special case 50% of the cost of operation and maintenance for coaching services.
- (vi) To indicate through ED (Coaching) working with the Ministry of Railways the stations where the above said medical facilities as described in the Memorandum can be provided.
- (vii) To endeavour to give any facility requested for by the Impact India Foundation after receipt of cost from them.
- (viii) To endeavour to run coaches by convenient trains as desired by the Impact India foundation as may be found operationally convenient but will not be responsible for any delays as a result of dislocation, disruption or otherwise.

Facilities to Retired Employees of Locomotive Workshop, Amritsar

1917. SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have not given railway pass facility to those retired employees who remained in service from 30.10.43 to 28.10.73 in the Amritsar Locomotive Workshop;

(b) if so, the number of such employees and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some employees are getting only Rs. 89/- P.M. as pension whereas the minimum rate of pension in Government of India is Rs. 375/- p.m.;

(d) if so, the number of such retired railway employees; and

(e) whether Government propose to give minimum pension of Rs. 375/- and railway pass facility to these retired railway pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). In accordance with the extant Rules, post-retirement Complimentary passes are granted to those retired Railway employees who retire after putting in the minimum requisite Railway service. Those retired employees who did not have this minimum qualifying Railway service were not given Railway passes. The number of such employees is being obtained.

(c) and (d). No, Sir There is no case of such retired employees borne on pensionable establishment getting pension of Rs. 89/- p.m.

(e) Minimum pension has already been raised to Rs. 375/- p.m. w.e.f. 01.01.86 in case of retired employees borne on pensionable establishment. There is no proposal to grant post-retirement complimentary passes to such of the retired railway employees as do not satisfy the minimum Railway service condition for pass eligibility.

[*Translation*]

'Palace on Wheel' Train

1918. PROF. RAJA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government on the manufacture of 'Palace on Wheel' train;

(b) the facilities being made available to tourists in this train;

(c) the name of fixed route on which this train runs weekly/monthly alongwith the names of tourist spots through which it passes as also its time of halt at each spot;

(d) the total number of Indian and foreign tourists who travelled by this train and the revenue earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(e) whether it is proposed to make a halt of this train at Ajmer (Rajasthan); and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The 'Palace on Wheels' train comprises of saloons belonging to the erstwhile Maharajas which were renovated/refurnished at a cost of Rs. 49.44 lakhs in 1981-82.

(b) The facilities provided to the tourists on this train include sleeping accommodation in two/four berth cabins, a lounge and a kitchenette in each saloon, running hot and cold water in bathrooms, a library, a mini bar, first aid, a dining car, etc.

(c) The 'Palace on Wheels' is a weekly service leaving Delhi Cantt every Wednesday from October to March and passes through Jaipur-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur-Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bharatpur-Agra and back to Delhi Cantt. From Bharatpur the tourists are also taken to Fatehpur Sikri by road. Halting time varies from 2 hours to 20 hours depending upon the requirement of the sight seeing programme.

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(d) The total number of tourists travelled and net earnings during the last three years is as under:

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
No. of Tourists	1747	2212	2282
Earnings (in lakhs of rupees)	148.73	199.17	246.16

(e) No, Sir.

(f) It is not feasible to fit in a halt at Ajmer in the weekly itinerary of the train.

[*English*]

Privatisation of container depots and freight stations

1919. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise container depots and container freight stations, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is any difficulty in execution of the process of privatisation in regard to economic implications of the decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to meet the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). With a view to expecting the development of containerisation and to facilitate growth of multimodal transport services, on cost effective basis, participation of private sector in Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) has been examined from time to time. While some of

the export cargo aggregation centre and CFSs are being operated by the private Sectors, all existing ICDs are operated and owned by Government Agencies. However, certain specific activities such as handling and transportation of cargo are being contracted to private sector agencies on commercial basis.

[*Translation*]

Export of Coal from Bihar

1920. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal and other by-products of coal exporters during the last two years from Bihar;

(b) whether any time-bound programme to increase the export of coal from Bihar has been chalked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SING KALVI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

World Bank Assistance for Indian Railways

1921. SHRI R. GUINDU RAO:

SHRI GOPI NATH
GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the railway system during the next few years with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance likely to be provided by the World Bank for the same;

(c) the terms and condition of the agreement entered into with the World Bank in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which the railway lines/projects would be improved with this assistance?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (d). There is no proposal to seek World Bank assistance for the expansion of the railway system during the next few years.

However, a mission recently identified a project for upgradation of rolling stock.

[*Translation*]

Small Aircraft for Operation in Hilly Areas

1922. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are operational difficulties in providing big aircraft to serve the hilly area due to shorter run-ways; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to go in for smaller aircrafts suitable for shorter run-ways with a view to promoting tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal currently under consideration for acquisition of such new aircraft in view of paucity of resources and the viability of such operations.

[*English*]

Setting up of Thirukaripur Power Plant in Kerala

1923. SHRIRAMESHCHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of a Thermal power station in Thirukaripur in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the work on the project is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The Feasibility Report for installation of a 2 x 210 MW Thermal Power Station in State-I at Thirukaripur in Kerala was received in the Central Electricity Authority from Kerala State Electricity Board in September, '89. The State Authorities have been asked to obtain clearance from the Southern Naval Command before the scheme could be considered for techno-economic clearance. A thermal Power Station with an ultimate capacity of 3000 MW has been proposed by the Kerala Government at Thirukaripur in the Central Sector. A Team appointed for selection of the site has not suggested location of a thermal power plant in Malabar, Kerala to yield benefits in the 8th Plan Period either in the State or in the Central Sector.

Harnessing of Wind Energy in Gujarat

1924. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent experiment to produce power with wind mills in Gujarat has proved successful;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to use this method in some other parts of the country; and

(c) the names of other non-conventional sources of energy being used at present for generating power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The total wind power capacity established in the country stands at 34 MW. This includes 12 wind farm demonstration projects of aggregate capacity 31.4 MW set up in 7 States, including Gujarat. The cumulative generation from the wind farm projects has reached 6.1 crore units. The total installed capacity in Gujarat is 14 MW and about 2 crore units have been fed to the State Grid. The demonstration projects have shown that wind power generation is viable, takes a short time to install and commission, and can supplement conventional power.

(c) Demonstration projects based on solar photovoltaics and biomass energy conversion are under implementation for decentralised power generation, in different parts of the country. Experimental Power plants based on solar thermal energy and agricultural wastes have also been taken up.

[*Translation*]

Railway Line From Guwahati to Tinsukhia

1925. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands had been made for the construction of broad-gauge rail line from Guwahati to Tinsukhia;

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to acute constraint of resources and heavy commitments in hand, the Planning Commission has not agreed to take up this project at present.

[*English*]

Ghaziabad Rail Terminal

1926. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make Ghaziabad a rail terminal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of a Thermal Power Station at Katihar in Bihar

1927. SHRI YUVRAJ: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a thermal power station at Katihar in Bihar;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). The Central Electricity Authority have not received any proposal for setting up a thermal power station at Katihar in Bihar.

[English]

Group 'A' Officers on Railways

1928. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total number of Group 'A' officers on the Indian Railways grade-wise, department-wise, and zone-wise showing the strength of RDSO, Railway Board and other units separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Overbridge between Jalandhar and Jalandhar Cantt.

1929. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for construction of an overbridge across the main line between Jalandhar and Jalandhar Cantt. railway stations on road leading to Hoshiarpur in place of the existing level crossing near Rama Mandi Chowk near Jalandhar Cantt. railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work will be undertaken and completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). The State Government had initiated a proposal for the road overbridge a few years ago, but they have not yet finalised the scheme for the work, accorded priority and sponsored it to the Railways for inclusion in the Works Programme.

Price Preference to the SSI sector

1930. SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Small Scale Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association has pointed out that the Directorate General of Supply and Disposal was not complying with the Government orders of giving 15 per cent price preference to the SSI sector in Government purchase;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take for the redressal of their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) No such complaint appears to have been received.

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

Review of National Energy Policy

1931. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the existing energy policy and workings of the mentioned energy strategy for their use, savings and efficient performance of all facts of the energy,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government propose to set a high powered committee to go into details with a view to eliminate the mal-practices and wastage of the energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposed action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE) (a) and (b) The energy policy, including the rational and efficient use of energy in the economy, is reviewed while formulating the Five Year Plans/ Programmes. In formulating the Eighth Five Year Plan, implication of the present energy situation will be kept in view

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

Linking of Adilabad to Delhi-Nagpur Route

1932 SHRI P. NARSAREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether approval has been accorded for the construction of broad gauge line from Adilabad to Delhi-Nagpur main line via Pimpalkutti and Wani,

(b) if so, the allocation of funds made for this project during 1990-91, and

(c) the further steps being taken for the

completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) New line between Adilabad and Pimpalkutti has been approved.

(b) During 1990-91 an allocation of Rs 4 00 crores has been made for the project

(c) The work is targetted for completion during 1991-92

[*Translation*]

Manufacture of Concrete Sleepers in Railway Workshop, Bareilly

1933 SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the decrease in production in the Railway Sleeper Depot, Bareilly,

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to undertake manufacture concrete sleepers there,

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to materialise, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) No, Sir. A factory in Private Sector for manufacture of MG Concrete Sleepers has already been set up in the same premises and is in production

(d) In view the limited financial resources with Railways, no departmental factories for concrete sleepers are now being set up, as a policy

[English]

**Stoppage of Geetanjali and Pushpak
Trains at Nasik**

1934. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI
AHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there are demand for
stoppage of the Geetanjali and Pushpak
(Lucknow) trains at Nasik Road Railway
Station; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to
be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Were examined but not found fea-
sible.

Printing of Railway Reservation Forms

1935. SHRI NARSINGHRAO
SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of RAIL-
WAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway reservation forms
are printed in the regional language in the
State particularly in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is a demand for
printing these forms in both English and
regional language; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). Railway
reservation forms are printed in Hindi, English
and the regional language in non-Hindi
speaking areas. However, on Southern
Railway, reservation forms are printed in
Hindi and in English, and separately in the
regional language of the region.

**Import of Drug Intermediates for
Manufacture of Anti TB Drugs**

1936. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the
Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS
be pleased to state:

(a) the names of drug intermediates
which are imported for manufacture of anti
TB Drugs in the country;

(b) the reasons for disparity in Customs
Duty for its intermediates; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to
remove the discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA
PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Major drug in-
termediates imported for the manufacture of
anti T.B. drugs and 3 Formyl Rifampicin SV,
Rifampicin 5, 2-Cyanopyrazone, D1-2,
aminobutanol etc.

(b) and (c). Customs duty on the inter-
mediates have been kept at different levels
depending upon the development of pro-
duction of the bulk drug in the country from
the basic stages. The question of level of
duty is reviewed from time to time.

**Landing of Aircrafts at Safdarjung
Airport**

1937. SHRI NATHU SINGH: Will the
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the aircraft belonging to the
flying clubs/general aviation/state Govern-
ments air-craft without VIP are permitted to
land at Safdarjung Airport;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to

allow general flying by the trainee pilots from Safdarjung airport; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to security reasons.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal at present to relax the restrictions because of security requirements.

Power Projects During Eighth Plan

1938. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY
RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the original target of power generation in Eighth Plan and whether Government propose to cut in power target during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the allocation likely to be made for power during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). Based on a capacity addition of about 38,000 MW, as recommended by the Department of Power, a gross generation of 411586 million units by the end of the Eighth Plan period is envisaged. However, the Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised and therefore the allocations for the power sector, their capacity addition and generation programme that would materialise cannot be determined at this stage.

Raids Conducted on Petrol Pumps in Orissa

1939. SHRI ANADICHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted in Orissa during the last three years on the petrol/diesel pumps for adulteration and samples collected;

(b) the number of samples and the particulars of the laboratories where the samples were tested and the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of persons against whom action has been taken and the number of those who were acquitted of the charges; and

(d) whether the rules in this regard are proposed to be made stringent to save the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Gas Reserves in Ankaleshwar Gujarat

1940. SHRI CHANDUBHAIDESMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of gas reserves have been found in Ankaleshwar (Gujarat);

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide this gas to the public of this region at a lesser rates;

- (c) if so, when and the rates thereof; and
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) The Ankaleshwar field has been on oil and gas production since 1961. Balance recoverable reserves of 2,671 billion cubic mts of gas are established in the Ankaleshwar region.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Prices of natural gas are fixed by the Government, and are uniform from the entire country, except in the N-E region where concessional prices are given. Natural gas is being and would be, supplied at the rates contained in the pricing regime accounted by the Government from time to time.

Royalty on Coal

1941. SHRI LOKENDRA SINGH:
 SHRI PYARELAL
 KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) when the rates of royalty on coal found in Madhya Pradesh was last revised;
 (b) whether the Government revise the rate of royalty once in three years;

(c) if so, the reasons for not revising the rate of royalty in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(d) the grade-wise sale price of coal found in Madhya Pradesh in 1981 and comparative increased sale price;

(e) the percentage of royalty on the sale price of coal at pit-head before 1957 and the present percentage; and

(f) the time by which the rates of royalty on coal are proposed to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (c). According to Section 9 (3) of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957, Central Government may enhance rates of royalty on coal once in three years. The royalty on coal was last revised w.e.f. 13.2.1981. Thereafter it could not be revised in view of the problems posed by the imposition of very heavy Cess/levies on coal by some State Governments.

(d) Grade-wise basic price of coal mined in Madhya Pradesh during 1981 and 1991 is given in the statement- I given below.

(e) The percentage of royalty on sale price of coal in 1971 (as available) and 1991 is given in the statement- II given below.

(f) Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 does not lay down an outer time limit within which the royalty rates must be revised.

STATEMENT-I

Grade	Basic price per tonne of coal in 1981			Basic price in 1990 (w.e.f 1.1.1989)		
	Ste.*	Sl.**	ROM***	Ste.*	Sl.**	ROM***
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Semi Coking						
Gr-I	178	177	175	480	473	470
Gr-II	169	168	166	400	393	390
Non-Coking Coal:						
Gr-A	168	167	165	409	402	399
Gr-B	158	157	155	374	367	364
Gr-C	141	140	138	328	321	318
Gr-D	123	122	120	262	255	252
Gr-E	102	101	99	210	203	200
Gr-F	78	77	75	170	163	160

Grade	Basic price per tonne of coal in 1981				Basic price in 1990 (w.e.f 1.1.1989)				
	Ste.*	Sl.**	ROM***	Ste.*	Sl.**	ROM***	Ste.*	Sl.**	ROM***
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Gr-G	51	50	48	124	117	114			
Non-Coking Coal Long Flame									
Ge-A	-	-	-	434	427	424			
Gr-B	-	-	-	399	392	389			
Gr-C	-	-	-	353	346	343			
Gr-D	-	-	-	287	280	277			

STATEMENT-II

Percentage of royalty to the price of coal in 1971 and 1991

<i>In 1971 Grade</i>	<i>FOR price (in Rs. per tonne)</i>	<i>Rate of royalty (in Rs.)</i>	<i>% of FOR price</i>
Selected Gr.	38.50	1.90	4.94%
Grade I	36.06	1.75	4.85%
Gr. II & III	34.03	1.70	5.00%

<i>In 1991 Grade</i>	<i>Basic price Rs. per tonne in 1990 Royalty</i>				<i>% of Royalty on Basic price</i>			
	<i>Ste.*</i>	<i>Sl.**</i>	<i>ROM***</i>	<i>in Rs. per tonne</i>	<i>Ste.*</i>	<i>Sl.**</i>	<i>ROM***</i>	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Gr-I	480	473	470	6.50	1.35	1.37	1.38	
Gr-II	400	393	390	6.50	1.62	1.65	1.66	
<i>Non-Coking Coal</i>								
Gr-A	409	402	399	6.50	1.59	1.61	1.63	
Gr-B	374	367	364	6.50	1.74	1.77	1.79	
Gr-C	328	321	318	5.50	1.68	1.71	1.73	
Gr-D	262	255	252	4.30	1.64	1.69	1.71	
Gr-E	210	203	200	4.30	2.05	2.12	2.15	
Gr-F	170	163	160	2.50	1.47	1.53	1.56	
Gr-G	124	117	114	2.50	2.02	2.14	2.19	

<i>In 1991 Grade</i>	<i>Basic price Rs. per tonne in 1990 Royalty</i>				<i>% of Royalty on Basic price</i>			
	<i>Ste.*</i>	<i>Sl.**</i>	<i>ROM***</i>	<i>in Rs. per tonne</i>	<i>Ste.*</i>	<i>Sl.**</i>	<i>ROM***</i>	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<i>Long Flame Coal</i>								
Gr-A	434	427	424	6.50	4.50	4.52	4.53	
Gr-B	399	392	389	6.50	1.63	1.66	1.67	
Gr-C	353	346	343	5.50	1.56	1.59	1.60	
Gr-D	287	280	277	4.30	1.50	1.54	1.55	

*Steam coal and Rubble.

**Slack coal and Washery middlings.

***Run of Mine Coal.

[*English*]

Dispensary at Kolhapur

1942. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the non-availability of whole time Doctors and nursing staff in the Railway dispensary at Kolhapur;

(b) whether the railway staff at Kolhapur and in the surrounding areas is facing lot of difficulty as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to post the necessary staff and to ensure the proper functioning of the dispensary for the benefit of the railway staff?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). There is a lock-up dispensary at Kolhapur. A Medical Officers, Miraj, alongwith requisite para-medical staff, visits the Kolhapur Dispensary twice a week for attending on Railway Patients. A Civil Hospital and other medical facilities are available at Kolhapur for any emergencies. It is also well connected with trains to Miraj where there is a full fledged Railway Health Unit. Posting of a full-time doctor and other para-medical staff at Kolhapur is not justified at present.

New Rajdhani Express from Bombay to Delhi

1943. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to start a new Rajdhani Express from Bombay to Delhi with stoppage at Surat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Provision of A/C Chair Car In the Cholan Express

1944. 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 in the Southern Railway;

(b) whether there is demand for the provision of the A/C Chair Car in the Cholan Express and A/C Two Tier in Rameshwaram Express; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Presently there is no proposal to provide an A.C. Chaircar on Cholan Express. However, A.C. Sleepers are being provided on a programmed basis.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in Madhya Pradesh

1945. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in Vidisha, Raisen and research district of Madhya Pradesh for which applications to set up retails outlet of diesel and petrol have been received;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). Based on the surveys conducted by the oil industry on the basis of inter alia, local demand, requests from MPs/ MLAs and State Government bodies etc., the following locations have been identified in Vidisha, Raisen and Sehore districts of Madhya Pradesh, for setting up retail outlet dealerships:—

<i>District</i>	<i>Locations</i>
Vidhisha	Vidhisha, Mandideep, Lateri, Nateran, Tyonda, Bhalbamore, and Mahanım crossing
Raisen	Siranj, Sanchi & Nakhtare
Sehore	Bilkısganj

These are at various pre-commissioning stages.

[English]

Allocation of Kerosene to Tamil Nadu

1946. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Kerosene allocated to Tamil Nadu State in each month from June to December, 1990;

(b) whether the Government have received any requests from Tamil Nadu Government to increase the quota;

(c) if so, when the requests were made; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) The quantity of Kerosene allocated to Tamil Nadu between June-December, 1990 is indicated below:

<i>Month</i>	<i>(Figs. in Tonnes)</i> <i>Allocation</i>
June, 1990	51028
July, 1990	53464
August, 1990	53464
September, 1990	53464
October, 1990	53464
November, 1990	59578
December, 1990	58929

(b) to (d). Requests have been received from the Tamil Nadu Government for enhancement of SKO quota for Tamil Nadu. The latest request was received in November, 1990. It has not been possible to increase SKO allocations for Tamil Nadu during June-December, 1990 due to the Balance of payments problem which the country is facing.

Waiting List for LPG Connections in Bangalore

1947. SHRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered for

LPG connections till the end of October, 1990 in Bangalore city;

(b) out of them, the number of persons given new connections so far and upto which year the waiting list has been cleared; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the entire waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). A total number of approximately 2.91 lakh persons have been given LPG connections as on 31.10.1990 in Bangalore city. Approximately 89,000 persons are registered with the distributors for new connections and are on the waiting list. In case of Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation the waiting list in Bangalore city has been pending since 1987 and that of Bharat Petroleum Corporation 1988.

(c) New LPG connections are released all over the country in a phased manner under the annual programme for enrollment of customers, subject to availability of LPG. The availability is being further augmented through enhanced production and import.

[*Translation*]

Sale of Tickets

1948. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant decline in income from the sale of tickets on various railway stations in Uttar Pradesh in October, 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the income

earned in U.P. during October, 1990 and the loss suffered; and

(c) the reasons for the said loss?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). State-wise statistics of earnings from sale of tickets at railway stations are not maintained.

[*English*]

Direct Trains from Kanyakumari

1949. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce more direct express trains from Kanyakumari to important places in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Stoppage of Nilachal Express At Jaleswar Station

1950. SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for stoppage of the Nilachal Express at Jaleswar railway station; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but not found feasible.

Night Landing Facilities at Imphal Airport and Resumption Flights from Delhi to Imphal

1951. SHRI MEJINLUNG KAMSON: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for providing night landing facilities at the Imphal airport (Manipur); and

(b) when the erstwhile direct flight from Delhi to Imphal and vice versa of the Indian Airlines are proposed to be restored in the interest of the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Sanction has been accorded for providing High Intensity Runway Lights, Taxiway and approach lighting at Imphal airport.

(b) Indian Airlines is operating a thrice weekly B-737 service on Delhi/Bagdogra/Guwahati/Imphal route since 16.12.1990.

[*Translation*]

New Trains on Northern and N.E. Railways

1952. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI:
PROF. MAHADEO
SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of new trains introduced in the Northern and the North-Eastern Railways during the last three months and proposed to be introduced in near future alongwith their routes as also the names of those trains whose routes have been changed or are proposed to be changed; and

(b) the time by which a direct trains from Delhi to Chappra via Varanasi-Ballia is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) During the last three months, two trains viz. 2401/2402 New Delhi-Patna Shramjeevi Express and 2403/2404 Kanpur-Varanasi Shramik Express have been introduced, and the run of one viz. 4017/4018 Unchahar Express has been extended from New Delhi to Ambala Cantt. No route has been changed during the last three months. Introduction of new trains and change of routes etc. is a continuous process, subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

(b) There is no proposal to start an additional train between Delhi and Chappra.

[*English*]

Resumption of Air Service to Visakhapatnam

1953. DR. VISHWANATHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the resumption of direct air services from Delhi to Visakhapatnam proposed to be taken up after the reintroduction of Airbus A-320;

(b) if so, when;

(c) if not, whether there is alternative proposal of touching Visakhapatnam by the present route Delhi-Raipur-Visakh-Bhubaneswar has been considered in view of the demand and necessity; and

(d) whether it is proposed to be air linked with the Capital directly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI

HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (d). As it will take several months before the fleet of A-320 aircraft gets reinducted in a substantial manner, Indian Airlines has no plan at present to start a service between Delhi and Vishakapatnam.

Conversion of Rajkot-Veraval Line

1954. **SHRI G.K. SHEKHADA:
SHRI PRAKASH KOKO
BRAHMBHATT:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conversion of Rajkot-Veraval M.g. Railway line into Broad Gauge will be started during first year of the Eighth Plan, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any request of the State Government in this regard is pending for consideration with the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA
CHARAN DAS):** (a) No, Sir. The work could not be sanctioned in the 1st year of VIII Plan due to paucity of resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Allotment of Book Stalls.

1955. **SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of stations declared vacant for allotting of book-stalls in each zone at the time of issue of letter No. 73-TG-III/461/9/Imp. dated the 5 December, 1973 for

unemployed graduates and their groups;

(b) the names of stations and parties to whom such book stalls were given, zone-wise; and

(c) the names of stations still lying vacant in each zone?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
JANESHWAR MISHRA):** (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

LPG Connections in Jamnagar

1956. **SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections provided during the last three years in Jamnagar district of Gujarat;

(b) the number of persons on waiting list for LPG connections there;

(c) the steps taken to provide LPG connections there; and

(d) the future plan for providing LPG connection in each place in Jamnagar?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA
PRAKASH MALVIYA):** (a) During the last three years (December, 1987 to November, 1990) about 9,700 new LPG connections have been released in Jamnagar district of Gujarat.

(b) As on November 30, 1990 there were about 10,900 persons on the waiting list for release of new LPG connections in Jamnagar district.

(c) and (d). New LPG connections are

released all over the country in a phased manner, under the annual programme for enrollment of customers, subject to availability of LPG. Also, LPG facility is being provided in a phased manner to cities/towns with a population of 20,000 and above which offer viable distributorships, subject to overall availability of the product. However, in view of the recent Gulf crisis, shortages in the product availability and backlogs, release of new LPG connections has been withheld till the situation improves.

Allotment of Petrol/Diesel Pumps

1957. SHRI A.K.A. ABDUL SAMAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol and diesel retail outlets in the country as on 1 April, 1990;

(b) their break-up, Company-wise and State-wise;

(c) the outlets assigned to SC's, ST's, OBC's and minorities;

(d) the outlets assigned to unemployed graduates, ex-servicemen, freedom fighters or other special groups;

(e) the number of adopting outlets planned for 1990-91; and

(f) the State-wise and category-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (d). The information is given in statement-I and II give below. No statistics are maintained about the Retails Outlet (diesel/petrol) allotted to dealers belonging to OBCs and minorities.

(e) and (f). The number of outlets planned for the year 1990-91 has not been finalised.

STATEMENT-I

State and Category wise number of Retail outlets Dealerships as on 1.4.1990

STATE	SC	ST	UG/UCG	PH	FF	DC/DDP	OP	OTH	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ANDHRA PRADESH	60	13	58	32	9	11	994	4	1181
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	-	20	-	-	-	-	6	-	26
ASSAM	7	15	9	8	3	3	268	2	315
BIHAR	40	12	65	33	8	4	725	5	892
GOA	2	1	1	-	1	-	58	-	63
GUJARAT	29	25	40	22	6	5	812	9	948
HARYANA	33	-	19	16	3	4	406	1	482
HIMACHAL PRADESH	8	-	6	4	1	-	56	-	75
JAMMU & KASHMIR	3	-	5	4	-	4	98	1	115
KARNATAKA	43	2	51	20	5	7	783	4	915

STATE	SC	ST	UG/UCG	PH	FF	DC/DDP	OP	OTH	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
KERALA	27	1	23	17	4	5	611	2	690
MADHYA PRADESH	14	15	41	13	3	7	745	3	841
MAHARASHTRA	32	24	51	28	4	18	1306	26	1489
MANIPUR	-	10	3	1	-	1	11	-	26
MEGHALAYA	-	26	-	1	-	-	24	-	46
MIZORAM	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	12
NAGALAND	-	8	-	-	-	-	1+	-	24
ORISSA	15	14	24	7	-	2	252	2	316
PUNJAB	54	-	41	17	4	8	814	2	940
RAJASTHAN	49	29	52	31	10	3	690	4	868
SIKKIM	-	1	1	-	-	-	7	-	9

STATE	SC	ST	UG/UCG	PH	FF	DC/DDP	OP	OTH	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TAMIL NADU	105	3	77	39	11	10	1141	8	1394
TRIPURA	-	3	-	-	-	-	25	-	28
UTTAR PRADESH	93	-	74	41	16	14	1569	13	1820
WEST BENGAL	58	5	62	22	1	13	811	9	981
UNION TERRITORY									
ANDAMAN NICOBAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
CHANDIGARH	1	-	-	-	-	-	16	1	18
DADAR & NAGAR HAVELI	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
DAMAN & DIU	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4

STATE	SC	ST	UG/UCG	PH	FF	DC/DDP	OP	OTH	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DELHI	3	-	12	-	-	16	198	5	234
PONDICHERRY	4	-	1	1	-	-	19	-	25
TOTAL	680	229	716	357	89	135	12475	102	14783

STATEMENT-II

State/UT and Company-wise as on 1.4.1990

STATE	ADD	BPC	HPC	IBP	IOC	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ANDHRA PRADESH	-	323	351	93	414	1181
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	16	-	-	-	10	26
ASSAM	173	-	26	8	108	315
BIHAR	-	231	223	100	338	892
GOA	-	29	23	1	10	63
GUJARAT	-	242	216	104	386	948
HARYANA	-	96	111	90	185	482
HIMACHAL PRADESH	-	21	15	3	36	75
JAMMU & KASHMIR	-	32	19	3	61	115
KARNATAKA	-	272	264	35	344	915

STATE	ADD	BPC	HPC	IBP	IOC	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
KERALA	-	199	241	31	219	690
MADHYA PRADESH	-	231	222	34	354	841
MAHARASHTRA	-	487	474	75	453	1489
MANIPUR	17	-	-	-	9	26
MEGHALAYA	23	-	4	-	19	46
MIZORAM	8	-	-	-	4	12
NAGALAND	15	-	-	-	9	24
ORISSA	-	100	85	6	125	316
PUNJAB	-	205	181	182	372	940
RAJASTHAN	-	225	254	44	345	868
SIKKIM	-	3	-	1	5	9

STATE	ADD	BPC	HPC	IBP	IOC	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TAMIL NADU	-	416	436	47	495	1394
TRIPURA	21	-	-	-	7	28
UTTAR PRADESH	-	441	380	266	733	1820
WEST BENGAL	-	266	272	102	341	981
UNION TERRITORY						
ANDAMAN NICOBAR	-	-	-	-	3	3
CHANDIGARH	-	4	7	1	6	18
DADAR & NAGAR HAVELI	-	1	1	-	1	3
DAMAN & DIU	-	3	-	-	1	4
DELHI	-	62	66	25	81	234
PONDICHERRY	-	4	7	2	12	25
TOTAL	273	3894	3878	1253	5489	14783

Transmission and Distribution Losses

1958. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge losses of energy are incurred in transmission and distribution;

(b) if so, the extent of such losses incurred annually; and

(c) the steps being taken to minimise these losses and to conserve energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses in the Indian power systems are about 22%.

(c) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the power Utilities for reducing the losses. These include, inter-alia, conducting of the energy audit for identifying the system elements responsible for excessive losses, installing capacitors to improve the voltage profile, preparation of system improvement schemes for strengthening and improvement of their transmission and distribution systems, installing tamper proof meter boxes to check theft of energy and setting up vigilance squads to detect cases of theft of energy. The theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence under the provisions of Section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910. An Incentive Scheme was introduced by the Government of India with effect from the year 1987 for bringing about reduction in the Transmission and Distribution losses.

Based on the guidelines, the power Utilities have set up vigilance squads for spot checking the premises of the H.T. consumers, and have been formulating system im-

provement schemes to strengthen and improve their transmission and distribution systems. System Improvement Schemes have been taken up for implementation by various State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments to reduce T&D losses and an incentive scheme has also been introduced to motivate the Station Electricity Boards to reduce the T&D losses.

Decontrol of Molasses

1959. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Union Government regarding decontrol of molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps/proposed to be taken to protect the interest of molasses based alcohol industries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The present policy aims to ensure availability of molasses to distilleries for production of industrial alcohol at reasonable prices.

Production of Coal and Generation of Power

1960. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coal during last three years, year-wise ; and

(b) the total power generated in the

country during last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) The production of coal during the last three years is as given below:—

<i>(million tonnes)</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Coal production</i>
1987-88	179.75
1988-89	194.60
1989-90	200.89

(b) The power generation in the country during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 is as under:—

<i>(Billion Units)</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Power generation</i>
1987-88	201.894
1988-89	21.125
1989-90	245.141

Transportation of Betel Leaves

1961. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals for regular and easy booking of betel leaves by the Mail/Express trains from West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to improve the movements of betel leaves by railways specially from West

Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). The proposals from the trade for regular clearance of betel leaf traffic from West Bengal were examined in consultation with the representatives of trade and State Government and adequate arrangements have since been made.

Loss in Operation of Trains

1962. SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the trains in all the zones are being run in losses;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a high level committee to review the working of various zones in this regard; and

(c) the names of the trains running in profit, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Train-wise data is not maintained.

Haldia Petrochemical Project

1963. DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted any fund to the Government of West Bengal for the Haldia Petrochemical Project;

(b) if so, how much fund has already been released to the West Bengal Government for the purpose; and

(c) whether the West Bengal Government have given any report to the Union Government as to how the money has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). Letter of intent for Haldia Petrochemical Complex has been issued to West Bengal Industrial & Development Corporation Ltd. (WBIDC) who is accordingly to mobilise the requisite financial resources for the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the letter of intent. The letter of intent does not envisage Central Government's financial participation in the project.

[*Translation*]

Kawas Gas based Power Project

1964. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target date for the construction of gas based Thermal Power Station at Kawas (Surat Gujarat) by N.T.P.C., and when it is likely to be completed;

(b) the installed capacity thereof and the proposed date of its commissioning; and

(c) the details of quantum of power to be shared by Gujarat and other States through this power station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). Based on the present status of construction the Kawas Gas-based Power Project comprising 4 x 106 MW Gas Turbine (GT) and 2 x 110 MW Steam Turbine (ST) units is likely to be completed by July, 1993. The various units are likely to be commissioned as per the schedule give below:—

Gas Turbine Unit-I	March, 1992
Gas Turbine Unit-II	May, 1992
Gas Turbine Unit-III	July, 1992
Gas Turbine Unit-IV	Sept., 1992
Steam Turbine Unit-I	March, 1993
Steam Turbine Unit-II	July, 1993

(c) Allocation of power from the project to the States in the Western Region would be made according to the prescribed formula applicable to the Central Power Stations.

[*English*]

Power to Release Foreign Exchange by ONGC

1965. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given powers to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the release of foreign exchange for import of equipments and services required for its operational needs;

(b) if so, the total foreign exchange allowed;

(c) the details of the components to be imported;

(d) whether the World Bank cases are also likely to be cleared by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA

PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). Government have delegated power to ONGC for release of foreign exchange to the extent of 75 per cent of third approved foreign exchange budget for the financial year for import of equipment and services.

(c) The effort involved in compiling the details of all the items to be imported by ONGC may not be commensurate with the public purpose sought to be achieved.

(d) and (e). Government have also delegated powers to ONGC for release of foreign exchange in respect of World Bank assisted Projects. However, all other cases where credit is to be availed has to be referred to Government for approval.

News Item of I.D.P.L.

1966. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item on IDPL appearing in the "The Sunday Mail" dated 25th November, 1990;

(b) if so, whether Government have verified the statements made therein; and

(c) if so, the result achieved on each item?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of Compensations

1967. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railway Act was amended in 1989 to include parents of a deceased minor passenger to enable the parents to qualify as dependants to get compensation;

(b) whether it has been decided that the above benefit will be given to all legal heirs of the victims of Perumon Railway accident in Quilon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Reservation facilities at V.T. and Churchgate stations in Bombay

1968. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing number of reservation windows on V.T. and Churchgate stations in Bombay for through trains are not sufficient to cope with the heavy rush of commuters there;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase reservation facilities at these stations; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) The existing number of reservation counters at Bombay V.T. and Churchgate stations are adequate to deal with the present level of traffic.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Oil Drilling In H.P.

1969. PROF. PREMKUMARDHUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil drilling work has been started in Changar-Talai in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the results are encouraging so far and how far success has been achieved; and

(c) whether oil find there is likely to be available there for commercial purposes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is too early to say anything about the commercial exploitation of hydrocarbons which have not even been discovered.

[*English*]

Electrification of Railway Line Between Kancheepuram and Chingleput

1970. SHRI KANCI PANNEER SELVAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any survey work for the proposed electrification of railway track between Kancheepuram and Chingleput in the current plan;

(b) if not, when it is proposed to be taken up; and

(c) the details regarding the estimated cost, target date for execution and completion of the work, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to undertake survey for electrification of Kancheepuram-Chingleput Section.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Chairman of D.V.G.

1971. DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTVA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Chairman of the Damodar Valley Corporation and also the nominated members of Bihar and West Bengal are part time;

(b) whether the Government propose to make these part-time posts as full time keeping in view the work load of the Damodar Valley Corporation; and

(c) the steps being taken to fulfil the other vacant posts in the Corporations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). The Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948 provided for a Chairman and two other Members, who are appointed by the Central Government after consultation with the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal, accordingly. The other vacant posts, if any are filled up in accordance with the rules framed under DVC

Act 1948 as per procedures laid down in that regard by the Corporation.

West Bengal, project-wise; and

[*English*]

(b) the actual power generated by different projects during last year?

Power Generation Capacity of West Bengal

1972. SHRI AJIT PANJA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The generation capacity of various power projects in West Bengal as on 31.3.1990 and the power generated by these stations during April-March, 1990 is as under:—

(a) total power generation capacity of

<i>Name of the Station</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Generation (MU)</i>
1	2	3
<i>Thermal</i>		
Pandel	530	2238
Santhaldih	480	838
Gas Turbines	100	45
Kolaghat	420	2126
(W.B.P. Dev. Corpn.)		
DLP	390	617
Farakka (NTPC)	630	2815
CESC (Pvt.)	240	136
Titagarh	240	1409
<i>Hydro</i>		
Small Stations	41.3	101

[*Translation*]

(a) the main features of the H.B.J. Pipeline Project;

Projects on HBJ Pipeline

1973. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(b) whether gas Power Plant and Fertilizer Plant in Bihar have adversely been affected for want of completion of this project; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for completing H.B.J. Project?

CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Main features of the project are as follows:—

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND

Length of P/L	1809
Compressor stations	4 Nos.
Cathodic Protection/ RR Stations	58
Railway Crossings	37 Nos.
Forest Crossings	56 Nos.
River Crossings:	
Major	22 Nos.
Minor	69 Nos.
Road Crossings	409 Nos.
Canal Crossing	251 Nos.
Gas Carrying Capacity:	
Present	18.2 MMSCMD
Future	33.4 MMSCMD

The pipeline passes through States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Delhi.

[English]

Letter of Intent of NOCIL

(b) No. Sir. HBJ Pipeline was not designed to supply gas to any power or fertilizer plant in Bihar.

1974. SHRI VIDYADHAR GOKHALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 10 April, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 4266 and state:

(c) HBJ Gas Pipeline Supply System was completed as per approved schedule in July 1989.

(a) whether the National Organic Chemical Industries Ltd. (NOCIL) was exempted from locational standard conditions

while granting letter of intent for expansion of its Naphtha Cracker Complex;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from voluntary organisations against the expansion projects; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon and the reasons for delay in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). The letter of intent issued to NOCIL, on techno economic considerations, for expansion of its Naphtha Cracker Complex provides for exemption from standard locational conditions. However, safeguards have been built in by stipulating in the LOI that the company shall obtain site clearance from the competent State authority ; also that it will obtain environmental and pollution clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India and that no construction activity relating to the proposed expansion shall be undertaken by the company until such an environmental clearance is obtained by it.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All relevant aspects are taken into account while considering environmental and other clearances for industrial projects.

Production and Investment in Coal Sector

1975. SHRI HAMENDRA SINGH BANERA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise investment in nationalised coal mines and other coal projects from the date of nationalisation of both coking and non-coking coal mines;

(b) the increase in coal production grade-wise at present in comparison to the period to nationalisation of coal mines; and

(c) the present policy of coal distribution to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) details of investment made in coal projects since nationalisation of coking coal mines in 1972 and other mines in 1973 are given in the statement below.

(b) Production of coking and non-coking coal in the nationalised coal mines during 1989-90 as compared to the production at the time of nationalisation are given below:

(in million tonnes)

	1972-73	1989-90	Increase
Coking	13.37	40.04*	26.67
Non-coking	56.61	138.58	81.97
Total	69.98	178.62	108.64

*including non-metallurgical grade coking coal

(c) The present policy of coal distribution to the industries is as under:—

- (i) *Coking Coal:* Metallurgical Coking Coal comes under the purview of Colliery Control Order. The recommendation for supplies of Metallurgical Coking Coal is made by the Coal Controller.
- (ii) *Non-coking Coal:* Industrial Consumers are supplied coal by rail by the coal co's. as per the sponsorships of the appropriate Sponsoring Authorities within the overall wagon ceiling limit fixed by Rlys. in consultation with their Sponsoring Authorities and as per the linkages established by CIL.

Industrial Consumers located nearer the coalfields areas are supplied coal by road against their Sponsorships/Demand assessment and established linkages.

Small Consumers are given the facility to draw their Assessed/Sponsored requirement from near by Stocky-ards of CIL.

Coal supplies by road are also arranged to Industrial Consumers against shortfall in rail movement/distress requirement from Collieries or from CIL's Stocky-ards.

For the benefit of Small/Non-Sponsored/Inadequately Sponsored Consumers, coal supplies are arranged upto 1000 MTs at a time from sources specified, under 'Liberalised Distribution Scheme' of CIL on 'First-come-first-serve basis'.

High inventory -Slow moving stocks of Washery products/Coal are also offered to willing Consumers/Customers under Bulk Sale Scheme of Coal India Limited.

STATEMENT

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rupees in crores</i>
1	2
<i>(a) Investment in coal mining projects :</i>	
1973-74	166.95
1974-75	82.80
1975-76	149.73
1976-77	200.46
1977-78	178.93
1978-79	198.11
1979-80	261.90

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rupees in crores</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1980-81	345.70
1981-82	572.80
1982-83	712.94
1983-84	839.43
1984-85	787.67
1985-86	842.73
1986-87	980.41
1987-88	1005.55
1988-89	1282.81
1989-90	1419.15
Total upto 1989-90	10028.07
<i>(b) Investment in Non-mining Coal Projects :</i>	
*Upto 1984-85	665.49
1985-86	112.39
1986-87	142.23
1987-88	142.28
1988-89	243.25
1989-90	190.90
Total upto 1989-90	1496.54

*Note : Break up of year-wise investment in non-coal mining projects during the years 1973-74 to 1984-85, is reportedly not available.

Import of Wheel Sets

1976. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and value of wheel-lathes for which contracts have been placed by the Railways during the last three years;

(b) the break up to between Indian and Foreign supplies in terms of numbers as well as value;

(c) whether in Indian supplied wheel-

lathes imported components are used; if so, the percentage of the total value of such components; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid out-flow of foreign exchange on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) The total number of wheel lathes purchased by Indian Railways since 1979 is 120. The value of these wheel lathes is Rs. 11,831.67 lakhs. The year-wise figures for the last 3 years are as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Value</i> <i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1988	5	599.57
1989	13	1532.12
1990	20	4196.54

(b) Out of 38 Nos. of wheel lathes, 2 Nos. have been purchased from M/s. Hegenscheidt, West Germany and the rest have been ordered on M/s. Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi. The Value of purchase from the foreign supplier is Rs. 264.9 lakhs out of total purchase of Rs. 6328.63 lakhs.

(c) The wheel lathes supplied by Indian manufacturers have some imported components. As per latest order dt. 31.8.90, the percentage of imported components works out to 27.62% as compared to 52.87% in 1989.

(d) The only indigenous manufacturer, viz M/s. Heavy Engineering Corporation who are making these wheel lathes in collabora-

tion with M/s. Hegenscheidt, Germany are constantly making efforts to increase the indigenous content.

Additional Coaches for Sikkim

1977. SHRI NANDU THAPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from the State of Sikkim for one coach each in North Eastern Express and Tinsukhia Mail from N.J.P (Siliguri) to New Delhi and vice-versa for that and the adjoining areas; and

(b) if so, the details of action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but not found feasible on account of operational difficulties and resource constraints.

Performance of Container Corporation of India

1978. SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India is functioning successfully;

(b) if so, the target set for handling containers per annum in terms of quantum of containers handled during last one year by different depots of the Corporation at major ports; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During the year 1989-90 a total of 52,405 containers were handled by different depots. The target set for the year 1990-91 is 65,800 containers.

Setting up of a Thermal Plant in Malabar, Kerala

1979. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the location of a Thermal Power Plant proposed to be set up in Malabar, Kerala;

(b) whether the Government have received any report of the team appointed for the purpose; and

(c) when the construction work is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). The Eighth Plan to consider incremental generation capacities is yet to be finalised. The team has not suggested location of a thermal power plant in Malabar, Kerala to yield benefits in the Eighth Plan period either in the state or central sector.

Kudachi-Raichur Railway Line (SCR)

1980. SHRI S.T. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted for laying a railway line from Kudachi to Raichur on South Central Railway, long back;

(b) if so, the position of the proposed project as on date; and

(c) when it will be taken up for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

Issue of Debentures for Conversion of Lines in Maharashtra

1981. SHRI PUNDLIK HARI DANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh proposal from the

Government of Maharashtra has been received by his Ministry for issuing debentures to convert the narrow gauge rail lines into broad gauge in Marathwada region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for setting up a Corporation on the lines of Konkan Railway Corporation for the development of the following Railway network in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

1. Extension of Manmad-Aurangabad broad gauge section upto Parli-Vaijnath and Adilabad.
2. Conversion of Latur-Barsi-Pandharpur-Miraj Narrow Gauge section into broad gauge and extending it upto Latur Road and Laying a new Railway line joining Osmanabad with this line.
3. Construction of a new broad gauge line from Ahmednagar to Parli-Vaijnath via Bir.

However the surveys carried out for the above projects indicate that these projects would not be financially remunerative and hence setting up of a Corporation is not feasible.

[*English*]

Increase In Mark up of Medicines

1982. SHRI KALPANTH SONKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade margins and mark ups have been increase under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) what was the percentage increase in trade margins and marks up and who recommended these increases?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The increase in the MAPE under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 is based on the measures announced by the Government in 1986. Since there has been an increase in the MAPE under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987, its benefit has also been passed on to the trade by increasing the trade margin. The increase in the trade margin is based on the recommendations made by the Committee constituted by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for the purpose.

The MAPE under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 has been increased from the existing level of 40% and 55% to 75% and 100% in respect of Category I and II formulations respectively. Similarly the trade margin has been increased to the level of 16% for controlled drugs.

[*Translation*]

Rural Electrification in Madhya Pradesh

1983. SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in Madhya Pradesh from January to December 1990; and

(b) the number electrified and unelectrified villages in Raipur Bilaspur and Raigarh districts during this period; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO
DHAKANE): (a) As per the available infor-

mation, 2855 villages were electrified in Madhya Pradesh during January to November, 1990.

(b) The number of electrified and unelectrified villages in Raipur, Bilaspur and Raigarh districts during this period is as under:—

<i>Distts.</i>	<i>Total No. of villages</i>	<i>Total villages electrified as on Nov., 1990</i>	<i>Villages electrified during Jan. to Nov., 1990</i>	<i>Unelectrified villages</i>
1. Raipur	3842	3149	208	693
2. Bilaspur	3517	2910	242	607
3. Raigarh	2198	1717	147	481

**SC/ST Officials in Railways Board/
Northern Railway**

1984. SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Group 'A' and Group 'B' officers at present working in the office of Northern Railway and Railway Board, separately;

(b) the number of officers belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe among them, category-wise; and

(c) the number of railway officers and employees at present working in other Ministries and public undertakings on deputation and the number of those belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe, out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): Information compiled as on 01.08.90 is as under:

(a) *Railway Board*: Group 'A'-287, Group 'B'-307.

Northern Railway: Group 'A'-807, Group 'B'-666.

(b) *Railway Board* : Group 'A'-SC:26, ST:7. Group 'B'-SC:26, ST:4.

Northern Railway : Group 'A'-SC:114, ST:17. Group 'B'-SC:89, ST:14.

(c) *Officers* : Total : 178, SC:14, ST:3.

Employees : Total:236, SC:16, ST:1.

[English]

**Criteria for Allotment of LPG Agency
and Petrol Pumps**

1985. SHRI C.M. NEGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for allotting LPG agency and petrol pumps;

(b) the number of such sanctions issued during last two years, till December, 1990;

(c) the number of such agencies issued during the aforesaid period for Delhi, Dehradun, Pauri Garwal, Chemoli and Tehri Garwal; and

(d) whether Government give some preference to the local people in the sanction of these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Under the existing guidelines, the oil companies invite applications for award of LPG distributorships/ Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) dealerships and Kerosene/LDO dealerships by advertising in prominent newspapers. Applications received in response to such advertisements are considered on merits by the concerned Oil Selection Board which is an independent body headed by a retired High Court Judge. Allotment of dealerships/distributorships is made by the oil companies on the recommendations of the Oil Selection Board.

(b) During the period January 1980 to December 1990 315 LPG distributorships and 658 Retail Outlet (Petrol/diesel) dealerships have been allotted.

(c) The information is as follows:—

<i>Location</i>	<i>LPG distributorship</i>	<i>Retail Outlet dealership</i>
1	2	3
Delhi	16	5
Dehradun	-	2
Pagri Garhwal*	-	-
Chamoli*	-	-
Tehri Garhwal*	-	2

*LPG Marketing has been entrusted to the Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam.

(d) Yes, Sir.

[*Translation*]

**Express Train on Gorakhpur-Bareilly
Route**

1986. SHRI RUDRA SEN CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce an Express train on Gorakhpur-Gonda-Bahraich-Bareilly meter gauge line; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Increase in Bogies in Karnataka
Express**

1987. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand for increasing the number of bogies in the Karnataka Express running between New Delhi and Bangalore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but not found feasible.

Development of Kakinada Station

1988. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there has been a scheme to develop the Kakinada station and restructure the railway line to enable long distance trains from Madras to Hawrah pass through that station directly; and

(b) if so, when the scheme is likely to be implemented keeping in view that Kakinada is a district headquarter and its sea port is also developing fast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Train services in Orissa

1989. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from the Orissa Government to introduce new train services, extension of trains and change of train times in addition to the existing services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions mainly pertain to extension of runs of some trains, restoration of a couple of services discontinued, and introduction of a Puri-Drug service via Vizianagaram.

(c) The proposals to introduce a weekly

train between Puri and Tirupati and to extend Hirakhand Express to Rourkela are under active consideration. The other proposals have not been found feasible of implementation.

[*Translation*]

Power Requirement in Rajasthan

1990. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of power at present in Rajasthan and the quantum of electricity being produced in Rajasthan, share of Rajasthan from central pool and power received from other sources to meet this requirement; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the shortage of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) The total energy requirement in Rajasthan during November, 1990 was 10200 lakh units (LUs) against which the availability from all sources was 10180.25 lakh units as detailed below:—

(Fgrs. in LU)

(i)	Own generation	3308.69
(ii)	Import from Central Sector/ jointly owned projects	6404.17
(iii)	Import from other States	467.39

(b) The measures being taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generation capacity, implementation of short gestation

projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conser-

vation measures and arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

[English]

Khurda Road-Bolangir Railway Line

1991. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to construct a new railway line from Khurda Road to Bolangir on the South Eastern Railway;

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

(c) the decision taken by Government in regard to this survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 209 crores (at 1985-86 price level).

(c) As the project was found unremunerative, it could not be taken up.

However, on consideration of development of backward areas, the Railway has now again been asked to resurvey/update the proposal.

Conversion of Manmad-Adilabad Line

1992. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in conversion of Manmad-Adilabad railway line into board gauge;

(b) the funds allocated for this project for 1990-91 and the quantum utilised so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b). The entire conversion work is covered in two projects. The details of the projects, progress made, funds allotted during 1990-91 and funds utilised so far are as under:

Name of the Project	Section on which work is in progress	Physical progress of sections in which work is in progress	Funds allotted (90-91)	Funds utilised upto 30.11.90
1. Conversion of Manmad-Parbhani Parli Vajinath MG section into BG (354 km)	Manmad-Aurangabad (114 km)	71%	Rs. 14.00 crores	Rs. 4.82 crores
2. Conversion of Parbhani-Purna and Mudkhed-Adilabad-from MG to BG and laying a parallel BG line from Purna to Mudkhed (240 km).	Nanded-Mughat (13.23 km) and Mughat-Mudkhed (9.26 km)	12%	Rs. 9.50 crores	Rs. 0.26 crores

(c) Completion will depend upon allocations made for these projects in the coming years.

[*Translation*]

Cancellation of Trains Passing Through Uttar Pradesh

1993. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:
SHRI PUNDLIK HARI
DANWE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains passing through Uttar Pradesh cancelled from 20 October to 5 November, 1990;

(b) the reasons for their cancellation in each case;

(c) whether some trains have been stopped by the special police during this period without the written orders, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any provision for the suspension and cancellation of trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) 84.

(b) To meet with exigencies of law and order situation in the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Passenger services can be cancelled, terminated short of destination etc. to meet exigencies of any situation.

[*English*]

Discovery of Oil Reserves

1994. SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Limited has discovered shale formation in the North-East region that could yield billions of tonnes of recoverable oil;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment of the shale oil potential in North-East region of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). Fairly thick and extensive shales are known from the Barail coalshale (Oilocene) and Disangshale (Eocene) sequences that occupy a very large part of the Assam Arakan Sedimentary Basin of Northeastern India. According to preliminary investigations carried out by Oil India Limited (OIL) some of these shales are capable of yielding crude oil. Based on these preliminary studies OIL have made an estimate of extractable oil which is large. However detailed studies are needed to identify oil shales to determine extractable oil as also to ascertain technical feasibility and economic viability of such extraction in the thickly forested and fragile environment where these shales occur.

[*Translation*]

Introduction of New Trains

1995. PROF. YADU NATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains started in between January to December, 1990 and the routes thereof;

(b) whether Government have revised the income and expenditure incurred on the operation of these new trains during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of new trains likely to be introduced in the remaining months of the 1990-91 and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) During the period January to December, 1990, 52 trains were started. A statement giving the routes on which these trains were introduced is given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) New trains are by and large, introduced at the time of drawing up of new time tables taking into account passenger needs, availability of physical resources and operational feasibility.

STATEMENT

Routes on which new trains were introduced between January to December, 1990

1. Jammu Tawi-Mangalore/
Tiruchchirapalli.
2. Surat-Varansi.
3. Haria-Varanasi.
4. Jammu Tawi-Guwahati.

5. Dadar-Muzaffarpur.
6. Howrah-Gorakhpur.
7. Gonda-Gorakhpur.
8. Katihar Siliguri.
9. Dhanbad-Chopan.
10. Jasidih-Baidyanathdham.
11. Rampurhat-Sahibganj.
12. Silchar-Jiribum.
13. Chitradurg-Challekere.
14. Guntur-Macherla. (Two pairs)
15. Guntur-Sattanappale. (Two pairs)
16. Macherla-Nadikudi.
17. Hazrat Nizamuddin-Miraj-Vasco-de-Gama. (1 pair BG & 1 pair MG)
18. Bilaspur-Gevra Road.
19. New Delhi-Patna.
20. Kanpur-Varansi.
21. Gandhidham-New Bhuj-Naliya.
22. Gorakhpur-Allahabad.
23. Howrah-Bokaro Steel City.

Setting up of Diesel Outlets at every seven Kilometers

1996. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are con-

templating to set up diesel outlets at every seven kilometers;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such outlets are proposed to be set up and when; and

(c) if not, the manner in which diesel is proposed to be made available to the farmers easily?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). Retail Outlets (Petrol/diesel) are set up in line with the volume distance norms stipulated for the purpose, on the basis of surveys conducted by the Oil Companies. The Oil Industry is setting up low cost Retail outlets in rural/remote areas to make High Speed Diesel available to the farmers easily.

Solar Energy Production Centre

1997. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval to Solar Energy Production Centre of 30 kilowatt capacity in the Chakai division of Munger district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which the Solar Energy is likely to be produced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). A proposal was received for setting up a 2x30 MW solar thermal power station at Chakai at a cost of over Rs. 207 crores. The proposal can be considered for implementation after the meteorological data required has been collected, the technology has been proved in Indian conditions, and all necessary in-puts have been tied up.

Late Running of Trains

1998. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding late departure and late arrival of trains during this year;

(b) whether the Government have issued any fresh directives for monitoring the running of trains on time and whether any inquiry and inspection is being carried out to see that these directives are being followed; and

(c) whether fresh arrangements are being made likewise to avoid the accidents and to conduct an inquiry thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) The punctuality performance during 1st and 2nd half of 1990 was as under:

	<i>1st half of 1990</i>	<i>2nd half of 1990</i>
Mail/Express	85.6%	84.6%
Passenger	92.5%	93.1%
Suburban	95.3%	95.2%

(b) Monitoring is a continuous process and it includes observance of instructions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

[English]

Underground storage system for Natural Gas in Eastern Sector

1999. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC proposes an underground storage system for natural gas in Eastern parts of the country in near future;

(b) if so, details therefor;

(c) the actual storage capacity of the projects; and

(d) the time by which the projects are to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Although ONGC have conceptualised such a storage system, no project proposal has been submitted to Government for approval nor has any such project been approved by ONGC under its own delegated powers. In view of this such a storage system in the Eastern part of the country is not expected to come up in the near future.

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

Electrification of Trains on Northern Railway

2000. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of electrification of trains on the Northern Railway between Delhi and Amritsar during the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Electrification of Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana section alone is under consideration.

(b) The work covers electrification of 314 RKMS at an estimated cost of Rs. 136.96 crores.

Non-Servicing of Food in Flights

2001. SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of non-serving of meals, break-fasts or beverages in Vayudoot flights;

(b) if so, whether the Vayudoot has reduced the air fares for non-serving of food beverages in their flights; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Even otherwise, Vayudoot's fare structure does not cover the cost of its operations, which is high because of the short haul nature of its route network.

Air India Pilot Refused to Fly Aircraft (AI 130)

2002. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether co-pilot of a Air India Jumbo refused recently to fly the aircraft (AI 130) from Heathrow to Bombay after all the passengers have boarded the aircraft;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Air India to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The co-pilot of AI-130 of 28.10.90 refused to fly the aircraft from Heathrow to Delhi.

(b) The co-pilot refused to fly because according to him he would have exceeded the Flight duty Time Limitation contained in the Indian Pilots' Guild's agreement with Air India. The commander of the flight was willing to fly. This caused a loss of over Rs. 8 lakhs in foreign exchange to Air India.

(c) Air India has reported this incident to DGCA. The DGCA is taking appropriate action under Aircraft Rules, 1937.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Contracts of Stalls to Unemployed Graduates

2003. SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry give priority to the young unemployed graduates in giving contracts of catering vending and book-stalls under self-employment policy;

(b) if so, the number of contractors under the said category in Delhi and Moradabad divisions;

(c) whether the Government propose to

formulate some new policy in order to give encouragement to the young unemployed graduates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Extent policy for awarding catering/vending and bookstall contracts provides for preference to unemployed graduates along with other categories.

(b) 18 bookstall contracts in Delhi Division and one vending and 3 bookstall contracts in Moradabad Division have been awarded.

(c) Not yet.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

International Balloon Mela

2004. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the highly successful Six International Balloon Mela of 1990 organised in 10 cities of India (Clarity 2.12.1990); and

(b) whether the Government have any plans to encourage Ballooning in India and if so, the details of the work-plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Such activities would need to be supported primarily from private resources.

Oil Production from Cauvery Basin

2005. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas
Commission has submitted a feasibility re-
port for oil production from Cauvery offshore;

(b) if so, when and the cost of the
project;

(c) whether the project has been cleared
by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the ONGC
on oil drilling?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA
PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Modernisation of Airports

2006. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had any
proposal to modernise the air traffic services
system and facilities at various airports in the
country;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked and
spent on this programme during the current
year on each Airport; and

(c) the details of facilities provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI
HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) The
modernisation & upgradation various facili-
ties including Air Traffic Control facilities at
airports is a continuous process.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Details of expenditure on provision of Communication/Navigational facilities in 1990-91

Sl.No.	Facility	Amount Earmarked	Amount spent so far	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
		(Rs. in lacs)	(Rs. in lacs)	
1.	ILS (7 Nos) Delhi, Bhubaneshwar, Khajuraho, Indore, Trichy, Bangalore and Kanpur.	130.00	100.00	Continuing Scheme ILS installation completed at Kanpur & being taken up shortly at Delhi & Trichy.
2.	DVOR (5 Nos.) Guwahati, Lucknow, Patna, Ahmedabad, & Khajuraho.	400.00	300.00	Continuing scheme 4 DVORs received. 5th expected shortly.
3.	Speech Switching System. Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Nagpur and Hyderabad.	122.22	46.22	New Scheme taken up in 90-91. Installation expected to be completed by March, 1991.

Sl.No.	Facility	Amount Earmarked	Amount spent so far	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
		(Rs. in lacs)	(Rs. in lacs)	
4.	AMSS Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Madras & CATC Allahabad.	125.00	45.00	New Scheme. Equipment expected by March, 1991. Installation at Guwahati & Ahmedabad to be completed by March, 1991.
5.	HF SSB (Tx 60 Nos) at a number of airport.	345.00	144.00	New Scheme. 30 Tx to be received by March, 1991 & 30 by Aug., 1991.
6.	HF SSB Transreceivers at a no. of airports.	115.00	37.40	New Scheme. 40 Equipment to be received by March, 1991 and 20 by June, 1991.
7.	VHF-FM Walkie Talkie sets at about 50 airports.	75.00	60.00	Continuing Schem. 50 Equipment for all airports excepting. 3 received.
8.	Electronic PABX (47 Nos.)	70.65	60.00	Installation completed at 12 locations & in progress at 10.

Sl.No.	Facility	Amount Earmarked	Amount spent so far	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
9.	DME (16 Nos)	(Rs. in lacs) 380.00	(Rs. in lacs)	10 DMEs expected to be received before March, 1991.
10.	UHF link for Delhi Airport	10.00		Equipment likely to be received by August, 1991.
Total :—		1772.87	792.62	

Abbreviations:

- (i) ILS=Instrument Landing Systems
- (ii) DVOR=Doppler Very High mni Frequency Range
- (iii) AMSS=Automatic Message Switching System
- (iv) HF SSB=High Frequency-Single Side Band
- (v) VHF-FM=Very High Frequency-Frequency Modernisation.
- (vi) DME=Distance Measuring Equipment
- (vii) UHF=Ultra High Frequency.

New Coal based Technology

2007. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether energy experts have suggested a new coal based technology named the Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC)—an efficient and environmentally safer alternative for power generation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The Expert group constituted for evaluating the various coal gasification processes and to identify technology suitable for high ash Indian coals has been actively engaged in evaluating the techno-economics of the three generically different coal gasification processes involved in the Integrated Coal Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC), technology for power generation. Considering the merits and demerits of the three coal gasification processes presently available, Fluidised and Moving Bed Gasification process technologies have been found suitable for high ash Indian Coals and for power generation through IGCC system.

Flight No. 408 from Varanasi to Khajuraho

2008. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Airlines Boeing VTEAJ Flight No. 408 took off from Varanasi for Khajuraho on 17 September, 1990 could not land there;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the number of persons travelling in that aircraft;

(d) whether there was any casualty;

(e) the responsibilities fixed on the staff; and

(f) the steps taken to avoid such occurrences in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN) : (a) to (f). On 17.9.1990, a Boeing-737 aircraft VT-EAJ while operating flight IC-408 with 64 passengers on Board took off from Varanasi but had to overfly Khajuraho and Agra due to snag in the hydraulic system. There was no casualty or injury to any passenger.

The incident was investigated by the Permanent Investigation Board of Indian Airlines and was referred to the Boeing Co. The Boeing Co. have considered this failure as an isolated case and have not made any recommendation in this regard. The Indian Airlines has therefore, concluded that no further action was necessary in the matter.

Pending Power Project of West Bengal

2009. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the West Bengal power projects pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the steps being taken for early clearance of these power projects; and

(c) what assistance the Union Government propose to give to the West Bengal

Government to supply power from the Central grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The present status of the techno-economic appraisal of power schemes of West Bengal is given below:—

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Installed Capacity (MW)	Present Status
1	2	3	4
HYDRO SCHEMES			
1.	Farakka Barrage HEP	5x25=125	Replies of the project authorities on comments on hydrology, civil cost and construction machinery aspects are awaited. Environment clearance is also awaited.
2.	Ramman Stage-I	3x12=36	Inter State aspects need to be resolved.
THERMAL SCHEMES			
3.	Budge Budge Generating Station	2x250=500	Coal Linkage, report on compliance of Section 29 of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, forest clearance etc. are awaited.
4.	Sagardighi	4x250 of 2x500=1000	Confirmation of availability of coal linkage and coal transportation is awaited.

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Present Status</i>
1	2	3	4
5.	Balagarh	3x210=630	Coal linkage is yet to be confirmed. Unit rating is to be revised from 210 MW to 250 MW.

(c) West Bengal has been allocated the following shares from the Central sector

Farakka STPS and Chukha Hydro-electric station in Bhutan.

Farakka STPS (630 MW)	216 MW (34.2%)
Chukha HES (270 MW)	79 MW (29.1%)

In addition, West Bengal is provided assistance out of the 15% unallocated output from Farakka STPS and 5% unallocated output from Chukha HES depending upon the relative percentage shortages in the constituents of the Eastern Region from time to time.

During the period from April to November, 1990, as against the total entitlement of 902 MU from the above power station the actual drawal by West Bengal was 799MU.

Profit/Loss in Air India and Expenditure on Image Making

2010. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Air India on Image making through LANDOUR ASSOCIATES of USA in terms of foreign exchange and its ultimate utility in boosting Air India's traffic earnings;

(b) the set-ups closed abroad and how does the expenditure saved thus as compared with that on the assignment of work to foreign agencies and appointment of General Sales Agents (GSAs); and

(c) the profit and loss of the Air India during the current year, and how much portion thereof is being spent on Gulf evacuees after taking into consideration the amount paid by the union Government on this accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Total expenditure incurred in foreign exchange on image making is Rs. 2.03 crores, which includes consultancy fee, travelling expenses, import of logo etc. It is difficult to relate it to traffic revenue.

(b) Three offices of Air India were closed in the recent past. Details of the offices closed, date of closure and the estimated savings are given below:—

<i>Offices Closed</i>	<i>Date of Closure</i>	<i>Estimated Savings</i>
Yokohama	31.10.89	Rs. 15 lakhs/annum
Suva	01.01.89	Rs. 12 lakhs/annum
Kobe	01.01.91	Rs. 10 lakhs/annum

GSA has not been appointed in Yokohama and Kobe. Fiji Air has been appointed as GSA in Suva.

(c) The estimated profit of Air India for the first half of 1990-91 is Rs. 65 crores (approx.). Air India has raised invoices for

Gulf evacuation on the basis of costs incurred and would not lose on this account. Financial impact will come from loss of traffic, escalating oil prices and aircraft/Passenger insurance.

Appointment of Chairman and Managing Director In Public Undertaking

2011. SHRISANATKUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been laid down for appointment of the Chairmen and Managing Directors of the various Corporations under his Ministry for both technical and non-technical personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the selection of the present incumbents was made, their tenure and salary and allowances and perks;

(d) the consideration which weighed with the Government in appointing non-technical personnel as Chairmen and Man-

aging Directors of some of these Corporations;

(e) whether it is proposed to restructure the set-up of some of these Corporations; and

(f) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE) : (a) and (b). the appointments to the posts of Chairman and Managing Directors of the various Corporations under the Ministry of Energy are made by the Government on the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board.

(c) The details are given in the statement given below.

(d) Appointments to the posts of Chairmen and Managing Directors of the Public Sector Corporations were made taking into account the specific job requirements of the office and the suitability of the candidates.

(e) and (f). No, Sir.

STATEMENT

Details indicating the manner of selection of the present incumbents in the posts of Chairman and Managing Directors of Public Sector Corporations under the Ministry of Energy, their tenure, salary and allowances and perks

Sl.No.	Name of the Public Sector Corporation	Manner of selection	Tenure of the present incumbent	Salary and Allowances	Perks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	National Thermal Power Corporation	The selection was made on the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board.	Till the date of superannuation of the incumbent (i.e. 27.4.1991)	Pre-revised Schedule 'A' scale of pay and allowances	As per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises issued from time to time
2.	National Hydro-electric Power Corporation	—do—	Till the date of superannuation of the incumbent (i.e. 10.10.1992)	Maximum of the pre-revised Schedule 'B' scale of pay, and allowances.	
3.	National Power Transmission Corporation	—do—	For a period of 5 years from the date of taking over charge or till the date of superannuation of the incumbent whichever is earlier.	Schedule 'A' scale of pay and allowances.	

Sl.No.	Name of the Public Sector Corporation	Manner of selection	Tenure of the present incumbent	Salary and Allowances	Perks
1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Rural Electrification Corporation	The selection was made on the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board.	For a period of 5 years from the date of taking over charge.	Schedule 'A' scale of pay and allowances, but not less than that of an Addl. Secy. to the Govt. of India.	
5.	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation	—do—	The term of the present incumbent expired on 31.3.89 which has been extended upto 31.3.91.	Schedule 'B' scale of pay and allowances	
6.	Power Finance Corporation	The selection was made by Govt.	Till further orders	Pay and Allowances admissible to a Secy. to the Govt. of India.	
7.	Tehri Hyedro Development Corporation	The selection was made on the recommendation of the Public Enter-	For a period of five years from the date of taking over charge.	Schedule 'A' scale of pay and allowances on personal basis.	As per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises

Sl.No.	Name of the Public Sector Corporation	Manner of selection	Tenure of the present incumbent	Salary and Allowances	Perks
1	2	3	4	5	6
		prises selection Board.			issued from the time to time
8.	Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation	—do—	For a period of 2 yrs. from the date of taking over charge	Pre-revised Schedule 'B' scale of Pay and allowances. Will also draw ad hoc relief at Rs. 2000/- per month	—do—
9.	Coal India Limited	—do—	For a period of 5 yrs. or till the date of superannuation of the incumbent whichever is earlier.	Schedule 'A' scale of pay and allowances.	—do—
10.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	—do—	—do—	Schedule 'B' scale of pay and allowances.	—do—
11.	Eastern Coalfields Limited	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—
12.	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—

Sl.No.	Name of the Public Sector Corporation	Manner of selection	Tenure of the present incumbent	Salary and Allowances	Perks
1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	The selection was made on the recommendation of the Public Enterprises selection Board.	For a period of 2 yrs. or till the date of superannuation of the incumbent whichever is earlier.	Schedule 'A' scale of pay and allowances.	As per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises issued from time to time.
14.	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—
15.	Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—
16.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	—do—	—do—	—do—	—do—
17.	Neyveli Lignite Corpn.	Till the appointment of a regular incumbent, Secy. Deptt. of Coal is holding additional charge of the post of Chairman & M.D.			
18.	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency.	Secretary, Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources, is the Ex-official Chairman.			

Starting of Flights to China

2012. SHRI SANATKUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposes to start flights to China;

(b) if so, whether its base will be Calcutta and the stations in China which will be linked; and

(c) the route and periodicity of the proposed flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (c). There is no immediate plan to start direct flights between India and China. However, this is a matter which will continuously engage the attention of the Government.

Shortfall supply of coal to different Industrial Units in South India

2013. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a shortfall in the supply of coal to different industrial units in South India from the Singareni Coal Company Ltd. during the first eight months of the current years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how the shortfall was met; and

(c) whether the Department of Coal asked the Coal India Ltd. to despatch coal immediately to South Indian Units facing crisis and if so, the total stock despatched by the Coal India Ltd. in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

Supply of coal from Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) have been low this year due to strikes and disturbed law and order situation. However, the despatches have started improving from November '90 onwards. In order to deal with the situation arising from lower despatches of coal from Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. mines, Western Coalfields Ltd. and South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. were called upon to augment despatches from their collieries to the affected units. The total despatches of coal from units. The total despatches of coal from Coal India Limited for the period April-November '90 have been 10.7 million tonnes.

Yatri Niwas at Bombay

2014. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open Rail Yatri Niwas in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c). Setting up of a Rail Yatri Niwas at Bombay is not considered feasible at present due to resource constraints.

Disposal of Complaints by IOC, Lucknow

2015. SHRIM.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of disposal of complaints received by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Consumer Service Cell, Lucknow, from the consumers of Indian domestic LPG has been extremely low;

(b) whether the number of complaints has risen very high during the past two months;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts to made to deal with each of them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (d). The number of complaints received by the Consumer Service Cell of IOC, Lucknow, during the last five months is as under;

<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of complaints</i>
August, 1990	44
September, 1990	43
October, 1990	54
November, 1990	54
December, 1990	58

Enquiries are conducted on all complaints received by the Oil Companies and appropriate action taken, in cases where the charges are established. Out of the above complaints actions have been taken, against 47 established cases as per provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and Distributorships agreement.

Import of Petrol from Arab Countries

2016. PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement and the total quantity and value of petrol being imported from Arabian countries during each of the past three years; and

(b) whether the requirement of petrol is likely to boost up during the current year; if so, the steps Government propose to take to cope with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) The consumption of petrol in India during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 has been 2.81 MMT, 3.05 MMT and 3.49 MMT respectively. During 1987-88, 16,000 metric tonnes petrol was imported for Rs. 3.57 crores from Kuwait. No import of petrol has been made during 1988-89 and 1989-90.

(b) The consumption of petrol during April-November, 1990 has shown an increase of 4.3% over the same period last year. During the current year, it is expected that the demand of petrol will be met from indigenous production in the refineries. No import of petrol is planned during the current year.

Impact of Computerised Reservation system

2017. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study on socio-economic impact of the computerised Railway Reservation system has been undertaken;

(b) if so, its main observations/findings and the measures taken to further improve it and to plug the various loopholes, deficiencies and malpractices prevalent in the Railway Reservations;

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to conduct study either departmentally or through some expert agency; and

(d) the estimated expenditure incurred

by the various Railways on the computerised Reservation system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Department of Electronics has commissioned study on "Socio-Economic Impact Analysis of Computerised Passenger Reservation at New Delhi". The study is in the process of being finalised.

(d) The estimated expenditure incurred upto 31-3-1990 by various Railways on computerised reservation systems is furnished below:

<i>Railway</i>	<i>Expenditure in crores n Rs.</i>
Central	22.03
Eastern	19.93
Northern	26.41
North Eastern	0.01
North East Frontier	0.01
Southern	19.23
South Central	9.70
South Eastern	0.01
Western	7.97

[*Translation*]

Traffic Problem In Udaipur

2018. SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the City Improvement Trust, Udaipur has sent any proposal to Ajmer division in connection with rush of traffic at Sewagram railway crossing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is for utilising one of the spans of nearby Railway Bridge No. 171 as a 'sub-way' for the use of vehicular traffic, for which the detailed plans are yet to be finalised by the Urban Improvement Trust, in consultation with the Railways.

[English]

Conversion of Nadiad-Kapadwaj line and ITs Extension to Modasa

2019. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the work of conversion of Nadiad-Kapadwaj N.G. Railway line to B.G. and its extension upto Modasa was approved and the estimated cost thereof;

(b) whether the work is behind schedule, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken for allocation of sufficient funds for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) The work was approved in 1978-79. The present day estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 65 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir. Because allocation of funds could not be made for the project due to severe constraint of resources in previous years.

(c) The project was reactivated in 1989-90. A sum of Rs. 3 crores was allocated in 1989-90 and Rs. 6 crores has been provided in the current year.

Imported coal for Industries in Rajkot

2020. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has imported coal from China for the engineering industry at Rajkot (Gujarat);

(b) if so, the quantity thereof; and

(c) the total need of coal of industries in Rajkot and the extent to which the demand has been met?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh

2021. SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some project reports for setting up of power projects sent by Andhra Pradesh State Government in 1989-90 are lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). Details of the project reports, which were received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for techno-economic clearance from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh during the year 1989-90, are given below:—

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Scheme</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Status</i>
1	2	3	4
THERMAL SCHEMES			
1.	Vijayawada St. III (Units 5&6)	2x210=420	Scheme has been techno-economically cleared subject to clearance from Central Water Commission (CWC) for availability of water and from Airport Authority of India.
2.	Coastal TPS at Vishakhapatnam	2x500=1000	Scheme has been techno-economically cleared subject to confirmation of water availability from CWC, clearance of associated transmission system by CEA and submission of fly ash utilisation management plan.
3.	Kothadudem Stage-V	2x210=420	Fuel linkage, water availability, associated transmission system, land availability, environmental and forest clearance etc. are to be tied up by project authorities.
4.	Ramagundam Extension	2x210=420	
5.	Gas based combined cycle plant at Kakinada	300	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Scheme</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Status</i>
1	2	3	4
9.	Polavaram multipurpose	9x80=720	<p>transmission, irrigation, cost engineering and construction machinery etc. aspects are awaited from the project authorities.</p> <p>Report has been returned for resubmission after clearance of multipurpose project by the Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources.</p>

(c) The Schemes at S.Nos 3 to 9 would be taken up for techno-economic clearance of the CEA after the project features/parameters, essential inputs and clearances, as indicated above, have been tied up.

Financing of Rural Electrification Programme

2022. SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received suggestions from some State Governments to evolve a uniform policy of funding rural electrification and particularly pumpset energisation programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). No suggestion has been received from State Electricity Boards to evolve a uniform policy of funding rural electrification specially pumpsets

energisation. However, funding and targets are discussed and finalised by the group comprising representatives of the Planning Commission, Department of Power, Central Electricity Authority, Rural Electrification Corporation and concerned Electricity Board on annual basis every year.

Power Shortage in Kerala

2023. SHRI A. VJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal submitted by Kerala to solve the acute power shortage in the state;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the actions taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). The present status techno-economic clearance of schemes submitted by the State Government of Kerala is given below:—

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Present Status</i>
1	2	3	4

HYDRO SCHEMES

1. Annakkayam
2x4=8
Techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Clearance from environment and forest angles is yet to be obtained by project authorities.
2. Adirappalli
2x80=160
Scheme found to be techno-economically in order by the CEA. However, clearance of CEA would be considered after disposal of the representations received under Section 29 of Elec. (Supply Act and clearance of the scheme from environment and forest angles.
3. Maniyar
1x5+2x2.5=10
Comments on hydro Planning and Construction machinery aspects of the project have been sent to project authorities. Their replies are awaited.

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Present Status
1	2	3	4
4.	Kuttiyadi Extension	1x50=50	Comments have been sent to project authorities on transport aspects. Their replies are awaited.
5.	Boothathankettu	3x10=30	Replies to comments on telecommunication, transmission and planning aspects are awaited from project authorities. Environmental clearance is also awaited.
6.	Pallivasal Rehabilitation Scheme	3x20=60	Replies to comments on construction machinery aspects are awaited from project authorities. Environmental clearance is also awaited.
7.	Chembukkedavan Small Hydel Scheme Stage-II	3x3=9	Scheme is under appraisal in the CEA.
8.	Pamber small Hydro-electric Project	2x15=30	Scheme involves inter-state aspects. The scheme was returned to State Government in March, 1990.

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Present Status
1	2	3	4
9.	Karpara-Kuriarkutty Multipurpose	2x12+3x20=84	The scheme is under appraisal in the CEA.
THERMAL SCHEME			
10.	Oil/Gas based CCGT Plant at Bharamapuram (Cochin)	2x30+1x30=90	Fuel linkage is not available. Environment clearance, water availability etc., are also yet to be tied up.

Pending Power Projects of Kerala

(b) the details thereof?

2024. SHRI A. VJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the various power projects pending and sanctioned by the Union Government during the last three years for Kerala; and

THE MINISTER F STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). During the last three years no power project was approved fr execution by the Planning Commission. The present status of power projects which have yet to receive techno-economic clearance/approval is given below:—

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Present Status
1	2	3	4
HYDRO SCHEMES			
1.	Annakkayam	2x4=8	Techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Clearance from environment and forest angles is yet to be obtained by project authorities.
2.	Adirappalli	2x80=160	Scheme found to be techno-economically in order by the CEA. However, clearance of CEA would be considered after disposal of the representations received under Section 29 of Elec. (Supply) Act and clearance of the scheme from environment and forest angles.
3.	Maniyar	1x5+2x2.5=10	Comments on hydro Planning and Construction machinery aspects of the project have been sent to project authorities. Their replies are awaited.

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Present Status
1	2	3	4
4.	Kuttiyadi Extension	1x50=50	Comments have been sent to project authorities on transport aspects. Their replies are awaited.
5.	Boothathankettu	3x10=30	Replies to comments on telecommunication, transmission and planning aspects are awaited from project authorities. Environmental clearance is also awaited.
6.	Pallivasal Rehabilitation Scheme	3x20=60	Replies to comments on construction machinery aspects are awaited from project authorities. Environmental clearance is also awaited.
7.	Chembukkedavan Small Hydel Scheme Stage-II	3x3=9	Scheme is under appraisal in the CEA.
8.	Pamber small Hydro-electric Project	2x15=30	Scheme involves inter-state aspects. The scheme was returned to State Government in March, 1990.

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>	<i>Present Status</i>
1	2	3	4
9.	Karpara-Kuriarkutty Multipurpose	2x12+3x20=84	The scheme is under appraisal in the CEA.
THERMAL SCHEME			
10.	Oil/Gas based CCGT Plant at Bharmapuram (Cochin)	2x30+1x30=90	Fuel linkage is not available. Environment clearance, water availability etc., are also yet to be tied up.

Posts of Class II Officers

2025. SHRI A.K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Class-II Officers particularly in operating department were created to man the operating work, depotwise, if so, the details thereof giving the number of such post created and offices/ depots for which created;

(b) whether instead of posting them in the depots and yards they were posted in Divisional Headquarters and other offices; and

(c) if so, the details of number of such postings and the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Package with ACC-Babcok Limited

2026. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a package was formulated by the Union Government with the ABL company (Associated Cement & Babcok Limited) which inter-alia included financial help and guaranteed order of Boiler for 800 MW power generation for 1st year and 400 MW for the period of remaining four years;

(b) whether the commitment made has been complied with; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, A package was formulated by Government of India in

March 1988 which inter-alia included financial help and a provision that Department of Power will ensure ordering for boilers for 800 MW during 1988-89 and 400 MW every year thereafter during the next five years. The ABL has received orders for 1050 MW boilers so far, after the package was formulated.

(c) The lack of sufficient orders for ABL from various agencies has been due to the pruning of resources of power projects as many of the projects envisaged have yet to obtain investment approval.

TTE/Coach Conductor for each Rail Compartment

2027. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering a proposal to provide one TTE/Coach Conductor for each rail compartment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c). A review of the norms for manning of reserved coaches by TTEs/Coach Conductors is contemplated.

Import of Oil from Angola

2028. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Angola has offered the crude oil supply under a counter-trade agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to finalise the deal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dues Against Iraq

2029. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated dues which the Iraqi Government owe to the Indian Railways for the various jobs executed in that country by the IRCON and RITES including the cost of stores and equipment supplied;

(b) how it is proposed to recover the same;

(c) whether Iraqi Government have suggested any means to say off these dues, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA

CHARAN DAS): (a) The current estimated dues from Iraq for jobs executed in that country by IRCON is 74.93 million US dollars and by RITES is 48.685 million US dollars (equivalent to a total of Rs. 223.74 crores).

(b) to (d). The dues are recoverable from the Iraqi Authorities in accordance with agreements between the Governments of India and Iraq, which provide, inter-alia, for the import of crude oil. U.N. Security Council 661 prohibits imports from Iraq. In view, however, of the current unstable situation in Iraq, any measure will have to await normalisation in that country.

Execution of Schemes by IAAI

2030. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the schemes of International Airport Authority of India under execution, their estimated cost, actual expenditure to date and the reasons for shortfall, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): The information relating to IAAI's major works is given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

Position of Schemes of the IAAI under Execution

S.No.	Name of Scheme/Project	Estimated cost	Expenditure as on 31.12.90	Remarks/Reasons for Shortfall, if any
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Expansion and Modification of Domestic Terminal at Bombay Airport	Rs. 19.73 crores	Rs. 11.64 crores	The project is progressing satisfactorily and the building is likely to be commissioned by September, 1991.
2.	Construction of New International Terminal Complex at Calcutta	Rs. 19.58 crores	Rs. 5.18 crores	Delay is due to shifting and rehabilitation of existing structures falling within the proposed terminal complex.
3.	Expansion of Cargo Complex at Bombay Airport (Phase-I)	Rs. 6.82 crores	Rs. 0.40 crores	The contract was cancelled due to poor performance of the contractor. Fresh tenders for the balance work have been invited.

[*Translation*]

Bungling on Crude Front

2031. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:
SHRI L.K. ADVANI:
SHRI HARISH PAL:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bungling on the crude front" appearing in the Times of India dated 19 November, 1990;

(b) the production target fixed for the current year by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission whether it is not likely to be achieved;

(c) the reasons therefor and the production loss in crude as a result thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production target fixed for the year for ONGC is 33 million tonnes. Likely achievement is expected to be below this target.

(c) The shortfall in production is likely to be to the extent of 2.174 million tonnes the reasons for the shortfall are:

(i) Bandhs and agitations in

Assam and Nagaland;

(ii) Reduced offtake of crude by Koyali refinery due to LSHS disposal problems;

(iii) Three day strike by officers in the oil Sector;

(iv) Shutting off of certain wells in Gujarat & Bombay offshore due to occurrence of High Gas Oil Ratios;

(v) Occurrence of floods and water logging in Gujarat;

(vi) Delay in development of the Ravva offshore field.

(d) The LSHS disposal problem at Koyali Refinery has been resolved. The Ravva offshore oilfield is being developed expeditiously. A Task Force has also been constituted in ONGC to make an indepth well wise analysis and a crash programme to optimise production from producing fields.

Shortage of Wagons at Udaipur Station

2032. SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Udaipur is the largest producer of soapstone, marble, rock-phosphate and zinc in the country which are transported in rakes to other places;

(b) if so, whether adequate number of wagons are made available at Udaipur railway station;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide wagons there as per demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir, Udaipur area is one of one important producers of these commodities and loading is done both in rakes and piecemeal. Adequate wagons are supplied as per priority and in turn to move this traffic. In busy season, however, when higher priority traffic is moved in preference, there is time gap between indent and supply.

[English]

Consumption of Diesel by Railways

2033. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to conserve the diesel by the Railways;

(b) the consumption of diesel by the Railways during 1988-89, 1989-90 and till date; and

(c) the steps taken for electrification of traction to conserve the diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Consumption of diesel oil on Railways is mainly on diesel locomotives for traction purposes. Railways have taken a number of steps to improve the efficiency of diesel locomotives and for conservation of diesel oil. Some of the important steps taken for conservation of diesel oil are:—

- (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.

(b) The year-wise consumption of diesel oil by Railways during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 (April to September) is as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Consumption of Diesel</i> <i>(in Lakhs KLS)</i>
1988-89	16.79
1989-90	17.05
1990-91 (April to Sept.)	8.27
(Provisional)	

(c) During the VII Plan period a total of 2812 route kms. were electrified, and average of 562 rkm per year bringing the total route electrified to 9252 km upto 31.3.90. In

the first year of the VIII Plan over 1000 route km more are programmed to be electrified, the expectation for the Plan period as a whole being about 3000 rkm.

Drug Import

2034. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Drug import by Minister's son under cloud" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated 28 September, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). The drug Interferon Injection (Alpha 2b/Alpha NL) is anti cancer drug and stands approved for marketing in the country. Permission was given to three firms in this respect on 6.3.88. This drug is listed under OGL Appendix-VI, List 3, item No. 1 (xii) of the Import & Export Policy 1990-93. M/s Genetics Sciences (I) Pvt. Ltd. were granted permission on 16.9.88 to import and market the above drug. The form 10 licence was granted to the company on 6.4.90 by Drug Controller (India) under Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules after the company fulfilled all the conditions for grant of such a licence.

Airports with Night Landing Facilities

2035. SHRI PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI PUNDLIK HARI
DANWE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of airports in the country which have been provided with night landing facilities; and

(b) by when all the airports in the country particularly Aurangabad are proposed to be provided with the night landing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) The Provision of night landing facilities at various airports in the country is a continuous process depending on the requirements of Airlines and availability of land and financial resources. The Aurangabad airport has been equipped with these facilities.

STATEMENT

1. Agartala
2. Agra
3. Ahmedabad
4. Allahabad
5. Amritsar
6. Aurangabad
7. Bagdogra
8. Belgaum
9. Bhatinda
10. Bhopal
11. Bhavnagar
12. Bhubaneswar
13. Bhubaneswar
14. Bombay

15. Calcutta
16. Calicut
17. Chaubua
18. Chandigarh
19. Coimbatore
20. Delhi
21. Gorakhpur
22. Gwalior
23. Guwahati
24. Hyderabad
25. Indore
26. Jaipur
27. Jaisalmer
28. Jamnagar
29. Jodhpur
30. Jorhat
31. Kanpur
32. Khajuraho
33. Lucknow
34. Madras
35. Madurai
36. Mangalore
37. Nagpur
38. Patna

39. Pune
40. Ranchi
41. Rajkot
42. Srinagar
43. Tezpur
44. Tiruchirappali
45. Trivandrum
46. Udaipur
47. Vadodara
48. Varanasi

'Palace on Wheels' in South

2036. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA
SHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to introduce 'Palace on Wheels' in train in South to boost tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b). When the new air-conditioned take of 'Palace on Wheels' is introduced in October, 1991, the feasibility of using it for a part of the year in the Southern Sector would be examined in consultation with Department of Tourism.

[*Translation*]

Hydel Power Projects

2037. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and Union territory-wise total production of hydel power in the country;

(b) the number of pending hydel power projects and the capacity thereof;

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed and start functioning;

(d) the proposed or likely capacity of power generation from different multipurpose projects in various rivers flowing into India through Nepal and the time by which these are likely to be implemented; and

(e) the steps being taken for power

generation from canals and other minor water sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) The State-wise and Union Territory-wise total production of hydel power during 1989-90 is given in the statement I below.

(b) and (c). The Region/State-wise particulars of ongoing and sanctioned hydel projects yielding benefits in the 8th Plan, their capacity and likely commissioning schedule are given in the statement-II below.

(d) The proposed installed capacity of power generation from six multi-purpose projects on various rivers flowing in India through Nepal, under discussions is 15200 MW. There is no Agreement yet on the implementation of these projects.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid at the Table of the House

STATEMENT-I

State wise/Union Territory wise Hydro Installed Capacity and Generation during 1989-90

<i>Region/State</i>	<i>Installed Capacity on 31.3.90 (MW)</i>	<i>Annual Design Energy (MU)</i>	<i>Actual Gen. 1989-90 (MU)</i>
1	2	3	4
NORTHERN REGION			
1. Central/Common Projects			
(a) BBMB	2704.5	9515	11450
(b) NHPC	525	3037	2983
Sub Total	3229.5	12552	14433
2. Haryana	48	220	224
3. Himachal Pradesh	271.77	1178	913
4. Jammu & Kashmir	180.305	922	922
5. Punjab	515.1	2973	2656

<i>Region/State</i>	<i>Installed Capacity on 31.3.90 (MW)</i>	<i>Annual Design Energy (MU)</i>	<i>Actual Gen. 1989-90 (MU)</i>
1	2	3	4
6. Rajasthan	420.165	1075	961
7. Uttar Pradesh	1432.55	5227	5080
Total NR	6097.39	24147	25189
WESTERN REGION			
1. Gujarat	365	1193	997
2. Madhya Pradesh	205.435	819	516
3. Maharashtra			
(a) MSEB	1381.875	4311	4004
(b) Tata Hydro	276	1350	1129

<i>Region/State</i>	<i>Installed Capacity on 31.3.90 (MW)</i>	<i>Annual Design Energy (MU)</i>	<i>Actual Gen. 1989-90 (MU)</i>
1	2	3	4
Sub. Total	1657.875	5661	5133
Total WR	2228.31	7673	6646
SOUTHERN REGION			
1. Andhra Pradesh	2500.76	7908	8075
2. Karnataka	2210.8	9674	8239
3. Kerala	1476.5	5281	5068
4. Tamil Nadu	1940.95	4071	3326
Total SR	8129.01	26934	24708
EASTERN REGION			
1. Orissa	1070	3731	3213

<i>Region/State</i>	<i>Installed Capacity on 31.3.90 (MW)</i>	<i>Annual Design Energy (MU)</i>	<i>Actual Gen. 1989-90 (MU)</i>
1	2	3	4
2. DVC	144	247	306
3. Bihar	150	237	256
4. West Bengal	46.46	118	101
5. Sikkim	18.596	49	36
Sub Total ER	1429.056	4382	3912
NORTH EASTERN REGION			
1. Meghalaya	127.71	310	404
2. Tripura	16.01	49	45
3. Central Projects			
(a) NHPC	105	527	450

<i>Region/State</i>	<i>Installed Capacity on 31.3.90 (MW)</i>	<i>Annual Design Energy (MU)</i>	<i>Actual Gen. 1989-90 (MU)</i>
1	2	3	4
(b) NEEPCO	150.006	806	642
Sub Total Central	255.006	1333	1092
4. Assam	2	0	0
5. Arunachal Pradesh	16.16	0	0
6. Manipur	2.6	0	0
7. Nagaland	2.5	0	0
8. Mizoram	2.365	0	0
Total NER	423.351	1692	1541
Total All India :	18307.117	64828	61996

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6

1. ON-GOING AND SANCTIONED SCHEME

A. CENTRAL SECTOR

1.	Chamera St.I (NHPC)	H.P.	3x180	540	1992-93
2.	Dulhasti (NHPC)	J & K	3x130	390	1994-95
3.	Salal-II (NHPC)	J & K	3x115	345	1993-94
4.	Tanakpur (NHPC)	U.P.	3x40	120	1991-92
5.	Rangit (NHPC)	Sik.	3x20	60	1994-95
*6.	Doyang (NEEPCO)	Mag.	3x25	75	1994-95
	Central Sector-I		18 units	1530	

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
B. STATE SECTOR					
NORTHERN REGION					
1.	Dadupur	Har.	4x1.5	6	1994-95
2.	Baner	H.P.	3x4	12	1994-95
3.	Gaj	H.P.	3x3.5	10.5	1992-93
4.	Ghanvi	H.P.	3x7.5	22.5	1994-95
5.	Larji	H.P.	3x42	126	1994-95
6.	Uhl-III	H.P.	4x17.5	70	1994-95
7.	Thirot	H.P.	3x1.5	4.5	1993-94
8.	Upper Sindh-II	J & K	2x35	70	1991-92

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Upper Sindh Extn.	J&K	1x35	35	1994-95
10.	Kargil	J&K	3x1.25	3.75	1992-93
11.	UBDC St. II	Pun.	3x15	30	1990-91
*12.	Jakham	Raj.	1x5.5	5.5	1994-95
13.	Suratgarh	Raj.	2x2	4	1991-92
14.	Mangrol	Raj.	3x2	6	1990-91
15.	Srinagar	U.P.	6x55	55	1994-95
16.	Sobla	U.P.	3x2	6	1993-94
	Sub Total :		41 Units	456.75	

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
WESTERN REGION					
1.	Kadana St. I	Guj.	2x60	60	1991-92
*2.	Kadana PSS Extn.	Guj.	2.60	120	1994-95
3.	Sardar Sarovar	Guj.	6x200	500	1994-95
4.	Bansagar Tons	M.P.	3x105	315	1990-91
5.			3x15+	30	1994-95
			3x20	60	1994-95
*5.	Hasdeo Bango	M.P.	3x40	120	1993-94
6.	Birsinghpur	M.P.	1x20	20	1991-92

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Tawa L.B.C.	M.P.	2x6	12	1993-94
8.	Bhatsa	Mah.	1x15	15	1990-91
9.	Bhanderdara St. II	Mah.	1x34	34	1993-94
10.	Manikdoh	Mah.	1x6	6	1993-94
11.	Surya	Mah.	1x6	6	1992-93
12.	Warna	Mah.	2x8	16	1993-94
13.	Koyna Stage-IV	Mah.	4x250	1000	1994-95
14.	Ujjani	Mah.	1x12	12	1992-93
15.	Dudhganga	Mah.	2x12	24	1993-95
16.	Dimbhe	Mah.	1x5	5	1993-94

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Kanher	Mah.	1x4	4	1990-91
	Sub-total :		36 Units	2359	
SOUTHERN REGION					
1.	Srisailem LBPH	A.P.	6x150	300	1994-95
2.	Balimela**	A.P.	2x30	60	1994-95
3.	Upper Sileru-II	A.P.	2x60	120	1992-93
4.	Penna Ahobilam	A.P.	2x10	20	1991-92
5.	Nagar Junasagar LBC	A.P.	2x30	60	1990-91
6.	Guntur Canal-I	A.P.	2x2	4	1992-93
7.	Kalinadi-II (Kodasalli & Kadra)	KTK.	3x40+ 3x50	270	1993-95

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Sharavathi TR	KTk.	4x60	240	1993-95
9.	Ghatprabha	KTk.	2x16	32	1991-92
10.	Mallapur	KTk.	2x4.5	9	1992-93
11.	Varahi	KTk.	2x115+ 2x4.5	124	1990-92
12.	Lower Periyar	KER.	3x60	180	1992-93
13.	Mavattypuzha	KER.	2x3.5	7	1992-93
14.	Kakkad	KER.	2x25	50	1992-93
15.	Kallada	KER	2x7.5	15	1991-92
16.	Poringal Kuthu Extn. (Unit-4)	KER.	1x16	16	1992-93

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Lower Bhavani RBC	T.N.	2x4	8	1994-95
18.	Sathanur	T.N.	2x7.5	15	1994-95
19.	Lower Bhavani	T.N.	4x2	4	1990-91
	Sub Total :		45 Units	1534	
EASTERN REGION					
1.	Eastern Gandak Canal	Bir.	3x5	15	1991-93
2.	Sone Western Canal	Bir.	4x1.65	6.6	1991-92
3.	Sone Eastern Canal	Bir.	2x1.65	3.3	1992-93

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Chandil	Bir.	2x4	8	1993-94
5.	North Koel	Bir.	2x12	24	1993-94
6.	Myangchu	Sik.	2x2	4	1991-92
7.	Upper Rongnichu	Sik.	4x2	8	1991-93
8.	Upper Indravati	Ori.	4x150	600	1992-94
9.	Rengali Extn.	Ori.	3x50	50	1991-92
10.	Upper Kolab Extn.	Ori.	1x80	80	1991-92
11.	Potteru	Ori.	2x3	6	1993-94
12.	Hirakud St. III	Ori.	1x37.5	37.5	1990-91

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Rammam St. II	W.B.	4x12.5	50	1992-93
14.	Teesta Falls-I	W.B.	3x7.5	22.5	1992-93
15.	Teesta Falls II-IV	W.B.	6x7.5	45	1992-93
	Sub Total :		41 Units	959.9	
NORTH EASTERN REGION					
1.	Tago	Ar. Pr.	3x1.5	3	1990-91
2.	Lower Borpani	Asm.	2x50	100	1992-93
3.	Dhansiri	Asm.	15x1.33	20	1991-93

S.No.	Name of Project	State	Installed Capacity (MW)	Benefits during 8th Plan (MW)	Likely year of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Likia-Ro	NAG.	3x8	24	1993-94
5.	Uriam-Untru (Excluding Upper Kheri Div. Scheme)	MEG.	2x30	60	1991-92
Sub Total :			24 Units	207	
State Sector Total-I			190 Units	5526.65	
All India Total-I			205 Units	7056.65	

* Environment and Forest Clearance required.

** Inter-State aspect to be resolved between A.P. and Orissa.

Note: Mini/micro schemes with station capacity upto 3 MW are not included.

Power Shortage in Coal Mines in Bihar

2038. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal mines in Bihar are facing acute shortage of power resulting in loss of production;

(b) if so, the names of such coal mines and the extent of the shortage of power there and since when these coal mines are facing the power shortage;

(c) the estimated loss of production and value thereof due to shortage of power, mine-wise details; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure normal power supply to these coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SING KALVI): (a) Yes Sir. Particularly from the last week of June 1990 coal mines in the Eastern Region have been facing shortage of power as well as frequent power interruptions.

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

(d) Steps taken to ensure adequate power supply to these coal mines include:

- (i) Constant follow up and liaison by coal companies with the concerned power supplying authorities.
- (ii) Close co-ordination between Departments of Coal, Power,

Central Electricity Authority, Damodar Valley Corporation and Coal India Limited, etc.

(iii) Setting up of captive power generation stations by coal companies.

(iv) External support to DVC system by supplying power from surplus areas as well as unallocated central share.

(v) Segregation of feeders to coal mines and direct supply by DVC.

[English]

ADB's Aid for Thermal Power Projects

2039. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance thermal power projects in India;

(b) the names of the thermal power projects which would be financed by the loan;

(c) whether the Government propose to install a thermal power project in Khajuraho constituency; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan assistance of US \$ 617.40 million (Rs. 1038.13 crores) to finance the following three ongoing thermal power projects in India:

<i>Name of the Project and Capacity</i>	<i>Amount of Aid (Million US \$)</i>
	<i>(Rs. Crores)</i>
1. Rayalseema (Muddanur) TPS-2x210 MW	$\frac{230}{375}$
2. North Madras TPS-3x210 MW	(i) $\frac{150}{258}$ (For Unit 1 & 2)
	(ii) $\frac{77.40}{133.13}$ (For unit 3)
3. Unchahar TPS Extension 2x210 MW	$\frac{160}{272}$

(c) and (d). The Central Electricity Authority has not received any proposal for installation of a thermal power project in Khajuraho.

Petrochemical Projects at Visakhapatnam

2040. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the latest position with regard to the issue of letters of intent for the down-stream projects of petrochemical complex at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): Applications for issued of letters of intent for down stream projects of Vizag Naphtha Cracker have been received in Government. Decisions on such applications are taken on techno economic considerations after evaluation of the project proposals.

Supply of Coal to Cement Industry

2041. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cement industry had lately expressed serious apprehensions about substantial drop in production of cement due to critical supply position of coal;

(b) if so, the overall supply of coal position to this industry as on September 1990; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to maintain proper supply of coal to the cement industry?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (c). The overall supply of coal to the cement industry during the period April-September '90 was 45.7 lakh tonnes compared to 43.2 lakh tonnes in the same period last year. Coal supplies to cement industry specially in South, were low during this period on account of low

production in Singareni Collieries Co. due to strikes and disturbed law and order situation. The supplies have since improved. During April-December '90 Cement Industry has received approximately 7% more coal compared to the same period last year. The supply of coal to the cement sector is being closely monitored in consultation with the Railways and remedial action is being taken, wherever necessary. The overall supplies to the industry have been satisfactory and according to latest available information the industry has achieved a growth rate of approximately 6% over and above the production last year.

Shortage of Power in Delhi

2042. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any shortage of power in Delhi during 1989 and 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to monitor the power supply position in Delhi to avoid breakdown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). The power supply position in Delhi in 1989 and 1990 was by and large satisfactory. The minor shortages in availability of power occasioned by the Northern grid conditions were managed by imposing peak period restrictions on industries and suitable load management. A Task Force has been set up by the Department of Power to closely monitor the supply of power in Delhi.

Electricity Rates in Delhi

2043. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the electricity rates in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). Due to the all round increase in the cost of inputs, the present cost of generation and purchase of electricity by DESU is substantially more than the average realisation. It is, therefore, necessary for the DESU, to rationalise the power tariff in Delhi, so as to ensure financial viability of the undertaking for maintaining proper supply of electricity in the National Capital.

[Translation]

Hydro-Electric Projects of Uttar Pradesh

2044. SHRI HARI RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Hydro-Electric Projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending for clearance with the Government;

(b) if so, the names of such projects and the time by which they are expected to be cleared/approved; and

(c) the proposed time schedules for their construction during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). All the hydro electric schemes Uttar Pradesh tentatively included in the report of the Working Group on Power (De-

ember, 1989) for benefits during 8th Plan period have been accorded techno-economic approval by CEA and all these projects except Khara (3x24 MW) have been sanctioned by the Planning Commission. The details of

the sanctioned and ongoing schemes under implementation in Central and State Sectors in Uttar Pradesh for benefits during 8th Plan and beyond are given in the statement below.

STATEMENT*Sanctioned/ongoing Hydro Electric Projects under Implementation in Uttar Pradesh*

S.No.	Project Name	I.C. (No.xMW)	Benefits in MW during			Remarks
			8th Plan	9th Plan		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
CENTRAL SECTOR						
1.	Tanakpur (NHPC)	3x40	120	-		
2.	Tehri Stage-I (THDC)	4x250	-	1000		
STATE SECTOR						
1.	Srinagar	6x55	55	275		
2.	Maneri Bhali St. II	4x76	-	304		Originally sanctioned for 3x52 MW.
3.	Lakhwar Vyasi	3x100+2x60	-	420		
4.	Sobla	2x3	6			Originally sanctioned for

S.No.	Project Name	I.C. (No.xMW)	Benefits in MW during		Remarks
			8th Plan	9th Plan	
1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Vishnuprayag	3x120+1x120	-	480	262 MW (4x65.5 MW)
6.	Khara	3x24	72	-	Ongoing Project, Inter-state aspects to be resolved between UP and Har- yana.

Expansion of Airports in U.P.

2045. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand some airports and construct some new air strips in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details in regard there-to and the time by which the construction thereof is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). There is no plan at present to construct new air strips in Uttar Pradesh. However, extension and modification of the terminal complex at the Agra airport and construction of a new terminal complex at the Lucknow airport are contemplated for 1991-92.

Ground Duties to Air Hostesses

2046. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has decided to entrust ground duties to the air hostesses after a certain age;

(b) if so, whether the said decision is being opposed by the employees' associations; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop implementation of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The circular in question of Air India

is not discriminatory and there is no proposal to withdraw it.

Losses Incurred by the Hotel Corporation of India

2047. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI A. VJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hotel Corporation of India is running into loss;

(b) if so, the names of its units running in loss;

(c) whether the Government have decided to sell this company to private parties; and

(d) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Except the Centaur hotel, Bombay Airport, other units are incurring losses.

(c) and (d). The Board of Air-India has decided that the Hotel Corporation of India should seek equity collaboration with an internationally reputed hotel chain willing to take over the marketing and management of the Hotel Corporation of India. This has become necessary on account of the high losses suffered by the HCI and its inability to compete effectively in the market.

[English]

Permission to private agencies for operating Air Taxis

2048. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH
CHENNITHALA:
SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to certain private agencies for operating air taxis;

(b) if so, the number of agencies which have started air taxis and the details of zones/areas of their operations; and

(c) whether the pilots of the airlines have protested against this decision and if so, their demands and the Government's attitude towards this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As of now, Air Taxi Operators Permit has been issued to the following four parties;

1. M/s India International Airways Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
2. M/s Delhi gulf Airways Services Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
3. M/s Manak ji Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
4. M/s Air Asiatic Ltd., Madras.

Air taxi operators are private non-scheduled operators. No routes are prescribed for them by the Government.

(c) Some unions of Indian Airlines had protested against the liberalisation of the guidelines relating to the operations. Government's policy have however been explained to them. While Indian Airlines would continue to be the dominant domestic carrier, air taxis would provide complementary services on routes not operated by the Indian Airlines and a measure of competition on routes that are operated by Indian Airlines.

Thus, there will be benefits to the travelling public and at the same time, the interests of the Indian Airlines would also not be affected.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities committed by official of DESU

2049.DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item captioned " criminals in the grab of 'DESU' appearing in the 'Times of India ' dated 31 August, 1990;

(b) whether the Government have received the enquiry report in regard to the fire in jhuggis in January, 1990 on the banks of Yamuna near ITO, Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against those involved in the irregularities and named in the enquiry report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil refineries at Karnal and Mangalore

2050.SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR:

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

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision to set up oil refineries at Karnal and Mangalore;

(b) if so, whether the Government had fixed a time schedule for completion of their construction work;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the construction work of the said refineries is in progress as per the time schedule;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the present position thereof;

(f) whether the Government have now drawn up any revised schedule for completion of the construction work of the said refineries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (e). In 1984 the Government had decided to set up a 6 MTPA refinery at Karnal with the completion schedule by mid 1992. The implementation of the project has been delayed due to a number of techno-economic issues and financial constraints. The Government has asked Indian Oil Corporation to submit the revised Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) at the earliest for Govt.'s approval so that further steps for implementation of the project can be taken up expeditiously.

A proposal for setting up a 3 MTPA petroleum refinery at Mangalore at an estimated cost of Rs. 1160 crores is under the consideration of the Government.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

Harnessing of Tidal Energy

2051. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY
RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received detailed survey report for harnessing of tidal waves for power generation;

(b) if so, the details of the survey report in respect of prospects of tapping tidal power along the Western Coast of Kerala and about the Eastern Coast;

(c) if so, whether the Government have finally decided to set up such projects;

(d) if so, the proposed locations thereof and the targets of power generation fixed for such projects;

(e) whether the comparative cost of power generation through tidal waves is less; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) The Government have received the detailed techno-economic feasibility report for setting up of a Tidal Power Plant in the Gulf of Kachchh in Gujarat.

(b) Detailed investigations and studies for tapping tidal power along the Western Coast of Kerala or along the Eastern Coast have not been carried out so far.

(c) The decision to set up a tidal power plant in Gulf of Kachchh will be taken after the evaluation of the feasibility report has

been completed by the Central Electricity Authority.

(d) The expected annual energy output from the proposed tidal power project in the Gulf of Kachchh is 1690 Million Kwh.

(e) and (f). The cost of generation of energy from the proposed tidal power plant in the Gulf of Kachchh has been estimated to be 96 paise/Kwh, at December, 1987 price level. The average cost of generation from conventional hydro and thermal power projects, based on the projects recently appraised by CEA is as under:-

Hydro: 50 paise to 85 paise/ Kwh

Thermal: 75 paise to Rs. 1.25/ Kwh

ONGC Projects Cleared

[*English*]

2052. SHRI MANIK SANYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the News-item captioned "ONGC project cleared" appearing in the Financial Express (New Delhi edition) dated 7 December, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a fact that ONGC's projects for the development of L-II and L-III reservoirs in Bombay High field have been cleared by the Public Investment Board and recommended for approval to Government. It is also true that the projects would help to stop the flaring of associated gas in Bombay High

and components of the projects have been appraised for financing by the World Bank.

Overbridges in Kerala

2053. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new railway overbridges proposed to be constructed in Kerala during 1990-91;

(b) the total cost of the over bridges; and

(c) the Railways' share of the cost of construction of the overbridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Four numbers at Punkunnam, Wadakancheri (Mullurcarai), Tirupunithura and Badagara.

(b) Rs. 600. 14 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 253. 15 Lakhs.

[*Translation*]

Waiting List of LPG connections and LPG agencies in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh

2054. SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG consumers in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh alongwith the number of persons on the waiting list;

(b) the steps taken to clear the waiting list;

(c) whether any proposal to set up additional gas agencies in Balaghat district is under consideration of the Government;

(d) if so the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to invite any proposals in this regard in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) As on November 1, 1990 there were about 6,057 LPG consumers and about 1,800 persons on waiting list for new LPG connections in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) New LPG connections are released all over the country in a phased manner, under the annual programme for enrolment of customers, subject to availability of LPG. The availability is further augmented through enhanced production and imports.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(c) Locations for additional gas agencies are included in the LPG Marketing plans, depending on potential to establish viable distributorships and availability of product.

Conversion of Balaghat-Katangi and Tirodi-Tummsar Railway Lines

2055. SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert all metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines;

(b) whether it is proposed to convert Balaghat-Katangi and Tirodi-Tummsar lines into broad gauge;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). A survey was carried out in 1980 for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia section along with Balaghat-Katangi Branch (278 km) from NG to BG. The project was found to be financially unremunerative and could not be taken up. The survey has been updated recently and the rate of return has still been found as negative.

The Railway has been advised in August '90 to extend the scope of the survey conducted for conversion of Jabalpur Gondia section along with Balaghat-Katangi Branch from NG to BG upto Chandrapur so that establishment of a meaningful alternative North-South route can be considered.

Tirodi-Tummsar is already a B.G. line.

(d) As the Railway already has a number of important surveys on hand, this survey ordered recently will also take some time to complete.

[English]

Energy saving devices

2056. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified energy saving devices available in international market if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the total demand of coal by the power sector during 1989-90 and 1990-91

and the extent to which it could be met by the Coal India Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) Considering that the energy conservation devices/ equipments are being continuously developed the World over, efforts are continued to be made to identify such devices for their application in India. Of the items already identified, 15 devices/ equipments, indicated in the statement given below are presently offered concessional duty.

(b) Against the total projected requirement of 121.0 million tonnes (MT) for the power Sector during 1989-90, the actual receipt was 110.7 M.T. During the year 1990-91, against the estimated coal demand of 131 MT, the receipt is likely to be about 113 MT.

STATEMENT

*List of Devices/
Equipments where concessional duty is
offered*

1. Flameless Furnaces for reheating and heat treatment applications.
2. High velocity recirculating furnaces for reheating and heat treatment applications.
3. Low excess air burners (below 10% excess air.)
4. Fuel oil emulsion burners.
5. Regenerative burners for applications in forging and heat treatment furnaces.
6. Self-Recuperative burners (Burners using pre-heated air).
7. Flat flame burners.

8. Heat pipes for extracting heat from low temperature fluids and gases.
9. Heat pumps for space heating, water heating, cooling applications.
10. Free ball bucket steam traps with no links/hinges.
11. Automatic microprocessor based load demand controllers for efficient load management.
12. Microprocessor based combustion control system for boilers.
13. Light sensitive time switches for street light controls.
14. Microprocessor based automatic anode over-potential controllers in caustic, chlorine and aluminium industries.
15. Micro processor based universal programmable timers for continuous and batch processes, such as in tyre industry and rayon industry.

Losses Suffered by Vayudoot

2057. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:
SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAJAMOHAN
REDDY:
SHRI YASHWANTRAO
PATIL:
DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRI NIRMAL KANTI
CHATTERJEE:
SHRI MANIK SANYAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot has been suffering losses ever since its inception;

(b) if so, the extent of losses suffered during the last three years and the current year 1990-91 so far and the steps initiated to cut down the losses particularly to reduce overheads and economise on administrative expenditure etc.;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix responsibility for the losses;

(d) whether the Vayudoot, in a bid to rake in more revenue, has decided to launch a new scheme from January, 1991 on the lines of sponsored television programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response received so far;

(f) whether the Government propose to extend the services of Vayudoot to foreign countries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximate losses suffered by Vayudoot during the last three years and during the current year upto October are as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Losses (Rs. in lacs)</i>
1	2
1987-88	1859.32
1988-89	2135.50
1989-90	2969.97
1990-91	1422.88 (upto Oct., 90)

The figures are subject to audit.

In order to cut down the losses, Vayudoot is taking steps to rationalise its route network. By discontinuing services on sectors of low passenger load factor, the number of stations in the network has already been curtailed to 55. Vayudoot is also taking action to reduce the non-operating expenditure and enhance non-operating revenue. The focus of Vayudoot's operations will be on commercial considerations in order to reduce the magnitude of losses.

(c) Vayudoot is saddled with aged and uneconomic fleet, short haul operations and unremunerative fare structure. These have rendered Vayudoot's operations inherently unviable. Excessive expansion of the operations, over staffing and increase in maintenance cost due to depreciation of the Indian Rupee have also contributed to the losses of Vayudoot.

(d) and (e). Sponsorship of its flights is one of the measures being contemplated by Vayudoot to increase its non-operating revenue. The scheme is yet to be launched and negotiations with the parties are going on.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

World Bank loan for power sector

2058. SHRI B.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the World Bank proposes to effect some fundamental changes in its procedures of giving loans for investment in power sector in developing countries;

(b) if so, whether these changes are likely to affect India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) No, Sir.

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

Transfer of officers posted at Ambala Cantt.

2059: SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of period of postings of Divisional Railway Manager, Assistant Divisional Railway Manager, Senior Deputy Commercial Superintendent and Deputy Commercial Superintendent in Ambala Cantt. during the last five years; and

(b) the reasons for their overstay at one station and when these officers are likely to be transferred after the expiry of their term?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Pantry car contract in Shatabdi Express

2060. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pantry car contract in Shatabdi Express (Delhi-Chandigarh) has not been awarded to a genuine party; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

LPG terminals at Kandia and Mangalore

2061. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal for establishment of LPG terminals at Kandla and Mangalore;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details and estimated costs are yet to be decided.

(c) The Government have accorded approval to Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Reports (DPRs) for these projects at Kandla and Mangalore respectively. The reports have since been received.

Non-Availability of LPG Regulators in Mizoram

2062. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding non-availability of LPG regulators with the LPG dealers in Mizoram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not issuing new LPG connections on the priority vouchers issued on the recommendations of VIPs in Mizoram; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (d). During the year 1990 (upto November) no complaint regarding non-availability of LPG regulators, delay in release or non-release of LPG connections against priority authorisation has been received by Indian Oil Corporation, the only oil company marketing LPG in Mizoram.

Non-provision of Student Concession by Vayudoot Agents

2063. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for

providing students concession for Vayudoot services to bonafide students moving out of Mizoram;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing this facility to the bonafide students by Vayudoot Agents and departmental in Mizoram;

(c) whether such concession is available and provided by Vayudoot Agents and departmental offices to Mizom students when they return to Mizoram from any part of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take some action to remove this anomaly immediately; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (e). Concession is given to bonafide students of recognised educational institutions, at the rate of 50% of the basic fare, on Vayudoot services, for travel from place of study to home town or vice versa. Handling agents of Vayudoot Limited have also been authorised to issue such concessional tickets in consultation with Vayudoot booking offices. According to Vayudoot, no complaint has been received by it regarding refusal of such concession to bonafide students of Mizoram.

Bairabi Hydrel-Electric Project In Mizoram

2064. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received in October, 1990 for early execution of the Bairabi hydrel project in Mizoram;

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

(c) when the execution of the project is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The Govt. of Mizoram had requested the Govt. India in August, 1990 that the Bairabi (Dhaleshwari) Project may be reconsidered for early clearance and implementation as a purely hydroelectric project. Earlier due to the high estimated cost of generation, it had been evaluated as a multi-purpose project with 60% of the cost chargeable to power sector and the balance to other beneficiary sectors. In view of the present request of the Govt. of Mizoram, it has been felt that alternative studies need to be carried out to examine whether by changing certain basic parameters of the schemes it would be possible to make it techno-economically and environmentally viable.

(c) Subject to availability of funds during the 8th Plan, the project will be considered for execution after the required alternative studies are completed and its viability on the changed parameters is established.

New division at Chopan in U.P.

2065. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to establish a railway division at Chopan in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to include some portions of Northern Railway upto Chopan in this Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Direct train from Bombay/Madras to Chopan in U.P.

2066. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to connect the Southern part of the country with the industrial area of Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh and Sidhi of Madhya Pradesh by introducing one direct train from Bombay or Madras to Chopan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Training of Scheduled Tribes Officers in Foreign countries

2067. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Tribe Officers sent abroad for training during the last three years;

(b) whether some Scheduled Tribe Officers were selected for training in U.K. during 1986-87 and were kept as reserve and finally left out; and

(c) if so, the number of such officers and the reasons therefor and the action being taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Two.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Two. Since there was no dropout

amongst regular candidates in the training course in which two Scheduled Tribe Officers were kept as reserve in 1986-87, they could not be sent on training abroad, in that training course.

Reported Atrocities against SC/ST Officials

2068. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Group 'A' officials who were reverted during the course of enquiry and how many of them belonged to SC and ST during the last three years;

(b) the total number of Group 'A' officials who were transferred from one railway zone to another when the enquiry was halfway and how many of them belonged to SC and ST; and

(c) the action taken against officials found responsible for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Privatisation of non-conventional sources of energy

2069. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to pay special attention to the non-conventional sources of energy in view of the steep rise in fuel cost;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage private sector to tap the non-conventional energy sources; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have launched a number of programmes for harnessing non-conventional sources of energy and have by now succeeded in installing among others 14.85 lakh biogas plants, 92.66 lakh improved chulhas, 1,57, 970 solar cookers, 630 Community and Institutional Biogas Plants, 34 MW of wind generation capacity and 40,000 solar energy based systems.

(c) and (d). As a part of the programmes, the private sector is involved in tapping non-conventional energy sources not only by way of manufacturing these devices but also in utilising them. A prominent example is Solar Water Heating where a number of Commercial and industrial institutions have used this technology for getting hot water for their operations. In Wind Energy also, there are private sector firms which have installed wind electric generators connected to the grid.

Employment to oustees of Krishna and Godavari Project

2070. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for recruiting persons from outside the State in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission office of Krishna and Godavari Project instead of recruiting displaced persons whose lands were acquired by the ONGC for drilling purpose; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to appoint displaced or local persons?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). Recruitment on Oil and Natural Gas Commission is made in accordance with the procedure prescribed in ONGC (Recruitment & Promotion) Regulations, 1980.

Almost all land acquisitions by ONGC are temporary acquisitions for which compensation is paid and the land is eventually restored to the owner with restoration charges paid or after restoring it to the original condition.

In accordance with the existing policy, no employment assistance is provided to the members of the family whose land is acquired. ONGC provides necessary financial assistance to the schemes formulated by the State Govt. for the rehabilitation of affected persons. The affected persons are also advised by ONGC to register their names with the local employment exchange so that they can be considered for employment as and when their names are sponsored for the vacancies in ONGC.

Cold Storage Unit at Hyderabad Airport

2071. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide a cold storage unit at Hyderabad airport for storing produce like fruits, flowers, vegetables etc., for export to foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): The National Airports Authority has no cargo terminal at Hyderabad. The international air cargo complex at Hyderabad is managed by the

Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation.

Supply of Natural Gas in Bombay

2072. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project for distribution of natural gas in greater Bombay is under examination by the Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c): Government have approved Gas Authority of India's proposal for the preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report for the project to distribute Natural Gas to domestic, commercial and industrial consumers in Greater Bombay. According to preliminary estimates the project would cost Rs. 418 crores. The project would be implemented on approval of the Detailed Feasibility Report by Government.

Setting up of oil Refinery in Numaligarh, Assam

2073. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a project under Government's consideration for the setting up of an oil refinery at Numaligarh in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its cost and capacity; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same early?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to set up a grassroot refinery with an initial capacity of 3 MTPA at Numaligarh in Golaghat Distt. of Assam at an estimated cost of Rs. 1259.20 crores including foreign exchange component of Rs. 189.13 crores.

(c) The preliminary activities for implementation of the project have already been started by M/s IBP Co. Limited.

Setting up of solar power plant at Gaya in Bihar

2074. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representations regarding setting up of a power plant based on solar energy in Gaya/Bodhgaya (Bihar);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has been represented to the Union Government that a solar thermal power station may be set up at Gaya. The proposal involves the installation of a 2 x 30 MW capacity at a cost of over Rs. 200 crores.

(c) The proposal can be considered for implementation after the meteorological data required has been collected, the technology has been proved in Indian conditions, and all necessary in-puts have been tied up.

[Translation]

Survey of Parbati another projects in Himachal Pradesh

2075. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the survey-work of Parbhati Project of Himachal Pradesh and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(b) the amount allocated by the Union Government in this regard for 1990-91;

(c) the names of the other projects in Himachal Pradesh for which survey work is being conducted alongwith the amount allocated for each of them for the year 1990-91; and

(d) whether any representations have been received in this regard, and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) The survey work of Parvati Project is being done by the Government of Himachal Pradesh through HPSEB. As per information received from HPSEB the detailed investigation of Stage I (750 MW) is being taken up and the Detailed Project Report is likely to be completed by 1993-94. The investigation work of State II (800 MW) is in an advanced stage and likely to be completed in 1990-91. The Detailed Project Report for Stage III (400 MW) has been completed.

(b) The investigation of Parvati Project is being done by the State Government with Central assistance. The assistance for the year 1990-91 is being finalised, in consultation with the State authorities.

(c) The Hydroelectric projects under

investigation in Himachal Pradesh as indicated by the HPSEB are given in the statement below. A lump sum outlay of Rs. 50 lakhs for survey and investigation of hydro-electric projects has been provided in the State Plan for 1990-91.

(d) A request has been received from

the Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Maheshwar Singh requesting a Central assistance of Rs. 80 lakhs for the investigation of Parvati Hydroelectric Project during 1990-91. The Central Assistance for survey and investigation of hydro-electric projects for the year 1990-91 is being finalised.

STATEMENT

Hydro-electric Schemes under Investigation in Himachal Pradesh

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Scheme</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
1	2	3
1.	Baspa Stage-I	150
2.	Parvati St.-I	750
3.	Parvati State-II	800
4.	Malana HEP	60
5.	Gyspa HEP	240
6.	Duhangan	24
7.	Karcham Wangtöö	600
8.	Allian HEP	100
9.	Hibra	240
10.	Sawra Kuddu	86

Commercial Helicopter Service in Himachal Pradesh

2076. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many beautiful places in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether tourism would get a boost by linking those places through commercial helicopter service; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI

HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (c). Pawan Hans Limited does not operate scheduled commercial helicopter service nor does it propose to do so in the near future.

**Suspension of Dornier Air Services
from Delhi to Kullu**

2077. SHRIMAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dornier air services from Delhi to Kullu via Shimla have been suspended; and

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dornier operations between Shimla and Kullu have been suspended w.e.f. 3rd December, 1990 due to inadequate load during the winter.

**Financial Assistance for Larji Hydro-
Electric Project In Himachal Pradesh**

2078. SHRIMAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum for adequate allocation of financial assistance for the construction of Larji hydro-electric projects in Himachal Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). Requirement of funds for Larji Hydro-electric Project was

discussed with the State Government in the Working Group of Planning Commission. An outlay of Rs. 500 lakhs for 1991-92 and Rs. 10,000 lakhs during the 8th Plan has been recommended for the Project by the Working Group. The Ministry of Finance has been requested to pose this project for OECF or other external assistance.

[English]

**Fire at Kadamparai power station in
Madras**

2079. SHRI R.N. RAKESH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out at 400 Kw hydel power station at Kadamparai (Madras) on 19 October, 1990;

(b) if so, the causes of the fire and the estimated loss of property;

(c) whether any enquiry has since been made; and

(d) the time by which the above power station is likely to work smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the preliminary investigations carried out by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, the fire originated on bursting of the 220 KV cable pot head on blue phase single phase transformer of Unit IV, consequent to which 1800 litres of transformer oil caught fire. The loss has been estimated at Rs. 4.92 crores.

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

Airbus A-320 Services on Bombay-Cochin and Bombay-Trivandrum Routes

2080. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to operate Airbus A-320 flights on Bombay-Cochin and Bombay-Trivandrum routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHANDHAWAN): (a) and (b). Cochin airport is not suitable for A-320 operations. The Bombay-Trivandrum route is already catered to by a daily A-320 service.

Construction of Airport in Kottayam

2081. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for constructing new Airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any memorandum for constructing an airport in Kottayam (Kerala) has been received; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Barring the construction works already in progress, the national Airports Authority has not finalised any proposal for the construction of new airports in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is no plan to construct a new airport at Kottayam.

Doubling of Quilon-Madras Lines

2082. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the doubling of the Quilon-Madras railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) to (c). There are two routes between Madras and Quilon:-BG route via Jolarpettai-Salem-Shoranur-Ernakulam-Kayankulam and the MG route via Villupuram-Tiruchchirapalli-Dindigul-Virdnunagar-Tirunelveli. On the BG route double line is available on Madras-Ernakulam section. On Ernakulam-Kayankulam section, an alternative BG line is under construction and when completed, it will provide double line facility in the form of two single lines on this section- one the existing via Kottayam and the other via Alleppey under construction. Doubling between Kayankulam and Quilon is in progress.

There is no proposal for doubling the MG route at present as the MG route is sufficient for meeting the traffic requirements.

Clearance to Pending power projects

2083. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the power projects pending for clearance by the Government;

(b) the reasons for holding up of each of these projects; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) The information is given in the statement below.

(b) and (c). After examination of the project reports, comments of the Central

Water Commission/Central Electricity Authority have been sent to the project authorities in most of the cases and their replies to these comments are awaited. Further, in some cases relevant essential inputs like fuel linkage, water availability and clearances such as environmental and forest clearance, clearance from State Pollution Control Board, National Airport Authority of India etc., are also required to be tied up by the project authorities for techno-economic appraisal.

Further processing of these schemes for techno-economic clearance would be done after these requirements have been met.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
<i>Hydro Projects</i>		
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>		
1.	Dhanwari Sunda	2 x 35=70
<i>Jammu & Kashmir</i>		
2.	Naigad Nallah	4 x 1.5=6
3.	Hirpora (Shopian)	3 x 3 =9
4.	Butkot Sakhrus	2 x 18 = 36
5.	New Ganderbal	3 x 15 =45
6.	Dumkhar	2 x 1.5 =4.5
7.	Igo-Mercelong	2 x 1.5 =3
8.	Boniyar	2 x 1.5 =3
9.	Parnai	3 x 12.50 =37.50
10.	Mandi	4 x 1 =4
11.	Sewa Stage-II	3 x 40 = 120

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
<i>Haryana</i>		
12.	Dadupur (Revised report)	4 x 1.5 = 4.60
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>		
13.	Dhauliganga (Intermediate Stage)	4 x 50 = 200
14.	Goriganga State-I & II	3 x 20 + 3 x 40 = 180
15.	Basuli	5 x 0.856 = 4.78
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>		
16.	Bansagar Tons Power House -IV (Modified)	2 x 10 = 20
<i>Maharashtra</i>		
17.	Konal	2 x 5 = 10
<i>Gujarat</i>		
18.	Karjan L.B.c. (Revised)	2 x 1 = 2
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>		
19.	Velugudu	2 x 5 = 10
20.	Kakatiya Canal	1 x 3 = 3
21.	Priyadarshini Jurala	6 x 36.9 = 221.4
22.	Nagarjuna PSS (Tail Pond Dam)	2 x 15 = 30
23.	Somasila	2 x 5 = 10
<i>Kerala</i>		
24.	Maniyar	1 x 5 + 2 x 2.5 = 10
25.	Kuttiyadi Extension	1 x 50 = 50

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
26.	Boothathankettu	3x10=30
27.	Pallivasal Rehabilitation	3 x 20=60
28.	Chembukkedavan-II	3 x 3 =9
29.	Karpara Kuriyarkutty Multipurpose project	2 x 12+3 x 20=84
<i>West Bengal</i>		
30.	Farakka Barrage Hydro electric project	5 x 25=125
<i>Orissa</i>		
31.	Bargarh Main Canal	3 x 3=9
<i>Assam</i>		
32.	Lower Kopili	2 x 50=100
<i>Manipur</i>		
33.	Loktak Down Stream	3 x30=90
34.	Tipaimukh (Multipurpose)	10 x150=1500
35.	Tuivai	3 x17=51
36.	Irang	4 x15=60
<i>Arunachal Pradesh</i>		
37.	Dihang (Multipurpose)	40 x500 =20000
38.	Subansiri (Multipurpose)	12 x400=4800
39.	Kameng	4 x 150=600

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
<i>Thermal</i>		
<i>Haryana</i>		
1.	Hissar TPS	2x250=500
2.	Palwal TPS	4x210=840
<i>Punjab</i>		
3.	Goindwal TPS	2x210=420
4.	Dhuri TPS	2x500=1000
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>		
5.	Belthara Road	3x210=630
6.	Jagdishpur ST	4x35 GT+2x35 ST= 210
<i>Gujarat</i>		
7.	Narmada TPS St.I	2x500=1000
8.	Sikka TPS St. III	2x210=420
9.	Gandhinagar CCGT	200
10.	Pipavav CCGT-St.II	615
11.	Utran CCGT- St.II	135
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>		
12.	Mand TPS	2 x 210 = 420
13.	PenchTPS St. II	2 x250=500
14.	Gwalior CCGT	817
15.	Gopad TPS	4 x500=2000

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
Maharashtra		
16.	Parli 'C' TPS	2 x210=420
17.	Dabhol CCGT	4x120GT+2x140ST=760
18.	Ship/Berga Mountel PS M/S Confidence Shipping Co.	110
19.	Nagothane CTCC TPS	4x130GT+2x150 ST=820
Andhra Pradesh		
20.	Ind CCGT Plant at Vijeswarem	3x100=300
21.	Kothagudem TPS St. V	2x210=420
22.	Ramagundam TPS Extn.	2x2
23.	Gas based TPS at Kakinada	300
24.	LSHS/FO based TPS at Renigunta	100
25.	Gas based TPS at Jegurupadu	400
26.	Gas based TPS at Amalapuram	3x25=75
27.	Muddanore TPS	2x210
28.	Manuguru STPS-NTPC	2x500=1000
Karnataka		
29.	Raichur St. III	1x500=500
30.	North Madras St. II	2x120=420
31.	Cuddalore TPS St II	3x210=630

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
<i>Bihar</i>		
32.	Muzaffarpur Extn.	2x210=420
33.	Patratu TPS	2x210=420
34.	Gaya & Chokai Solar	120 (2x30 each)
35.	Naraj TPS	2x250=500
36.	Ib TPS Extn.	2x500=1000
<i>West Bengal</i>		
37.	D.P.L. 7th Unit	1x110=110
38.	DG Sets in South East Calcutta.	5x6=30
39.	Budge Budge Generating Stn.-CESC	2x250=500
40.	Maithonn Left Bank (DVC)	4x210=840
<i>Assam</i>		
41.	Namrup GT Station	2x30=60
<i>Tripura</i>		
42.	Waste heat plant Baramura	11
43.	GT project at Rokhia Ph. II	2x8=16
44.	GT Project at Rokhia Ph.III	2x8=16
45.	Gas based GT project Tripura	500

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
<i>Arunachal Pradesh</i>		
46.	Gas based powerplant at Kharasang	1x6=6
<i>A & N Islands</i>		
47.	Nehru oil based TPS	2x20=40

Contract for constructing platform at Bombay High

2084. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has recently awarded a contract to build a processing platform at Bombay High;

(b) if so, whether there were only two parties in the field;

(c) whether the Government had ruled out consideration of one of the bidders, the Japanese Consortium leaving only one bidder viz, Hyundai Heavy Industries, a South Korean Company in the field;

(d) whether the bid of the South Korean Company was unreasonably delayed in scrutiny; and

(e) if so, whether the delay has cost the country Rs. one hundred crores by way of increased costs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) No Sir. Although

a number of tenders have been floated for process platforms in the Western offshore by ONGC no contract has been awarded recently.

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

2085. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether traction by steam locomotives is found to be costliest;

(b) if so, whether 'idling' plays a significant role in increasing the costs;

(c) if so, whether the Railways propose to review their reported decision to continue utilisation of steam locomotives for ten more years; and

(d) whether the Railways have examined the feasibility of using electric traction for shunting and other departmental operations in all major yards in the interests of economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The shutting down of steam

engines enroute is not feasible and hence idling is unavoidable.

(c) Phasing out of steam locomotives, besides economy, has also to depend on the availability of funds, manufacturing capacity of diesel and electric locomotives and operational needs for additional traffic. Review is carried out keeping these factors in view periodically and the present indications are that the steam locomotives are likely to be completely phased out within the next 10 years or so.

(d) Yes, Sir. In yards having several shunting movements, it has not been found economical to perform shunting with electric locomotives on account of the need for large capital investment in wiring of the whole yard, sidings etc. However, a few main line electric locomotives are used for departmental and minor shunting operations enroute on account of operational needs.

Retrenchment of employees of Chukha Hydroelectric Project

2086. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 9849 on 22 May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether services of nine workers have already been terminated in November, 1990;

(b) whether some more workers are also facing retrenchment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether all the employees working in Chukha Hydro-Electric Project will be absorbed in phase II of any other projects in Bhutan or in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO

DHAKANE): (a) to (d). The Chukha Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan is owned by the Royal Govt. of Bhutan and was implemented by Chukha Project Authority—an autonomous organisation under the Royal Government of Bhutan. According to the information available with the Govt. of India, employees directly recruited by the Chukha project authority are being rendered surplus on completion of the project and accordingly face retrenchment. According to the Project Authorities those employees who had refused to indicate their willingness to work for the Royal Govt. of Bhutan on contract basis have been retrenched. In order to find alternate employment, the Public Sector Undertakings in the power sector, have been requested to absorb as many as of these surplus employees as possible. It may also be possible to absorb a few of the Chukha surplus workers on the investigations proposed to be undertaken for Chukha Stage II and III depending upon their experience and suitability.

Power shortage in Southern Region

2087. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Power shortage to hit South in 2000" in the 'Indian Express' dated 5 December, 1990;

(b) if so, the steps the Union Government propose to take to meet the power shortage in the South;

(c) whether Central Planning Authority is fully responsible for the power planning in

the country; and

(d) if so, the steps CPA has envisaged to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase the availability of power in the Southern region, various measures are being taken which include expediting commissioning of new capacities in the constituent States of the region and the Central Sector, optimum utilisation of existing capacities, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, implementation of renovation and modernisation programme of existing power stations, effective load management and conservation of energy.

(c) and (d). One of the functions of the Central Electricity Authority, which has been constituted under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, is to formulate short term and perceptive plans for power development in the country. The Authority had prepared a National Power Plan in June, 1987, covering the period from 1985-2000 envisaging a capacity addition of 48,000 MW in the Eighth Plan (1990-95) and 62,000 MW in the Ninth Plan (1995-2000) in addition to the target of 22, 245 MW in the Seventh Plan (1985-1990). However, for the Eighth Plan, the Department of Power, based on the report of the Working Group on Power constituted by the Planning Commission, have proposed a capacity addition of 38,369 MW (including 7606 MW for Southern Region). The Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission

Halt at Bangalore

2088. SHRIM.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mangalore-Bombay, Mangalore-Dadar, Trivandrum-Rajkot and Cochin-Ahmedabad trains halts at K.R. Puram railway station which is 15 km. away from the Bangalore City;

(b) whether there is a demand for halt of these trains at Bangalore City Railway Station; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Examined but not found feasible.

Expenditure on maintenance of westland helicopters

2089. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Westland helicopters had been grounded recently;

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

(c) the cost of maintenance of a Westland helicopter in comparison to the cost of maintenance of other helicopters;

(d) the average cost of maintenance of a Westland helicopter and how it would compare after the implementation of the Hussaini Committee Report;

(e) whether Government had taken into account this factor while taking a decision to accept this helicopter and if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the progress made so far after acceptance of the Hussaini Committee Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, the entire fleet of nineteen Westland helicopters was grounded with effect from 21.12.89 pending an inquiry into the operational and safety aspects of these helicopters by an Expert Committee. Following the recommendations of this Committee, Westland Helicopters have recently been reinducted into service. At present, six of these helicopters are flying for ONGC and Oil India Limited.

(c) While the average maintenance cost of Westland helicopters is estimated at Rs. 26,634 per hour, it is estimated at Rs. 13,348/- per hour for Dauphin helicopters, which is the other helicopter operated by Pawan Hans Limited.

(d) The average cost of maintenance of Westland helicopters including reserve for overhaul is estimated to be Rs. 26,634 per hour. This does not include customs duties, freight insurance etc.

The cost and liabilities involved in maintenance after implementation of the recommendations made by the Hussainy Committee are yet to be worked out.

(e) The maintenance cost estimated at the time of purchase of Westland and Dauphin Helicopters was Rs. 5901/- and Rs. 3981/- per hour respectively. The differential in maintenance cost was compensated by Westland Helicopters Limited by way of a lump sum operating subsidy of £ 10 million equivalent to Rs. 18.97 crores.

(f) The recommendations of the Hussainy Committee, other than those relating to major modifications on the helicopters and engines for which the manufacturers are responsible, have already been implemented. As regards, major modifications, detailed discussions have been held with the manufacturers.

Malpractices in Railways

2090. SHRI RAM SAGAR
(Saidpur):
DR. SHAILENDRANATH
SHRIVASTAVA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a special drive recently to check the malpractice in the railways;

(b) if so, the number of officials apprehended as a result thereof and the action taken against them; and

(c) the number of officials apprehended on charges of corruption/malpractices during the last three years; year-wise and zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Drive against corruption and malpractices on the Railways has been a continuous process and this has been intensified recently.

(b) and (c). Arising out of investigation of complaints, and preventive checks conducted by the Railways on their own, during the years 1988, 1989 & 1990 (upto November), number of officials taken up for disciplinary action for malpractices/corruption is given below year-wise and zone-wise:—

<i>Railways</i>	1988	1989	1990 (Upto November)
1	2	3	4
Central	895	1093	1190
Eastern	1084	1170	1148
Northern	2088	2411	1995
North Eastern	849	912	992
Northeast Frontier	323	493	392
Southern	2047	2410	1365
South Central	548	442	530
South Eastern	738	1020	993
Western	732	693	1031
Production Units	23	86	250
Total	9327	10730	9886

Closure of Plastic Processing units

2091. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether plastic processing units are getting closed down due to sharp escalation in naphtha prices accompanied by short supply of raw plastic materials; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (b). In order to cope with the consequences on the Gulf crisis, Government imposed a gulf surcharge of 25% on petroleum products including Naptha, which is a major feedstock for the production of Polymers used by the plastic processing units. This has resulted in an increase in the price of Polymers.

About 50% of the total requirement of Polymers is imported and due to the gulf crisis, international prices and availability of polymers has become difficult. As a result, there are some shortages in the market. Domestic producers have been asked to maximise their production.

Foreign Drug units

2092. SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times', Delhi dated November, 21, 1990 under the caption "Foreign drug units pressurizing India";

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

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to safeguard the domestic drug industry particularly the small scale industry and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The existing drug policy of the Government already provides adequate safeguards to the domestic drug industry. While there are no restrictions on production and supply of drugs by the Small Scale Sector units, the permissible list of drugs and conditions of production and supply stipulated in the Drug Policy for Indian companies in the organised sector are more favourable than those stipulated for FERA units.

[*Translation*]

Transfer of Sanan Project

2093. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government to transfer the Sanan Project from Punjab Government to Himachal Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) to (c). The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has agreed not to pursue its request for the transfer of Joginder Nagar (Shanan) Power House.

[English]

Plastic Processing Industry

2094. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plastic processing industry has been affected due to increase in the prices of polymer in the international market;

(b) if so, the manner in which it has been affected;

(c) whether about 50,000 small scale units will face closure due to this price-rise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) and (d) As about 50% of the total requirement of Polymers has to be imported, the increase in the price of Polymers in international markets following the gulf crisis has resulted in high landed cost of such imports to consumers in the Plastic Processing industry. The gulf crisis has also resulted in restricted availability of polymers in the international market. Domestic manufacturers have been asked to maximise production. In the long run, new domestic production capacities being established will ease the supply problem.

12.00 hrs.

RE. REPORTED DISCONNECTION OF ELECTRICITY TO THOMSON PRESS IN FARIDABAD AND ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO CURB FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday my colleague, Prof. Dandavate and many Members from all

sections of the House, not only of the Opposition, out even of the ruling party, had expressed concern over the goings-on in the Thomson Press, Haryana and the Prime Minister took note of the views expressed in this House and categorically told the House:

[Translation]

"It will be a matter of regret and shame for all of us if an assault is made on the freedom of the Press. Freedom of the Press should never be infringed. I would collect the information from the Haryana Government and I assure the Press that the Central Government would take all possible steps to see to it that the freedom of the Press is not infringed."

[English]

I do not think there can be more categorical reassurance for the House than what was said by the Prime Minister yesterday. But I am sorry to say that during the 24 hours that have passed since then, things have worsened. There has been no improvement of any kind in the situation so far as far as this particular episode is concerned. I have ascertained only this morning before coming to the House that the power is still cut off and the workers who wanted to go to the press were beaten up brutally. Here is a case of State power combining with the *goonda* power to suppress freedom of the press. When this goes on even after the country's highest executive has said in Parliament that he is not going to permit it and he uses the words:

[Translation]

I will protect freedom of the press at all costs.

[English]

It is, I believe, a challenge to the authority of the State, of the Centre and a challenge on the basis of the patronage that these *goondas* receive at the hands of the State Government.

In this particular case, there is a very long background, against which background I can very unhesitatingly say that the action being taken against *India Today* or *Newstrack* is a case of clear vendetta, it is a case of vindictiveness—only because you exposed us in the past, you did that, therefore, we are going to see that you are penalised and punished for it. Sir, in this matter time is of the essence. I have no doubt that after the assurance that the Prime Minister gave to the House, he must have asked his officers to send a message to the State Government asking for facts and telling them that the Press freedom should not be suppressed or muzzled in anyway as this is the assurance given to the House. But it very often happens that these messages keep lying there and after three or four days the State officials say that they did not know anything about it and after they came to know about it they have restored the power. After three or four days they say that they have done this and have done that.

I have sought your permission to raise this matter because as I said time is of the essence. *India Today* publication should not be delayed even for a single day. The situation today is that only 15 per cent or 18 per cent of workers are able to come to the press because they are afraid of being beaten up by *gundas*. This is certainly an assault of the Press which this House took note of yesterday and which I hope that the Government will immediately take note of to see that by this evening the situation in the Thomson Press improves.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday when I sought your permission to move an Adjournment Motion on this issue the Prime Minister intervened and gave us a categorical assurance which Mr. Advani has raised just now and after that we felt that the situation would be actually relaxed. But, Sir, representatives of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, AITUC and CITU contacted me this morning and they said that more *goondaism* has been started at the entrance of the Thomson Press

and some of them have said that “you may try to raise the issue in the Parliament but ultimately you have to deal with us here.” That is what they have said. So, in spite of the assurance given by the Prime Minister, Trade Unions belonging to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha and affiliated unions continue to be attacked and assurance given by the Prime Minister has remained only in the Parliament. It has not been percolated down to the Thomson Press.

Therefore, you as Speaker should direct the Government that all that the Government should do is whatever assurance is given on the floor of the Parliament yesterday should be implemented. I think that direction should go from the Speaker as that will salvage the situation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join my friends here. Sir, it is very clear that this is not just an action taken on the spot by some of the workers there. This is a calculated action which has been taken to browbeat this Press and the journals. In view of the categorical assurance given by the Hon. Prime Minister yesterday the Government owes an explanation why no action has been taken. Sir, I would also like to know how Mr. Bhajan Lal sitting in the treasury benches would react to it. He is sitting in the treasury benches, so let us have his reaction to it when further incidents have taken place. The question is whether the Prime Minister's decision has any value in this country any longer or not. I would like to know whether his writ runs in the country or not. Haryana is not far off. It is not difficult to even send instructions from here. Therefore, I would like to know what the Government has done and is going to do in the course of today.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHARAO (Ramtek): I would like to reiterate that the Prime Minister's assurance given yesterday should be implemented and the House is entitled to know what has been done and what is proposed to be done. I agree that time is of the essence.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Faridabad): I spoke on this issue yesterday. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He wanted to speak on this and even Somnath Babu wanted him to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since I have spoken on this subject in detail yesterday only I would just like to submit that the assurance given by the Prime Minister in this regard in the House yesterday should be implemented without further delay because I feel an influential person is involved in it and he is at fault.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: You name that person.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Kindly listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Unless you listen to me how will I put forth my point. Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is the General Secretary of the Janata Dal (S) and his father is President of that party and the Haryana Government is being run under their directives. Unless the Prime Minister personally takes interest in the matter the injustice done to the press cannot be done away with. I represent that area and I am fully aware of the situation prevailing there. The workers have been victimised and excesses have been committed upon them. The matter should be either investigated by a Committee of this House or the Prime Minister should be directed to get the matter investigated by C.B.I. Stringent action should be taken against the guilty persons.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Withdraw your support.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: How many times, you had withdrawn the support?

[*English*]

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): I am thankful to the Prime Minister for the assurance given to this House. Yesterday, I further added in my submission regarding the atrocities committed against *Indian Express* and *Dinaman* by the State Government in Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister should take action on that also. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Mr. Thambi Durai, you must address the Chair.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thambi Durai, you are a seasoned Parliamentarian. Don't get carried away by others' interruptions. Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Yesterday the issue was clinched. The Prime Minister was kind enough to assure that he would look into the matter and see that the freedom of the press is not in any way affected. Sir, it is not the question of a particular press—whether it be Thomson Press or some other—or a publication. Now the Parliament is seized of the matter and the highest of the administration of the country has assured. But even that assurance has not yet been implemented in the least. Does it not mean an infringement on and a derogation of the parliamentary system? I want to raise this question. It was the opinion expressed by the entire House. It was responded to by the Prime Minister. But even after that, the State Government does not act according to it. This is a subject which relates to the fundamental right of the people and fundamental right of the press. Sir allow me to ask whether a State Government or Mr. Chautala or anybody else is much more powerful than the Parliament. This is the question I raise. Nobody is more powerful than the Parliament and if you do not take a decision and ask the Government to take a particular action in this matter, I think you

shall be allowing ourselves to be denigrated by an all powerful man who is reigning in Haryana.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL (Jalandhar): Sir, you were kind enough to give some attention to my adjournment motion yesterday. I thought when you rejected it, it was in the light of the general opinion expressed in this House. This is a highly concerning issue. Despite the fact that the electricity remains disconnected from the third of this month—today is the eighth and five days have passed—no action has been taken. May I urge you to call upon the Prime Minister to make a categorical statement here at 4 o'clock, so that we will know who is at fault.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is absolutely scandalous and a matter of grave concern that the Prime Minister's solemn assurance has not been carried out. I would suggest that the Prime Minister should, before the House rises for the day, tell this House what action has been taken for restoring power to the and for curbing all these anti-social and goonda elements in Faridabad.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You say electric power otherwise it might be misunderstood!

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): What Mr. Bhajan Lal has said—the way he pointed his finger at a particular person, who is the General Secretary of the ruling party Janata Dal (S)—we cannot take things very lightly. The Member who spoke alleging about this particular Leader of the Party in Government, is the member of the Party responsible for floating the Government. It is a very serious matter. This may be the reason why the Government is paralysed on this particular question. Apart from that, the Prime Minister must come and make a statement today as to what action has been taken.

What I want to know is this: What action this Government is going to take against this particular Leader or the Party in Government?

I think, if we have any sense and respect for democracy, then this man behind this whole episode should be arrested. Is anybody worried about what is going on there? Who is worried about it?

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we hope that the assurance given by the Prime Minister in this House will be implemented very soon. The Prime Minister should enquire as to why the assurance given by him has not been implemented so far. He should also ensure that the freedom of the Press and media should not be bullied to serve political ends. We must inculcate political will power to maintain freedom of the Press because whichever Party comes into power it tries to prevail upon the Press. In fact there is a lot of difference between the words and deeds of the Members here. All the Members who are committed to freedom of the Press should unanimously move a resolution condemning this reprehensible act.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Hon. Prime Minister is not present in the House. Yesterday he had given an assurance in this regard and no other Minister is in a position to say anything about it, so what is the utility of carrying on with this discussion. The point put forth by Shri Advani has been endorsed by all the members of the House. If the unanimous opinions of the House is ignored it will really be a matter of shame for this Parliament. Let the Prime Minister be called, wherever he may be. He should tell the House the action taken on the assurance. Then only we will proceed further.

[English]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, when the Prime Minister made a statement, if you could remember, I asked him something about the security of the workers. The Prime Minister listened to me but did not reply to it. This morning, I have been receiving telephone calls from the Thomson Press workers and also HMS Workers' Union. They said: "The police and other people are say-

ing that, here the Prime Minister's writ does not run, here the writ—of the most unseen hand—of the former Chief Minister runs, who is a close friend of the Prime Minister.

In the night yesterday, they have gone round in the colony and then hit every door and they shouted. "If you go to Thomson Press, then your dead body will be found." Inside the office, all the workers are brave, and, therefore, they have taken a vow that they will defend the freedom of the Press which this Government wants to muzzle. For the last five days, the Press is being run on a generator. The Prime Minister has done nothing so far. I still appeal to you that you kindly direct the Prime Minister to see that at least the security of the workers is assured. (*Interruptions*) I express my grateful thanks to all the Members who are here, those who have expressed their concern on this problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Members of all the parties have expressed their concern over this issue. I think no useful purpose will be served by calling the Prime Minister in the House as he is helpless in taking action against the person who is believed to be involved in this affair. Sir, it will, therefore, be proper that you give a ruling in the matter and assure the House that action will be taken to guarantee the freedom of the Press.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Faridabad is just 20 kms. away from Delhi and a person sent from here to Faridabad can easily return here within an hour. (*Interruptions*) Had the place been as far as Kanyakumari, we would have realised the helplessness of the Government. What else can be expected of this Government headed by a Prime Minister who said yesterday that his Government could not deal with a matter concerning an incident taking place 20 kms. away from Delhi. It would be better if Prime Minister comes to the House and states the action taken in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRICHIRANJILAL SHARMA (Karnal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from Haryana. I represent a constituency which is in Haryana, and I know how democracy is being throttled in Haryana. You are talking of this press. This is not the first instance of its kind. In the recent past, there were such instances: one in Sirsa, and another in Kurukshetra. If the freedom of the Press is not kept in view, and if the freedom of the Press is throttled like this, I do not know where this democracy will go to. The matter is serious, and the whole House is very much concerned. I would, therefore, request you to ask the Prime Minister to take personal interest... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (Sonapat): Sir, discussion on this issue is going on since yesterday. I feel the assurance given by the Prime Minister will definitely be implemented. I am associated with Press. The freedom of Press should be maintained at all costs. The hon. members are taking only lop-sided view. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI (Kanpur): What is he talking about? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Ali, he also has a right to talk like you.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: When the agitation against Mandal Commission was at its peak about 180 boys and girls committed self immolation and their pictures were also published. The people belonging to ruling faction used brutal force against the demonstrations. The manner in which "Amar Ujala" and "Aaj" are indulging in anti-government propaganda, is not proper. (*Interruptions*) It was reported that 20-30 dead

bodies were found. The Prime Minister has openly said that it was not true that 100 dead bodies were recovered; (*Interruptions*) only 16 dead bodies were recovered. It has also been reported that hundreds of dead bodies were thrown into the river. Let them quote a single incident of this kind. This lopsided discussion is, therefore, of no use utility.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now hear the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Shri Malaviya.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the freedom of Press is dear to everybody. It is dear to the Prime Minister and also to the Parliament.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what does this word 'dear' mean. In view of the feeling expressed by the members and what has come to light the hon. Minister has been prefixing words 'dear'. What does he exactly mean by this word? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA: Sir, I would like to submit that the assurance given by the Prime Minister yesterday will be implemented in letter and spirit. (*Interruptions*)

It is against the rules to level a charge against the person who is not present in the House to defend himself. I, therefore, request you to expunge all those remarks from the proceedings of the House which have been uttered against the person who is not a member of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: His name has not been mentioned.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: I am on a point of order regarding the procedure. In this House, it has always been the precedent that, if any assurance is given by the representatives of the Government, if the member feels aggrieved that it is not being implemented, we have always raised the question with the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already done that.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: I only remind you. Therefore, all I am saying is you kindly direct the Prime Minister that it should be implemented and see that the assurance that is given by Prime Minister—you are the custodian of the House—should be implemented. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Apart from the point that has been raised by Dandavateji, may I point out that this matter arose when a formal Adjournment Motion was tabled by Dandavateji; and that Adjournment Motion was not pressed. Adjournment Motion means that we would like to censure the Government for its failure. But when the Government itself said that "no, we are keen to see that the Press freedom is guaranteed and we will intervene immediately." That Adjournment Motion was not pressed because the Prime Minister himself said it.

Taking note of what my colleagues from Tamil Nadu or from West Bengal have said, that in case there is a discussion, then we are willing to open the whole gamut of the Press freedom. And how it is being muzzled in various States. Therefore, the matter cannot be closed by merely expressing our views that the assurance given yesterday was not implemented. Then it becomes obligatory on you either to permit the Adjournment Motion and let us have a discussion in the House or let the Prime minister or some one from the Government come and tell us what has happened since yesterday, and why this is

not being implemented. Either of the two courses should be taken into account. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Let us have a discussion. That will be better. I support this.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sathe, I think, the Government is taking note of it.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I want that there should be a direction from the Chair that the Government should implement the assurance. Why not straightway give a direction from the Chair that whatever assurance is there, Government should implement it?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Madhu ji, the Government has not said that it will not be implemented. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the House will be adjourned after two days. If these things continue will the freedom of the Press be safe.

SHRIMADANLAL KHURANA: Delayed action will not be of any use.

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister and the entire country is for freedom of the Press. It is a constitutional provision. The House also wants to maintain freedom of the Press. The Prime Minister has given an assurance and we should believe him.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Let us hear Mr. Dinesh Singh.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear Shri Dinesh

Singh. he is an elderly Member of the House.

SHRIDINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): All the sections of the House are agreed that freedom of the Press is of utmost importance. Yesterday the Prime Minister also emphasised that, when he said that he would ensure that the freedom of the Press is maintained. Therefore, there should not be any need for any controversy on that issue. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): No action has been taken upon the assurance given in the House yesterday. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: At least listen to some body... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He is making a submission. Lodhaji, why do you not hear Mr. Dinesh Singh?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I am saying that the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here. There should not be any difficulty in the Government making a statement before the House rises today as to what action they have taken in the matter. It is a straightforward issue and I think there should be no objection from the part of the hon. Minister to say that by the end of the day before the House rises, either the Prime Minister or the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs will make a statement. There is no difficulty in that. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is present here. He has taken

MR. SPEAKER: I will give a chance to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: His name has been taken. I would allow him to react since he is here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now let us hear Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I refer to four specific instances, wherein the collective responsibility of the cabinet had been flouted. One has been cited by my friend and colleague Shrimati Subhashini Ali, wherein a member of the Union Cabinet has said that the imposition of import duty is a panic reaction and it will be withdrawn.

Secondly, an interview was given to some paper in Ahmedabad that the IMF loan agreement will be signed by this Government on the 23rd of January and the quantum of loan was given to that newspaper by this very same member of the cabinet, whereas the union Finance Minister... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when it is all false, how can he go on speaking on this issue? This matter has been raised by the hon. member Shrimati Subhashini Ali. Sir, you should give a chance for me to reply... (Interruptions) There is no use in allowing everybody to speak on a falsehood... (Interruptions) It is totally false... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, I have given the floor to Shri Jaswant Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: After Shri Jaswant Singh finishes his speech, I will allow Shri Swami to react.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would say very briefly. The hon'ble Prime Minister has just entered the House. There are four instances of violation of the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. A member of the Union Cabinet has given an interview to the local correspondent of *Financial Times* in which he has called the imposition of import duty by his colleague is a panic reaction. He has gone ahead to say that as soon as he could arrange it that is, the Union Minister could arrange it, he shall have it reversed. This has been referred to by my friend Subhashini Ali already. Secondly, an interview is given to a newspaper that an IMF loan agreement will be signed by this Government on the 23rd of January. The quantum is given and the terms as specified, when the Union Finance Minister, just the other day, has mentioned to us that it is still under consideration. Thirdly, when the very same Minister of the Union Cabinet visits Brussels, it is my information that without clearance from the Government he meets with the Minister from Israel... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SOME HON. MEMBERS: This...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Some Member has said '.....' ** That will not go on record...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the third is that the very same Minister of the Union Cabinet goes and confers with the Minister of Israel. Therefore, it is necessary for the Government to tell us whether it is the policy of the Government to have parleys with Israel, whether it is authorised by the Government. Fourthly, there has appeared a report in the newspapers that the very same Minister met with the President of Afghanistan. The report about the conversation with the President of Afghanistan, which I do not

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

want to repeat here, is highly objectionable and has given a direction to the Government's total foreign policy vis-a-vis Pakistan is involved. These are all very serious matters and I would like to know the facts... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will request the Prime Minister to yield... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat...

(*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not hear the full speech of my friend Jaswant Singh but all these matters were brought to my notice on one occasion or the other. I got them enquired from Dr. Subramaniam Swamy and in most of the cases, or, I may say, in all the cases he denied having made any such statement... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Prime Minister. You should not interrupt the Prime Minister.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I shall leave it to your judgement that if these matters of such serious nature come to the notice of any Member, is it not necessary that he should give a notice to you and the Minister concerned or the Government concerned should be asked to explain the position? Without verifying the facts, just on the veracity of the newspaper reports, if this type of allegations are made in the House, it will be very difficult for me to explain the position... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nirmal Babu, please take your seat.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I shall not like to say anything about the reporting in the newspapers because I firmly have faith in the independence of newspapers. But may I very humbly submit to this House that all the time reports are not cor-

rect. Many a time I see that I have met people whom I have never seen for the last few months! Well, this is the condition of reporting in some of the newspapers.

About one thing, which is of serious nature according to my friend Shri Jaswant Singh, that Dr. Subramaniam Swamy met an Israeli Minister in Brussels, the fact is that there was a dinner or lunch where all the Ministers are invited, and India and Israel alphabetically have nearby seats... (*Interruptions*) If this is the attitude I cannot help. If certain people are suffering from this type of malady, I cannot help them. I just give them the fact that if such a situation was there, Mr. Speaker, Sir, give your direction that even if such a dinner or lunch is there in international conferences, the Minister will walk out from that place. That position has not been taken by the Government of India. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that about the collective responsibility of the Government we shall observe it and any Minister erring on that account will not be spared. So, I assure you that nothing wrong has been done by my Minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Janardan Yadav.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow any discussion on this. I close the discussion after the Prime Minister's reply. Now, Mr. Janardan Yadav.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing a debate on this. Mr. Janardan Yadav.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Indrajit Babu.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): I was listening very carefully to the Prime Minister. All that the Prime Minister has said is, very often newspaper reports are not

correct. That is what he has said. That does not specifically answer this question whether this interview which is given to *Financial Times*... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: He is saying that the report which has appeared in the paper is not correct.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I categorically said that Dr. Subramaniam Swamy has disowned what has appeared in the paper..... (*Interruptions*) If they want to run the House like this, let them do. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you said rightly, I say that Dr. Subramaniam Swamy categorically said that he has not made any such statement.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Which statement?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: About the taxation, about the IMF loan and all that which you have said. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the day I feel that any Minister is not discharging his responsibility or collective responsibility in the Cabinet, that Minister will be taken to book. But that is not the way that you pick up a man and go on harping on this theme every day. That is not the method. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, some Members unfortunately try to be very aggressive without any reason on small questions. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: You can say anything about anybody?

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is something like etiquette in the House and that etiquette should also be observed. Throwing up arms in the air does not indicate a very brave posture.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Janardan Yadav. I have called Mr. Janardan Yadav.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Mr. Kundu I have not permitted you. I have permitted Mr. Janardan Yadav. I am not hearing you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That issue is closed. The Speaker has closed that issue. Now, Mr. Janardan Yadav.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kala-azar has spread in the districts of North Bihar and West Bengal... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, please take your seat. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: After the Prime Minister's categorical statement, the matter is closed.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am consider your point if a notice is given for the purpose.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, please go

to your seat. Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury is on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Sir, after what the Prime Minister has said on this particular newspaper report, what we demand is a concrete denial on this particular reference in the '*Financial Times*' of 27th December, 1990. Otherwise, it becomes vague; may be this correspondent has the tape-recorded interview with him. Let him concretely deny this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know that. You give a notice on this; I will see. But there is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the first time in Parliament that newspaper reports have been challenged on the basis of their veracity. The point is, I do not question the Prime Minister's right to speak on behalf of his colleague. But the fact remains the Minister concerned is very much here in the House. Along with what the Prime Minister has said, it is in the fitness of things that the Minister himself should make a categorical denial. *(Interruptions)* Secondly, if the whole report has been concocted by the '*Financial Times*', are you going to allow things to go on like this?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Indrajit Gupta, Suhashiniji raised the issue of collective responsibility. So, it is in the fitness of things that the Prime Minister has responded to it.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If this report is not correct then some action must be taken against this paper or you intend to let them go scot-free? Report it to the Press Council. Why don't you ask for an explanation *(Interruptions)* call them and ask them. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think Mr. Indrajit Gupta has made a very valid point. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only hear the Leader of the Opposition.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here? This is not the way. This is not the way. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please take your seat. I would request the hon. Members to take their seats. Mr. Kuppuswamy, take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I would like to tell all of you...

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Will you please take your seat?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have also listened to you. You know the parliamentary custom. It does not behove of you to come to the well of the House for that. You are completely wrong in that course.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Take your seat. Mr. Kuppuswamy, please take your seat. You should behave in an orderly manner. This is Lok Sabha. You take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, why do you rise like this? I am not giving you permission. Take your seat. I have not permitted you.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH (Hardwar): Are you going to allow ten members from the same party.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Advani.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the views of the Prime Minister I must hear what the Leader of the opposition has to say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: This topic should be changed. The Prime Minister has already given a reply.

[*English*]

SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): You should not allow him on the same issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. It is about Speaker's ruling. On a particular issue—if it is correct, kindly verify your own ruling—you said, after the Prime Minister gave a reply on behalf of his colleague, with that, the matter is closed. These are your words.

If that is true, I would like to know from you, are you allowing any hon. Member to again reopen the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not, I am only going to hear him.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Allowing him to raise means, you are allowing him on the same issue. Then, everyone in the House will have to be allowed. That means, your ruling will have no sanctity. I would like your ruling on it, whether you would allow a person to raise the same?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I still stand by my ruling. After the Prime Minister I want to hear the views of the Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): When the Prime Minister has already given a reply the matter should be treated as closed.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Your ruling hereafter will not have any meaning if you allow them to speak.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am only making one observation namely, that I think that the point raised by Shri Indrajit Gupta is valid. On this issue, there were objections raised. Why I say that it was valid is because in the issue raised by my colleague Shrimati Subhashini Ali... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: My ruling is firm. He is not questioning the ruling.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There are two aspects involved in this. One is the veracity of the report. The other is the question of collective responsibility. *(Interruptions)* They are continuing to disrupt me.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the ruling.

the Prime Minister has replied. He has very rightly said that if there is any deviation from this principle of collective responsibility, he shall see to it that the Minister who errs in this regard is salutarily dealt with. The second aspect is very important and which I believe only Shri Swamy can really meet with i.e. whether this Report is correct or not. I am referring only to Smt. Subhashini Ali's mention of the report in the Financial Times... (*Interruptions*) So far as this House is concerned, one of the biggest, important devices that Parliament has to ensure that truth comes out is its right to punish for breach of privilege and contempt.

When the Prime Minister says... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: That will be looked into after notice is received.

[*English*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not saying that... In this case, the Prime Minister has told the House that he has been told by Swamyji that the Financial Times report is not correct. This is something outside the House. I would like Mr. Swamy to inform the House... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. I will not allow.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: We want to know whether this reporter has misled. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever has happened is sufficient for the present. It will be considered after you give in writing.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I can not move the Privilege Motion unless Mr. Swami denies it. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Because I cannot move privilege motion against the Government as the Prime Minister has informed the House... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is for him to deny or not.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The veracity of this report is very much in doubt. And I would like to move a privilege motion against the Financial Times.

MR. SPEAKER: That you can do.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There have been cases in the past where either the paper is responsible or the Minister is responsible. Let Mr. Swamy deny it so that if we want we can move privilege motion against the paper. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*English*]

No discussion on this. Please let us close this. I will consider if you give notices on this. I call upon Shri Janardan Yadav to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Shrimati Subhashini Ali has referred to this interview... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take into consideration if you give notice on this.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Somnathji, if you give notice, I will consider it. I am not allowing a debate on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I may tell the hon. House that the policy of the Government is decided by the Cabinet and endorsed by the House. Individual statements do not make the policy of the Government and you should not be over-exercised over this issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They should deny it. This report is not being denied. We appreciate the statement of the Prime Minister as the policy statement of the Government. But that does not answer whether this interview to the Financial Times was given by him or not. Ask him to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing a debate. Shri Yadav.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Indrajit Babu, I have already given a ruling. You give notices, I will consider it. I have given a ruling already.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing any further discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: There is a limit to everything.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIJANARDAN YADAV (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 29 districts of Bihar and 9

districts of Bengal Kala-azar disease is spreading like wild fire. Kala-azar has taken lives of five thousand people in North Bihar and more than one lakh people are suffering from the disease in Uttar Pradesh. Medicine for curing Kala-azar is not available in the market. The cost of an injection ranges from three thousand to four thousand rupees in black market. Central as well as the State Governments have taken no steps to eradicate this disease. I wish the Central Government to send a team to Bihar without any delay to investigate into the causes of the disease and to take steps to eradicate the disease after ascertaining the causes for the same. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): I want to raise a point of order Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Kundu, what is your point of order? Which rule has been violated?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Every-day the Prime Minister is bringing new things.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am not allowing a discussion on this. My ruling is clear.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

*SHRI C.K. KUPPUSAMY (Coimbatore): Hon. Speaker, Sir, with the imminence of war in Gulf, several families belonging to Tamil Nadu and employed in Kuwait have fled that country to India. They have come by motor transport. They do not have any further money. They do not have petrol for performing further journey. These Tamil families have been languishing in Delhi in inclement weather for the past several days. Their lives have to be saved. This is my humble demand in this august House. These

families are permanently resident at Trichy, Tirupur, Tindivanam, Thanjavur, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli. They have to travel a long distance to their native places. This Government should provide necessary financial assistance to these families. These Tamil families are having the currency of Kuwait and this Government is not helping them with Indian currency in exchange. I, therefore, once again urge upon this august House to safeguard the interest of the Tamils and their honour. I had been in this House last time and I am here for the second time now and I would therefore request the Prime Minister and the Government to rush necessary assistance to these hapless Tamil families who have fled Kuwait.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Yesterday in the BAC it was decided that we would have, after the price rise discussion today, tomorrow discussion on Punjab and the day after discussion on the Gulf situation. In today's newspaper we have seen comments that financial emergency under article 360 may come into being essentially because of the Gulf situation, the crisis in the Gulf and its impact on the economy.

Mr. Speaker, it concerns not only the Government but you also. I have already brought it to the notice of the Government on the floor of this House through you that the Gulf situation is extremely serious; a war is on the anvil anything may break out; the economic catastrophe and also the environmental damage may take place. On the world as well as the Indian economy in terms actually what is going to happen, we wanted to have a statement from the Government. No statement has come forth. In the BAC it was decided to have the discussion on the Gulf situation immediately after the discussion on Punjab. However, the BAC report has kept it last and it would not reach. So I would request the Speaker and the House that we take up the discussion on the Gulf crisis first and ensure that the Government

makes a statement on the situation. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am seeing your raised hands. I would give opportunity to everybody. Shri Nathu Singh.

SHRI NATHU SINGH (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the world is passing through a very grave crisis. According to press reports America has decided to attack Iraq on the 30th January. Iraq has also alerted its forces and also threatened to set the oil wells on fire. Such a situation has never arisen before. If that happens and war breaks out, a situation would be created in the world that never happened before, not even during the second world war. A few days ago, the Iraqi foreign Minister had come here and met the Prime Minister. As this House is in session, this House and the country want to know what role India is playing being the leader of the non-aligned countries, as our economic and many other interests are affected by this situation. In view of the oil crisis being faced by India, I would like to know what initiative has been taken by the country and its Prime Minister to avert this war? The House should be informed in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, we have already expressed the feelings of the people of Kerala. We are representing a State from where about two million people are working in the Gulf. When the Kuwait issue came up here, the previous Government has taken initiative and evacuated more than one lakh people from Kuwait. Now, the situation is more worse and if something happens in Kuwait in the near future, it will adversely affect the people of Kerala more than anyone in any other State in the country. Kerala people are facing more problems. From my locality, one person from each house/family is working in Saudi Arabia. If war breaks out, it will adversely affect all of them. I request that the Government should

You cannot say like that.

(Interruptions)

Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

I am not accepting the cassette.

(Interruptions)

Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are not required either to bring or to play the cassette.

(Interruptions)

No, I am not permitting.

(Interruptions)

I cannot do that.

(Interruptions)

I would request Mr. Dinesh Singh, who is a senior Member of the Congress Party. This is the scene that can be created every second in the House.

*(Interruptions)**

13.27 hrs.

At this stage, Shri R. Muthiah and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

[*Translation*]

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH (Patiala): Mr.

Speaker Sir, due to rise in the water level of Tagri river in the Devigarh block of my constituency, 46 villages of the Munrehari area are threatened by floods. The roads and crops have already submerged. Roads and crops in more than 26 villages of Deva-Bassi block have also submerged due to flooding of the Ghaggar river. I request the Government that proper arrangements such as construction of drains for flushing out water diversion of water etc., may kindly be made immediately to control the recurring floods in these rivers. Tagri and Ghaggar rivers which enter Punjab from Haryana should be properly bunded to control the floods.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you reading. There is no need to read you are an old Member, speak whenever you want to say.

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: We are not allowed by the Members to speak. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly speak, do not read.

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker sir, more than 46 villages in the Devigarh block have been submerged. Crops and roads have also been damaged due to floods. Likewise, flood waters of the Ghaggar River have entered more than 26 villages in the Deravati block and crops have been damaged. I request the Government to make proper arrangements to control floods which cause damage in these areas every year. Drains should be constructed in both these areas to divert the water flowing from Haryana into Punjab and proper bunding of these river should be done.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI C. SRINIVASAN (Dindigul): Sir, this a very serious problem. You please direct the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to reply to our point.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not direct him.
Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR
(Bikaner): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a newspaper in which a newsreport has come that the terrorists in Punjab have threatened the irrigation Department officials with dire consequences and punishment if they release water into the canals such as Rajasthan canal, Gang canal and Bhakhra canals irrigating 40 lakh acres of land in Rajasthan. A 'diktal' to this effect has been issued.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to point out that it is a serious matter. The activities of the terrorists used to be very limited i.e. these were limited to killing of some people. But now they are issuing 'diktats'. I want to make one thing very clear that these terrorists are neither connected with the Sikhs nor with others but they are colluding with Pakistan and imperialist forces to hatch conspiracies to spread unrest. Sir, lakhs of people not only of Rajasthan but also of Haryana would be affected where lakhs of Sikhs are also living. If Government do not take it seriously and take effective action against them, results could be anticipated. If water is not released in the canals for 5-10 days, it would have adverse effect. Keeping this in view, I would request that their activities should be checked. Sometimes, they issue 'diktats' against the use of Hindi and sometimes against some other aspects. I warn that a very grave situation would be created as a result of it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kataria, I am not allowing you. Please do not rise time and again. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nathu Singhji, please sit down. Shri Makkasarji, Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA
(Udaipur): Mr. Speaker Sir, There is, in fact, an acute scarcity of water in Rajasthan. Rajasthan canal was constructed after great efforts over long years and huge expenditure of at least 2,000 crores of rupees. But with the increase in the terrorist activities during the last ten years, the terrorists have always been threatening and also harming the interests of Rajasthan. Rajasthan has not been getting the quantum of water as per the 1981 agreement and that water was used and is being used forcibly by them on the plea that it would not be utilised in Rajasthan. After the agreement of 1981, another agreement was entered into in 1984 but Government have never safeguarded the interests of Rajasthan under pressure.

A few days ago, the terrorists have again threatened that water would not be given to Rajasthan. If Rajasthan is not given water, the people there would have to face great difficulties and the State would be adversely affected, 30 years were spent on the construction of Rajasthan canal. I request that Government should pay attention to this problem as the terrorists have threatened the Irrigation Department officials. The Headworks are under the control of Punjab and if water is not released from the Headworks, the people of Rajasthan would have to face hardships. Government should take stern action against the terrorists and ensure supply of water to Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Indrajit Gupta.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NATHU SINGH: There is an acute shortage of water in Rajasthan. People are facing acute water crisis.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nathu Singh, please sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, I am only making a small submission... (*Interruptions*) I was just seeking your guidance because the House is going to adjourn day after tomorrow. You yourself had agreed... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, we all have every sympathy with the Members coming from Rajasthan. They have raised a matter which is naturally agitating not only them but it will agitate other people also. The Minister should have simply said that they are looking into the matter and they will see to it that the interest of Rajasthan is safeguarded. But he does not say anything. He did not utter a single word.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Two Cabinet Ministers are present here.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Anyway, the submission that I was making was about Punjab. Two days are left. Some important, unprecedented talks have taken place between the Prime Minister and Mr. Mann. You had agreed in principle that we should have a discussion on it. The BAC has not fixed any time and any date for discussion on Punjab and this House will adjourn without knowing what happened between the two. You must fix up a date and we must have a discussion on Punjab.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We have three more days. Then we would have a...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH (Hardwar): Mr.

Speaker, I want to bring it to the notice of this House that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shri Nawaz Sharif has been repeatedly making such statements which amount to interfering in the international affairs of India. He has recently stated that Pakistan would continue extending its support to the extremists of Kashmir. This is a direct intervention in our affairs. Despite repeated provocative statements by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Government of India has not expressed any resentment to Pakistan in strong terms. I would like to tell to the Government that despite open challenge by Pakistan by making such provocative statements, we have no courage to warn her that she will have to face dire consequences in case she does not mend her ways. The Government of India should take firm stand against Pakistan at national or international level so that Pakistan could not dare to interfere in our internal affairs in Punjab or Kashmir.

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge upon the Government of India that more than 8 lakh Gujars and more than 1 lakh Godis residing in Jammu and Kashmir State should be declared as Scheduled Castes. Himachal Pradesh is a hilly state and it has common border with Jammu and Kashmir Gujars and Bukarwals have already been declared Scheduled Tribes in that state. They are great patriots and during 1965 Indo-Pak War at the time of infiltration by Pakistanis Shri Moli showed rare bravery and he was awarded Padamshri. I would like to say that Gujars and Godis residing in J & K should be declared Scheduled Tribes as they have been declared in Himachal Pradesh. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter due to which our country..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be silent.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Our country as well as our neighbouring country Nepal

have to suffer great damage. A project report for constructing the highest dam in the world i.e. Kosi dam was submitted by our State in 1981... (*Interruptions*) Since then unprecedented floods has affected our State in 1988 and 1987 also. The people residing in the Tarai areas of Nepal and also those in North Bihar have been badly affected by flood and drought. They are facing power crisis. 30 lakhs KW electricity could be generated by one dam only. 70 lakh KW electricity would be generated in total by all the dams on Kosi river. I have written to the Government of India in 1974 that it would not be possible for us to utilise this electricity. I would like to submit that political change has recently taken place in Nepal and the new Government that has assumed office there will take up welfare measures for the development of that country, and it is not within the means of that country to take developmental measures of their own. I would request to the Government of India that a dam be constructed on Baraha area and if the dam is constructed in that area 50 thousand cases of water could be released to Calcutta port even during the dry season of April and May and even then there will not be any water scarcity. An agreement was made for constructing dam in Bahara area on Kosi river. Nunther area on Bagmati river and in Shirapani, Paywasher and Karnali areas on Kamla river. The Government has taken no action in regard to this agreement. Execution of these project can do wonders by generating power in abundance and providing sufficient water. Nepal is not only our neighbour but a friend also. So I would like to know from the Government what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard. In case proper steps are not taken it is feared that people will resort to agitation..It was assured in 1982 by the then late Shri Kedar Pandey, the Minister of Irrigation that talks would be held on political level in this regard. But no talks have so far been held and we are pointing an accusing finger towards Nepal. I was invited by Government of Nepal in 1984 and I was their quest. When Nepal has no hesitations in holding talks, I would like the Government to make a statement.

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Formerly, the Government of India used to provide 25 percent subsidy for setting up industries in backward areas. The subsidy was stopped by Congress Government during its last days, as a result of which the industrial development of backward areas has come to a grinding halt. When this question was raised with the national front government, an assurance was given by the then Industry Minister that 25 percent subsidy would be provided for setting up industries in backward areas. But no action has been taken by the Government in this regard so far, as a result of which new industrial units are not being set up in backward areas like Himachal Pradesh and the construction of Hotels has been stopped. I would like to urge upon the Government of India to reintroduce the facility of providing 25% subsidy for industrial development of backward areas.

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an information centre of Soviet Union is functioning in Delhi in which 170 journalists have been working, out of which the services of 40 journalists have been dispensed with in an irregular manner without providing them any compensation and applying the rules of Pension and Grantuty to them. The Soviet Union which claims herself to be a progressive state is silent and the Government of India is also not exerting its pressure on that country due to political reasons. These journalists are not treated as employees of Soviet Union. Even the scales recommended by Bachchawat Commission are not applicable in this case. This state of affairs is harming the interest of a large number of journalists. If we are not out to lodge out active protest against it, the Prime Minister who stands for freedom of Press, will remain merely a Prime Minister and he won't be able to take proper care of the Press. Liko USSR, India will also...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shailendra, now it is too much. Please sit down.

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA:

I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs to this situation (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: You may see me later on when the discussion is over on this issue.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The earlier Janata Dal Government had promised autonomy for Aakashvani and Doordarshan and accordingly V.P. Singh's Government had brought this Prasar Bharti Bill to get it adopted in this House. As per the provision of the Bill, the Prasar Bharati Corporation is going to be constituted on 1st April, but to this date, Government has not taken any step to give it a concrete shape. In fact it is a conspiracy to check the constitution of this Corporation and also to deny autonomy to Aakashvani and Doordarshan. As compared to the working of Rajiv Government, it is something more shameful that a small group of people ruling this country which has not been recognised as such by your honour or by the Election Commission is being given a one sided and higher coverage on the electronic media. I would like to make a submission in this regard that since a legislation to that effect has been passed, the Government should go ahead as per its original schedule to give a concrete shape to the proposed corporation.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring an important matter to the notice of this House through you. After our independence we had decided not to have any relation with South Africa for its orthodox, racial and anti-democratic attitude. Even on a passport we cannot visit that country. But only 2-3 months back when Dr Mandela was here, he was given a warm welcome in this country. It is also appeared in the Press that recently one ex-M.P. picture Star Shri Amitabh Bachchan was on a visit of South Africa where he staged a number of programmes in Johansberg and

Durban. So I would like to know whether there has been a change in our foreign policy and whether Indian citizens can now visit that country. If that people like Shri Amitabh Bachchan, Shreedevi and Kalyanjee Anandji have visited that country in violation of the law of this land with which we do not have any trade, industrial and cultural relations, they should be strictly dealt with and their passports should be impounded by the Government. The Government should also come out with a statement to indicate whether there has been a change in our foreign policy and if not, the factual position in this regard.

[English]

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): I am raising a very serious issue. You know that recently, the GATT negotiations have been concluded as far as Uruguay Round is concerned and it did not succeed because the United States wanted to impose economic colonialism on the rest of the world. One of the architects of the American policy in GATT was its main negotiator Mrs. Carla Hills. I understand that Mrs. Carla Hills is coming to India. She has been invited by our Commerce Minister and I also have seen from the Press reports that our Commerce Minister is very much impressed by her. He has been charmed by her and I have seen some statements in the Press to that extent. My warning is that we should be careful. I want to know whether in the negotiations which will take place when she comes here, our interests are going to be compromised, or not, whether the economic sovereignty of the country will be maintained, or not. (*Interruptions*) It is a major issue. (*Interruptions*) Pepsi Co. is functioning; the multi-nationals are trying to come in. Are we to make compromises in respect of our agricultural trade policy? The multi-nationals are coming in. There is the question of intellectual property rights on which all the Third World countries have been fighting. On that, will there be a compromise? There is also the issue of multi fibre agreement, on which there are serious differences between USA and the other countries of the Third World. I would like to know, for example, whether Government is

MR. SPEAKER: No, please speak on sugar mills and not about Aligarh. I can't allow you to speak on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: The Government has already stated that a thorough enquiry will be conducted into this incident, but recently when a sitting Member of this House and the Private Secretary to the ex-Prime Minister were on a visit to Aligarh, the Sten gun of their body guard had been snatched away from him.

MR. SPEAKER: It means that you don't want to speak on sugar mills.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, during the last three months, it was on three occasions that a curfew had been clamped there.

MR. SPEAKER: You may see me tomorrow. Now please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I would like to urge upon the Government to listen to the grievances of the people who are staging a dharna here in Delhi. They are being harassed and their rights are being violated. Through you, I would like to request the Government to pay their immediate attention to this incident and also the hon'ble Minister may kindly make such an arrangement to ensure it that innocent people are not harassed and whatever is being done against them, it stopped.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already asked you to see me tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

14.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd., Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd; Coal India Ltd. for 1989-90 etc.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited for the year 1989-90.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1907/91]

(b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90.

(ii) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Li-

brary. See No. LT—1908/91]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Coal India Limited for the year 1989-90.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1909/91]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1989-90. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1910/91]

Notifications under Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, Review in the working of and Annual Reports of Madras Refineries Ltd. Madras for 1989-90, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. for 1989-90 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 31 of the Oil Industry

(Development) Act, 1974 —

- (i) The Oil Industry (Development) Amendment Rules, 1990 published in Notifications No. G.S.R. 762 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 1990

- (ii) The Oil Industry Development Board Employees' (Pension) Rules, 1990 published in Notifications No. G.S.R. 917 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 1990. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1911/91]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Madras Refineries Limited, Madras, for the year 1989-90.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Madras Refineries Limited, Madras for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1912/91]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, for the year 1989-90.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller

and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1913/91]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1914/91]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1915/91]
- (3) A copy of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Prevention of Malpractices in Supply and Distribution) Order, 1990 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 811 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 1990 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1916/91]

Notifications under Railways Act, 1989

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989:—

- (1) The Manner of Giving Open Delivery and Prescription of Partial Delivery Certificate Form Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 942(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 1990.
- (2) The Railways (Disposal of Goods not Removed from Notified Railway Stations) Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 554 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 1990.
- (3) The Railways (Punitive Charges for Overloading of Wagon) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 558 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 1990.
- (4) The Railways (Manner of Delivery of Consignments and Sale proceeds in the absence of Railway Receipt) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 595 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 1990.
- (5) The Railway Rates Tribunal (Procedure) Regulation, 1990 published in Notifications No. G.S.R. 600 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1990.
- (6) The Passengers (Changes of Names) Rules, 1990 published in Notifications No. G.S.R. 708 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1990.
- (7) The Cessation of Responsibility (after the Termination of Transit) Rules, 1990 published in Notifica-

tion No.G.S.R. 763 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 1990.

- (8) The Disposal of Consignment Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 901 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 1990.
- (9) The Weighment of Consignments (In Wagon-Load or Train-Load) Amendment Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 854 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1990.
- (10) G.S.R. 855 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1990 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 615 (E) dated the 3rd July, 1990. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1917/91]

Coal Mines (Amendment) Regulations, 1990 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): On behalf of Shri Ramji Lal Suman I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy of the Coal Mines (Amendment) Regulations, 1990 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 550 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1990 under section 61A of the Mines Act, 1952.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1918/91]

Reviews on the working of and Annual Reports of National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Ltd. for 1989-90 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO

DHAKANE): I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1919/91]
 - (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited, for the year 1989-90.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1920/91]
 - (c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, for the year 1989-90.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Power Finance Corporation Limited for the year 1989-90 along with Au-

dated Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1921/91]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1989-90.
- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1922/91]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of Section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1988-89.
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1923/91]

14.03 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Second Report

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 3 P.M.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till fifteen of the clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fifteen of the Clock

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN *in the Chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Maheshwar Singh.

STATEMENTS UNDER DIRECTION 115

Re. Reply to USQ No. 4055 dated 4.9.1990 on Acquisition of land in Himachal Pradesh for Military Transit Camp

[English]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I rise to make a statement under Direction 115 as under:—

I had addressed unstarred question No.

[Sh. Maheshwar Singh]

4055 to the Prime Minister on 9 April, 1990 and the reply to this question given by the then Minister of State in the Minister of Defence is not based on facts. In his reply, the Hon'ble Minister had stated that Government had not issued any notification regarding acquisition of land and therefore, the question of giving any compensation to the farmers does not arise. But it is a fact that the Defence Ministry had initially expressed its willingness to acquire 150 acres of land to set up a Transit Camp in Phati Barua and Phati Palchan, Kothi Manali, Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, but later on after visiting the site, the Ministry in its high level meeting decided to acquire the land of farmers—372.16 Bigha in Phati Barua and 11 Bigha 3 Binswan in Phati Palchan. This decision was taken by the Defence Ministry after inspecting the sites and selecting the locations for this purpose.

Thereafter, Himachal Pradesh Government had initiated action through Divisional Commissioner, Mandi on 13.10.1988 for acquisition of land under section 4 and the officers of the Defence Ministry immediately acquired the land of poor farmers-38 Bigha and 11 Binswan land in Phati Barua and 11 Bigha 3 Binswan land in Phati, ruined the standing crops, apple orchard etc. The Defence Ministry officials had assured the farmers that Government would soon compensate them fully. After having the assessment of the loss of crops, Revenue officers submitted the complete case to the Defence Ministry.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh issued the notice under section 4 on 28 October, 1989 and its copy was handed over at Station Headquarters, Palampur. Thereafter, Station Headquarter, Palampur officer inspected this area during 2 to 4 May, 1990 and said that till the land acquisition process is completed, Ministry of Defence would pay the ground rent of this land. The revenue officers again handed over the full relevant records to Station Headquarter, Palampur on 4 May, 1990. On June 1, 1990 the same

officer again visited the site and a meeting of the Board was held on 2 June at Palchan. But it is a matter of regret that till date the farmers have not been paid even a single penny. Before the land acquisition by the army, a temporary bridge was used to be constructed every year on Beas river between Phati Barua and Palchan by the Forest Department in order to facilitate farmers to have access to their land but now this bridge has been constructed by the army and army officers do not permit local farmers and other persons to use this bridge. As a result of which, farmers are facing difficulties even in ploughing their respective fields. The army has used bulldozers in the land acquired by them and has thrown all the garbage into the fields of the farmers resulting in destroying the adjoining fields of the farmers. No action has been taken till now on the repeated requests made by the local people in this regard.

Therefore, I request Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene in this matter and ensure justice to these poor farmers without any delay.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJOY SINGH): Sir, I rise, with your permission, to make a statement of facts and clarifications in response to Hon'ble Shri Maheshwar Singh's statement.

Due to operational necessity, 49 Bighas 11 Biswas of land was occupied by the Army at Palchan in July, 1988. This fact has not been suppressed. There has been no intention, at any stage, of misleading the Hon'ble Member.

The proposal for the acquisition of land measuring 76.9348 acres of private land (which includes 49 Bighas and 11 Biswas of land already occupied) and transfer of 155.05 acres of State Government land for the establishment of a Military Transit Camp at Palchan was at a preliminary stage at the time when the Question asked by the Hon'ble Member was answered in the Lok Sabha. At that time, and even till today, sanction for the

acquisition of the subject land has not been issued.

It is clarified that the process of acquisition of land for Defence purpose commences only after the Ministry of Defence issue sanction for the acquisition of the required land and a demand for the acquisition of the land is placed on the Collector by the concerned Defence Estates Officer. The acquisition of land in the subject case is still under the consideration of the Ministry of Defence.

It needs being clarified that the State Government of Himachal Pradesh had, in good faith, issued a Notification under Section 4 of the LA Act, without awaiting issue of Government of India's sanction in the matter. The Defence Estates Officers, Jalandhar, had requested the Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, to stop the acquisition proceedings until Ministry of Defence issued the requisite sanction.

It is confirmed for the information of the Hon. Member that the due rent will be paid from the date the land was occupied by the Army till the date it is finally acquired. The fixation and payment of rent is receiving Government's urgent attention.

As regards providing access through the rented land to the adjoining farmers, Government have asked for an immediate report and effort shall be made to provide whatever help is practically possible.

I reiterate that there has never been any attempt, at any stage, to provide incorrect information to the Hon'ble Member. It shall be ensured that the concerned farmers are duly compensated, as per law.

15.10 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eighteenth Report

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the 18th report of the Business Advisory Committee, presented to the House on the 7th January, 1991."

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have given a notice... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: But it is time barred please. You cannot move it just now.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: There is no question of time barred. Many Members have given a notice for a discussion under rule 193 about Orissa Floods, but the Business Advisory Committee has not taken it into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First of all, your notice is time barred. Secondly, you have asked for the inclusion of a new item.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): I have also given a notice, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In your case also, the Business Advisory Committee has fixed the time of the Government business. You have also raised some new point. So, it is not allowed.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: It is a motion before the House, Sir. I has gone in the form of a motion... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear me. The amendment to a motion for adoption of BAC Report could be moved to change allocation of time recommended by the Committee but new items of business could not be added through amendment.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak one by one.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, we have given a notice under rule 193 to the

[Sh. Lokanath Choudhury]

Speaker. That should be placed before the Business Advisory Committee. So, when the list of business comes, we have a right to know why our business has not been taken up. It is not a new item. The notice has been duly submitted.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Parliamentary Affairs Minister must tell this House, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: See your, representative was in the Business Advisory Committee. It was not raised there. What can I do now?

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I should know, Sir, where I am to raise it. I have given a notice to the Speaker. Either the Speaker should say that it is rejected... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: But every notice will not be accepted by the Business Advisory Committee. You are a senior Member, you must know all these things...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your objection, Mr. Kumaramangalam?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Report that is submitted before this House, they have listed four important subjects for discussion under rule 193, but unfortunately, the priorities have been set out. In the Committee meeting, I understand that the priority was: first price rise, then Punjab, then Gulf and then Bofors. But now what has happened is in the Report they have put Bofors ahead of Gulf. In the morning I had mentioned when Mr. Speaker, was in the Chair—the necessity to ensure that Gulf comes up for discussion and, therefore, the question is that the original situation of Gulf being third be maintained. That is all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is right, Mr.

Kumaramangalam. Here you can move amendments only for the fixation of time. That is all. You cannot move amendments for the inclusion of new subjects.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No, that is not new subject. It is the question of priority of subject. I repeat, it is not a new subject. I am not discussing a new subject, I am talking of what has been actually accepted. That is an error in the Report. I am not bringing up a new subject. I am saying that what has been put as item 5 should have been item 4, and what has been put as item 4 should have been item 5 in so far as Matters to be discussed under Rule 193 are concerned.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about submission under Rule 377, Sir?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, the Leaders have taken this decision in the Business Advisory Committee. Even then, about the point raised by Shri Kumaramangalam, I have no objection.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, this is not the private business of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. We have given notice to the Speaker. So, when the matter under Rule 193 were discussed, you should have placed it before the Business Advisory Committee, because we find that in Orissa there is a serious situation. We wanted a discussion. The Government has not given money and the people are living under the sky. We wanted a discussion here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is right, but this is not the proper forum.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: This is the proper forum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you cannot raise it like this.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: We are accepting your motion in which we are approving what are all the items to be discussed. This is the only forum Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRILOKANATHCHOUDHURY: Then why this motion is before the House? When the motion has come, I have the right to move an amendment to include it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may understand that he cannot move an amendment for inclusion of a new subject.

SHRILOKANATHCHOUDHURY: I can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you cannot. That is why I read the rule. You cannot raise that. It is not admissible.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: No, Sir, it should be approved for inclusion. It is a motion. I will give my dissent to the motion otherwise. I have the right to demand a division.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not admissible, how can you do it? Your amendment was not admitted, then how can you move that amendment here?

(Interruptions)

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wanted to refer to the suggestion given by Mr. Kumaramangalam. Actually I was present in the Meeting of the Business Advisory Committee and whatever transpired there has been reported to the House correctly. So, the question about Gulf was to be discussed on 8th i.e., on the last day—it was decided unanimously in the Meeting—and Bofors will be discussed before that. So, whatever transpired in the Business Advisory Committee has been rightly reported. Please accept it as it is. And it is not a question whether the Parliamentary Affairs Minister wants it or not. It is a question as to whether it was decided unanimously

in the Meeting, and it was unanimously decided.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a difference between the two amendments by two hon. Members. He is demanding for inclusion of a new subject which is not in the Business Advisory Committee Report. So, it is not at all admissible. The hon. Member may understand it.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I subject it would be admissible, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRILOKANATHCHOUDHURY: How can that not be admissible?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I read the rule.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: No, Sir. It is a motion before the House. *(Interruptions)* There is a motion before the House to agree. We have the right to give our amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not here. I will again read it. The Member may kindly hear.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I have heard it, I know the rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then why do you say this?

SHRILOKANATHCHOUDHURY: That is not the case. We are saying about a subject which has been given notice of and which has not been included. The Business Advisory Committee has not agreed to consider it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then how can you raise that amendment which is not admissible? You agreed that it is not admissible. Then how can you proceed? Why do you waste the time of the House.

MR. LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, when he has moved a motion before the House, that means the House has to pass it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I have read that decision. You cannot move an amendment to include a new subject. That is the ruling.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: No, Sir. You put the motion, I will demand a division.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): When it is not admissible, how can he ask for a division?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not that. He will ask for division on the motion moved by the Minister. That is what he says.

Now, the question is:

"That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th January, 1991."

The motion was adopted

15.20 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

(i) **Need to develop Azhikkal port in Cannanore district, Kerala**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA - CHANDRAN (Cannanore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Azhikkal Port in Cannanore district of Kerala which admitted sailing vessels of 300 tonnes capacity as early as 1920 and which handled coastal cargo to the extent of 30,000 tonnes during 1955-60, has since been neglected.

The Azhikkal Port is at the mouth of the Valapattanam river which is the deepest

river on the Kerala coast lying between the major ports of Mangalore and Cochin.

This port has various advantages like proximity to the broad gauge railway line and the National Highway and its natural location which make it possible to develop it as an all weather port.

Lengthening of the dock, dredging, providing drinking water facilities, electric cranes etc. are some of the immediate requirements to develop this Port.

In view of the importance of the location of the Azhikkal port, which can greatly help the farmers of the hill in North Malabar and the fishermen etc. to export their produce more easily, I request the Honourable Minister for Surface Transport to give top priority for the development of this port.

(ii) **Need to develop Tadoba National Park in Chandrapur and Markanda Temple in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, as tourist spots**

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tadoba National Park in Chandrapur district and Markanda in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra State deserve to be the tourist spots of all India and international importance.

Tadoba National Park has a scenic beauty and is rich in variety of wild life. Tourists would also enjoy the Markanda Temple which has a reputed unique Hemadpanthy architecture. Both the spots are unique and capable of earning rare foreign exchange.

I request the Government of India to develop these tourist spots as of all India importance and provide all the required infrastructural facilities. I also urge the Government of India to direct the Government of Maharashtra to provide necessary funds to do the needful.

(iii) **Need to settle pending cases of Freedom Fighters' pension expeditiously**

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many applications for Freedom Fighters' pension from the Central Government are pending with the Home Ministry. There is usually delay in sanctioning these cases. There is a great discontentment among the freedom fighters as a result of the delay. The Central Government should enquire into the delay and settle the freedom fighters' pension cases recommended by the State Government at the earliest.

(iv) **Need to include Manipuri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution**

PROF. N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rising national consensus in favour of the inclusion of Manipuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution does not need re-emphasis. As to justification, Manipuri is the official language of the State of Manipur. It is the medium of instruction and examination upto XII class in Manipur. Manipuri has been the language of administration and the judiciary for the State of Manipur for thousands of years still the British annexation of Manipur in 1891 and continued more or less in the same position upto Manipur's merger with the Indian Union in 1949. It is the mother tongue of more than two million people in Manipur mainland and Manipuris in Assam and Tripura. It has been recognised as a developed modern India language by the Sahitya Academy. It has an ancient script of its own and has rich ancient medieval, modern and contemporary literatures particularly in the modern and contemporary spheres, original writing comprising novels, stories, essays, criticisms poems, history of literature and drama. In the sphere of translation it has covered the Mahabharata, Ramayana, Puranas, Upanishads, Smritis, Shremad Bhagwat Gita, the Bible and leading Bengali, Hindi and English works, International agreements till 1891 were signed in Manipuri by Manipur Kings. The Government is requested to take

early steps to amend the Constitution to fulfil the long standing demand.

(v) **Need to withdraw the increase in excise and customs duty on man-made fibre yarn**

SHRI KASHIRAM CHHABILDAS RANA (Surat): Sir, the recent increase in excise and customs duty on man-made fibre yarn is likely to dislocate the entire textile industry in Surat resulting in a loss of revenue in form of excise and customs duty to the Government. This would also effect more than three lakh workers engaged in twenty thousand small powerloom units and ancillary units. Surat and surrounding South Gujarat region is the biggest centre for art silk and weaving industry in India, where more than 195 thousand powerlooms are working, producing about 45 lakh metres of cloth per day.

Textile policy, 1985 *inter alia* stipulates reduction of taxation on man-made fibre yarn. Abid Hussain Committee has also supported this contention. In 1988, the then Finance Minister had reduced the excise duty. Besides, the last meeting of N.D.C. consented to transfer an additional excise duty to yarn from fabric.

I urge upon the Government to withdraw the present decision, which has an adverse effect on the industry.

(vi) **Need to bring Pay-scales and other facilities of Anganwadi workers' at par with those of Government employees**

[Translation]

SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Central Government towards Child Development Projects being run in the country. The condition of the Anganwadi workers and 'Sahayikas' working in these projects is becoming miserable day by day. In my constituency, Mohanlalganj, Lucknow and in its

[Sh. Sarju Prasad Saroj]

development blocks, Sarojini Nagar, Malhihabad, Purva, Auras and in Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country, they are not getting the full supplies of medicines, biscuits other edible items. Under the scheme, people from high castes get 50% reservation and backward castes and Scheduled Castes are getting 25% reservation each, whereas high castes should get only 40% reservation and backward castes and Scheduled Castes each should be given 30% reservation.

The Anganwadi workers are considered honorary workers and they get Rs. 275/- to Rs. 325/- only and 'Sahayikas' get only Rs. 110/- per month. As against this, the employees working in the Children Development Project are considered as Government employees.

The Government has merely given assurances so far for increase in the salary of the Anganwadi workers and no concrete steps have been taken in this regard. The Government instead of increasing their salaries, has all along been saying that these workers get honorarium, which is not a correct reply. The Government should pay special attention for the upliftment of the women working in Anganwadis so that their economic and social level is raised.

The Government has recently celebrated the Girl-Child Day. How can Anganwadi workers and 'Sahayikas' develop the life of the girls properly when meagre amount is being paid to them.

I, therefore, demand from the Central Government that Anganwadi workers and 'Sahayikas' should immediately be given the status of Government Employees and they should be given the pay-scales and facilities being provided to the Primary Teachers.

(vii) **Need to name some street/road/lane in Delhi after Gopabandhu Das, Shri Madhusudan Das and Shri Krushna Chandra Gajapati Deo, the eminent of Orissa**

[English]

SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO (Aska): Sir, Delhi is not only a metropolitan city but also the Capital of India and the seat of Government. It symbolises the national integration of the country. Many streets, roads, lanes have been named after persons of eminence belonging to different States. Though many streets have been named after national leaders, men of letters and leading personalities in different spheres, no such roads have been named after eminent persons belonging to Orissa.

The Government is requested to name any street, road or line after the name of three of Orissa's illustrious sons, namely Gopabandhu Das, Madhusudan Das and Krushna Chandra Gajapathi Deo.

(viii) **Need for early completion of Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kerala**

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasargod): Sir, there is slow progress of work at Naval Academy in Ezhimala Kerala.

Thousands of acres of fertile and valuable land has been acquired and thousands of people have been evacuated from this area by spending crores of rupees. But, the progress of the work is slow which causes great anxiety in the minds of the people.

Except construction of compound wall and posting of guards, no work is presently going on at that place.

It is absolutely necessary to complete the work of Naval Academy so that Naval Academy starts functioning in Ezhimala, Kerala immediately.

- (ix) **Need to issue licences for setting up huller machines for the benefit of Bhurjee Community**

15.31 hrs.

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER AND OTHER ELECTION COMMISSIONERS (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) BILL

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 377 I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very important matter.

Bhurjee Community has been declared an extremely backward class by Uttar Pradesh Government. It has a population of 5 lakh. The people of this community are residing in every State of the country but their condition is miserable everywhere.

They are engaged in petty hawking and sell baked rice, 'parmal', Chuda', 'chabena', 'sattu' etc for their livelihood. The community is economically, socially and educationally in a pitiable condition.

As a result of different Central and State policies, it has become difficult for them to earn their livelihood. If some concrete steps are not taken by the Government of India and State Governments, the community is bound to perish in near future.

Their earnings are mainly dependent on paddy, which is a victim of complex rules and laws. Mini modern plants have been installed in the urban areas for the purpose to hulling. The people of this community mainly live in the urban areas but they being very poor are not in a position to install mini plants as such installation requires 20 times more investment than the installing of huller machines. Installing of huller machines is prohibited in the urban areas.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to save this community from perishing. A social, economic and educational survey should be made and they be allowed to install huller machines in certain particular areas. They should also be given different concessions and facilities for the protection of their traditional business.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further consideration of the Bill, Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill. Shri L.K. Advani will speak.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Sir, I rise to support the Bill that has been presented to the House and which the hon. Minister of Law has moved for consideration of the House.

This Bill provides that the Chief Election Commissioner shall in terms of salaries and conditions of service would be equated to the judge of the Supreme Court. There are other Election Commissioners on the Election Commission. They would be equally treated in terms of salaries and conditions of service to the judges of the High Courts.

While moving this Bill for consideration, the hon. Minister had recapitulated the course of events which had led to the introduction of this Bill. The hon. Minister has recalled the All Party Conference which was convened by the prime Minister shortly after the elections were held, then the formation of a Committee on electoral law in which various parties were represented and on which I also had the privilege of serving and pointed out that following the submission of a report by that Committee, four Bills have been introduced in Parliament, three in the other House and one in this House. Several recommendations were made in order to ensure that the Election Commission becomes independent and more empowered to discharge its duties under the Constitution. Some of those recommendations needed a simple law. Other recommendations needed an amendment to the Constitution. Out of the four bills that have been introduced in Parliament, two of the Bills relate to the Election

[Sh. L.K. Advani]

Commission. One is this specific Bill that is being considered at the moment and the other is the Constitution (70th Amendment) Bill which has also been introduced in Parliament but about which till now I have no inkling as to what the Government proposes to do. I am of the view that it would have been better if both the Bills had been taken up together. Or, at least the intentions of the Government were known. After all, there can be no exception to this particular Bill. But I would think it is even more imperative to make the Election Commission independent. There should be a provision of an independent Secretariat as has been provided to the Parliament; provision of an infrastructure which makes it to discharge its functions and obligations more effectively. In fact, the second Bill provides for it. The Constitution (Seventieth) Amendment Bill provides for an independent Secretariat. Then that Bill which I have with me also says something which an hon. Member of this House has said. He has moved an amendment to this Bill. Shri Banatwalla is not here. But when he spoke, he spoke on the need to ensure that once a person is appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner, thereafter he is under no obligation to any Executive officer or any Executive post. Therefore, he has pleaded that he should not be eligible for any post after he ceases to occupy the post of the Chief Election Commissioner. This is one of the crucial recommendant made by the Committee on Electoral Reforms. I find that the Seventieth Amendment Bill incorporates this Bill when it says:

"The Chief Election Commissioner or other Election Commissioners shall not be eligible for further office under the Government of India or under the Government of any State or for the office of the Governor of a State or the Administrator of a Union Territory after he has ceased to hold his office."

Sir, I feel that while this particular Bill certainly strengthens the Election Commission, certainly strengthens its independence,

there is need to go beyond and particularly I am keen about these two provisions. There is another provision also in that particular Bill—the 70th Amendment Bill—which makes it obligatory for the Government—before appointing the Chief Election Commissioner—to consult the Speaker of the House, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition or the Leader of the biggest party in the House if the Leader of the Opposition is not there. That also is part of the recommendations of the Committee on Electoral Reforms.

Today, while endorsing this particular Bill I have two questions to pose to the hon. Law Minister. The first question is: What is his stand on the other two Bills? In the case of one bill he has already mentioned in his opening remarks and I am aware of it that one Bill has been referred to a Joint Select Committee which is the Representation of the people (Amendment) Bill. That has been referred to a Joint Select Committee. It will come before this House. We would have an occasion to give our comments on that when the Bill comes here. These two Constitution Amendment Bills which I have got as vital to strengthen the Electoral processes are the Seventieth Amendment Bill and the Seventy-first Amendment Bill. One of them refers to the powers of the Election Commission; refers to the mode in which it is to be constituted refers to the need for a separate and independent Secretariat for it. The second one—the Seventy-first Amendment which is also very important though not related directly to the Election Commission but it has a very vital bearing on the electoral process is the question of delimitation of constituencies—the Seventy-first Amendment—and which is long overdue. The last delimitation of constituencies in India took place after the 1971 census. There has been no delimitation after that. A third census since the 1971 census is on presently. We are still having constituencies in India and the Members of the Lok Sabha and of the Assemblies are elected on the basis of the 1971 census. A large number of changes have taken place since then. Our Committee on Electoral Reforms have recommended that even though the total

strength of the House may not be varied and the situation as provided remains frozen in terms of numbers, delimitation of constituencies must necessarily take place. It has recommended that in respect of Scheduled Caste Constituencies, there ought to be a rotation of constituencies so that areas which have not had the opportunity of electing Scheduled Caste representatives could be given that opportunity and simultaneously, in areas from which non-scheduled Caste representatives have not been elected for a long time may be given an opportunity to elect those. These are part of the Seventy-First Constitution Amendment which has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. I would like to know from the Government when the Minister answers to this debate on which there is near unanimity as to what it proposes to do about those vital amendments.

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy to participate in the debate about the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners Bill 1990. Since the Election Commission is an independent and autonomous body, the chief of that body must be given some kind of a status. That is why we have taken up this Bill. I appreciate and also welcome the features of this Bill because it is very essential and necessary to see that the status of the Chief Election Commissioner must be raised and also kept equivalent to the Chief Justice of the country.

Second thing is, the scope also must be increased. When we are giving such a kind of good status and independence to him, we have to see that his scope also is increased. Nowadays, we are conducting lot of elections to our assemblies as also to Parliament. Even elections to panchayat and cooperatives are also taking place in our country. Therefore, when such elections are taking place, it is important to increase the scope of it because these are the organisations which we have to strengthen at the grassroot level. For that, the Chief Election Commissioner and his secretariat must have the jurisdiction over it. That is my suggestion.

Yesterday, some of our Members mentioned about the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Seshan. As Advani ji has said, once he assumes office, he is not responsible to anyone, he has to act independently. And Shri Seshan is also a good administrator. He occupied many positions and he served to satisfy the Members. Yesterday it was said, whether he was having any qualification, whether he had learnt law and so many things. We must not insist on such things as he should have studied law. If he knows, it is good. It is the same National Front Government which appointed him as a Member of the Planning Commission. When they had no doubt about his capability and capacity, now there is not need to worry about this capacity. He has already assumed his office. Therefore, I hope, he will work up to the expectations of the Members of Parliament and other legislative bodies. I hope, under his leadership, we can do a lot of things for the country.

As I already mentioned, these elections to cooperative societies and panchayats are also very important. Most of the Members criticise about how the State Governments are running—not only in one State but in very many States. It is because political parties criticise if some other party is ruling in their States. Here, I want to mention about what has happened in our State especially about the elections to cooperatives; and how the State Government dealt with it. It is a very serious thing. I bring to the notice of the Minister that there was rigging in the elections to cooperatives. There are many malpractices. Recently, elections to milk cooperative society took place. They never allowed the voters to go and vote for in the elections. I am telling about Tamilnadu. When we are criticising some States, when there is a criticism, we have to see that the Election Commissioner takes note of it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): All along is this happening there?

DR. THAMBI DURAI: This has happened recently. Some members are criticising West Bengal and you are criticising some

[Dr. Thamb Durai]

other States. In Tamilnadu recently when cooperative elections took place, most of the results were not according to the wishes of its members. That is why I am requesting that when you are giving so much powers and status and strengthening the Election Commissioner you have to see that his jurisdiction also includes Panchayat and Co-operative elections.

Regarding delimitation of the constituency, Mr. Advani has already said and I also join with him to add that in 1971 we had taken the census and based on that only the constituencies were delimited. We have to revise the whole thing, especially the reserved constituencies must be given on rotation basis, so that other areas also must get an opportunity to elect reserved candidates who want to contest. Therefore I request that this must be taken note of seriously and hope that the Election Commissioner will take care of that.

There is nothing more to add because this is a small Bill and the scope of the debate is also limited. I would request through you the hon. Minister to take note of all the suggestions that I have made in this House. I hope that he will do it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill. It is an ordinary Bill in which provision has been made that the salary and pension of the Chief Election Commissioner will be equal to that of the Judge of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor General, and salary and pension of the Election Commissioner will be equal to that of a Judge of a High Court. There is no Election Commissioner presently, although provision has been made for the same. When our Party was in power, we had appointed two Election Commissioners because we were of the view that Chief Electioner Commissioner alone cannot supervise and control the elections in such a vast country.

As soon as we came to know that Panchayat elections were going to be held in Tamilnadu, we stated that those will be held under the supervision of the Election Commissioners. But it is a matter of regret that when National Front Government was formed, they, with the support of the Bhartiya Janata Party and left Parties, removed both the Election Commissioners. When you are providing for the salaries and pensions of the Election Commissioners, they should be appointed also. At present there is no Chief Election Commissioner. You should, therefore, immediately appoint two Election Commissioners. It has rightly been said that their Secretariat will be independent. No employees from the States should be appointed on deputation in that Secretariat. This Bill should have been more comprehensive because during the elections a lot of bungling is resorted to. The Only way available to us for redressal is to file petitions. We should find out some other mechanism also for the redressal of the grievances and the House should decide about this. Though the political parties profess that religion and politics should not be mixed—even otherwise there is no relation between politics and religion—yet at the time of elections, no one acts upon this. When we were in power, we had stopped publicity and propaganda by the religious institutions during the elections and we did not allow misuse of religion for the purpose of elections. But this is not being acted upon at present. During elections, the sentiments of the people are stopped in the name of religion. Speeches full of religious frenzy are made and the entire election campaign is done on the basis of religion and religious flags are hoisted in the election meetings. Therefore, what is needed is an independent Election Commissioner and Secretariat. I want that if during the elections any political party or candidate misuses religion for withing in the elections, the concerned political party or the candidate should be declared disqualified during the election itself. The Election Commissioner should also be empowered to cancel the election if large scale rigging takes place in any State. We have the examples of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh before us and we have also seen what has happened recently in Meham. These provisions will

have to be made by us. In order to remove the influence of muscle power and money power from the elections and also to hold elections in a responsible manner, provision should be made for consultation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Speaker in the matter of appointment of the Election Commissioner so that the person appointed as Election Commissioner enjoys the confidence of all the political parties as well as the people. We will be able to do his work independently and the elections will be fair and free. The elections should be fought properly in which every one should get money. I demand that two Election Commissioners should be appointed.

[*English*]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I rise to support, by and large, the Bill, which is under discussion today. There are certain reservations also. (*Interruptions*) I do not know whether he is perfectly understanding it or not. Sir, while the hon. Minister was making the speech, he has referred to the point that this Bill is a part of the total electoral reforms of the country. There are four Bills pending and I do not like to repeat it. Naturally it is expected that the hon. Minister will explain as to what is the Government's intention with regard to the three other Bills which are pending in the other House. If he explains, it will be very convenient for us to know the intention of the Government. Since it is a part of electoral reforms, I think, the hon. Minister will take note of what we really mean by electoral reforms. It is not only the four Bills, which have already been introduced and one is being considered, constitute the entire gamut of the electoral reforms which is needed by the country today. I will just point out certain points which the Government should take into account, before formulating a comprehensive policy regarding electoral reforms. The main objective of this electoral reform is to be the democratisation of the electoral process as a whole. Secondly, there is another objective of the electoral reform and that is the immunisation of election process from any kind of vitiation.

Thirdly, unless there is the question of delinking of election from money and muscle power. I think, there is no content in having an election free from any vitiation. All these things are part of the electoral reforms.

One hon. Member has rightly pointed out the question of delinking of election from communalism. If certain political parties approach the electorate on the basis of communal frenzy and communal demands, I think, the secular and democratic fabric of our nation is in jeopardy. Therefore, why do you speak and why do you think in terms of total electoral reforms, if you cannot just keep aside these very important issues?

There is another issue which is also related to the electoral reforms and that is the role of the media. The role of the media means, the role of the print media and also the electronic media. Unless these issues are also inter-related with the electoral reforms, I think, this mere Bill is not going to ensure a democratic process of election.

Then, there is the question of code of conduct from the side of the Government and also there is the question of code of conduct from the contesting parties. Unless the code of conduct is made a part of the law, I think, that code of conduct is not going to be honoured by either of the contestants. Therefore, the code of conduct becomes meaningless. That point has also to be taken note of.

Now the question of registration of political parties is also there. There should be a well-defined policy on the basis of which the political party seeking to take part in the election is to be registered. At the present moment, there are no well-defined guidelines for the registration of any political party seeking to contest in the elections.

The Election Commission is handicapped today. They have got no infrastructural machinery of their own neither at the Union level nor at the State level. At the State level, the Election Commission has to depend upon the administrative apparatus

[Sh. Chita Basu]

of the State Government. There cannot be true independence of the Election Commission if it is not endowed with independent secretariat plus independent machinery to conduct the election right from the primary stage, that is, enrollment of voters. Unless that kind of infrastructure is made available with the Election Commission, I think, the election process cannot be free from vitiation.

Some of us feel that in order to ensure proper representation in the House through an election, there should be the system of proportional representation. It has now found favour with the Election Commission. It has not found favour with many. But to have a properly representative House on the basis of the wishes expressed by the electorate through the election, I think, the proportional representation is the best method and there should be some thinking on that aspect also.

There is a provision in certain countries for the right of the electorate to recall. We see defections even in this house. I think, this is not the occasion for me.

AN HON. MEMBER: Let the ruling be over.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Let the ruling be over. Anyway, there are defections. Earlier, the defections were only in the States. Now it is a misfortune for us to see that defections have taken place also in the Parliament and some defectors have also been promoted to the position of Ministers and the case is pending before you. It is for you to decide. (Interruptions) There are defections. (Interruptions) There is a defection law. (Interruptions) There is also a split. (Interruptions)

DR. THAMBI DURAI: Mr. Speaker will rule. Why are you discussing this matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

(Interruptions)

Order, order

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, I have not discussed it. I know the position. I say that there is a disease called 'defection' and defection was there in the State legislature. I simply remarked that defection has also entered the Parliament. There is nothing wrong. I also know that the case of defection is before the Speaker. The Speaker is to take the final decision about it. The questions have also been raised as to the jurisdiction of the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not discuss anything about the issue before the Speaker. (Interruptions)

Mr. Basu, please hear me. You can speak about defection but do not mention anything with regard to the issue before the Speaker.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: What have I mentioned? I have mentioned defections. (Interruptions) The Speaker has got the right to decide about defections. What else have I said? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak about defection.

(Interruptions)

There is no prohibition. But do not say anything about the present case before the Speaker.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The defection has some premium also. I leave it to you.

Then, there is the question of right to recall. Do you want not say that this is also unparliamentary? As many of the ills arise out of defection, I want that those ills can be met by a law which provides for the right of the electorate to recall its elected representatives. (Interruptions)*

16.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, this is perfectly within the framework of the practice in Parliament. These are the burning issues and so, we have to bring about comprehensive electoral reforms. I have got my reservations on the Bill because this Bill does not touch this very important issue relating to the electoral reform. Therefore, by and large, I support it. By 'by and large', I mean it is a step forward. It strengthens the position of the Election Commission and the Election Commissioner. It is a step towards creating a condition for democratisation of election process. Therefore, while supporting this Bill, I would earnestly request the hon. Minister of Law and Justice to do justice to the election and see that there are proper laws framed so that election may be fair and free from all kinds of vitiations that we see today in the country. Those laws are necessary for the survival of Parliamentary democracy. I think the House will appreciate this approach of mine.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this Bill I will submit only two or three points as respected Advani ji has already expressed his views in detail. India is the largest democratic country and reforms in the election laws is a continuous process in our country. Today we are discussing and considering the issue of electoral reforms. A Committee was formed for suggesting electoral reforms. It had submitted its report to the Government in May, 1990. In this Committee all the political parties were represented and recommendations have been submitted to the Government after detailed deliberations. After reading the report, I am of the view that if the recommendations made by the committee are accepted, there can be a lot of improvement in the electoral process in our country. Therefore, my first submission is that the hon. Minister may tell us clearly

extent to which us clearly he agrees with the recommendations and which recommendations he is going to accept. In addition to this, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to delve internal on two more points also.

16.05 hrs.

[DR. THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

Sir, doubts and suspicions have been raised in regard to the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner. This should not have happened. The appointment should not only be fair, but should also appear to be so. As I have stated, for free and fair elections, there should be an independent Chief Election Commissioner. On this issue, the report says that though he should be appointed by the President, this should be done after consultations with the Chief Justice of India, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the largest party in the House, if any. Now-a-days a mini-scale party is ruling the country and the largest single party the Congress is supporting it. In such a situation the largest party should also be consulted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after the death of Shri Perry Sastri, Shrimati Rama Devi was appointed the Chief Election Commissioner. It was a matter of pride for India to have a woman as the Chief Election Commissioner for the first time. But the way she has been removed is not a proper thing. I have been told that in the first instance three I.A.S. officers were asked but when they declined and only then she was appointed as Chief Election Commissioner. This has been the convention that the Law Secretary is appointed as Chief Election Commissioner. She has a good reputation. She was independent and honest. The Government has not done a good thing by removing her. The honour which we had conferred on a woman by appointing her the Chief Election Commissioner, is now lost. On the other hand, the appointment of the new incumbent would also create doubts. That is why I said that before the appointment not only the ruling party, but the leader of the Opposition and

[Sh. Madan Lal Khurana]

also the largest single party and the supporting party should also be consulted so that every body has faith in election commission and the Chief Election Commissioner.

Mr. Chairman Sir, secondly I would like to say that as has been suggested in the report, Election Commission should be a multi-member commission, because single member can come in the influence of someone and in that case any thing can happen. Therefore, if we want free and fair elections, there should to 3 or 5 members in the Election Commission. This is my submission and same thing has been said in the report also.

Mr. Chairman, thirdly I want to say a word about defection. Our party is of this view that this should be decided by the President through Election Commission after hearing the views of all the parties. I do not want to cast aspersions on anybody regarding defection, but this much I would definitely like to say that even after committing such a big crime, no punishment is being given to the culprits. It looks as if anti-defection law has become a joke. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that this report should be accepted. While replying, hon. Minister should make it clear that to what extent he is accepting the report.

[*English*]

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. It is a Bill in the right direction. It is true that we need a comprehensive bill to do away with many of the abuses of election.

I am very happy to inform the hon. House that I come from a State where the electoral process is still respected very much. In Meghalaya, we need only two Police constables to go along with the official election party to conduct elections in a Polling Booth. We don't have many of the abuses which have appeared in the whole length and breadth of India. However, I feel that the view that has been expressed here, i.e. that we

need to have one more Chief Election Commissioner, should be considered by the Government keeping in view the discussion that has been going on with respect to the 10th Schedule of the Constitution. Otherwise, the work load of the Chief Election Commissioner will be more. As such, if one or more Election Commissioner is there the whole electoral process can take place more quickly.

Sir, I would just like to draw attention of the House to one or two important points. It is very good that the pay and allowances of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioner have been included in the Bill. Coming from a hilly state like Meghalaya, we must also remember that the electoral officials have to go miles and miles on foot in order to carry out the electoral duty. So, I think that TA/DA of these persons should also be taken care of and the contingency fund for carrying the election material should be increased for them. Otherwise, it is meaningless to increase the TA/DA of the top officers and forgetting those who are their right and left hands and who help to conduct elections in the country.

Another very very pertinent point which I would like to draw to the notice of the House is regarding the names in the Electoral Roll. We find that mostly the electoral roll is not prepared and many names especially of illiterate persons are left out from the electoral roll and thereby they are denied of their birth right. Therefore, a better method should be found to see that the names of genuine persons are included in the electoral roll. Under the present law we find that it takes quite a long time to claim the name of a person in the electoral roll. Many objections and counter-objections are being levelled. If a person is a genuine voter then the Election officer should include his name in the roll after verification by another voter of the roll. If he is a poor man and he has to go miles and miles to some other polling station to claim his name and plead his case then it is very unfortunate.

Sir, these are few things which should

be taken care of when we bring a comprehensive law in this regard so that all the citizens of India who have attained 18 years of age should get this birth right to vote.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this Bill Election Commission has been given more powers. I am of the view that a comprehensive Bill should be brought, so that all the defects of the election system could be removed. It would have been better if provision to contain increasing influence of money, media and mafia in the elections had been made in the Bill.

So far as the question of providing more facilities and increasing the pay of Election Commissioner and providing him facilities equal to the judges of Supreme Court are concerned, I would like to say that if he is being given all these facilities then he should also have the qualifications equal to a Supreme Court Judge. Some sort of arrangement should be made so as to made him as reliable as judges of Supreme Court and High Court. It would be better for him if he performs his duties with the same dignity and honour as is performed by the judges of Supreme Court and High Court.

Along with the increased facilities he must be given some more responsibilities. His selection should also be made just in the same way as the judges of the Supreme Court or High Court are selected. He should be selected on the basis of qualifications. But it is regrettable that no provision regarding his qualifications has been made in the Bill. It would have been better if such a provision was made. Apart from this his duties should have also been defined so that he may be able to perform them honestly. A person who has been in politics should not be appointed as Election Commissioner, as it has been noticed that these days politics is coming into the office of Election Commissioner. I request you that some such provision should be made which may assure the ruling as well as opposition party that the person concerned

is impartial . If these provisions have been made, the Bill would have been a better enactment.

[English]

SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK (Bombay South Central): Mr. Chairman Sir, I support this Bill. I consider the position of the Chief Election Commissioner as sacred and I feel that the Chief Election Commissioner and his associates should be independent. They have been compared to the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts. The appointment of these officers is a daily routine work which we have to sanction. But so far as this particular appointment is concerned, I have to request the Government through you to think about some suggestions which I am going to make.

These officers should be empowered to decide before the Census, in what fashion the census should be made. The present fashion of forming Constituencies is to create first census circles and these circles are not changed. That is why while making delimitation etc., voters who are staying nearer to the Constituency's centre and people who are somewhat far away are divided unevenly. We have to see whether we can change the theory of these census circles and make our constituencies composite ones by allowing to divide even the census circles suitably.

Secondly, I would like to mention about the interference by the Government in election system. I suggest that the ruling party should resign a month before the elections. This aspect may be examined by these officers. I say this because the ruling party often uses all the government machinery to get the election results in their favour. Also, use of force and violence is resorted to with the help of police by the ruling Party in Govt. That is why such kind of pressures should not be there.

Third thing is regarding disqualification based on grounds of race, religion, caste, community and language. It is necessary to say whether the word 'Dharma' is equal to

[Sh. Vamanrao Mahadik]

religion. For example, I have seen in the Emblem of Supreme Court. " Yato Dhamastato Jayah". This does not belong to any religion. "Yada Yada Hi Dharmasya glanirbharti Bharatah...", "Swa Dharme Nidhanam Shreyah Pardharmo Bhayavahah" "Dharyati Iti dharmah". These are the things which are connected with the etymology of 'Dharma.' But are we calling 'Dharma' equal to religion? Because of this only, disqualification cases are increasing and which involves some sort of injustice done to a particular individual. If a party has a symbol of hand and if it says that this is the hand of Ram and the other party says that this is the hand of Krishna, it will turn into religious propaganda in the name of *Dharma*. Suppose I have got a symbol of Bow and Arrow and I say this is the bow of Ram, then I may be involved as a person making propaganda in the name of religion etc. So, whether we should not use such symbols is a question. So, some decision should be taken in order to see which are symbols which can disqualify a candidate.

Then, there are some candidates who are taken on the basis of caste, creed and so on. Secularism is our principle but appeasement of minorities should not be there. We make such rules wherein all are treated equally. Now, we are giving reservations specially for women. If we want to make such division, why not make such division for all on all levels of Caste, creed, genders etc.

These are the things which are coming in the way of having impartial elections. So, some additional officer should be appointed to solve this problem. This may stop the candidates from going to the courts. This may also save time, money and stop again get disqualified. If they get disqualified, then they may have to go in and appeal before the Supreme Court.

So, these are the things which I would like to suggest.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill, introduced by the Minister of Law.

I want to say few words regarding some points only. Election law has become so old that it requires improvements. These reforms are being brought in piece-meal. I would request the Minister of Law to bring a comprehensive Bill, containing all the required reforms like-rotation and delimitation of constituencies. There are some constituencies which are reserved constituencies for last 20 years. A Bill in this regard should be brought forward. My second suggestion is that power to decide cases of defection should be vested in the Election Commission.

My third suggestion is that while appointing members of the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner, opinion of the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Leader of the Opposition should be taken. This has also been suggested by the Committee on Election Reforms. The appointment of present Chief Election Commissioner has raised suspicion in the minds of the people. My friends have said that in the first instance Shrimati Rama Devi was appointed but later on after removing her, another person was appointed. It is said that he refused to accept the appointment in the first instance. Thus on the one hand an unwilling person was appointed by you and on the other by denying that post to a woman you have invited the anger of women.

In the end I would like to give a suggestion. I want that Election Commission should be multi-member commission, as has been suggested by the committee. I hope that Minister of law will give a thought to my suggestion while replying to the debate. I suggest that radical changes should be brought in the election system. I would also like to know the time when you are introducing a Bill in this regard?

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH (Patiala): Mr. Chairman, I support this Bill halfheartedly, as in this Bill only provisions regarding the pay of election commissioners have been made, whereas full financial powers should have been given to the Commission just like the Auditor General and the Supreme Court. I hope that Government will remove this lacuna.

Booth capturing is very common in our country. To control this, identity cards should be issued and with that voting should also be made obligatory. I also suggest that Indian Election service should be create on the lines of Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service, so that elections could be conducted properly in every State. Election Commission should also be given statutory powers to conduct Panchayat elections on the expiry of their term without prior permission of the Government. Unless these provisions are made we cannot say that we are having a developed democracy. I, therefore, request that Government should bring a Bill containing the suggestions given by the previous Election Commissioners.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA (Nagaland): I would also like to make a few points regarding the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1990.

India is one of the largest democratic countries in the world, and we are the Members of its Ninth Lok Sabha, duly elected by the people. There have been many States which have gone through so many elections. Elections are not a new thing to our people. But the question of determination of the status of the Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners have come up only today. Nevertheless, though delayed, it is not too late.

I would also like to support the Bill; but meanwhile, I consider that this Bill is not comprehensive. It has been brought very hurriedly. I would like to draw the attention of

the Minister concerned to this: he has not put his mind to it. I am telling you, Mr. Minister: You have not done your home-work properly.

16.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In the Bill, you have made provisions for him for leave, for resignation, but there are no provisions for his removal. His term is for six years in the Bill. In the case of the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission, there are provisions how he is brought in, how he is removed as and when the situation demands or warrants. But, in this case, there are provisions only for his leave, for his resignation but not for his removal as and when the situation demands.

SHRISONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): He can be impeached in the House.

SHRISHIKIHOSEMA: But the provision is still absent in the Bill, So, this has to be taken into account.

Then you have brought in the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. What about the district level Returning Officers, what about down below officers, what about polling booth officers? Some of the members have said that you have not included officers below them. So, this Bill has been brought forward in a hurry. It is not a comprehensive Bill. This has to be looked into carefully.

To improve electoral reforms in our country is not a new thing. We had discussed enough on a Private Member's Bill brought forward by the hon. Member, Shri L.K. Advani. It was widely discussed here in the House, in the press, Media and at various forums. But, still, you are bringing in only the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.

What about reduction or avoidance of money and muscle power which we have been talking about all the time. The Government did not have enough time to think about it. Therefore, sweeping electoral re-

[Sh. Shikho Sema]

forms for the voters have to come soon; they should not be delayed.

We have gone through many elections. I think there is no substitute to the identity cards. If we introduce identity cards, then nobody can do any mischief. Therefore, Government has to think about it. If you think that it is too expensive to introduce identity cards, but, then you will have to realise that it can be useful in many ways. Therefore, Government has to think about it.

Since this Bill is not comprehensive, many more amendments have to come and more have to be substantiated covering lower level. Any how, something is better than nothing. I also support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are the biggest democratic country of the world and we have been discussing for years how to bring about electoral reforms in the country. The Bill which has been brought here provides for increasing the salary and service tenure of Election Commissioners and Chief Election Commissioner and we cannot bring electoral reforms in this manner. I won't support this bill at any cost for this reason and also because the Government have given priority to giving individual benefits to these officers. I am not prepared to accept it. The matters which deserve priority have been relegated to background. Had the Government brought this bill after 4, 6 or 8 months, heavens would not have fallen. It would not have created any hurdle in the way of election process which we have been following so far.

I feel that first of all we should have considered those matters which are eating into our democracy, which are destroying our democracy. Why has the aspect of money power been brought the role of money power is well known. Instead of piece-meal legislation, a comprehensive Bill should have

been brought. Had you taken all of us into confidence some way out would have been found. Now you say that his age of superannuation should be 65 years. What is very special about him when it is 58 years in the case of all Government officers. From this it is obvious that it is an attempt to make him follow the dictates of the Government. I want that in this case also the age of retirement should not exceed that of an ordinary Government employee or a judge. This may hinder the reforms. The incumbent will only think of the ways of influencing the people in power for his personal ends. It should be made clear that a person who becomes an Election Commissioner or Chief Election Commissioner shall not hold any office of profit after retirement so that he does not succumb to outside.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in our country there are many flaws in our electoral system and there is immediate need of reforms. In our country the name of a voter is found in six separate voters lists. The name of a person will be included in the voter list of Delhi, in the list of his native village and many other places. Votes are cast at different places. So there must be a system whereunder name of a person is included in the voter list of only one place and he should cast his vote only at that place. If anybody violate this rule he should be penalised. These priorities deserved consideration but we have not done it. The bill centers around the service conditions only.

Similarly nothing has been mentioned about the qualifications of Election Commissioner or Chief Election Commissioner. Only their service conditions have been mentioned. You said that the same has been presented in the Rajya Sabha. It may be presented in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, people want a package of election reforms. All the reforms should have been brought through a single legislation so that the people feel that government is really interested in doing something in the matter. The present minority Government expects applause by improving the service conditions. It wants to influence the election officers. It appears

that the bill has been brought at this moment with the intention of influencing the Election Commissioner. The bill has been brought in a wrong manner. So I can't support this Bill, instead I oppose it strongly. The way this bill is brought is quite improper.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I support this Bill which gives some kind of independence by way of giving a proper status to the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners. In fact, it is incumbent on us to treat this high office in a similar manner as we treat the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court. But I would think that the disparity in age, as it is stated as 62 and 65 with regard to the Election Commissioner and the Chief Election Commissioner need not be there. Though this Bill is broadly supported, and as such this is only what we can expect from such a Bill, we were all expecting something more than this. The trend of the House and the trend of the suggestions which have been already made indicate that. I think we are expecting a further law either in the form of some election reforms or in the form of an amendment to the Representation of the People Act.

I think, there was Conference which was held a year back. It was a conference of all the parties held on the 9th January 1990 almost an year back. So many suggestions were made in that conference. It was a conference which was expected to be fruitful, and after that a committee was appointed. That Committee also had made so many suggestions. In the House also we had a discussion with regard to electoral reforms. Then also very many suggestions were given. In this discussion also a number of suggestions have been given. I would plead with the Law Minister and this Government to take immediate steps to bring some kind of a law to incorporate these very valuable suggestions which have been made. Especially with regard to the reforms which are necessary in the case of election expenses I think imme-

diately attention has to be paid by this Government.

So many suggestions were made with regard to public funding of elections. Some suggestions have been made with regard to the list system and about the selection of candidates and voting etc. To meet the present troubles which we see with respect to electioneering and counting aspect, we have to do something. We feel that the total election results as such are very much affected by extraneous dealings. I think, some kind of reforms in this manner should be brought immediately. I plead with the Government for it and once again I support this Bill. That for the first time an attempt is being made to bring the appointment to the Election Commission under a cloud of doubt. It is all the more unfortunate that this attempt is being made by the recognised opposition. I don't need to give a certificate regarding the present Chief Election Commissioner. Entire country knows his integrity, experience and administrative ability. There is nothing novel...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: We have not objected to the person appointed. We have objected to the process that was adopted...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel he has started indulging in sychophancy right now. He wants to take some advantage. He is busy in praising the officers. He should neither praise the officers or find fault with them.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to teach wisdom to them there are certain posts whose dignity and sanctity is to be maintained not only by the ruling side but others also. One should not endeavour to drag such officers into dispute for their individual political ends. That is what I want to say.

SHRI R.N. RAKESH (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request 'respectful' language he has used for him should be withdrawn. He knows the art of "buttering" and that is why butter is becoming costly.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Shri Rajveer Singh is not only my neighbour, he is like my elder brother also. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government has not appointed an administrative Officer as Chief Election Commissioner for the first time. Prior to that Shri Swaminathan and Shri Trivedi have adorned that office and the dignity with which they adorned that office, we hope that Shri Seshan will also not only prove to be of the same stature but go further to set new and sow traditions. I hope that he will be capable to work according to the present demands of the future elections. We also hope that he will do his best to fulfil the task assigned to him and according to the feelings of the House and the entire country. I would like to support those few minor suggestions which have been given by Shri Banatwalla, and would also submit that Honourable Minister of Justice has taken a very fundamental question that once we appoint a person as Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner he should not hold any office of profit afterwards. There should be some law regarding this. His re-employment should be considered, because if somebody is doing excellent job and he is capable, his capability should be utilized. There should also be such a provision. But all the same, there should be a provision that they are not given any office of profit. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another suggestion by respected Shri Banatwalla presented as an amendment by him is a submission that there should also be a provision for the Election Commissioners of the States. If they are doing excellent job in their area. They should be appointed as Election Commissioners or Chief Election Commissioners on Central level, and all the conditions which are applied in case of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner on Central level should be applied in their case also. I hope the Honourable Law Minister will consider these suggestions also when he brings 70th and 71st Amendment Bills before the House. I have been repeatedly asking about the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. This has been disturbing me. In Uttar Pradesh, constituencies have been formed for Legislative Assembly and Lok

Sabha on the basis of population. You can't have a different criteria for Lok Sabha. Whether it is Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya or Mizoram the Legislative Assembly constituencies have been created on the basis of population. In our State the criteria is the same as in the plains of Uttar Pradesh. Our Legislative Assembly constituencies are so big that it is impossible to tour them even in five years. This is causing a great dissatisfaction among our public. Better services are not possible. When the comprehensive Amendment Bill is brought in the House, it may please be considered whether there can be two types of constituencies. I think the expectations of the people of hilly areas can be accommodated.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this Bill there is only one point and that is about the salary and pension of Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner. I would like to make a submission to you that we have also come here after being elected. There are so many problems in elections. Elections should be conducted in impartial manner. If a single comprehensive Bill is introduced, I think it could have been discussed thoroughly. How the foreigners get themselves enroll in the electoral rolls? In these rolls people from Pakistan and other countries also get themselves enrolled. I would like to say that the electoral rolls should be prepared carefully. The names of Indian citizen should be included in the electoral rolls. It was proposed to instal only twelve electronic machines as a measure to improve the election procedure and it was stated that the counting of notes would be done simply by pressing a button. There is always some dispute or bungling in the counting of notes. I have been a victim of the same malpractice. When will the electronic voting machines be used? Identity cards should be issued to the people so that they may cast their notes and bogus voting is checked. This problem should be taken into consideration. This is correct that there should be an independent department to look after this department and there should be an independent secretariat; then alone there can be impartial elections. Presently 20 seats of Lok Sabha are lying vacant for which elections are yet to be held. You are leaving it to the will of the government. If government

is willing, only then elections can be held. If the Prime Minister wishes only then Lok Sabha elections would be held. Elections to the Lok Sabha should be held at the stipulated time. When there is no need to consult any Chief Minister or the Prime Minister of the country, then alone there will be impartial elections. De-limitation is very essential. Polling stations are situated at long distances. There is booth-capturing and muscle power plays a vital role during polls.

There should be an improvement in this regard. After so many years of independence, they have started doubting the integrity of the Election Commissioner. One such instance is before you. In respect of Meham, their policy was not clear. So, I would like to urge upon the Government to brighten the prospects of the persons holding a high position of this level so that they were not swayed by any temptations or did not tend to give in case of any external pressures. A provision to that effect should be made by them. The Government should also come out with a reply to all the points that I have raised here.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): Sir, in this debate on the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (*Conditions of Service*) Bill, many important and good suggestions have been made. I will not be in a position to rely to each of them turn by turn but I have collected them together and will reply to them on the issue basis.

First of all, many Members raised the question of the appointment procedure. At present, the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner is guided by article 324 of the Constitution which says that the President shall appoint the Chief Election Commissioner. This procedure is sought to be changed and for that a Constitutional amendment is necessary. A Constitution (Amendment) Bill is pending in the Rajya Sabha on this subject and we will certainly take it up as soon as we have a longer session. At the moment, this session being short and the pending business being heavy, we chose to bring only this Bill in order to give a proper legal status to something which is

already there in the rules regarding the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner.

I would like to add by way of support that the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner has to be based not only on the fact that he knows the law because part of his responsibility is pronouncing judgements on questions of law, but also he must be a person who has a fair understanding of the administrative system of the country. Indeed, in the difficult situation the country is in and in view of the fact that we may have to hold elections in difficult parts of the country where a great deal of care has to be taken, we looked for somebody who had both the knowledge of the law as well as considerable administrative experience. It is on that basis that the Prime Minister recommended to the President the name of Mr. Seshan, and I would think that now that he is appointed, his name should be kept above controversy.

Mr. Advani, in his intervention, raised the question of a package of electoral reform measures. Prof. Ranga also referred to this in his speech. Now, the question is that in addition to the Bills that have been presented in the Rajya Sabha and here, there is also a considerable part which the previous Government's Cabinet had adopted. Whether the whole package has to be brought forward or part of it has to be brought forward can only be decided after the Government consults the leading Opposition parties and then comes to a consensus because many of them require Constitutional amendments and that would require the cooperation of the Opposition. Consequently, the most important part is the consultation that has to take place. The package contains many elements. If today we have to bring it in today's context, then there may be all kinds of meanings attached to it. For example, hon. Member Mr. Madan Lal Khurana said that the anti-defection law has become a joke. Another hon. Member Mr. P.K. Dhumal wanted that the power to disqualify a Member violating the anti-defection law should be transferred to the Chief Election Commissioner. It is a fact that the present powers for disqualification, except for violating the Whip in the House or for changing the party, rest with the President who acts in consultation and shall act in consultation with the Chief Election Commissioner. This is the only power of

[Sh. Subramaniam Swamy]

disqualification which is presently vested in the Speaker. I do not know whether Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal sitting where he is sitting, is a member of the BJP and whether this has the support of the BJP.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: That is a recommendation of the Committee.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: That is right. It is not only a recommendation of the expert committee, but it is also a Cabinet decision taken on the 11th of August 1990 that the power to disqualify Members should vest not with the Speaker, but with the President of India. Now, if we were to bring such a constitutional amendment now, unless we have the formal support of the Opposition Parties, it is bound to be misunderstood.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day the hon. Minister of Law had mentioned this and when he said that it should be vested in the President, it was to that point that my immediate response was that I cannot conceive of shifting this authority from the Speaker to the Executive. But it is only when I went through the entire notes, what we have recommended, so that was, in effect, transferring it from the Speaker to the Election Commission because in this particular case, the President had to act not in consultation with the Election Commission, but on the advice of the Election Commission, which will be binding. So, in effect, it is the Election Commission. So, to that extent the entire Committee including the last government, including most of this side are really committed to that.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I am very happy to hear this from Mr. Advani, the Leader of the Opposition, and on that basis certainly we will come forward with something.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): Could this something be defined?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Well, something concrete. Are you satisfied or you want me to spell it out more?

Sir, many Members mentioned the question of muscle power, money power etc.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Media power.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Yes, media power, the power to destroy, the power to print the lies, that is what you mean now.

Now, frankly, Sir, we can make laws, but ultimately it has to be the political parties which have to take it upon themselves to educate the voters. We can indeed have laws and certain of the measures that are being considered, which are part of the recommendations, which we will bring forward in the form of a Bill, but ultimately, unless the political parties jointly decide that they will not do this, it is not possible to devise fool-proof laws which will ensure that these things do not happen.

I also agree with the Members who said that political parties should not use religion for collecting votes. This also, I hope, has the unanimous support of the House, and not only has the support of the House, but people with their hearts agree that it is essential to maintain the secular fabric of this country and elections at least should not be polluted by appeal to religious fanaticism.

Besides that, I feel that the Bill is a very simple Bill, it does not require much more discussion.

DR. THAMBI DURAI: Just now you said that the Members raised that muscle power and media power also should be under control. For example, the grass-root election first takes place at the rural levels, especially cooperative societies and panchayat levels. There, the people are using all their money power and muscle power to get elected. Therefore, if you are not bringing those things under the Election Commission where the people already said it is applicable to other elections also, I want to know whether you

are going to take this kind of action to see that panchayat elections come under the control of the Election Commission.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: As far as we are concerned, we do not agree to this proposal. (*Interruptions*) We know how you use the muscle power in Calcutta. (*Interruptions*) That was an attempt being made by the earlier governments. Efforts are made to bring the elections under the control of the Election Commission.

17.00 hrs.

By that they wanted to influence the votes in the States. It was brought by Rajiv Gandhi Government. (*Interruptions*) They wanted to manipulate the elections in the Panchayats and Cooperatives. But we opposed it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, the hon. Member has just mentioned the question of muscle power again. The suggestion that he has made is a worth considering one. But, at the moment, there is no unanimity in the House. So, we will give a serious thought to this matter. Then, once we have made up our mind, we will come forward before Parliament with some measure.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, the Election Commission controlling the elections in Cooperative institutions or the Panchayats would actually mean that the ruling party at the Centre would be controlling these elections. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you are making some suggestions, they are not going to be incorporated at this point of time. So, please refrain from making any suggestion. Let him complete his speech. At 5 o'clock, we are expected to start the discussion on price rise. It is an item which has to be started at 5 o'clock. If you allow me, I will permit the hon. Minister to complete his speech and immediately after that, we can take up the discussion on price rise. There is no point in seeking clarifications which cannot

be implemented at the time of passing this Bill.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, Panchayat election is not part of the Bill, but the Minister has unfortunately covered that area. When the Minister has unfortunately covered that area, then we also have a right to seek clarifications.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But please do not make it too wide.

DR. THAMBI DURAI: Sir, this is a Bill pertaining to salaries and other service conditions of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. But we have discussed beyond that also. When we are discussing beyond the scope of this Bill, I also suggested that the Panchayat and Cooperative elections should be brought under the Election Commission. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, there is some other item on which you would be equally interested, i.e. price rise and we are expected to start the discussion on price rise at 5 o'clock. The hon. Minister was replying and he was respecting the feelings expressed by the hon. Members. I think the scope is very limited and within that scope let us discuss it and go to the other item.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Since the Bill is simply in scope, it is not possible for the Government to accept any of the amendments except the one technical amendment which we ourselves have moved for changing the year from 1990 to 1991. The other Bills are on circulation for eliciting opinion. It is a very simple Bill and so I think the Bill in its present form should be passed by the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take this Bill for passing tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we can pass this Bill today itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I accept this

suggestion, but with one condition that you will not prolong the discussions on the amendments.

Dr. Venkatesh Kabde, would you like to withdraw your amendment No. 6?

DR. VENKATESH KABDE (Nanded): I would like to make one comment.

Regarding the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner, it has been said that no further controversy should be brought in, about the present incumbent. In this case, I want to point out that the suggestion of the Tarkunde Commission...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please don't go into the details. This would create complication. I want to know whether you are withdrawing it or not.

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: In the case of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner, the Prime Minister, the Supreme Court Chief Justice and the Leader of the Opposition—these three persons—should be consulted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is an amendment which you have suggested for circulation. At the stage of consideration of the Bill, the first stage, you shall have to let us know whether you are going to withdraw your amendment No. 6?

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: I withdraw it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Has Dr. Venkatesh Kabde leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Amendment No. 6 was, by leave, withdrawn

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to determine the conditions

of service of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

There are no amendments to clauses 2 and 3. So, I put clauses 2 and 3 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill

Clause 4

Term of Office

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I beg to move:

Page 2,—

after line 34, insert—

"(2) On ceasing to hold office—

(a) the Chief Election Commissioner shall be ineligible for further employment or office either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

(b) any other Election Commissioner shall be eligible for appointment as the Chief Election Commissioner, but shall not be

eligible for any other employment or office either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

- (c) a Regional Commissioner shall be eligible for appointment as an Election Commissioner or the Chief Election Commissioner, but shall not be eligible for any other employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State:

Provided that the Chief Election Commissioner or any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner shall, on expiration of his term of office and subject to the provision of sub-section (1), be eligible, for reappointment to that office." (7)

I hope he will accept it.

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 25,—

for "sixty-two" substitute—

"sixty-five" (8)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, if you appoint men of character and ability to the high office, they themselves know what is perfect and what is not. I do not think we need a law for that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In view of the response of the Minister, would you like to withdraw?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: He has said that the entire gamut of electoral laws would be considered by him. I hope at that time, due consideration will be given to the provisions made in my amendment to this clause.

On that assurance of the hon. Minister which I have elaborated, I seek the leave of the House to withdraw it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Has Shri G.M. Banatwalla leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Amendment No. 7 was, by leave, withdrawn

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Kabde, would you like to withdraw your amendment?

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: I would like to know why there is a difference in the age. I want it should be sixty-five years. I would like to persist with my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now I put the amendment No. 8 moved by Dr. Venkatesh Kabde to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 8 was put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are no amendments to Clause 5. So, I put Clauses 4 and 5 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Clauses 4 and 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Venkatesh Kabde, do you want to move your amendment to Clause 6?

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: No, I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are no amendments to Clause 7 and Clause 8. So, I put clauses 6, 7 and 8 to vote of the House.

Now the question is:

"That Clauses 6, 7 and 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 6, 7 and 8 were added to the Bill

Clause 1

Short Title

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I beg to move:

Page 1, line 6,—

for "1990" substitute "1991". (5)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

Page 1, line 6,—

for "1990" substitute "1991". (5)

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula and the long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

The Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill

SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, I

beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted

17.13 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Continued Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities in the Country

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion regarding rise in prices of essential commodities. Shri G.M. Banatwalla will now speak. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI (Kanpur): In the morning we were informed that the Prime Minister will make a statement regarding the Thomson Press affair and so I would request you to please allow him to make the statement now.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the statement is being prepared. But I shall like to share the facts of the case as have been reported by the Haryana Government. According to the Haryana Government, the dislocation of power in Thomson Press is because of some fault and the fault was located. (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Please hear me. When I discussed between 2.00 and 3.00 PM, I was informed that workers are making all efforts to correct the faults and the electricity will be restored this evening. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the price situation in the country is extremely alarming. The rate of inflation, as every one knows, had touched the double digit figure of 10.9 per cent by the week ended 8th December, 1990 and 11.4 per cent on 15th December, 1990 as per the wholesale price index. Further, as per the Consumer Price Index, the rate of inflation had already touched 10.8 per cent by even October, 1990. The cost of living index has more than doubled to 11.4 per cent from 5.4 per cent in the 12 months. At this juncture, I would first draw the attention of the Minister to the price situation during the Sixth and the Seventh Plans. We have found that during the Sixth Plan, the wholesale price index rose at an annual rate of 8.8 per cent and during the Seventh Plan, the rate of growth had come down to 6.6 per cent. I may briefly remark that this moderation in price rise during the Seventh Plan was because of larger drawings of food-stuffs and because of the augmenting of the supplies of essential commodities. The most disturbing aspect, the most agonising aspect of the present price rise and inflation is that is the prices of the primary products, primary articles which have been hit the most. We find that primary food items have recorded a rise of 13.3 per cent. The non-food items like fuel, power etc. have recorded a rise of even 17.5 per cent during these days. All this is there despite the bumper crops and the growth in the industrial production. We find that in the case of essential consumer items, the rate of inflation has registered a double digit. So, that is the agonising aspect of the inflation. The most agonising aspect of the inflation being the prices of essential commodities being hit the most and having recorded high double digits. I am only for a comparative purpose referring to a few items of essential consumer articles and I compare the rate of growth in 1989-90 to 1990-91.

Sir, in the case of cereals, the rise in price in 1989-90 was 4.9 per cent whereas during the period 1990-91 the rise is to the extent of 12.1 per cent. Pulses recorded a rise of 11.2 per cent in 1990-91. Vegetables led by such essential articles like onions and potatoes have recorded a rise in 1990-91 by

60.1 per cent. Such is the agonising aspect, as I said earlier, of the present inflation. The edible-oils have recorded a rise of 18.3 per cent during the current year. This is also the case with various other essential items, the details of which I do not want to go into now. Various factors have indeed contributed to this rise in prices. A principal factor has been the last Budget. A maximum increase of Rs. 1790 crores in the tax burden as per the last Budget of 1990-91 has accelerated the pace of inflation. Similarly, the additional tax of Rs. 847 crores from the increase in fare and freight by the Railway Budget when it was presented this time for the current year has also pushed up the rate of inflation. This was followed by the gulf surcharge of 25 per cent on petroleum products. It is disturbing to find that even the present Government went into the foot-steps of the last Government and added to the inflationary pressures. We find an increase in customs and excise duties announced on the 17th of December 1990 to mop up additional Rs. 1,340 crores. On the top of it, we have reduced import of essential commodities even edible oils. No doubt, foreign exchange crunch, the import restrictions, the effect of gulf crisis have all led to the inflation. With respect to the gulf crisis, I must mention that hike in oil prices would have multiple effect on prices of transportation and prices of primary articles consumed by the transport. All this will be badly affected.

I want to make certain concrete suggestions to the Government in the matter of control of inflation. In the first place, there have to be adequate releases, adequate releases through the public distribution system of rice and wheat. I must here also plead the case of Kerala and the need for increasing the rice allotted to Kerala. Sir, this should be possible, the increase in the releases of rice and wheat and such articles through public distribution system should be possible in view of the fact that we have the highest ever procurement of rice and wheat in the current year. We have to strengthen the public distribution system now by bringing more essential commodities under its purview. It is also necessary to make efforts to reduce the growth in money supplies. The

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested that money expansion be restricted to 12 per cent per annum. They have suggested several strict fiscal disciplinary measures. But apart from that, there is a great necessity for strict financial discipline and an effort to reduce the growth or expansion in the money supply which is also playing great havoc. It is absolutely inevitable to augment the domestic supplies through even imports, of course, subject to foreign exchange constraints. If prices have to come down, then the only way is that supplies have to be augmented. This augmentation of supplies can only come through greater imports, subject to financial and foreign exchange constraints and also through augmentation in production. I must, therefore, emphasise upon the need to increase agricultural output through better technology. Several technologies are today available and all these technologies should be taken care of. We find today a bio-technology and genetic engineering. All these should be drawn up in order to improve agricultural output.

There has to be a need to improve the productivity of the industrial sector. I must here strike a note of caution. It is quite probable that during the remaining part of the present financial year, that is during the remaining second half of the current financial year, the industrial sector could slow down. It could slow down because of the forced restriction of petroleum imports—the restrictions that are forced upon us—and the massive additional imposts announced by the Government which affects the corporate performance.

I earlier remarked that this Government also unfortunately, in the matter of mopping up greater resources, is following in the footsteps of the earlier Government through massive doses of indirect taxation. Here I would like to emphasize that indeed there is a financial crunch. But instead of depending more on additional taxation, specially the indirect taxation, the need is greater to in-

crease the rate of collection of outstanding taxes. If you go through the figures of the taxes that are outstanding, you will be shocked. The figures run into thousands of crores of rupees and despite repeated recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee—the details of which I do not go into now due to the constraint of time—this rate of arrears of taxation is continuing to grow and has become alarming now. It all shows that very little attention is being paid to the question of increasing efficiency of the various taxation departments to collect these arrears.

I must therefore plead with the Government that instead of resorting to taxation, a greater effort be made in order to increase the rate of clearing of the arrears of taxation. It is our misfortune that the year 1990-91 will go down in the history as the highest rate of taxation measures, enormous amount has sought to be mopped up through dangerous wielding of taxation measures. I must therefore plead for releaf on this count and for increasing efficiency in the collection of arrears of outstanding taxes.

[*Translation*]

SHRICHANDRAM (Hardoi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of increasing prices is undoubtedly a serious thing and matter of concern not only for the Members of Parliament but also for the entire country. However it is not being tackled properly. That is the greatest problem.

Hon'ble Rao Birender Singh is sitting here who has gained experience in all the situations i.e. while in power and out of power. So he should think seriously about it. The persisting problem of increasing prices has been there inspite of the fact that there is no dearth of any thing in this country and our grain production has increased multifold over all these years. The price situation has belied the economic principle of demand and supply. For example there is a great difference between the prices of vegetables in the wholesale market and those in the neighbouring market place. It is equally true

in respect of the wholesale prices and the general prices of wheat at the time of fresh crop arrival which varies between Rs. 200 and Rs. 275. The benefit of price margin does not reach the farmers. Instead it is pocketed by the traders and hoarders. Similar is the situation in respect of cloth and all other items. Price of raw material stands at a very low level but as soon as it is turned out in the shape of a finished product, its price shoots up very high. In this regard what I want to emphasize is that there should be a limit to earning profits. During my own tenure as a transport minister when the prices of tyres showed a rising trend in the country against the decline trend in the international prices of rubber, I wrote a letter to the Minister of industries asking him to explain the phenomenon of price rise in case of tyres. So unless and until the industrialists are asked to exercise control in respect of the prices of their products and prices thereof are fixed by the Government, the prices will go on increasing with further generation of black money which will also be not in their interest. Since the days of Pandit Nehru we have seen the efficacy of Monopoly and Restricted trade Practices Act which has in turn given rise to monopolies and has increased the number of hoarders. I think we should try the way of dehoarding (*Interruptions*) because it is the element of ineffectiveness on the part of the Government that gives a fillip to hoarding. But I think that even the present Government which is a minority Government can take an effective step in this regard if it chooses to take up that line of action to go in for dehoarding and to unearth the entire stock of items hoarded by the traders. Moreover the prices of all the commodities should be fixed by the government on the basis of the cost thereof. Mr. Devi Lal has referred to the continuing practice of auction in the grain market in spite of the price fixation of all the grains. Even the present government is in a position to take steps to contain prices if it stands up with a determination to achieve that end. So the Government should take steps to unearth all the items hoarded by the traders. One more problem is faced by the farmers when the vegetables produced by them go on rotting and the agents do not

come forward to auction their vegetables as they generally decide among themselves not to purchase such vegetables which results in a heavy loss to the farmers. It is a routine affair. So I think that the government should look in to it. Also the distribution system is not working properly in this country because the distribution outlets in the rural areas are allotted to such persons who are expert in hoarding and black marketing. To avoid this situation, these outlets and fair price shops should be allotted to the people belonging to the weaker sections of the society and the landless with the availability of finance therefor.

Even in India, the government should introduce the system of putting the price tag for each item so that the customers may pick up the item of their choice after paying the price of it. These 3-4 things require the attention of the government. Under long term measures, we should increase our production of coal, iron and tractors etc. An increase in the price of these items will automatically reflect in the overall level of prices. Moreover I feel that I need not tell anything to Mr. Rao in this regard as he knows everything and needs action on that line. So he should not delay it anymore.

With these words, I would like to thank you.

SHRISATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it would be no exaggeration if we call 1990 as the year of increasing prices because during the last several years it has registered a steep rise which has been reflected in the consumer price Index. Taking 1982 as the base year with an index level of 100, we will find that during the last 7 years i.e. upto November 89, there has been an increase of 76 points with an annual average of 11 points. But by October 1990 it has touched the mark of 195 showing an average increase of 19 points which is quite a sharp rise. The worst sufferers on that account have been the people living in the rural areas of the country because 70 percent of their income is spent up on the Head of their food and whenever the prices

[Sh. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

of foodgrains increase, it definitely affects the rural population. However during the last three years we have seen that inspite of an increase in our foodgrain production, the prices showed a rising trend. We did not think in terms of higher production and continued to import foodgrains because we thought that to increase production is a difficult thing. But we should realise that to go in for import is a more difficult proposition. Had we made our efforts to mobilise our resources to increase our production, we would have put an end to such an eventuality in the coming years. That is why I would like to urge upon the government to go ahead to increase the production of foodgrains and to ban the import thereof.

The position in respect of inflation has also not been good because it went on increasing. Against a figure of 40000 crores of rupees in circulation in 1985, it has touched the mark of 81000 crores in 1990 registering a more than double increase during a period of five years. With this soaring inflationary trend, we cannot expect a fall in the prices. Even the expectations of the government in this regard have proved false. Even otherwise we can see that a steep rise in the prices of petroleum products and a higher rail freight with a resultant costlier transport has substantially contributed to the phenomenon of increasing prices. The government should, therefore, pay special attention to achieve higher production with a view to make more and more things available for the common man.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we have a dual price system in this country: While introducing this system, the government might have thought that it will make the essential commodities available for the poor through the Fair Price shops but even this system stands plagued by corruption. Because of the non availability of essential commodities in the rural areas where they required most, the rural people have suffered most. I am sure that in view of the aforesaid situation, the government will take adequate

measures to give relief to the 50 crores population of villages as they have suffered most on the account.

Sir, the public had done a good thing to bring about a change of power but increasing prices have added to their miseries. Hence there should be a change in the existing situation. The government should take adequate measures to make the essential commodities i.e. food, cloth and shelter available for the common man. That is all I want to say at the moment.

[English]

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, price rise is drawing the attention of the entire country and I must congratulate Mr. Acharia for initiating this discussion. I would not take much of the time allotted. So far as statistics are concerned, my hon. friend, Mr. Banatwalla had shown the rate of index which has grown up from a single digit to a double digit. The only question is in what manner prices could be brought down. Two essential features are to be looked into in this regard. Firstly, deficit financing has to be put down with a firm hand and also see that the essential commodities are supplied in a better manner. And there must also be growth in agriculture. Even the Mover of the Resolution had blamed the Congress that one year back, before the National Front Government took power, the coffers were empty and that the deficit financing had exceeded so much due to which prices have gone up. I want to ask the hon. Members of the National Front as to what steps the NF Government had taken in order to curb the rise in prices. The Finance Minister had, time and again, announced that there would be a 10 per cent cut in all the expenditure on the Central Budget, thereby a saving of Rs. 4000 to Rs. 5000 crores may come up. He had also announced that there would be a cut of 20 per cent of the Ministers and officers going abroad so that foreign exchange may be saved. Now, I want to ask the Government as to how much has the Finance Minister saved by this announcement to bring down the deficit finance and

see that the economy will grow. On the contrary, when it was said that the coffers were empty and longer and better epithets were pronounced saying that there would be remodelling of priorities decentralisation of structures, more emphasis on quality of life, nothing of this sort had come forward inspite of the announcement by the Finance Minister of the National Front Government. It was also said that a new initiative would be taken to restructure the agriculture. What initiative was taken to restructure the agriculture, when the announcement regarding waiver of loan to farmers came. The Finance Minister had said that the Government might have to forego Rs. 14000 crores for this, but he only put Rs. 1000 crores in the Budget. Also, the manner in which the loan waiver took place, it has only helped the rich farmers. Earlier, the Finance Minister had said that it would be confined only to small and marginal farmers and that too, to those who had taken a loan up to Rs. 10000. Subsequently, under pressure, he said that even if a farmer took a loan of more than Rs. 10000, even he if he took a lakh, he would be extended this facility of waiver of Rs. 10000. Hon Members of the National Front did not say a word that this is not in favour of the poor, nor is it going to help the economy. They kept mum. On the contrary, in his budget proposal, the Finance Minister gave away Rs. 900 crores to the corporate sector. Even in direct taxation, Shri Pande, Chairman of the Direct Taxes Board, who has retired recently, had said that the Government had erred on personal income tax and the gift of Rs. 250 crores to the so-called troubled persons, who were paying income tax on income more than Rs. 21000 had brought further ruin to the economy.

Today, if you want agricultural production to increase, mere announcement that prices would be increased is not sufficient; there must be infrastructural arrangement so that effective implementation of the price support policy is adequately attended to not only by the Central Government, but the State Governments should also see that the prices announced as support prices reach the growers. Only then, there would be in-

creased production and that would help the nation.

So far as paddy is concerned, though the prices are announced, those do not reach the farmers. The farmer is not given that price. Unless the incentive price announced by the Government reaches the farmers in a proper way, the Government cannot expect that there would be greater production, and, therefore, the unequitable arrangement that would be made both by the Centre or the State would not be of any assistance.

Thirdly, the imported oil was mixed with the local Product and sold. They say that the cutting down of oil import has also affected the prices of oil very much. Therefore, all aspects of such articles which are very essential for the common man must be properly looked into.

Procurement system in respect of paddy is most important and the Government must bestow its attention to it. Merely blaming the Congress Government which was in power a year ago would not help bring down the prices. Government will have to act, will have to show in what manner they are better and in what manner they are taking steps. That must be shown.

SHRI A.K. ROY (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is the custom of this House to have a debate on price rise in every session and it is also the custom of the price rise to continue as before.

Many hon. Members have already given confusing data and I do not want to add more confusion to that. But one thing is clear. Money supply is increasing in double digit, production in single digit and CPI or WPI is raising in a very unpredictable way. At present it appears as if it is moving towards some unknown destination. In this particular situation I rise to ask only a few things which have come to my mind.

Firstly, what is the magic in the hands of those who control our market by which Adam

[Sh. A.K. Roy]

Smith's supply-demand relationship has been upset. That must be explained first.

All the parties are united or rather competing with each other in condemning hoarding. We all have pointed out that the evil is hoarding and black marketing. So, when all the parties are united on this particular evil then what is preventing the Government to de-hoard. That must be explained. It is not that some party is supporting hoarding and some other party is supporting black-marketing, and, therefore, it is creating difficulty for the Government to be harsh with the hoarders and black-marketeers. When all the parties are one with it then what is the difficulty in de-hoarding and coming ruthlessly on the persons who are playing with our essential commodities.

If you see, the price rise is in the double digit. Basically the rise is in the prices of essential commodities which hurt the common man the most. It has increased to more than 12 per cent. The primary articles constitute nearly 36 points in the price index. Oil and other fuel constitute 10 per cent. I can understand that the Gulf crisis has affected the secondary articles that is the fuel, coal and oil etc. which constitute only 10 per cent. Actually the rise in prices is less this year compared to the last year. In March 1989 we had 10 million tonnes of food grains which increased to 20 million tonnes and now it is nearing 17 million tonnes. We expect to have a 25 million tonne record food stock this year. So, I don't know what prevents the Government from checking the price rise.

The only question is about the edible oil which contribute to 2.2 per cent in our price index. It is true that the production of edible oil was less by 15 to 16 per cent this year but edible oil does not come under the category of essential commodity as the Carbohydrate and Protein. The whole thing depend on the demand management, supply management and production management and that can be adjusted. I would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government to in-

crease the oilseed production in the country. Actually, the oilseed production is stagnant and to some extent it has decreased. Today our oilseeds production is less than what we were producing in 1988-89. In a formal question I suggested that other areas also must be encouraged to grow oil seeds. It is not as though Gujarat alone can produce groundnuts. I have submitted to the Government that a vast area in the Chotanagpur Region which is bigger than Gujarat, area-wise, and Puruliya District in West Bengal are also suitable for oilseeds cultivation. The soil in these regions is tested and it is found that it is very good for the production of oilseeds. You have also answered it. Now also I propose the same. Why don't you start groundnut production in the Chota Nagpur region? You encourage the State Government, give the cultivators some incentives so that these vast areas can be utilised. If the climate fails in one area, it will be compensated in another area.

Secondly, I would like to mention about ricebran oil. We are producing nearly 75 lakh tonnes of rice. But we are producing only 3 lakh tonnes of ricebran. We can produce more ricebran. We can enact a law that all the mills who remove the husk from the rice must have a device to extract oil from the ricebran. This way we can increase our domestic supply. I do not support import of oil and spending precious foreign exchange. Last time we imported 1.6 million tonnes of oil by spending nearly one thousand crores of rupees. We do not want that. In this way and by austerity and planning, we can tide over the difficulties and increase our oilseeds production.

But you must keep the middle factor in mind. What is the middle factor that comes in and takes away the whole thing? Your grain production is there; your foodgrain stock is there; your pulses are there; and your godowns are there. But prices are increasing. I want to point out one thing. The Finance Minister is not here. When you think over it, you will be surprised. There is some deformation in our entire economic system. Previously 70 per cent of our population de-

pendent on primary sector, that is agriculture, used to contribute more than 46 to 50 per cent to our national income. Five to ten per cent population dependent on the secondary sector, that is the minerals, ores and other infrastructure, used to contribute 10 per cent to our economy. The tertiary sector with hardly 5 to 10 per cent population used to contribute to national income by about 25 per cent. Now, what has happened after these 40 years of perverted, deformed capitalistic development? The percentage of population dependent on agriculture remained the same but their contribution to our national income was reduced to less than 30 per cent. The secondary sector, that is the manufacturing sector, remained stagnant. But the tertiary sector with hardly 5 per cent people, which is a parasitic, non-productive sector, the so called servicing sector has increased its share to more than 40 per cent. Hardly 5 per cent people are controlling 40 per cent of our national income!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI A.K. ROY: I want to know why more than 70 per cent people in the primary sector are having only 29 per cent? You must also find out how 5 per cent people in the tertiary sector control 40 per cent of our national income. If you can find out this mystery, perhaps then, we can handle the situation more competently. Thank you, Sir.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, the prices are going up. There are several factors which are responsible for rise in prices. There are so many micro and macro reasons that are put forward behind this rise in prices.

Firstly, some people have said the rate of inflation has gone up to two digits. Secondly, some people have said that production is very less as compared to the demand. Thirdly, some people have said that distribution is not proper. Some people have also said that transportation charges are increasing. In

villages, so many vegetables, cereals and other things are grown. They are sent to cities like Delhi for storage. So, they are stored in godowns and cold storages before they are distributed to the poor people living in villages. Just to carry these things again to same villages for re-distribution and transport charges the prices are being increased. Another problem is that *per capita* income of a poor person per day is Rs. 1.25. Because of this rise in prices, the very survival of a poor person becomes very difficult. The rich people, with their power, blackmoney, by hoarding and profiteering, are enjoying a lot. But you cannot compare them with rich people of America or any capitalist country. The rich of India are enjoying more.

In rural areas, on Deepawali festival, they used to purchase only 5 Kgs of gur sugar and if possible, they used to keep them till next Deepawali i.e. control on consumption. So, use the gur five kg for full twelve months. But in the Five Star Hotels society you can see a number of varieties of Whisky bottles upto Rs. 3000/-. In the Five Star Hotels, you can see a number of rooms, some rooms are rented per day upto Rs. 7 or 8 thousand by rich people. It is, even the rise in prices in 3 digits is not going to affect them. It is only affecting the poorest of the poor. What I want to suggest is that, distribution of commodities should be in the hands of the poor people so that they may be able to manage their own economy and godown. Godowns should be in the villages itself. If you do it, then they can automatically come out from the clutches of the rich people who are meant for earning profits by sucking the blood of these poor people.

The other problem is that due to many micro and macro reasons, the prices are rising. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister—I have high regard for Rao Sahib—that due to rise in prices, prevailing unemployment and for lack of resources and so on, many people are suffering in our country. It is not the question of having money. He may not be having anything. He may be employed as an agricultural labourer. He may be earning Rs. 5 to Rs. 25. But here

[Sh. Het Ram]

again the question of price rise comes. So, you must keep one thing in mind and that is how to save the poorest of poor people; that is the micro level people. Even if the inflation rate goes upto 3 digits or 4 digits it is not going to affect the living standards of the rich people. The rich people will be able to manage themselves. It will only affect the poorest of the poor who is not having any land or resources or work and who is having ten family members. And in his family he is the only person who is earning a living. So, you should keep this factor in mind and restructure the same. You should also restructure the pricing system. You should also control the pricing mechanism. If you do so, it may greatly help the poor people, who have no resources at all. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, there is no interpretation available.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kuppuswamy, did you inform that you were going to speak in Tamil?

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Yes, Sir; I did.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat now, Mr. Kuppuswamy. Someone will speak now. We will make some arrangements. Now Mr. Agnihotri.

We have discussed this matter for a pretty long time. The time fixed was two hours; we have discussed it for more than 3 1/2 hours. I would request Members to be very brief, and not to repeat the points already made.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the phenomenon of continued rise in prices is spreading like jungle fire throughout the length and breadth of the country as a result of the wrong economic policies of the previous Congress Government and the deficit bud-

gets presented by various State Governments and by the Central Government. The deficit budgets are more responsible for the price rise. The previous Government of Shri V.P. Singh had promised to check inflation as well as rising prices but contrary to it the inflation rate has surpassed all the previous records during the last 11 months. When the last budget was presented, the House and particularly the Members of B.J.P. expressed their concern over the deficit projected in the budget and warned that it would lead to price escalation in the country. Who suffers from the price rise? It mainly affects those people, who are farmers and constitute 85 per cent of the population as well as the largest chunk of consumers in the country and mostly live in villages. It is only the big farmers who have got benefit from the increase in prices because of their increased production. The small farmers, having 4-5 acres of land, are the worst sufferers of price rise and it has disturbed their mental peace because the cost of production has gone up due to rise in prices. With the rise in electricity and water charges, and increase in prices of seeds and fertilisers, the farmers owing upto 10 acres of land are mentally disturbed and are on the brink of starvation in the country. It is only because of price rise. And to my mind even if the Government intends to check the price rise, it will not be able to succeed. Hon. Prime Minister, has himself confessed if we do not get foreign loans, it will be difficult for the Government even to pay two months salary bills of the Central Government employees. It is almost certain that there will be further rise in prices. Therefore it is necessary for the Government to contemplate measures to check deterioration in the standards of living of the masses which is going down rapidly due to price rise and also to take measures to make available essential commodities to the consumers at reasonable prices to check growing disillusionment.

I come from the plateau region of Uttar Pradesh-Bundelkhand, where 60 per cent of the population consists of labourer and poor farmers. One thing I can say with certainty that at present in Bundelkhand region, the condition of the farmers is very miserable.

They have got nothing to eat and no kerosene to light their houses, due to low production. Farmers have no money to make purchases and they find it very difficult to buy daily necessities for their sustenance. They are unable to buy kerosene to light their houses in the night. Such is the condition of the people of Bundelkhand. Therefore, I would like to say one thing about the present state of continuing rise in prices, that unless the Government exercise effective control over the price scenario by making available essential commodities at reasonable prices, it can't hope of ameliorating the condition of weaker sections, middle income group and salaried class people. The prices of goods available at fair price shops are continuously going up. On the one hand prices are going up and on the other people are finding it difficult to procure these goods. Nowadays the poor, farmers and labourers find it difficult to procure wheat, rice, kerosene and other essential items from the fair price shops. When they return empty handed from the shops, they realise the gratuity of the problem. Every man is very perturbed because of the rise in prices. First of all there is no item available of the fair price shops and whatever is available, it is distributed in an arbitrary and corrupt way. There is absolute corruption at the fair price shops and nobody gets goods from there. Therefore to check the price rise effectively, my only submission to the Government is to make available essential goods to the middle income group people, farmers, labourers and salaried class people at reasonable prices. Thus, the increasing prices are creating numerous evils in the country besides disillusionment and unrest among the people. Only if the prices are brought under control, it will be possible to exercise effective check on these things.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): There have been plenty of suggestions about what should be done and why this price situation is going out of control. Now, my agreement with many of the suggestions remains. But there are a few points which have not been brought to the attention

of the House. I rise only to make those points and do not want to take more time of the House.

There should be a public sector intervention in the wholesale trade. This has not yet been mentioned. The intervention can be in two ways, (1) Squeezing of public financial institutions' advances to the trade sector. It is time that our economy has a large intervention of the public sector in the wholesale trade itself. Without it, the talk of an effective public distribution system, I believe, is meaningless. I, therefore, suggest that on these two points the Minister should give his comments.

We were raising this question since the Budget was presented by the earlier Government. We insisted that even if the petrol prices cannot be reduced, try to reduce the diesel prices. If the diesel prices can be reduced, then a good deal of rise in prices can be controlled. It is the diesel which affects prices in the country-side, in agriculture output; it is the diesel which affects the entire transport system and adds to the cost of the transport. So, if you can persuade the Finance Minister, if you can persuade the Cabinet to reduce the prices of diesel, then you will be able to have an impact on the price spiral.

This is a delicate subject. I know it is almost treason to utter this kind of a statement. That is how people react to it. That is how people react to it. I am referring to Defence expenditure. It is known that our of Rs. 14000 crores of Defence expenditure, approximately Rs. 5000 crores of Defence expenditure is in the form of imports. Nobody says that our Defence strength should be weakened. It is not that. I have been in the Public Accounts Committee while in the Rajya Sabha and today while in the Lok Sabha. I know how much waste takes place, how much in the name of imports—Bofors is just an example of that—we waste our money in importing Defence equipment and Defence material. If you give a close look to it, just imagine the figure of Rs. 5000 crores which is just about our balance of trade deficit and Rs. 5000 crores which is about a size of our

[Sh. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

internal deficit that is all spent on imports. If we give a close scrutiny, if we apply our mind, that figure we will realise it. I know because I am in the Consultative Committee also, that it is very difficult to reduce the revenue expenditure and the inflation comes not because of our loans for plan expenditure but because of loan financing in order to meet our revenue expenditure, the revenue side consumption. If we borrow funds in order to make Government consumption possible, that is the guaranteed way of spiralling prices. And from the revenue expenditure we know the objective. You cannot go back from your interest commitments, you cannot go back from the expenditure you make on the salaries and wages of Government servants, and you cannot go back really on the food subsidies, because if you cut the food subsidies you will put pressure on the prices. Therefore, the other area, is the Defence expenditure, without weakening, I underline again and I repeat it, without weakening our Defence strength there is scope for cutting down Defence expenditure and in terms of imports too. This is another area to which I want to draw your attention to.

And lastly, of course, try to find out which other areas are there. Because the reasons for this have already been stated. It is the accumulated liquidity over the last decade that is leading to that. That liquidity is not in the hands of the Government. That liquidity is in the hands of the black money earners, the traders. And if you can do that, though it is a suggestion which is not relevant to you but relevant really to the Finance Ministry, if we can strengthen our revenue earning staff, in that way it would be better. If you spend one more rupee by employing a few more persons on the revenue side, you earn much more than one rupee in terms of taxes. That is one way of plugging black income once again, which is generated not only in the wholesale sector but in various other sectors.

These are the suggestions which I feel were not submitted before the House and

which I made, when you kindly permitted me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Kuppuswamy, have you informed that you were going to speak in Tamil?

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: I have informed the interpreter. He is not here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whom did you inform? Have you informed in writing?

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: I have informed him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not have to inform him. You have to inform us so that we can keep him ready.

Shri Sharma.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the prices of the commodities of common use have sky-rocketed which is resulting in difficulties for the common man.

Presenting the Budget, Shri Madhu Dandvate had shown a deficit of Rs. 720 crores but it has now increased to Rs. 1400 crores. Moreover, the National Front had promised during elections that the price will be brought down. The prices have increased because taxes worth Rs. 1790 crores have been levied. Similarly, taxes worth Rs. 947 crores have been levied by the Railways also. In addition to this 25 percent surcharge has been imposed on petroleum products also because of gulf situation. All these have resulted in spiralling of prices. Situation has become so grave that Dalda is being sold at Rs. 40 a kg, mustard oil at Rs. 37 per kg, wheat flour at Rs. 4.5 a kg and pulses are being sold at Rs. 17th 18 per kg. The common man has been crushed under these prices. Some of my friends say that prices had increased during the Congress regime. I would like to say that in 1988-89, the country had to face the severest drought of the century. Rs. 800 crores were spent on

Rajasthan only. Similarly, Rs. 12 to 14 hundred crores were given to Gujarat also because that State was also severely affected. Not a single person had died of hunger in those days because of the full stocks of foodgrains. So far as the development of economy is concerned, even during that period we had a domestic growth of 4.9 percent. This had happened in 1988-89 when country had to face a severe drought. Inflation was 9.1 percent at the time. But during their regime, the inflation has increased much. The condition is such that the foreign reserves have shrunk to only Rs. 2500 crores. Regarding foreign exchange, the stockiest have started thinking that this Government of speculation will not resort to imports. It is a matter of happiness that few days back the Commerce Minister stated that they will be importing edible oils. It should be done. The prices have gone quite high. Regarding edible oils, I would like to suggest that a limit for stock of these items should be fixed for stockiest and retailers. BJP has taken one benefit of supporting the Government and that is that stockiest have not been raided. The biggest reason for such a situation is the mismanagement of the economy. The other reasons are, heavy taxation surcharge on petroleum products due to Gulf situation and collusion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Start raiding them now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA: I would like to say that for bringing the prices down, massive procurement of foodgrains should be done. Last time it was of 117.50 lakh tonnes. This time it should be for more quantity. It is true that the prices of tyres have increased. Shri Devi Lal has given relief to the farmers and I support the measure. Procurement price has been increased. That is a right step. It should continue through different measures. On 17 December, 1990, taxes, Excise and Custom Duties to the tune of Rs. 1340 were imposed. I oppose this. This will lead to increase in prices. Unless harsh measure are taken, things are not properly managed... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, do not repeat.

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA: Effective measure should be adopted; stock should be controlled, hoarders should be raided. The entire House agrees to these suggestions. The increasing prices have made the life of the poor, the labourers and salaried class miserable. Steps should be taken to ameliorate their condition.

SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem we are discussing today is the biggest problem of the country and affects the people of the country. In our country, 50 percent of the people live below the poverty line. The way these people bear the burden of the price-increase is a matter which has no precedent.

In the villages the salt which earlier used to be sold at 80 paise a kg. is being sold between Rs. 1.40 per kg. to Rs. 2 per kg. Kerosine oil is not being sold at Rs. 5 a litre whereas it was being sold earlier for Rs. 4 a litre.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no two opinions that the prices have increased.

SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV: Similarly, the prices of rice has gone up from Rs. 12 to 18, pulses are being sold now at Rs. 17 as against the earlier rate of Rs. 13; the mustard oil prices have jumped up from Rs. 26 to Rs. 36. During the last 3 to 4 month, the prices of all the commodities have increased so much that the life has become miserable. After all how it happens that we do not have salt to put in the pulses, and the salt-seller becomes a millionaire. The earthen lamp in our house goes off but the man who sells oil becomes a millionaire. In the month of March, the iron, coal and cement dealers earn crores of rupees. Which is that magic wand which makes the traders millionaires and the farmers paupers? Is the hon. Minister aware of such a thing? More the measures are taken, more the problem becomes grave. Alongwith the increase in facilities and concessions to the officers and Ministers the

[Sh. Mitra Sen Yadav]

burden on the poor is also increasing. Our money in the banks is being taken by the traders who use it for hoarding the foodgrains in their godowns. They sell these commodities at prices of their own choice and the Government is not in a position to take action against them because it knows that if it takes action against them, it will come down itself. It is beyond the capacity of the Government to take action in this regard.

Now I will give certain suggestions. One is that the distribution system should be strengthened, the farmers should be given remunerative prices for their produce, the bank loans to the traders should not be given to that extent that they may purchase and hoard the essential commodities. Another suggestion is that the infructuous expenditure like the facilities and concessions given to the bureaucrats and Ministers should be stopped and the losses being incurred by the big corporations, which run in crores of rupees, should be stopped. It has been observed that the big officers like I.A.S. officers keep on enjoying at the Government cost and spend money indiscriminately. When someone wants to take action against them, it is found they have already retired. No action is possible against them at that time. The Government does not have guts to take some deterrent action so as to control the price rise which is crushing the people of the country, 50% of whom are living below the poverty line. The people sitting on the treasury benches keep on appreciating the Government which please them. We oppose the Government on the issue of price rise but the Government does not pay heed to our views. Therefore, I would say that Government must take some steps against price rise if they have any.

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH (Patiala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to repeat what has already been said but I want to bring to your kind notice that the Government borrowings from the Reserve Bank of India are increasing by 14 percent whereas the deficit is going to be more than double. The

steps that have been taken by the Government to reduce the deficit are such that it will become difficult for the poor to make both ends meet. In the name of Gulf crisis, the Government has increased the price of the kerosine oil but has not touched the price of LPG. What else can be more anti-poor?

The hon. Members have given suggestions. I would not repeat them. I would only say that if the Government is sincere in bringing prices down, it should link the salaries with the productivity.

The subsidy that is given is taken back through back door. This subsidy system should be done away with. The price rise is not because we are giving subsidy. It is not that we are producing the foodgrains cheaply. On the contrary, subsidy is causing price rise. In 1960, the purchasing power of rupee was quite high. Whatever we could purchase for Rs. 11 at the time is now available for Rs. 100. Thus purchasing power of the rupee is coming down, whereas the prices are increasing. It has become difficult for the poor to make both ends meet. If this is the definition of the Welfare State then the democracy in India will be in danger. This aspect should be taken care of by the Government as well as by the House and the people of his country and collective efforts should be made to bring the prices down. For this, even if someone has to sacrifice something, he should do this. The Government should form a policy that for the next 10 years at least the salaries and the prices are frozen.

With these suggestions I thank you for the time given to me.

[English]

DR. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I would like to say a few words on the subject of price rise in our country. I remember that in my college days, my Lecturer of Economics used to deliver the lecture and say that the day may come when we may have to go the market with a basket of money and come back with only a few handful things. I thought

that stage may come after some time, but in our period itself we are noticing such kind of things taking place. The galloping inflation which has now started in our country, to what extent it will go, we do not know.

Price rise affects the common man, especially the labour class. Whatever salary or wages they are getting are very low. At the same time, when the prices are increasing, their purchasing power is becoming very low. This is because of our fiscal policy. I remember when Prof. Madhu Dandavate had assured the House that his budget deficit may not be a big one in course of time. He had announced that. But because of the wrong policy adopted by the National Front Government, the prices are increasing at an alarming scale. If we fail to arrest this kind of inflationary trend in our country, the common man will definitely suffer. For that, the Government has to take so many measures, especially with regard to distribution system. The consumer products must reach the consumer in such a manner that he can get them at a reasonable price. For distribution of consumer products, we are having ration shops but the number of ration shops that we are having is not sufficient. In rural areas, for so many hamlets we are having one ration shop. Sometimes the distance that they have to cover is five kilometres, ten kilometres because we are saying that thousand card holders must come to purchase the things at one ration shop. It may be convenient for the urban people to go to the ration shop. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to take note of this. No doubt we are having ration shops in rural areas, but each hamlet must have its own ration shop. If we are not able to provide such kind of facilities especially in rural areas, the rural people will suffer a lot. If you take even the petroleum products, you will find their prices are also increasing. If you go to any town or even any part of the country, you will find that diesel is not available. To get diesel, the lorries are waiting in queue for kilometres together. If you are not able to provide sufficient diesel and petrol for the vehicles, it is very difficult for them to transport goods from one part of the country to the other. Because of that also the prices

are increasing. We are only having Gulf crisis now. But even before the Gulf crisis, increase in the prices of diesel and petroleum products started in our country. Whatever kind of economy we want to have, we cannot dispense with this kind of essential commodities in our country. Even though we are having shortage of foreign exchange, it is the duty of the Government to see that the petroleum products are imported. They have to import all these products and try to distribute them in a proper manner. By this at least the motor vehicles in our country can get sufficient diesel. This is also one of the contributory factors leading to the rise in prices and we are suffering a lot because of that.

I do not want to go into details because of the limited time at my disposal. Only one point which I would like to make is that there is a lot of corruption going on in the fair price shops in Tamil Nadu. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister for taking necessary action because in Tamil Nadu they are distributioning bogus ration cards and whatever the Central Government is giving by way of palm oil and rice, it is going somewhere.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Is it because you belong to AIADMK? (*Interruptions*)

DR. THAMBIDURAI: When the Marxist Member is suggesting like this, what can I say? It is because you know, you have read in the newspapers that Sri Lanka militants are smuggling diesel and other essential commodities. Here it is the poor people and the labourers who are affected. Therefore, let the Central Government take necessary action to see that whatever good commodities are given to the State properly reach the common man in our State. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Surya Narayan Yadav. Please be brief.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard the Congress Members. According to

[Sh. Surya Narayan Yadav]

them, the prices have skyrocketed since the time the National Front Government came to power. We are discussing in the House the price rise in the country. If we do not discuss it sincerely and honestly, the prices cannot come down. The Congress has ruled this country for 40-45 years. They have polluted our economy to such an extent that the prices have gone out of control. When the National Front Government came to power, our Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh had stated that the coffers were empty but in spite of that, he would streamline the economy of the country. But what have we seen? When we were ready to solve the different issues, the Congress and BJP together brought the Government down. During the 40 years of misrule of the Congress, the prices have jumped up beyond anybody's control. Today the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. On the other hand, the middlemen buy foodgrains from the farmers and sell them on high rates and this is done with the help of the Congressman. I have detailed proof of these things with me but due to shortage of time I would not like to go into that. Though we have discussed the issue of price rise at length, the prices have not come down. Why is it so? The reason is that while discussing we do not state the correct position and unless we do this, there cannot be reduction in the prices. During the last session when we were discussing the price rise, you were sitting on this eat. At that time it was stated that the price rise has been caused because of petrol and diesel crisis. Shri Rao Saheb ji is sitting here and he is an experienced Minister. I would like to ask him if petrol is costing more and its supply from Kuwait is not easy, can we not send the consumer items through trains? Is there no rail system in our country?

I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he should give all the facilities to the factory owners for sending their goods through trains. This is the duty of the Government. The people of the country are not ready to listen to the excuse that because petrol and diesel are costly and there is shortage of these

items, the prices are increasing. Just now one of our hon. Member was saying that a particular brand of soap which we used to purchase for one rupee 5-6 years back was being sold for Rs. 6.00 a cake when Shri VP Singh came to power but now its price has gone up to Rs. 6.50.

I admit that there has been price rise during the regime of our party but this has happened because of complicated and wrong economic policies prevailing earlier. We are not responsible for this. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, when he was Agriculture Minister had announced that all factory products will have fixed prices written on them along with the taxes applicable. I would like to ask Mr. Rao whether he implemented this decision? If they could not do that it was their fault not ours.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are ringing the bell and time is also short. Therefore, I would like to give one or two suggestions and conclude. When there is any clamour you try to provide relief by sending the supplies by air. This should be done where there is no rail facility so that in the rural areas goods are available on normal rates and the people living there are not adversely affected by price rise. Sir, arrangement should be made in every District Headquarters for procurement of foodgrains. Along with it, more and more factories should also be set up. About petrol, we are told that talks are going on and the hon. Minister will be informing us about that. You are aware that gas is produced from Puraini leaves and Cheechors and these are available in abundance in India. Why do not you set up factories for it? If we provide gas to the villages, we will be saving cowdung, wood and trees and in this way our production will increase and we will also be able to control prices.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful for the time given to me.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri C.K. Kuppuswamy.

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Sir, for the first time the Interpreter was not available. This is a serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should have given notice in advance.

[Translation]

*SHRI C.K. KUPPUSAMY (Coimbatore): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, I would like to express my views, while participating in the discussion on price rise. Several Hon'ble Members have also expressed their views.

Sir, I can without any doubt prove the fact that black-marketing, hoarding and adulteration and other serious market crimes were the order of the day during the last 11 months. This is the main factor responsible for this galloping rise in prices. Petrol which was at Rs. 7.25 is now at Rs. 11.25. Diesel which was at Rs. 3.25 is now selling at Rs. 5.50. I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister to the acute scarcity of diesel in Tamil Nadu.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister to the malpractices in the distribution of essential commodities through fair price shops in Tamil Nadu. The rice that is allocated to the State from the Central Pool does not percolate to the poor through the fair price shop, but is being bartered away by the DMK volunteers. Thanks to the encouragement of the DMK Government. You are sending from the Central Pool 40,000 or 50,000 tonnes of rice. You will have to see whether these rice reaches the poorest of the poor and harijans in Tamil Nadu who are below the poverty line. If that does not, the purpose is defeated. I would hence urge upon the Minister to constitute a Committee to inquire into these malpractices as also to constantly monitor that the Central rice allocation to the State reaches the poor and not the D.M.K. volunteers. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a very serious matter. I

had myself several times caught red-handedly while people were smuggling several bags of rice meant for the poor out of the ration shops and handed over these rice bags to the District Collector. In Thiru pur itself on one occasion I and the public prevented the smuggling of rice bags from ration shops and handed over the culprits to the District Collector. At this juncture I would also appeal to the Government to provide employment to the educated unemployed in Tamil Nadu or rice till employment is provided to them.

I must say it with agony that the mid-day-meal scheme in Tamil Nadu which was started by our late leader Kamaraj and enriched by Dr. MGR and renamed as nutritious meal scheme which served millions of children in Tamil Nadu with the nutritious meal a day is in a quandary today under the DMK Government. The scheme is not being properly implemented and several malpractices are being committed at the cost of the children to serve certain people's self interest under this DMK Government. I would like the Government to take note of these things and act immediately to salvage the scheme from the shambles.

Sir, Hon'ble members have rightly pointed out that the prices of essential preparations like idli and Dosa have steeply risen up. And it would be in the interest of the poor if I demand the introduction of Janata Meals Scheme at affordable price in the country, especially in Tamil Nadu. With these words, Sir, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIVAMANRAO MAHADIK (Bombay South Central): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the question is what to do with the increasing price-rise so far as essential commodities are concerned. No answer is given. Only criticism on the Government is made. I do not know whether it is cheating ourselves! Nothing can be done because there is no

[Sh. Vamanrao Mahadik]

agency with the Government which can stop this tendency of increasing price. It is because, the world has become one big market and just as thick air runs towards thin air, wherever less prices are going, the commodities are bound to go by way of smuggling or otherwise and if there is no exchange and consumption capacity within the countries, they will export those commodities. In any way, the price level cannot be brought down just as it was done when deflation was there in 1929 and the whole world suffered. Inflation is going to be there. There is only one way out. Whatever we are distributing as a Government by way of rationing, those commodities should be subsidised. For that, the Government should have money. This Government's treasury is not full of money. It is empty. This Government has taken a loan of Rs. 1.5 lakh crores. This Government has sold our gold. This Government is monetarily very poor. The rupees of this Government has become a bogus rupees. If we want, we can make it up.

This Government has depreciated their own currency and so they cannot subsidise the articles in money. If it is to be done, find out the family who has got no earning man. Give them ration free of charge. If there is no one earning or if there is a man without any job, do as we did in Maharashtra. Under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, anybody who wants to work will come and work. He will get Rs. 20/- along with two kilos of rice free. As this has not been done, the Government is not able to face even the demand and supply rule. To meet the demand, the Government should control the population. Government tells "Ham Do Hamare Do" but does not accept the challenge of those who believe in a very large family.

The Government is not able to accept the challenge of increasing population and so the demand are increasing. What about the supply? The whole land is not put to production. What are the scheme that the Government has undertaken to increase

fullest agrarian out put. Show to us how much land was put to food production. Only rich farmers are able to produce more. But production is not in the hands of poor people. That is why, the Government is lagging behind in controlling the prices. There is only one way and that is, while subsidising the prices, Government should control those who are hoarders and those who are corrupt.

This Government is facing inflation. Crores of rupees are in black. You call such people and put their money into Government investments. Give them some rate of interest.

We have lost our credit in foreign exchange because we have no power over money and over things. Why is it so? Government should think twice.

There are Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Plans. Have not the prices increased in these Plans? These Plans are planned for creation of big industries and projects but they are not putting something into the hands of poor man and, therefore, I say we cannot control the prices.

Only three or four days ago, there was strike by the carriers of onions in Maharashtra. When this Government came to power, the rate of onions was Rs. 8/- a kilo. Then it rose to Rs. 12/- a kilo and it is Rs. 16/- a kilo now. It has affected price of vegetables and the food ingredients. This instance of rise in the price of onions, is going to destroy our country's union. That is what is happening here because of Petrol, Diesel prices. Wherever we see, the prices are increasing. It is not Bofors only but there is corruption everywhere.

[Translation]

The Government should rule properly but it is not doing so. When they are not able to deliver the goods, they bring issue like Mandal Commission or Ramjanambhoomi Babri Masjid.

[English]

We are only quarrelling over politics. Just as we call a crow for "pind-day" to our forefathers in similar fashion, whatever we do for the poor by way of legislation and whatever we spend for their benefit, does not go to the poor but goes to the rich. Our economy is a beggar's economy. Government should come forward with subsidising proposal to meet out economy to control the increasing price level.

[Translation]

*SHRI KANCI PANNEER SELVAM (Chengalpattu): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words on behalf of the AIADMK on the issue of price rise that is under discussion by the House.

Those affected by this steep increase in prices of goods are those who are the have-nots and *not* the rich. The poor are not only reeling under the oppression of prices rise but also have to suffer on account of acute scarcity of essential commodities. The farmers in the villages are the most affected by the price rise. The rise in prices, besides affecting the poor, also encourages black marketing, hoarding and adulteration.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, price of all essential commodities have gone up. *Dal* was sold at Rs. 6 a kilo is now selling Rs. 12/-. The price of Tamarind has also doubled to Rs. 20/- a kilo. Prices of cooking oil have also gone up. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Karunanidhi is not taking any step to control the price rise.

When Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he distributed rice at Rs. 1.25 a kilo. But the present Chief Minister has hiked it to Rs. 3.60 a kilo. Not only the price of rice but the prices of all essential commodities in Tamil Nadu have been hiked by the Chief Minister, Mr. Karunanidhi to oppress the people.

Today, the standing paddy crops in Tamil

Nadu are the most affected by scarce water supply. This Government is not taking any step to save the standing paddy crops. This is also one of the reasons for the rise in prices in Tamil Nadu.

Essential commodities, diesel and petrol are not being supplied to general public but are being smuggled by militants out of this country. This is the state of affairs in Tamil Nadu. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to issue necessary directives to the State Government to streamline the distribution system of essential commodities so that the poor are relieved of the operation of price rise.

Before I conclude, I thank you for the opportunity given.

18.56 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBSERVATION RE. RECEIPT OF
INTERIM NOTED FROM HIGH COURT
OF DELHI

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to make an announcement. I had informed the House on 27th December, 1990 about the receipt of a notice from the Registrar of the High Courts of Delhi requiring me to arrange to show cause in connection with Civil Writ Petition No. 3871 of 1990.

I had also informed the House that as per well-established practice and convention of the House, I had decided not to respond to the notice. I had passed on the relevant papers to the Minister of Law and Justice for taking such action as he might deem fit to apprise the High Court of the correct constitutional position and the well-established convention of the House.

I have received today a letter from the

559 *Announcement by Speaker* JANUARY 8, 1991
Observation re. receipt of interim
Notice from High Court of Delhi

Registrar of the High Court of Delhi forwarding therewith a copy of an order dated 8th January, 1991 passed by the Division Bench of the High Court of Delhi. The Division Bench has passed the following orders on the arguments on stay application in Civil Writ Petition No. 3871 of 1990:—

"The arguments on the stay application are in progress. It would be in the fitness of things that an order of *status quo* may be passed as the hearing of the arguments on the stay application is likely to take time.

Therefore, we order that all the petitions presented before respondent No. 2 under the 10th Scheduled of the Constitution shall not be proceeded with or pursued by the petitions before the Speaker and we further order that *status quo* as it exists today shall be maintained by the parties.

Adjourned to 9th January, 1991.

A copy of this order may be sent to the Speaker immediately."

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): Sir, are you bound by this? The Courts should not intervene.

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane): The Court should not intervene. The Speaker is the supreme authority.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Acharia-ji, I am convening a meeting of the Leaders of the parties tomorrow at 10 A.M. sharp.

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE: It is our suggestion that the Court should not intervene. The Speaker is the supreme authority.

Disc. under Rule 193 560
Continued rise in prices in the country

19.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Continued Rise in Price of Essential Commodities in the country—Contd.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Kindly give me time to speak. My party has not given me time. You may please give me time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please. Now the Minister will reply.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: As you are not giving me time, I am walking out.

19.01 hrs.

The Hon. Member, Shri K.D. Sultanpuri then walked out of the House

19.01 hrs.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): Sir, a very important subject of price rise has been discussed in the House for nearly four hours. You have been kind enough to give as much time as possible to all the parties in view of the importance of this subject. I am grateful to hon. Members who have participated in the debate. The issue was raised very forcefully by Shri Basudeb Acharia and several other Members of this House had equally, forcefully and eloquently discussed this issue.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to say that we will continue to sit in the House until the reply is over. We had decided to sit up to 7 O' clock and that is why I said this.

(*Interruptions*)

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I will try to be as short as possible.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Is it an effective reply?

[*Translation*]

SHRIDAU DAYALJOSHI (Kota): Kindly make it clear as to what you are going to do to curb price rise.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: On many points, you have yourself given replies. You have also identified the reasons for the price rise. You have stated the ways and means also for bring the prices down. I will try to reply to your satisfaction. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

whose legacy this present situation is. It is a fact that this Government came into power at a very difficult period.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Through manipulation.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: This was a very conscious decision to inherit this legacy from whomsoever it might have descended. It is a difficult task indeed. Economic situation in the country, the disturbance and of course, high prices are naturally very perturbing. I can only assure you that the Government is also as deeply concerned as the hon. Members are because no Government can afford to live with such a high price rise. It has to think of effective measures. And I would only briefly like to state that certain steps have already been taken. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Increasing the price of rise is an effective step! (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: That has been withdrawn.

SHRI ANIL BASU: After so many interventions.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: We do not want to blame one party or the other which has been ruling the country in the past. As the Prime Minister has repeatedly said, without blaming anybody, knowing what the situation was, this Government took over at a very critical period in the interest of the people and democracy. Our intention is and our firm determination is that we want to improve the situation, of course with the cooperation of all the States, with the cooperation of all the parties represented in this House and even outside. A situation like this cannot be really controlled by the Government's efforts alone. The root cause has to be identified and everybody's active cooperation and support is needed to curb a very high rate of rise in the prices as we have witnessed recently.

Anything can be proved or disproved by figures. But I don't want to take recourse to any devious method to hide facts and I would not try to say that what the hon. Members have stated is not right, is not true. The fact remains that there has been an unprecedented rise in prices for some time. I shall come to the various factors that have contributed to this. The hon. Members have themselves mentioned that during the current financial year upto 15th December 1990 the whole sale price index rose by 8.3% as compared to the last year during the same period which was 6.1%.

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): I want to know one thing. The hon. Minister may kindly say what was the rate of price rise for the last five years.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I can send him the figures for the previous years.

The annual rate of inflation in terms of wholesale price index as rightly stated by almost all the hon. Members who spoke about it was 11.4% as compared to 7.4% during the same period last year. The figure with regard to consumer price index for in-

[Rao Birender Singh]

dustrial workers is still higher. It is an increase of 10.2% in the financial year upto October 1990; for the same period last year it was 6%. The annual rate of inflation in terms of consumer price index upto October 1990 comes to 10.8% which is exactly double of the rise in the previous year during the same period which was 5.4%.

All these figures I would even go to the extent of saying do not exactly indicate the real hardship that the people have been facing on account of higher prices in retail for various commodities. If we come to the factors which have contributed to this, some are fiscal measures, raising of administered prices of certain commodities, then naturally the demand and supply gap for certain goods and as I said increased money supply. But the suggestions given by the hon. members have been noted by us; they are also noted by the Ministry of Finance. Whatever can be done on the basis of these suggestions and even otherwise, the Government intends to take measures to curb this price rise.

As you know, our position with regard to foodgrains is quite comfortable and the same goes for sugar. We have a good stock of wheat; we have a comfortable stock of rice and we hope that we shall have a very good procurement season for rice this year also, as in the past year. But the prices of foodgrains have also gone up. As everybody knows, it is on account of the higher support price announced by the Government. On account of that, the issue prices had also to be raised. *(Interruptions)* I will try to reply to some of the points, at least of the hon. Members who are good enough to be present even at this far end of the sitting like Shri Acharia, Shri Jha, Shri Chand Ram, Dr. Thambi Durai and several other friends. *(Interruptions)* Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is also present and he has also given very good suggestions. We always hear him, giving a new turn to certain things every time he speaks in the house.

Sir, as you know, the prices of paddy last year were raised from Rs. 185 per quin-

tal to Rs. 205 per quintal. Subsequently, the issue price had to be raised from Rs. 244, to Rs. 289 for common rice. Similarly the price of wheat was at Rs. 183 per quintal in 1989-90. That price now stands at Rs. 215 per quintal. It is on account of that, the issue price was also raised from Rs. 204 to Rs. 234. There was a second increase that had been decided by the previous Government for issue of rice. But, on the demand of parties in the House and of hon. Members, the Prime Minister announced the withdraw of the increase. Just as the prices of foodgrains have been raised to provide incentive prices to farmers, ground-nut prices were also raised to a very high level, i.e. from Rs. 430 in 1988-89 to Rs. 500 in 1989-90 and to Rs. 580 on 16.6.1990.

Similarly, the prices for various other oil-seed crops were raised very substantially and it is because, you would agree, that unless we become self-sufficient in certain commodities, it will not help India to continue to import large quantities of commodities that we are short of. A situation has now arisen on account of which prices of edible oils have gone up. It is on account of the fact that during the past few years, the Government has been deliberately reducing the imports of edible oil. In the year 1987-88, we imported 18 lakh tonnes of edible oil. The next year, it was around seven lakh tonnes. Last year, it was merely six-and-a-half lakh tonnes only. This was done only because we wanted that the prices of oil-seeds should be so remunerative and should be so attractive, that the farmers grow more of this. Unfortunately, whereas the productivity of certain crops in the agricultural sector has gone up satisfactorily, the productivity of pulses and oil-seeds has not improved. That is one reason why we are still short of these commodities. Some of the criticism was directed at high prices of pulses and edible oils.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE
(Dumdum): There is also shrinkage in area for pulses.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: In the case of rice, since 1950-51, during these past 40 years or so, the increase in productivity is

120 per cent, from an average of 698 to 1,541 kilo grams per hectare. In the case of wheat, the productivity has increased by 212 per cent. For other cereals also, it is quite high—an increase of 76 per cent. But for pulses, it is only 24 per cent. For oilseeds, it is around 40 per cent. I am not very sure whether this can be taken as an average applicable to some of the oilseed crops though groundnut and mustard oil have done quite well.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): May I ask you a question? Precisely because the price of oilseeds has gone up, the price of edible oils has gone up, the quota of edible oils in public distribution system should not be decreased. This is precisely what has been done in the case of West Bengal.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: We are trying to supply edible oil in the PDS because we know that for the poorer people, who form the mass of our population in this country, it is a very essential commodity.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): From when are you increasing the quota of edible oils?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Sir, I am happy to inform you that Government has taken a decision to import more edible oil and some quantities of it will be reaching this very month.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: To West Bengal also? (*Interruptions*)

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: West Bengal and Tamil Nadu would also get their share. (*Interruptions*) From the stocks that we had, we tried to supply some quantities to some of the States for Christmas and New Year. For Pongal also, we are trying to see what quantities can be given to the southern States.

We have been making monthly releases of sugar. Public distribution system apart, even free sale sugar is controlled by the Government. This is with a view to keep the

prices at a level in a balanced manner. If we find the prices rising too high in the free market for sugar, we release more quantities. If we find that the sugarmills are likely to suffer losses, then we reduce the quantity so that they can partly make up for their losses. The price of sugar has not risen very high. But the prices that are now ruling the market have to be seen in the context of the fact that the farmers are now getting about Rs. 45 or Rs. 46 per quintal of sugarcane as against Rs. 22 or Rs. 23 only three years ago. If the farmers have to be given high prices of sugarcane naturally the cost of production goes up and the Government cannot bear immeasurable burden of subsidy.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Calcutta South): What about the middlemen between the producer and the consumer. There are middlemen who earn a lot of profit. If you can stop hoarding if you can stop this profit by the middlemen, you will be able to give the sugar at a low price to the consumer and at the same time to offer good price to the producer. Have you taken that into account?

[*Transtation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): One can understand this but make the position clear about cement and iron also. Why the prices of cement have gone up? Wheat is not available on fair price shops. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU: You should not put the issue in such a way as if there is a conflict between the producer and the consumer. (*Interruptions*)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: The farmer who has 200 acres of land is also a farmer and a farmer who has one acre of land is also a farmer. How can one judge the status of a farmer as per the land he is holding? (*Interruptions*)

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Hon. Members have repeatedly talked about hoarding operations which the Government should undertake. There are several Acts which we

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are implementating but the real implementation is through the States for all these Acts.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): The prices of cement, iron and steel are very high. Kindly explain this also. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: There is the Essential Commodities Act, there is the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Essential Supplies Act and there are various other Acts also. The Prevention of Blackmarketing Act is being enforced and people can be put behind bars even without trial. There is the Essential Commodities Special Powers Act which is also being implemented by the States and the hon. Member will be glad to know that we are monitoring the action taken by the States under all these Acts very regularly. Monthly and quarterly returns are being received from the States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): It should show some good results.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: About the results I am going to give you the position, provided you listen to me.

[*English*]

From 1.1.90 to 30.11.90, during these eleven months, the number of raids conducted was 1,04,388, the persons arrested were 4650, the persons prosecuted were 3402 and out of the decisions so far announced, 424 persons have been convicted and I would like to inform you Sir, so that Choudhry Chand Ram can also listen to it, that Rs 15.63 crores worth of goods were confiscated after these raids. And this is a continuing process. These figures are at the all-India level. But I am personally of the opinion that de-hoarding by itself is not going to curb

price rise to the extent which the hon. Members feel that it would. When we are short of supply not train commodities, there cannot be very large quantities of them hoarded.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Will the hon. Minister yield for a minute?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Yes.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I would like to give a suggestion that the Government should stop the bank advances for hoarding to the wholesalers. I am not talking of retailers. You can utilise the same amount for purchase by your own agencies utilise the same amount for purchase by your own agencies like the Food Corporation of India, etc. Will the Government do this?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I will convey this suggestion to the hon. Finance Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: If there is a shortfall in supply, even a small hoarding is a large push to prices.

(*Interruptions*)

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: It does. But even if there is scare about shortage that also gives a large push because every family wants to hoard a little more to stock the commodities for two to three months in advance. Probably, that makes a greater effect on the market than the business men who hoard. I would convey the suggestion given by Mr. Jha to the hon. Finance Minister but in my view Sir, as you also must be knowing, most of the black market business in the whole-sale is run with blackmoney. It is not so much on bank advance not bank finances. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Not a single wholesaler is doing business with his own money... (*Interruptions*)

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I would only mention one or two essential items, with your permission.

My friend opposite is very much agitated

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over the high price of cement. We are ourselves very deeply concerned about the undue rise in cement prices that was witnessed some time ago. There was a sudden spurt in cement prices. The previous Government also was aware of it and it had been suggested to them also that some strict measures should be taken so that the industry does not arbitrarily enhance prices without any proper justification. This Government is also very much concerned about this. There are various reasons given by the industry. But the main reason is large consumption and short supply. Government also has been making bulk purchases for its own construction work.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: There was over-production of cement last year.

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): But the cost of production would not have increased.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I agree. That is why, I have stated that it was unjustified.

[*Translation*]

SHRIDAU DAYAL JOSHI: Till two years back, there was a slump in the prices of cement and cement companies had a buffer stock of cement with them. Now they have gone ahead to collude with the industrialists to increase the prices of cement. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Earlier a decision was taken to decontrol cement. Cement was a controlled commodity. A decision was taken by the previous Government earlier that it should be decontrolled and this decision was taken on an assurance from the industry that they will try to maintain supplies according to demand and they will try to maintain supplies according to demand and that they will also keep the prices low at a reasonable level. That assurance naturally has not been fulfilled and the Government is looking into it. We are aware of it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Does the government propose to take any action against the Cement industry who had given an assurance in this regard?

[*English*]

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: At the highest level Government has considered this situation about cement as also about other things. I am glad to inform the House that on 11th, a group of Ministers appointed by the Cabinet is looking into these things and discussing matters with the cement industry. On 11th, we have called the cement industry representative to discuss the matter of high prices of cement. Only after that, the Government may be able to announce something. But we are trying to see what can be done. If need be, if the industry does not come round and behave properly, then Government probably would consider further measures, but at this time we are trying to persuade the industry to cooperate with the Government and to look to the problems that are being faced by the people. We hope, they will come round. Earlier, there was also a voluntary control over prices of edible oils. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (Sonepat): I would like to know as to why the government has shown leniency in this regard. The middlemen should not be given money from the banks. The government should not give them finances. Also harsh measures should be taken to contain the increasing prices of cement because they say:-

"Dandah Shashti, Prajah Sarva,

Dandah evabhirakshati.

Dandah supteshu Jagarti,

Dandam Dharman Vidurbudhah."

It means that it is only the fear of punishment which works effectively at a moment

[Sh. Kapil Dev Shastri]

when everything else has become ineffective. In fact this very sense of fear protects us and the people. It is for this reason that the learned have called it the Dharma.

So, why does not the government deal firmly with the increasing prices. For that matter, the entire House will extend its support to the government.

[English]

SHRI HAMENDRA SINGH BANERA (Bhilwara): Why are you negotiating with them. You take strict action against them. You take strict action against them.

[Translation]

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: If the Hon'ble member is pleased to take a lead, I am prepared to assist him.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: I am ready for it. (Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: He should also do something.

[English]

I might briefly mention various other matters which the hon. Members have already identified, like increase in rail freight and fares.

SHRICHANDRAM (Hardoi): You should check the rise in prices.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I can only check the rise, if the suggestions are workable, if the Government finds that this can be done. If they are workable, everything possible will be done.

Sir, about cement, as I said, we will look into the matter. There has been a mention of strengthening the public distribution system. This is a very important activity of the Government, for market intervention. But all the needs of the community cannot be met

through public distribution system. We are trying to meet partially the requirements in the public distribution system. It is aimed particularly at providing relief to the poorer sections of the society.

On the 5th, I had a meeting of all the Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies from the States and other representatives from the States, in the Advisory Council for Public Distribution System. We have considered various measures. We have also considered how to amend acts wherever it is necessary so that, as some hon. Members, have suggested, there must be some teeth in all the rules, regulations and acts. Parliament has enacted very strong laws. If they are properly implemented by the States-as the implementation is entirely in their hands-there is no reason why, there should be any Blackmarketing, any hoarding or undue rise in prices of commodities or exploitation of market because of manipulated short supplies. All that can be checked. I have requested the State Governments to cooperate with the Central Government fully in this matter. I hope, it will bring results.

DR. THAMBIDURAI: Have you received any complaint from Tamil Nadu? So many people are raising this issue. The State Government is not properly distributing the commodities. You are simply telling this thing. What actions have you taken in this regard?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: It is not only a complaint from Tamil Nadu. There is a general complaint and everybody knows that some percentage of essential commodities. (Interruptions)

DR. THAMBIDURAI: Mr. Kuppaswamy has also mentioned about what has happened what is happening in ration shops.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I know it. I know about these mal-practices. (Interruptions)

This meeting was convened only to find measures to plug these loopholes, to stop leakages, to stop misappropriation of es-

essential commodities, by the wholesalers, the suppliers, even the Government agencies through whom it is supplied, the State Civil Supplies Corporation, even the Officers of the Food Corporation of India. Anybody can be blamed for it. All of them are not working as they should. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: Market intervention...

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Would you permit these questions now or are you going permit these questions afterwards?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can put your questions later on and not now.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Let him finish, after that, we will ask clarifications.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: For market intervention, we have various agencies. We have the National Dairy Development Board. That is a canalising agency appointed by the Government. They are required to purchase oilseeds when the prices are low in the market. They can also purchase edible oil; and this is meant to be released when the prices go up. That agency is also working in the field.

Similarly, we have NAFEDs, again under the Ministry of Agriculture. When the prices of onions and potatoes shoot up, it is not because of their short supply in the country, not because of low production; but it is on account of transport and other difficulties. Earlier, we had seen that because of diesel shortage, transport network had almost come to a standstill, as has been mentioned by hon. Members. But the position of diesel supply has now improved. There is no problem at all, now. Kerosene is also being supplied to the States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Just today in the morning, I have given a notice to call attention of the government to the fact that a supply of 1 lakh litre of diesel did not reach Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar during the last month. As regards the supply position of

diesel in Delhi Area, the people have to stand in long queues for 7 to 8 hours to get their supply. The hon'ble minister may accompany me to go there and see the situation in Kota with his own eyes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not good. You are doing such thing time and again.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I will definitely accompany you but now let me complete it.

We are trying to plug the loopholes, as I said, and to correct the malpractices. The depot-holders also indulge in them. The agencies of the Government also need to be pulled up. All that is being done. The depot-holders sometimes supply sub-standard quality of commodities, and they blame it on the Central Government agencies: for instance, FCI. They keep false samples of sub-standard items which they purchase from the market; and the good quality commodities are sold in their private trade. We have laid down the rules. This was also discussed-i.e. how to stop diversion of these commodities. Because they are diverted, they do not reach the targeted groups. So, I have suggested to the States that the traders who run their own business should not be allowed to handle ration depots under public distribution system. They should be absolutely separate.

Similarly, people who have any link with petrol pumps should not be stockists of kerosene oil, because we know that tankers and tankers of them reach, at night, in collusion with the officers of the Oil Corporations, and the Inspectors of the Civil Supplies Departments; and the kerosene intended for poor people does not reach them, as was the complaint voiced by some of the hon. Members.

AS HON. MEMBER: It is moved with diesel oil.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: It is mixed with diesel. I think the hon. Members will be glad to hear that the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, I am told, had taken a decision that kerosene will be coloured. It will

[Rao Birender Singh]

have a pink colour; and if it is then adulterated with any other petroleum product, it will be detected easily.

So, these are the various measures which are under review by the Government, which are going to be enforced soon; and a strategy is being worked out for the public distribution systems, so that whatever is supplied is equitably distributed, and it reaches the people for whom it is intended.

There has also been a suggestion that the richer sections of the society should be taken out of the public distribution system, so that whatever is saved that way, is again diverted to the poorer sections of the society; and that might also reduce the burden of some subsidy on the Central Government. But before taking a decision like this, we shall have to look into all the implications. We shall see whether it is really practicable, whether it will bring in benefits commensurate with the exercise that we may have to take, and the work that the State Governments and their agencies may have to do.

I have briefly touched all the points that the hon. Members have mentioned. All I can do at the end is to assure the House through you that the Government is conscious that, apart from the disturbances in the country, secessionist activities, terrorism and communal riots, high prices are one thing which bring a very bad name to the Government; and it is known to everybody that after independence, whether it be in 1977 or it was again in 1980 or again in 1984, maybe also in future, high prices are more painful to the people than anything else, particularly for the poor masses; and they affect the fortunes of the Government and parties. And therefore we are very keen that we show some results and try to control prices.

As the Prime Minister had said in this House earlier that his party and this Government, though a minority Government, supported by another large party...

DR. THAMBI DURAI: Largest party.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: It is no doubt. Our work will be judged by the results that we can show and we are determined to put in our best efforts to control prices as also the attention that this Government intends to pay to other burning problems in the country.

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane): Would you consider in consultation with FCI, construction of the godowns at every district level, because I find that at every district place, there are no storage facilities; and consequently all the food items and foodgrains do not reach in time. There is no way to take them to the main outlets. Many a time it takes a long time. When the people need it, they do not get it. Would you consider construction of the godowns or some other temporary arrangement for storing them?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: A very large programme of construction is there even in the Eighth Plan. The Central Warehousing Corporation is the main agency of the Government now for construction of godowns; and 1.5 million tonnes more storage a city is to be added during the Eighth Plan. Apart from that, the State Corporations, the State Warehousing Corporations are also putting up cold storage facilities. There also the Central Government has got 50 per cent share.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Minister has not touched a very important point that is to distribute 14 essential items through the public distribution system at a cheap rate. Is the Government going to introduce this system so that common people, poor people may get these 14 essential items?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I entirely agree that more commodities should be added for the public distribution system. But that depends more on the initiative and efforts of the State Government, because public distribution system in the State is run by the State Government; we only supply certain essential commodities which we stock; we have in our buffer stock foodgrains, sugar etc. We are also trying to produce certain consumer items through our central agency

like the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation. We are trying to produce some packs of oil so that they can be distributed also through the public distribution system.

The other day, I had directed the National Consumers Cooperative Federation to try and purchase more of these *masalas*, *condiments*, *ginger*, chillies and various other things, green elachi, large cardamom etc. from Sikkim, and other parts of the country. All these things can be procured. And also for pulses we have *dal* mills. But we do not have enough stock for the entire country to be supplied with all these 14 commodities. But we try to help the State Civil Supplies Corporations to obtain the commodities that they want to add and we also arrange finances.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the then minister Shri Mirdha had announced in this House that the packets containing the mill produced item, will indicate its retail price inclusive of all taxes. Is the Hon'ble minister going to implement it?

[*English*]

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: Yes. According to the decision taken by my predecessor, the notification was issued and that order is now in force. Now, the package commodities can only display the maximum retail price and not the previous way of printing, "Local taxes, etc. extra". That is not done now. That order was notified.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I want to know whether the Government is considering any proposal to fix maximum limit of difference between the price of paddy paid to the producers and the price charged from the actual consumers, and a parity between the prices of agricultural commodities also should be there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are entering into a different area. That question will take a long time.

SHRI A.K. ROY: It is a policy question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Big policy questions cannot be replied in a few minutes time. Are you interested in replying, Mr. Minister?

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: If you order, yes.

As you rightly observed, it is a very big question of policy and it will have to be considered by the Government and very deep thought will have to be given to it. It is not entirely up to the Government to fix the margin between the retail price and what the farmer gets and what is ultimately the price in the retail market. But efforts are already being made. Even with equity, in respect of the prices of industrial goods and agricultural produce there, may not be parity between the prices of these two groups of commodities. That is included in the terms of reference to the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices. That is taken into consideration and we try to maintain parity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a big question. It will require a lot of time. It is a good question, but a big question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI A.K. ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the course of discussion, I had given a suggestion to the government to pay special attention to the plains of district Chhota Nagpur which is known for its high yield of groundnut. Is the government going to do anything in the this regard?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is for the State Government to do it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI A.K. ROY: The second thing I would like to ask here is whether this valuable discussion will be followed by eradication in prices?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This need not be answered.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): I fully support the views expressed by the two hon. Members and would like to add mine with regard to the provision of FCI or other suitable agency godowns. What is now happening in my Parlakimidi constituency of Orissa State is that the poor farmers are entirely left at the mercy of the mill owners as well as the others.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already said that he is going to construct godowns.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: With respect to the availability of cement, sugar, palmolin oil, these essential commodities are always in short supply and I urge upon the hon. Union Minister to ensure proper distribution system for the proper supply of these essential commodities.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Hon'ble Rao Shibhimself is a farmer. Has he ever analysed in that capacity as to what is the actual production cost of Til oil mustard oil and the groundnut as compared to the actual cost of their raw material. Moreover the imposition

of various taxes on oil seeds has today raised the price of oil very high to touch the mark of Rs. 35-40 per kg. With this price level, it has gone beyond the purchasing capacity of an ordinary man.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Joshi ji, please come to your question and do not make a speech.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: The Ex-minister for food has said that as the prices of oil are very high an ordinary man cannot afford to purchase this item for that price. So, has the government done a comparative study to find out the extent of difference between the cost price and mill price of Till oil?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, we will look into it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11 A.M.

19.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, January 9, 1991/ Pausa 19, 1912 (Saka)